

James Houston's will

In the name of God amen I James Houston of the County of Mecklenburg & State of North Carolina having nearly lived out my three score years & ten yet being in good health & perfectly sound in mind & memory, for which blessing I feel Grateful to Almighty God, and calling to mind the mortality of my body which convinces me of the necessity of a temporal preparation for that solemn event and in order to prevent difficulties after my decease I feel it incumbent upon me to make this my last will & testament. And first of all I commend my soul to God who gave it, hoping for mercy from God through my Lord Jesus Christ; and my body I consign to the earth from whence it came there to moulder to its mother dust until the final trumpet shall sound & the dead shall rise. Then I pray Almighty God to give it a triumphant resurrection, and a reunion with my soul in the Kingdom of Heaven. And as touching my worldly affairs & effects with which it hath pleased God to bless me with in this life I will try to make an impartial distribution of it in the fear of God. And first I desire that all ^{my} debts be paid out of my goods & chattels. I also give & bequeath unto my dear & beloved wife for the term of her natural life the following property (viz) That part of my Plantation on which I now live that

lies south of the following boundary namely beginning at the
South west end of my lane on John Houstons line, & running
along said line North 20 poles from thence to a water oak and
two wild plum trees at the back of the barn. Thence due east to
the opposite boundary of my plantation including all my
buildings & machinery, together with all my house hold and
Kitchen furniture, except what may be hereinafter otherwise disposed
of. I likewise give & bequeath unto my wife during her natural life
all my negro property except that part which I shall hereinafter
name & bequeath unto my dear children. Item I have given
unto Polly my daughter the offspring of my wife now the wife
of James Pearce the following property (viz) One negro girl named
Creese, one horse saddle & bridle, two cows & two beds & furniture &
one bureau, wheel & cards. Eight dollars in cash, & kitchen furniture
I likewise will & bequeath unto my son James the only son of my wife.
That part of my plantation not already disposed of. also one negro Boy named
Gudge. also one horse saddle & bridle to be worth ninety dollars. I also
will & bequeath unto my son James after the death of his mother that
part of the plantation that I left to his mother during her life
together with all the machinery & farming utensils, also all the
Kitchen furniture, I also will & bequeath unto my said son James
one bed & furniture & two cows, I also will & bequeath unto my
daughter Elisabeth the offspring of my wife the following property

one bed & furniture & two cows, I also will & bequeath unto my daughter Elisabeth the offspring of my wife the following property (viz) One negro girl named Lubet also one horse to be worth seventy five dollars (her saddle & bridle she already has) also two beds & furniture, also one bureau, two cows, wheel & cards and Kitchen furniture. I also will & bequeath unto my youngest daughter Margaret the offspring of my wife, the following property (viz) One negro girl named Caroline one horse saddle & bridle to be worth ninety dollars, also two cows & two beds & furniture one Bureau, wheel & cards & Kitchen furniture. That part of my property that I have left to my dear wife during her natural life & not already disposed of, I will that after her death a fair valuation be put upon it & it equally divided amongst my four children, that I have above named or their legal representatives, I also will that two small tracts of land that I hold one lying near William Yundles containing 35 acres, the other joining William Moustons mill tract be sold at public auction & the proceeds applied towards the liquidation of my debts, I also will that all my stock of every kind not already disposed of except what I shall hereinafter name. be sold at public auction & applied to the liquidation of my debts. Out of the stock above named I will that my dear wife have her choice horse on the place

and two cows her choice, & so many of the hogs as she shall need also six sheep also her choice.

I also will that my two daughters that are at home with me & named above & the stock I have allowed them have their maintenance on the plantation out of the property I have left their mother, until they shall marry or otherwise leave of their own accord.

I do hereby constitute & appoint my worthy & trusty friends Hugh Stewart & Gabulon Morris my executors of this my last will & testament in witness whereof I do hereunto set my hand & affix my seal, this the seventeenth day of May in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred & forty one
Signed & sealed in the presence of us &c—

W^m Houston (Deceased) James Houston (L. S.)
Attest Amos Stevens

State of North Carolina } Court of Pleas & Quarter
Union County } Sessions October Term 1846

This instrument of writing the last will & testament of James Houston dec^d was produced in court & was admitted to probate in due form of law, whereupon Hugh Stewart one of the executors therein named appeared in court & was duly qualified according to law.

H. Stewart C. C. C.