

The Last Will and Testament of Dr.
Thomas W. Bickett, decd.

In the name of God Amen.

I Thomas W. Bickett. of the Town of Monroe,
in the County of Union, and State of North Carolina,
being of sound mind and memory (blessed be
Almighty God for the same) do make and publish
this my last Will and Testament.

In the first place I desire that all and every one
of my household debts be paid out of any funds that may
be on hand and out of the proceeds of any debts
that may be owing me at the time of my death.

In the second place I give devise and bequeath
unto my beloved Wife Mary Ann, my entire estate
both personal and real for the use of herself
and the Children of our bodies together
begotten, to be held by them as an estate in
common, during her life time or Widowhood,
and at her death to be equally divided among
the Children, of our marriage. (Or the Children

be on hand and out of the proceeds of my work
that may be owing me at the time of my death.

In the second place I give devise and bequeath
unto my beloved Wife Mary Ann. my entire estate
both personal and real for the use of herself
and the Children of Our bodies together
be gotten, to be held by them as an estate in
common, during her life time or Widow hood,
and at her death to be equally divided among
the Children of our marriage, (or the Children
of our bodies together be gotten.) Whether Said
Children are now living or may be hereafter born =

In the event of my wife's marriage again,
I still bequeath unto my wife all of my personal
property to be used or disposed of by her as she
may think best to her own comfort & the welfare
of Our Children, but whatever real estate she
may have still on hand that may be properly
considered a part of my estate, then and in that
case I will, give devise and bequeath all
such real estate to the Children of our marriage,
to be equally divided among them, share and
share alike, no matter whether the Children are

Last Will and Testament of Dr J. W. Bickitt
 And Continued,
 now living or may be born hereafter; provided
 however that my my wife shall if she desire it
 have a life time interest in such real estate
 or in other words have the use of it until
 her death;

I Nominate and Appoint my beloved wife
 Mary Ann, to be the Sole Executrix of this my last
 will and Testament, and also as the Guardian
 of my children and do hereby invest her with
 full power and authority to buy and sell
 property either personal or real and should
 she in her Superior Judgement deem it either
 necessary or prudent for the welfare and interest
 of my children, to dispose of any real estate
 herein bequeathed, in fact any real estate that
 I may have after my death, she is fully empowered
 and Authorized to do the same and make all
 proper assurances of title just the same as I
 could do (with her consent) if living, but this
 Authority to dispose of real estate is to terminate
 with her Widowhood -- Further more in the all-

proper Arrangements of little Just the Same as I
Could do (with his Consent) if living, but this
Authority to dispose of real estate is to terminate
with his Widowhood -- Further more in the all-
together improbable case of his becoming a
Widow the second time and having no children
by his second Marriage then and in that
event she is reinvested with all the rights
and Authority to dispose of property that is
invested in her during her first Widowhood.

Now, the meaning of the above paragraph
is that while I desire that my children shall
eventually, as far as circumstances will reasonably
permit, this what little of this world's Good
God may bless me with, it is intended that my
wife shall have full power and Control over
the property & from time to time make such changes
as she may think best for the interest & Comfort of
herself and Our children, and if in rearing and
educating Our children, or from any other
Contingency, she finds it necessary to make
Sale of property that she is fully empowered
to do so. Or if from other prudential reasons
she may deem it advisable to sell to reinvest

that she may do so, in the latter event, however.
When the reinvestment is made in real estate I
would suggest that the title be made to her as
Executrix

My Executrix is furthermore authorized to make
advances of either personal or real property to
any of Our Children whenever she sees proper,
and with whatever restrictions she may think
best.

Witness my hand & Seal this 22nd day of
January A.D. 1846. J. W. Bickley. Seal

My health being delicate and having been so
for some time, I deem it proper to add this
codicil to my Will. The confused condition
of the Old Drug Firm of W. H. Smith & Co.
has been a source of much trouble. Instead
of there being anything due Dr. W. H. Smith either
for monies advanced or wages, I am of opinion
that if he had done his duty & acted honestly
he would be the debtor to the other members
of the firm, but to avoid litigation which

for monies advanced or wages. I am of opinion
that if he had done his duty & acted honestly
he would be the debtor to the other members
of the firm, but to avoid litigation which
at best is very expensive, if he will surrender
my account to date of sale to W. H. Frost, and
agree to let Col. Mackups Estate be paid out
of the Books of the Old Firm. I am
willing that absolute receipts be passed
& thus settle the controversy between us.
He then can have my interest in the Books.
As for me I have a one half (1/2) interest in
the Drug Store.

