

Benjamin Bryan's Will

In the name of God Amen I Benjamin Bryan of Northampton County being in health of body and of sound mind calling to mind that it is appointed for men even to die am willing to make this my last Will and Testament in manner following I do first and principally recommend my Soul to Almighty God and my body to the earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my executors hereafter mentioned and as touching my worldly estate my just debts and funeral charges first paid I give devise bequeath as followeth

Item I lend unto my loving wife Sarah Bryan for the payment of my debts and support and education of my Children the use of my estate both real and personal (except she carries) until my oldest Son comes to lawful age or marries but if my said wife should marry then in that case I lend her the use of my main plantation, the working tools & Horses thereunto belonging two leather beds Furniture and walnut table & chest my kitchen furniture one riding chair & Harnish my negroes called Charity, Betie, Bob & Pathen, Pimus, Liza, Bridget, Beth Gabriel, Patten, and their increase during her natural life

Item I give devise bequeath unto my Son John Bryan the Land and plantation whereon I now live the land adjoining called Gays also the Land called Carveys place of record of Thomas Bryan (Executor) to him and his heirs forever.

Item I give devise and bequeath unto my Son James Bryan the Land whereon Elizabeth Smith keeps now the Land & plantation formerly possessed by Thomas Bryan Sr. called Carpenter (if record of his Executor) to him his heirs or assigns forever

Item In my Will that my Executor shall be sold towards paying my debts.

Item I give devise and bequeath my lands in the County rock to be equally divided between my two Sons John & James Bryan when the oldest comes to lawful age or marriage, to them their heirs or assigns forever.

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Item In my Will that all my Negroes and other estate not otherwise disposed of be equally divided between or among all my Children living when my oldest son comes to lawful age or marriage to them and their heirs forever.

Item I give devise and bequeath unto John Swan One hundred acres of Land in the first of Wraha and Quarter range (if returned from Thomas Bryan Executor) to him his heirs or assigns forever.

Lastly I do hereby nominate constitute and appoint my loving wife Sarah Bryan and John Swan whole and sole Executors of this my last Will and Testament working disannulling and making void all other and former wills by me heretofore made and this I now to be my last Will and Testament. Witness my hand and I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal this 26th day of January 1776.

Signed Sealed & acknowledged
by the Testator to be his last Will
and Testament In presence of

Samuel Barker
John Scott
William Watson

Benj. Bryan & Seal

Northampton County ss.
December Court 1776

This Will of Benjamin Bryan do^x was proved by the Oaths of Samuel Barker and William Watson two of the subscribing witnesses thereto, who upon Sarah Bryan the Executrix therein named was duly qualified Ordered to be Certified and Recorded

Witness E. Haynes Esq.
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