

**BERTIE COUNTY, N.C.**

**WILLS -- VOL. ONE**

**( Apr. 1769 - May 1774 )**

**Transcribed & Typed**

**by Laura Willis**

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Test:  
Micajah Lancaster  
Nicholas Skinner  
Adam Raly

William Hollowell

WILL BOOK A, Page 28

Will of HENRY COBB, deceased

In the name of God, Amen, September the 29th 1763. I, Henry Cobb of North Carolina in the county of Bertie, planter, being very sick and weak of body, but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be given to God, therefore calling to mind the mortality of my body, and knowing 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 recommend my soul into the hands of God that gave it, and my body I recommend to the earth to be buried in a decent Christian burial at the discretion of my Executors, nothing doubting but at the General Resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God, and as touching such worldly estate wherewith it has pleased God to bless me, I give and dispose of in the following manner and form. First, I will and desire that all my just debts be paid. Imprimis, I give and bequeath to my dear and loving wife Mary Cobb, the land and plantation whereon I now dwell; likewise all my stock of cattle, hogs, and horses, and sheep, except one mare, and all my moveables and household furniture, during her life, and after her decease, the said plantation I give to my son John Cobb; and as for the moveables after my wife's decease, I will that they be equally divided among all my children. Item, I give and bequeath to my son James Cobb, the land and plantation which I lately bought of William Cullefer, he helping to pay for it. I likewise give him that mare above excepted, she being a mare known by the name of James' mare. Item, I constitute, make and ordain my loving wife my sole Executrix of ths my last will and testament, and I do hereby disallow, revoke and disannull all and every other testament, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day above written.

Test:

William Hardy, Son of Samuel,  
Mary (X) Vandaford  
Abraham (X) Morris

Henry (X) Cobb

WILL BOOK A, Page 30

Will of JOHN SPERESY, deceased

In the name of God, Amen, the second day of March 1763. I, John Francis Speresy of the county of Bertie in the province of North Carolina, being sick and weak, but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be to God, therefore calling to mind the mortality of my body, and knowing that it is appointed once

for all men to die, do make and ordain this my last will and testament, that is to say, Principally and first of all, I give and recommend my soul into the hands of God that gave it, and my body I recommend to the earth to be buried in a decent Christian manner at the discretion of my Executors, and as touching my worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this life, I give, demise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form, after my debts and funeral charges are paid and discharged. Item, I give and bequeath the remainder of my estate to my brother and sister Frederick Holmes and Ann Holmes, to be equally divided between them. I also make and ordain Adam Baty and Michael Thomas, sole Executors of this my last will and testament, and I do hereby utterly disallow, revoke and disannull all and every other former testaments, will, legacies, and bequests and executors by me and in any ways before named, willed and bequeathed, ratifying and confirming this to be my last will and testament, and no other. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

Test:

William Andrews  
Jesse Harrell  
Arthur Brown

John Percy

WILL BOOK A, Page 31

Will of MOSES HILL, deceased

In the name of God, Amen, July the nineteenth 1762. I, Moses Hill of Bertie county, planter, being weak in body, but of perfect and sound memory, thanks be given to God for it, therefore calling to mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed once for all men to die, do make and ordain this my last will and testament, that is to say, Principally and first of all, I give and recommend my soul into the hands of God who gave it, and my body I recommend to the earth to be buried in a decent Christian like manner at the discretion of my Executors, nothing doubting but at the General Resurrection I shall receive the same by the mighty power of God, and as touching such worldly estate as it hath pleased God to posses me with in this life, I give, demise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form. Imprimis, I give and bequeath to my beloved son-in-law David Daniel Frasure, the last tract of land that took up between Drum and Guyshall Swamp, to him, his heirs forever. Item, I give to my grandson Reuben Frasure, a tract of land containing one hundred and sixty acres, lying by his father's land, to him and his heirs forever; one cow and calf, one two year old heifer, to him and his heirs forever. Item, I give to my daughter Sarah Hill, half the land I hold where I live, beginning on a branch running to Guyshall Swamp, and up the branch to Reuben Frasure, to the east side of the plantation whereon I now live; also I give unto her one mare, to her and her heirs, she and her increase. Item, I give and bequeath unto my youngest daughter Judith Hill, my plantation whereon I now live, to her and her heirs forever; also I give

Test:  
Hardy Hardison  
Fredrick Hardison

Elizabeth Scollay

This is to certify that Richard Sanderson and Joseph Blount have duly qualified as Executors of the last will and testament of Elizabeth Scollay, deceased, this 3rd day of February 1767.

John Cricket, JP

WILL BOOK A, Page 93

Will of FRANCIS HOBSON, deceased  
In the name of God, Amen. I, Francis Hobson of Bertie county, in the province of North Carolina, considering the uncertainty of this mortal life, and being of sound and perfect mind and memory, blessed be Almighty God for the same, do make and publish this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say. First, my will and desire is that all my debts and funeral charges be paid and discharged. Secondly, I give and bequeath to my sister Grace Cannaday, one shilling lawful money of Great Britain. Thirdly, I give and bequeath to Francis Cannaday, one shilling lawful money of Great Britain. Fourthly, I give and bequeath to James Cannaday, one shilling lawful money of Great Britain. Fifthly, I give and bequeath to David Cannaday, one shilling lawful money of Great Britain. Sixthly, I give and bequeath to John Cannaday, one shilling lawful money of Great Britain. Seventhly, I give and bequeath to Eprim Cannaday, one shilling lawful money of Great Britain. Eightly, I give and bequeath to Mary Griffin, one shilling lawful money of Great Britain. Ninthly, I give and bequeath to Sarah Gainer, one shilling lawful money of Great Britain. Tenthly, I give and bequeath to Francis Hobson, one shilling lawful money of Great Britain. Eleventhly, I give and bequeath to Mary King, one shilling lawful money of Great Britain. Twelfthly, I give and bequeath to John Anderson, one shilling lawful money of Great Britain. Thirteenthly, I give and bequeath to Robert Anderson, one shilling lawful money of Great Britain. Fourteenthly, I give and bequeath to William Anderson, one shilling lawful money of Great Britain. Fifteenthly, I give and bequeath to Rachael Jones, one shilling lawful money of Great Britain. Sixteenthly, I give and devise unto my loving wife Elizabeth Hobson, her heirs and assigns, all my lands, messuages and tenements, situated, lying and being in the county of Bertie, Beaufort and Tyrrell, with every of the appurtenances thereunto belonging, to hold to her, the said Elizabeth, her heirs and assigns forever. Seventeenthly, I give and bequeath unto my said loving wife Elizabeth Hobson, the following negroes, viz, Mingo, Cate, Mariah, Phillis, Bristol, Nancy, Lucia, London, Bobb, Silvia, Dick, Penney, Jack and Primus. Eighteenthly, as to all the rest, residue, and remainder of my personal estate, goods, and chattels, rights and credits of what kind or nature soever, I give and bequeath to my said wife Elizabeth Hobson. Nineteenthly and lastly, I do hereby nominate, constitute, and

appoint my two friends Thomas Turner and David Standley, Executors of this my last will and testament, hereby revoking and disannulling all former wills and testaments by me made. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal the 26th day of February in the sixth year of the Reign of his present Majesty, King George the Third, and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty-six.

Test:  
William Starke  
John Cathcart  
Thomas Hackett

Francis Hobson

WILL BOOK A, Page 96

Will of DAVID HARRELL, deceased  
North Carolina, Bertie County  
In the name of God, Amen. I, David Harrell of the county and province aforesaid, being sick of body, but of sound and perfect mind and memory, thanks be to God, do make, ordain, constitute, and appoint this my last will and testament, hereby revoking and disannulling all others heretofore by me made, and this only to be made and held as my last will and testament in manner and form following, viz, that is to say. First of all, I lend unto my beloved wife Charity Harrell, during her natural life or widowhood, the use of the plantation whereon I now live, and all the land thereunto belonging, and the use of so much of the stock as my Executors shall think fit, so as to allow a reasonable support during her natural life or widowhood, or until she shall misorder herself in any manner so that my Executors shall see or know that she is going or about to waste my estate, and then for them to take the same unto their possession, and so order as they shall think will be for the best advantage for my children; and the use of the following negroes, to wit, Sam and Luis, and all my household furniture, in the same manner and form as above mentioned of the stock, and after her death or marriage or forfeiture of the estate in manner aforesaid, that the same be divided as follows, for my Executors to take the same into their possession and order it to be paid to the use of my children as they thik fit. I give and bequeath to my son David Harrel, my plantation, lying and being in the Runary Marshes, and all the land thereunto belonging, only allowing my son Noah Harrel, a small part lying on the west side of the Cypress Pond, beginning at the mouth of the branch called the Bryary Branch, and running across from thence to the Cypress Pond, then up the said pond to Israel Hardy Harrel's line, then along the said Hardy's line to the Crooked Marsh, then down the Crooked Marsh to the first station. And I give to him, the said David Harrel, above named, one negro woman named Rachel, and a negro boy named Jo, and their increase, to him and his heirs lawfully begotten of his own body. Item, I give and bequeath unto my daughter Charity Harrel, one negro woman named Fillis, and her increase, to her and her heirs lawfully begotten of her own body. Item, I give and bequeath unto my son Noah Harrel, my land and plantation

divided among the said Jordan's children. Item, I give to Jemima Warbarton, all my hogs. Item, I make and ordain the aforesaid William Jordan, Jr., my sole Executor of this my last will and testament, and I do hereby utterly revoke, disallow and disannull all and every other former testament, will, legacy, bequests and executors by me in anyways before named, willed, bequathed, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year before mentioned.

