

State of North Carolina

Chancellor's Court, Decr Term, 1857.

This paper writing, purporting to be the last Will and Testament of Mr. Johnston, was exhibited in open Court, and offered for Probate, and was duly proved upon the oaths of John B. Powers and James Johnston, subscribing witnesses thereto, and as such considered by the Court, to be, and contain the last Will and Testament of the said Matthew Johnston, in every respect, and sufficient to convey the property therein bequeathed. At the same time T. J. Johnston and George A. Johnston, the executors therein named, appeared in Court, and were duly qualified as such according to Law.

Teste.

Saml. W. Bunting, Clk

In the name of God—Amen. I, John A. P. Wilson of the County of New Hanover, and State of North Carolina, being of sound and disposing mind and memory, but feeble in health, and knowing the uncertainty at all times of life, do make, ordain and declare this my last Will and Testament, in manner and form following, that is to say. First, that my Executor (hereinafter named) shall see that my body is decently buried, and shall pay all my just debts, out of the monies that may first come into his hands as a part or parcel of my estate.

Item, 1st. My Will & desire is that in case my beloved Wife Ann Mearns, shall after my death remain till her death in widowhood, all my estate both personal & real, shall go to her, during her natural life, with the exception that in any event my Executor (hereinafter named) shall appropriate to the repairing or building anew, Riley Creek Baptist Church in New Hanover Co. the sum of twenty five dollars. But in case my said wife marries again, then, I bequeath unto said church, to be used in its repairs or building anew, the sum of fifty dollars, to be received & applied by my Executor (hereinafter named) to said Church, and after that, then the balance of my estate to be appropriated, one half to my wife, and the remaining half, to be equally divided between my brother William P. Melson & my sisters Rutha Craig & Alta Craig, to them and their heirs forever. But in case my wife remains in widowhood, during her natural life, my will and desire is that my brother & sisters aforesaid shall each of them have out of my estate, the sum of fifty dollars, to each of them & their heirs forever.

Item, 2d. And lastly, I do hereby constitute and appoint my trusty friend George S. Moore, my lawful executor to all

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intents and purposes. to execute this my last will and testament according to the true intent and meaning thereof, and every part and clause of the same. hereby revoking and declaring utterly void all other Wills and testaments by me heretofore made. In witness whereof. I the said John A. P. Melson, do hereunto set my hand and seal this the ninth day of September, A.D. 1857.
Signed, sealed, published
I declared by the said John A. P. Melson to be his last Will & Testament, in the presence of us, who, at his request, and in his presence, do subscribe our names as witnesses thereto
J. S. Satchwell
William Mahan

I, John A. P. Melson, named as the testator in the Will to which this is annexed, do hereby make this present codicil, which I do order and direct shall be taken as a part of my will annexed & which in all respects, I hereby republish & affirm, excepting wherein it is altered or changed by this codicil.

In case my wife remains a widow during her natural life, she is to have my estate, after my debts are paid, and the gift to Riley's Creek Church is taken out, but after her death as a widow, then my Will & devise is that my said estate shall be equally divided between my said brother & my sisters, to them & their heirs forever. In testimony of which I hereunto set my hand & seal, this the ninth day of September, 1857.

Signed, sealed & published

in presence of us

J. S. Satchwell

William Mahan

John A. P. Melson, (seal)

State of North Carolina
New Hanover County Court, December Term, 1857
This paper writing, purporting to be the last Will & Testament of John A. P. Melson, is exhibited in open Court, and offered for probate, and is duly proved by the oath of both the subscribing witnesses thereto as such considered by the Court to be contain the last Will & Testament with the Codicil thereto attached, of said Melson in every respect, and sufficient to convey the bequests therein made, and at the same time, Geo. J. Moore the executor therein named, appeared in open Court & was duly qualified in open Court & was duly qualified according to Law. Let the same, with this certificate be Registered
Sam. W. Bunting, clk.