

In the Name of God Amen I Benjamin Meritt of
Edgecombe County in the Province of North Carolina, being
very Sick and Weak but of perfect mind and memory and
calling to mind the Mortality of my Body knowing it is
Ordained for every man Aged to die; thought fit to Dispose of
my Estate in Manner following, Inprimis first I Give my
Soul into the hands of Almighty God that God rest me in due
and Certain hope of the Resurrection to Eternal Life Trusting in
the merits of our Blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ for
Redemption; my Body to the Earth from whence it ~~came~~
was taken to be Buried in a Christian form at the discretion of
my Executors and as for my Worldly Estate with which it hath
pleased God to Bless me with I Dispose of in the following Manner;
Item I Bequeath unto my Loving Mother Mary Meritt my Negro Man
Dick and also all my Moveable Estate to be Possessed by her and
used at her discretion during her Natural Life and after her
decease to be Equally divided Between my two Brothers
Nathaniel and Ephraim, and my two Sisters Sarah and
Mary

Item My will and desire is that my Land shall be sold at the
discretion of my Executors and the Money arising thereby to be
Equally divided Between my two Brothers and two Sisters
as aforesaid —

I do also constitute declare and appoint my two Brothers
Nathaniel Meritt and Ephraim Meritt, Executors to this my
Last Will and Testament willing and Requiring to Comply
with the Contents thereof in Witness where of I have hereunto set
my hand and Seal this Ninth Day of July in the year of our
Lord Christ 1756

Signed and Sealed

Benjamin B Meritt Seal
In presence of William Powell and John ^{his} Royer —
Mark

Habifax County pt

September Court 1761

the merits of my Blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ for
Redemption; my Body to the Earth from whence it ~~came~~
was taken to be Buried in a Christian grave at the direction of
my Executors and as for my Worldly Estate with which it hath
pleased God to Bless me with I dispose of in the following Manner;
I do I send unto my Loving Nephew Mary Meritt my Negro Man
Dick and also all my Moveable Estate to be Possessed by him and
used at her discretion during her Natural Life and after her
decease to be Equally divided Between my two Brothers
Nathaniel and Ephraim, and my two Sisters Sarah and
Mary

I do My will and desire is that my Land shall be sold at the
discretion of my Executors and the Money arising thereby to be
Equally divided Between my two Brothers and two Sisters
afore said —

I do also constitute declare and appoint my two Brothers
Nathaniel Meritt and Ephraim Meritt, Executors to this my
Last Will and Testament willing and Requiring to comply
with the Contents thereof in Witness whereof I have hereunto set
my hand and Seal this Ninth Day of July in the year of our
Lord Christ 1756

Signed and Sealed

In presence of William Powell and John ^{his} Royer —
Benjamin B Meritt Seal
Mark

Halifax County

September Court 1761
This will was exhibited in open Court and proved by the Oath
of William Powell one of the subscribing Witnesses and at the
same time, Nathaniel Meritt one of the Executors in the 2^d Will
named was duly Qualify'd according to Law and in Union;
Ordered to be Recorded Test J. Montfort