

Will, NC, Edgecombe, SMITH BRYAN 1809

In the name of God Amen.

I **SMITH BRYAN** of Edgecombe County and state of North Carolina being intolerable law state of health but of sound and disposing and perfect memory must be to God do this 18th day of September in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and nine make and publish this my last will and testament in Manner and form following that is to say,

ITEM I desire all my just debts to be paid.

ITEM I lend to my beloved wife **MARTHA BRYAN** a piece of land lying in Manner and form following viz:

Beginning on the south side of Fishing Creek at a Cyprus about two hundred yards above the old field standing in the edge of the creek running thence to a Persimmon tree at the corner of Orchard; thence across the old field to the mouth of Percoson Branch to a White Oak; thence up the various sources of the branch to the back line; after running this line then all the land next to **SILAS BRYAN**'s to the old line.

I lend to her during her widowhood or life and after her widowhood or life I give it to my daughter **NANCY BRYAN** to her and her heirs forever.

Further I lend my beloved wife **MARTHA BRYAN** during her life three Negroes one named EPHRAIM, one named PINK and one named JOE. After her widowhood or life The Negro man EPHRAIM I give to my son **DEMCY BRYAN** and the negro woman PINK I give to my son **DRURY BRYAN** and the negro boy JOE I give to my son **JAMES BRYAN**.

Further I give my wife one horse bridle and saddle, and she is to take choice of my stock of horses, one bed and furniture, two cows and calves, two sows and pigs, 6 head of sheep, choice of all the stock, two pots and one dutch oven, one skillet, two dishes, two basins, half a dozen pewter plates, half of all the earthen ware, half a dozen knives and forks, half a dozen spoons, and the further sum of one hundred and fifty dollars in cash to be paid her within three months after my decease, to build her a home if i do not build one before my decease, all this property except the three three negroes named, after her widowhood or life, it is i return to my estate and be sold by my executor and divided between my six children.

ITEM I give to my son **JAMES BRYAN** all the land I bought of **TURNER BRYAN** and **JOSHUA LAWRENCE** and two Negroes ARCH and JENNY and the Fourier sum of one hundred dollars in cash to him and his heirs forever.

ITEM I give to my son **DEMCY BRYAN** one negro woman PAT and the further sum of one hundred and fifty dollars in cash to him and his heirs forever.

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ITEM I give to my daughter **CATEY MURPHREY** [**MURPHEY**] the sum of five hundred dollars in cash to be paid her or her heirs if called for in five years after my decease if not called for by then end of five years then it is my will that it should be divided between my five other children.

ITEM I give to my son **SILAS BRYAN** all the land I bought of **JACOB PROCTOR** and two Negroes **DANIEL** and **ISAAC** one still and the further sum of one hundred dollars in cash to him and his heirs forever.

ITEM I give to my son **DRURY BRYAN** all the balance of my land not named in this my last will, and one negro named **NED**, one still I bought of **RICHARD SESSUMS**, and the further sum of one hundred dollars in cash to him and his heirs forever.

ITEM I give to my daughter **NANCY BRYAN** to Negroes **MILLY** and **MARY**, one chair and harness, and the further sum of one hundred and fifty dollars in cash to her and her heirs forever.

Lastly it is my will and desire that all my property not above mentioned should be sold by my executor and equally divided between my six children.

And I hereby ordain and appoint my worthy friend **JOSHUA LAWRENCE** and my son **DEMCY BRYAN** executor of this my last will and testament disavowing all other Wills I confirm this my last will and testament by sitting here and to my hand and seal this day and date above written.

**SMITH BRYAN** {seal}

Signed sealed and published in presence of us and declared by the said **SMITH BRYAN** to be his last will and testament.

**BRITAIN JONES**

**TURNER BRYANT** {his B mark}

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Edgecombe County

May court 1811

The within last will and testament of **SMITH BRYAN**, deceased, was exhibited in court for probate and was duly proven by the oaths of **BRITAIN JONES** and **TURNER BRYANT** the two subscribing witnesses thereto, and **DEMCY BRYAN** one of the executors named in the said will was at the same time qualified thereto in due form of law.

Ordered at the same be certified and they will be recorded.

Test **EDWARD HALL**, Clerk of Court

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

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