

October Court MDCCLXXI.

In the Name of the One Eternal and Almighty Being who Created the world by the word of his Power, and supports the same by the Unceasing Decree of his Wisdom, I, John Brigg of Allmarle, Parish in the County of Sussex do make good in this writing to be my last Will & Testament, as followeth.

First, I give to my beloved wife Lucy, the use and profits of my plantation whereon I live with six hundred acres of land thereto belonging; also my Negroes Henry, Ned, Sany, Ned, Peter & Leah; and also all my Household & Kitchen Furniture and the Provision, Stocks & Furniture of Negroes give to my said wife for and during her natural life and no longer. I also give to my said wife, to be disposed of as she shall think proper, all the Prime Rotten and Utensils of Husbandry that may be upon or belong to my said Plantation at the time of my death. My Will also is that my executors as soon as conveniently may be, collect all monies due and owing to me, out of which I direct that they pay all my just Debts, in the first place, & then that they pay to my said wife one third part of the Surplus of the said Money for her own use & disposal. Also, I give to my son Gray Brigg eleven Negroes now in his possession, to wit, Guy Abigail, Sarah, Jacob, Dick, Tom, Charles, Bess, Dorothy, Abby & Portine together with their Increase Born & to be Born, Also I give to my said Son all my Land in the County of Brunswick; and also one half of the Negroes & Stocks which I have before given to my wife for her life & to be delivered to him after the death of my said wife all which said Land Negroes, Stocks & Money I give to my said Son & his heirs forever. Also, I give to my said Son Gray Brigg & Charles Brigg and their Heirs and to the Survivors or Survivor of them and to the Heirs of such Survivors, these twelve Negroes, to wit, Dedan, Henry, Pat, Jacob, Anthony, Peter, Jack, Lydia, Robin, Beck & Increase which may be born after the date of this my Will; and also one half of the Negroes & Stock before given to my wife for her life; and also one third part of the money arising from my debts as aforesaid; all and every of which said Negroes, Stocks and Money I give to them the said Gray Brigg in Trust for the special Use, Intent & Purposes herein after mentioned and expressed and to no other Use Intent and Purpose whatsoever that is to say for the Use of my daughter Elizabeth Her wife of George Kirk, to suffer and permit my said Daughter, during her natural life, to receive and dispose of so her sole and separate Use freed from and not subject to the Controul, Use Let, Hindrance, and Molestation of her said Husband George Kirk, all the Profits arising and growing due from the Labour of the said first mentioned nineteen Negroes and their increase as aforesaid; and also the Interest

ANNO. Regni quintus decimus Georgii tertii Regis

of the Money arising upon third part of the debt due to me as aforesaid; and after my wife's death, the Profits arising upon one half of the negroes and Stocks given to my said wife during her life, all which Profits & Interest of Money as aforesaid I direct my said Son & the other Trustees to receive and pay to my said daughter Elizabeth, yet not to her husband, for her sole and separate use and maintenance during her life and after her death I give all the said Trust Estate, except the Negroes ^{John & Mary} to all such Children as my said daughter shall or may have living at her death, to be equally divided between them share and share alike, and if my said daughter shall die without leaving any Child or Children living at her death then I give all the said Trust Estate, except as is before excepted to my Son Gray Briggs and his Heirs. Also I give to my Son Gray Briggs the Trust Estate as aforesaid after the death of my wife the Plantation whereon I now live except my water front & Mill together with all my Household Furniture, so that he and my said daughter Elizabeth my said daughter Amelia Gray to occupy the said Plantation and the said Furniture during their joint lives and the life of the longest liver of them separate from the interest of George their husband & my said daughter Elizabeth & Amelia I direct that the said Trust Estate shall be equally divided between all my Grand Children that shall be then living and that my said daughter Elizabeth & Mary, shall go to such women as my said Son & his daughter Elizabeth notwithstanding her Coverture shall direct & appoint. Also I direct that my said daughter Amelia Gray shall have her Son & other issue & my said Mill & other during their lives. Also I give to my said Son & his daughter Lucy & Mary each a certain Negroes & their increase to wit the first namely Sarah, Judy, Phillis, Ned, brother Sam Esq. 266. Elizabeth, and Silvia now in the possession of their father and Esq. Ball. Master, Jack Puffs & Dorcas being yet in my own possession to be equally divided between them and if either of them die in their infancy & before marriage then the Survivor to take all the said Negroes & their heirs. Also I give to my Grandson John Howell Briggs my Silver Port Gun and also my Plantations and Land where I now live after his Grand mother's death and after the death of my daughter Elizabeth & Amelia Gray also all my other Lands & Plantations in the County of Sussex together with the Grain Stocks of Horses, Haggis, Cattle, Sheep and working Tools belonging to the said last mentioned Plantations at the time of my death, also the Ropes that may be growing there, except Solweo, to hold my said Land and Plantation whereon I now live after the death of his Grand mother all and singular my other lands and plantations in the County of Sussex to my Grandson John Howell and the Heirs of his Body lawfully begotten and in default of such Heirs then

