

March Court 1773.

Mr. Mayes
W. H.

In the Name of God Amen I William Mayes of Halifax County being weak in body but of sound and perfect Memory thanks be to Almighty God am calling to mind the uncertainty of this life and that I am appointed over for all Men to die do make Constitute and Ordain this my last Will and Testament in manner and form as followeth (to wit) first I recommend my Soul to Almighty God that you will add my Body to the Dead to be buried in such Christian like manner as my Executors when I shall hereafter appoint shall think proper, And for my worldly Goods which it has pleased God to bestow on me I do give and dispose of the same in the manner and form following.

Wiz I desire first that all my lawful Debts be paid out of my Chops and Debts due me if sufficient of wit that my Exors do dispose of any part or in sum or in parcel of my Estate at their own discretion for the satisfying or paying such just Debts.

Item my will and desire is that all the Lands with which I am possessed Consisting of one Tract lying and being in Polkyssema County on Danvers River adjoining Col. John (Southern) also one tract lying and being in the County of Halifax and on Colons Creek adjoining William Lach's Land, and the Tract on which I now live lying and being in the aforesaid County of Halifax and on Mayes Creek adjoining John Burdett and William Daughan, be sold and turned into Money at the direction of my Exors, and that my Exors do make and execute good and sufficient Bonds for the Conveyance of the said Tracts of Land above mentioned to the Purchaser, to them and their heirs forever and that the Money arising from the Bargain and Sale of those above mentioned Lands be again laid out in Lands at my Exors' discretion for the use of my Children, and that my well beloved wife Bessie Mayes do have present and Quiet possession on the above Lands to be purchased during for natural life, my further desire is that my said Bessie Mayes should arise at lawfull Age (if not earlier at Law) that the Lands to be purchased as above for the use of my Children be equally divided amongst all my then surviving Children when and where she shall allow my said eldest son choice and so their choice to be taken as they come to age, untilt all receive their proportionable parts of said Lands, Providing that my well beloved wife Bessie Mayes be allowed her full choice in the Land as tenants for life, and none of the above will do interfere or disturb her in the use and enjoyment of her choice.

Item I desire that all my Negro, bond and free, and stock of all kinds (if not before by my Deeds) be kept together for the use and support of my Family until my

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(if kept together) Named, Captain, Pompey, Jude, Frank, Luna, Sal, Defney, Subah and Rob-
and their Increases, with the Stocks belonging to my Estate and all the Household Goods,
be equally divided between my wife (Dorcas Mays) and my then surviving Children (as yet) ^{have}
my wife, William, Samuel, Sally, and Tabitha (if spared) and that my wife ^{have} her first choice in the
Lott which she freely gives her and her Heirs forever — and then my son Abney is have the
second choice to have and to hold to him and the Heirs of his Body lawfully begotten for-
ever. — After these two Lotts are taken out of the Estate, my Will and desire is that the
remainder of my Estate be kept together untill my son William (if spared) comes to Age, and
then for my Estate to be equally divided among my then surviving Children (not before letted)
and my son William to have his choice to have and to hold to him and the Heirs of his Body
lawfully begotten forever — Item, my Will and desire is that the remainder of my Estate
be kept together untill my son Samuel comes of Age (if spared) and then for my Estate to be
equally divided amongst my then surviving Children (not before letted) and my son Samuel
to have his choice in Lott to have and to hold to him and the Heirs of his Body lawfully
begotten forever — Item, after my son Samuel has got his Lott my desire is that
the remainder of my Estate be kept together untill my Daughter Sally comes of age (if spared)
and then for my Estate to be equally divided amongst my then surviving Children (not
before letted) and my Daughter Sally to have her choice in the Lott to have and to hold to her
and her Heirs forever — Item, after my Daughter Sally has got her Lott my
Will and desire is that the remainder of my Estate be kept together untill my Daughter Tabitha
comes of Age (if spared) and then for that Lott a part of my Estate to be given up to her and
her Heirs forever — Item, my Will and desire is that there be no Appraisement
for my Estate, Neither any security taken of my Executors, for their Performance in this
last shape in my Estate — Item, Sally I do appoint my will before Wife
Dorcas Mays, William, and Abney Mays Executors of this my last Will and Testament
In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal this 10th day of
August One thousand seven hundred and seventy two

Signes Seal and delivered
In Presence of
Mathias Mays, Secy

The above Intimation was made before signed
Elijah Hunt, John Glos, Casanova Abney.
At Court held for Halifax County the 18th day of March 1773
This Will was presented in Court by Dorcas Mays, William Hunt two of the Executors herein named who
were with deuter, after same being proved by the Oath of the said William Hunt was ordered to be recorded
as a Condition for obtaining a Lott hunt was granted to the said Executors: also liberty is granted to Abney Mays
to have his Lott in Court to join in the said Lott where he shall think fit
J. C. Curran