

Will of Matthew Exum – 1777

In the name of God amen

I Matthew Exum of the County of Northampton and Province of North Carolina being low and weak of body but of sound mind & memory to make & ordain this my last will & testament

First I recommend my soul to almighty God in full hope of its further happiness & my body to the Earth to be decently buried - as to my worldly goods I dispose of in manner and form following

First, I give and bequeath unto my wife Mary Exum one Negro fellow Ben, one large * ** horse I purchased of David Phillips, one large bay mare called ***, my riding chair, all my household & kitchen furniture, five cows & calves, fives ewes & lambs, four young sows at the mill seventy three pound Proc and Provisions for the year ensuing after my death to her & her heirs forever...**

Second, I lend unto my wife Mary Exum the land and plantation whereon I now live during her widowhood, also I lend to my wife Mary Exum during her natural life four Negroes Charlie, George, Sam, and Sared. After her deceased to go to my son Richard Exum his heirs forever.

Third, I give and bequeath unto my son Richard Exum the rest of my estate not before given both real and personal to him & his heirs forever – my will and desire is that if my son Richard Exum should die without lawful issue, that Joseph Exum of James Exum should have my mill & all the land given to my by my father Joseph Exum and William Exum son of my brother James Exum deceased have all the land & plantation lying on the East side of the Mill Swamp and all the rest of my estate be equally divided between my brother James Exum's three youngest children Charlotte, Nancy, and James Exum

Fourthly, my will & desire is that my Executors hereafter mentioned sell all my stock of every kind * and working tools as soon a convenient after my death**

And my Negroes to be hired out & Mill rent and money a **ivings by appied to the support of my son and education paying the incumberance (?) of Sally Tarver as long as it continues

Fifth – and lastly I do nominate & appoint my three friends Richard Figurins, Thomas Edmunds, and William Exum my executors to this my last will and testament as witness my hand & seal this sixth day of January 1777.

Signed, sealed, published

**And pronounced as my last
Will & testament in presents
Of us the subscribers**

Matthew Exum (seal)

**Mary Chassell (Chappell) (her mark)
Henry Stephenson
Thomas "H" Harris (his mark)**