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James A Houston last will & testament

In the name of God Amen, I James A Houston of the State of North Carolina & County of Union being of sound & disposing mind & memory do make & publish this my last will & Testament hereby revoking all former wills by me made

Item 1st I will and bequeath to my beloved wife Eleanor the plantations on which I now live to her use and behoof forever (& the fifth of the interest in the Howie tract & Pitt tract adjoining this during her widowhood)

Item 2^d It is my will that all my negroes be kept together for the mutual benefit of my widow and my children during her widowhood or till my son R. Howard arrives to the age of twenty one years & in the event of my widow's second marriage then the said negroes shall be divided share and share alike with my sd widow & children if any of the negroes become rebellious my Executors to sell them

Item 3^d I will and bequeath to my sd widow all my stock of horses mules cattle hogs and sheep except such supplies as she may not need to stock her farm the supplies to be sold by my executor.

Item 4th I will that the Mill tract including the mills be sold by my executor on a credit of one and two years also the tract known as the Vance place be sold if it will bring four hundred & fifty Dollars

Item 5th I will and bequeath to my beloved wife two wagons & harness all my farming tools Smith tools firs and running works, Saws thrasher & saw, one buggy & harness all my house hold and kitchen furniture for her & family use and benefit

Item 6th

July
I will that the mill tract including the mills be sold by my executors on a credit of one and two years also the tract known as the Vance place be sold if it will bring four hundred & fifty Dollars

Nov 5th I Will and bequeath to my beloved wife two wagons & harness all my farming tools Smith tools grain and running works, Scurv thrasher & fan, One buggy & harness all my house hold and kitchen furniture for her & family use and benefit

Nov 6th It is my will that my Executors employ as clk. G. Perrom or some suitable person to sell out the stock of goods on hand in my store or so much of them as they in their judgment think prudent then to sell the balance at auction

Nov 7th As the Copartnership with H. Wolf in Monroe was to continue during pleasure it is my will that sd Wolf be continued by my Executors in the partnership as long as he said Wolf can make the business profitable to the satisfaction of my Executors I also will that two other lots owned by me in Monroe be put to public sale with all other items of property not mentioned by me in this my will on 9 months credit It is also my will that after settling all my last debts & funeral expenses out of the proceeds of my estate that my Executors make an equal distribution of the balance of the money among and between my widow & children share and share alike, Lastly I nominate & appoint R. G. Howard & Eleanor my wife to execute this my will

Signed sealed & delivered in presence of

J. H. Morrison

Wm. M. Hume

J. A. Herndon

James N Houston Will Continued

State of North Carolina Court of Pleas & quarters sessions
Union County January Term 1853

I Certify that this instrument of writing the last will and testament of James N Houston was exhibited in open Court and admitted to probate in due form of Law, by William McGowan one of the subscribing witnesses thereto and ordered to be recorded & attested to
to Eleanor Houston,

W. McGowan

Susannah Stitt last will & Testament

I Susannah Stitt of the County of Union and State of North Carolina being of sound and disposing mind and memory do make and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following that is to say, First that my Executor (hereinafter named) shall provide for my body a decent burial suitable to the wishes of my relations and friends and pay all funeral expenses together with my just debts & claims and to whomsoever due or owing out of the money that may come first into his hands as a part or parcel of my estate.

Item, I give and devise to my daughter Agnes Parks my negro man Joe eldest of the two of that name, also my negro girl Mary during her lifetime & at her death to go to her daughter Julia Sophia's

Item, I give and devise to my daughter Julia Sophia's