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William Howards Last Will and Testament

I William Howard of the County of Wakehamburg and State of North Carolina being of Sound mind and memory but considering the uncertainty of my earthly Existence do make and publish this my Last Will and Testament in manner and form following that is to say

First that my Executor herein after 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 howsoever and to whomsoever owing out of the money that may first come into his hands as part or parcel of my Estate also to erect or cause to be erected suitable Tomb Stones over my Grave and the grave of my Wife Elizabeth after her decease such as is common "s

Then I give and devise to my beloved Wife Elizabeth the Plantation on which I now live containing about Two hundred and twenty acres Together with all my Household and Kitchen furniture and all my Negro properly To wit - Sarah - Wray - Edmund - Joseph and Jacob and all of my Stock of every description as Horses Cows Hogs Sheep &c Together with all my corn and fodder Wheat Oats Rappap and the crop which may be growing at the time of my decease also my Wood wagon and yoke and Carriage Black Smith Tools Cotton gin and screw and Thrasher and all my farming Tools of every description and to and if my Wife Elizabeth at my decease in her wisdom and discretion thinks she does not stand in need of all the above Stock and

of every description and learn and if my Wife Elizabeth at my decease in her wisdom and discretion thinks she does not, stand in need of all the above Stock and other loose property she may sell the same or so much thereof as she may not stand in need of with the Exception of the Negroes and take the proceeds of the same apply it to her own use and I appoint, my Executor to attend to the above business for my Wife and to collect, all debts due me at my decease and pay the same over with the proceeds of the Sale if any to her to have and to hold all the above named property and proceeds to her the Said Elizabeth for and during the term of her natural life, and at her death, I do devise and appoint it to be divided among my children as follows Viz, -

Item I give and devise to my oldest Son Robert Gordon Howard the above Plantation to have and to hold in fee simple for ever

Item I give and bequeath unto my youngest Daughter Ann Bell Wife of Samuel Sullwood the above named Negro <sup>Sarah</sup> girls to have and to hold to her and her bodily heirs for ever.

Item I give and devise unto my three grand Children - Harriet Nancy and Moses Children of my beloved Son Samuel Blythe Howard five dollars apiece to be paid to them by my Executor within two years from the time of the death of my wife Elizabeth out of any money belonging to my Estate which sums together with the advancements made to my Son Samuel their Father at his marriage of the Plantation on which his Widow now lives their Mother will make them a fair and equitable Partition

William Howards Last Will and Testament Continued  
Portion according to the Value of my present Estate to have and to  
hold to them and Each of them for ever

Item My will and desire is that, all the residue of The property  
after taking out the above devises above mentioned be sold at public  
Sale on Twelve months Credit and the debts collected that may be ow-  
ing to the Estate and the proceeds of Sale and debts to be Equally divided  
among my children viz Sarah wife of Alexander Bell. Ellen wife of John  
Lawson. Robert Gordon Howard. Jane wife of Amos Stevens. Catharine  
wife of Conrad Wolf. Betsy Wythe wife of John Sullwood. William McTier  
Dick Howard and Ann Bell wife of Samuel Sullwood in equal  
proportion Share and Share alike to them and every one of them their  
heirs Executors administrators and assigns absolutely for ever

And lastly I do hereby constitute and appoint, my trusty friend  
and beloved Son Robert G. Howard 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. In witness whereof I the Said William Howard do here un-  
to set my Name and affix my Seal this the ninth day of January  
AD one thousand eight Hundred and forty three

Signed Sealed published and

declared in presence of —

William H Howard

William Howard 

Signed sealed published and

William Howard Esq

declared in presence of —

William H. Hawey

J. S. Dropper

J. N. Hawey - Juror

State of North Carolina

Union County —

Court of Pleas and Quarter  
Septims July Term 1843

This Instrument of Writing the Last Will and Testament of  
William Howard was produced in open Court by Robert Gordon  
Howard the Executor therein named and was duly proven by  
J. N. Hawey one of the Subscribing Witnesses thereto and order  
-ed to be recorded

Dough Stewart C. C.