In the event of my death I direct my interest
to be wound up - My partner, J. W. Griffin
can take my interest at Cash & Carriage, or
he can secure a partner who can have it
on the same terms, and indemnify me against
the debts due by the Firm - The debts of the
Firm are at present nearly equal to the Value
of Stock at Cash and Carriage. The particular
object I wish my executors to have in
view is to secure my estate against the

liabilities of the Firm, and I hereby forbid
my executors to assume any new liabilities in
connection with the Drug Store after my death
except of a legal nature - I hereby reappoint
my wife Mary Ann, as executrix to this my
last will & Testament and also appoint
D. A. Covington Co- executor to assist in
winding up my confessed Drug Store business
Given under my hand & seal this the 25th day
of Sept 1877.

T. W. Beckett

State of North Carolina } Probate Court
Union County }

In the Matter of the Will } Proof of Will
of Dr. Thos. W. Beckett. }
Ex Parte }

The undersigned being duly sworn depose and
say that they are well acquainted with the hand-
writing of Dr. Thos. W. Beckett who died on the 16th
day of July last, that they have carefully examined

The undersigned being duly sworn depose and say that they are well acquainted with the handwriting of Dr. Thos. W. Beckett who died on the 16th day of July last, that they have carefully examined the annexed papers writing purporting to be the Last Will and Testament of the said Dr. Beckett, & they truly believe the same & every part thereof is in the proper and genuine handwriting of him, the said Dr. Thos. W. Beckett.

Sworn to and Subscribed
before me this 31st day of
Aug. A. D. 1882.

T. B. Wiest
J. H. Stevens
J. M. Griffin

James C. Hays, J. C. & P. J.

State of North Carolina } Probate Court
Union County }

In the Matter of the Will of } Proof.
Thos. W. Beckett. }

M. A. Bickett, being duly sworn deposes and Says:
That she was the wife & is now the widow of Dr. Thos. W.
Bickett; That she annexed papers writing purporting
to be the last Will & Testament of the Said Dr. Bickett,
was found by affiant, shortly after the death of the
Said decedent, locked up in the private desk of
Said decedent and among the valuable books,
papers & effects of him the said Dr. Thos. W. Bickett.
deceased. That the said papers writing purporting
to be the Will of the said Dr. Thos. W. Bickett. was
the only instrument found by affiant of that nature
or description, and is the only one as she believes,
in existence

M. A. Bickett.

Sworn to and Subscribed.
before me this the 31st day
of Aug. A.D. 1882.
James C. King &c
J. C. J.

State of North Carolina } Probate Court.
Union County

Attest my hand this 31st day of Aug.

J. B. J.
State of North Carolina } Probate Court.
Union County

In the Matter of the Will } Certificate of
of Dr. Thos. W. Bickett. } Probate.

It appearing to the Satisfaction of the Court that Dr Thos W. Bickett is dead, leaving the annexed papers Writing which purports to be the last Will & Testament of Dr. Thos W. Bickett; and it further appearing upon the Oath of S. D. Winchell, J. H. Stevens and J. W. Griffin that the said annexed papers Writing and each & every part thereof is in the genuine & proper hand writing of the said Dr. Thos W. Bickett, whose hand writing they are thoughtfully familiar with; and it further appearing upon the Oath of M. H. Bickett that the said papers Writing was found by him shortly after the death of the said Dr. Bickett, locked up in his private Desk among his valuable books, papers

and effects & that there was no other instrument of that nature found by her, & She does not believe any other exists.

Now Therefore the Court, After finding that the foregoing recited facts are true, doth as Judge & decree that the Said paper writing, purporting to be the last Will & Testament of Dr Bickett, is in truth & fact the last Will and Testament of the Said G. W. Bickett, & it is hereby Ordered that the Same be, & it is hereby admitted to probate in Common form as the last Will and Testament of the Said Dr Thos W. Bickett Done at my Office in Monroe, this Aug 31st 1882.

James C. Neely, J. C. & P. J.

The last will and testament of Ebenezer Thomas