

**Will, NC, Mecklenburg, David Hays 1788**

In the name of God Amen.

This 13th day of April in the year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight, I **DAVID HAYS** of Mecklenburg County and province of North Carolina being but weak and body but of perfect mind and memory blessed be God for his mercies, and calling to mind the mortality of my body, and that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make this my last will and testament in Manner and form following viz.

Principally and first of all I recommend my soul to almighty God who gave it and my body to the Earth from whence it was taken to be buried in a Christian like manner; and as touching such worldly the state where with it hath pleased God to bless me in this life I do hereby give, and bequeath it in the following manner, viz.

To **JANE** my beloved wife I leave all my household Furniture, likewise the plantation on which we now dwell, together with the houses and all thereunto pertaining to be entirely at her own use, with all the profits therefrom arising, until **MOSES** my eldest son arrived at the age of twenty one years, and in case she remains a widow after the said term that she may have privilege of her living on said Plantation, with benefit of house and furniture as aforesaid during her widowhood, also my black mare and Sorrel horse, likewise five cows and two year old steer, likewise twenty pounds of North Carolina currency towards schooling my children, which I allowed to be done according to her own discretion, likewise I leave the sheep to her for the use of the family to be shared among the children as they may leave, likewise the hogs for the use of the family.

To **MOSES**, my oldest son, I bequeath all my land with houses and all thereunto belonging to be his own property when he arrives at full age in law as above mentioned, likewise a two year old bay mare, provided he gives to his brother **ROBERT** as good a colt as said mare may raise. My wagon and Harrow, and all my perishable estate, exclusive of some creatures above mentioned, I allowed to be sold; and the value of them equally divided among seven of my children, viz. **MARGARET, ELIZABETH, PHEBE, ROBERT, MARY, JOHN, and HUGH BARNETT HAYS.**

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**HUGH BARNETT**, and **CHARLES CALHOUN**, I make ordain and appoint executors of this my last will and testament; and I do hereby utterly revoked and disannul all my former wills and Testaments or bequests by me formerly made until the above date. Pronouncing and declaring this and none other to be my last will and testament.

**DAVID HAYS** {seal}

Pronounced by the said **DAVID HAYS** has his last will and testament and signed by him in presence of us

**WILLIAM HAYS**

**JOHN GRAHAM**

**ROBERT BARNETT**, jurat

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