Test:

Josiah Williams  
Bird Hubbard  
Ephraim Edwards

Jasper Sutton

Will was proven in open court at the June term of 1772, and ordered to be recorded.

John Johnston, Clerk

**WILL BOOK A, Page 155**

Nuncupative Will of **CHRISTOPHER HARRELL**, deceased

North Carolina, Bertie County

Marth 24th 1772. This day came William Gipson and Mary Abington of the county aforesaid, before me, one of his Majesty's Justices for the county aforesaid, and made oath on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, that they heard Christopher Harrell, deceased, say, as he lay sick on his deathbed, that his will and desire was that his debts should be paid out of his estate, and that she, which they belived was meant his wife, should have all the rest of his estate, therefore to maintain the children with. Sworn before me the day and year aforesaid.

Josiah Harrell

**WILL BOOK A, Page 156**

Will of **HUMPHREY LAURENCE**, deceased

In the name of God, Amen. April 26th 1772.

I, Humphrey Laurence of North Carolina, Bertie county, being very sick and weak in body, but calling to mind the mortality of my body, but perfect mind and memory, thanks be to God, and calling to mind the mortality of my body, and knowing 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 bequath my soul into the hands of God who gave it, and for my body I recommend it to the earth to be buried in a Christian like manner at the discretion of my Executors, nothing doubting but at the General Resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God, and as touching such worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this life, I give, devise and dispose of

the same in manner and form following, that is to say. In the first place, I leave unto Ann, my dearly beloved wife, my negro fellow called Ben; also the house and plantation during her life; also a part of the household goods and stock for the said term, and after her decease, to be equally divided among my children. To my dearly beloved son Frederick, I give a piece of land which I bought of William Virgin, also an equal part of the household stuff and cattle. To my son Reuben, I leave him the land which is bounded by David Bryan and Ben Cook; also an equal part of the household stuff and cattle; also one negro boy called Granville. To my son David Laurence, I give part of a still which is two thirds belonging between my sister Elizabeth Sprout; and also one negro boy called Isaac, and my working tools, and my rifle. To my daughter Ann Laurence, I give one girl named Iris, and one equal part of the household goods. And to my son Nathaniel, I give the negro wench, and part of the household goods. N.B. none of the goods shall be divided till her death. I make, constitute, and ordain my only and sole Executors, my dearly beloved wife and Humphrey Nicholas, of this my last will and testament. I do hereby disallow all and every other testaments, wills, legacies, bequests, and executors in anyways before this time named, willed, and bequeathed, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

Test:

William Kington  
Charles Hodgeson  
Elizabeth (X) Boulton

Humphrey (X) Laurence

Will was proven in open court at the June term of 1772, and ordered to be recorded.

John Johnston, Clerk

**WILL BOOK A, Page 157**

Will of **JOSIAH STALLINGS**, deceased

In the name of God, Amen. I, Josiah Stallings of Bertie county, North Carolina, being weak and sick of body, but of a perfect and sound mind, make this my last will and testament in manner and form as followeth, that is to say. First, I give and recommend my soul to Almighty God who gave it me, and my body to be buried in a decent manner at the discretion of my Executor hereafter named, and as to what worldly estate it hath pleased God to bless me, I dispose of the same as followeth. First, I desire that my just debts and funeral charges shall be all fully satisfied. Item, I give to my dear wife Mary Stallings, two negroes named Tom and Phillis, during her life; likewise the plantation whereon I live, until my son John is twenty-one years old, and one third of it during her life if she lives single; likewise I give her six cows and calves, one pair of five year old steers, one pair of four year olds and one pair

of two year old steers, one black mare and colt, six sows and pigs, twenty hogs that will be two years old this coming winter, and ten that will be one year old at the same time, four ewes and lambs, one ram and one weather, the use of the brand this season, likewise the use of one third of the household furniture during her life, excepting one bed which is to be sold; likewise the use of a young negro wench named Jude, during her life. Item, it is my will that my plantation on the south side of the Beaver Dam Swamp, containing a hundred acres of land whereon Zachariah Archer now lives, together with my still after the use of it for the season, to my wife, and the stock not mentioned above, likewise the furniture not above mentioned above be sold at public vandue at a twelve month credit, and the money put upon interest of which my daughter Betty Stallings is to have one hundred pounds of it when she comes to age; likewise the negroes Tom, Phillis, and Jude, with her increase, after my wife's death, shall be equally divided between my daughter Betsy and my son John Stallings. Item, I give to my son John Stallings, my lands lying on the north side of the Beaver Dam Swamp, together with all the money arising from the sale of my land, still and stock above mentioned, after the deduction of the hundred pounds proclamation money for my daughter above mentioned, which he is to be possessed of when he comes to the age of twenty-one. Item, it is my will that a house eighteen foot square with a piazza be built on the plantation whereon I now live, to be paid out of the money which I have by me, and is due to me, and the remainder of all my estate not mentioned above, I give to my son John, to be well possessed of at twenty-one. Item, I have given my wife Mary Stallings, the use of the plantation whereon I now live, and the negroes and stock as above mentioned. It is my will that she bring up the two children which God has given us until they be of age, and given the suitable and sufficient schooling, paying the extraordinary expense out of their portion, viz, the money that is paid to the Master. I also make and appoint Capt. Moses Sumner, James Yearby, and my wife Mary Stallings, the Executors of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof, I, the said Josiah Stallings, have hereunto set my hand and seal this fourteenth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-two.

Test:

Martha Standley  
William Outlaw, Jr.  
Samuel Cutler, Jr.

Josiah Stallings

Proven in open court at the June term of 1772, and ordered to be recorded.

John Johnston, Clerk

WILL BOOK A, Page 159

Will of ROBERT WEST, deceased

In the name of God, Amen. I, Robert West of Bertie county, in the province of North Carolina, planter, being of perfect mind and memory, which I thank God, I do make this my last will and testament, revoking, disannulling and making void all former wills, testaments, by me therefore made. Principally and in the first place, I recommend my soul to the Almighty God who gave it, and my body to the dust till the General Resurrection, and recommending it to my Executors for a decent Christian burial, and in respect to such worldly estate wherewith he Loosing Swamp, be sold and the money to go towards discharging my debts, and likewise the legacy in Cullen Pollock, Esq. hands, and the remainder to go to my son George West. Item, I give and bequeath to Ann Billips, that lives with me, her lifetime, in the plantation I had of David Bryan; likewise two negroes named Jinny and Bobb, during her lifetime; likewise I give four cows and calves, four sows and pigs, and four ewes and lambs, and a good plow horse, one bed and furniture, six silver teaspoons, two pewter teaspoons, two dishes, four plates, two iron pots, the two said negroes at her death, with their increase, to go to my two sons Robert West and George West, equally divided between them. Item, I give and bequeath to my son Robert West, the plantation and land I now live on, where free Seasor lived, called over the swamp; likewise the grist mill and that land I had of Webb's estate, and that I had of David Bryan, at Ann Bellip's death, and two hundred acres of land where Miller lived, the Longacre; likewise one half of all my stocks, household goods, cattle, hogs, and sheep, horses, and one third part of all my negroes or slaves, to him and his heirs forever, besides what I have not given in this will. Item, I give and bequeath to my son George West, all my lands and plantations in the fork of Casky River, contained in several patents, with the remaining part of the Longacre land and likewise one half of all my stocks, household goods, cattle, hogs, and sheep, horses; likewise one third part of all my negroes or slaves, to him and his heirs forever, that is besides what I have not given in this will. Item, I give and bequeath to my daughter Ann West, one third part of all my negroes or slaves, with one bed and furniture, that is besides what is not given in this will. Item, I give and bequeath to John Billips, son of Ann Billips, the plantation and land joinign John Readit's land, and likewise one negro girl called Grace. If he should decease before he arrives to the age of twenty-one, land and negroes with their increase, to go to my two sons Robert West and George West, to share equally between them. Item, I give and bequeath to William Billips, son of Ann Billips, three hundred and thirty acres of land where Cate McDaniel lived in Bucklesbury Pocason, and likewise one negro boy six years old. If he should decease before he arrives to the age of twenty years old, land and negro to go to my two sons Robert West and George, to equally share them. Item, I give and bequeath to Elizabeth, daughter of Ann Billips, one negro girl called Patt, at the day of marriage or sixteen years old, with her increase forever.



