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I, Matthew Johnston of the County of New Hanover,
and State of North Carolina, being of sound mind and memory,
but considering the uncertainty of my earthly existence do make
and declare this my last will and Testament, in manner and
form as follows, that is to say:

First— That my executors hereinafter named, shall pro-
vide for my body a decent burial, suitable to the wishes of my relations
and friends and pay all funeral expenses, together with my just
debts, howsoever and to whomsoever owing, out of the moneys that
may first come into their hands as a part or parcel of my estate.

Item, 1st— I give and devise to my beloved wife Elizabeth
Johnston, all my lands (not heretofore devised of) including my dwelling
house, all out houses, and other improvements, to have and to hold
to her, the said Elizabeth Johnston, for and during the term of her
natural life. And after the death of my said wife Elizabeth
Johnston, the said lands to be equally divided among my sons
and daughters.

Item, 2nd— I give and devise to my said beloved wife
Elizabeth Johnston, all my household and kitchen furniture, my
stock of Hogs, Cattle, Sheep, Horses, Mules, and Poultry, all carts
and plantation tools, together with the Crop of every description that may
be upon the plantation, and all the provisions on hand at the time of my
death.

Item, 3rd— I give and bequeath to my said wife Elizabeth
Johnston, five negroes, together with their increase, to wit: Joe, Peggy,
Jane, Tim, and Jim to have and to hold during her natural
life, and after the death of her, my beloved wife Elizabeth Johnston
the above negroes, with their increase, to be equally divided among
all my children.

And lastly— I do hereby constitute and — my two sons R.
J. Johnston and George A. Johnston, my lawful executors to all
intents and purposes to execute this my last Will and Testament
according to the true intent and meaning of the same, and every
part and clause thereof. In Witness whereof, I the said Matthew
Johnston, do hereunto set my hand and seal this 28th day
of October, A.D. 1837.
M. Johnston (seal)

Signed, Sealed, published
and declared by the said
Matthew Johnston, to be his last
will and Testament, in the
presence of us who, at his request
and in his presence do subscribe
our names as Witnesses thereto,
Jno. D. Rogers
James Johnston

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