

State of Georgia  
Chatham County } Wilmington Island

In the name of God amen

The last Will and Testament of Joseph Bryan  
of the Island of Wilmington, being of sound mind  
and memory

- First I order and direct that all my just debts be paid as  
soon as possible
- 2<sup>d</sup> by marriage settlement made at the northward provision  
is made for my dear wife equal to such as I would  
give by Will, had I not made such settlement, I  
therefore in addition thereto order and direct that my  
said dear wife be allowed and permitted to have the  
use and occupation of the House I now live in, the  
Garden out houses &c. &c. all the Furniture Books and  
other thing in it, also the use of the flock, as long as she  
shall remain on the Island, and should she leave  
the state this provision to fall for the general benefit of my  
Estate, the Benefit of this Clause of my Will is to last only  
during widowhood
- 3<sup>d</sup> I appoint General Thomas M. Bruman of the State of Mary-  
land / father to my dear wife / Guardian of the persons and  
education of any two of my sons which he may choose  
and select, leaving them to his parental and attention  
until they arrive at age
- 4<sup>th</sup> I appoint and nominate my dear beloved wife Guardian  
of the persons and education of my two daughters leaving  
them to her parental care and affection
- 5<sup>th</sup> I bequeath and leave to one of my Executors herein  
after named, who shall be designated by a Cross over  
his name, when this Will shall be signed by me, the  
use of my house, furniture, Books &c. &c. flock Garden &c.  
When ever my dear wife shall be absent and not  
occupying the same.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Having long entertained an antipathy & Objection to being  
under ground, I request and order my Executors that  
my decease, a Box of Cypress be made two feet wide  
Six feet Long, which shall contain my remains,  
placed under a Shed, to the Eastward of my house  
until a wooden building can be erected, and  
my Executors can conveniently inter me therein

solid building, I request that one of Tabby or Priests  
be erected and that my remains be deposited there  
above ground.

7th All the rest and residue of my estate I give bequest  
and devise to my beloved Children and their Executors  
and heirs, share and share alike, including any Child  
or Children that may be born after my death

Lastly I nominate and appoint Major John Scriven, Colonel  
David McCormick, and Charles Harris, attorney at law  
to be my Executors of this my last Will and Testament.

In Witness whereof I have hereto set my hand  
and seal this       day of September in the year of  
our Lord one thousand eight hundred & twelve —

Signed sealed & delivered in the  
presence of us, who in the presence  
of the Testator & at his request and  
in the presence of each other have  
signed as witnesses thereto —

On further reflection I Joseph Bryan add the  
following Clause as a Codicil to this my Will, I Order  
and direct that in case my father in law General  
Thomas M. Foreman should adopt the guardianship of one  
or either of my sons and leave to him or them or to any  
other of my Children, any estate real or personal by Gift  
deed will or otherwise, I then direct that such Child or  
Children or his her or their Guardian shall elect to them the same  
in the Bulk of my estate and thereby make part of the same  
before such Child or Children shall be entitled to any  
Share, part or proportion of my estate and if such part so  
given Willed or settled by the said Thomas M. Foreman upon  
any of my Children, be not thus carried into the Bulk of my estate  
I then order and direct that such Child or Children have no  
Share or part of my Estate, but be excluded therefrom, not-  
withstanding the devise and bequest before made in my  
Will my Estate to be divided amongst my Children unpro-  
vided for by their Grand father, In Witness whereof I  
have hereto set my hand and seal this       day of  
September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight  
hundred and twelve.

Signed sealed & delivered in the

presence of us who in the  
presence of the Testator  
at his request & in the  
presence of each other  
have signed our names as  
Witnesses thereto

Georgia: Before the Court of  
Ordinary for the County of Chatham in the State aforesaid  
personally appeared Charles Harris Esq. Attorney at Law  
Who being duly sworn, doth depose and say that the annexed  
Paper purporting to be the last Will and Testament of the  
Late Joseph Bryan Esq. of Wilmington Island is drawn  
in the hand writing of this deponent and was written at  
the particular Instance and request of the said Joseph  
Bryan; that the contents and nearly the words of said  
Instrument were received from the mouth of the Testator and  
put in writing at his request, that every part of the writing  
was read over by him, that he was perfectly in his senses &  
suffering bodily pain, that after the writing aforesaid was  
drawn, he continued for some days perfectly sensible, that he  
attempted to sign the said Paper, but first tried to write  
his name on another Paper, which from his weakness  
he could not do, upon which he said he would postpone  
the signature to a future day, But he died without being  
able to sign the said writing  
From to this 2<sup>d</sup> February 1813  
before Judges Harden

Bolton  
Mendenhall

Edmund Roberts Esq

Charles Harris Witness appeared  
before the Judges in open Court and relinquished all title  
or Interest to the Executorship of the foregoing Will, which  
was accepted of before he was sworn

February 12<sup>th</sup> 1813 John Senven Esq. appeared and  
was duly qualified Executor on the foregoing Will