## WILL BOOK B, Page 34

Will of HENRY BUNCH, deceased

In the name of God, Amen. I, Henry Bunch of Bertie county, in the province of North Carolina, being weak in body, but of sound memory and judgment, and knowing it is appointed for all men to die, do make and ordain this my last will and testament. First, I recommend my soul to God who gave it, and my body to be buried at the discretion of my Executors, and as touching such worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me with, I give, demise and dispose of in the following manner, viz. I give unto my son Jeremiah Bunch, one shilling sterling, to be levied out of my estate for his part. I give to my daughter Toincason Bass, one shilling sterling, to be levied out of my estate for her part. I give my daughter Susannah Summerlin, wife to Lazarus Summerlin, one shilling sterling, to be levied out of my estate for her part. I give to my daughter Rachel Collins, wife of Joseph Collins, one shilling sterling, to be levied out of my estate for her part. I give to my daughter Mary Bass, wife of Isaac Bass, one shilling sterling, to be levied out of my estate for her part. I give and bequeath to Ann Crumie, now living with me, one negro boy named Moses, one feather bed with English tick, and all the furniture thereto belonging, one sow and pigs, two cows and calves such as she shall choose out of my stock, one mare called Dumpling, with my saddle and bridle, four barrels of cotton, five barrels of Indian corn, two hundred weight of bacon, ten pounds of hogs fat, one pewter dish, and four plates (I mean a small dish), one half of the turkeys and other poultry on the plantation, to her and her heirs and assigns. I give and bequeath to my son Embry Bunch, one negro man named Ceasar, one feather bed and furniture, two cows and calves, six head of hogs, and six chairs, to him and his heirs and assigns forever. I give and bequeath to my grandson Ladick Bunch, son of Embry Bunch, one negro wench named Cloe, and one negro girl named Nancy, with their increase, unto him and his heirs and assigns forever. I give and bequeath to my grandson Cader Bass, son of Issac Bass, all my land and plantation whereon I now live, bounded as followeth, viz, beginning at a cypress in Casky Swamp, on Joseph Collins' line, then running up the swamp, including the Horse Island, to a pine in Muddy Branch, a corner tree, then along a line of marked trees, by Summerlin's tar kiln, to the back line, then along a line to a corner tree, up the round pocoson, then down a line to the first station, to him, his heirs and assigns forever. I also give to my said grandson Cader Bass, one negro man named Titus, one horse called Ball, one young bay mare called Phenus, all the remaining part of my stock of cattle, hogs, and sheep, with all my household and kitchen furniture, all my plantation utensils, and everything I may die possessed of (not before by me willed and bequeathed), of what nature or kind it may be in, either money or other estate whatsoever, unto him and his heirs and assigns forever. It is further my will and desire that all the legacies by me given in this my will, be paid by my Executors. Lastly, I constitute and appoint Miles Clifton, sole Executor to this my last will and testament. In witness

whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 21st day of April 1775.

Test:

Joseph Collins  
Josiah Collins  
David Collins

Henry (X) Bunch

Will was proven in open court by the oath of Jonathan Jacobs, the three subscribing witnesses having refused to swear the testator was in his proper senses at the time of executing the last will and testament, but the said Jonathan, having seen him afterwards, heard him acknowledge it to be his last will and testament when he appeared to be in his senses.

John Johnston, Clerk

## WILL BOOK B, Page 38

Will of ANN STANDLEY, deceased

In the name of God, Amen. I, Ann Standley of the county of Bertie, and province of North Carolina, calling to mind the mortality of my body, and yet it is appointed for all women once to die, I do make this my last will and testament as followeth. First of all, I give and recommend my soul into the hands of God that gave it, and as to the worldly estate that it hath pleased God to give to me, I give and bequeath in manner and form following. I give and bequeath unto my sister Elizabeth Jernigan, ten pounds proclamation money. But secondly, I leave my three negroes, Pegg, Mingo and Nannie, with all my household goods and chattles, to be equally divided between Martin Gardner and John Gardner, and James Gardner, my brothers and sisters Anne Sparkman and Jane Pervishow. It is the true intent and meaning of this my last will and testament that if my brothers or sisters or any other claiming under or for them, or any of them shall be anyways discontented at this my last will and testament, so as to bring any suit in the law or take any of the good by me left to another, that such person so offending shall forfeit all their part of my estate and be cut off with one shilling sterling, and therefore shall have been void, and theirs shall be divided among my other brothers and sisters by Joseph Holland and John Gardner, whom I do constitute, appoint and empower to be my true and lawful Executors of this my last will and testament, and I do hereby utterly disallow and disannull all and every other former will and testament. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and fixed my seal this seventeenth day of June in the year of our Lord seventeen hundred and twenty-five, and in the fifteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign King George the Third.

Test:

Benjamin Carter  
James Gardner  
Samuel Gardner

Ann (X) Standley

Will was proven in open court at the August term of 1775, and ordered to be recorded.

John Johnston, Clerk

WILL BOOK B, Page 40

Will of BENJAMIN HARRELL, deceased

In the name of God, Amen, the eleventh day of July 1775. I, Benjamin Harrell of Bertie county, in the province of North Carolina, being very sick and weak in body, but of perfect mind and memory, thanks to God, therefore calling to mind that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this to be my last will and testament, that is to say. Principally and first of all, I give and recommend my soul into the hands of God that gave it, and my body I recommend to the earth to be buried in a decent Christian burial at the discretion of my Executors, nothing doubting but at the General Resurrection to receive the same again by the mighty power of God, and as touching such worldly estate, I give, demise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form. Imprimis, I give and bequeath to my well beloved son John Harrell, to him and his heirs forever, the plantation whereon I now live, and all the land belonging thereunto, and one certain tract or parcel of land lying in the low grounds of the river, joining the upper end of William Andrews' land; likewise one negro man named Ned. Item, I give to Charles Yeatch Harrell, five year's schooling, to be paid out of my estate. And as touching my brother Elisha Harrell's accompt, if he pays twenty pounds proclamation money to my Executors before the first day of April next, then the balance of his account to be void and of no effect, or else to remain in full force and virtue, and the rest of my moveable estate I leave to be sold at publick sale, to pay my debts. Item, I lend to my loving wife Winney, all my lands and negro man named Ned, during her widowhood, and I ordain my wife Winney Harrell, and Lemuel Harrell, and William Andrews, my sole Executors of this my last will and testament, to be fully settled and determined by my aforementioned Executors, and I do thereby utterly disallow, revoke and disannull all and every other former testaments, wills, legacies, and bequests and executors by me before named, willed, and bequeathed, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this day and year above written.

Test:

Demsey Harrell  
Benjamin (X) Williams  
Mary Skinner

Benjamin Harrell

Will was proven in open court at the August term of 1775, and ordered to be recorded.

John Johnston, Clerk

WILL BOOK B, Page 42

Will of JESSE BRYANT, deceased

In the name of God, Amen. I, Jesse Bryant of the county of Bertie, in the province of North Carolina, farmer, being in firm mind and of a disposing understanding, but calling to mind the uncertainty of life, do make and ordain this to be my last will and testament in form as followeth. First, I give my soul to God who gave it unto me, in hopes that he will expect for the mediation of Jesus Christ through whose merits poor fallen sinners can be accepted with God, therefore in hopes of a happy resurrection, trust my soul into the hands of Jesus Christ, the Mediator of the new covenant, and for such goods as God has been pleased to give unto me, I will and bestow as followeth. First, I will and bequeath my manor plantation to my son William Bryant, and his heirs forever, but if the said William Bryant dies having no heir, then I will that the said plantation go to my daughter Catherine Bryant and her heirs. Item, I will that my beloved wife have free use of the said plantation during her widowhood, and if she should marry, to be put to her thereto as the law directs. I further bequeath to my beloved wife Elizabeth Bryant, one mare and colt, the increase of it, and at her death to be equally divided among the three children, William, Mourning and Catherine Bryant. One gray mare I give to Mourning Bryant. Item, I will and bequeath unto my beloved wife, all my cattle, till three children arrive of age, then to be equally divided between them, and her. All the household furniture I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife and her heirs forever. Lastly, I do appoint my beloved wife my Executrix of this my last will and testament, made this 24th day of August in the year of our Lord 1775.

Test:

James Montgomery  
James Churchill  
William Cole

Jesse (X) Bryant

Will was proven in open court at the November term of 1775, and ordered to be recorded.

John Johnston, Clerk

WILL BOOK B, Page 43

Will of WILLIAM BONNER, deceased

North Carolina

In the name of God, Amen. I, William Bonner of Bertie county, and province aforesaid, being of sound and perfect mind and memory, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say. I give and bequeath unto my dear and loving wife, during her natural life, a negro man called Caezar, but after the decease of my said wife, my will and desire is that the said negro Caesar should be sold and the price from thence arising, may be equally divided

Codicil to the Will of JOHN SAWLHILL, deceased  
 John Sawhill of Bertie county, and province of North Carolina, do this day, January the fourteenth, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven, do make, publish, and ordain this my codicil to this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say. I give, devise and bequeath to Thomas Perry and his heirs, every sum or sums, account or compts, note or notes, bond or bonds, deed or deeds that are due to me, and to me belonging, being in whosoever's hand they shall be after my death. Also I do hereby revoke and make void a certain bequest in my will to Elizabeth Ashburn, wife of Thomas Ashburn, Sr., my secretary, table and chair which I do now hereby bequeath to Thomas Perry and his heirs. Also I do hereby revoke and make void a certain bequest in my will to James Asbell of my cow and mare. I do now hereby revise and bequeath to Thomas Perry and his heirs. Lastly, it is my will and that this present codicil be assigned to and made part of my last will and testament to all intents and purposes. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this the fourteenth day of January one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven.

Test:

John Miller  
 Margaret Burns

John Sawhill

Codicil was proven in open court at the February term of 1777, and ordered to be recorded.

