The Last Will and Testament of Valentine S Jordan

In the name of God Amen,

I Valentine S Jordan, Planter of Pitt County, North Carolina being advanced in age and mind full of my mortality, and of sound mind and memory, do in this the twentieth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and forty nine make publish and declare my last Will and Testament as followeth,

Item 1. I wish my Executors hereinafter named as soon after my death as may be convenient and expedient to sell such portion of my personal estate as may be necessary for the payment of my debts and to pay the same

Item 2 I give and bequeath to my Daughter Margaret, Wife of Churchill Perkins Edgar a Slave named Mary also a Slave named Chloe, also Chloes Children now born or hereafter to be born

Item 3 I give and bequeath to my Son Daniel W Jordan a Slave named William also a Slave named Ellen, also Ellen's now born or hereafter to be born.

Item 4 I give and bequeath to my Daughter Malvina wife of William Bunting a Slave named Maria and her Children now born or hereafter to be born,

Item 5 The residue of my property of every description whatever I wish to be divided into four equal parts, and devised and bequeathed as followeth, One fourth part I lend to my daughter Margaret during her life and at her death I give devise and bequeath it to the Children of her body surviving her and the issue of such Children as may have died before to take per stirpes and not per Capita. And it is my will that said fourth part be held by my Executors during the life of my daughter Margaret in trust for use and enjoyment, not subject to the Contracts or liabilities of her husband,

Another fourth part I lend to my Son Daniel W Jordan during his life and at his death I give and devise and bequeath it to his Children surviving him and the issue of each of such of his Children as may die before he does to take per stirpes and not per Capita

As the fourth part I give devise and bequeath to John Ralston and Rowena Ralston Children of my Daughter Sarah deceased and in case either of said Children shall die unmarried and without issue, I give devise and bequeath his or her share to the survivor, and in case both of said Children shall die unmarried and without issue I give and bequeath all of said fourth part to the Children of my Daughter Margaret and of my Daughter Malvina, and my Son Daniel W Jordan take per stirpes and not per Capita—

The remaining fourth part I lend to my Daughter Malvina during her life, and at her death I give devise and bequeath it to the Children of her body, surviving her and the issue of such of her Children as may die before she does to take per stirpes and not per Capita (See Codicil)

Item 6 I hereby appoint my Son in law Churchill Perkins & my Son Daniel W Jordan Executors to this my last will and Testament — In witness whereof I the said Valentine S Jordan have hereunto subscribed my name & seal June 20 1849

Signed Sealed published & declared in presence of } V S Jordan (Seal)
John D Jordan
Henry I Fool

Codicil

I Valentine S Jordan, testator in the foregoing last Will and Testament do make publish and declare on the twenty first day of June 1849 the following Codicil or addition thereto, to wit, Add to that Clause 5 (five) contained the bequeath to my daughter Malvina for life, and afterwards to the Children surviving her &c. the following provision viz. And it is my will that said fourth part be held by my Executors during the life of my Daughter Malvina in trust for her sole and separate use and enjoyment not subject to the Contracts ~~or~~ or liabilities of her husband, Witness my hand and Seal the day and year above written

Signed Sealed published and declared in presence } V S Jordan (Seal)
of John D Jordan
Henry I Fool

(Codicil 2)

I Valentine S Jordan testator in the forgoing last Will and Testament bearing date the 20 day of June 1849 do make publish and declare on the 27 day of September 1852 the following Codicil or addition thereto, to wit, add to that Clause wherein I give devise and bequeath one forth part to John Ralston and Rowena Ralston Children of my Daughter Sarah deceased Remain in the hands of Churchill Perkins and Daniel W Jordan as trustees untill my ~~said~~ Grand Children shall arrive at the age of Twenty one years unless the trustees before named should think it expedient and proper to pay it over sooner, My desire is however that the said trustees should pay over the income of said property as it may accrue in such ways as they may think will be best for said Grand Children, and the said trustees are required to enter into bond in the County Court in double the amount or value of said property, for the safe keeping of said property, and for complying with the requisitions of this will in relation thereto, Witness my hand & Seal the day & year above written

Signed Sealed published & declared in presence } V S Jordan (Seal)
of Benj A Elam
Arman Cherry

State of North Carolina } Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions
Pitt County } Nov Term 1852

Then was the annexed paper writing purporting to be the last Will and Testament of Valentine S Jordan dec'd produced in open Court and the due and proper execution of the same proved in open Court by the oath of John D Jordan a subscribing Witness to the same, and at the same time was the first Codicil proved to have been ~~made~~ executed by the said testator in due legal form by the oath of the said John D Jordan, who was a subscribing Witness to the same, And at the same time was the due and proper execution of the second Codicil to said Will by the said testator proven in due form of Law in open Court by the oath of Benj A Elam one of the subscribing Witnesses,

