

X In the Name of God Amen I James Banks being weak in Body

James Banks but sound of disposing mind of memory thanks be to Almighty God I do make
Will This my last will and Testament of Recommending my soul to the mercy of the
Almighty God in a sure & comfortable hope of joyfull Resurrection through the
merits of Jesus Christ my Saviour. First it is my will & desire that my Just
debts be First paid

Imprimis I lend to my wife Franky Banks during her widowhood all my land and plantation
whereon I now live. Except a part where on my son James Banks Dwelling
house stands bounded as followeth beginning at the Cross Roads up the road
to a Simmons Tree From thence to the head of a small branch from the head
of the said branch to The barn house of my son James Bankses Near his
Dwelling house. Thence along the Ditch fence To a Simmons Tree near the fence
From Thence a straight line to the head of a small branch near the path side
that goes to Wm Dums B. up to the said williams Dums line which parcel
of land I lend at my Death to my son James Banks During the widowhood
of the said wife

I also lend To my beloved wife Franky During her widowhood Eight Negroes

I also lend To my beloved Wife Franky During her widowhood Eight Negroes
Vizt Samso Harry Phill. John Junior Kate Milley and Dick and also all my
personal Estate and at her Death or Marriage To be given as I shall Direct

Item I give to my son William Banks one Negro man name George I also lend
to my son William one Negro boy name Gabriel during his Natural life

Item I Give to my Daughter Elisabeth Banks all one Negro man name
Frank I also Give her the Choise of Sam or antoney To her and her heirs forever

Item I Give to my son James Banks Jeary of Ralph To him and his heirs for Ever
The Rest of my Negroes that has not been already Given I leave to be
Equally Divided amongst my Three Children Viz William Banks Elisabeth
Banks Allen and James Banks, but my will is that my son William Banks
shall only have his share in the Third of the said Negroes at his Death
I Give it to be Equally Divided amongst the Children he has now living by
his first wife

Item I leave my Land to be Equally Divided into two parts and I Give my son
James Banks his first Choise To him and his heirs for Ever

Item I lend my son William Banks the other part of my Land during his Natural

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James Banks his first Chosse To him and his heirs for Ever

Item I lend my son William Banks the other part of my land during his Natural
life and at his Death I Give it to be Equally Divided amongst his
three sons James Banks Thomas & William Banks to them and their heirs for Ever

Item my will and Desire is that the ministers of the Gospel shall have liberty
to preach at the place where the stage now stands without Molestation as
long as they shall Think fit to assemble there

Item That part of my Estate I lend to my Wife during her Widowhood I Lend one
Third to my son William Banks during his life & at his Death to be

Divided amongst his surviving Children to him and their heirs for Ever
 Item I Give one third more to my Daughter Elizabeth Banks Allen to her and her heirs
 for Ever
 Item I Give the other third to my son James Banks to him and his heirs for Ever
 Item my will and Desire is that my son in law Thomas Allen and my son James Banks
 shall act for my wife during her life or widowhood in regard to keeping the
 Estate Together upon the plantation which I have left her. If the profits of the
 Estate will not Clear Charges my will is that they shall heir out such a part
 as shall be sufficient to Support my wife with the help of what they can
 make on the land and keep the Estate out of Debt.
 Item And lastly I leave William Banks Thomas Allen & James Banks my
 Executors to this my last will and Testament as witnes my hand & seal
 this Eighteenth Day of May one thousand seven hundred and Eighty
 Five Signed Seal & Delivered in presents of
 Test
 Ben Johnson
 Humphrey Davis
 James Greenwood
 James Banks 

Court held for Essex County at Tappan on the 20th day of June 1785

Executors to this my last will and
this Eighteenth Day of May one thousand seven hundred and Eighty.

Five signed Seal & Delivered in presents of

Test

Ben Johnson

Humphrey Davis

James Greenwood

James Banks 

At a Court held for Essex County at Tappan on the 20th day of June 1785
This last Will and Testament of James Banks deceased was offered to proof
by the Executors herein named who made oath thereto as the law directs and
being proved by Benjamin Johnson Humphrey Davis and James Greenwood
the Witnesses thereto is Ordered to be Recorded

Test Hancock Lee 
Truly Recorded Test Thomas Pollard 

Essex Court bearing date March 17th 1786