

Will, NC, Johnston, Thomas Avera 1787

In the name of God, Amen.

I, **THOMAS AVERA [AVERY]** of Johnston County being weak in body but of sound and perfect mind and memory, bless be God, do this ninth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty seven make this my last will and testament, that is to say that I commit my soul into the hands of almighty God who gave it and my body to the earth to be buried by the directions of my executors in a Christian manner, and as to my worldly goods, which it has pleased God to bestow me, I desire they may be disposed of in the following manner (to wit).

FIRST I desire that all my just debts be paid out of my estate by my executors.

SECONDLY I give and bequeath to my beloved wife **MARY** two beds and furniture one mare name **BARB** one side saddle and bridle, six cows and calves, two steers, one bull and five sows and their pigs, one pot and hooks, one iron rack, half a dozen chairs, one table, one chest, one trunk, one linen wheel, one woolen wheel, all my tubs, pails, piggons, one large pewter dish, four basins, four plates and twelve spoons. I also lend to my beloved wife one negro wench named **JANE** during her natural life, also one negro wench named **LUCE** during the term of ten years and at the expiration of the said term of ten years, the said negro wench **LUCE** and her children and the children of the said negro wench **JANE** to be equally divided between all my children at the discretion of my executors or by the direction of the court. I also leave her that part of my lands and plantation, to my beloved wife, during her life or widowhood.

ITEM. I give and bequeath to my beloved son **WILLIAM AVERA** all my lands and plantation lying above the Mill Branch to him and his heirs forever.

ITEM. I give and bequeath to my beloved son **THOMAS AVERY** one negro girl named **LUXE** and all my right of the land and plantation willed to my by my brother **JOHN AVERA** to him and his heirs forever.

ITEM. I give and bequeath to my beloved son **KEDAR AVERA** all my land and plantation below the Mill Branch to him and his heirs forever.

ITEM. I give and bequeath to my beloved daughters **ANNE [AVERA] STALLINGS** and **EDITH [AVERA] STALLINGS** ten shillings each.

ITEM. I give and bequeath to my beloved daughter **MARY AVERA** thirty five pounds specie to be levied out of my estate.

ITEM. I give and bequeath to my beloved daughter **BARSHABA AVERA** thirty five pounds specie to be levied out of my estate.

ITEM. I give and bequeath to my beloved daughter **WINIFRED AVERA** thirty five pounds specie to be levied out of my estate.

ITEM. I give and bequeath to my beloved daughter **ZILPAH AVERA** thirty five pounds specie to be levied out of my estate.

ITEM. I reserve fifty pounds specie to be laid out by my executors in schooling my children out of my estate.

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The remainder part of my estate, after all legacies is paid off, to be equally divided between all my children and to be sold at the discretion of my executors.

And I do hereby constitute and appoint my worthy friend **ALEXANDER AVERA** and **WILLIAM AVERA** and my beloved wife **MARY AVERA** executors and executrix to this my last will and testament.

In witness whereof, I the said **THOMAS AVERA** to this my last will and testament set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

THOMAS AVERA {seal}

Signed, sealed, published and declared by the said **THOMAS AVERA**, the testator, to be his last will and testament in presents of us the subscribing witnesses.

AARON VINSON
JOHN VINSON
JOHN ABBOTT

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Johnston County
May Term 1787

This will was exhibited in open court and duly proved by the oaths of **AARON VINSON** and **JOHN VINSON** and admitted to record.

Recorded in book N page 79

R. SANDERS, Clerk

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Brent R. Brian
Martha M. Brian
BrianMitchellGenealogy@gmail.com