

In the name of God Amen I William Croft of the County of Nottoway being of sound mind and memory do make this my last will and testament, I hereby give and devise to my wife Rebecca during her natural life, that part of the tract of land upon which I now live included in the following boundary to wit Beginning at the bridge on great Nottoway river, thence down Booke's road to the first left hand road, thence along the said left hand road to the ridge path, thence up the said ridge path to where the lands of Thomas Jones Booke & John Dorwell corners, thence astraight line to the head of the ^{first} branch west of the house I formerly lived in, and which I bought of Absalom Hunt thence down the said branch as it meanders to great Nottoway River, thence down the said river to the beginning of the bridge; Item I give and devise to my daughter Maria Jones Croft and her heirs forever when she arrives to lawful age or marries all the land belonging to me lying to the west of the tract of lands devised to my wife for life, and after the death of my wife I devise the land given her for life to my daughter Maria Jones Croft and her heirs forever. Item I give and devise to my son John Croft and his heirs forever, all the land lying below on to the east of the land before devised to my wife for life; and I also devise to my son John & his heirs forever all my lands lying in the County of Lunenburg on the waters of Crooked run creek; I give and devise to my wife Rebecca and her heirs forever the negroes following viz Jack Jenny Ann Easter and her child Nucky, James Lick, Galy and Milley the Springer child of Sarah. I also give to my wife during her widowhood the following negroes viz Simon Gray Coalill and Hall. I also devise to my wife & her heirs forever four horses viz a mare white called Jimmy and her colt black mare called Andromeda and the young sorrel mare; I also give to my wife and her heirs forever all my stock of cattle and hogs on the plantation whereon I now live and also all

The plantation utensils including the original ~~and~~ ^{my} ~~choice~~ ^{best} choice of all my sheep, I also devise to my wife during her life all my household and kitchen furniture, and my still, and after her death I devise the same to be divided as she may direct by will or otherwise between my own children. It is my will and desire that the lands devised to my children should not be cultivated or rented to any person, but if my wife will keep the Orchards on their lands well fenced in, have the trees trimmed and the Orchards cultivated once in every three or four years but not oftener, that she may have the benefit of the fruit, & that she may make from cultivating the Orchards, untill the child or children shall come of age or marry, to whom the land is devised and it is my will and desire that the rent on the lands devised to my children should be paid by my executor except so many as may be sufficient to fence in their Orchards. It is my will and desire that all my negroes now before devised & those devised to my wife during her widowhood after she may marry & also those to which I may be entitled at the death of my mother be hired out for the benefit of my children untill one of them arrives to lawful age or marry's, and then my will and desire is that all the said negroes & their future increase and the profit of them after supporting and educating my children be equally divided between my children John Croft & Mary I Croft.

I give and devise to my wife Rebecca and her heirs forever, all the crop of corn, oats, flax, cotton, &c. &c. which may be made on the plantation whereon I now live the year of my death, the rest of my crops on both plantations the money on hand the debts which may be due to me I wish first to be applied to the payment of my debts; & the balance I direct to be equally divided between my wife Rebecca and my two children John & Maria, the crops I direct to be sold upon twelve months credit for that purpose. If in the opinion of my executor either of my children should need servants to wait upon them I wish him to let them have one. I also wish him to use his discretion in giving them moderate sums of money for pocket money.

I also wish him to see his children should not be without an education and to give them moderate sums of money for pocket use -
 I give and devise unto my wife the chattels I lately purchased; all the rest and residue of my estate I
 devise to be sold by my executor upon ^{two years} credit and the money arising from the sale to be equally
 divided between my two children when they attain to lawful age or marry - If either of my children
 should die before they attain to lawful age or marry, then to the survivor I devise the estate both real and
 personal which the deceased would have been entitled to under this will. If both of my children should
 die before they attain to lawful age or marry's, then I devise to my wife during her life all the estate hereby
 devised to them both real and personal, and after her death I devise to William Ellis Cooke four parts choice
 of all my negroes I mean Wm Cooke son of Richard Cooke the balance of my estate both real and
 personal to be equally divided between the children of all my sisters. In my will & I give that my estate be not
 appraised, I lastly I appoint my friend Richard Cooke sole executor to this my last will & testament &
 guarantee to my two children John Croft & Maria James Croft. In testimony of this being my last
 will & testament I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this first day of June in the year of
 our Lord one thousand eight hundred and one
 signed sealed published & declared to be the last will
 & testament of Wm Croft in presence of

William Croft

Peter Haintock jr
 Robert Sheffield
 Thos Cooke
 Charles Haintocks

In Nottoway County Court September 2nd 1802
 This last will and testament of William Croft deceased was offered for proof
 & proved by the Oaths of Peter Haintock jr and Thomas Cooke two of the witnesses
 present and is ordered to be Recorded. In Nottoway County Court January 6th 1803 On the motion of
 Peter Epes a certificate is granted him for obtaining letters of administration with this will
 annexed he having taken the oath required by law and with Thomas Epes Francis Epes & Rich^d Epes

divided between my two children, who should die before they attain to lawful age or marry, then to the survivor I devise the estate both real and personal which the deceased would have been entitled to under this will. If both of my children should die before they attain to lawful age or marry, then I devise to my wife during her life all the estate hereby devised to them both real and personal, and after her death I devise to William Ellis Cooke four parts of all my negroes I mean ^{Wm} Blackbe son of Richard Cooke, and the balance of my estate both real and personal to be equally divided between the children of all my sisters. In my will I declare that my estate to vest appraisers, & lastly I appoint my friend Richard Cooke sole executor to this my last will & testament & guardian to my two children John Cooke & Maria Jane Cooke. In testimony of this being my last will & testament I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this first day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and one

signed sealed published & declared to be the last will & testament of Wm Cooke in presence of

William Cooke (seal)

P. Haintock Jr.
Robert Sheffield
Thos. Cooke
Charles Haintock

In Hottoway County Court September 2nd 1802
This last will and testament of William Cooke deceased was offered for proof
proved by the Oaths of Peter Haintock junr and Thomas Cooke two of the witnesses

thence and is ordered to be Recorded. In Hottoway County Court January 6th 1803 On the motion of Peter Ellis a certificate is granted him for obtaining letters of administration with this will annexed he having taken the oath required by law and with Thomas Ellis Francis Ellis & Rich^d Ellis his securities entered into and acknowledged a bond according to law

in presence of Peter Randolph Clerk
truly recorded
1803