

Benjamin
Harrison's Will

Signer

Heads of a Will written by Benjamin of Berkley all in my own hand, being in perfect sense health and memory and intended to be carried into due form by my friend Peter Lyons esq^r but if any accident should happen to deprive me of life before this is done it is my desire that it be taken for my last Will and Testament written and signed this third day of January One thousand seven hundred and eighty.

I give to my dear and affectionate Wife Elizabeth Harrison to her and her heirs for ever all my furniture except my plate which she is to have the use of during her life; I also give her my coach ^{and} harness, and six of the horses belonging to it to be chosen by her to her and her heirs for ever.

I also give to my dear Wife the use of all my tract of land whereon I now live called Berkley with all the Slaves thereon, or belonging thereto, as well Tradesmen as others with all the stocks of horses, mules, cattle, sheep, and hogs during her life except such as I shall hereafter specially give away, out of which she is to pay my just debts and to support and maintain my Son William and my daughter Sarah: the latter to enable her to do which I give her my part of the Ship now on the Stocks and all the money that may be due from the other partners which I hope she will apply immediately in the discharge of such debts as I shall leave unpaid, and to

may be due from the other partners, which I hope she will apply —
immediately in the discharge of such debts as I shall leave unpaid, and to
assist in any manner she shall think fit my son Carter in building or
buying a house at Cabin point, and I recommend it to her to sell two of the
three shares I have reserved for myself in the said Ship and to keep the other
to import necessaries for herself and family. There is a debt due to the estate
of William Lightfoot deceased from my father's estate, which I desire may
be paid, not that I think I am indebted to the estate, for I solemnly declare
that I think I have paid abundantly more than ever came to my hands, yet
I direct the debt to be paid, to prevent clamour and disputes. — At the
death of my Wife I give my tract of land called Burkley, except such
part of it as I shall ^{give} my son William, to my son Benjamin to him and
his heirs for ever, but it is my Will and desire that if my son Benjamin
die without a male heir that then my said tract of land as aforesaid
go in remainder or reversion to my son Carter Bassett Harrison to him
and his heirs for ever. — I give my son Carter B. Harrison my tract of
land at Cabin point, my mill and miller Oneas, and the land I have
on both sides Savages runs my lots in or near the Town of Richmonds and
those drawn in Col. Byrds lottery in Partnership with Col. Nathaniel
Harrison to him and his heirs for ever. — I give my Son William Henry
Harrison at the death of his mother, or on his coming of age, the upper part

to import necessaries for herself and family. There is a debt due to the estate
of William Lightfoot deceased from my father's estate, which I desire may
be paid, not that I think I am indebted to the estate, for I solemnly declare
that I think I have paid abundantly more than ever came to my hands, yet
I direct the debt to be paid, to prevent clamour and disputes. ~ At the

death of my Wife I give my tract of land called Berkley, except such
part of it as I shall ^{give} my son William, to my son Benjamin to him and
his heirs for ever, but it is my Will and desire that if my son Benjamin
die without a male heir that then my said tract of land as aforesaid
go in remainder or reversion to my son Carter Bassett Harrison to him
and his heirs for ever. ~ I give my son Carter B. Harrison my tract of
land at Cabin point my mill and miller Oneas, and the land I have
on both sides Savages runs my lots in or near the Town of Richmonps and
those drawn in Col. Byrds lottery in Partnership with Col. Nathaniel
Harrison to him and his heirs for ever. ~ I give my Son William Henry
Harrison at the death of his mother, or on his coming of age, the upper part
of my Berkley tract of land to him and his heirs for ever: that is to say,
beginning on my West line near the stump of a pine tree fronting the house
that James Hardyman lives in, from which a Mast was cut for the larger
Ship, running from thence a strait due east course till it strikes my

East line, but if my said son ^{Charles G. Cour. William Wills 1789-18} ~~William~~ should die before he comes
of age or has a son, or should after he comes of age die and leave
no son, in either of these cases it is my Will and desire that the said tract
or parcel of land go and descend in remainder, or reversion to my son
Garter B. Harrison to him and his heirs for ever. ~ I give unto my
son Benjamin and his heirs for ever all the negroes he has of mine in
his possession at Hard labour, except George the son of Franky, I also
confer to him his right to Emanuel and give him Ship Carpenter
Tom and his Wife Judy and her children, and Sall the Wife of
Emanuel. ~ I give to my son Garter B. Harrison old Will and his
Wife Betty and all her children, Sally daughter of Sarah and her two
sons Coys and George Snow, old Coys and his Wife Betty, York the
son of old Will, Fidler, Baker Dick, and Anthony to him and his heirs
for ever, I also give him forty Cows and a Ram, and direct that thirty
head of cattle and three good Work horses be bought for him, and I
give him my Phaeton and harness and my two colts rising two years
old and at the death of his mother I give him all my Estate, and
at the death of his Aunt Stoth I give him the negro I lent her and
all her increase except two of them which I shall hereafter give

at the death of ~~his~~ ~~son~~ ~~Tom~~ ~~my~~ ~~negro~~ ~~son~~ ~~her~~ and
all her increase except two of them which I shall hereafter give
away, to him and his heirs for ever. — I give to my son
William and his heirs for ever at the death of his mother or his
coming of age all the negroes with their increase which I now
have at my plantation called Oldhides: and Carpenter Tom the
husband of Moll, and Britty's son Charles. I also give my said
son at the time aforesaid all the stock of battle horses, and hogs at
the said plantation and forty Cows and a Ram from Berkley. —
I give to my Daughter Elizabeth Rickman and her heirs for ever
Moll Stoker and her daughter Polly and her Granddaughter Betty
and their increase, and Moses alias Swatton, George the son of Frank
now at Hard labour and Stable Bob now a Plowman. — I give
to my daughter Anna Coupland and her heirs for ever her Maids
Molly and Sally and their children and future increase. Britty's
children Phoebe and Tom and Aggs daughter Arty. I also desire
that my Chariot may be fitted up in the best manner and four
new harness bought and delivered to her. — I give my daughter
Lucy Randolph and her heirs for ever her maid Betty and her increase.
I give my Granddaughter Betty Randolph a Girl nearly of her own age
to be chosen by my Wife Jane and I will that the said

