

In the name of God Amen I James Stevens of Halifax
County enjoying a tolerable share of health & sound me
many thanks be to almighty God for the same yet con
sidering the frailty incident to human Nature do make
this my last will & Testament in Manner & form follow
ing Vizt I presuppose I lie^d unto my Beloved wife Martha
during her natural life one third of the plantation &
Negroes whereon I now live also the conveyance of my land
& negroes together with my House hold & Kitchen furni
ture & Plantation Utensels & Stocks every kind tree the
children come of lawful age or during her widowhood
lost by intermarriage there might be the disagreeable
necessity of Boarding them out & they have not where to
all to subsist upon under this Consideration should this
circumstance happen before they are of age it is my desire
there should be a sum of money set apart to the use of the

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many thanks be to Almighty God for the same yet con-
sidering the frailty incident to human Nature do make
this my last will & Testament in Manner & form follow-
ing Vizt I Infirmly I lie unto my Beloved wife Martha
during her natural life one third of the plantation &
Negroes whereon I now live also the reversion of my land
& negroes together with my House hold & Kitchen furni-
ture & Plantation Wensels & Stocks every kind tree the
Children come of lawful age or during her widowhood
lost by intermarriage there might be the disagreeable
necessity of Boarding them out & they have not where to
all to subsist upon under this Consideration Should this
Circumstance happen before they are of age it is my desire
there shall be an equal division immediately for the be-
nefit of the orphans I Item I give and bequeath to my
son John & his heirs forever the other two thirds of my

Land & one third of my Negroes house hold & kitchen furn
Wtensels & stocks of every kind only one Feather Bed & fur
Excepted also one Horse Item I give & bequeath unto my
Daughter Anna Oliver the other third of my Negroes a Horse
& saddle & one Feather Bed & furniture to her & her heirs
forever It is further my desire that after the death of my be
loved wife third of the Negroes possessed by her be equal
divided between my two Children John & Anna & the
Land to revert to the said John & Anna to them & their heirs
forever

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It is also my earnest request that my son have
a liberal education and as soon as he can read & write
satisfactorily will that he be sent to his uncle in Glasgow
North Britain with letters I have left for that purpose
or in case of my Brothers death to John Stevens for in the
old usual & there to remain under his Guardianship till
he finishes his Education & money or Tobacco as may be

Suit to be remitted Annually for that purpose
Further my desire that my Daughter Anna have an Edu-
cation suitable to her sex & they both have Cloathing &
other necessaries suitable as far as the state of my Estate
will admit of It is also my Desire that there be no pay-
ment in case of non agreement in either case the Decision
to be made by three honest Indifferent men at the request of
my beloved wife it is my desire that the Negroes Namely
Prince & his wife ^{Halifax County, Virginia Wills 1792-1797} ^{www.virginiapioneers.net} and Lena shall be sold next
fall for the best price & the money or Bonds arising therefrom
to be layed out for a Family of Negroes with not more than
one or two Children Lastly I nominate constitute
I appoint my beloved wife Martha Executors John M.
& James Moran joint my trusty and well beloved Friends
Executors of this my last will & Testament hereby revoking
all others In Witness whereof I have hereunto set

signed sealed & Delivered in
the Presence of
Ephraim Will
Thomas Thomas

James Stephens

At a Court held for Halifax County the 26th Day of October 1795
the last will & Testament of James Stephens Decd was Exhibited
in Court & it appearing from the Testimony of Mr. Jerry
James Moran & John Morris that the same was holographic
of the sd Stephens Decd & the same was ordered to be Recorded
James Moran one of the Exors therein named relinquished
his right of admors of said will by letter filed & Martha the Exor
named in said will also relinquished her right in person before
the Court & John Morris the other Exor Relinquished his right
in proper person before the Court and on the motion of
John B Scott & at the request of the sd Martha widow & Relict
of said James Stephens Decd Certificate for obtaining Letter of

When B Scott & at the request of the said Martha we don & Relict
said James Sheppens did certificate for obtaining letter of
admon^{or} of s^d Estate with the will annexed, in due form
granted ^{him} taking the oath & giving Security whereupon
together with George Harrington Nathaniel Terry & James
Holeman his Securities Entered into & Ack^d bond on the
Penalty of 10000 Dollars conditioned according to law

Teste Geo Harrington C^{ll}

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Examined Truly Juror

Teste Wm Thompson D^{cl}

1794
November 24th Robert Puddy To Dudley Glaze D^{cl}
To two Blankets for your Negroes
To one pair Shirts
To one pair of Stockings

3
8
6