October Court M^d & C^t L^d X^o.

to my own Right Heirs in Fee Simple forever. Lastly I do hereby constitute and appoint my Wife Lucy and my Son Gray Briggs Executors of this my last Will & Testament to which I have set my Hand & affixed my Seal this 16th day of December 1772.

Signed Sealed Published & Testified
by the said Horwell Briggs to be his last
will & Testament in Presence of
Jes^t William Timberlake
Butler Raiborne.

Horwell Briggs Test

At a Court held for Sussex County the 21st day of September 1775,
The within written last Will & Testament of Horwell Briggs deceased
was presented into Court and proved by the Oaths of William Timberlake
& Butler Raiborne the witnesses thereto. & at another Court held for the
said County upon the 16th day of November next after the aforesaid 21st
day of September Gray Briggs one of the Executors named in the said
last Will & Testament appeared & made Oath thereto as the law directs
and the said Will & Testament was ordered to be Recorded; and on the
motion of the said Gray Certificate is granted him for obtaining a
Probate thereof in due form with liberty to Lucy Briggs, Executrix
named therein to join him in the said Probate when she shall see
fit.

Teste

A. Raiborne C. C.

In the Name of God Amen The 21st Day of April 1775 I Mary
Wife of the Parish of Allmarle in the County of Sussex calling to mind the certainty
of Death & the uncertainty of this Transitory life do make constitute & ordain this my
last Will & Testament in manner & Form following that is to say first and principally I
recommend my soul into the hands of almighty god who gave it me hoping for salvation thro:
the merit & Mediation of my blessed redeemer (Jesus Christ) And as for my body I recommend it to
the earth to be Decently buried at the discretion of my Executors hereafter named. And as for
my worldly goods where with it hath pleased providence to bless me with I give and dispose
of as followeth

I give and bequeath unto my loving son Henry Atty my negro boy (Brid) up condition that
he pay unto his Sister Elizabeth Parkham and to his Brother John Atty each one third

Tom I give and bequeath unto my daughter Phoebe Moore one negroe named Tom after the death of my wife to her and her heirs forever

Tom I give and bequeath unto my daughter Martha Soaburn three negroes named Jan and her child Willie and put to her and her heirs forever.

Tom I give and bequeath unto my son Burrell Softin the following negroes Judy, Ben, Sarah Phillis and Abby, after the death of my wife to him and his heirs forever.

Tom I leave unto my beloved wife Mary Softin the plantation whereon I now live with all my household and kitchen furniture, plantation utensils all the stock of all kinds and all my Negroes, Except the three given to my daughter Martha during her natural life and after her death to go as above mentioned My Will and desire is that the stock of all kinds and household furniture, plantation utensils &c. after the death of my Wife may be equally divided between my three sons William, Burrell & Frederick and their heirs forever.

I do Nominate and appoint my three sons abovementioned my whole and sole Executors of this my last Will and Testament as Witnesses my hand this 15th day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven.

Signed sealed and delivered in presence of

William Softin. Seal Mark.

Mich Wall
John Dunn
Agnes Williams
Mark.

