estate. when Bethel S Moore gave bond in the sum of $16000 with Reddick Carney and James Moore as his sureties which was accepted by the Court and the Said Bethel S Moore duly qualified in open court as executor to said will when the same was ordered to be recorded & filed

G. A. Dancy Clerk

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In the name of God. Amen. I Joseph H Laughinghouse of the County of Pitt and State of North Carolina being of a sound and perfect mind and memory (blessed be God) do this 9th day of July In the year of our Lord eighteen hundred & fifty five make and publish this my last will and testament in manner following that is to say:

Item 1st I give and bequeath unto my son Wyatt L Laughinghouse all the portion set apart by his Grand father Edward Laughinghouse will several tract or parcel of land lying in Beaufort County on which James B Dunn and John Bates now lives including the purchases made of Joseph Miller. Nathaniel Harding & Joseph J Benton containing about 350 acres also 500 dollars in Cash and all the Books and the trunk which belongs to his uncle James E Laughinghouse and negro boyes named Andrew & George.

Item 2nd I give unto my beloved wife Mary Ann the sole management of my estate to pay off the debts and raise and educate the children and as they become of age to give them an equal portion with my Son Wyatt L Laughinghouse and at the death of my said wife the resadue to be equally divided among all of our children & I desire that there shall be an equal distribution without any publick Sale

Joseph H Laughinghouse —

Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions
May Term 1863

There was the foregoing & within paper writing without subscribing witnesses purporting to be the last will & testament of Joseph H Laughinghouse deceased exhibited in open court for probate & it is thereupon proved by the oath & examination of Packey Ann Ennell that the said will was found among the valuable papers of the said Joseph H Laughinghouse after his death & it is further ~~proved~~ proved by the oath & examination of three competent & credible witnesses to wit Tenner B Satterthwaite William J Laughinghouse & James Galloway that they are acquainted with the hand writing of the said Joseph H Laughinghouse having often seen him write & verily believe that the name of the said Joseph H. Laughinghouse subscribed to the said will & the said will & every part thereof are in the hand writing of the said Joseph H. Laughinghouse. It is therefore considered by the court that the said paper writing is the last will & testament of the said Joseph H Laughinghouse & the same is ordered to be recorded & filed. On motion letters of Administration with the said will annexed are granted to

Tilman W. Cherry & Wyatt Laughinghouse on their entering into bond in the sum of One hundred & sixty thousand dollars with Thorndike Perkins. Wm B. Brown & William Whitehead as sureties. Bond given & admr. qualified

G. A. Dancy Clerk

I James E. Clark of Greenville North Carolina do make and declare my last will and testament in manner and form as follows to wit,

Item I give and devise to my trusty friend E.C. Perkins in trust equally for my three sons, William E. Clark, and James E. Clark my Stock plantation and lands lying in the County of Pitt on the river Tranters Creek and Grindell Creek; and my Smithwick Hilter tract of land on Grindell Creek, and Negro slaves Oliver & his wife Chaney, and Oliver and Stanley their children and the increase of Chaney after the date of this will and Sam and Ben and old Bob & his wife Harriet; and Stephen son of Ole Bitz and Adeline and her present child, and the increase of Adeline born after the date of this will: and in trust for my son James E. Clark, Negro slave Bridey and the lot in Greenville where Bridey lives, known in the plat of said Town as Lot No eighty one (81); Also in trust for William the sum of five hundred dollars and for James Edgar the sum of One thousand dollars for their education, if the same should be unfinished at my death and to be applied to no other purpose. Item I give and devise to E.C. Perkins aforesaid in trust for my daughter Adelaide wife of A. W. Johnson for her natural life my Brush Island, Moaring and Smith tracts of land adjoining John S. Brown, Wm Whitehead and others and after her death to her issue and failing to have issue surviving her, then to my other children and their issue. Item I give and devise to E.C. Perkins aforesaid in trust for my daughter Olivera for her natural life all my Lands in Sumpter County Georgia and after her death to her issue and failing to have issue surviving her, then to my other children and their issue. Item I give and devise to E.C. Perkins aforesaid in trust for my daughters Victoria Jones, and Della wife of Wm A Jenkins equally for their natural lives all my lands in the County of Macon Georgia and after their death the share of each to each ones issue respectively and failing to have issue surviving them to my other children and their issue. Item, I give to my grandchild Helen Jones Negro girl Lea and her increase born after the date of this will. Item I give to my grandchild Mary Jenkins Negro girl Sydney and her increase born after the date of this will. Item I give and bequeath to E.C. Perkins aforesaid in trust for my children William James Edgar, Adelaide Johnson, Olivera, Della Jenkins and Victoria Jones subject to the same limitations and conditions as the respective legacies to each of them aforesaid, all the balance of my Negro Slaves that are not sold for the payment of my debts equally to be divided among them. And in said division it is my wish and will that my children be permitted to select any favourite Negroes as part of their shares and that the Negroes be so allotted and divided if the same be practicable without doing injustice to any particular share or shares as to retain and include in each child's share the Negroes that may be living on the Plantation I have given to each of them, and that they be allotted in families

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provided it can be done without assigning to any share too great a proportion of young or aged negroes, and upon the said trust and limitations it is my wish and will that each plantation be furnished equally from what may on hand at my death of the same and not otherwise with reasonable and necessary household and kitchen furniture farming utensils, carts, wagons, horses, mules, oxen, sheep, hogs and cattle and corn and fodder. And I appoint my friends Henry Sheppard, Louis D. Little, Reuben R. Albritton, John H. Smith and William Whitehead or a majority of them to make the aforesaid division of negroes and other property, and my executors are directed to pay their expenses and compensation for their trouble and in case they fail to act to appoint other persons from among the citizens of Pitt County.

