

I John Wercat at present of Bryan County in the State of Georgia Planter, knowing that by the immutable decrees of the all wise Creator death is the common Lot of all mankind and that the time when that awful event shall arrive is known only to that being to whom we owe our existence, and who hath lately been pleased to remove my dear and only Child out of this transitory world, do think it necessary and prudent while my faculties are unimpaired to make some alteration in the disposal of my property heretofore made, and to make my Last Will and Testament as follows, that is to say:

I give, devise and bequeath to my Executors herein after named all my Estate both real and personal for the Special uses and trusts herein after mentioned, to wit, My Plantation and tract of Land on the River Ogeechee in Chatham County, My tract of land in Bryan County called Pergethly for which at present there is no improvement, My lots in the Township of Hardwick, and distinguished in the Plan of the said town by the numbers fifteen, twenty, twenty-two, and one hundred and three. My farm on the River near Satilla Comprehending one Thousand Acres obtained by grant, and four hundred acres adjoining the same, and purchased from the Commissioners of Confiscated Estates, as formerly the property of Jonathan Bitton, under a grant from the Province now State of South Carolina. My two tracts of land in Burke County containing five hundred acres each, originally granted to William Handley late of Savannah Merchant deceased. My tract of land near Augustines Creek originally granted to James Munter and by him sold to William Smith, and by the said William

William Smith to my ~~My~~ Plantation in Columbia County
called Sawrill in these words ~~as follows~~ Anderson

I give and Thomas Peterson, and by me purchased
from the Commissioners of confiscated Estates, together with a
small tract of land containing sixty acres adjoining the same
which I obtained by grant, My House and Lot in the
City of Savannah, bounded by Broadstreet and Whitaker Street,
also all my right, title and Interest in the Public Lot
fronting St. James's Square and Thence by the letter D,
for the use of my dear daughter Elizabeth Fishbourne, with the
following proviso, that Doctor Michael Burke shall have
the use of so much of my land on the River near Eguchee
as he may think proper to cultivate for and during the term
of his natural life, not exceeding one half of what may be
under cultivation at the time of my decease, nor more than
a moiety of what may be uncultivated, should he be disposed
to cultivate the same; provided also that the said Doctor Michael
Burke shall have the use and occupancy of my house and
lot in the City of Savannah until my dear daughter shall
arrive at the age of twenty-one years, or shall be married,
and want the same for her own use, at an earlier period,
and with further proviso, that the said Doctor Michael Burke shall
continue to use and occupy the house himself. I also
give and bequeath to my Executors in trust for the use of my
said dear daughter all the following Negroes, to wit, Jimmy,
Christopher Jack, Prudence, Polly, Jane, Luffy, Monday, Jerry, Mary, Jack,
Gimpson, Sawney, Captain John, July, Oliver, Joseph, Peter, Ben
Quincy, Robert, Tom, Buckary, David, Adam, Romeo, Will, Little Monday,
Lester, Collins, Billy, Stephen, Sam, Luffy, Mary, Jesse, Cyrus,
Rachel, Lucy, Betty, Nancy, Abby, Sally, Hannah, Chloe, Katy,
Hirus, Hagar, Mary, Amy, Daphne, Nancy, Bess, Dinah, Luc, Fanny,
and all Black Men, Women and Children with the

the future issue and increase of the females.

And whereas I have by my Plantation in Columbia County called Mount Hope & Joseph Clay Junr and Thomas Savage bequeathed in trust for my dear Daughter Ann Burke and as it is my Will that the same shall be the sole and absolute property of Doctor Michael Burke, his heirs and assigns for ever. And that my said grand daughter shall not have any right in or claim to the same in any manner or on any pretence whatsoever. And whereas there are two Negroes named Flora and Peggy, who have long been in the service of my late daughter and for whom no Bill of Sale was ever executed by me to her, it is my Will that they shall be the sole and absolute property of Doctor Michael Burke, his heirs and assigns for ever. All my Stock of Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Hogs and Poultry &c and bequeath to Doctor Michael Burke, together with their future increase, with this proviso, that if my said daughter shall settle in the State of Georgia or occupy any of the lands here in before devised for her use, the said Doctor Michael Burke, do furnish her with two Good horses, twelve Good Cows and twenty head of Breeding Sheep to make a beginning with.

