

## Will of LAURENCE SMITH, deceased

I, Laurence Smith, of Northampton county, and state of North Carolina, now in Monroe county, and state of Virginia, being low in health, and calling to mind the mortality of the body, though low in health, is sound in mind and in perfect senses, do ordain and give my worldly estate as follows. Item, I lend unto my beloved wife Jane Smith, all my lands lying on the west side of Braddy's Road between Correray Swamp and Potecasy Swamp; also the lands and mill I bought of Low, during her life or widowhood. Item, I give unto my son Joseph L. D. Smith, the above lands I have lent unto my wife, after her marriage or death, to him and his heirs forever. My will and desire is that my sons Henry Smith and Joseph L. D. Smith, and my daughter Rebecca Smith, should remain in and have the benefit of my house I have lent unto my wife during their single state, without paying board. Item, I lend unto my beloved wife, all my household furniture, plantation utensils, chariot, and two horses, which she may make choice of, during her widowhood, but she may dispose of the same during her widowhood, to my children as she may think proper. Item, I lend unto my beloved wife, three of the house servants of which she may make choice of, not interfering with them I may hereafter give away, during her widowhood or life. I also lend her one fifth part of my estate, land excepted, that I may not hereafter give away, during her widowhood or life, and at her marriage or death, which may first to take place, my will and desire is that it shall be equally divided between my children, except that which I have already given away, or may hereafter give away. Item, after my just debts being paid, I give unto my beloved wife, one fifth part of all my bonds and money, and if the said bonds and money that comes to her share, do not amount to five thousand dollars, the deficiency to be made to her to make the amount five thousand dollars. Item, I give and bequeath to my son Henry Smith, my Mush Island tract of land, provided he will pay unto his brother Joseph L. D. Smith, ten thousand dollars, paying one thousand dollars annually, to him and his heirs forever. But if the said Henry Smith should refuse to take the land on the above terms, I give and bequeath unto my son Joseph L. D. Smith, the above lands on the same conditions of his paying his brother Henry Smith, the ten thousand dollars in annual payments of one thousand dollars, but not to be paid or any part thereof, till he, the said Joseph L. D. Smith shall come of age. Item, I give and bequeath unto my son Henry Smith, the land and plantation I bought of William Peterson, to him and his heirs forever; also a negro man, a blacksmith by the name of Willis. Item, I give and bequeath unto my son Joseph L. D. Smith, the tract of land in Southampton county, Virginia, that I bought of Richard Blunt, and all the lands lying between Potecasey Swamp and Wheeler's Mill Swamp in Northampton county, to him and his heirs forever; and a blacksmith, Fill, and his wife Cate, who are to remain on the plantation where he now is, and is to do my wife's blacksmith work. Item, I give and bequeath unto my daughter Rebecca Smith, my lands and mill lying on the east side of Braddy's Road, to her and her heirs forever; also the land I bought of William Sikes, and the following Negroes, to wit, Nan and her child Alfred, Yellow Jude and her children, viz, Sealy, Kello, and Eliza, and her last child, and their increase, to her heirs, also one negro man, a blacksmith. Item, I lend unto my beloved wife, a negro man named Tom, a blacksmith, during her widowhood. Item, I give and bequeath unto my daughter Dorothy Mason, all my lands lying on the south side of Wheeler's Mill Swamp, to her and her heirs forever. Also I give unto her the Negroes I sent to her that she has now in possession, and their increase, to her and her heirs forever. Item, my will and desire is that the Negroes, stock of all kinds, and all other kind of my estate that I have not already given away, that my wife shall have one fifth part during her widowhood or

natural life as above stated. Item, my will and desire is that all my Negroes that I have not already given away, money, bonds, stock of all kinds, and every thing that I have not heretofore disposed of, shall be equally divided between my children, Henry Smith, Joseph L. D. Smith, Rebecca Smith, and Dorothy Mason, without an action of any part of my estate whatever, but if my Executors think proper to make sale of any part of the perishable estate, and it may be necessary, they may do it at private sale. The two old Negroes, Jerry and Lucy, his wife, my desire is that they may live with either of their family as they may make choice, and then that they may make choice to live with shall maintain them comfortable. I do hereby nominate and appoint my son Henry Smith and Daniel Mason, my whole and sole Executors of this my last will and testament, disannulling all wills heretofore made by me. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 31<sup>st</sup> day of July, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and eleven.

Test:

John Dawson  
Allen Deberry

Laurence Smith

#### WILL BOOK 3, PAGE 73

Codicil to the Will of LAURENCE SMITH, deceased

Being low in health, but in sound mind and memory, thanks be to God therefore, I make an amendment to my will made the 31<sup>st</sup> day of July 1811. Wherein I have since purchased a tract of land known by the name of the Courthouse Tract, lying in the county of Northampton, which land I give and bequeath unto my daughter Dorothy Mason, to her and her heirs forever. And in consequence of my giving my daughter Dorothy Mason, the above named land, I deduct out of her share of my will made the 31<sup>st</sup> day of July 1811, six thousand dollars, which is to be equally divided between my children, viz, my son Henry Smith, Joseph L. D. Smith, and Rebecca Smith, which is two thousand dollars each. Item, I give and bequeath unto my daughter Rebecca Smith, fifteen hundred dollars, it being for the land that I sold, known by the name of Syke's, which land I had given to her in my will made the 31<sup>st</sup> day of July 1811. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 29<sup>th</sup> day of December one thousand eight hundred and eleven.

Test:

H. Edmunds, Jr.  
Simon Braswell  
Presley Pritchard

Laurence Smith

Will was proven in open court at the June term of 1812, and ordered to be recorded, with Henry Smith and Daniel Mason qualifying as Executors.

E. Haynes, Clerk