John Johnston, Clerk

Will of JOHN WATSON, deceased  
 In the name of God, Amen. I, John Watson, in the province of North Carolina, being sick and weak in body, but of sound mind and memory, and considering of the uncertainty of this mortal life, blessed be Almighty God for the same, do make and publish this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say. First, my will and desire is that my just debts be paid and discharged. I hereby lend to my loving wife Ann Watson, the use of my manor plantation and half the plantation and land on Roequist, beginning at a causeway and running through the plantation near the westernmost part, to her during her widowhood, one negro man named Frank, and one negro woman named Sue during her widowhood. I also lend to my aforesaid wife, one mulatto woman slave named Dremmodary, and her increase that shall be born after this time, eight cows and calves, two steers, six sows and pigs, and other hogs sufficient for the house use this year, one horse named Brandy, one bay mare, two feather beds and furniture, and my plantation tools which I lend to her during her natural life, and after

her decease to be equally divided amongst all my children I had born of her. Thirdly, I give and bequeath unto my loving daughter Mary Standly, two negroes called Cesar and Jenny, the said Cesar was formerly allotted to her by her grandfather; one feather bed and furniture, one mare and her increase, four cows and calves, which she has already received, to her and her heirs forever. Fourthly, I give and bequeath to my loving son John Watson, four cows and calves, one feather bed and furniture, one negro man named Charles, one negro boy named Moses, to him and his heirs forever. Fifthly, I give and bequeath to my loving son Thomas Watson, all that tract of land lying in Martin county that I bought of John Fort and Peter Gray, to him and his heirs lawfully begotten of his body forever. And if it shall please God that he shall die without issue of his body lawfully begotten, that then my son James Watson shall have the said land. Also I give to my said son Thomas Watson, one negro man named Taffey, one man named Joe, four cows and calves, one feather bed and furniture, to him and his heirs forever. Sixthly, I give and bequeath to my loving son William Watson, all my lands whereon I now live, and all my lands lying on Roequist that I bought of John Edwards, one negro woman named Moll, one negro boy named Moorat, one young man Fill, four sows and pigs, one feather bed and furniture, to him and his heirs forever. Seventhly, I give and bequeath to my loving daughter Sarah Smith, one negro girl named Phereby, four cows and calves, one feather bed and furniture which she already received, to her and her heirs forever. Eighthly, I give and bequeath to my loving daughter Elizabeth Smithwick, one negro boy Cesar, four cows and calves, one feather bed and furniture, which she has already received, to her and her heirs forever. Ninthly, I give and bequeath unto my loving daughter Winifred Watson, one negro girl named Monar, four cows and calves, one feather bed and furniture, to her and her heirs forever. Tenthly, I give and bequeath to my loving daughter Ann Watson, one negro boy named Ned, four cows and calves, one feather bed and furniture, to her and her heirs forever. Eleventhly, I give and bequeath to my loving daughter Martha Watson, one negro girl named Cate, four cows and calves, one feather bed and furniture, to her and her heirs forever. Twelfthly, I give and bequeath to my loving son James Watson, all that tract of land I bought of John Johnston, lying on the north side of Chewyattork Swamp, one negro boy named Isaac, one girl named Nanny, to him and his heirs forever. Thirteenthly, my will and desire is that after my debts are paid, that all the residue of my estate not before bequeathed, be equally divided amongst all my children. Fourteenthly and lastly, I do hereby nominate, constitute and appoint my son John Watson, David Standley and John Everit, Executors of this my last will and testament, hereby revoking and disannulling all former wills and testaments by me made. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this twenty-seventh day of March in the sixteenth year of the reign of his Majesty King George the Third, and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six.



**BERTIE COUNTY, N.C.**

**WILLS -- VOL. TWO**

**( May 1774 - Aug. 1784 )**

**Transcribed & Typed**

**by Laura Willis**

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Test:  
John Smith  
Thomas Roads  
William White

John Watson

Will was proven in open court at the February term of 1777,  
and ordered to be recorded.

John Johnston, Clerk

WILL BOOK B, Page 90

Will of MARY ROGERS, deceased  
In the name of God, Amen. I, Mary Rogers of Bertie county,  
in the province of North Carolina, being of perfect mind and  
memory, and calling unto mind the uncertainty of this life,  
and knowing it is appointed for all mortals once to die, do  
make, ordain, constitute, and appoint this my last will and  
testament in manner and form following, that is to say. First  
and principally, I recommend my soul to Almighty God who gave  
it, and my body to the earth to be buried in a decent Christian  
manner at the discretion of my Executors hereinafter named,  
and as touching such worldly goods wherewith it has pleased  
God to bless me, I give and dispose of in manner following.  
Imprimis, I give and bequeath to my son Thomas Rodgers, two  
dollars, I say to him and his heirs forever. Item, I give  
and bequeath to my daughter Mary Seals, two cows and calves,  
I say to her and her heirs forever. Item, I give and bequeath  
to my daughter Frances Airs, one cow and calf, I say to her  
and her heirs forever. Item, I give, demise and bequeath unto  
my son Minute Rogers, the piece or tract of land that I now  
live on, containing one hundred and seventy acres, be the same  
more or less, also one hand mill now in the house, I say unto  
him and his heirs forever. Item, I give, demise and bequeath  
all and singular, the remainder and residue of my estate in  
manner and form following, that is to say, my will and pleasure  
is that the whole of my estate not before or above given away,  
be equally divided to and among my four children, that is to  
say, among Thomas Rogers, Mary Seals, Frances Airs, and Minute  
Rogers, or their representatives, I say to them and their heirs  
forever. Lastly, I nominate, constitute, and appoint William  
Seals, my Executors to see this my last will and testament  
be executed according to law. In witness whereof, I have  
hereunto set my hand and seal this 3rd day of August 1776.

Test:  
Abraham Maer  
William Jordan, Jr.  
Thomas (X) Johnston

Mary Rogers

Will was proven in open court at the February term of 1777,  
and ordered to be recorded.

John Johnston, Clerk

WILL BOOK B, Page 92

Will of JOHN HARRELL, deceased  
In the name of God, Amen. I, John Harrell of the county of  
Bertie and province of North Carolina, being afflicted with  
bodily pain, though of sound and perfect mind and memory, thanks  
be given to God, but calling to mind the mortality of mankind,  
and knowing it is appointed for all men once to die, do make,  
constitute and appoint this my last will and testament in the  
following manner, to wit. Item, I give and bequeath to my  
well beloved wife Anne Harrell, her heirs and assigns forever,  
one feather bed and furniture, the same I have used for my  
lodging, one horse named Drina, one woman's saddle and bridle,  
one weavers loom and gear, one sealskin covered trunk, one  
cow and calf, one sow and pigs, and ten pounds current money  
of Virginia, and one linen wheel. Item, I give and bequeath  
to my son Zachariah Harrell, his heirs and assigns forever,  
one negro man named Ruben, and five pounds Virginia money to  
be lent out in schooling him. Item, I give and bequeath to  
my son John Harrell, his heirs and assigns forever, if he arrives  
to the age of twenty-one years, my dwelling plantation and  
all my land joining it. I also give my said son John Harrell,  
one negro man named Darb, and five pounds Virginia money laid  
out in schooling him. Item, I give and bequeath to my son  
Lott Harrell, his heirs and assigns forever, thirty pounds  
current money of the colony of Virginia, and five pounds of  
Virginia money to educate him. Item, I give and bequeath to  
my daughter Mary Harrell, her heirs and assigns forever, fifteen  
pounds Virginia money, and one linen wheel. Item, I give and  
bequeath to my son Jimmy Harrell, his heirs and assigns forever,  
one negro boy named Will, and if my son John Harrell dies under  
the age of twenty-one years, I then give to my said son Jimmy,  
James Harrell, his heirs and assigns forever, the land I have  
heretofore devised to my son John, and five pounds Virginia  
money to be laid out in schooling him. Item, I give and bequeath  
to my Elizabeth Harrell, her heirs and assigns forever, twenty  
shillings current money of Virginia. Item, my will is that  
if Zachariah Harrell, my aforesaid son, dies under the age  
of twenty-one years, that the said negro Ruben devised to him,  
I give to my son Lott Harrell. Item, my will is that all the  
remainder part of my estate that is not heretofore given in  
legacies, shall be continued on my plantation until my said  
son Jimmy James Harrell, arrives to the age of eighteen years,  
and that my said wife Ann Harrell shall have a maintenance  
out of the estate during her widowhood until the expiration  
of my son Jimmy James is arriving to the age of eighteen years,  
if she continues a widow till then. Item, I give and bequeath  
to my five children, their heirs and assigns, at my son Jimmy  
James Harrell's surviving to the age of eighteen years, all  
the estate aforementioned, to be continued on my plantation,  
and the profits arriving from it to my sons Zachariah Harrell,  
John Harrell, Lott Harrell, Gimmie James Harrell, and my daughter  
Mary Harrell, to be equally divided amongst them, share and  
share alike. I also authorize my Executors hereafter mentioned,  
to make sale of any part of my estate of all kinds, for the  
benefit of my children. Lastly, I nominate, constitute, and

## WILL BOOK B, Page 117

Will of MARY BROGDON, deceased

In the name of God, Amen. I, Mary Brogdon of the county of Bertie and province of North Carolina, being sick and afflicted with bodily pain, but of sound and perfect mind and memory, thanks be to God, and calling to mind the mortality of mankind, and knowing it is appointed for all men once to die, do make, constitute and appoint this my last will and testament in the following manner, to wit. Item, I give and bequeath to my son Frederick Brogdon, his heirs and assigns forever, the following negroes, to wit, Triffen, Bess, and all my cattle and hogs, and all the remainder part of my estate. I also empower my Executor hereafter named, to sell and dispose of any part of my estate they shall adjudge necessary for the benefit of my said son. I also constitute and appoint and ordain Thomas Bond and Noah Hinton, Executors to this my last will and testament, and I do hereby disallow and revoke all other wills, legacies and bequeaths heretofore by me made. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 23rd day of July 1777.