At a Court held for Suffolk County the 19th day of June 1777

This last Will and Testament of William Softin deceased was presented into Court by William and Frederick Softin two of the Executors therein named who made oath thereto as the law directs and the same was proved by the oaths of Michael Wall and John Dunn two of the Witnesses thereto And by the Court ordered to be recorded and on the motion of the said Executors certificate is granted them for obtaining a probate thereof in due form reserving ought to Burrell Softin the other Executor to join them therein when he shall see fit.

Teste

Will. Claiborne junr. C. S. C.

An Inventory and appraisement of the estate of Revell Briggs deceased taken the 17th of November 1775. Virt.

At his late dwelling house and the two quarters Chinchapen and Majors Branch, the following negroes to wit

1 Negroe — Jane	appraised at	£ 60. . .
1 Negroe — Patt		50. . .
1 Negroe — Dorcas		50. . .
1 Negroe — Arney		20. . .

Second year of the Commonwealth

258

Brought up

L

5 Axes and 2 plow hoes
a parcel of Augers and an old saw

30/ 1ⁿ 10ⁿ

2 Saddles

5 9ⁿ 6

11 Dishes and 16 plates

1ⁿ 10ⁿ

A quantity of nails of different sorts

3ⁿ 14ⁿ

8 old chairs

1ⁿ 16ⁿ

A parcel of old Lumber

1ⁿ 16ⁿ

2 Saws 50/ a parcel of bottles 25/

1ⁿ 16ⁿ

A parcel of Leather

3ⁿ 15ⁿ

A parcel of Lumber 6/ 2 pair traces Va from 9/6

6ⁿ 3ⁿ 6

2 Spins 10/ 2 spinning wheels Va from 35/

3ⁿ 15ⁿ

a parcel of Lumber

3ⁿ

A pair of steel yards 10/ old brass 12/

1ⁿ 2ⁿ

A Spice mortar and skillet 20/

1ⁿ 1ⁿ

5 Iron pots and hooks

1ⁿ 5ⁿ

3 Pott racks

1ⁿ 2ⁿ 6

3 Pans, cupit & pestle

1ⁿ 17ⁿ 6

2 Tubbs and a Piggins

4ⁿ

3 Tin pans and a Bucket

3ⁿ 9ⁿ

A parcel of Powder

2ⁿ 18ⁿ 6

1/2 dozen knives & forks

1ⁿ 4ⁿ

1 pair of candle moulds

2ⁿ

4 Jugs and 2 Carboys

1ⁿ 2ⁿ

a parcel of old barrels

9ⁿ

4 Butter pots

4ⁿ

4 Rum Hoopheads

1ⁿ 18ⁿ 6

A parcel of casks

2ⁿ 6

a Table

2ⁿ 6

a Buffet or Cupboard of Tea table with china, glass & plate
belonging thereto

30ⁿ

A Tea chest and plate, warmer

2ⁿ 10ⁿ

2 Folding tables and a desk

8ⁿ 10ⁿ

1 dozen Chairs

6ⁿ

2 looking glasses

6ⁿ

4 flour pots

5ⁿ

3 carpets

1ⁿ 12ⁿ 6

1 dozen of chairs

3ⁿ

a couch

1ⁿ 5ⁿ

1 Table

5ⁿ

1 Bed and furniture

3ⁿ

A parcel of books

10ⁿ

3 box Iron and heaters

2ⁿ

a Case

7ⁿ 6

A warming pan and lantern

14ⁿ

3 Chests 12/ Some Lumber 2/

9ⁿ 9

a Slay and harness 6/ 1 box and bellows 3/9

12ⁿ

brush bottom chairs

L

Carried over

July Court, 1766 LXXVII

Bro't over

L

1 Bed and furniture	7
A Table and 2 looking glasses	1 .. 10 ..
A Bed and furniture with 4 spare sheets	9 .. 10 ..
2 Coffee pots, a tea Kettle and a chafing dish	.. 7 .. 6
A Bed and furniture	6
A Bed and furniture	5
A corner cupboard with crockery ware belonging to it	6 .. 10 ..
2 Case bottles and an old grindstone	.. 3 .. 9
3 Pair end iron	1 .. 13 .. 9
4 Candle sticks and 3 Candelers	.. 10 .. 3
2 Sythes	.. 8 ..
