

John Melton's Will

In the name of God Amen. I John Melton Sen^r of the County of Northampton and State of North Carolina the 16th day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety one being sick and weak of body but of perfect mind and memory thanks be given unto God calling unto mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed unto all men once to die do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament that is to say as touching my worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me with in this life I give devise and dispose of the same in the following manner I give

Item I leave unto my beloved wife Mary Melton all the tract of land wherupon I now live and the use thereof during her life and at her death I give the same unto my son John Melton the Will that I now possess to him and his heirs forever.

Item I leave unto my wife Mary Melton during her life all my Negroes and personal property of all kinds after my lawful debts are paid to be disposed of among all my children when and as she sees cause; except a Negro woman named Sam and her increase; which I leave unto my daughter Mary Williams during her life and at her death to be equally divided among the lawful heirs of her body. And I make constitute and appoint my loving wife Mary Melton my Executor and my son John Melton my co-executor to this my last Will and Testament, and I do hereby utterly revoke disannul and disallow all former wills and accounts by me heretofore made or named ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last Will and Testament. In Witness whereof I the said John Melton Sen^r have to this my last Will and Testament set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

John Melton of Ashel.

Northampton County, N.C.
March Court 1796

This will of John Melton was exhibited in Court & viewed by the Court of Sampson, Sargant & Charles Hunt the witnesses thereto, whereupon John Melton the Executor therein named was duly qualified. — Ordered to be Certified & Recorded.

Witnes

E. Hayes 66

Signed, sealed and declared by the Testator as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who in his presence was at the signing and sealing thereof.

Samuel Sargant
Charles Hunt.

Joseph Vassers Will

State of North Carolina, Northampton County. I Joseph Vasser of the aforesaid State and County calling to mind the certainty of death and the uncertainty of the time when and knowing that all men are once to die do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament in manner following that is to say. I leave unto my beloved wife Patsie the Vasser the plantation wherupon I now live containing two hundred and twenty five acres during her life. I also leave her four Negroes to wit Peter Phil Amor & Hannah, her life. I give and bequeath unto my son James Vasser the plantation wherupon he now lives containing by estimation two hundred and twenty five acres land to him and his heirs forever. I also give him one Negro named Daniel to him and his heirs.

I give and bequeath unto my son Josiah Vasser (at my wife's death) the plantation wherupon I now live containing two hundred and twenty five acres, and on these express conditions that is to say provided he will live on the same and shall never sell the same to any other person or persons except it be to either of his brothers or sisters, and in that case no sale shall then be good that tends to invalidate the true intent and meaning of this gift in any respect whatever, then and in that case as before mentioned he is to have the same for his and his heirs benefit forever. I give my son Josiah one Negro named Frank, and at the death of my wife Negro Amor, to him & his heirs.

I give and bequeath unto my son Samuel Vasser one Negro named Sam and at my wife's death one Negro named Peter to him and his heirs also give him on his plantation I leave unto my daughter Susannah Vasser one Negro named Phill and one named Mason to have at my wife's death, and if Susannah Vasser should have living children or child at her death my will then is that the aforesaid Negroes Phill and Negro girl Mason, and increase shall be equally divided among the same to them and their heirs forever but in case she dies leaving no issue I then give the aforesaid Negroes and their increase to be equally divided among all my children

or the heirs of a child to have the same part their father or mother might have been entitled to were they living. —

I read unto my Daughter Sally Turner two Negroes to wit Patience and Tom my wife is that if my Daughter Sally leaves at her death a child or children that the above named Tom & Patience with their increase be equally divided among the same to them and their heirs forever but in case she leaves no issue at her death I give the said Negroes Tom and Patience and their increase to be equally divided among all my children and the heirs of a child to have the same part their father or mother might have been entitled to were they living. —

I read unto my Daughter Rebecca Brown, negro woman Milley, one by named Carey, one named David & . . . and their increase and at her death to be equally divided among her children to them and their heirs, but in case she leaves no issue I give the above said Negroes and their increase to be equally divided among all my children and the heirs of a child to have the same part their father or mother would have been entitled to were they living. —

I read my Daughter Patsy Caper one Negro named Liley and named Littleton, and at my wife's death one named Harriet also one feather bed and furniture I give her, and one Horse and saddle the value of fifty Dollars if she leaves a child or children at her death my wife is that the Negroes I have sent her be divided among them and to their heirs but should she leave no issue I give the said Negroes and their increase to be equally divided among all my children to them and their heirs and the heirs of a child to have the same part that their father or mother might have been entitled to were they living.

Finally I read my beloved wife Tabitha all the remainder of my estate not already given or lent and at her death I then give it to be equally divided among my Daughters Sally Turner, Rebecca Brown and Patsy Caper and my Sons James Caper, Isaiah Caper and Samuel Caper and I do nominate and appoint my Son James Caper Executor and my Wife Tabitha Caper Executrix to this

my last Will and Testament. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal in sound mind and memory. This 29th day of February 1796. —

Signed in presence of Joseph S. C. A. Caper & Seal.
Thomas Curb.
Solley Taylor.

Northampton County, N. H.
March Court 1796.

The Will of Joseph Caper deceased
was duly proved by the Oaths of Thomas

Curb and Solley Taylor the witnesses thereto, and

Ordered to be Certified and Recorded.

Witness E. Haynes, Ck.

Northampton County, N. H. June Court 1796.

James Caper & Tabitha Caper, the Executors hereunto named in the above Will of Joseph Caper deceased came into Court & were duly qualified as such, Ordered to be Certified and Recorded.

Witness E. Haynes, Ck.

* James Caper and John Ray made oath that at the time the last Will and Testament of Joseph Caper deceased which is dated the 29th of February 1796 was presented to him, he decided a Blank in the Legacy to Rebecca Brown to be filled up with the name of of a certain Negro named "Mango" which said Blank was not at the time filled up in the said Will. Given under our Hands this 16th day of March 1796.

John Wood, J.P.
Ben Millican, J.P.

Northampton County, N. H.
March Court 1796.

The above Certificate was presented in Court and Ordered to be Recorded.

Witness E. Haynes, Ck.
E. C. C.