

Will, NC, Bertie, John Biram 1799

In the name of God, Amen.

I **JOHN BIRAM** of Bertie County & State of North Carolina being very sick & weak in body but in perfect mind & memory, thanks be given unto God, calling into mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last will and testament; that is to say, principally and first of all:

I give & recommend my soul unto the hand of Almighty God that gave it, and my body I recommend to the earth, to be buried in a decent, Christian burial at the discretion of my executors; nothing doubting but at the general resurrection, I shall receive the same again by the might power of God. And as touching such worldly estate wherewith it has pleased God to bless me in this life, I give, demise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form.

ITEM FIRST I give & bequeath to my son **JAMES BIRAM** one tract of land, being in Bertie County, one hundred acres, more or less, adjoining the land of **DAVID STARR [STOWE]**, **JEREMIAH BUNCH** & **JOSIAH TOMMAS [THOMAS]**, also one negro boy **SOLOMON** & one three year old negro colt. To him, his heirs and assigns forever.

ITEM I give and bequeath unto my son **WILLIAM BIRAM** one tract of land being in Bertie in Zockquo Island adjoining the lands of **JESSE BAIZMORE [BASEMORE]**, **JOHN BAIZMORE [BAZMORE]** & **JOSEPH COLLINS** containing 60 acres, more or less. Also one negro man named **CATO**. Also two cows & calves which he has in his possession to him, his heirs & assigns forever.

ITEM I give and bequeath unto my daughters **NANCY CANADAY** & **JUDY WHITE** one negro woman named **LID**, her and her increase to be equally divided between them and their heirs, to them and their heirs & assigns forever.

ITEM I give and bequeath unto my daughter **MARY BIRAM** one negro boy named **HAMPTON** one feather bed & furniture, two cows & calves, to her and her heirs and assigns forever.

ITEM I give and bequeath unto my daughter **EASTER BIRAM** one negro girl name **JINNY**. Also one feather bed and furniture. Also two cows & calves to her and her heirs and assigns forever.

ITEM It is my will and desire that all the residue of my property after paying my just debts and funeral expenses that I have not already given away shall be sold and equally divided amongst all my children.

LASTLY I constitute, make and ordain my son **JAMES BIRAM** & **MOSES GILLAM** my sole executors of this my last will and testament.

And I do hereby utterly disallow, revoke and disannul all and every other former testaments, wills or bequests and executors by me in any wise before named, willed and bequeathed; ratifying this and no other to be my last will and testament.

Will, NC, Bertie, John Biram 1799

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this eighteenth day of February one thousand seven hundred and ninety nine.

JOHN BIRUM {seal, his + mark}

Signed, sealed, published, pronounced and declared by the said **JOHN BIRAM** as his last will and testament in the presence of us who in his presence and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names.

WILLIAM LOWELL

THAMER LOWELL {her + mark}

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State of North Carolina
Bertie County

May Term 1799

The last will and testament of **JOHN BIRAM**, deceased, was proved in open court by the oaths of **WILLIAM LOWELL** and **THAMER LOWELL**, the two subscribing witnesses and ordered to be recorded.

GEORGE GRAY, Clk

Will, NC, Bertie, John Biram 1799

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Transcribed from original documents by Brent R. Brian & Martha M. Brian.

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