

In the Name of Gods Amen, the 15<sup>th</sup> Day of May 1750, I James  
Grimes of the Western Branch of Elizabeth River Norfolk County being  
sick & weak in body but of sound & perfect Mind & Memory, I have  
given to God & calling to Mind the Uncertainty of this mortal Life, & that it is  
appointed for all Men once to die, do make & ordain this my last Will & Testament  
in the Manner & Form following Viz: First I give & convey the  
my soul into the Hands of God that gave it me, Nothing  
Pardon & Remission for all my past Sins thro' the Merits of Gods & Merits  
of my Redeemer Jesus Christ, and my Body to the Ground to be decently buried at  
the Discretion of my Ex<sup>rs</sup> hereafter named. And as touching all my worldly  
Estate as it hath pleased God to give me in this Life, I do give Divide and  
bestow in the following Form and Manner

Item After all my just Debts & funeral Expenses are paid & Discharged I do  
give & bequeath unto my Son Thomas Grimes all my Land and Inheritance to him  
and his Heirs for Ever & if in case he shall marry before my Wife Decease  
my Desire is that he may have free Privilege of the out Room of my great  
House & the inner Room or ~~the~~ Chamber -  
I do give & bequeath unto my Son James Grimes Thirty Pounds Cash

I do give unto my Son Jesse Grimes a Negro Boy called Tony - - -  
I do give unto my Daughter Sarah Deans a Negro Boy called George  
I do give unto my Daughter Mary Grimes a Negro Boy called Peter <sup>with back wing bar</sup> & also four shillings  
I do give unto my Son John Grimes a Negro Boy called Kelly  
I do give unto my Son Samuel Grimes one Negro Boy called Harry and  
four Pounds Cash.

My Will & Desire is that if any of my Children die without lawful Issue  
that their Negro or Negroes or other Legacies shall be valued & equally  
divided among all my Children then Surviving - And if any of those Negroes  
which I have given <sup>to my Children</sup> shall die in the Legatee's Minority, I desire that so much  
of my Estate may be given or sold, & the Amount given to such of my Children  
that sustains ~~for~~ the Loss of that Negro ~~Legacy~~ to what it might be supposed  
to be worth, when such of my Children to whom it was given is of age to possess it.

I do give a bequeath unto my loving Wife Mary the Use & Possession of all my Negroes  
not given Legacies for & During her Widowhood, as ~~in~~ also all the Rest of my Estate  
of what I ~~shall~~ & afterwards to be equally divided among all my Children

not give legacies for <sup>the</sup> living her Widowhood, as <sup>also</sup> all the rest of my share  
of what I have & afterwards to be equally divided among all my Children  
I also <sup>in my Wife aforesd.</sup> the Use of the inner Room of my great house  
and the outer Room in the Chamber of the same House, and the other house  
an Equal Privilege with my Son Thomas Grimes - - -

Furthermore I do nominate & constitute & appoint my <sup>Widow</sup> Thomas and  
my <sup>Widow</sup> Mary Execut<sup>rs</sup> & Execut<sup>rs</sup> of this my last Will & Testament disannulling  
and <sup>repealing</sup> all other Wills by me <sup>formerly</sup> made Acknowledging this and no other  
to be my Will. In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and  
Seal, Day & Year first first above written:

Sign Sealed & Declared by  
In the Presence of us  
Rich<sup>d</sup> Harris, Eliz<sup>th</sup> Wright  
<sup>witness</sup>

James Grimes & seal  
<sup>mark</sup>

My County At a Court held the 19<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1750 -  
The Will of James Grimes was proved &c. at Glendon Book  
Sub. Sam<sup>l</sup> Ward Esq<sup>r</sup>