

I Thomas Pleasants of the County of St. Charles having been for some time Sick and being desirous to set my house in order before I dye by Making my last Will and Testament thereby to prevent Strife and Contention among my Children after my decease which I hereby do in the following Manner And first my will and desire is that all my Just debts and Contracts be duly and honestly paid Secondly my will is that my Dear Wife have the profits arising from the Labour of Negro Woman Bridget with that of all her Children that now are born as well as those that she may hereafter ^{have} with this further priviledge That she may give the said Negroes To any of my Children or all of them at or before the time of her death but to no other person or persons whatsoever but if it so happen that if my Wife should dye Intestate and not all or any of the said Negroes be given in her life time to my Children Then my will is that the said Negroes be equally divided among my Children That is to say among such of them as she may not have given any of the said Negroes To in her life time which devision I leave To my trustees hereafter Mentioned To make I also give my Wife the profits of the Labour of these Negroes namely To Dick Moll and my Mother Man Tom also Cesar Gato Will Judy Bibby and Grace which are on my plantation in Yorkland where she has the Liberty hereby given her To work them with this restriction That she let my son Thomas have the Use of a forty foot To: house and build him a Dwelling house set on Cills Twenty four foot long and sixteen foot wide on any part of the Land here after given him which if she refuse to do then my will is That my Son Thomas have that dwelling house already built and a forty foot Tobacco house not bearing her from the priviledge of working the s^d Negroes on the plantation also my ^{will} is that she have the Use of the Stock of Cattle hogs &c on the plantation after I In order to supply her family with provisions During her Natural life as also the use of the Stock of Cattle hogs sheep &c which are on the plantation where I now Dwelt during her Natural Life I finally Give to my son John one Negro Man Nam'd Adam and one Negro Woman Nam'd Koll also a boy Nam'd Sam To him and his heirs for ever I do likewise ^{give} him priviledge of occupying and Tending a piece or parcel of Land in South Land County for and during the Term and Time of Twenty one years from the day of my death which Land is bounded thus viz beginning at lower side of the Mouth of Burnardam Creek thence up the S^d Creek as it Tendeth and Windeth to the Mouth of a small branch being the first below the plantation whereon I now Dwelt formerly Dwelt thence up the S^d Branch to a small branch called Woodcills Branch as far as the Low Grounds extends from the Creek Thence going an East Course till it intersects the partition Line between me and Jonathan Harrison thence down the said Line to the River Thence up the S^d River To the place begun at which said piece of Land I give him my son John as a compensation for his right in the plantation whereon I now Dwelt but if my said son after my death should in any wise molest or disturb his Mother ~~any way~~ by putting her to her third then my will is that he have no right or priviledge To occupy or Tend the aforesaid

Land but if my life should dye before me so that my son thereby Lyes under
no restriction in her acct that he my said son John shall notwithstanding
have the privilege of apportioning the P^r L^{and} he apportioning the Currents first
but if my said son should happen to dye before the P^r Term of Twenty
years are expired then my will is that my son Robert shall enter upon
the said Section premises unto whom I have by this Will given him
Fourthly I give and devise unto my T^r Sons Thomas and Robert Pleasants
all that Tract of L^{and} and which I possess in Yorkland County To be divided
between my P^r T^r Sons in the following Manner That is to say my son
Thomas To have that part that lies on the upper Side of Beverdam
Creek ^{of the river where there stands a small Hickory Tree mark^d for} that purpose In the presence of John Pollock my overseer and thence
by a South South west Course to the river Now all the P^r parcell of
Land on the upper side of the said Creek and ^{above} that line I give and
Devise to my son ^{Thomas} ~~Robert~~ and his Heirs for ever but if either of my P^r T^r Sons
shall dye before they come to the age of Twenty one years not hav-
ing Issue that then my son John shall Inherit but the one half of that
part lying below the Creek and line aforesaid he making choice of ~~that~~
what part he will have wether on the river or back from the river
I likewise Devise unto my T^r said Sons Tho^s and Robert four young
Negroes that is to say To my son Tho^s Namely Jack and Tom as also
one young Negroe his mother may have the privilege To give and be-
queath To him my said Tho^s if she think proper or Deserving such
a favour from her I also give and Devise unto my said son one feather Bed
To Sheets a Rugg and Blanket or five pounds which she can spend
best the money to be raised by the Sale of those Negroes heretofore in
this Will bequeathed to her It is my will and desire that my aforesaid son
Robert shall have just the same portion as I have in the foregoing
Paragraph to his ^{brother} Thomas the Negroes being Named Will and Harry
and just the same portion and upon the same Terms as his Brothers after
legacy is devised to him all such legacies and Devises heretofore
given In this my will To my T^r said Sons Tho^s and Robert and their
heirs and assigns for ever I also give and Devise to my Daughter
Lydia Jordan Wife to Benjamin Jordan that Tract or Parcel of L^{and}
where Obadiah Smith formerly Did live together with a feather Bed
Rugg Blanket and pair of Sheets as also one Negroe Woman Named
Kagan now in the possession and Tenure of my Sister Elizabeth
Pleasants ^{with land to my deceased sister and her heirs} by the lamentable and sorrowful act of providence by
the removal of my said loved Brother and all his Children

