

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

of

MARTIN RIBLIN

Proved 1793 (Book C, Page 57), Rowan County, N. C.

In the Name of God, Amen. I, Martin Ribley, of the County of Rowan and State of North Carolina, being in perfect health and of sound mind, memory and understanding, but considering the uncertainty of this transitory life, do make, publish and declare this my last will and testament, in manner and form following, to wit:

First of all, I give and bequeath to my dearly beloved wife Anna such part of the plantation whereon I now live, together with the dwelling house and all such other outhouses as she may think needful or necessary to raise grain, hay or other provision and for her accommodation. I further give and bequeath to her during the time she shall remain my widow, or during her natural life, if she should live single and unmarried, my waggon, farming utensils, the stock of horses, cattle, hogs, and sheep, together with all my personal estate of every kind except such as is hereafter particularly disposed of in legacy to my children. And my will and meaning is that she shall be at liberty at any time should she think the stock too numerous or burdensome for her to keep and support, to deliver the whole or any part thereof to my Executors hereafter named, to be by them sold and the money therefrom arising to be equally divided amongst my children share and share alike. And I do further declare that it is my will and meaning that during the time she keeps the stock and personal estate she shall have full power to keep the family together if they so choose during their single and unmarried state and use and appropriate such, or so much, of the stock or other personal estate (so as to make no waste) for her and their maintenance as she in her discretion may think proper, and at her marriage or decease whichever shall first happen, I do hereby will and direct that my Executors dispose of the whole of my personal estate of every kind that is not particularly bequeathed hereafter to my children, to be disposed of either at public or private sale, giving the usual credit, and the money when received, to divide equally amongst my children, share and share alike.

I give, devise and bequeath to my son Martin Ribley the plantation whereon I now live to contain 200 acres to be laid off on that side of the tract adjoining Peter Fite, and to include the land that is now cleared on said tract, subject nevertheless to the dower of my wife during her widowhood or natural life as is herein before mentioned. I likewise give and bequeath to him my Bible.

I give, devise and bequeath to my son Jacob Ribley 100 acres

of land to be divided of the upper part of the tract by a straight line adjoining Conrad Brem and Abender's land.

I likewise devise and bequeath to each and every of my daughters Anna, Elizabeth, Sarah, Susanna and Rachel who are now single and unmarried, one bed, two cows, one large pewter dish, one half-gallon pewter basin and five pewter plates, half dozen pewter spoons and one two-gallon iron pot. Now my will and meaning is that each of daughters above named do get and receive the above mentioned articles from and out of my personal estate as soon as she come to lawful age or that she get married, whichever shall first happen, and my Executors will take notice that if they or any of them should receive such articles as is mentioned above to be delivered to them or an equivalent thereto in value in my lifetime, that then and in that case it is my will and meaning that she do not receive them after my decease.

I do likewise will and bequeath to each of my children a Bible printed in the Dutch language except such as may have received one of that kind from me during my life.\*

And I hereby nominate and appoint Peter Brown and Adam Kern, both of Rowan County, Executors of this my last will and testament, hereby revoking all former will or wills heretofore by me made. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this the 19th day of May in the year of our Lord 1791.

Signed, sealed, published and declared by the above named Martin Ribley as and for his last will and testament in the presence of us who have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses thereto in the presence of the said testator and in the presence of each other.

(signed) Martin Raiblin  
(seal)

Max Chambers

her

Hannah x Brandon

mark

Margaret Chambers

\*The German Bible given to Elizabeth Riblin who married George Smith, Jr. still exists in the possession of a Mrs. Ernest Smith of Somerset, Ky., and contains the record of all of the George Smith family. Undoubtedly Katharine Riblin Kern, wife of Adam, Sr., also had such a Bible from her father. Descendants of Conrad Kern of Illinois recall such a Bible which disappeared, however, on the day of the funeral of Polly Berry Kern, Conrad's wife, and was never found. It had been promised to Elmer Kern, grandson of Conrad and Polly, great-grandson of Katharine.