

Will, NC, Mecklenburg, Charles Harris 1777

North Carolina
Mecklenburg County

In the name of God, Amen.

I **CHARLES HARRIS**, of the county and province aforesaid, being in good health of body and sound mind & memory, thanks be given to God, therefore. Calling to mind the mortality of the body and 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 bequeath my precious soul unto God who gave it, and my mortal body I recommend to the earth, to be buried in a decent manner at the discretion of my executors, nothing doubting but at the General Resurrection I shall receive the same, reunited to my soul by the mighty power of God. And touching such worldly goods as God hath been pleased to bless me with in this life, I give, demise and bequeath the same in the following manner and form.

FIRST I allow all my lawful debts to be paid.

SECONDLY I give and bequeath to my oldest daughter **MARTHA** five shillings sterling.

THIRDLY I bequeath to said **MARTHA's** oldest daughter, **JANE HARRIS** twenty five pounds proc to be paid her as soon as she is married. And also I bequeath to ye above **MARTHA's** second son, **CHARLES EDWARD HARRIS**, twenty five pounds proc to be paid him as soon as he comes of age.

FORTHLY I give and bequeath to my oldest son **ROBERT** all that tract of land lying on the west side of Broad River on both sides of Brown Creek in South Carolina and one hundred and fifty acres joining said tract and the negro boy **JACK** with one half of my wearing apparel.

FIFTHLY I bequeath to my son **THOMAS** one half of my wearing apparel.

SIXTHLY I bequeath to my two daughters **MARGARET ALEXANDER** and **JANE REESS [REESE]** to each of them five shillings sterling.

SEVENTHLY I leave and bequeath to my son **JAMES** one hundred pounds proc to be kept in the hands of my son **SAMUEL** and he to pay the interest of it yearly to **JAMES** of whoever takes care of him, and that must be any of his mother's [people] he chooses to live with, and when he dies, I order said hundred pounds to be equally divided amongst all my children to my FIRST WIFE.

EIGHTHLY I bequeath to my sons **SAMUEL** and **CHARLES** all that tract of land on which I now live, with that tract or lot called the Rich Hill and also one hundred and fifty acres on the big run west of said land. Likewise that land I purchased from **JOHN MITCHELL** lying on the milchey or back run and that forty acres I bought of **ADAM MEEK**.

NINETHLY I give and bequeath to the issue of my son **THOMAS**, lawfully begot, all that tract of land I bought of **ROBERT BRAVARD [BREVARD]** lying on Beaverdam Creek containing six hundred acres to be equally divided amongst them all when the youngest comes to age according to law, their mother to have her maintenance of it during her life or widowhood.

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TENTHLY I bequeath to my well beloved wife **ELIZABETH** one third of all my personal estate during her life or continuance a widow and if she marries I order her to have one good feather bed and necessary clothing and her choice of all the horses belonging to the estate, **SAMUEL**'s mare and her issue excepted, and twenty pounds proc money and the negro wench **DINAH** during her life and when she dies the said **DINAH** and her issue to go to my two sons **SAMUEL** and **CHARLES**.

ELEVENTHLY I give and bequeath to my two sons **SAMUEL** and **CHARLES** all and every part of my estate not before mentioned and if either of them dies before they come to age, their part is to go to the surviving brother & if they both die in their nonage their part is to be equally divided amongst all my children.

AND LASTLY I do hereby nominate, constitute and appoint my dear wife **ELIZABETH** & my well beloved sons **ROBERT HARRIS** & **GEORGE ALEXANDER** executors of this my last will & testament, ratifying & confirming this and no other to be my last will & testament.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal this third day of May in the year of our Lord Christ one thousand seven hundred and seventy six.

CHARLES HARRIS {seal}

Signed, sealed, published, pronounced and delivered by the above named **CHARLES HARRIS** as his last will & testament in presence of us:

ELIZABETH HARRIS {seal, her mark}

JAMES GARDNER

WILLIAM GARDNER

ADAM MEEK, jurat