

At a Court held for Southampton County, June 17th 1861.

An authenticated Copy of the last will and testament of Henry W. Sykes Decd. was this day produced in Court and ordered to be recorded. And Green Starnell the executor therein named having refused to take upon himself the burden of the execution of the said will, On the motion of William J. Hamell and John C. Sykes, who made oath and entered into and acknowledged a bond in the penalty of twenty five thousand dollars (but without security the Court not requiring any of them) conditioned according to law, Certificate is granted them for obtaining letters of Administration with the will annexed in due form.

Teste,

L. R. Edwards, C. C.

In the name of God, Amen! I, John Sykes of the County of Southampton, State of Virginia, do make and ordain this my last will, hereby revoking all former wills by me at any time made.

Item 1. I desire all my just debts first paid and if the money arising from the sale of my perishable property shall prove insufficient for that purpose then it is my will and desire that my executors herein after named shall select such other property as they may think best (except the property specifically bequeathed and sell for the payment of my debts.

Item 2. I loan to my beloved wife Ann J. Sykes, during her natural life widowhood all my land negroes, Kitchen, Randolph, Maria, Peter, Joan, Huldry and Bet. I give unto my wife the choice of all my horses, two cows, and calves two sows and pigs, two ewes and lambs, a feather bed and furniture, all my fowls, thirty barrels corn, two thousand pounds blade fodder, fifteen hundred pounds pork, cooking ware and loan.

Item 3. I loan to my daughter Lucinda R. Murrell during her life and at her death to her children (including Thaddeus Backley) negro girl Charity.

4. I loan to my daughter Mary J. R. Rochelle during her life and at her death to her children negro girl Millinett. I give to my said daughter one feather bed and furniture.

5. I leave in trust of my Executors for the benefit of my daughter Ann R. Story and children negro girl Julia. Should my daughter survive her husband I loan this negro to her during her life, at her death to her children. This property is to be managed by my Executors as may seem best to them.

6. I give to my son John C. Sykes negro man Philip.

7. I give to my son Brown S. Sykes negro Melvin.

8. I give to my son Joseph H. M. Sykes negro Jackson.

9. I give to my grand son A. A. S. Stokes negro Mimmey.

10. I give unto my son Browne S. Sykes after the death of my wife all my land except one hundred acres to be cut off on the west next to the lands of D. Mansgraves, Benj. Ellis and John Francis which I give to my son Joseph H. M. Sykes. (if he desires to take it) if not I give it to my son Browne.

11. My will is that the balance of my estate including the property loaned my wife except the land be divided between my children in the following manner. The negroes specifically given and loaned my children are to be valued and added to the valuation of the negroes loaned my wife, and equally divided between all my children. The property to Ann R. Story to be managed by my Executors for her benefit.