Test:

Noah Hinton

William (X) Boone

Mary (X) Brogdon

## WILL BOOK B, Page 118

Will of ROBERT ODON, deceased

In the name of God, Amen. I, Robert Odon of the county of Bertie, in the province of North Carolina, calling to mind the uncertainty of human life, do constitute, make and appoint this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First and principally, I commit my soul to God who gave it, in hopes of the resurrection of the dead, and my body to the ground to be decently interred at the discretion of my Executors, and as touching my worldly estate, I give, dispose and bequeath of as follows. Imprimis, I give and bequeath unto my relation Jonathan Jacock, Jr., son of my cousin Jonathan Jacock, Sr., one negro boy Charles, to him and his heirs forever. I do hereby appoint my cousin Jonathan Jacocks, Executor of this my last will and testament, bearing date this twenty-fourth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven.

Test:

Thomas Bryan

Martha Bryan

Robert Odon

Will was proven in open court at the May term of 1778, and ordered to be recorded.

John Johnston, Clerk

## WILL BOOK B, Page 119

Will of GEORGE JERNIGAN, SR., deceased

In the name of God, Amen, March 6th 1778. I, George Jernigan, Sr., of Bertie county, being sick and weak of body, but of perfect and sound mind and memory, thanks be to God, and calling to mind the mortality of my body, and knowing that it is appointed to 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 recommend my soul into the hands of God who gave it, and my body I recommend to the earth to be buried in a decent and Christian like manner at the discretion of my Executors, and as touching such worldly estate as it hath pleased God to bless me with in this life, I give and demise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form. Imprimis, I give and bequeath unto Fereba, my beloved wife, all my land and household goods, and three negroes named Dick, Patience, and Cader, and all my stock of horses, cattle, hogs, sheep, poultry, and all sorts of my goods within doors and without, that is my whole estate, to her, her heirs and assigns forever. Item, I likewise constitute and appoint my beloved wife Feraba and George Jernigan Hodam, my son, Executrix and Executor of this my last will and testament, and I do hereby utterly disannull, revoke, and disallow all and every other last will and testament by me in anyways before made or named, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament.

Test:

Herbert Pritchard

Cary Ward

George Jernigan Hodam

George (X) Jernigan

Will was proven in open court at the May term of 1778, and ordered to be recorded.

John Johnston, Clerk

## WILL BOOK B, Page 120

Will of JOHN BARNS, SR., deceased

In the name of God, Amen, August 13th day 1773. I, John Barns, Sr., of Bertie county, being weak in body, but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be given to God for it, therefore calling to mind the mortality of my body, and knowing that it is appointed to 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 recommend my soul into the hands of God who gave it, and my body I recommend to the earth to be buried in a decent Christian like manner at the discretion of my Executors, nothing doubting but at the General Resurrection, to receive the same by the mighty power of God, and as touching such worldly estate as it hath pleased God to bless me with in this life, I give, demise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form, viz. Imprimis, I give and bequeath unto Katherine,

my beloved wife, the third part of my plantation, and her choice of one of the houses, all my cattle, two ewes and lambs, one pot and pan, one horse, my young riding horse, bridle and saddle, two dishes, two basons, and three plates, one dozen spoons, half my hogs, one bed and furniture, one chest, three chairs, one table, to her, her heirs and assigns forever, and her wheel. Item, I give and bequeath unto my eldest son John Barns, my new coat jacket and britches, and my turning tools, one crosscut saw, to him, his heirs and assigns forever. Item, I give and bequeath to Henry, my youngest son, all my land and plantation excepting the third part to his mother, her lifetime, and one hundred acres of land laid out at the head of the mill branch. For Isaac Jenkins, I give him likewise one bed and furniture, my great pot and hand saw, and all my cider, four basons, and two dishes, and one cow and calf, to him, his heirs and assigns forever. Item, I give and bequeath to my daughter Lucy Haze, one feather bed and furniture, to her and her heirs and assigns forever. Item, I give and bequeath to my grandson Isaac Jenkins, one hundred acres of land joining the mill branch, two sows and pigs, one ewe and lamb, to him, his heirs and assigns forever. Item, I give and bequeath the rest of my estate to be equally divided between my children John, Sarah, Lucy, Solomon, Zilpha, Hannah, Henry, to them, their heirs and assigns forever. Item, I likewise constitute and appoint my two sons John and Henry Barns, to be my sole Executors of this my last will and testament. And I do hereby utterly revoke and disannull all and every other former wills and testaments by me in anyways made, ratifying and confirming this and none other to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

Test:

James Cobb

Herbert Pritchard

John (X) Barns

Will was proven in open court at the May term of 1778, and ordered to be recorded.

John Johnston, Clerk

WILL BOOK B, Page 122

Will of WILLIAM SWAIN, deceased

In the name of God, Amen. I, William Swain of Bertie county, and province of North Carolina, being in a bad state of health, but in my perfect senses, do make and ordain this to be my last will and testament in the following manner. First, I recommend my soul to God who gave it me, and my body to be buried at the discretion of my Executors hereafter named. As to my worldly goods, I dispose of in the following manner. First, I lend to my dearly beloved wife Tibithy Swain, during her widowhood, the plantation whereon I now live, together with all my stock of every kind, excepting my gray horse Junes, as also my plantation tools. I also lend my beloved wife the

labouring use of all my negroes during her widowhood. Item, I give and bequeath to my beloved son John Swain, the land wherein he now lives, beginning at a hickory tree on the Popular Branch, and from the said branch running the same course of the head line until it comes to Philip Ward's line, containing two hundred and forty acres more or less. I also give to my son John Swain, one negro man named Ben, to him, his heirs and assigns forever. Item, I give and bequeath to my beloved sons Richard Swain and James Swain, the remainder part of my plantation, to be equally divided between them, beginning at Henry Spellar's line on the mill swamp, running across the plantation to Philip Ward's line. My son Richard is to have the upper part with the houses, and my son James, the other part, I say to them and their heirs and assigns forever. Item, I give and bequeath to my beloved son Letchworth Swain, one negro man named Frank, and also my gray horse called Junes. Item, I give and bequeath to my beloved son Richard Swain, one negro woman named Amey, and her increase, to him, his heirs and assigns forever. Item, I give and bequeath unto my beloved son James Swain, one negro girl named Rhoda, to him, his heirs and assigns forever. Item, I give and bequeath to my beloved daughter Anne Swain, one negro girl named Sarah, to her and her heirs and assigns forever. Item, I give and bequeath to my beloved daughter Susannah Swain, one negro girl Vinia, to her and her heirs and assigns forever. My will and desire is that at the death of my beloved wife, or in case she should marry, that all my stock of every kind, together with all my plantation tools, shall be sold at public vendue, and the money to be equally divided to and amongst my six children above mentioned. I do hereby revoke all former wills heretofore by me made. I do constitute and appoint my loving sons John Swain and Letchworth Swain, Executors to this my last will and testament. In witness whereunto I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty-fifth day of May in the year of our Lord Christ, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight.

Test:

Christian Reed

Henry Speller

Charlton Clements

William Swain

Will was proven in open court at the February term of 1779, and ordered to be recorded.

John Johnston, Clerk

WILL BOOK B, Page 126

Will of WILLIAM KING, deceased

In the name of God, Amen. I, William King of the state of North Carolina, Bertie county, being in perfect sense and memory, do make and ordain this my last will and testament. I give and recommend my soul to God that gave it, and my body to the earth to be buried in a Christian like manner at the discretion of my Executors, nothing doubting but that I shall receive

part of the said plantation to Jonathan Spivey, my oldest son at his coming of age or at his marriage. Also I lend her all my stock of horses, cattle, hogs, sheep and all my household goods during her lifetime, she paying the children's legacies at their coming of age. Also I give and bequeath unto my oldest son Jonathan Spivey, my manor plantation on the north side of Loosing Swamp, all my land on the said side of the swamp after his mother's death, one negro girl named Pen, two cows and calves, and two sows and pigs, and two ewes and lambs, and one feather bed, to him, the said Jonathan Spivey, his heirs and assigns forever. Also I give and bequeath unto my son George Spivey, all my land on the south side of Loosing Swamp, two negro girls named Cate and Rachel, two cows and calves, two sows and pigs, and two ewes and lambs, and one feather bed and furniture, to him, the said George Spivey, his heirs and assigns forever. Also I give and bequeath unto my three youngest sons David Spivey, William Spivey, and James Spivey, two negro girls named Phillis and Sarah, they and their increase, to be equally divided between them; also the land I entered on Roanoake River, if saved, to be equally divided between them; also two cows and calves, two ewes and lambs, and two sows and pigs, and one feather bed and furniture, to each and every of them, to them, the said David Spivey, William Spivey, and James Spivey, their heirs and assigns forever. Lastly, I constitute and appoint my beloved friend Watkin William Wynne, Esq., and my beloved wife Esther Spivey, to be my sole Executor and Executrix of this my last will and testament, and I do hereby utterly disannull, revoke, and disallow all and every other former wills and testaments by me in anyways by me made or named, ratifying and confirming this and none other to be my last will and testament.

Test:

Josiah Warren  
Mary (X) Hubbard  
Herbert Pritchard

George Spivey

Will was proven in open court at the November term of 1778, and ordered to be recorded.

