

Will of Jesse Averitt, 1798 Bertie County, North Carolina  
Source: NC State Archives  
In the name of God Amen.

I Jesse Averitt of the State of No. Carolina and the County of Bertie, being low in health but sound in mind and memory. Calling to mind the Mortality of my Body knowing that it is appointed for Man to die. Do make and ordain this my last Will & Testament.

First, I commit my Body to the dust from whence it came to be decently buried according to the discretion of my Executor & my Soul to God who gave it.

I lend unto my beloved Wife Mary during her natural life the Manor & Plantation whereon I now live containing two hundred & sixty six Acres more or less being the plantation given to me by my Grandfather Henry Averitt. Also I lend unto her as above the following Negroes. (Viz) Jacob & his Wife Peggy, her children Winny, Abraham, Joe, & Penny. Also a Negroe Woman by the name of Fanny & their increase.

Also I give unto my beloved Wife Mary three Horses, the choice of my Stocks. Also six Cows & Calves, her chose of my Stock. Also six Sows & Pigs, one third of my Sheep, my double riding Chear & Gear, seventy five barrels of Indian Corn, Twelve hundred weight of Courk, two feather beds & furniture, her chose. Finily I give unto my sd' Wife all my Household & Kitchen furniture of whatsoever kind, except those on my other Plantations. Except also one half dozen of Table & one of Tea silver spoons & the feather Beds that are not mentioned. Also one fourth of my Plantation Tools.

I give and bequeath to my Son Jesse Averitt all my Land and Plantations both high and lowe that I possess to him and his Heirs for ever.

I give and bequeath to my Daughter Elizabeth one half dozen Table & half Doz. Silver Tea Spoons to her & her Heirs for ever.

I give and bequeath to my two Children Jesse & Elizabeth to them and their Heirs for ever to be divided at the time my daughter Elizabeth shall arive to the age of twenty one years or at her Mariage the following Negroes. (Viz) Old Jacob, Hannah, Bes (or Bet?), Simon, Tom, Will, Adam, Rachel, Lettie, Lem, Bucher(?), Harry, Jacob, Viney, Nancy, Viney, Silvy, Biddy, Jenny, and Sparling. They and their increase for ever. Also those I have lent to my Wife; my will and desire is that after her death they and their increase shall be equally divided between my two children as above. Also I give unto my Sd' Children all the rest of my Estate of whatsoever kind to be equally divided at the time above mentioned to them & their Heirs for ever.

My will and desire is that my Executor hereafter mentioned shall be at liberty to dispose if he thinks proper by sale either private or publick as he shall find expedient the following Negroes (Viz) Old Jacob, Hannah, Adam & Bet(?). Also that the money arising from the sale of the above Negroes be appropriated to the use of purchasing of Land for my Son Jesse and also to make use of any other money belonging to my Estate that can be spared. That my Executor have full power to bargain for sd' Land & take every necessary step to make payment for the same out of my Estate & to secure the right of the Land thus purchased to my Son Jesse for to be his & his Heirs for ever. And in case the Land above mentioned should be purchased, my desire is the half of the purchased money be paid to my daughter Elizabeth out of my Son Jesse's Estate with Interest from the time of payment for sd' Land.

Further I impower my Executor to worke my Negroes on my Land for the benefit of my Children, or hire them out & rent my Land as he shall think most advantageous to my Estate. Also the incomes of my Estate to be equally divided between my two Children; Jesse & Elizabeth at the time of the division of the rest. Except what shall arise from the Land purchased by my Executor for my Son Jesse. And that each of my Children shall bear an equal part of the expenses which shall arise therefrom until the division.

Lastly I nominate and appoint my trusty friend Aaron Spivey sole Executor to this my last Will & Testament. Revoking all others by me heretofore made. Where unto I set my hand & Seal this forth day of October one thousand seven hundred & ninety eight.

Jesse Averit -Seal

Signed in the presence of  
Noah Thompson  
Wm. Bryan  
Sarah Spivey

Whereas I have not made mention in the preceding part of my will what shall be done with my Estate in case my two Children as above mentioned shall die without lawful issue. My will and desire is in case they do both die without issue lawfully begotten of their bodies that all the property that wold have been theirs in case they had lived shall go to the sons of my Sister Cealy Powell. To them and their Heirs forever to be equally divided amongst them.

Signed by me Jesse Averit -Seal

Wm. Bryan  
Sarah Spivey  
Noah Thompson

Whereas I have in the former part of my Will only lent to my beloved Wife a Negro Woman by the name of Fanny & as from her conduct laterly I presume she may be very troublesome to my Wife. My will & desire is my wife shall dispose of sd' Fanny as she may think proper & convey(?) the money arising therefrom as she shall choose as her own right & property forever & in case I should dispose of sd' Negro Fanny in my own lifetime that my sd' Wife Mary to enjoy the profits arising from the same as her own right & property for ever.

My will & desire is also my Executor above mentioned shall raise out of my Estate & deliver to my sd. Wife Mary Fifty pounds Virg'a. Currency to be hers & her Heirs forever.

Assigned with my own hand this fourteenth day of April in the year of our Lord 1799.

Jesse Averit

Test.  
Wm. Rhodes  
Elizabeth Rhodes  
Wm. Bryan

State of NoCarolina  
Bertie County  
May Term 1799

The last will and testament of Jesse Averit dec'd. with codicils annexed was proved in open court by the oath of William Bryan one of the subscribing witnesses and ordered to be recorded.

George Gray\*\*

Recorded in Book E(or C?) page 81