

Will of Robert Wade

February 6, 1745

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Below is the will of Robert Wade. From what I can read, it seems that it was written on Robert's deathbed, as it was verbally given (the word is shown as "vearble" in the will). The transcription is:

"The Last Will of Robert Wade vearble [verbal] Deseced [Deceased] February y^e 6 Day 1745.

He Gave to his two Sons Abraham and Jasae [Jesse] The Land Whear [Where] on they Live and this Land Lying on North River to his Son Jacob and The Cattle to be eqely [equally] Divided Between his Wife and Children and his horses on the Banks If they Encrest [Increased?] to Give one to Each of his Children.

Test[?] [Testified?] Valentine Wade

Although Valentine lived before Mark Twain, it looks like he was a firm believer in Mark Twain's saying that "it's a poor mind that can think of only one way to spell a word."

It's difficult to decipher the writing of the Court below Valentine's signature. It's probably not of tremendous importance. At any rate, what we can see is that Robert had 3 sons – Abraham, Jesse, and Jacob. He may have had daughters but since he didn't leave them anything, we don't know who they are. As I said above, it may have been a very hurried situation and Robert wasn't able to think about his will in great detail or list others that he wished to leave things to.

The "Banks" was probably Shackleford Banks, the area that was owned originally by Mary Shackleford's – Robert's wife – father John Shackleford. John and Enoch Ward, Sr. owned about 7000 acres of land that became Shackleford Banks.

I am not yet sure who Valentine Wade was. He doesn't appear to be a son of Robert Wade. He might have been a brother or other relative. Maybe I will find more information later.

2025-01-11 Update: Valentine was probably Robert's brother. See Source 896/896a.

