

2125 I Benjamin Cowden being of sound mind and
Memory do ordain this my last Will and Testament
in the manner and form following. Inprimis To
my two Sisters Elizabeth & Rebekah I have all that
I at present possess to be equally divided between
them allowing the same to be sold at public Auction
as John Montgomery and James Adams whom
I do hereby appoint and ordain to be my
Executors shall think fit. In witness whereof I
have hereunto set my hand and Affixed my
Seal the 24th day of June 1780 In the presence

I John Mc-Mullen

Alex. Reid

John Morrison

Benjamin Cowden



In the name of God Amen. I John Mean of the
County of Rowan & State of North Carolina being of
Health of Body and of perfect mind and memory
thanks be given unto God calling unto mind the
Mortality of my Body and knowing that it is ap-
pointed for all men once to die do make and
ordain this my last Will and Testament

That is to say, principally and first of all I
give and recommend my soul into the Hand
of Almighty God that gave it and my body I
recommend to the Earth to be buried in decent
Christian Burial at the discretion of my Execu-
tors - nothing doubting but at the general Resurrec-
tion I shall receive the same again by the mighty
Power of God and as touching such worldly estate
wherewith it has pleased God to bless me in this life
I give demise and dispose of the same in the follo-
wing manner and form. First I will that all my
lawfull debts be carefully discharged. Second. I give
and bequeath to Mary my dearly beloved wife one bay
Mare called Phoenix and sorrel Mare, three Milk Cows
One Heifer and two Hares taking her choice, all the
Sheep and Hogs together with all my Household Goods
& Plantation Utensils, & the third of the plantation which
she lives Unmarried allowing her to keep the Children
and school them, having them taught to Read Right &
Cypher if possible, but if sh. Marries, I will the Children
to be put to Trade, such as they may choose under good
Christian Masters & Mistresses, the boys to serve until
Eighteen and no longer, and the girls until fifteen
Years of age and no longer