John Johnston, Clerk

WILL BOOK B, Page 131

Will of MILES SHEHAN, deceased  
In the name of God, Amen, the eleventh day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight. I, Miles Shehan of Bertie county, in the province of North Carolina, being very sick and weak of body, but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be to God for the same, and calling to mind that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this and no other to be my last will and testament, that is to say. Principally and first of all, I recommend my soul to God that gave it, and my body to the earth to be buried in a Christian like manner at the discretion of my

Executors, and as touching such worldly estate as it hath pleased God to bestow upon me, I give and dispose of the same in the following manner and form. First, I give and bequeath unto my loving wife Mary, all my lands during her widowhood, or if she continues a widow, until my son Miles Shehan arrives to the age of twenty-one years. Then I give and bequeath unto my son Miles Shehan, his heirs and assigns, all my aforementioned lands, his paying my son Thomas Shehan, one third of the value of the said lands, to be on demand at the same time he refuses the said lands. As to my negro girl Pen, I give and dispose of in the following manner and form. Item, my will and desire is that my loving wife Mary, shall have her to help support and raise my children until my son Miles Shehan may come to eighteen years of age. Item, likewise my will is that if the said girl should have any children, my will is that my son Peter Shehan shall have the first child that the said girl may have. Item, and the second child the said girl may have, my will is that my loving wife Mary may have it; and the third child the said girl may have, my will is that my son Thomas Shehan shall have it. Item, I give and bequeath unto my daughter Rachel Shehan, the above mentioned negro girl and all her increase except the above mentioned children, to them, their heirs and assigns forever. Item, I likewise give and bequeath unto my son Thomas Shehan, one feather bed and furniture. Item, I give and bequeath unto my son Miles Shehan, one feather bed and furniture. Item, I give and bequeath unto my daughter Rachel Shehan, one feather bed and furniture. Item, I give and bequeath unto my loving wife Mary, and my above mentioned sons and daughter, all my moveable estate, to be equally divided at the time my son Miles Shehan may arrive at the age of eighteen years. Lastly, I make, constitute, ordain and appoint my loving wife Mary, and my brother Thomas Shehan, and Elisha Ashburn, Executors to this my last will and testament, revoking and disannulling all other wills before by me made, ratifying and confirming this and none other to be my last will and testament. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

Test:

Thomas Shehan  
Mary (X) Hooton

Miles Shehan

Will was proven in open court at the February term of 1779, and ordered to be recorded.

Stevens Gray, Clerk

WILL BOOK B, Page 133

Will of JOHN OWIN, deceased  
In the name of God, Amen. I, John Owin of the county of Bertie, being very sick and weak in body, but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be given to God, calling unto mind the mortality of my body, and knowing 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 recommend my soul into the hands of Almighty God that gave it, and my body I recommend to the earth to be buried in a decent Christian burial at the discretion of my Executrix, nothing doubting but at the General Resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God, and as touching such worldly estate wherewith it has pleased God to bless me in this life, I give, demise and dispose of the same in the form and following manner. First, I lend to my dearly beloved wife Elisabeth Owin, all my estate during her natural life, and after her decease, to be equally divided amongst my children, to wit, Agatha Owin, William Owin, John Owin, Elisabeth Owin, to them and their heirs forever. Secondly, I do by virtue of these presents, authorize and empower my dearly beloved wife my Executrix, to bargain, sell and confirm a deed or deeds for three hundred and eleven acres of land, lying in Northampton county, that I bought of Samuel Locker, and after her decease to be divided as above. Thirdly, I do by virtue of these presents, constitute and appoint my dearly beloved wife Elisabeth Owin to be my whole and sole Executrix of this my last will and testament, and I do hereby utterly disallow, revoke, and disannull all and every other former testaments, wills, legacies, bequests in anyways before named, willed and bequeathed, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this sixth day of December 1778.

Test:

David Standley  
John (X) Sillivent  
William Watson

John Owen

Will was proven in open court at the May term of 1779, and ordered to be recorded.

Stevens Gray, Clerk

WILL BOOK B, Page 135

Will of JOHN DAVISON, deceased

In the name of God, Amen. I, John Davison of the county of Bertie, in the state of North Carolina, planter, being sick and weak in body, but of perfect mind and memory, I thank God for it, considering the mortality of my body, and knowing 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 recommend my soul into the hands of Almighty God that gave it, and my body I recommend to the earth to be buried in a decent Christian burial at the discretion of my Executors, nothing doubting but at the general resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God, and as touching such worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me with in this life, I give, demise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form. First, I give and bequeath unto my well beloved wife Elisabeth Davison, a

negro boy named Cesar, and also one black horse and one bay horse, and a young gray mare; also three cows and yearlings, and also two feather beds and furniture, and two pots, and half a dresser, one pewter plate, and three dishes, and three basons, and twelve chairs, and two bedsteads. I give and bequeath unto my beloved daughter Sarah, a mulatto girl named Charity, and also a cow and calf and yearling, and two feather beds and furniture; also one pot and one small kettle, and one large chest and two bedsteads. I give and bequeath unto Luke Smithwick, one bed and one pot. I give and bequeath unto Lenear Smithwick, one bed and one pot. The rest of my estate I leave to be equally divided amongst all my children, including Luke Smithwick and Lear Smithwick, at my wife Elisabeth Davison's decease. I constitute, make and ordain my beloved wife Elisabeth Davison, and John Hymon and John Averit, of Martin county, the whole Executors of this my last will and testament, and I do hereby utterly disallow and disannull all and every other former testaments, wills, legacies, bequests, and executors by me in anyways before willed or named, and bequeathed, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this thirtieth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-nine.

Test:

Davis (X) Davidson  
William Pender

John Davidson

Will was proven in open court at the May term of 1779, and ordered to be recorded.

Stevens Gray, Clerk

WILL BOOK B, Page 137

Will of JOHN JINKINS, deceased

In the name of God, Amen, the eighth day of February one thousand seven hundred and seventy-nine. I, John Jinkins of the state of North Carolina and county of Bertie, planter, being very sick and weak in body, but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be given unto God, therefore calling unto mind the mortality of my body, and knowing 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 recommend my soul into the hands of God that gave it, and my body I recommend to the earth to be buried in a decent and Christian manner at the discretion of my Executors, nothing doubting but at the General Resurrection I shall receive the same again by the almighty power of God, and as touching such worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this life, I give, demise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form. Imprimis, I give and bequeath to my well beloved wife Mary Jinkins, my riding mare and bridle, and a side saddle, and one feather bed and furniture, and bedstead, and one chest that is called her chest, one oval

**BERTIE COUNTY, N.C.**

**WILLS - VOL. THREE**

**( Aug. 1784 - Feb. 1791 )**

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## WILL BOOK D, Page 53

Will of THOMAS PAGE, deceased

In the name of God, Amen, this twenty-ninth day of August seventeen hundred and eighty-five. I, Thomas Page of the county of Bertie and state of North Carolina, planter, being sick and weak in body, but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be given to God for the same, therefore calling to mind the mortality of my body, and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in the following manner, to wit. Item, I give and bequeath to my son Thomas Page, his heirs and assigns forever, one feather bed and furniture, and bedstead, the same I now lie upon. Item, I give and bequeath unto my son Solomon Page, his heirs and assigns forever, the land and plantation whereon he now lives, being the land I purchased of John Page. Item, I lend unto my well beloved wife Sarah Page, during her natural life, one third part of the land and plantation whereon I now live on. I give, devise and bequeath unto my son Joshua Page, to him and his heirs and assigns forever, the land and plantation whereon I now live, and all my land on the west side of Jumping Run, joining my said plantation before mentioned. Item, I give, devise and bequeath unto my daughter Catherine Page, her heirs and assigns forever, the land and plantation whereon Samuel Page now lives, containing one hundred acres. Item, I give, devise and bequeath unto my daughter Ann Page, her heirs and assigns forever, one hundred acres of land joining the said land given to my daughter Catherine Page. Item, I give, devise and bequeath unto my daughter Mary Page, to her heirs and assigns forever, the land and plantation whereon she now lives, and all my land lying on the east side of Jumping Run, the quarter course of the said run. Item, I lend to my well beloved wife Sarah Page, all my household goods and moveable estate except the bed and furniture before mentioned during her natural life, and after her death, I give unto my aforementioned children, all my estate lent to my wife Sarah Page, to be equally divided amongst them, share and share alike. And lastly, I nominate, constitute, appoint and ordain my son Solomon Page and Joshua Page, Executors to this my last will and testament, and I do hereby disallow, revoke and disannul all other wills, testaments or bequests herebefore by me made. In witness whereof, I the said Thomas Page, hath hereunto set my hand and affixt my seal the day and date above mentioned.

Test:

George Williams  
Tobias Butler  
John Dodrill

Thomas Page

## WILL BOOK D, Page 55

Codicil to the Will of THOMAS PAGE, deceased

Be it known to all men by these presents that whereas I, Thomas Page, of the state of North Carolina, and Bertie county, have made and ordained my last will and testament in writing, bearing date the twenty-sixth day of August one thousand seven hundred and eighty-five. I, the Said Thomas Page, by these presents make a codicil to ratify my said last will and testament. I give and bequeath unto my loving wife Sarah Page, and my son Joshua Page, and my daughter Catherine Page, and my daughter Ann Page, what corn I have now in my possession, to be equally divided between them, share and share alike, and my will and desire is that this codicil ought to be faithfully carried out and performed as anything that was put down in my said last will and testament. As witness my hand and seal the twenty-second day of December 1785.

Test:

George Williams  
Tobias Butler  
John Dodrill

Thomas Page

Will was proven in open court at the February term of 1786, and ordered to be recorded.

