

William Stephenson's Will

In the name of God amen I William Stephenson of the county of Northampton and State of North Carolina being sick but in perfect mind and memory do make and ordain this instrument my last will and testament.

- Item 1st I commend my soul and body into the hands of God who gave them
- Item 2^d I lend unto my wife Martha Stephenson her natural life the following property (to wit) one negro man from one negro woman Eliza one other woman Hannah one boy Alfred one small girl Aggy one small boy Ben one boy man and her choice one of the balance of my horses one cow & calves one hundred hogs and one white yearling - two sows and pigs her choice at the pen towards Henry's then feather beds & furniture with all my household and kitchen furniture one heavy wagon and hauled one cart & wheels one horse and gear and a year's provisions. It is my will and desire at the death of my wife that all of the above named property except the above named negroes should be equally divided between all my children namely Patrick H Stephenson, Rebecca Denton, Margaret Stephenson, Nereine J Stephenson and John W Stephenson to them & their heirs forever
- Item 3^d I give unto my son Patrick H Stephenson one negro woman Rachel also one negro boy Alfred at the death of my wife to him who has forever
- Item 4th I give unto my daughter Rebecca Denton one negro girl Patience also one negro woman Hannah at the death of my wife to her and her heirs forever
- Item 5th I give unto my daughter Margaret Stephenson one negro man Shade also one negro girl Aggy at the death of my wife to her and her heirs forever
- Item 6th I give unto my son Nereine J Stephenson one negro man Tombs also one negro boy Ben at the death of my wife to him and his heirs forever
- Item 7th I give unto my son John W Stephenson one negro man Sam and a negro girl Eliza at the death of my wife to him and his heirs forever
- Item 8th I lend unto my wife Martha Stephenson her natural life one third part of my land including the house wherein I live & cotton gin and sows, the balance of my lands I give unto my son John W Stephenson including the house where he lived, and at the death of my wife, It is my will and desire that he should have and possess all the lands wherein I live and the cotton gin & sows to him and his heirs forever
- Item 9th I do make and appoint my sons Nereine J Stephenson and John W Stephenson my whole and sole executors to this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 15th day of April A.D. One thousand

eight hundred and thirty seven.

Wrote

Richard Hargrave, W. H. Harder,
Arthur J. Long

Northampton County September 2nd 1837

William Stephenson Esq

This last will and testament of William Stephenson deceased as exhibited in open court and proved in due form of law by the oaths of W. H. Harder and Arthur J. Long two of the subscribing witnesses thereto and ordered to be certified and recorded. Witness my hand and seal of office this 15th day of April A.D. One thousand eight hundred and thirty seven. Teste W. H. Harder Esq

Lore Fergusson's Will.

In the name of God amen I Lore Fergusson of the county of Northampton and State of North Carolina do hereby make and ordain this my last will and testament, revoking all other wills heretofore made by me

- 1st It is my will and desire that all my just debt shall be paid by my executor out of my estate
- 2^d My will is that my Executor sell all my land lying on the south side of the road which runs through my plantation except the orchards and that the line run out side of the fence which inclosed the orchards
- 3^d I lend unto my wife Margaret Fergusson all my land and plantation whereon I now live and which lies on the north side of the same road with all monies bonds and accounts which I have all my household and kitchen furniture of every kind all my stock of horses, cattle, sheep, and hogs all my crop of corn fodder and oats plantation utensils of every kind & all the rest of my estate of any that is not named, until my youngest son arrives to the age of fourteen years for the purpose of boarding, clothing and schooling my then son Miles H Fergusson, Baker L Fergusson & Littleton J L Fergusson and when my youngest son arrives to the age of fourteen years that my whole estate be equally divided and that my wife take one fourth part in fee simple and each of my sons one fourth part of the balance to them and their heirs forever but it is not my will that they take immediate possession of their property but may choose or have guardians appointed for them until they arrive to lawful age
- 4th I nominate and appoint my wife my whole and sole executrix to this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my