Item 5th It is my wish and will that Negroes Oliver Lewis and Nancy be permitted to live on lot eighty one without being hired out that they may attend and serve my two sons when not at school.

Item 6th It is my wish & will that my executors sell at private or public sale my Steam Mill property, my houses and lots in the town of Greenville not devised, my Blank Book Stock, my land bought of Farmer & Bell in Nash County, and the James Wardee land, John Cordee land, Isaac Wardee land, the Bear tract in Swift Swamp, the Jenny Paige tract and the Tinney Lewis tract all in Pitt County, my interest in the Tarboro Cotton Seed Mill. It is my will that my executors carry on my farms for two years after my death, and then that no division among the negroes and other property shall take place.

Item 7th It is my wish & will that the trustee to my children be and is hereby empowered to change the character of the property ~~belonging~~ given my children by sale or exchange, and invest the proceeds in good bank stock, State, or other securities, or other real and personal property whenever by any change in the condition, situation, residence, or other like circumstances of any of my children such a sale or exchange would be to their interest. And whenever any of said property given in trust, shall devolve ~~devolve~~ upon the issue of my said children it is my wish and will that their said trustee shall convey by deed upon the death of said child its share of property to his or her issue. Lot eighty one I intend for William and James Edgar jointly and not to Edgar alone as devised in item first. I appoint my son in law Hill Jenkins and my friend C.B. Perkins my executors.

Signed, published and declared
to be his last will and testament,
by the testator in our presence who
at his request and in his presence
do attest the same this day
of January one thousand eight hundred and
sixty

Geo. H. Clark

Geo. Geo. Dancy

Chas. Wauntree

A paper writing purporting to be the last will and testament of James H. Clark Deceased late of this County was offered for probate by C. B. Perkins mentioned as trustee in said writing, where Joseph Geo Dancy and Charles Wauntree the two subscribing witnesses thereto testified that they saw said James H. Clark sign said paper writing, that they the said witnesses signed their names thereto at the request, and in the presence of said testator, and that at the time he was of sound & disposing mind. Therefore the Court adjudged it to be duly proved as the last will & testament of said Clark & ordered it to be registered

G. H. Dancy Clerk

In the name of God Amen! I, Albert Haye, of the State of North Carolina and County of Pitt being in my usual health and of sound disposing mind and memory, knowing the certainty of death and desirous to make some disposition of my worldly estate do hereby make, ordain, publish, and declare this to be my last Will and Testament revoking all others by me heretofore made. In manner and form following viz

Item 1st I give unto my son William Joel Haye, Negro woman Aggy, which with the other property I have given him and he is in possession of with his interest in the residuary clause in this instrument which is hereafter inserted will make him a fair portion of my estate.

Item 2nd I give unto my son Moses L. Haye Negro boy Jonas one mule and one cow and the other cattle now in his possession and one-half of my books which with the other property I have given him, by deed and the interest he will possess in the residuary clause hereinafter mentioned will, I think, make him a fair share of my estate.

Item 3rd I give and devise unto my son Albert A. Haye the remainder of my lands whereon I reside (the five portions having been deeded to my sons Moses L. and W. J. Haye) containing by estimation three hundred and twenty acres more or less, one that gun called his, one horse bridle and saddle second choice of the horses or mules that I may have also the following Negroes, Ned, John, and Hollon & the residue of my books not willed to Moses L. Haye.

Item 4th I give unto my daughter Ann Priscilla Lang wife of William G. Lang Negroes, Daniel, Linah and George, one horse or mule choice of those remaining at my death. I also lend to my said daughter Ann Priscilla Negro girl Harriet until my grand daughter Sarah Elizabeth Lang child of the said Ann Priscilla and William G. Lang shall arrive at twenty one years of age or marry in either event I give the said girl Harriet to the said Sarah Elizabeth my grand daughter.

Item 5th I give and bequeath to my daughter Eliza Frances Edwards wife of Henry Clay Edwards, Negroes, Hamlet, Silvey, Mary, Cherry and her child Allen, one Piano Forte one gold watch one cow and calf one bed stead & furniture (the watch cow & calf, bed & furniture and Negro woman Cherry & child already in her possession) I also give her an additional cow & calf.

Item 6th In the event of the decision of the right of the slaves Lil Jane & her children, Girl Laurena and boy Henry left by the Will of my sister Vlaudesha V. Little, to James H. Haye during life and then to his children and Moses L. and Albert A. Haye should be for the slaves to be

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