

John Potters Will

In the Name of God Amen

The eighteenth day of November in the year of Our Lord one thousand one hundred and eighty nine I John Potter of the County of Washington in the State of North Carolina being weak in body but of sound mind and Memory thanks be given to God for his Mercy but willing to meet the reality of My body and knowing that it is appointed One for all men to die do make Constitute & Ordain in my last will and testaments in the following manner and form —

First I recommend my soul into the hands of Almighty God that gave it and my body to the Ground to be buried in decent Christian burial at the discretion of My executors to be here after named nothing doubting but to receive it again at the general resurrection at the last day and a touching such worldly estate as it pleases God to bless me with in this life. I demise bequeath and dispose of in the following manner and form — First I demise all debts due to me by John Smith (a black man) my slave may be lawfully paid I also demise and bequeath unto my beloved wife Sarah Potter the plantation (whereon I now live) survey in Natural title also all lands and tenancy now in money both and household furniture and also her share I demise and bequeath the same land lying on the side of the creek I live on unto my beloved son John Potter and Johnston Potter to be equally divided between them to them & their heirs for ever — I also will and bequeath unto my beloved son in law Adam Ransbott all the land lying on the east side of Peters creek in my survey including the place where George Miller now lives to him and his heirs for ever — I also will and bequeath unto my beloved son Abraham Potter One cow and a touching the remainder part of my estate which consists of cattle houses faggots sheep household furniture tools book debts bonds notes negroes householdments &c. I will bequeath and equally divide the same collected or received from the persons where the same is due unto my beloved children as follows to wit to say Mary Potter John Potter Elizabeth Potter Johnson Potter Sarah Potter &

beloved son John Potter and Johnston Potter to be equally divided between them to them & their heirs
for ever - I also will and bequeath unto my beloved son in law Adam Rantolt all the land lying
on the east side of Joans creek in my survey including the place where George Miller now lives to him
and his heirs for ever - I also will and bequeath unto my beloved son Abraham Potter One cow
and as touching the remainder part of my estate which consists of cattle horses ~~horses~~ sheep bushels
furniture tools book debts bonds notes negroes & indentureds &c. I will bequeath and equally divide
when collected or received from the persons where the same is due unto my beloved children as
followeth that is to say Mary Potter John Potter Elizabeth Potter Johnson Potter Sarah Potter &
in case my said son in law Adam Rantolt should lose the land herein devised he is to have
his equal share with each & the five last mentioned children Mary Potter John Potter Elizabeth
Potter Johnson Potter and Sarah Potter - I do furthermore by these presents make constitute
and Ordain Hannah Potter my beloved wife and my trusty and well beloved friends Cornelius
Bowman and Thomas Whitson my sole executors to this my last will and testament and of
do by these presents revoke disannul and disallow all former wills legacies & bequests by me
made ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament. In
testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this day & date above written
Signed sealed and delivered by the said
John Potter as his last will & testament

John ^{his} Potter (Seal)
mark

in the presence of
William Moreland
John ^{his} Grandstaff
mark
Joan Grandstaff

The foregoing will was proven in court by the Oaths of William
Moreland and John Grandstaff two of the subscribing witnesses thereto
and awarded Hannah Potter Cornelius Bowman and Thomas
Whitson executors qualified - at May Session 1790