

Benjamin Whitfield
Will

I Benjamin Whitfield of Southampton County Virginia the 22 day of the eleventh month in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred & 14 being in a moderate state of health and of sound mind and memory do think proper to constitute this present writing as my last will and testament in the following manner and from that it to say first I leave to my loving wife Mary Whitfield the use profits emoluments of all my Estate real personal or mixt whether in possession remainder or reversion for and during her natural life. Second it is my will and do hereby give my said wife Mary Whitfield full power right lawful authority to dispose of one moiety or equal half part of all my personal estate that may be remaining at the time of her decease provided she should leave a written will, and if she do not leave a written Will it is my will and desire that the one moiety or equal half part, as I have empowered my wife to dispose of may be added to the last clause of this my will. Third I give and bequeath unto Lucinda Birdsong and her heirs forever one feather bed and furniture one chest of drawers and dressing glass and one hundred dollars cash. Fourth I give and bequeath unto Mason Birdsong and her heirs forever one feather bed and furniture one desk and one hundred dollars cash. Fifth I give and bequeath unto Shuldah Sears wife of Paul Sears of Prince Georges county five hundred dollars for the use of her religious travels in hopes my wife would let her have it as need may require. Sixth I give and bequeath unto James Goddard now living on Jacob Barretts land to him and his heirs forever one certain tract of layd containing sixty five acres and a half lying on the south side of Russian Swamp it being part of the tract I bought of Nevet Edwards bounded on one side by the road on the other sides by Jack Bosby's line Samuel Bosby's lines and Joel Edwards wife was plotted by Williams Wren and the plot is now among my papers. Seventh I give and bequeath unto Jonathan Osby and to his heirs forever twenty acres of land to be laid off to him by my Executors on the west side of the branch at the lower end of his line. Eight I give and bequeath unto David Day a black man as I raised twenty acres of land to him and his heirs forever to be laid off by my Executors on the place where he now lives to the best advantage to save his labour as he has done as twenty acres of land seems not sufficient for a man of industry it is my will he may be indulged to buy more as much as five or six years at five dollars for the acre to be as conveniently joining as possible to his twenty acres. Ninth I give and bequeath unto Aron Day a black boy now in his minority and living with me twenty acres of land lying between James Bosby's land and David Days to be laid off by my Executors on the same terms as his brother David after he arrives to lawful age to him and his heirs forever. Tenth there remains three black men as I raised to wit John Nick and Richard Taylor in the state of Ohio