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In the Name of God, Amen, Whereas I John Melton of Nash County and State of North Carolina, being weak in body though of sound and perfect memory thanks be to God do make this writing as and for my last will and testament

Imprimis: I give and bequeath unto my son Cooper Melton the plantation and tract of land I purchased of Briant O'Neal containing by estimation one hundred and fifty acres to hold to him his heirs and assigns forever.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my son Thomas Melton the plantation whereon I now live with all the land I purchased of Arthur O'Neal containing by estimation one hundred and forty six acres to hold to him his heirs and assigns forever.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my wife Elizabeth Melton her choice one feather bed and furniture . Item: I give and bequeath unto my daughter Mary Hart five shillings as for the remainder of my estate my will and desire is that it be equally divided between my wife aforesaid and children David Melton, Mathew Melton, Joseph Melton, Ann Melton, Pereby Melton, Cooper Melton, Martha Melton and Thomas Melton and I do hereby constitute and appoint my sons David Melton and Joseph Melton my whole and sole executors of this my last will and testament in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 29th day of April, 1797.

Signed, and sealed
in presence of
Lewis Vick
Jacob Wick
Abraham Wick
mark

his
John X Melton (Seal)
mark.

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Nash County

August court 1800

The foregoing will was duly proven in open court by the oath of Lewis Vick a subscribing witness thereto and on motion and ordered to be recorded.

Attest, Wm Hall, C.C.

and is registered in obedience to the above order.

Attest, Wm Hall, C.C.

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In the Name of God, Amen. I Francis Ward of the County of Nash and State of North Carolina, the weak in body yet of perfect and sound mind and memory, do make and obtain this to be my last will and testament in manner and form following.

Imprimis: I give and devise unto my son Benjamin Ward one negro man named Essex to him and his heirs forever.

Item: I give and devise unto my daughter Mary Southall two pounds specie. Item: I give and devise unto my daughter Salley Avent four hundred acres of land to be taken out of that tract of land that I purchased of Archibald Davie adjoining said Avents land also two negroes name Patience and Mourain and their increase to her and her heirs forever.

Item: I give and devise unto my daughter Nancy Jones twenty pounds in money also I lend unto said Nancy Jones five negroes (in) Jude Chaney, Cicely, Vol, and Toby during her natural life and after her decease, I give the said five negroes above mentioned and their increase to my granddaughter Betsey Jones, also I give and devise unto said Betsey Jones one negro named Mary and her increase to her and her heirs forever. Item: I give and devise unto my daughter Frietyla Newson three negroes (in) Sam, Aggey, and Harry and their increase to her and her heirs forever. Item: I give and devise unto my son John Ward alias Mathews the child that my wife had before Wedlock all the land that I am possessed of in the county of Halifax except the land that I purchased of Mark Pitts containing one hundred and twelve acres and then beginning at a post oak a little above the mill and running a strait line to said Pitts corner in Alston Creek and all below also I give unto said John Ward Alias Mathews five negroes ~~Wesse~~ Sam, Give, Sylvia, Ben and Ned and their increase to him and his heirs forever, also I give unto said John Ward alias Mathews one feather bed and furniture and thirty pounds in money. Item: I give and devise unto my son Francis Ward the land and plantation whereon I now live with the grist mill, also the land that I purchased of Mark Pitts also a piece of land lying between that and the creek from a post oak on the creek just above the mill, said Pitts corner in Alston Creek and all below, also the remainder of the land that purchased of Archibald Davis, also the land that I purchased of Samuel Miller, also the remainder of the land I purchased of Lewis Miller, also the remainder of the land I purchased of Benjamin Sandeford also the land I purchased of Samuel Mitchel, also five negroes (in) sam, Holley, great Charles, Davie, and Hinge, them and their increase to him and his heirs forever, also one feather bed and furniture and thirty pounds in money. Item: I give and devise unto my daughter Fanny Ward the land and plantation that I purchased of Pryor Gardner also six negroes (in) Sam, Lucy, Dennis, Agg, Jack and Dinah them and their increase to her and her heirs forever, also one riding chair one desk, and Feather bed and furniture to her and her heirs. Item: I give and devise unto my son Nathan Ward all the land that I purchased of Pollock also six negroes (in) yellow Charles, Peter, Phillis, Prissey, Lucy, and Jack and their increase also one feather bed and furniture and thirty pounds in money to him and his heirs forever. Item: I give and devise unto my daughter Fanny Ward one negro girl named Chaney and her increase to her and heirs forever. Item; I give and devise unto my granddaughter Betsey Jarratt one negro girl named Nan and her increase to her and her heirs forever. Item: I give and devise unto my grand son Thomas Anderson fifty pounds in money. Item: I give and devise unto William ward the land that I purchased of James Goodwin to him and his

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heirs forer. Item: I give and devise unto my wife Sarah Ward, three negroes (in Will, Spencer and Jane, also I lend unto my wife four negroes, Sucky, Charles, Gilley and Gilbert during her natural life and after her decease, I desire that the said negroes and their increase may be equally divided among my four youngest children that I had by my last wife, and if any of said children should die before they come of age, I desire that the rest of said children should have their estate equally divided among them also I give unto my wife ten cows and calves, twenty head of hogs, ten sheep, two horses, one called the Robertson colt and one called Spark and two feather beds and furniture also I lend unto my wife all the remainder of my household and kitchen furniture also all the working tools on this plantation whereon I now live during her life and after her decease the same to be equally divided among my four youngest children also I lend unto my wife the use of the land and plantation whereon I now live until John Ward arrives to the age of twenty one years and then for him to take the said land and mill in possession and have the use and benefit of the same until my son Francis Ward arrives to the age of twenty one years, also I lend unto my wife the use of the land and plantation I purchased of Samuel Melton during her natural life and I desire that my son Benjamin Ward may have the mill and keep the same in good repair and after supplying my wife's family with bread corn therefrom that he may have the benefit of the same until my son John Ward arrives to the age of twenty one years. Item: I give unto my son Benjamin Ward and my daughter Salley Avents all my notes of hand and book accounts Item: My will and desire is that after my just debts are paid and legacies herein before mentioned, that all the rest and residue of my estate may be equally divided among six of my children, Benjamin Ward, Salley Avent, John Ward, alias Mathews, Francis Ward, Fanny Ward and Nathan Ward and I do appoint Archibald Davis Benjamin Ward and John Harrison Executors of this my last will and testament making void all other wills by me made. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this twentieth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred.

Signed, and sealed
in presence of

Mark Pitt
Benjamin Blunt
George Gardner.
Joe Ward.

his
Francis x Ward (Seal)
Mark

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Nash County

November Court, 1800

The foregoing will was duly proven in open court by the oath of Benjamin Blunt and George Gardner two subscribing witnesses thereto and on motion ordered to be recorded.

Attest, Wm Hall, C.C.

and is registered in obedience to the above order.

Attest, Wm Hall, C.C.