

New Hanover County, N.C.

This may certify that Mrs. Anne Davis
relict of John Davis deceased, came before me agreeable to order
of Court and took the oath of Executor to the last will and Testament
of the said John Davis according to law.
Wilmington 7th January 1789.

Wm. H. Jones, J.P.

In the name of God Amen. I Thomas Davis of
Wilmington, being in health and of sound mind and memory,
but knowing the uncertainty of this life, do make this my last
will and Testament in manner and form following, Big,
Supp. It is my will that my Executors hereafter named, do make
use of every exertion and endeavors in their power, to pay all my
just debts as soon as possible after my decease, but let me here
warn them not to assume or pay any demand against my estate
until they have carefully examined every paper they may find in
my desk or elsewhere, as unjust demands are often made against
a man after he is no more, and receipts may be found that perhaps
may be of service to my heirs. My Executors are hereby impowered
to dispose of any part of my estate for the payment of my debts; and
they are likewise impowered and directed to make a title to about
Twenty for 200 acres of the land I took up in Brunswick County, to
be laid off round about his plantation as may be most conven-
ient to him; the remainder to be sold for the payment of debts, &c.
I give, devise, and bequeath unto my beloved wife Mary
Davis, the use of all my estate for and during her natural life;
one half of which I give, devise and bequeath unto her, her heirs
and assigns forever, except my negro boy, called Joe, one other
negro boy called Pompey, one other called Dick, and a girl called
Nancy, these four negroes Joe, Dick, Pompey and Nancy, I give
unto my son Thomas Davis, him his heirs and assigns forever; but
not to be taken possession of until after the death of my wife Mary Davis,
unless she chooses to give one or more to him before her death; and as
my wife will have the whole and sole use of all my property, she must
maintain and support my son Thomas in as decent a manner as
her circumstances will admit of without distressing herself; but if
he should misbehave towards his mother, and do not always treat
her with obedience, affection and respect (and this I hope and charge
him tenderly, never to be wanting in towards her) then and in
that case she may withhold any support to him, as she thinks
proper, or until he returns to his duty and respect to her; and
at the death of my wife Mary Davis, I give and bequeath, unto

my said son Thomas Davis, one half of all my property that may remain, the other half my said wife is hereby empowered to dispose of as she may think proper.

After the death of my said wife, I give and bequeath unto my daughter, Sophia Ashe, a negro lad named Fango, to have her heirs and assigns forever, I having already given her a deed for him. And I here request my wife will at her death either bequeath said lad Betsy to my daughter, Lucretia, or otherwise make her some compensation for a negro boy called Anderson which I had given her a deed for, and have since sold. All my other children who had a deed from me for a negro, have them delivered to them.

I give and bequeath to my said wife, the use of all my furniture for and during her life, one half of which she may dispose of as she thinks proper, the other I give to my son Thomas, but not to be touched by him until his mother's death; to him his heirs and assigns forever.

The nuncupative last will and Testament of Thomas Davis esquire decd, proved to be the hand writing of the said Thomas Davis by the oaths of Samuel R. Jocelyn, Joshua Wright and William Butts, Esqrs, also that the said will was found amongst the valuable papers of the said Thomas Davis by the oath of George Davis: At the same time administration with the will annexed granted to Mrs. Mary Davis.

March Term 1796

Geo. Gibbs. D. Ck.

In the name of God Amen. I Thomas Davis of the County of New Hanover, and State of North Carolina being weak in body and mindful of the mortality of man, but of sound mind and memory (thanks be to God) do make and constitute this my last will and Testament, in manner and form following, that is to say,

1st. I give and bequeath unto my well beloved wife Frances Devane, Charles, Rich, George, Hester, and Pat, Simon, little Jack, Jim, Doll and Ford, during her life; after her death to be equally divided between my children and the heirs of their body lawfully begotten.

2nd. I give and bequeath unto my daughter, Mary, and the heirs of her body lawfully begotten, Isaac and her children.

3rd. I give unto my daughter, Ann and the heirs of her body lawfully begotten, Rose and her children, and a negro girl Cherry.