Stevens Gray, Clerk

## WILL BOOK D, Page 56

Will of JAMES PRITCHARD, deceased

In the name of God, Amen, August 2nd day one thousand seven hundred and eighty-five. I, James Pritchard of Bertie county, being sick and weak in body, but of perfect and sound mind and memory, thanks be given to God for it, therefore calling to mind the mortality of my body, and knowing 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 recommend my soul into the hands of God who gave it, and my body I recommend to the earth to be buried in a decent and Christian like manner at the discretion of my Executors, nothing doubting but at the general resurrection I shall receive the same by the mighty power of God. And as touching such worldly estate as it hath pleased God to bless me with in this life, I give, devise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form. In the first place, I lend unto my beloved wife Dorcas Pritchard, the plantation on which I now live, with all my land on the south side of Doe Branch, during her widowhood, excepted, my son James Pritchard to have liberty when he arrives to the age of twenty-one years, to have liberty to settle on any part of the plantation and land, and to use any of the timber belonging to his mother. I also lend her during this time, all my estate of household goods and chattles. Secondly, I give and bequeath unto my eldest son Reuben

Pritchard, all my land on the north side of Doe Branch, to him, the said Reuben, his heirs and assigns forever. Thirdly, I give and bequeath to my son James Pritchard, my manor plantation abovementioned, on the south side of Doe Branch, after his mother's widowhood, to him, the said James Pritchard, his heirs and assigns forever. Fourthly, I give and bequeath unto my other five children, Pigon Pritchard, Penny Pritchard, Dorcas Pritchard, Samuel Pritchard, and Stephen Pritchard, all my estate of household goods and chattles, after their mother's widowhood, and also if the child that my wife now goes with should live, I give it an equal share with Micah Pritchard. Fifthly and lastly, I constitute and appoint my beloved wife Dorcas Pritchard, and my brother Herbert Pritchard, and Lewis Cobb, to be my sole Executors of this my last will and testament. And I do hereby utterly disannul, revoke, and disallow all and every other former wills or testaments by me in anyways before made or named, ratifying and confirming this and none other to be my last will and testament.

Test:

William Standly

Christian (X) Pritchard

James Pritchard

There was Mr. Micah Pritchard was wrote by the testator when the child was born.

Test:

Herbert Pritchard

Will was proven in open court at the May term of 1786, and ordered to be recorded.

Stevens Gray, Clerk

**WILL BOOK D, Page 59**

Will of JAMES EARLY, deceased

In the name of God, Amen, the thirtieth day of March 1786. I, James Early of the state of North Carolina, and county of Bertie, being very sick and weak in body, but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be given unto God, therefore calling unto mind the mortality of my body, and knowing 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 recommend my soul into the hands of God that gave it, and my body I recommend to the earth to be buried in a decent Christian burial at the discretion of my Executors, nothing doubting but at the general resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God, and as touching such worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this life, I give, demise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form. First, I lend unto my loving wife Grace, one negro woman named Bese, and one negro girl named Venus, and one young mare named Filli, one feather bed and furniture, one cow and calf, two pots, one desk, one bottle,

two young heifers, one steer and one bull, all the pewter I now own, four chairs, one good axe, one good weeding hoe, two sides of leather, one half of what cotton and flax is made this year, half the corn and fodder that is made this year, one case of knives and forks, one pail, and one piggin, one woman's saddle, one box of iron and heaters, one plow and stock, one cart and wheels, one third part of the plantation whereon I now live, twenty year old hogs, two sows and thirteen pigs, two weathers and two ewes and lambs, sixteen geese, all the weaving gear, one wooling and linen wheels, earthenwar, and glasses, frying pan, during her natural life or widowhood. I also give and bequeath unto my eldest son Shadrack Early, one axe, and one hoe, one ewe, and one weather, one plow hoe, stock and gear, also that plantation formerly called Morris' place, with some other land joining it, beginning at a pine standing on Beaver Dam Swamp, running a southwest course to the Plumbtree Branch, and up the Plumbtree Branch through the pocoson to John Oliver's line, then down said line to Jonas Hall's line, then down said Hall's line to Casky Road, then down said road to the Beaver Dam Swamp, then up the said swamp to the first station; also one feather bed and furniture, to him and his heirs forever. I give and bequeath to my younger son John Early, all the remainder part of my land, one feather bed and furniture, my young horse called Dorse, one cow and calf, one steer, and one bull, one ewe, and one lamb, one gun, all the working tools, all the remainder part of my hogs, one axe, and one hoe, to him, and to his heirs forever. I also give and bequeath unto my daughter Sarah Early, one feather bed and furniture, one cow and one calf, one linen wheel, one ewe, and one ram, one two year old steer, to her and to her heirs forever. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Elizabeth Jenkins, one dish, and one bason, to her and to her heirs forever. I also desire all the money now due to me may be paid to my Executors, and twenty pounds of that money laid out upon pewter and pots, and the pewter and pots that is bought with that twenty pounds to be equally divided amongst my two sons and my daughters, Shadrack Early, John Early, Sarah Early, and Christian Early, I give and bequeath it to them, their heirs and assigns forever. And after that twenty pounds is deducted from what is due to me, I give and bequeath the remainder part to my loving wife Grace, and my son John, to be equally divided between them, their heirs forever. I also desire, after the death or marriage of my wife Grace Early, that the two negroes I have lent her, Rose and Venus, and all the increase that may arise from them, and all the effects I have lent her besides, may be sold at public vendue, and the money arising from such sale be equally divided amongst my two sons and five daughters, Shadrach Early, John Early, Lavina Mitchell, Mary Baker, Elizabeth Jenkins, Sarah Early, and Christian Early, to them and to their heirs forever. Lastly, I make and ordain my two sons Shadrach Early and John Early, Executors of this my last will and testament, and I do hereby utterly disallow, revoke, and disannul all and every other former testaments, wills, legacies, and bequeaths by me in anyways before named, willed and bequeathed, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament.

hundred and eighty-two.

Test:

Robert West

Mary Burns

Jonathan Jacocks

Will was proven in open court at the August term of 1787, and ordered to be recorded.

Stevens Gray, Clerk

WILL BOOK D, Page 82

Will of JESSE HARRELL, deceased

In the name of God, Amen, the 19th day of September 1786. I, Jesse Harrell of Bertie county and state of North Carolina, being of sound and perfect mind and memory, thanks be to God. I give and dispose of my estate in the following manner, to wit. Item, I lend unto my well beloved wife Phereby Harrell, during her lifetime, all my estate, and after her death I lend unto my daughter Priscilla Vinson, desiring my Executors hereafter mentioned pleasure, one negro man named Moses. Item, I give and bequeath unto Rachel Kitterell, daughter of my daughter Priscilla Vinson, her heirs and assigns forever, the aforesaid negro Moses to be delivered to her by my said Executors whenever they see cause to do it. Item, I give and bequeath unto my son Josiah Harrell, his heirs and assigns forever, the land and plantation whereon Hardeman Abington now liveth, containing eighty acres, lying on the north side of the main road, for which the said Josiah Harrell is to pay the just sum of forty pounds current money to Judath Roundtree, daughter of my daughter Phereby Roundtree. Item, I give and bequeath unto my grandson Joab Roundtree, son of my daughter Phereby Roundtree, his heirs and assigns forever, one negro man named Elisha, which is all that I intended to have given my said daughter Phereby Roundtree. Item, my will is that my son Josiah Harrell shall pay unto my aforesaid granddaughter Judath Roundtree, the aforementioned sum of twenty pounds at her arriving to the age of twenty-one years old or at her marriage. Item, I give and bequeath unto my two grandchildren Turner Harrell and Tempa Harrell, son and daughter of my son Jesse Harrell, twenty pounds current money, apiece, to each of them, to be paid them by my son Josiah Harrell in lieu of the land I allotted for their father. Item, I give and bequeath unto my son Josiah Harrell, his heirs and assigns forever, two hundred acres of land joining the land whereon Hardyman Abington now liveth, and the land whereon he now liveth adjoining, to him and his heirs forever ..... (Not much of the next few pages is legible.) Item, I give and bequeath unto my grandson .... Harrell, son of my son Jesse Harrell, to him and his assigns forever, one negro man ..... Item, I give and bequeath unto my daughter ..... one negro man named Ben, and eighty acres of land adjoining the lands of Peter Smith ..... Lastly, I do hereby nominate, constitute, appoint and ordain my son Josiah Harrell, Joshua Harrell, and ..... Executors to this

my last will and testament, and I do hereby utterly disallow, revoke and disannul all other wills by me made. In witness I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and date above written.

Jesse Harrell

Will was proven in open court at the February term of 1788, and ordered to be recorded.

