

James Davis Will

In the name of god amen I James Davis of Northampton County & State of North Carolina do make and ordain this my last will & Testament in witness & form as followeth (to wit) I leave to my beloved wife Sarah Davis the plantation wherein I now live with all the land in the South & West side of Sandy Branch with my cotton gin for her benefit & the benefit of my four daughters namely Elizabeth Davis Martha W Davis Sally R Davis Mary Davis & Rebecca Ann Lucy Davis and at the death of my wife I give all the land then her to my four daughters as before named with the cotton gin as long as they live single & at the death or marriage of the last to be equally divided between the survivors to them & the heirs of their own body over - I leave to my wife three negroes namely Atlas Carter & Ann with their increase during her natural life also two work horses four cows & calves two sows & pigs all my stock of sheep geese &c and the plantation & woods all the household furniture desiring my wife to give to all our children one father & beds furniture when ever they may call for them I also leave to my wife one silver & Wagon on one double gig as she may choose during her life I give to my wife & daughters if they stay together one year provision out of my estate at the death of my wife all the land property except the land to be sold and distributed as hereafter

- Item 1st I have given to my son John S Davis one horse called Galen
- Item 2nd I have given to my son Tho' W Davis one horse called Neph
- Item 3rd I have given to my son W H Davis one horse called Easter
- Item 4th I give to my son Jesse M Davis one horse called Noker
- Item 5th I give to my son Edwin & Davis one fifty Cals Maheda
- Item 6th I give to my son Richard W Davis fifty dollars in the form of a horse which money is to be raised out of my Estate when he comes of age
- Item 7th I give to my son Thomas P Davis the tract of land lying on the north side of Jack Swamp known by name of granary field or or the land sold by John M Bonford to Hugh Bonford adjoining the lands of Thomas & Southall James Darnell & the land I purchased of John Bonford I leave to him the said Tho' P Davis & his heirs forever
- Item 8th I give to my son Edwin & Davis all the residents of my land on the North side of Jack Swamp adjoining the land given to Thomas P Davis Samuel Darnell & John H Patterson to him & his heirs forever

Item 11 I give to my son W H Davis Jesse M Davis & Richard W Davis all the land on the east side of Sandy Branch to be divided in equal quantity between them valued by three men as they may choose so that they may receive money so as to equal the value

Item 12 My will and desire is that all the property not last mentioned may be sold & the money after paying my debts to be divided amongst all my children as before named in this foregoing

Item 13 My will and desire is all the property last to my wife & not given away at the death of my wife should be sold and divided into two equal parts & two of these parts be given to my son John S Davis & the other ten parts to be divided into twelve parts and one twelfth be given to Thomas P Davis & the other twelve given to W H Davis as their portion of my Estate & the balance equally divided among the rest of my children namely Elizabeth R Davis W Sally W Jesse M Davis & Rebecca Ann Lucy Davis to them & their heirs forever

Item 14 If my above named daughters die without heirs the surviving sister is to die if they all die without heir as before stated it is to return to all the survivors & their heirs - I do hereby nominate Tho' P Davis my whole & sole executor to this my last will & Testament in witness my hand & seal this 15 day of November one thousand eight hundred & thirty five

Attest my hand & seal in presence of
James L Smith
Wm J Miles

Northampton County Chamber Court 1835

This last will and Testament of James Davis dec'd was exhibited in open court & proved in due form of law by the oath of Benjamin Miles one of the subscribers witnesses thereto. ordered that the will be admitted & recorded whereupon Thomas P Davis the executor named Qualified as the law directs -

Test Wm Patterson clk