

**Will, NC, Rowan, John Bryan 1797**

North Carolina ]  
Rowan County ]

In the name of God Amen

The eighteenth day of November in the year of our God seventeen hundred and ninety seven, I **JOHN BRYAN** of Rowan County and state of North Carolina planter being in perfect health though weak in body but a perfect mind and memory, thanks be given unto God, therefore calling to 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 and recommend my soul into the hands of almighty God who gave it and for my body I recommend it to the earth to be buried in a Christian like and decent manner at the direction of my executors, not doubting that at the general resurrection I shall receive the same again by The mighty power of God, and as touching such worldly estate, wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this life, I give, devise and dispose of the same in the following Manner and form, also:

also I give and bequeath unto **SARAH** my dearly beloved wife the sum of 10 pounds in money yearly of the land during her widowhood and likewise I bequeath unto her one negro wench named SAL and likewise one horse named Rant, likewise two cows and likewise two sheep and two beds and chest and with whatever of the dresser furniture she pleases, with one pot, with the choice of the bee guns and likewise at my widows death I order the Negro wench SAL to be sold and be equally divided among my daughters.

I also give and bequeath to my well beloved son **SAMUEL BRYAN** two hundred acres of land along the South line of my plantation, only bequeath twenty pounds out of that part to my beloved grandson **JOHN BRYAN**, son to **JOHN BRYAN** deceased, likewise I bequeath one negro boy to my beloved Son **SAMUEL BRYAN** named GEORGE and likewise my clothes.

Likewise I give and bequeath unto my well beloved son **JAMES** male heirs two hundred acres of land, it being the old improvements to where I now live, to be sold and put to use of or their use when they come of age to share and share alike.

Likewise I will that the residue of my movable property be put to sale the money equally divided amongst my daughters **JEAN ORTON, JEANETTE ORTON, ELIZABETH DAVIS, SARAH ALLEN, MARY HUEY** and **MARGIE ALLEN**.

Likewise all debts due with two young negro wenches TRACE and SUSE.

Lastly I do hereby make constitute ordain and appoint my beloved son-in-law **JOSEPH ORTON** and **WILLIAM LAW** to be the only executor of this my last will and testament.

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And I do hereby utterly disallow, revoke and disannul all and every other former Testaments, wills, legacies, bequests and executors by me in any way before this time mentioned, willed and bequeathed. Ratifying this, and no other, to be last will and testament.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day above written.

**JOHN BRYAN** {his X mark} {seal}

Signed Sealed published pronounced and declared by the said **JOHN BRYAN** as his last will and testament.

In the presence of these subscribers:

**SAMUEL CASEY**  
**THOMAS ALLEN**  
**JACOB TROUT "TROTE"**

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