

JOHN BLOUNT'S WILL.

NORTH CAROLINA.

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN. I, John Blount, of Chowan County, do make and declare These Presents to be and contain my Last Will and Testament, hereby revoking all former and other Wills by me heretofore made or declared.

Imprimis, I give, Devise and bequeath unto my beloved Wife, Sarah, the Use of the East part of the Land whereon I now Live, to begin on the Sound side, Twenty Feet to the Eastward of the North East Corner of the Barn; from thence such a Course as shall take one Third part of the Lands and Tract, during her Natural Life or Widow-hood, And I Likewise give to my Loving Wife the Use of Three Negroes, Viz: Fortune, Gregory, and York, during life or widow-hood. I Likewise give to my Loving Wife the Use of all my House-hold Goods, Excepting my writing Desk, she paying to my Three Sons, James, Frederic, and Wilson, one Feather Bed and Furniture, To Each of them when they come to the Age of Twenty One Years. I Likewise give to my well beloved Wife the Use of one fourth part of all my Cattle, Hogs and Sheep, and my Riding Horse, called Trooper, and one young Horse, called Dart, one young grey mare about Three Years Old, during her Natural Life or Widow-hood, and after her Marriage or Decease to be Equally Divided amongst all my Children with the Increase thereof. I Likewise give to my beloved Wife the Use of Two Negroe Wenches, called Venus and Doll, reserving their Increase to be Equally Divided amongst all my Children, and at the Marriage or Decease of my said Wife, the Two aforesaid Negroes, Venus and Doll, to be given to my Children as my said Wife shall think proper.

Item. I give to my Loving wife, fifteen Barrels of Indian Corn.

Item. I give, devise and bequeath to my Son, James, my Plantation and Tract of Land whereon I now Live (he not barring his Mother of her Third Part during her Natural Life or Widow-hood), to him and his male heirs Lawfully begotten of his Body, for Ever, and in case of failure of such Heirs of my Son, James, then to my Son, Frederic, and heirs male, Lawfully begotten of his Body for Ever, and in case of failure of Male Heirs of my son, Erederic, then to my Son, Wilson, and his male Heirs, Lawfully begotten of his body for Ever.

Item. I give and bequeath to my Son, James, Three Negroes Viz: Sharper, Finn, and Tom, with all my Brewing Kettles, Tubbs and Fats, and all my brewing works, and my writing Desk, To him, his Heirs or Assigns.

Item. I give and bequeath to my Son, Frederic, Four Negroes, Viz: Potter, Frank, Charles, and Will, his Heirs or Assigns for Ever.

Item. I give and bequeath to my Son, Wilson, Three Negroes, Vizt: Boston, Jack, and Mustipher, and as my Sister in Law, Mrs. Mary Moor, desires to have the care of my Son, Wilson, my Will and desire is that she should have the Care of his Education and bringing up, and in case that she should Die and not provide sufficient for him, then to come under the Care of my Executors herein after mention.

Item. I give and bequeath To my Daughter, Elizabeth, one Negro wench, call'd Dinah, and her Increase.

Item. I give and bequeath to my Daughter, Martha, one Negroe wench, called Jane, and her Increase.

Item. I give and bequeath To my Daughter, Mary, one Negroe wench call'd Sarah, and her Increase.

My Will is that five or Six of the likeliest of my breeding Mares, that is now on my Plantation or that can be rais'd, should be kept for the use of my Children, and Likewise I would have all my other Stock of Cattle, Hogs and Sheep, to be kept on my Plantation To raise on, for the Use of my Children.

My desire is that my Chaise, Boat, Blacksmith's Tools, watch, and other Tools, or anything Else that is Likely to perish, should be sold at Public Vandue, Excepting Sufficient Tools for the Use of the Plantation.

Item. I give and bequeath To my Brother, Charles Blount, my best Broad Cloth Suit of Cloaths, my best Beaver Hatt & Wigg.

My will is that none of the Timber should be cut or Sold, Excepting for the Use of the Plantation, and that no Stranger shall be admitted to Live on any part of the back Land to Destroy the Timber, and that no Person shall on any Consideration whatsoever be admitted to Live on any part of my Land Excepting an Overseer, my Will is likewise that all my Negroes should be kept to work on my Plantation, and that no other Negroes shall be admitted to work on my Plantation, Excepting they are the property of my wife or Children. And my Will is that all the money that shall arise out of my Estate, after all Reasonable Expences is paid, should be Laid out to purchase Likely young Negroes, at the Discretion of my Executors hereafter mentioned, for the use and Benefit of my Children, and my will and Desire is that my Executors, hereafter mentioned, should take great Care to have my Children Educated and brought up in a Christian Like manner, and in case any one or more of the Children's Negroes should Die before they come into their Possession, then my desire is that they have others bought, of the same value as they would have been at the Devision, out of the remaining part of my Estate which is not perticularly before given, my Will and desire is, that when the Estate of my Children that is Liveing shall come to ye Age of Twenty one Years, that if any of my Children should have lost any of their Negroes, that they should be made up to them in full Value, then all the principall part of my Estate, with the Profits arising thereon, in the Hands of my Executors to be Equally Divided between my Children.

And Lastly, I do nominate, constitute, and appoint my trusty and Loving Brothers, Joseph and Charles Blount, and my Two Sons, James and Frederic Blount, after they come to the Age of Twenty one Years, my Executors, to see every clause and Article of this my last Will and Testament fulfill'd.

Dated the Eight Day of December 1753.

JOHN BLOUNT (Seal)

(Coat of Arms on Seal)

Signed, Sealed, Publish'd, and Declar'd in Presence of

J. HALSEY Jurat

JOHN BEASLEY

JNO SMITH

RICHARD DUNBAR

NORTH CAROLINA, CHOWAN COUNTY, SS: April County Court, 1754.

Present, His Majestys Justices.

These may Certify that John Halsey, Esqr, appeared in open Court & made oath on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, that he Saw John Blount, Esqr., Sign, Seal, Publish, and Declare the within to be & Contain his Last Will and Testament, and that he was then and at that time of sound & Disposing mind and memory, and that he also Saw John Smith, John Beasley, & Richard Dunbar, Sign their names thereto at the Same time.

Test: WILL HALSEY, Cler. Cur.

CHOWAN COUNTY, SS.

May the 9th: 1754.

Then Appeared before me Mr: Charles Blount, one of the Executors of the Last Will and Testament of John Blount, Esqr., deceased, and was duly Qualified as Executor thereto, by taking the Executors oath by Law appointed to be taken by Executors.

JAS: CRAVEN

Copied from Original Will filed in the office of the Secretary of State.