C Perkins brought into Court a paper writing purporting to be a true Copy of the Last Will and Testament and Codacils of the late Valentine S Jordan dec'd and offered to prove the same to be a true Copy of the original Will which was proved and recorded heretofore in this Court and which was all destroyed by the burning of the Court House when James C Allsutton being duly sworn deposed and said that the Copy of said Will now produced is in his hand writing, that he made said Copy while acting as Deputy Clerk of this Court from the original

Contd,

then on file in the office and that said paper writing is a literal copy of said original will, codicils probate & qualification of the Executors, whereupon it is ordered and adjudged by the Court that said Copy be filed and recorded as evidence of the said original under and by virtue of an act of the General Assembly made and passed at the Session 1859 — entitled an "Act for the relief of such persons as may suffer from the destruction of the records of Pitt County occasioned by the burning of the Court House"

H Sheppard Clerk

The Last Will and Testament of Reuben Worthington

In the name of God Amen

I Reuben Worthington of the County of Pitt & State of North Carolina being of sound mind and perfect memory blessed be God, do this the Twenty fifth day of November in the year of our lord One thousand eight Hundred and fifty four make and publish this my last will and Testament in manner and form as follows that is to say

First I lend to my beloved wife Penelope Worthington during her life time or widowhood one mare and Cart and one buggy also all my stock of every kind and my feathers Bed steads and furniture also all my Crop of Corn and fur and potatoes either in house or in the field also all my meat that I am possessed of at my death,

I also give my Daughter Penelope Sexoney Moore one Dollar in Cash also the property that I lent to my beloved wife Penelope Worthington after her death or intermarriage,

I give to my other four Children to be equally divided amongst them namely Ivan Kenney Worthington — James Godfrey Worthington — Samuel K Worthington and Margaret Ann Worthington And I hereby make and ordain my beloved wife and my Son Ivan Kenney Worthington Executors to this my last Will & Testament, In Witness of the Said Reuben Worthington have to this my last Will and Testament Set my hand and Seal the day and year above written, Signed Sealed published and declared by the Said Reuben Worthington to be his last will & Testament in the presence of us whose present at the time of Signing & Sealing thereof

Reuben Worthington (Seal)

Attest Sylvester Cox
William Cox

Pitt County Court
February Term 1859

The foregoing paper writing purporting to be the last Will & Testament — Reuben Worthington was produced in Court and duly proved by the oaths of William Cox and Sylvester Cox the subscribing witnesses thereto, it is ordered to be recorded Penelope Worthington named Executrix therein duly qualified as such

H Sheppard Clerk

The Last Will and Testament of Elizabeth Causway —

I Elizabeth Causway of the County of Pitt and State of North Carolina, being of sound mind and memory but considering the uncertainty of my earthly existence, do make and declare this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following that is to say — I give to my Son Philip B Causway all of my Stock of Cows hogs and Sheep and all of my household and Kitchen furniture, as for my land it is not paid for, Whereas if my Son above mentioned redeems the land with what I have paid it shall be his if not my Executor shall pay for it out of my Stock and the title to be taken in my Sons name above mentioned to have and to hold to him and his heirs in fee simple forever,

And lastly I do hereby constitute and appoint my trusty friend Sylvester Cox my lawful executor to all intents and purposes, to execute this my last will and Testament according to the true intent & meaning of the same, and every part and clause thereof hereby revoking and declaring utterly void all other wills & Testaments by me heretofore made, In Witness whereof, I the Said Elizabeth Causway do hereunto set my hand and seal this 27th day of February 1856

Elizabeth her + mark Causway (Seal)

Attest
Wm H Smith
Argent Smith

Pitt County Court
May Term 1859

The foregoing paper writing purporting to be the last will and testament of Elizabeth Causway is produced in Court and duly proved by the oath of William H Smith and Argent Smith the subscribing witnesses thereto, The Court declares said paper writing to be the last will and Testament of said Elizabeth Causway — and orders the same to be recorded

H Sheppard Clerk

The last Will & Testament of Benjamin Davis —

In the name of God Amen. I Benjamin Davis of the State of North Carolina & County of Pitt, being (thank God) of sound disposing mind & memory — and having a desire to make some distribution of my worldly estate, do make and declare this my last will & Testament in manner and form following viz:

Item 1st All of the real estate which I may die seized or possessed with (or any interest therein) I Give to my three Sons Richard B Davis, Alfred Davis & Benj. Archibald Davis — to be equally divided between them share and share alike, also my handy Still to be in the same proportion,

Item 2nd All the rest of my estate that may be left at my death I leave to be equally divided after the payment of my just debts, between my Children Richard, Alfred, Archibald, Sally & Delphy Davis share & share alike — and I injoine it upon my three Sons Richard — Alfred & Archibald that they shall take care of and support my wife their Mother Delitha Davis during her natural life

Lastly I Constitute and appoint my Son Alfred Davis Executor to this my last will & Testament — In Witness whereof. I hereunto set my hand and seal