Stevens Gray, Clerk

WILL BOOK D, Page 84

Will of ELIZABETH SPREWELL, deceased

In the name of God, Amen, the 7th day of April in the year of our Lord Christ, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven. I, Elizabeth Sprewell of Bertie county, in the province of North Carolina, being poorly and weak in body, but of perfect mind and memory, and calling to mind the mortality of my body, and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make, constitute and appoint this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say. Principally, I recommend my soul into the hands of God, and my body to the earth to be buried in a decent Christian manner at the discretion of my Executors hereafter named, and as touching my worldly goods, I give and dispose of the same as following. My will and desire is that my funeral expenses and all my just debts be first paid. Item, I give and bequeath unto Frederick Lawrence, my negro fellow called Abel, I say to him and his heirs and assigns forever. Item, I give and bequeath to William Lawrence, one negro boy called Aaron, I say to him and his heirs and assigns forever. Item, I give and bequeath to Robert Lawrence, the son of John Lawrence, one negro fellow called George, but if his father John Lawrence, should stand in need of him in his lifetime, he is to have him, but after his death he is to return to his son Robert, I say to him and his heirs and assigns forever. Item, I give and bequeath to my brother Robert Lawrence, and Sarah Harden, one negro boy called Charles, I say to them and their heirs forever. Item, I give and bequeath to Samuel Sprewell, one negro fellow called Pomp, I say to him and his heirs forever. Item, I give and bequeath to Elizabeth Lawrence, the daughter of John Lawrence, Jr., and Robert Lawrence, one bed and furniture, I say to her and her heirs forever. Item, I give and bequeath to John Lawrence, Jr., one old chest and table, I say to him and his heirs forever. Item, I give and bequeath to Sarah Morris, one bed, stead and furniture, I say to her and her heirs forever. Item, I give and bequeath to Ann Culliper, one small bedstead and furniture, I say to her and her heirs forever. Item, I give and bequeath to Joanna Weston, one bed, stead and furniture, I say to her and her heirs forever. Item, I give and bequeath to Elisabeth Lawrence, the daughter of John Lawrence, Sr., one set of teacups and saucers, six tablespoons, I say to her and her heirs forever.



Item, I give and bequeath to William Lawrence, two cows and calves, two ewes and lambs, I say to him and his heirs forever. Item, I give and bequeath to Thomas Lawrence, one negro boy called Sam, I say to him and his heirs forever. Item, I give and bequeath to George Lawrence, half a dozen plates, and one dish, I say to him and his heirs forever. Item, I give and bequeath to Nancy Lawrence, the daughter of John Lawrence, Sr., six pewter plates, one dish, one bason, I say to her and her heirs forever. Item, I give and bequeath to William Cobb, five head of cattle, eight sheep, for to divide between himself, Martha Bernacastilow, Mary Williams, and Ann Culliper, I say to them, their heirs forever. Item, I give and bequeath to Reuben Lawrence, my part of the still, I say to him and his heirs forever. Item, I give and bequeath to Asa Lawrence, one large and best chest I own, I say to him and his heirs forever. Item, I give and bequeath to my sister Martha Parker, my largest trunk, and all within it, I say to her and her heirs forever. Item, I also leave my negro woman Chloe free, only she shall live among my relations where she pleases. Item, I give and bequeath to my two brothers and sister, to wit, Robert Lawrence, John Lawrence, Martha Parker, the articles unmentioned on the will, equally to be divided betwixt them, I say to them and their heirs forever. Lastly, I nominate, ordain, constitute and appoint my two cousins, Thomas Lawrence and Frederick Lawrence, Executors to this my last will and testament, to execute and fulfill the same according to law. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and date above written.

Test:

Asa Lawrence  
Constantine Redditt  
George Nicholls

Elizabeth (X) Sprewell

Will was proven in open court at the February term of 1788, and ordered to be recorded.

Stevens Gray, Clerk

What corn and meat is left after my demise, I desire my two brothers may have the disposal of it.

Elizabeth (X) Sprewell

WILL BOOK D, Page 88

Will of JOHN LAWRENCE, deceased

In the name of God, Amen. I, John Lawrence, being sick and in a low condition, though of perfect mind and memory, thanks be given to God for it, calling unto mind that it is appointed for all men once to die, do recommend my soul unto Almighty God that gave it, and my body to the earth to be buried in a decent Christian like manner, do make and ordain this my last will and testament as follows. Item, to my beloved wife

Jean Lawrence, my whole estate, during her widowhood, but in case she marries or removes of, then for my Executors to divide the estate as follows. Item, I give and bequeath to my beloved son Abner Lawrence, the land and plantation whereon I now live, to possess and occupy as he may think proper, but in case he should die before he comes of age, then I give it to my beloved son Robert Lawrence, but if he should not live to possess it, then I give and bequeath it to my younger son Obediah Lawrence to possess and occupy as he thinks proper. Item, I lend to my beloved son Abner Lawrence, one negro girl named Vilet, while such times as there shall be a division of my moveable estate, then for each and everyone of my children to have an equal share. I also leave my son John, and Samuel Moore, and my wife Jane, Executors.

Test:

Joshua Lawrence  
William Flood  
Elisabeth (X) Griffin  
Luke Collins

John Lawrence

Will was proven in open court at the May term of 1788, and ordered to be recorded.

Stevens Gray, Clerk

WILL BOOK D, Page 89

Will of JOHN CRITCHET, deceased

In the name of God, Amen, the 23rd day of January 1778. I, John Critchet of the county of Bertie, being well in health, and of perfect mind and memory, thanks be given unto God, and calling to mind the mortality of my body, and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in the following manner, viz. First, I give and recommend my soul into the hands of Almighty God, and my body I recommend to the earth to be buried in a Christian like manner; my worldly goods I bestow and give as follows. Item, I give and bequeath unto my two sons Thomas and Richard, all my land, to be equally divided between them, that is according to the line that I myself run or marked for a division between them, Thomas is to have the northward division, and Richard the southward division. I give the same to them and their heirs forever. Item, I give and bequeath unto my son Richard, my three beds and furniture, three pots, one hand mill, and all my pewter and pots, and all my tools, and my chisel and iron wedges. I give the same to him and his heirs forever. Lastly, I do constitute and appoint my two sons Thomas and Richard, my Executors to this my last will and testament, and do revoke and disannull all former wills by me in anyways before made, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first before written.

Will was proven in open court at the November term of 1789, and ordered to be recorded.

Stevens Gray, Clerk

WILL BOOK D, Page 110

Will of DERBY LEARY, deceased

In the name of God, Amen. I, Derby Leary of Bertie county, in the province of North Carolina, planter, being weak in body, but of perfect mind and memory, I thank Almighty God for the same, do make and publish this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say. I recommend my soul to Almighty God that gave it, beseeching his most gracious acceptance of my body to the earth to be buried in a Christian burial at the discretion of my Executors, and as touching my worldly affairs, I order and dispose of them as follows. First, I leave to my daughter Patience Morris, one shilling sterling only, to be raised as she has had her part before; and my daughter Rachel Todd, I likewise leave her only one shilling sterling now, because she has had her part before. And I leave one feather bed to my daughter Sophia White. And as to my land, I will that my daughter Susanna Leary have all my land and plantation, and a cow and calf. And as to the rest of my estate, I will and desire that my daughter Frances Leary should have it all to herself, of horse kind, cow kind, and everything else, only I will that my wife Mary Leary have her living on it, that is in my house, on land and plantation, and personal estate, during her natural life or widowhood. Item and lastly, I constitute and appoint my friend David Hardy, and my friend John Cobb, Executors to this my last will and testament, and my wife Mary Leary, Executrix of this my last will and testament, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 16th day of March 1787.

Test:

James Cobb

Elizabeth Cobb

Derby Leary

Will was proven in open court at the November term of 1789, and ordered to be recorded.

Stevens Gray, Clerk

WILL BOOK D, Page 111

Will of LUKE RABY, deceased

In the name of God, Amen. I, Luke Raby of Bertie county, being in a low state of health, but of a sound and disposing mind and memory, do constitute and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following, to wit. Imprimis, I lend unto my beloved wife Hester Raby, during her natural life, six head of cattle, the same cattle that belonged to

her before I married her, and after her death, I give the said cattle and their increase to her three children, to wit, Turner Harrell, Jesse Harrell, and Tempy Harrell; also I lend unto my beloved wife Hester Raby, during her natural life, two feather beds and furniture, and one bedstead, and a parcel of feathers, thirteen pewter plates, two dishes, and one bason, and a set of teaware, two iron pots, one frying pan, and a skillet, one table, seven chairs, one chest, and a case of bottles, one woolen wheel, and one linen wheel, one washing tub and two pails, one case of knives and forks, one loom, and one axe, one grubbing hoe, three weeding hoes, two plow hoes, and a pair of iron wedges, and one sorrel horse called Tom, and one black mare called Panther and her colt, and four head of sheep, and after the death of my wife, I give all these articles above mentioned to her three children, to wit, Turner Harrell, Jesse Harrell, and Tempy Harrell, to them and their heirs forever. It is my will and desire that my Executors should sell as much of the remainder of my estate as will pay all my just debts, and that they sell such articles as they think best to spare; also I lend unto my beloved wife the plantation whereon I now live, and all the land belonging thereunto, during her natural life. After her death, I give the land and plantation whereon I now live, to the child that my wife is now big with, if it comes to age itself, or to have lawful issue to that and its heirs forever. And in case the child my wife is now big with, do die before it comes to age itself or to have lawful heir, then I give and bequeath the said land and plantation to my wife's three children, Turner Harrell, Jesse Harrell, and Tempy Harrell, to them and their heirs forever. I also lend unto my beloved wife, one negro man named Dick, during her natural life, and after her death I give and bequeath the said negro man Dick to the child that my wife is now big with, to it and its heirs forever. Also I lend unto my wife, during her natural life, six breeding sows of her choice, of all my stock of hogs, and after her death, I give these said sows and their increase to the child that my wife is now big with, to it and its heirs forever. I do appoint my wife Hester Raby, and my friend William Horn and George Williams, Executrix and Executors of this my last will and testament, disannulling, revoking and making utterly void, all wills and testaments heretofore by me made, confirming this and no other to my last will and testament. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 13th day of October 1789.

Test:

Mary (X) Holland

Perry Tyler

Elizabeth (X) Dodrill

Luke (X) Raby

Will was proven in open court at the November term of 1789, and ordered to be recorded.

Stevens Gray, Clerk