

Will, NC, Craven, Hardy Bryan 1760

In the name of God, Amen.

I, **HARDY BRYAN** of the province of North Carolina & Craven County, planter, being sick in body, but of sound mind & memory, do make my last will & testament in the form & manner following, that is to say.

It is my will that the plantation on where my son **THOMAS BRYAN** now lives consisting of about two hundred & seventy acres be divided by the Ash Branch & then

I give and bequeath that part of it lying on the north side of the Ash Branch to my said son **THOMAS** to him & his heirs forever. I further give & bequeath to my son **THOMAS** one negro man name EDINBURGH & one negro girl name LUCY, which said LUCY is already in the possession of my son **THOMAS**.

I give and bequeath to my son **WILLIAM [BRYAN]** to him & his heirs forever two hundred & seventy five acres of land be the same, more or less, which I bought of my brother **LEWIS [BRYAN]** & is adjoining to the land of **FREDERICK ISLER**. I further give & bequeath to my son **WILLIAM**, to him & his heirs forever, one hundred acres of land which I bought of **FREDERICK [FREDERICK] JONES** & lying on the west side of Trent River. I further give & bequeath to my son **WILLIAM** one Negro boy named CAIN which I have already delivered into his possession.

It is my will and desire that the plantation or survey of land on which I now live be equally divided & then I give & bequeath to my son **HARDY [BRYAN]**, to him and his heirs forever, after the marriage or death of his affectionate mother, the upper half of the said plantation or survey or that half of it which the houses are now erected. And I give & bequeath to my son **NATHAN [BRYAN]**, to him & his heirs forever, the other or lower part of the said plantation or survey of land. But if my son **NATHAN** should die without issue or before he arrives at the age of twenty one years, then I give & bequeath the whole of the said plantation or survey of land I know live upon to my son **HARDY**, to him & his heirs forever. Or if my son after the marriage or death of his affectionate mother, or if my son **HARDY** should die without issue or before he arrives at the age of twenty one years, then I give and bequeath the said whole plantation or survey of land on which I now live to my son **NATHAN**, to him & his heirs forever, after the marriage or death of his affectionate mother. But if both my sons **HARDY** & **NATHAN** should die without issue or before the age of twenty one years, then whatever land I have given & bequeathed to my sons **HARDY** and **NATHAN** I give and bequeath to my son **LEWIS [BRYAN]**, to him & his heirs forever.

I give & bequeath to my son **ISAAC [BRYAN]**, to him & his heirs forever, one half of the plantation or land on which my son **THOMAS** now lives, namely, that half of it which lies on the south side of the Ash Branch.

I give & bequeath to my son **LEWIS**, to him & his heirs forever, one front lot in the town of Newbern lying upon Neuse River & one of my two front lots of the said town lying upon Trent River, it being my will that my son **LEWIS** shall take his choice of the said two lots lying upon Trent River. But if my son **ISAAC** should die without issue or before he arrives at the age of twenty one years, then I give & bequeath to my son **LEWIS**, to him & his heirs forever, all the land which I have given & bequeathed to my son **ISAAC**. But if my son **LEWIS** should die without issue or before he arrives at the age of twenty one years, then I give & bequeath to my son **ISAAC**, to him & his heirs forever, all the lots in Newbern which I have given & bequeathed to my son **LEWIS**.

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I give & bequeath to my daughter **MARY [BRYAN]**, to her and her heirs forever, one front lot in the town of Newbern lying on Trent, after my son **LEWIS** has taken his choice of the two lots as before mentioned.

It is my will & desire that my loving wife **SARAH [BRYAN]**, so long as she shall continue my widow or live unmarried, shall have one half of the plantation or survey of land on which I now live, particularly the upper half or that half or part on which the houses are now erected. And it is further my will & desire that as long as my loving wife **SARAH** shall continue my widow or live unmarried, she shall have the use & profit of the following five Negroes, namely, one negro man named **DAVID**, one negro man named **POMPY**, one negro man named **FRANK**, one negro man named **BEN** & one negro girl name **LEYLLA**; but then it is my will & desire that my loving wife **SARAH** shall find meat, drink, washing, lodging & schooling for my children till they are married or arrive at the age of twenty one years, out of the profits arising from the plantation & the labor of the five slaves above mentioned. And it is further my will that the said five Negroes, **DAVID**, **POMPY**, **FRANK**, **BEN** & **LEYLLA** be equally divided among all my children at the marriage or death of my loving wife **SARAH**.

I likewise give & bequeath to my loving wife **SARAH** all my stocks of cattle, hogs, sheep & horses, all my household furniture, all my plantation tools & implements of husbandry.

It is further my will & desire that my following six children, namely my sons **WILLIAM**, **HARDY**, **NATHAN**, **ISAAC** & **LEWIS** & my daughters **MARY** or the survivors of them, shall have & be equal shares of all the rest of my Negroes not mentioned in this will, in the manner following, that is to say, the rest of my Negroes not mentioned in this will shall not be immediately divided, but each of my said children, namely **WILLIAM**, **HARDY**, **NATHAN**, **ISAAC**, **LEWIS** & **MARY** shall have & receive his or her share of the said Negroes & their increase on the day of marriage or at the age of twenty one years. And it is my will that when any one of my said six children shall have received his or her share of the said Negroes as before directed; he or she so receiving his or her share shall not have any claim or title to the remaining slaves or their future increase.

I do hereby nominate & appoint my sons **THOMAS** & **WILLIAM** executors & my loving wife **SARAH** executrix of this my last will & testament, & I do hereby revoke & disannul all other wills heretofore by me made.

Witness my hand & seal this twenty eighth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & sixty.

**HARDY BRYAN** {seal}

Signed, sealed & acknowledged in the presence of the

**JAMES REED**

**SHADRACK ALLEN**

**MATTHEW ARTER** {his + mark}

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Newbern

6 May 1760

The foregoing Last Will & Testament of **HARDY BRYAN**, deceased, was duly proved before me by the oaths of **JAMES REED** and **MATTHEW ARTER** evidences thereto.

At the same time **THOMAS BRYAN** one of the executors within named and **SARAH BRYAN** named executrix in the foregoing will qualified before me by taking the oath of executor and executrix.

Let letters testamentary issue to the said **THOMAS BRYAN** and **SARAH BRYAN** on the foregoing will accordingly.

**ARTHUR DOBBS**

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