

W^m Thomas James and my brother Michael Maltew of Duplin County Executors to this my Last will and Testament hereby Revoking all other wills and testaments by me heretofore made and published in witness whereof I the said John Maltew have hereunto set my hand and seal at Duplin this twenty third day of May Anno Domini 1790. Signed, Sealed, published and declared by the said John Maltew to be his last will and Testament in the presence of us: Nedar Bryan Rigdon Bryan, James Dickson, Ann Bryan.

John Maltew (Seal)

State of N^c Carolina } July Term 1790.

Duplin County

The within will was duly proved in due form of law by the oath of Nedar Bryan and Rigdon Bryan two of the subscribing witnesses thereto, and at the same time the Executors named in the said will did each of them qualify as Executors to the said will. And that letters issue accordingly.

Test W. Dickson C. C.

The 3rd of February one Thousand seven Hundred and seventy five. In the name of God Amen I John Mercer of the County of Duplin and province of North Carolina planter being sick and weak in body but in perfect sense and memory thanks be given unto God calling to mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die do make and ordain this my last will and testament that is to say principally and first of all I recommend my soul to almighty God that gave it and my body to be buried in decent christian burial at the discretion of my Executors nothing doubting but at the general resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God and as touching such worldly Estate wherewith it has pleased God to bless me in this life I give devise and dispose of the same in the following manner

and form. First of all it is my desire that as much of my movable Estate be sold as I shall discharge my debts. Also I give unto my well Beloved wife Rachel Mercer the use of my manse plantation during her life or widow hood and then to be my son Absolam Mercer all above the Indian run further more I give unto my wife Rachel Mercer my stock and house hold goods of all kinds only such as I shall reserve hereafter. Also I give and bequeath to my son William Mercer all my Land on horse branch, with all the cattle and hogs in two marsh. Likewise I give and bequeath to my son Joshua Mercer all my Land below the Indian run to his disposal. Also I give and bequeath to my daughter Nancy Mercer five cows and calves to be paid out of my stock to her use and disposal. Also I give and bequeath to my granddaughter Nancy Brooks to the value of five cows and calves. Likewise I give and bequeath to my daughter Liberty Mercer one son and five further I give and bequeath to my son Joshua Mercer fifty pounds good money to be paid to him at the years of twenty one. Also it is my desire that my two Sons Absolam and Joshua Mercer be brought up in a Christian manner Likewise it is my desire that what remains after raising my children to be equally divided between my wife Rachel Mercer and my two youngest sons Absolam and Joshua Mercer when they come of age and I do hereby utterly Disallow Tricks and Duell all and every other former will by me in any wise before named Ratifying and confirming this and to be my last will and testament. I also nominate and appoint my wife Rachel Mercer, George Smith and William Mercer my sons to be my Executors of this my last will and testament. Signed & Sealed. In presence of us: George Smith Junior, John ^{his} ^{mark} ~~W. Mercer~~ ^{W. Mercer} (Seal)

State of N^o Carolina }
Duplin County }

Jan^y. Court 1781.

There was the within will proved in open Court by the oath of George Smith and John Whidden and ordered to be filed.

Test. W^m Dickson C.C.

In the name of God Amen. I James Middleton Jun^r of the State of North Carolina and County of Duplin Being sick and weak in body but of sound and perfect memory blessed be God, do this twenty third Day of March in the seventeenth year of American Independence and in the year of our Lord Christ our Thousand seven hundred and ninety three make and publish this my last will and testament in manner and form following 1st I recommend my soul to God that gave it me and my body to the ground to have decent and Christian Burial at the discretion of my Executors hereafter to be named. 2nd I will and desire that all my just Debts and funeral Expence be paid by my Executors out of the ~~most~~ perishable part of my Estate. Thirdly I will and desire that my Beloved wife Sarah Middleton do have quiet and Peaceable possession of the Land and Plantation whereon I live including the mill, during her widow hood provided now the law that should my said wife hereafter marry that then she is to be restricted to the own third of the aforesaid Land and plantation and mill &c. 4th I will and ordain that after my wifes Decease the whole of my Lands in Duplin County be the property of my son Isaac Middleton and of his heirs forever. 5th I will and desire that my lands of one Thousand acres by in the Cumberland Settlement on the western water be sold by my Executors or by them may be thought most advisable and the money arising from such sale be counted in the common stock of my property to be Divided as hereafter is to be mentioned. 6th I

give and Bequeath to my son Isaac Middleton my negro man slave named Liberty to him and his heirs forever Reserving to my Beloved wife Sarah Middleton the use and Labour of the said Slave Liberty During her natural Life. 7th I will and ordain that all the slave of which I am now possessed my stock of every kind Household furniture and plantation tools be and remain in the possession of my Beloved wife During her widowhood. 8th I will and ordain that at my wifes marriage or at her decease, the whole of my slave except Liberty. All my stock of every kind household furniture, and plantation Tools including the money arising from the sale of my western Lands be then Divided amongst all my Daughters Equally except my youngest Daughter Polly who is to receive two shares and those of my Daughters that are or before that Division taken place are married to be considered to share equal with the Rest Reference to what they have already recd or what they may between this and that time receive to be considered in their parts. 9th Should my said wife Sarah Middleton hereafter marry then as soon as may be a Division is to take place and she is to be restricted to a childs share of my personal property. Liberty that is mentioned above only Excepted to her During Life. 10th I will and ordain that should any of my Daughters that are now single marry before the Death or marriage of their mother that my Executors are to at their discretion Lay off to such child 8th marrying a part of my personal property as they judge right which is to be counted in their share and also those that are married may receive such part as the 8th Executors may judge necessary they giving a rec^t for the same as part of their share. But the negroes to be together with my wife until a great Division taken place &c. 11th I do by this presents nominate constitute and appoint my son Isaac Middleton my uncle James