As it is highly probable that I may not live long enough to see my said daughter settled in life, it is my Will and desire that my Executors or the Survivors or Survivor of them shall fix on such part of the before mentioned property, or other property in lieu thereof, which shall be secured for her use in case the man with whom she may hereafter intermarry shall be impudent or unfortunate, and I do hereby vest them, or the Survivors or Survivor of them with as full and absolute Power & authority so to do, as I myself might or could do was such an event to take

Place in my life time, (328)
and the property was ^{as} absolutely in
my possession and at my disposal, as it is on the day
of the date hereof.

I do give to my Nephew Thomas Collier of Louisville, One
Spanish Milled Dollar, for his mother alive I would
not have a good many, and I do charge my Estate both
Real & Personal with the Payment of this bequest.

From the uncertainty of future events, it is possible
that my Grand Daughter may not live to the age of twenty-
one years, or to form a Matrimonial connection, what
shall be done in that case? Thomas Collier shall have
no more than his Dollar; nor have I any other relation
by blood in America. From the attention and unswerving
kindness shown to a child not his own, by Doctor Michael Barber,
let him have a moiety of what is here in and hereby
bequeathed for her use, and the other Moiety to such friend
of hers, by her father's side as shall have intended to
her, in her orphan and infant State the most care and
attention, and of which my Executors or the Survivors or
Survivor of them shall Judge. Amen.

One other idea strikes me, and that is, that my Executors or
Executor here in after named shall have full power to Sell
such part of the property here in before mentioned as they or
the Survivors or Survivor of them may think will conduce
to the benefit or interest of my Grand Child, and that either
at public or private Sale, agreeable to their judgment,
and vest the proceeds thereof in any other way that they may
think more beneficial, Save and except my Land on
Oquaker, my land in Bryan County called Pengethly, My
house and lot in Savannah and my Negroes. —
Lastly, I do hereby appoint the honorable Edward Jeffries,

Governor James Jackson Joseph Clay junior & Thomas Savage Esquires together with Doctor Michael Burke Executors and the Survivor of them Executors to this my Will, and Guardian or Guardians of the person and property of my grand Child herein before named: And I do hereby revoke and declare null and void, every other Will by me at any time heretofore made declaring this to be my last Will and Testament.

In Witness whereof I do hereunto set my hand and seal this Eighth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand Seven hundred and Ninety-eight.

Signer sealed, pronounced & declared by the said John Wreest, and written by his own hand to be and contain his last Will & Testament - in the presence of us, who at his request, & in his presence and in the presence of each other, do subscribe our names as Witnesses.

John Wreest (R)

Three interlineations having been previously made to wit: the word house in the second page, the word the and the word, (by Doctor Michael Burke) in the third page

see Original

John B. Wilkinson
A. Abraham
Isaac Abraham.

Georgia

(Qualified Doct. Michael Burke Esq. & signed before me in testimony of the fact of the 27th)

Before me Edward White Register of Probate for the County of Gatham in the State of Georgia, appeared John B. Wilkinson of the City of Savannah Merchant one of the Subscribing Witnesses to the foregoing last Will & Testament of John Wreest, late of Bryan County & intestate deceased who being sworn on the holy Evangelists of Almighty God, Swore that he was present and did see the said Testator, & in, saw, & subscribed & declare the same to contain his last Will & Testament, & that he was of sound mind at the time to the best of this deponent's belief, and that the said John B. Wilkinson, & Isaac Abraham, together with the deponent subscribed their names as Witnesses at the request & in the presence of the Testator and of each other.

Sworn to before me
first day of February 1799
Edward White
A. C. C.

John B. Wilkinson