

Will, NC, Northampton, WILLIAM M. BRYAN 1846

Ne Varietur, **JAMES J. WEEMS**, Parish Judge
May 11, A. D. 1846

In the name of God amen. I, **WILLIAM M. BRYAN** residing in the Parish of West Feliciana, state of Louisiana, do make this my last will and testament.

I declare, that I have neither father or mother or other ascendant living, and that I have no legitimate descendants.

I nominate and appoint my friends **MICAJAH COURTNEY**, of the Parish of West Baton Rouge, and **BENNET J. BARROW**, of the Parish of West Feliciana, the executors of this my will, and constitute them detainers of my estate.

I direct that all my real and personal property shall be sold by my said executors on such terms as to them may seem best.

Out of the proceeds of my estate first coming into the hands of my executors, and after the payment of my just debts, I direct that the sum of then thousand dollars shall be placed out at interest on such security as my executors may deem sufficient and that the interest thereof for the term of five years shall be appropriated to the education of the children of my deceased brothers; **LAWRENCE BRYAN** and the children of my brothers **MILES BRYAN** and **REDDING BRYAN**, and my sister **CATHERINE BRYAN**, wife of **ROBERT BRYAN**, now living, all of which brothers and sisters and their descendants reside in the county of Northampton, State of North Carolina.

The said interest of the said sum of then thousand dollars to be paid annually by my said executors to my cousin **BLAKE BRYAN**, residing in the county of Northampton, State of North Carolina, who I hereby constitute & appoint trustee, to receive and expend and appropriate the said interest so paid to him by my said executors in such manner as he may deem best calculated to carry my intention in the respect into effect, which intention is to secure to the children of my said brothers and sister the best education, the sum appropriated for that purpose will admit and the receipt of the said **BLAKE BRYAN** shall be a full and entire acquittance to my said executors for the sum or sums paid to him.

I give and bequeath to my aforesaid cousin **BLAKE BRYAN** the sum of five hundred dollars as compensation in carrying out the foregoing provision of my will.

I give and bequeath to my natural child **NAT**, who I purchased from **MICAJAH COURTNEY**, his freedom and the sum of five hundred dollars, the interest of which is to be appropriated by my said executors to the education of said child, and should the said child **NAT** die, before he arrives at the age of twenty one years, then the said sum of five hundred dollars I give and bequeath to my heirs herein after designated. It is my wish that the said child, when he arrives of the age of ten years, shall be bound out to learn the trade of barber. I appoint the aforesaid **MICAJAH COURTNEY** and **BENNET J. BARROW** tutors of my said child **NAT**; and in consideration of the trouble

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hereby imposed on them in reference to the said child **NAT** I give and bequeath to them, the tutors, the sum of five hundred dollars.

After deducting the aforesaid sum of then thousand dollars and the other specified legacies herein before made, I give and bequeath to the widows of my deceased brothers, **LAWRENCE BRYAN, WHITFIELD BRYAN, and JOSEPH H. BRYAN** and to my surviving brothers and sister, **MILES BRYAN, REDDING BRYAN, LEWIS BRYAN, and CATHERINE BRYAN**, wife of **ROBERT BRYAN**, the whole residue of my estate, share and share alike, to be paid to them by my said executors.

At the expiration of the five years during which I have provided, that the sum of ten dollars, dollars shall be placed out at interest, I give and bequeath to the children of my aforesaid deceased brothers, and to my surviving brothers and sister, aforesaid, and to their children, the aforesaid sum of ten thousand dollars to be divided among them equally, that is, share and share alike, so that the said children shall inherit equally with their parents in the present distribution of my estate.

I do hereby require and direct that my said executors shall pay over to the aforesaid **BLAKE BRYAN** the several sums herein before bequeathed tot he widows of my deceased brothers and to my surviving brothers and sister, and also to the children of my deceased brothers and to the children of my surviving brothers and sister, by him, the said **BLAKE BRYAN** to be distributed among the said legatees according to the provisions of this my will and the receipt of the said **BLAKE BRYAN** or his legally constituted agent, shall be a full and complete discharge and acquittance for the moneys so by my said executor paid.

I desire my executor to have my mortal remains decently interred in a tomb to be erected above the surface of the earth.

The whole written by me and signed this the second day of May in the year eighteen hundred and forty six – counting from top toward the bottom of the third page between the sixteenth and seventeenth lines the words following, to wit, interlined (and t omy surviving brothers). Signed in the presence of **WILLIAM MCCOMBS, THOMAS B. PERCY, WILLIAM RUCKER, V. J. WALSH, ABRAHAM MARKS & WILLIAM HARGADINE**, the day and date before mentioned.

WILLIAM M. BRYAN

Witness:

**WILLIAM MCCOMBS
THOMAS B. PERCY
WILLIAM HARGADINE
ABRAHAM MARKS
W. B RUCKER
V. J. WALSH**

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State of Louisiana]
Parish of West Feliciana]

I certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the original last will and testament on file and of record in my office.

Given under my signature and seal of office this 8th day of June 1846.

JAMES J. WEEMS
Parish Judge