

I James Cunningham of the County of Stokes 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. First that my executors herein after named shall provide for my body a decent burial suitable to the wishes of my relatives and friends and pay all funeral expenses, together with my just debts now owing and to whomsoever owing but of no money that may first come into his hands as a part or parcel of my estate.

I give and devise to my beloved wife Martha D. Cunningham all of my tract of land including my mansion house, all out houses and other improvements for her care and comfort so long as she may live. I further devise that I leave with her my negro woman Jada, Fanny Ellis, Jr. John and George Riley, together with two mowers to long as she may live. I further give and devise for her better care and comfort all of my horses and mules of any at my death and all of my stock including my hogs cattle sheep and such other stock as may be in my possession at my death also all of my Farming tools wagons and harness also (all) of my winter crop whether gathered or ungathered, also all of my house property including beds and furniture all that I have, also all of my kitchen wares and lumber and wagons.

I devise that at and after the death of my beloved wife Martha D. Cunningham that all of my land and negroes and the other property that still remains after her death, and after preparing for her body a decent burial and paying her funeral expenses, together with all my just debts to whomsoever and to whomsoever owing, shall be equally divided amongst my children, giving to my daughter Vermillie Ann and the heirs of her body at her death one child's part who inter married with John A. Cox. I give to my daughter Belinda Jane and the heirs of her body, at her death one child's part, who inter married with Richard T. Martin. I give to my son John J. Cunningham, one child's part provided that he long return home from the army to enjoy it if not I leave it to his children. I give to my daughter Elvira Barnes and the heirs of her body at her death one child's part who inter married with Andy J. Freeman. I give to my son William W. Cunningham if living, one child's part, and if he is not living nor leaving no law his then his part to the other children as herein directed. And lastly I do hereby constitute and appoint my truly friend Stephen H. Cox my lawful executor to all intents and purposes to execute this my last will and testament according to the true intent and meaning of the same and every part and clause thereof hereby making and declaring utterly void all other wills and testaments by me heretofore made. In witness whereof I the said James Cunningham do hereunto set my hand and seal this the 3rd day of December AD 1863. Signed sealed published and declared by the said James Cunningham to be his last will and testament in the presence of us who at his request and in his presence do subscribe our names as witness thereto.

James Cunningham
Stephen H. Cox
Samuel Cox

June Term 1864.

The execution of the last will and Testament of James Cunningham, of which the foregoing is a true copy, was duly proved in Open Court by the oaths of Jeremiah Hedges and Samuel Cox two of the subscribing witnesses thereto and ordered to be recorded -

Joel F. Hill C.C.C.

I John L. Gidewell of the County of Stokes and State of North Carolina being of sound and memory, and knowing the uncertainty of life, and certainty of death, do make and declare this to be my last will and Testament in manner and form following, to wit:

First: That after my death, my Executor herein after named shall pay all my just debts, together with my funeral expenses, if any.

Secondly, I will and bequeath to my beloved wife Elizabeth Gidewell and my children, all of my property, money and effects, both real and personal, to be equally divided between them share and share alike; and it is my desire that my wife Elizabeth keep together and use said property the best she can, and raise my said children, and as they become of age, she shall give to them their shares respectively. And in order that an equitable division may be had, I desire that my Executor herein after named, shall by petition or any lawful way, ask the Court to appoint three or more disinterested persons to divide my property into as many equal parts as there may be number, including my wife and children and allot to my wife and each one of my children an equal share.

Thirdly. If my wife should marry or at the expiration of her widowhood, it is my will that a division of my property as above directed shall be made, and guardians appointed by Court for my children, who will take care of them interests, and at the death of my wife the real estate above willed to her shall descend to my children - And I appoint my wife Elizabeth Gidewell Executor to this my last will & Testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 31st day of September 1863

John L. Gidewell *Seal*

W. B. Vaughan
Joel F. Hill

September Term 1864.

The execution of the last will and Testament of John L. Gidewell (of which the foregoing is a true copy) was duly proved in Open Court by the oaths of W. B. Vaughan & Joel F. Hill the subscribing witnesses, and ordered to be recorded & filed.

Joel F. Hill *Seal*