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William Newsom's last will & testament

In the name of God Amen. I William Newsom of the County of Union & State of North Carolina calling to mind the uncertainty of life and all earthly things and desireing that while I have strength of body and capacity of mind so to do to direct how I wish the property & effects which God has blessed me with shall be disposed of after my death, I do make publish and declare this to be my last will and testament

And first of all I desire after my death my body to be buried in a decent and christian like manner suitable to the wishes of my family and friends, my soul I commend to God who gave it

Item 1st In the event of my death I desire my wife and Children that is now single to remain in possession of my land and property and effects to live on and enjoy the same & for no division to take place either of land or anything else until my youngest child be comes of twenty one years of age

Item 2nd My is that my wife give off to my Children as they marry or when they become twenty one years of age such things as she sees fit, and that she let my sons as they become twenty one years of age have a suitable

Item 2d

My is that my wife give off to my Children as they marry or when they become twenty one years of age such things as she sees fit, and that she let my sons as they become twenty one years of age have a Suitable portion of my land to live on and to have the benefit of the same until my youngest child becomes twenty one years of age, Then for my land and other property to be sold and equally divided between my wife & Children after allowing those of my sons that improve the lands they live on the value of their improvement if any over and above what the land profits them by having the improvments valued. If my wife should die before the youngest child becomes twenty one years of age, my will is that my property be sold and equally divided between all my children after selling enough property to pay my just debts

Item 3rd I will that my executors sell either at public or private sale such property as they think proper except land to pay my just debts

Item 4th I will that my executors both sell and buy property when they can benefit my heirs by so doing

I appoint my beloved wife and Joel C Myers executors to this my last will and testament. But if the said J C Myers should die before he gets home or before the expiration of the present war and it becomes necessary

thereby to have another executor I appoint my trusty friend Jonathan Sull Executor

Have Signed Sealed and Published the same this the 11th day of October AD 1863 Signed Sealed Published and Declared by the testator to be his last will and testament who in our presents has Signed the same and at his request and in his presents and in the presents of each other have subscribed our names as witnesses to the same.

William Newsom Seal

W S Harvey
John Pierce
S B Webb.

State of North Carolina
Queen County

Then the foregoing paper writing was exhibited for probate by Mrs Newsom the executrix therein appointed to the due execution and publication thereof proven by William S Harvey John Pierce & S B Webb, and it appearing that Joel G Myers one of the executors therein appointed is dead. And Jonathan Sull another executor therein appointed Comes into Court and relinquishes his right to qualify and refuses to do so it is adjudged that Letters testamentary issue to the said Newsom who is duly qualified & to whom letters testamentary is issued