

Benjamin Clifton's Will

In the name of God. Amen I Benjamin Clifton of the County of Northampton and State of North Carolina being sick and weak in body but in sound mind and disposing memory of mind thanks be to Almighty God for the same but calling to mind the shortness of time and the mortality of my body do make and ordain this my last will and Testament in manner and form following. Improves first and foremost recommends my soul into the hands of Almighty God that gave it me relying on the meritorious blood of my blessed saviour to have full remission of all my sins and my body I commit to the Earth from whence I came to be buried in a Christian like manner at the discretion of my Executors hereafter named and as to what worldly estate it hath pleased God to bless me with I give and dispose of as hereafter mentioned.

Item I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Patsy Clifton one share by the name of a lot which share is now with Joel but if the said Joel should come to good I do not give said lot to my wife one bedstead and saddle one riding chair one feather bed and furniture the fowls of every kind to her and her heirs forever.

Item I leave unto my daughter Polly Barnes during her natural life one Negro girl by the name of Fanny and after the death of said Daughter I give the said Negro Fanny and her increase to be equally divided amongst the children of my aforesaid Daughter their living share I share alike to them and their heirs forever.

Item I leave unto my beloved wife Patsy Clifton during her natural life the House whereon I now live together with the new House I am now building also one third part of all my land joining the same.

Item I leave the remainder part of my land to be divided out until my son Cordale Clifton comes of the age of twenty one

One year and then the same to be equally divided between my two sons to wit Isaac Clifton and Cordale Clifton to be divided by my two sons and if they cannot agree in the division for Isaac to choose one man and Cordale the other and if these two shall not agree for them to choose the third person and in case either of my sons should die before the said time my wife and I desire is that the surviving son should have the whole to him and their heirs forever.

Item After my beloved wife's death I give the other part of said and improvements hereafter but to my wife to be equally divided between my aforesaid sons as before to them and their heirs forever.

Item I leave unto my beloved wife Patsy Clifton during her natural life one fifth part of Negroes and their increase my said Negroes to be divided by my twenty friends to wit Beckin, Hudson Thompson Benjamin Roberts & Charles Thompson or any three of them.

Item I leave the remaining four fifths of Negroes to be hired out until my son Cordale comes of the age of twenty one year and if there should be any of the said Negroes that will not turn out for their virtuous and death then for the said Negroes a Negroes to be sold at public auction and the money arising from said sale together with said Negroes and their increase I give to be equally divided between all my children their living share and share alike to them and their heirs forever.

Item My Will and desire is that the money arising from the sale of the above Negroes shall go towards schooling & raising of my children.

Item After paying my just debts then my will and desire is that the rest of my estate not already given away to both and equally divided between my beloved wife and my four children share and share alike to them and their heirs forever.

Item I constitute and appoint my Brother in law Isaac Moss, John Beckin and my wife Patsy Clifton

my

my will and sole Executor and administrator of this my last will and Testament and my will and desire is further that my said Executors shall prosecute persons and collect every debt that they shall find in my name and all such notes that shall arise from my debt as much as possible only one note against Joseph Ireland and another against the estate of Doctor Randal which notes I bear in favour of my Sister Mary Bliften M^{rs} Withers whom I have hereunto set my Hand and affixed my Seal this 4th day of February 1797—

Signed Sealed & pronounced
to be her last will and Testament } Benjamin Bliften Esq Seal
In presence of us —

Edm^d Thomson
Chauncy Jerboan
David + Wison
mark
in
Edy + Wison
mark

Northampton County Jst
March Court 1797

This Will was proved by
the oath of Edm^d Thomson one
of the subscribing witnesses thereto and
declared to be testifical and executed whereupon
Jesse Woods one of the Executors therein named was duly
qualified.

Teste:
C. Wiggins Esq

James Cotton's Will

State of North Carolina }
Northampton County } I James Cotton of the State of North
Carolina being aged and informed of the things that by God it
disposing mind and memory and calling to mind that by God it
is ordained for men to die do make this my last will and Testament
in manner and form following as followeth viz

Item I give and bequeath unto my Son Dickinson Cotton my lands
and plantation lying and being in the Town Meadows also
the land and plantation whereon I now live, the land and
plantation I bought of Charles Taylor also a tract of land
I bought of Peter McDaniel lying and being in the County
precinct, all of these three last mentioned plantations or tracts
of land my wife's life time excepted and for her to have
the use and benefit during her natural life, also I give and
bequeath unto my Son Dickinson Cotton six Negroes viz
Masa, Mrs Dennis, Ellick, great Jude, Fan and her
increase, and Judy increase from this time, also three
Horses viz the white Mare, Tickle splasher, and the
Whisper ally galley, six Oxen viz two Oxen, two young Oxen, two
yoke Oxen, viz the old yoke belonging to the meadow together
with the best bullocks belonging to them and the young yoke
five head of Sheep, my silver hand buckles & spurs, my Coffee
Mill and lead iron which is on the plantation in the meadow
also all the plantation utensils belonging to the plantation on the
meadow, also my large Steel traps, also after my wife's death
I give unto my Son Dickinson Cotton my salt brine Mill, my will
and desire is that my Son Dickinson Cotton shall yearly
furnish my wife with fifty pounds of sundry Indian Corn
to be delivered her at the plantation in the meadow and
for him my Son Dickinson Cotton his heirs and
assigns to have and enjoy forever.

Item