

Will of Francis Thomas

North Carolina }
Bladen County } In The Name of God Amen
I Francis Thomas of Bladen County being sick and weak in bodie, but of perfect mind and memory do constitute and appoint this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following:—
Imprimis, I will that all my just debts be fully paid and satisfied —

Item: I give and bequeath unto my dearly beloved wife Jean Thomas my bed, & Chairs and all my household furniture, to her and her heirs forever.

Item: I will that all the rest of my Estate real and personal, shall be sold to pay my debts, the surplus to be equally divided between my Children share and share alike, I do hereby appoint my dearly beloved wife Jean Thomas, Executrix and my dearly beloved son George Thomas Executor to this my Last Will and Testament.

Lastly, I do revoke and make void all other and former Wills by me at any time made declaring this and no other, to be my last Will and Testament, given under my hand & seal this eight day of June one thousand seven hundred and fifty six.
Fran^s Thomas

Signed, sealed, acknowledged
and delivered in Presence of us.

Thos^a Hall
Lucy Hall
Thos^a Smith

Will of Gershon Bentow

In The Name of God Amen this 12th day of January in the year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred & fifty I, Gershon Bentow of Bladen County and Province of North Carolina planter, being very sick & weak in body but of perfect mind & memory, thanks be to God for the same therefore Calling unto mind the mortality of the body and knowing that is appointed for all men once to dye, do make and ordain this my last will and Testament that is to say Principally and first of all I give and recommend my Soul unto the hands of God that gave it and for my body I recommend it to the earth to be buried in a Christian like & decent manner at the discretion of my Executors hereafter named and as touching such worldly Estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me with in this life I give, devise and dispose of the same in the manner and form following.

Imprimis: It is my will and desire and do order that in the first place all my just debts and funeral Charges be paid and satisfied.

Item: I give, devise & bequeath unto my well beloved and Eldest son Pamel Bentow all those three certain tracts of land & premises together with the Plantation & appurtenances thereunto belonging whereon I now dwell as by two certain patents with Drafts thereunto annexed doth at large appear, adjoining four hundred & fifty acres the third price or part of Land containing fifty acres which I purchased of Richard Hallios for which I have received no deed or Conveyance as yet, all which three recited tracts of land and premises as aforesaid I do hereby give, devise and bequeath unto my said son Pamel for the use of him, his heirs and assigns to hold, possess occupy and enjoy the same forever.

Item: I give, devise & bequeath unto my beloved sons Richard and Evan Bentow two certain tracts of land situate on Myer Swamp one of which tracts of land I hold by a certain patent with a Draft thereunto annexed doth at large appear contain one hundred & fifty acres the other tract adjoining thereto containing two hundred acres for which I have John Edwards' obligation to make a good & lawful title for the same when required as by said obligation doth more fully appear, the lower tract which I hold by patent, of first with the home & plantation thereon together with twenty five acres of land to be measured and taken off the lower end of the said Edwards tract adjoining to the same I give, devise & bequeath unto my son Richard Bentow aforesaid, the upper end and remaining part of said Edwards tract, which remaining part will be one hundred & seventy five acres together with the appurtenances thereunto belonging I give, devise & bequeath unto my said son Evan Bentow which two tracts of land and premises so devised and bequeathed for the use of them their heirs and assigns to hold, possess, occupy and enjoy the same forever.

Item: My will and desire is that the tract of land commonly called the heron pond which I hold by patent a Draft thereof being thereunto annexed doth more at large appear that the same may be sold to the best advantage

at the discretion of my Executors hereinafter named as soon as opportunity permits or they think proper &c.

Item: I give and Bequeath unto my well Beloved Daughter Susanah Benbow one young likely Negro wench to be purchased by my said Executors and to be delivered by them unto my said Daughter Susanah anytime within the space or term of four years next ensuing the date hereof, for the use of her, her heirs and assigns forever.

Also I give and Bequeath unto my said daughter Susanah one feather bed with furniture which formerly belonged to her sister Jane, deceased also two of my best pewter dishes & six pewter plates all to be delivered to her immediately after my decease.

Item: further my will and desire is and I do order that all my other moveables and personal Estate, that is to say, money, Negro goods and Chattles whatsoever &c may be equally & impartially divided between my four Children aforesaid, share & share alike as they come of age, to be delivered to them by my Executors hereafter named, that is to say, to my son Richard Benbow when he arrives to the age of twenty one years, next to my daughter Susanah Benbow when she arrives to the age of eighteen years, and next to my son Evan Benbow, when he arrives to the age aforesaid, and the last & remaining share to my son Powell Benbow, whom I hereafter ordain to be one of my Executors of this my Last Will & Testament, and further my will is that if in case any of my Children aforesaid should happen to die before they arrive of age aforesaid that then such share or shares of my real and personal Estate shall be equally divided share and share alike betwixt them living, my will also is and I do order that my Executors shall from henceforth Clear all the arrears of Quitrent that is due and to become due on my said Sons land until they come of age and also further my will is that my Executors shall build or Cause to be built on my said son Evan's land a good — log House and Clear five acres of land & fence it in any time as they shall think most proper before he arrives to the age of twenty one years my will also is that my Children may have schooling and all other necessaries that will be needful provided for them by my Executors out of the increase and interest of my personal Estate until such time they come of age aforesaid. And lastly of this my Last Will and Testament I do nominate, constitute, order and appoint my trusty and well beloved son Powell Benbow and my trusty and well beloved Brother Charles Benbow to be my only, true and sole Executors of this my last Will and Testament and I do hereby utterly disallow, revoke and disannul all & every other former Testaments, wills,

legacies and Executors by me in anyways before this time named, willed and Bequeathed Ratifying and Confirming this and no other to be my Last Will and Testament.

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first within written.

Gershon ^{his} Benbow
Mark

Signed, Sealed, published pronounced and declared by the said Gershon Benbow as his last Will and Testament in the presence of us the subscribers.

Abram Sanders
Richard ^{his} May
John Jones

Proved by Jos. Jones. Entered