

State of North Carolina
Washington County

In the name of God Amen.

May Spruill of sound mind and disposing memory, and knowing the uncertainty of human life, do make and declare this to be my last will and testament in manner and form following.
11 July 1873 I give and bequeath to my daughter Sarah Parmele

Item - I give and bequeath to my daughter Roxanna Spruill my large bed, bedstead mattress and the cloths belonging to it.

Item - My house and land that I purchased of Mrs A.C. Darnip I devise to my children and their heirs as follows. To my daughter Sophy Armistead one share, my daughter Alice Parmele one share, to my daughter Clementina Barker one share, to my daughter Mary Bell one share, to my daughter Grace Garrett one share, to my daughter Roxanna Spruill one share, to my son Samuel Parmele one share to my son George Parmele one share. And to my daughter Sarah Parmele one share during her life then to the other children above named surviving her, my daughter Sarah being of weak mind, I hereby declare that she shall always be taken care of by her brothers and sisters. And for this reason have only devised her a life estate in my said land.

It is my desire that my land remain in the family always that if my children for the sake of a division wish to sell let some one of them buy out the others.

I appoint my son in law Prosper Armistead to be my executor to this my last will and testament. And in testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this the 31st day of May 1873 in the presence of Jno E Reddish and Jos Windley who are the subscribing witnesses thereto.

Mary ^{her} Spruill ^{deced}
Mark

Signed and sealed in the presence of and acknowledged to be her last will and testament before

John E Reddish

Jos Windley

Probate of
Mary Spruill
will

Washington County - In the Probate Court.
A paper writing purporting to be the last will and testament of Mary Spruill deceased, is exhibited before me, the undersigned Judge of Probate in and for said County by Prosper Armistead

the execution therein named. And the due execution thereof by the said Mary Spruce, by the oath and examination of Joseph Kindley and Geo E. Reddick, the subscribing witnesses thereto who being duly sworn doth depose and say. And each for himself depose and say, that he is a subscribing witness to the paper-writing now shown him purporting to be the last will and testament of Mary Spruce.

That the said Mary Spruce, in the presence of this deponent subscribed her name at the end of said paper-writing, which is now shown as aforesaid, and which bears date on the 31st day of May 1873 or did in the presence of this deponent acknowledge the signing the said paper-writing.

That the deponent further saith, that the said Mary Spruce, the testatrix aforesaid, died at the time of subscribing her name as aforesaid, declare the said paper-writing as subscribed by her and executed, to be her last will and testament, and the deponent did themselves 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 testatrix. And this deponent further saith, that at the time the deponent, did subscribe his name and each of them their names as an attesting witness thereto as aforesaid the said Mary Spruce 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 these deponents, and further these deponents say not.

Given and subscribed
to this the 11 day of July 1873
before me J. H. Miller
Notary Public

John E. Reddick
Geo Kindley

I, Henry Downing 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 execution (executors after named) shall provide for my body a decent burial suitable to their wishes, and pay all funeral expenses out of the money that may first come into their hands as a part and parcel of my estate.

Item: I give and devise to my beloved wife Martha A. the plantation whereon I now live, to have and to hold to her the said Martha A. for and during the term of her natural life or widowhood, in satisfaction for and in lieu of her dower or homestead of and in all of my real estate.

Item: I give and devise to my eldest son Wm Cotton Downing all that tract of land known as the "Pocasin Farm" to have and to hold to him and his heirs in fee simple forever.

Item: I give and devise to my youngest son Henry A Downing all that tract of land known as the "Davenport Land" to have and to hold to him and his heirs in fee simple forever.

Item: I give and devise to my youngest son Henry A Downing all that tract of land whereon I now live, except the life estate or widowhood of my beloved wife Martha A. devised in a former item of this my will, to have and to hold unto him and his heirs in fee simple forever.

Item: I give and devise to my son Wm Cotton Downing, his heirs and assigns the house and tract of land whereon my daughter Harriet wife of J. H. McDowell now lives known as the "Brent Place" in special trust and confidence that my said son Wm Cotton Downing shall hold the same to the sole and separate use of my said daughter Harriet for and during the term of her natural life, free and discharged of any and all debts of her present or any future husband, and that after the death of my said daughter Harriet my said son Wm Cotton Downing shall convey the same in fee simple to the heirs of the said Harriet lawfully begotten of her body.

Item: I give and devise to my two sons Wm Cotton Downing and Henry A Downing, equally, to have half and half my mill known as "Lee Mills" and all the houses and improvements connected therewith, and on the premises and the land belonging thereto, together with my carry logs, Charnis, Poles and Oars, to have and to hold to them and their heirs in fee simple forever.

Item: I give, and bequeath to my youngest daughter Mary Eliza wife of G. B. Johnston all the timber upon that tract of land