

Will of General Edward Vail
Chowan County, North Carolina
Written: 29 November 1775
Proved June Court 1777

In the name of God Amen, I Edward Vail of the County and Province aforesaid calling to mind it is appointed for all men to die do make and ordain this my last will and testament revoking and disannuling all wills by me heretofore made.

First I give my wife Susannah Vail the use of my house, barn, kitchen at my back plantation and one third part of the land belonging to that plantation during her natural life or widowhood and after her marriage or decease to be equally divided between my two sons Thomas and Frederick Vail.

I give my wife the use of my double chair, my Horse Hector and the White Horse, six cows and calves, two yoke of oxen and a cart, all side saddles, one pair of looking glasses, one square mahogany table, one black square table, one walnut desk called hers, one walnut tea table, one pine cupboard, one large walnut chest, one pine chest, all my kitchen furniture, all my china and crockery ware, knives, forks, the loom and tackle belonging thereto, the spinning wheels, two pair cast andirons, tongs, shovel, one Bellows, two ploughs, four hoes, two axles, and all the meat and grain in the house, six sows, and pigs, and after her marriage or decease then to be equally divided between my two youngest sons, Thomas and Fredercik Vail.

I give my wife the use of my silver two handled cup, silver table spoons and tea spoons, and punch ladle, one small case and Bottles, and after her marriage or decease to be equally divided between my two sons Thomas and Fred Vail.

I give and bequeath unto my sons Jeremiah Vail my dwelling house and plantation on the Sound side and all the land on that side of the swamp which divides my two plantations to him and the male heirs lawfully begotten and for want of such heirs to my son Thomas Vail and the male heirs of his body lawfully begotten and for want of such heirs to my son Fredercik Vail and the male heirs of his body lawfully begotten forever.

I give to my son Jeremiah Vail one negro man called Arch, one negro wench called Winder and my writing desk.

I give to my son Edward Vail my back plantation and all the land and swamp that divides that from the front plantation to him and the male heirs of his body lawfully begotten and for the want of such to my son Thomas Vail and the male heirs of his body lawfully begotten and for want of such heirs to my son Frederick Vail and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten forever.

I give and bequeath unto my son Edward Vail one negro man named Brister, one negro boy named Jack, one gun called Eyre, one bed and furniture.

I give and bequeath unto my son Thomas Vail one negro boy named Toby, one bed and furniture, my silver watch and Horse Cyrus.

I give and bequeath unto my son Frederick Vail one negro boy named Caesar, one mare called Queen, one bed and furniture, my shoe, knee, and stock buckles.

I give and bequeath unto my sons Thomas and Frederick Vail the negroes hereafter named towit Rachel, Nan, Rose, Judy, Harry, they and their Increases to be equally divided between them when Thomas arrives of age.

I give and bequeath to my son Edward Vail my water mill.

I give my wife one drying chest and all the chairs about the house also the table linen.

It is my will that my son Edward Vail have one half of my horse called Young Partner and the other half be sold and the monet applied towards the payment of nay debts.

And I do appoint the Reverend Mr. Charles Pettigrew and John Baptist Beasley Executors of this my last will and testament .

In witness whereof I have set my hand and seal this 29 day of November 1775.

Signed, sealed, and certified in the presence of us:

Thomas Benbury

Charles Benbury

Robert Davidson

The above and forgoing will was exhibited and proved in open court at June Term 1777 by the oath of Thomas Benbury and witness thereto at the same time John Baptist Beasley took the necessary oaths for his qualification as Executor.

Ordered that Letters issued etc.

Teste:

James Norfleet, Clerk