

Will of Esther Matthews Pruden

In the name of God Amen. I Esther Pruden of Gates County being sick and weak of body but of perfect mind and memory thanks be to God as touching such worldly estate as it has pleased the almighty to endow me with I this 8th day of December in the year of our Lord 1823 Give and dispose of the same in manner and form following to wit First.

Item I give and bequeath to David Pruden six silver tea spoons to him and his heirs forever.

Item I give and bequeath to Esther Boyce one cloak to her and her heirs forever.

Item I give and bequeath to Celia Pruden one loom to her and her heirs forever.

Item I give and bequeath to Olivia Pruden one pare of silver sleeve buttons to her and her heirs forever.

Item I give and bequeath to my grandson Lodowick MATHEWS one small trunk to him and his heirs forever.

Item I give and bequeath to my fore grand children to wit Mary Rice and James MATHEWS, Lodowick MATHEWS and John MATHEWS all my close to be equally divided in equeal parts shear and shear alike between them the fore grand children.

It is my will and desire that all the remainder of my property that I have not give away heretofore should be equally divided between my three grandsons namely James MATHEWS, Lodwick MATHEWS & John MATHEWS at my death to them & there heirs forever.

Lastly I nominate David Riddick executor to this my last will and testament.

Signed sealed published and declaerd to be my last will and testament in the presence of A.C. Morgan (Jurat), Willie Riddick. Esther (her mark) Pruden (seal); February Court 1824: exhibited by David Riddick, executor; proved by Abraham C. Morgan.