

Will, NC, Cleveland, James Andrew Briant 1861

North Carolina]
Cleveland County] 6th October 1861

I **JAMES A. BRIANT** of the state of North Carolina and the county of Cleveland having volunteered my services in defense of Confederate States of America and expecting to march in a few days for the seat of war and not knowing whether I may ever return and being now in common health and of sound and disposing mind and memory but calling to mind the shortness and uncertainty of my earthly existence do on this 6th day of October in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one make, ordain and publish this my last will and testament in Manner and form following to wit:

First I will devise and bequeath unto my beloved wife **ELIZABETH** full possession and control of all my property both real and personal including my land notes and other personal property from the day and date until my youngest sister **MATILDA BRIANT** comes to the age of 21 years and then the whole of the land show come to a fair and open sale.

2nd my mule and buggy and my half of the blacksmith tools and any other property that she may see fit to let come to sale to be sold by my executor, to be hereinafter named, and all my just debts to be paid and then after all demands is paid off then the remainder of the property to remain in the possession of my wife **ELIZABETH BRIANT** during her natural life or widowhood and in case that she marry again then I direct that my executor put the property to sale at public auction and loan out of the proceeds of sale, including the pieces of land, for the benefit of my children to wit: **EMILY E. BRIANT** and **RUFUS T. BRIANT** and also any other which may be born in a reasonable time hereafter.

3^{rdly} I hereby nominate ordain and appoint **L. A. BOTTS**, my true and worthy friend, sole executor to this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I **JAMES A. BRYANT** have hereunto set my hand and seal.

Signed, Sealed published and proclaimed this to be my last will and testament in the presence of the following witnesses.

JAMES A. BRIANT {seal}

C. CARPENTER, jurat

CHRISTOPHER COSTNER {mark}