

Benjamin Branch Will

I Benjamin Branch of the County of Northampton and State of North Carolina do hereby make my last Will and Testament in manner and form following that is to say

- 1st I Give to my beloved wife Mary Branch the following slaves to wit Long Billy Mott, Elley Sam, Sarah, Sam, Phill, Venus, Loda, Manning, Matt, Peter Sam, & Johnnie Dick and Harriett which I give to her forever
- 2nd I give to my said wife the Riding place where off our house, called the Drew Horse, Bonaparte, the Old Black Horse the Big Billy, & the Dark Bay Mare which I give to her, her heirs & assigns forever
- 3rd I send to my said wife during life all my House hold and Kitchen Furniture and after her death I give the said House hold and Kitchen Furniture to my nephew Thomas Branch which I give to him his heirs and assigns forever
- 4th I send to my said wife the Land and plantation where on I have always lived, during her life and after her death I give the said Land and plantation to my nephew Thomas Branch, to him his heirs & assigns forever
- 5th I give to my said wife and to my nephew Thomas Branch my stock of Cattle sheep & Hogs and half of all kind of labor equally divided between them which I give to him his heirs & assigns forever
- 6th I send to my said wife during her life the following slaves to wit Charles Long Dick Dick, Kate, Liza, Hannah, & Cyer and after her death I give the said negroes & their increase to my nephew Thomas Branch to him his heirs and assigns forever
- 7th I Give to my nephew James Branch the sum of the sum of one hundred and Forty Dollars due me for a Horse sold his mother for him which said sum I give to the said James Branch which I give to him his heirs and assigns forever
- 8th I give to my niece Rebecca Branch Ten pounds which I give to her and to her heirs forever
- 9th I give to my niece Polly the sum Ten pounds which I give to her and her heirs forever
- 10th I Give to my niece Betty B. Byrnes Two Hundred Dollars which I give to her and her heirs forever
- 11th My desire is that my executor & co-executors make sale of my negroes now in my care by public sale at the Court House in the County of Northampton

To gather what I mean that is to say after making a sufficient provision for the use of the family and the Monies arising from the sale to be applied to the payment of my debts & the balance if any be equally divided between my said wife and my nephew Thomas Branch which I give to them & their heirs forever

12th I Give to my nephew Thomas Branch all the residue of my estate both real and personal on condition that he make a conveyance to Norman Branch for the Lands devised to him by the will of his Father John Branch when ever he arrives to the age of Twenty One Years which said estate both real & personal I give to the said Thomas Branch to him his heirs & assigns forever

13th I send my said wife one Charlotte & Harriett during her life and after her death I give the same to Thomas Branch to him and his heirs forever

14th My Will and desire is that my said nephew Thomas Branch be put in full possession and enjoyment of all the estate devised to him under this will except that part which is sent to my wife immediately after the ensuing death

I Lastly I do here by Memorial and appoint my beloved wife Mary Branch my nephew Thomas Branch & Isaac Fisher Executors of this my last will and Testament hereby bearing all other & former wills made by me In witness where of I have here unto set my hand and affixed my seal this twentieth day of March 1803

Witnessed, Signed, Published & Declared
and for the last will & Testament of
the above named Benjamin Branch
In presence of

James Lee
Hac by his mark
Edward Turner

Northampton County
Shew Court 1803
This Will of Benjamin Branch do was proved by the Oath of Mary Branch & Isaac Fisher at the same time & place as aforesaid & Edward Turner
John Branch qualified Executor & Rebecca Branch
Ordered to be published & recorded
Witness
R. B. Branch