

William Bowen
his Will

I, William Bowen son of the County of Washington and State of North Carolina being of sound mind and memory but Considering the uncertainty of my earthly existence do make and declare this my last will and Testament in manner and form following, that is to say:
First, That my Executors (Living after my death) shall pay all my just debts to whomsoever coming out of the money that may first come into his hands as a part or parcel of my estate also to collect whatever claims there may be justly owing to my estate and to dispose of them as hereinafter mentioned.

I give and devise to my beloved wife the tract of land whereon I now live containing by estimation fifty acres together with my dwelling house all out houses and other improvements to have and to hold to her the said Rhoda Bowen son, for and during the term of her natural life.

Also I give and bequeath to my beloved wife all my personal property (except as may be hereinafter mentioned) consisting of one horse farming implements, stock, furniture Beds and provisions that may be on hand at the time of my death.

I give and devise to my sons Henry H Bowen William J Bowen and Langley R Bowen a piece or parcel of land (to be divided among them as hereinafter specified) said land being on the west side of Long Ridge known as a part of the Patent and Mining Patent to have and to hold to them their heirs and assigns forever. The said land to be divided as follows. William J Bowen to have his part opposite the land whereon he now lives his northward line running in the same direction and with the line crossing the main Ridge between the said William J Bowen and Henry H Bowen to continue through to the back line of the aforesaid piece or parcel of land. Henry H Bowen to have his part opposite the land whereon he now lives the one side adjoining the part of the said William J Bowen and the other side being a continuation of the line crossing the main Ridge between the said Henry H Bowen and Charles A Baylord. The line to continue through to the back line of the said piece or parcel of land. The said Langley R Bowen to have the remaining portions of the aforesaid piece or parcel of land.

And when as my daughter Sally A Bowen being of unsound mind and impaired mental powers, I therefore give and bequeath to all her natural brothers and sisters viz: Henry H Bowen, William J Bowen Langley R Bowen George H Bowen Elizabeth F Odum and Rhoda J Cutler all my personal property consisting of Farming Implements stock of all kind, Furniture Beds and provisions of which I may be possessed at my death, except the life estate of my wife devised in a former item of this my will, for the purpose of maintaining and properly taking care of the said Sally A Bowen, the general supervision and management of the said property shall be as a majority of the said brothers and sisters shall deem proper and expedient the profits and emoluments arising from such management shall be for the permanent support and maintenance of the said Sally A

Bowen during the the period of her natural life the aforesaid brothers and sisters to have and to hold the said, perishable property to them their heirs and assigns forever.

I give and devise to my son William J Bowen a piece or parcel of land lying on or near the north end of Mulberry Island and adjoining the lands of Donatiste Tutton and others to have and to hold the aforesaid piece or parcel of land to him his heirs and assigns forever.

And whereas a line known as the Chaney line having lately been run by which a part of the land I had conveyed to my son George H Bowen and apart conveyed to my daughter Elizabeth F Odum by a deed of gift at a former period has been detached or cut off, now I hereby give and bequeath to each of them separately and singly enough of the land in the Mc Mahon Patent adjoining the lands of Giles Cutler and others and being on the south side, of which is known as the big Blotch to make good to them the number of acres originally conveyed to them by the said deed to have and to hold the aforesaid piece of land to each of them separately and singly their heirs and assigns forever.

I give and devise to my grand daughter Vasthi Tekoah Bowen the tract or parcel of land whereon I now live except the life estate of my wife devised in a former item of this my will to have and to hold the said tract or parcel of land with all its improvements to her her heirs and assigns forever.

I give and devise to my children viz: Henry H Bowen William J Bowen Langley R Bowen George H Bowen Elizabeth F Odum and Rhoda J Cutler the remaining portions of the land I own in the Mc Mahon Patent to be equally divided among them to have and to hold the said land to each of them their heirs and assigns forever.

I give and bequeath to my daughter Sally A Bowen fifty Dollars the money to be obtained by selling enough of my personal or perishable property to amount to the same - provided the debts owing to me after having been collected do not amount to enough to pay the said, fifty Dollars.

And lastly I do hereby constitute and appoint my wife Rhoda Bowen son, 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 hereby revoking and declaring utterly void all other wills and Testaments by me heretofore made. In witness whereof I the said William Bowen son do hereunto set my hand and seal this 3 day of May A D 1873

Wm Bowen son (Seal)

Signed sealed, published and declared by the said William Bowen son to be his last will and Testament in the presence of us who at his request and in his presence do subscribe our names as attesting witnesses thereto

C B Latham
Robt B Wendley

Probate of
Mr. Brown's
Will

Washington County. In the Probate Court.

