

GEORGIA In the Name of God amen
 I Shem Butler of the County of Chatham
 and State of Georgia do here, being
 in perfect health and of sound mind
 from my understanding praised
 be God for it, and considering the
 certainty of Death and the Uncertainty
 of the time there of and to the end
 I may be the better prepared to
 leave this World when ~~ever~~ it
 shall please God to call me
 hence do therefore make and
 declare this my last Will and
 Testament in manner following
 that is to say first and principally
 I commend my Soul into the Hands
 of Almighty God my Creator -
 hoping for free pardon and
 remission of all my sins and to
 enjoy everlasting happiness
 in his heavenly Kingdom Tho.
 the sole Merit of Jesus Christ
 my Saviour My Body I
 commit to the Earth at the

discretion of my Executors herein after
Named And as to such bond by which
where with it has pleased God to -
enrich me I dispose of the same as
follows In premises my Will and
desire is that all my just debts and
funeral Expenses be fully paid and
satisfied as soon as conveniently
may be after my decease I then I
give and bequeath unto my beloved
Wife Elizabeth Butler the sum of
Twenty five pounds Sterling out
of my Estates Nearly and every Year
for and during the Term of her
natural life in lieu and bar of
all her Dowry and this is that she
may or can claim or demand out
of my Estate and to the payment
of the yearly sum of Twenty five
pounds I do hereby Subject and
make liable my said Estate;
Also my Will and desire is that -
my said Wife shall be maintained
out of my plantations free
from all such or Charges

during the time of her natural
 life; & then I also being and bequeath
 unto my son Shem Butler Ten
 pounds Sterling in his and his
 of all right of claim or demand
 he may have on my Estate -
 Then I give and bequeath unto
 my son Joseph Butler all that
 tract of land lying between
 Oguchee and Canowhee, where
 formerly lived containing five
 hundred acres to him and his heirs
 forever Then I give and bequeath
 unto my son Thome as Butler all
 that tract of Two = ^{land} (200)
 Edw. Hurdin Shem Butler (200)
 William Harn
 Thos Smith

2. Hundred and fifty acres of land
 adjoining my son Joseph Butlers
 Also Two Hundred and fifty
 acres to be taken out of a
 five hundred and fifty acre
 tract, adjoining the other

Two Hundred and fifty acres to him
and his heirs for ever I the said
James Butler all that remaining
five hundred acres tract of land
which was the five hundred
and fifty acres tract to him and
his heirs for ever Also my Will
and desire is that, that tract
of land lying on the Salt hatches
in the State of South Carolina
formerly granted Joseph Butler
Esquire containing Two thousand
Two Hundred and fifty acres also
the tract I now live on contain-
ing five hundred acres being
of William Harn shall be disposed
of at the discretion of my Executors
and the monies arising from the
sale of said land shall be laid
out in the purchase of my Will
and desire is that the said
monies so purchased shall
be equally divided among

My last named children viz
 Joseph Butler, Eliza Catty Butler,
 Edith Butler, Thomas Butler -
 Ann Butler James Butler and
 John Butler; I am I also live
 and bequeath unto my last
 named seven children all my
 negroes and other moveable
 property that I now possess to
 be equally divided among
 them share and share alike
 Also my Will and desire is that
 in case of any of my children the
 said Joseph Butler, Eliza Catty
 Butler, Edith Butler, Thomas
 Butler, Ann Butler, James
 Butler and John Butler should
 happen to die before he she
 or they shall arrive to the age
 of twenty four years or day
 of marriage then and in
 such case my Will and desire
 is, that the part or share
 by me hereby bequeathed

or bequeathed to such of them
 so dying shall go to the survivors
 of them And I do in such case
 hereby give devise and bequeath
 the part or share of him, her or
 them unto the survivors of my
 wives and children to be equally
 divided among such survivors
 or the heirs of such survivors -

Edw. Harden
 William Harn } Witnesses
 Thos Smith

I therefore for ever and lastly I
 do hereby nominate constitute
 and appoint Benjamin Stiles
 Esq. James Harn and John
 Butcher all of the County of
 Chatham of the State of Georgia
 Executors to this my last Will
 and Testament and Guardians
 of the persons and Estates of my
 aforesaid children, until they
 shall respectively arrive at

The age of the only one then on
 day of the marriage which ever
 shall first happen and no longer
 hereby revoking and making
 void, all former Wills by me at
 any time heretofore made and
 do declare this only written on
 three sheets of paper each of
 which I subscribed with my
 names to be my last Will
 and Testament in Witness whereof
 I the said Shem Butler the
 Testator have to this my last
 Will and Testament set my
 hand and seal this thirtieth
 Day of July in the Year of
 our Lord one thousand seven
 hundred and eighty seven and
 of the Independence and sovereignty
 of the United States of America
 the Eleventh

Signed sealed Shem Butler ^{and}
 and delivered
 and published

by the said then—
 But in the above
 named Testator as
 and for his last Will
 and Testament in the
 presence of us who at
 his request and in his
 presence and the presence
 of each other have
 subscribed our names
 as Witnesses thereon
 (See of) in page 2 inscribed

Edw. Harding } Witnesses
 William Harn }
 Thos Smith.

Georgia before me James M. testified
 Defendant of Probate for the
 County of Chatham in
 the State aforesaid
 Personally appeared Edward Harding
 one of the subscribing Witnesses to
 the within written Will of

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Shem Butler late of the County
and State aforesaid Plaintiff did
who being sworn said that he
was present and did see the said
Testator sign and pronounce
publish and declare the same to
be and contain his last Will and
Testament and that he was of
sound mind & memory at the
execution thereof (to this Depo-
nent's belief) and that William Horn and
Thomas Smith together with this
Depo-
nent subscribed their names
as Witnesses to the due execution
thereof at the request and in the
presence of the said Testator and
of each other Edw Harding
Jury to 17th Day of
January 1789
Witnessed

Benjamin Miles and
John Butler Jurors sworn
qualified as such by taking
the oath prescribed by Law and
read before Testamentary Jurors