by the Inevitable and Stroke of Death Together with all the ^{the} Negro Women Increase
 To her my said Daughter Lydia Jordan and her heirs for ever. Now as my four Daugh-
 ters living with me and yet unmarried Namely Mary, Jane, Sarah and Elizabeth
 these Negroes herein mentioned Namely my Wench Moll together with her Child
 Bep Billy her other Child called Jane and another named Jo. Also a Melitts Girl
 named Nan, a Boy named Jacob Son of Grace and a Boy called Sam Son of Sadith
 also another named Jacob Son of Jane and Peter Son of Jane Together with all their
 Issues In Wandemond and Norfolk County to be sold by my Trustees hereafter
 Named Upon this Proviso that my aforesaid Son John Refuse To allow my foremen-
 ted four Daughters Namely Mary, Jane, Sarah, and Elizabeth the Sum of Twen-
 tied Iwenty pounds Current Money at the time of any of said four Daughters Marriage
 or their arriving at the age of Twenty one years Which shall first happen But
 if my aforesaid Son John Refuse to take the said Land upon the Terms Herein
 mentioned then my will and desire is that My said four Daughters if any
 be married or arrive at the age time before mentioned Alotted them to receive
 their Portion That them those who may have arrived at the age of Twenty one
 years or married may have the Liberty or husbands if married for them to have the
 Liberty To Sell their parts together with the Approbation of my Trustees here-
 after Named but if my Trustees ~~about the Division~~ thereof See fide and Con-
 tention ^{to arise about the Division} of the Money it Sells for Then I give Sole Authority and privilege
 to them my said Trustees if any two of them be alive at the time of the ^{the} ~~the~~ Legges-
 sias Become due To them ~~in order to prevent~~ fide and Discord amongst My
 four Daughters or their ^{heirs} Now that my full Desire and Intent may be fully
 answered and comply'd with by my Executors hereafter Named and Trustees
 also that all them shall jointly be Allowed the Liberty to act in the Division
 of this my Estate Given ~~to my~~ four Daughters with this Proviso That my
 Trustees hereafter Named shall think it convenient But if they do not think
 them Empower them to act in the Case of Cole Dividers of the said part of my Es-
 tate Alotted my four Daughters Aforesaid And as Desiders of all Controversies
 about it that is to say In this Manner What any one or more of my said last Men-
 tioned Daughters shall arrive or come at the age allotted them To receive their
 portions and as in my proper person out of a principle of love and Good Will in
 my Life time and have not the opportunity of making any other Will before
 my Decease that then my Trustees Together with my Executors have Authority
 to sell or give in kind or specie if they think it agreeable to Equity and Justice
 they shall there to the first of my Daughters part of ^{them} Negroes So far as from
 a piece will extend upon a Just and Modest Computation think agreeable
 with Equity and Justice that then the Interest arising as Interest upon the said Money
 that the said sell for or the value arising therefrom by selling the said Negroes of the said
 Land or rents thereof and money if sold To be put to Interest and by my Executors

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Put out to Lawfull Trust: for the advantage of my Said Children and
 If my Trustees Can See or Conceive any way how the Said Negroes may any-
 more the Said Estate then they have the Liberty to make use of such ways
 and methods if it can be done with Equity and Justice and Let it be known
 to men that I have not Enjoin my Trustees not to act in their respective
 Capacities as Being Named in Some Particular Cases as parts of their office
 which the Law may Call for But commit them to the Guidance of that good
 Spirit which Directs them to Do unto all men as they would be Done by
 and acting the part of Wisdom and prudence in the S^d affair committed to them
 not Enjoining them to act in conjunction with any other persons which
 may be any where before mentioned in this will but are left to their
 Liberty as they think best in the Case, be it further known to
 all men that every Legacy Mentioned in this my Will is Given to the
 Legatee & their heirs for ever and it is also my will that at the time of
 my Death that those Negroes which I let her have the Labour and
 Service of Shall be Equally Divided by Trustees among my three Sons
 John Tho^s and Rob^t Pleasants Notwithstanding I have let my wife the
 Labour of wench Moll Sheers not to be reckoned as one of my Negroes my Trus-
 tees are to divide among my three Sons but she shall her Labour during
 her life or till my youngest Daughter arrives to the age of Twenty One
 years or married which first shall happen Lastly I do constitute and appoint
 my loving Wife together with my Three Sons John Tho^s and Rob^t Executors
 of this my last Will and Testament and also ordain and appoint These my
 loving friend W^{ts} namely my Brother John Pleasants and his Son Rob^t
 my Nephew John Cress James lead Rob^t Ellison David Johnson Henry Jones
 David Jones and John Cheadle as Trustees of this my last Will and Testa-
 ment or any Two of them when they by the Virtue of their office are qualifi-
 by the Law to Act in that station in witness whereof I have Set my Hand
 and Seal this Nineteenth day of November one Thousand Seven hundred
 forty and three

note that these Words in the fifth page
 and twentieth line of this Will, See full
 and intention to arise about the Devision
 and fourth page and twelfth line agreeable
 with Equity and Justice was Intentioned before
 signed with all others of one or two was left out
 with forgetfulness Witness

Henry Sharp Benjamin Fordan
 also witness John Pleasants Jun^r

Thomas Pleasants Jun^r

Tho^s Pleasants (Seal)

at a Court held for Henrico
 County the first Monday in April 1743

This last Will and Testament
 of Thomas Pleasants Deceased

was presented by Mary his Wife
 and John Pleasants his Son Executors
 thereof and proved by Henry Sharp
 W^{ts} and ordered to be recorded

Test. Brodr. Cooke