

In the name of God Amen

I John Geminson of North Carolina Farmer being in good health  
of sound mind & memory thanks to Almighty God  
calling into mind the mortality of men knowing  
it to be the destination for all men once to die  
do make & ordain this my last will & testament  
My Principally spirit of all I now mean my  
soul to go into the hands of my Creator Jesus Christ  
and my body to be decently buried on the  
burying ground of the United Brethren at  
Truckburg and as touching such worldly  
estate wherewith it hath pleased almighty God  
to bless me in this world I give devise bequeath  
the same in manner & form following Viz

- 1<sup>st</sup>) I give bequeath to Rosina my dearly  
beloved wife all my property both real &  
personal as well my plantation wherupon I  
now live containing 310 acres of land as  
also my plantation on Rocky Creek in  
Rowan County containing 118 acres of land  
to have & to hold the same as long as she  
shall remain my widow bearing my name  
that she have all the benefit of my said  
estate & the use thereof on that Condition  
that she remains my widow during the  
remainder of her natural life. but  
she shall have no liberty to sell or make  
over any of my land or tenements or no  
amount but she may spend the same on  
suitable house for her maintenance  
& support to the best advantage as long  
as she remains my widow. but in case

she should marry again then she shall have  
no more then what the law allows her dower  
& that shall only be during her natural life  
& after her death that part allowed her shall be  
returnable to my Children hereafter named  
without any exception & to be divided as hereafter  
directed amongst them by my executor.

- 2<sup>nd</sup>) My negro woman Jude shall remain  
in possession of my dear wife Rosina as long as  
she remains my widow by if the said Jude  
should have any offsprings of her body they shall  
after the death of my wife Rosina belong to my  
Children hereafter named and in case the said  
Jude should prove obstinate & refractory then my  
wife shall have full liberty to sell & dispose of  
her by the consent & advice of my executor hereafter  
named & the money arising from such sale  
shall be made use of either to purchase another  
negro woman or to hire one on terms as circumstances  
may require tho the said Jude or if  
sold the money for her or any surplus thereof  
is to be after the death of my wife Rosina  
the property of Children hereafter named

- 3<sup>rd</sup>) If at any time after my death after my Chil-  
dren shall have all of them arrived to their  
age my dear wife Rosina should by sickness  
or old age be disabled & inclined to break  
up housekeeping she shall have full liberty to do  
the same & if any of my Children shall stay & live  
with her wait on her & support her in her old  
age she shall have full liberty to give & devise  
unto such a child one of my personal property  
as shall think reasonable & agree thereon

9<sup>th</sup> with my executors hereafter named provided  
howsoever that she remain my widow having  
my name.

10<sup>th</sup> My then sons named John, Christian & Philip  
& my four daughters Elizabeth Sarah Catharina  
& Rosina shall have each of them one equal  
share of all my property both real & personal  
immediately after the death of my dear  
wife Rosina which I hereby give & demise  
to each of them to have & to hold the same  
as their own sole property forever. My  
lands & Tenements they are at full liberty  
to divide the same between themselves  
with the advice & consent of my executors  
who shall see that Justice may be done to  
each Child in particular & either lay off  
a certain tract or parcel for each of them  
separately or if they should find it incon-  
venient that they could not agree in a parcel  
whereby they then shall sell either apart or the  
whole of it & divide the money in equal shares  
his will be to be understood in case my wife  
Rosina should after my death marry again  
for if this should happen then my executors  
are hereby empowered to proceed to the division  
of my lands or sell them to the highest bidder  
without waiting for the full age of my younger  
children any thing herein said & mentioned to the  
contrary notwithstanding.

11<sup>th</sup> And I do hereby make ordain constitute &  
appoint my beloved & trusty friends Henry John  
Christian Means & my dear wife Rosina executors  
of my last will & Testament provided howsoever

that my dear wife Rosina should marry again  
then she cease immediately to be counted one of the  
Executors of this my last will & Testament.

And I hereby empower my executors to pay all my  
debts & debts due to me all my accounts & do hereby make  
give & demise all former wills & legacies done  
by me either in writing or by word of mouth  
ratifying & confirming this the other to be my  
last will & Testament. In witness whereof I  
have hereunto put my hand & seal this fourteenth  
day of November in the year of our Lord 1800  
Toward eight hundred & Ninety.

Legal sealed promissory  
& declared by the Testator as  
his last will & Testament in  
the presence of us who at the  
request of the said Testator  
subscribed our names to  
the presence of one another

John Zimmerman (read)  
make.

John Means

Some other written in Dutch.

Stokes County Clerk June 1800

The execution of the last will & Testament  
of John Zimmerman as of which the foregoing  
is a true copy was proven in open Court by  
John Means & ordered to be recorded.

Robt Williams Clk

Wm. T. Williams, Jr.