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1811

James Sykes  
Feb 3

In the Name of God Amen I James Sykes Senr of Bedford  
County and state of Virginia who wear in body yet of a sound & perfect mind  
& Memory thanks be to God calling to mind the mortality of my body and  
knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die and to make and Ordain this  
my last will & Testament (Viz) the manner & form as follows that is to say my desire is  
that all my last Debts shall be paid out of my money now in hand paid my desire  
is that my dear & loving wife Hannah Sykes shall Possess my two Negro boys  
named Tom & Ben as long as she lives. After her decease I desire my son James  
Sykes Junr. to have my negro boy named Ben & my son Samuel Sykes to have my  
Negro boy named Tom, and my wife Hannah Sykes shall Possess all my stock &  
all my household furniture & all my Moveable property & Plantation utensils  
all my bonds & Debts due me to the said Hannah Sykes as long as she lives & to be  
at her disposal at her Departure to her children. I give to my two sons James  
Sykes & Samuel Sykes the said Iron well on Hall the Batter land  
Joining there to it John's & Murphy's Mores & also cedar John Sykes Robert  
Harper James Sykes Junr. George Cunniff Robert Mead & Talon Simney to the  
first station containing nineteen hundred & nine acres be the same more or less  
to be divided agreeable to the Plots which Winter's previous Surveyed & made James  
Sykes his part of same contain six acres & is agreeable to a Title bond given by  
James Sykes Senr. to James Sykes Junr. & Samuel Sykes where he now  
lives & the stream containing of five hundred & fifty acres agreeable to his -

Plot of his made by Minutes, I do give to my sons the Land above mentioned —  
James Ayres & Samuel Ayres their heirs & assigns forever. My desire is that  
my Land lying on Withers Creek shall be sold by my Executors and Administrators to  
the first bidder at twelve months credit. The money to be Equally divided —  
between my Three Daughters Dinah Burdett Nancy Ayres & Rachel Turner.  
I give it to them & more. I give to my son John Ayres One shilling sterling & more.  
I give to my Daughter Mary Monice One shilling sterling & more. I give to my  
Daughter Hannah Dofs One shilling sterling & more. I give to my Daughter  
Sarah Burdett One shilling sterling & more. I give to my Daughter Elizabeth  
Williams One shilling sterling & more. I give to my Daughter Lydia Dofs One  
shilling sterling & more. I give to my Daughter Esther Henry One shilling  
sterling & more. I give to my Daughter Ruth Leitch One shilling sterling & more.  
I do give to my son James Ayres all my Estate Rights & Demands in  
the state of Maryland — to him & his heirs forever. I desire my Executors shall  
pay my Legacies out of the money due to my Estate & the balance due to my  
Estate to be collected and give to my wife by my Executors. I desire my Executors shall  
make John Webb a right agreeable to the title given by me. I also appoint my two  
sons James Ayres & Samuel Ayres to be my Executors & utterly disallow & revoking  
all wills & Bequests & deeds of Gifts & Bower whatever heretofore made to be  
Void and of none effect. I do Ordain & Ratify & Confirm this to be my Last Will &

Testament

D08 Testament In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal this the  
Twentyeth day of May one Thousand seven hundred & Ninety seven.

Signed & sealed

In the Presence of

Henry Williamson

William Hitts

William C. Crum

James Sykes



At a Court held for Bedford County the 24<sup>th</sup> day of July 1797

This Last Will & Testament of James Sykes Deceased was proved by the  
Oath of William Hitts & William Crum Witnesses whose names are  
thereunto subscribed & ordered to be recorded - And on the motion of  
James Sykes one of the Executors therein named whom a due Oath there to  
Certificate is granted him for obtaining Probate thereof In due form on  
giving security whereupon he together with John Bate & William  
Allen his securities entered into & acknowledged their bond in the Penalty  
of One Thousand Dollars conditioned for the said Executor due & faithful  
Administration of the said Deceaseds Estate & Performance of his will. Liberty  
being reserved to Samuel Sykes the other Executor therein named to join in  
the Probate thereof when he shall think fit. Testes