

E.A. Benham's Will

Know all men by these presents, that I, E.A. Benham, of the County of Gaston and State of North Carolina, being of sound mind and memory do make and publish this my last will and testament as follows:

I give and bequeath to my two granddaughters, Dr. Lila and Leggie W. Benham, all property, lands, houses, tenements, each and every thing that is by me owned, unto them to be theirs. If one of them should die before they arrived to maturity, the surviving sister to have all, be the heir; if both should be taken from this world before they had legal heirs, then I would wish that the children of my Bro. C. J. Bowles, and Ida Holden should have what belongs to me, as my nearest relatives.

I furthermore wish and request that my executor and administrator shall hold and manage this property to the best advantage for the said children, not put it in the hands of their guardian, but keep it in their own hands until the children shall arrive at an age that they can manage it, or marry and have some one that is interested to assist them, then I trust all will be right.

I hereby ordain and appoint J. S. Claywell and L. Gwyn as my executor and administrators of this my last will and testament.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, and publish and declare this to be my last will and testament, in the presence of the witnesses named below:

E. A. Benham and

Witnesses:-

John H. Ball,
J. H. Atkins.

Probate

State of North Carolina } In the Superior Court.
Gaston County }

A paper purporting to be the last will and testament of E.A. Benham, deceased, is exhibited before me, the undersigned, Clerk of the Superior Court for said County, by Dr. Etelle B. Davis, and the due execution thereof by the said E.A. Benham by the oath and examination of John H. Ball and J. H. Atkins, the subscribing witness thereto, who being duly sworn, doth depose and say, and each for himself,

deposeth and saith, that he is a subscribing witness to the paper writing now shown him, purporting to be the last will and testament of E.A. Benham, that he said E.A. Benham in the presence of this deponent subscribed his name at the end of said paper writing which is now shown as aforesaid, and which bears date of the 25 day of July, 1886.

Said the deponent further saith, that the said E.A. Benham, the testator aforesaid, did at the time of subscribing his name as aforesaid declare the said paper writing as subscribed by him, and exhibited to be his last will and testament and this deponent did thereupon subscribe his name at the end of said will, as an attesting witness thereto, and at the request and in the presence of said testator.

Said this deponent further saith, that at the same time when the said testator subscribed his name to the said last will aforesaid, and at the time of the deponente subscribing his name as an attesting witness thereto, as aforesaid, the said E.A. Benham 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.

John H. Ball
J. H. Atkins

Severally sworn and sub-
scribed, this 2 day of May
1904, before me. }

W.H. Hall, Clerk Superior Court

North Carolina }
Gaston County } In the Superior Court.

It is therefore considered and adopted by the court that the said paper writing and every part thereof is the last will and testament of E.A. Benham deceased. Let the said will, together with the probate, be recorded and filed.

This 2 day of May, 1904.

W.H. Hall, Clerk
Superior Court.

Yadkinville, N.C.
Oprie 23-04.

I desire the following distribution of my life insurance and all other possessions after my death; we leave this as my will:

P. J. Rayall Clay County, Kas. \$25⁰⁰; Nancy Jane Hendershot Chestnut Ridge, N.C. 75⁰⁰; Mrs. Rayall Chestnut Ridge, N.C. 75⁰⁰; C. S. Rayall Chestnut Ridge, N.C. 82⁰⁰; Mrs. Asberry Rayall Chestnut Ridge, N.C. 25⁰⁰; Mary Anna Ladd Statesville, N.C. 25⁰⁰. The balance of all insurance & possessions to Dr. W.A. Rayall, Yadkinville, N.C., who will bear my burial expenses & pay the debts itemized on statement attached to this will. Insurance money is to be collected by above named Dr. W.A. Rayall, whom I hereby name as my attorney administrator.

Walter B. Rayall

Witness:
E. J. West.

Probate

North Carolina }
Yadkin County } In Superior Court.

In the matter of the last } A paper writing purporting to be the
will & testament of Walter } last will and testament of Walter
B. Rayall, deceased } B. Rayall produced in open court
and the following proceedings had.

H. B. Nelson, M. W. Mackie and John W. Pass, each being by me duly sworn deposes and says, that he is well acquainted with the hand writing of Walter B. Rayall deceased and that they each for themselves do further swear that they and each of them do very believe that the paper writing produced as the last will and testament of the said Walter B. Rayall is in the hand writing of the said Walter B. Rayall each and every part thereof including the signature at the end of said will.

John W. Pass
H. B. Nelson
M. W. Mackie

Sworn & subscribed to }
before me this May 7, 1904 }
W. A. Hall, Esq.

North Carolina }
Yadkin County } In Superior Court.

E. J. West being duly sworn says that the paper writing purporting to be the last will and testament of Walter B. Rayall deceased, was handed to him by the said testator and at his request was signed by him the said E. J. West as a subscribing witness thereto in the presence of and at the request of the said testator; that the said testator acted his affidavit to get him his coat which was in the room with him and his affidavit did so and the testate took the aforesaid paper writing from a pocket of said coat and handed it to this affiant who signed the same at said testator's request and after signing the same this affiant put said paper in an envelope out of which it came and put it back into his coat pocket where it was found after his death with other valuable papers.

E. J. West

Sworn & subscribed to before }
me this May 7, 1904,
W. A. Hall, Esq.

North Carolina } In Superior Court.
Yadkin County }

Upon the evidence of the foregoing witnesses, it is adjudged by the Court that the said paper writing and every part thereof is the last will and testament of Walter B. Rayall deceased. Let the said will together with the probate be recorded and filed.

This May 7, 1904.

W. A. Hall, Esq.