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husband of Moll, and Britty's son Charles. I also give my said
son at the time aforesaid all the stock of cattle horses, and hogs at
the said plantation and forty Cows and a Ram from Berkley. —
I give to my Daughter Elizabeth Rickman and her heirs for ever
Moll Stoker and her daughter Polly and her Granddaughter Betty
and their increase, and Moses alias Swatton, George the son of Frank
now at Hard labour and Stable Bob now a Plowman. — I give
to my daughter Anne Coupland and her heirs for ever her Maids
Molly and Sally and their children and future increase. Britty's
children Phebe and Tom and Aggs daughter Arty. I also desire
that my Chariot may be fitted up in the best manner and four
new harness bought and delivered to her. — I give my daughter —
Lucy Randolph and her heirs for ever her maid Betty and her increase.
I give my Granddaughter Betty Randolph a girl nearly of her own age
to be chosen by my Wife. I give my Grandson William Randolph
Britty's son Dick, and to the child not yet named a Negro boy about
his age to be chosen by my Wife to them and their heirs for ever. —
I give to my daughter Sarah Harrison and her heirs for ever Sarah.

the Daughter of Jenny. ~~My~~ the daughter of Tabb, and Suckey
the daughter of Diddy with their increase, and it is my Will and desire
that my son Benjamin at the death of his mother, he being so much
better provided for than my other children, pay to my said daughter
Sarah Two hundred and twenty Half-Piannas in gold, but if my
said daughter should not then be of age or married that he retain the
said sum in his hands, till one of those events takes place, paying
an annual interest of five per centum in the same coin towards the
support of my said daughter. At the death of my dear Wife
I give all my stocks of horses, mules, cattle, sheep and hogs on my
plantation of Berkley not before given away to my son Benjamin
and his heirs for ever. And if at the time aforesaid my sons Benjamin
and Carter should be living I give all the negroes possessed by my
said Wife and not before disposed of to be equally divided between
them, but if either of them should die before that time leaving no
Son, I give them to the survivor to him or them or his or their heirs for
ever. But if these negroes should all fall by survivorship to either of
my said Sons my will is that he pay to each of my four daughters their

heirs or assigns the sum of Two hundred pounds in gold or silver, and

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moreover that he deliver to my son William two boys and two girls healthy and sound of between twelve and fifteen years of age. - I give to my Niece Ann Bassett to her and her heirs for ever at the death of her Aunt Stith her choice of the negro children which the Woman now has that I lent her; and I give to my nephew Carter Bassett the most choice of the said children. - and whereas I omitted to give my dear Wife the tools of my carpenters and the plantation tools, Waggon and carts. I hereby declare it as my Will that she should possess the whole of them with the Millstones and every article belonging to my mills, my share of the Salt pans in Gloster and the great pot I have there for the purpose of making Salt.

Benjamin Harrison 

January the eighth 1780. On consideration of the above bequests to my four daughters I am lead to think I have not done them that justice that is due to such affectionate children; it is therefore my Will that at the death of my Wife the negroes she had in possession at the time of her death be laid off into four as equal parts as possible without parting men and their Wives. that three of the said four parts be equally divided between my sons -

Aunt Still her choice of the negro children which the Woman now has
that I lent her; and I give to my nephew Carter Bapatt the onest choice
of the said children - and whereas I omitted to give my dear Wife the
tools of my carpenters and the plantation tools, Waggon, and carts.
I hereby declare it as my Will that she should possess the whole of them
with the Millstones and every article belonging to my mills, my
share of the Salt pans in Gfoster and the great pot I have there for
the purpose of making Salt.

Benjamin Harrison 

January the eighth 1780. On consideration of the above bequests to my four
daughters I am lead to think I have not done them that justice that is due
to such affectionate children; it is therefore my Will that at the death of
my Wife the negroes she had in possession at the time of her death be laid
off into four as equal parts as possible without parting men and their Wives
that three of the said four parts be equally divided between my sons
Benjamin and Carter and that the other fourth part be equally divided
betwixt my four daughters over and above what I have before given them
This bequest is not to alter, except as to the fourth part of the slaves.

given to my daughters ^{the largest in my Will} ¹⁸⁹⁻¹⁸ ^{www.virginiapioneers.net} my Will of the Slaves, to
my Sons or the survivor of them. —

Benjamin Harrison

At a monthly Court held for Charles City County at the Courthouse
on Thursday the sixteenth day of June 1795.

The aforewritten last will and Testament of Benjamin
Harrison deceased was presented into Court for proof and there
being no subscribing Witness to the said Will, William Christian
and Otway Byrd being sworn depose that they believe the same
to have been wholly written by the deceased whereupon it is —

Ordered to be Recorded. And on the motion of Benjamin Harrison Jr and Carter
B. Harrison who made oath as the law directs and together with Benjamin Harrison (of Mandan
and Otway Byrd their securities entered into and acknowledged their bond in the penalty
of twelve thousand pounds conditioned according to law Certificate is granted them
for obtaining letters of administration on the estate of Benjamin Harrison deceased with
his will annexed in due form. —

Teste (Otway Byrd &c)