

365
John
Hook's
Will
Ex?

In the name of God Amen I John Hook being weak of
Body but of sound mind, and calling to memory that all men
must die & for the disposal of my worldly Estate with which
it has pleased God to Bless me, do constitute & ordain this my
last Will & Testament, after rendering my soul to God who
gives it. I request my Executors hereafter mentioned to dispose
of my Estate in manner following. I appoint William Smith &
Bunker Preston Executors to this my last Will & Testament who
I desire may pay to William Brown Esq. one hundred Dollars
to be paid into the hands of Samuel Read as soon as possible
it being borrow of William Brown of Richmond & promised to
be paid into the hands of said Samuel Read their Agent in
Bedford. It is my desire that the present suit now depending
in the Chancery Court of Richmond District & confided to my
councell, namely Edmund Randolph, Norban Nicholas &
Mr. West Gent. shall not abate on account of my death
unless the Laws of the Land forbid it. I give to my ^{five} children
hereafter named after paying my Debts to William Smith &
Bunker Preston five one fifth parts, the residue of my Estate
as hereafter individually apportioned. To my Daughter Elizabeth
blank one fifth part, subject to a deduction of five hundred
pounds already given her, To my Daughter Charlotte Griffin
one fifth part, subject to a deduction of one thousand pounds.
To my son Henry Hook one fifth. To my son in Law
Bunker Preston one fifth, & the remaining one fifth I give
to my Exors for the Benefit of my Daughter Margaret West
at the discretion of my said Exors subject to a deduction of Two
Hundred pounds paid Thomas West wth said Two Hundred pounds
I direct my said Exors may institute a suit for and provided
the same may be recovered my Exors are requested to dispose
of the same to my said Daughter Margaret West to be disposed
of at her discretion. It is further my Will in the disposal or
division of my said Estate that my Exors pay the one fifth
part to my children as above mentioned in specifics, either
Land, Negroes Money & Stock agreeable to their construction

hereof in as full & ample a manner as if the same was specially herein expressed; my meaning is that in case any ambiguity should arise out of ^{this} my last Will & Testament that my said Exors shall be the sole & Intire arbitrators & their construction shall decide all differences that may happen, & consequently no dispute or Law suits are to be resorted to.

Done at Abbotz in Buckingham }
this 29th day of March 1808

John Hook Seal

Test

Caleb Tail

Sally ^{her} Abbot

Elisha Talwell

Elisha Talwell

At a Court held for Franklin County December 5th 1808

This Last Will and Testament of John Hook deceased was proved by the oath of Sally Abbot, one of the Witnesses hereto. And At a Court held for said County December 6th 1808 The said Will was further proved by the oath of Caleb Tail another Witness hereto, and ordered to be recorded. and the Executors named in the said Will, refusing to take upon themselves, the burthen of the execution thereof, on the motion of Christopher Clark and Bowker Preston, who made oath and together with Fleming Saunders, James Fallaway Junior, Sketton Taylor, Samuel Hauston, Peachey R. Gilmer and John Hale their securities entered into and acknowledged their Bond in the penalty of one hundred thousand dollars conditioned as the Law directs, certificate is granted them for obtaining letters of administration on the said decedents Estate with his Will annexed in due form.

Teste, Jas. Fallaway C. J. C.

To all to whom these Presents shall come. Know ye that I William Smith of Franklin County have and by these Presents make known that I do renounce the Executorship of the last Will and Testament of John Hook dated the twenty ninth of February last past in which Bowker Preston with myself were appointed Executors and the Court are at liberty and are hereby requested to grant administration as the Law

whenever and wherever the said Will shall be presented for Probate
Given under my hand & Seal this 5th day of December 1808

Test

William Smith 

Christopher Clarke

Ben Abbott

At a Court held for Franklin County December 5th 1808

This Writing from William Smith was proved by the oath
of Benjamin Abbot, a Witness hereto, and ordered to be recorded.

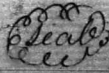
Teste, Jas. Callaway C. J. H.

In The Name of God Amen

I James Watson of Franklin County being sick and weak in
body but of perfect mind and memory and calling to mind the
Mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all
men to Die do make and ordain this my last Will and
Testament and first it is my Desire that all my Just Debts
shoud be paid. and then the ballance of all my Estate I give
To my beloved Wife Mary Watson (to wit) one Negro Woman
Lucy one Negro Boy Squire one Negro Girl Milley one Negro
Woman Hannah and Negro Girl Judy also one Wagon and
Gears one Dark Bay Mare and both one Sorrell mare and both
with all my plantation tools and Utensils and all my Stock
of cattle Hogs and sheep, also five feather Beds Bedsteads and all
the furniture therunto belonging also one Black Walnut Chubbard
and three Black Walnut Tables with all my house and Kitchen
Furniture to her for ever, and I do constitute and appoint my
beloved Wife Mary Watson and Peter Low to Execute this my last
Will and Testament and I do hereby utterly revoke an Disannull
all other Wills and Testaments made by me at any time before
this, Ratifying this and no other to be my Last Will and
Testament in Witness whereof I have herunto set my hand and
seal 20 day of May 1808.

Signed and Seal. in presents of

Robert Pasley, Thomas Dudley
Sarah Pasley, Masick Pinque

James Watson 

James
Watson's
Will
E.C.