A pair of brass scales and weights	1
A pair of money scales and weights	.. 5 ..
A Cart and wheels	4
A Mill	7
A Barrel tarr	.. 6 .. 1
3 hides	1 .. 2 .. 6
A Brass kettle	1 .. 15 ..
A Pitcher	.. 1 .. 6
A Parcel of fodder 10f.	2
A Crop of corn, part used, supposed to be about 100 barrels appraised @ 7/6	37 .. 10 ..
A Spinning wheel and cards	.. 10 ..

Personal estate appraised at a quarter called Chincapin West

A Sorrel horse	15
A Bay mare	15
A Spinning wheel & Cards	.. 5 ..
2 Wedges a pot and hooks	.. 7 .. 6
9 hoes and three axes	1 .. 10 ..
1 Plow and two hoes	.. 7 .. 6
1 Pair cart wheel boxes	.. 5 ..
7 hogs	10 .. 4 ..
2 Collars and a pair of harness	.. 3 .. 6
A parcel of Pease	.. 8 ..
A Crop of corn about 90 or 100 barrels	39 .. 13 ..
58 ^{lbs} seed seed cotton 14/6	.. 14 .. 6
A Parcel of fodder	37 .. 7 .. 6
A nother parcel of ditto	1 .. 5 ..
7 Sheep	2
19 Head of Cattle	23 .. 5 ..

Personal estate appraised at a plantation called the

Majors Branch West	
An old Black mare	1 .. 10 ..
12 hogs at 7/6	10 .. 10 ..

Carried Up

L

Second year of the Commonwealth.

265

Brought up		\$
2 Saws and pegs		1 ¹¹ 11 ⁰⁰ ...
2 stacks of tops and blades		2 ⁰⁰ 00...
1 Saw		... 12 ⁰⁰ 6
a pair of wedges		... 6 ⁰⁰ 00...
18 Cattle		23 ⁰⁰ 15 ⁰⁰ ...
a pot and hooks		... 4 ⁰⁰ 00...
A brose cut saw		... 5 ⁰⁰ 00...
6 part wheel boxes		... 7 ⁰⁰ 6
A hog's head		... 1 ⁰⁰ 6
8 shoes		... 17 ⁰⁰ 6
2 plow hoes		... 6 ⁰⁰ 6
2 Axes		... 7 ⁰⁰ 00...
1 Bag		... 2 ⁰⁰ 00...
A Quantity of corn, some made use of - supposed to be 40 barrels @ 17 ⁰⁰		15 ⁰⁰ 00...
A parcel of shucks		... 10 ⁰⁰ 00...
A Quantity of cotton - some made use of for clothing the people - supposed to be about 7 ⁰⁰ ... at 2 ⁰⁰ 1/2 per lb.		... 19 ⁰⁰ 6.
Wm Lamb		
John Alsebrook		
William ^{his} Garrol		
mark.		

In obedience to an order of the County Court of Sussex bearing date the 16th day of November instant We William Lamb, John Alsebrook and William Garrol met at the house of the late Howell Briggs deceased, and being first duly sworn before Michael Blow a magistrate for the said county, to appraise the slaves and personal estate of the said decedent, have accordingly done the same in manner and form foregoing, and contained on the five foregoing pages of this book, each page of which is signed with our names at the bottom of the writing on each page - Given under our hands this 18th November 1775.

William Lamb.

John Alsebrook

William ^{his} Garrol

mark

At a Court held for Sussex county the 17th day of July 1777.

The aforeswritten Inventory and appraisement of the estate of Howell Briggs dead was returned and by the Court ordered to be recorded.

Teste

Will. Blairborne J^r C. S. C.

In the name of god Amen Nathan Wren of Sussex county and Parish of Albemarle being ageing to leave this province do make this my last Will and Testament in the following manner to wit.

I give and bequath to my dear Brother Jesse Wren one negroe girl namely Phillis