

Louisa County, Virginia. Deeds B, 1754-1759.

Pleas before the Worshipfull Court of Louisa
County in the XIX.th & XX.th years of the reign of our
Sovereign Lord George the Second by the Grace of God of
Great Britain France & Ireland King defender of the
faith & c.

Be it remembered that Heretofore (to wit) At a Court held for the
said County on the XXIV.th day of December 1745 John Sims, Matthew
Sims, Edward Sims and John Sims (the Son of George Sim's) came
before the Justices of the s.^d County at the Courthouse of the s.^d
County by William Waller their Attorney & then brought into the
s.^d Court of our Lord the King their Bill against James Sims being
in custody of the Sherif of the s.^d County &c of a Plea of
Detinue &c which s.^d Bill follows in these words " Louisa County
"to wit; John Sims, Matthew Sims, Edward Sims, and John Sims (the
"Son of George Sims) complains of James Sims in custody and so
"forth of a plea that he render them four negro slaves named (Viz)
"Jenney, Tom, Fanny and Anthony of the value of Two hundred pounds
"current money, which from them he unjustly detains &c and where-
"upon the s.^d Pl.^{ts} by William Waller their Attorney Saith, that the
"s.^d Pl.^{ts} the first day of November in the year of our Lord One
"thousand Seven hundred and forty five at the County af.^d was
"possessed of the said negroes of the value of two Hundred pounds
"af.^d as of their own proper goods and chattels; and being so thereof
" possessed, the said four negroes out of their hands and possession
"did casually loose, which said negroes afterwards to wit, the
"said first day of November in the year af.^d at the County af.^d to the
"hands and Possession of the said Def.^t by finding came; and altho

"the said Def^t well knew, the said four negroes af^d to the proper
"negroes of them the said Plt^s and to them of Right to belong and
"appertain Yet the said Def^t altho often required the af^d negroes
"to the said Plt^s hath not yet delivered; but the Same to them to
"deliver hath denied and as yet doth deny and unjustly detain;
"to the damage of the said Plt^s two Hundred pounds current money
"and thereof they bring Suit &c. W^m Waller p^r Plt"

And now at this day to wit the XXVIIIth day of January in the
year aforesaid; came as well the s^d Plt^s by their Attorney as the
said James Sims by Zachary Lewis his Attorney; and defends the
force & injury when and so forth & Saith that he doth not detain
y^e Slaves in the declaration mentioned and of this he puts
himself upon the County: and the Plt^s Likewise; Therefore let a
Jury come before the next Court; to be held for the said County
on the fourth Tuesday in February next; and who neither &c to
recognize &c because as well &c the Same day is given to the s^d
parties there &c; At which day to wit the XXII^d day of April in
the year of our Lord MDCCXLVI as well the s^d Plt^s by their s^d
Attorney as the s^d Def^t by his s^d Attorney did appear; and by as-
sent of the s^d parties this cause is continued till the fourth
Tuesday in May next; Therefore let a Jury come before the next
Court, to be held &c who neither &c to recognize &c because as
well &c the Same day is given to the parties there &c At Which
day to wit the XXVIIth day of May in the year aforesaid as well
the s^d Plt^s by their s^d Attorney as the s^d Def^t by his s^d Attorney
did appear; and by assent of the s^d parties this cause is con-
tinued till the fourth Tuesday in June next Therefore let a Jury
then & there come who neither &c to recognize &c because as well

&c the same day is given to the parties there &c. At which day to wit the XXVI.th day of August in the year aforesaid; as well the s.^d Plt.^s by their s.^d Attorney as the s.^d Deft.^s by his s.^d Attorney did appear; and thereupon came also a Jury to wit; John Moss, Robert Anderson, John Hall, Thomas Kembrow, Thomas Paulet, Alexander Freeman, James Watson, Richard Brookes, Richard Palmore, Richard Yancey, Benjamin Arnold & Love Stathem; who being Elected tried and Sworn the truth to Speak upon the issue joined; upon their oaths do Say; that William Sims was seised and possessed of an estate consisting in lands and Tenements slaves and personal estate; and being so seised and possessed; made his last will & Testament bearing date the eighteenth day of December in the year of our Lord MDCCX and thereby among other things did give and bequeath to his four eldest Sons (Viz) John, Matthew, Edward and George, the Offspring of his negro Girl Cate, and to their heirs, and by a latter clause in his said will did give and bequeath the rest of his personal and real estate to his three Youngest Sons (Viz) William, Robert and James to be equally divided amongst the three when they should come to age and appointed his Son William Sims Sole Executor of his said will; which will follows in these words.

"In the name of God Amen I W^m Sims of James City County being very
"sick & weak but of perfect Sence & memory blessed by Almighty
"God for it and knowing the uncertainty of this mortal life do
"make this my last will & testament in manner & form following
"Im: I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God from whom
"I received my first breath, and my body to the earth from whence it
"was first taken to be buried in a Christian decent like manner

"as my Executor hereafter nominated shall think fit & Convenient &
"as for that small Tallet which the Lord in his Mercy hath been
"pleased to Lend me here on earth after my debts and funeral
"charges paid I give & bequeath as followeth (Viz) I give &
"bequeath to my Son William & to the heirs of his body male or
"female lawfully begotten my Mannor plantation that I now live
"upon (viz) from the white meadow to Dormars Line to Discun along
"Dormars Line, to a deep bottom called Cooks Spring branch down
"to the wolf swamp; up from thence to the south Line so away
"Easterly till it comes to the road to Phillips path 2^{dly} I Give
"and bequeath to my son Robert Sims and to the heirs of his body
"male or female lawfully begotten all the Land that is within the
"bounds as followeth (Viz) beginning at the white meadow and So
"running to a

(Here ends the recording.)

Notes

Note: The Diascund Creek flows southward through lower New Kent County, and (since 1767, Henings Statutes) the lower course forms a part of the boundary between New Kent and James City Counties.

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Bruton and Middleton Parishes. (From photocopy at the Virginia State Library.) -

Burial notices include: "The wife of William Syms buried 1687."
The sequence of notices indicates it was probably the early part of the year. As the Court record seems to record two sets of children, this may have been the first wife. (James City County.)

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Louisa County, Virginia, Orders - Book # 1, 1742 - 1748:
At a Court held for Louisa County on Tuesday the 28th day of
January 1745. Page 178:

John Sims, Matthew Sims, Edward Sims & John Sims }
against

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} In detinue