

In the name of God Amen.

I Ephraim Merrill of Hertford County and State of North Carolina being sick and weak of Body but of sound Mind and Memory Blessed be God for it, I ordain and make this my last Will and Testament in Manner and form following. First I bequeath my Soul to God who gave it firmly hoping the forgiveness of all My Sins to and by the Merits of My Blessed Saviour and my Body to the Ground to be decently Buried at the discretion of my Executors here after named and as for what worldly Goods it has pleased God to bless me with to give and dispose of in manner and form following

• Imprimis my Will and desire is that all my just debts and funeral charges be just discharged.

• Item I give and bequeath my Land I purchased of John Aveland unto my son Nathaniel Merrill to him and his Heirs for ever.

• Item I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Felley Merrill one Bed and Furniture.

• Item I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Jemimah Merrill also one Bed and Furniture to them and their Heirs for ever.

• Item my Will and desire is that all the Remainder of My Estate that have not given away be sold to pay my debts.

• Item my Will and desire is that the Money due ^{me} from Gardner Marshall be and be in his hands for the schooling and Boarding my son Nathaniel Merrill

and beathing my Daughter Jamiah Mearns, and after Schooling and Boarding my
son Nathaniel Mearns and beathing my Daughter Jamiah Mearns untill she be taught
by my Executors able and Old enough to beath her self, then if there should be any thing
left in the said Mearns hands.

Item my Will and desire is that it be equally divided among my three chil-
dren, and lastly I do constitute and appoint my Friend Gardner Mearns my
Friend Richard Howland my Friend Ambrose Hooper and my Friend Vincent Hooper
my whole and sole Executors of this my last Will and Testament. In Testimony whereof
I have hereunto set my hand and affix'd my seal this third day of December
in the second year Thousand and eighty eight

Sign'd Seal'd in the presence of
James Howland
William Howland
Gardner

Phrasim Mearns Seal

And in the County of Essex the 3^d of February 1789 then this Will was exhibited in
open Court and duly proved by the oaths of James Howland and William Howland
two of the subscribing Witnesses thereto and on Motion moved to be a Record where
upon the Executors named in the Will came into Court and refused to qualify
as Executors thereto.

Test A. Mearns