

Photostatic Copies of the Original wills, which follow, were obtained from the Department of Archives and History in Raleigh, N.C. and are transmitted here by Thaddeus Campbell, Assistant Clerk of the Superior Court of Beaufort County, to Beaufort County, North Carolina.

North Carolina

In the name of God, Amen.

I, John Baptista Ashe of Beaufort County, in the Province of North Carolina, Gent. being then the mercy of Almighty God of sound mind and memory, do make, appoint and ordain this and this only to be my last will and testament, revoking and making void all former Wills by me heretofore made. The Lord have mercy on my soul for Christ's sake.

Imprimis

I will that my just and lawful debts be duly paid by my Executors hereafter named, particularly that one hundred pounds North Carolina money or the value thereof be or paid to the heirs, executors, or assigns of James Nolan of Mariner, deceased, the sum of fifty pounds or

laid in my hands for some years; the widow who complying with the Statute (in that case provided) for going to Admors: but I now direct that if they cannot comply strictly with the Law, yet rather than fail their own bond to whom the money is payable may be taken when the money paid, to indemnify my estate against any Creditors which may claim in this Province. Also I will that there be paid as of debt to Daniel Hendrick of South Carolina, Shoemaker, Executors or assigns the sum of forty pounds current money of

Admors or heirs of Robert Gamble of Boston, Mariner to be found, the sum of forty pounds current money of the Province.

Item

I give bequeath and devise (after payment of debts to my three Children John, Samuel and Mary Estate to be equally divided amongst them.

Item

I give, devise, and bequeath unto my son and my daughter Mary my lands up the North West branch of Cape Fear River called Ashwood which are situate lying and being on the South side of the said river between the of John Porter of Virginia, Merchant and the Plantation whereon Daniel Donalds lately deceased dwelt, together with my lands on the North side of the river directly opposite to those aforementioned to be equally divided between them the said son and Mary to them their heirs and assigns forever.

I give devise and bequeath unto my son Samuel a tract of land containing six hundred, and forty acres lying on Stumpys Sound, called Turkey Point also one other tract containing one thousand acres, called Long Island

on New River Banks, to him, his heirs and assigns forever.

I give, devise and bequeath unto my son Samuel four hundred acres of land lying above William Lewis's plantation on the main branch of Old Stone Creek to him his heirs and assigns forever unless John Russell shall personally come and demand

acres of land and shall pay the balance of accounts betwixt us amounting to about forty pounds money of South Carolina. Then my Exors are hereby directed and empowered to convey the said four hundred acres of land to the said John Russell, to him, his heirs and assigns forever.

It is my will that my sons have their Estates delivered to them as they severally arrive at the age of twenty and one years; and that my daughter have her Estate at the day of marriage or age of twenty and one years which shall first happen

I will that my sons be kept to work on my lands and that my Estate may be managed to the best advantage so as my sons may have as abundant Education as the profits thereof will afford; and in their Education I pray my Exors, to observe this method: Let them be taught to read and write and ^{introduced} ~~taught~~ into the practical part of arithmetic, not too hastily ^{hurrying} ~~introducing~~ them to Latin or Grammar, but after they are pretty well versed in these let them be taught Latin & Greek. I propose this may be done in Virginia, after which let them be ^{taught} ~~taught~~ French perhaps

some Frenchman at Santee will undertake this; when they are arrived to years of discretion let them study the Mathematicks. To my sons when they arrive at age I recommend the pursuit & study of some profession or business (I should wish one to be Law, the other Merchandize) in which let them follow their own inclinations. I will that my daughter be taught to write and read & some feminine accomplishment which may render her agreeable; and that she be not kept ignorant of what appertains to a good housewife in the management of household affairs.

I give to each of my Executors a gold ring as a token of the request which in my life I bore them.

I will that a Brick Vault may be built at Grovelly and my Dear Wife's body taken up out of the Earth and and brought and laid there; if it should be my fortune to die in Carolina so as my Corps may be conveyed thither, I desire that one large Coffin may be made and both our bodies laid together therein and lodged in the said Vault.

Item:

I give & devise & bequeath unto my honored friend Edward Mosley, Esq. the one half or more ^{of my lands} upon or near Rock Fish Creek on the North West branch of Cape Fair, it being twenty five hundred and sixty acres, to be equally divided between him and my heirs, to him, his heirs & assigns forever.

