

Nancy Brown. Thirteen children by first marriage, 7 children by second marriage, Reuben Nance was born in Brunswick Co., Va. Moved to Henry County, Va. in 1773/74. He received a land patent in 1780, was a surveyor an ensign in the Revolution, and a friend and neighbor of Patrick Henry- The tradition has been passed down in this family that Patrick Henry said to Reuben Nance when he returned from the Constitutional Convention "The Constitution will prove a road of sand". For further records on Reuben Nance see Henry Co. Va. records,

There is no foundation for several of the statements made in NM regarding Reuben Nance and family. The story of the 28 children was given to George Nance by Jefferson Amzi Nance, a great-grandson of Reuben Nance, who was quite old and feeble when he wrote this letter, The Captain Bird mentioned was not the son of Reuben but was his grandson, whose parents were Reuben Nance Jr, and Francis "Ingram" Nance.

Henry County, Virginia — Reuben Nance's Will

In the name of God amen. The 10th day of January 1812

I Reubin Nance of the county of Henry and the state of Virginia being very weak in body but in perfect sound memory but calling to mind the mortality of the body and that it is once appointed for all men to die, as for my body I leave it to be buried in a Christian Like and decent manner at the discretion of my executors and my soul to return to God that first gave it, not doubting but at the general resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God and as touching my worldly estate which I now have and which it may be pleased God---to bless me with I mean to devise and dispose of in form and manner as follows, viz,

First all I give and bequeath to my beloved wife. Nancy Nance one negro man slave named Henn, one cow and calf, and one feather bed and furniture forever to dispose of at her own discretion,

Secondly, I further give and bequeath to my beloved Nancy one negro man named Isaac and negroe woman named Dyan one negroe boy named Will, one negroe girl named Hester, one negroe boy named Perry, one negroe boy named \_\_\_\_\_, one negroe boy named Simon, one negroe boy named Joe, the family of the said Isaac, one negroe woman named Janey with all their increase in her natural life or widowhood,

Thirdly I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Nancy Nance one wagon and team, one still, with all plantation utensils necessary for her use, and twenty head of meat cattle, during her life or widowhood, also my blacksmiths tools, and all my flock of hogs in like manner,

Fourthly, my land and plantation house and household furniture, my mill and that land whereon the mill stands I give to my beloved wife in the manner above mentioned.

Fifthly, my desire is that my old stock of negroes should be divided between my oldest family of children I had by my first wife, viz, to my beloved son William Nance only a deduction of one hundred and seventy dollars I have already paid him into his part of the legacy, to him his heirs and assigns forever; secondly to my son Bird Nance, my son Allen Nance. my son Clement Nance, my son Joseph Nance, their heirs and assigns forever, also to my daughter, Mary Crouch, Susannah McCulough, and Tabitha Shackelford; viz, Bess's children one negroe man named George, one negroe named Peter, one negroe man named Moses, one negroe man named Robb, one negroe woman named Rachael, one negroe girl named Jincy, one negroe boy named Fill,, with