A paper writing purporting to be the last will and testament of William Brown deceased is exhibited before me the undersigned Judge of Probate in and for said County by Rhoda Brown and the Executrix therein named and the due execution thereof by the said William Brown by the oath and examination of C. B. Latham and Robt B Windley the subscribing witnesses thereto, who being duly sworn doth depose and say and each for himself depose and saith, that he is a subscribing witness to the paper writing now shown him purporting to be the last will and testament of Wm Brown deceased.

That the said Mr Brown in the presence of these deponents and, each of them subscribed his name at the end of said paper writing which is now shown as aforesaid and which bears date on the 3 day of May 1873, did in the presence of this deponent and each of them acknowledge the signing the said paper writing.

And the deponents further saith that the said Mr Brown the testator aforesaid, did at the time of subscribing his name as aforesaid, declare the said paper writing so subscribed by him and, exhibited to be his last will and testament and the deponent and each of them did then and thereupon subscribe his name at the end of said will as an attesting witness thereto, and at the request and in the presence of the said testator, and the deponent further saith that at the time when the said testator subscribed his name to the said last will as aforesaid and at the time of the deponents subscribing his name as attesting witness thereto as aforesaid, the said Mr Brown was of sound mind and memory, of full age to execute a will and was not under any restraint to the knowledge information or belief of this deponent and further these deponents say not.

Sworn and subscribed to before
me this 27 June 1874

J. A. McLean Probate Judge

C. B. Latham

Robt B Windley

Upon the hearing of the foregoing Proofs and examination of C. B. Latham and Robt B Windley, subscribing witnesses to the last will and testament of Mr Brown deceased. It is Considered and adjudged that the paper writing is the last will and testament of the said Mr Brown deceased and is duly proved and admitted to Probate and it is further adjudged that said will, together with the probate be recorded on the Records of the County of Washington County. This the 27 day of June 1874

J. A. McLean Prob. Judge

Personally appeared before me the undersigned Judge of Probate Mrs Rhoda Brown and qualified as Executrix to the said last will and testament of Mr Brown and her oath of qualification is filed: this the 27th June 1874

J. A. McLean Prob. Judge

I William J Smith of the County of Washington and State of North Carolina, being of sound mind and memory, but considering the uncertainty of my earthly existence do make and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following that is to say: -

First. That my executrix and executor (whom 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 their hands as a part or parcel of my estate.

Item: I lend to my beloved wife, Elizabeth A. all of the tract of land whereon I now live, and the tract of land which I brought of James Navasport, adjoining the lands of R. H. Wells and others, to have and to hold to her, the said, Elizabeth A. Smith for and during the term of her natural life.

Item: I give and bequeath to my said, beloved wife Elizabeth A. Smith, all of my Crops, Stocks, provisions, agricultural implements, household and kitchen furniture, all the domestic fowl and poultry, on hand at the time of my death, to be hers absolutely forever.

Item: I give and bequeath to my daughter Henrietta W. Downing, the sum of three hundred dollars to be hers and at her disposal absolutely forever.

Item: I give and bequeath to my beloved wife, Elizabeth A. Smith, all the bonds, notes and accounts (after taking out the legacy above mentioned) which are due me, to be hers forever.

Item: I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Elizabeth A. Smith, the amount of property which descends to me from the estate of my father Jesse Smith, deceased, to be hers forever.

Item: I give and devise to the Children of my two daughters, Mary F. Tarkenton and Henrietta W. Downing, except the life estate of my wife devised in a former item of this my will. The tract of land whereon I now live and the Navasport tract, to have and to hold to them and to their heirs in fee simple forever.

Item: I lend to James F. Tarkenton and his wife Mary F. My interest in the tract of land whereon they now live on conditions that they live on and occupy the same, for and during the term of their natural lives.

Item: I give and devise to the Children of my daughter Mary F. Tarkenton wife of James F. Tarkenton, the interest in the tract of land which I have loaned on a former item to James F. Tarkenton and his wife Mary F. whenever they fail or neglect to occupy and live on the same, or at their death, to have and to hold to them and their heirs in fee simple forever.

Item: I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Elizabeth A. Smith, all the residue of my estate (if any) after taking out the legacies above mentioned, to be hers absolutely forever.

And lastly, I do hereby constitute and appoint my truly wife, Elizabeth