Item:

I give, devise and bequeath unto my Loving Brother Samuel Swann, six hundred and forty acres of land lying on North East Branch of Cape Fair River, which he bought of me & which I have not as yet made him any

being land adjoining

Swann swells, to him the sd John Swann his heirs and assigns forever.

Lastly

I nominate, constitute and appoint my honored friends Edward Mosley & Nathaniel Rice, Esqs, my good friend Roger Moore, my Loving Brothers Samuel Swann and John Swann, and my good friends Miss William Downing and Edward Smith, Executors of this my last Will and Testament. Desiring & praying them to see the same duly executed.

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this second day of November anno Dom. 1731

Bap.th Ashe

Signed, Sealed and Published

In the Presence of us.

Mehittabel ^{the} Butler

John Hawkins

Cornelius Dargan

Mitch Butler

N. Carolina

I do hereby make a Codicill to be annexed to this my Last Will and Testament and do hereby appoint my Loving Friends Job Hare and Thomas Jones Executors to this my Last Will and Testament and this Codicill hereunto assenting together with the several persons before named in my said Last Will and Testament as my Exors. And whereas there is a certain Saw Mill in Building between Mr. Matthew Rowan and my self. It is my will that my part of the saw mill together with my part of the land

therunto belonging be sold by my said Ex^{or} for the use of my three Children and the money arising by the sale thereof to be equally divided amongst them. In Test^{is} witness I have hereunto set my hand and seal this sixteenth day of October 1734.

J. Bapt^{is} Ashe

Signed & Sealed
in presence of each sealed
James Innes
Joseph Waller
Ed^d Smith

North Carolina

Before his Excellency, Gabriel Johnston, Esq^r, Captain General, Governor in Chief of the Province of North Carolina and Ordinary of the same.

Personally came before me Michael Rutter one of the witnesses to the within instrument being the last Will and Testament of John Baptista Ashe, Esq. who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists, declared that he was present and saw the said John Baptista Ashe, Esq. sign, seal, publish and declare the same to be his last Will and Testament and that he was at the same time of sound and disposing mind & memory and understanding, to the best of his separate knowledge and that he saw John Hawkins, Cornelius Targan & Michael Rutter three other signing witnesses present at the execution of the said instrument and sign their names or make therunto

Likewise personally appeared James Innes, Esq. one of the witnesses to the Codicil annexed to the said instrument or last Will and Testament who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists, said that he saw the said John Baptista Ashe duly execute and publish the said Codicil to the last Will and Testament, and that he was at the time of sound mind and memory to the best of his separate knowledge and that he saw Joseph Waller, and Edward Smith the two other signing witnesses present at the execution of same.

Given under my hand at Brunswick the 16th day of November Anno Domini 1734
Gabl Johnston

Will of James Carver

In the name of God, Amen.

I, James Carver, Senr. of Bladen Dist, Will Wright, being in perfect health and bound by the Grace of God to the Island of Barbados and knowing the uncertainty of this transitory life, do make and Ordain this my last Will and Testament and do utterly revoke & disallow all former Wills by me heretofore made and as concerning what worldly Goods it hath pleased God to bestow upon me in this Life, I give and devise in the following manner.

First. I recommend my Soul into the hands of Almighty God, my Saviour, and Redeemer, and my Body to the earth or Sea as it shall please God to Ordain it.

Secondly. I will that all my just debts be paid and satisfied by my Executors and Executors, who I do hereafter appoint.

Item

I give, devise and bequeath unto my loving wife Elizabeth Carver the bed and furniture thereto belonging which she now lies on as also one half of the Stock of Cattle and a mare called Jonny and an iron pot, a brass kettle, two parringers, four plates and a pewter dish and the use of the house during her widowhood.

Item

I give and bequeath unto my son James Carver my land that is on the North East side of the North West River joining Rich^d Hellier's Land containing two hundred acres and one half of the saw mill and one half of the land thereto belonging beginning at the lower Corner, a stake and running up the Creek South Seventy Eight degrees West so far as to comprehend one half the land and thence a line at right angles to the back line and along that line to a lightwood stump and thence to the first Station, to him, his heirs and assigns forever.

Item

I give and bequeath unto my son Samuel Carver the remaining part of my tract of land being the upper part as also the other part or half of the saw mill standing thereon to him, his heirs and assigns forever it being at one half the charge of making of a good building on his brothers part of of ye land as this is on his part.

Item:

I give and bequeath unto my daughter Mary Carver three hundred Pounds Currency of North Carolina, one hundred and fifty pounds to be paid in a Twelve Months after