

Marmaduke Bell die Will

In The Name of God Amen I Marmaduke Bell of Halifax County & State of North Carolina being weak of Body but of sound mind & memory do make & ordain this my last will & Testament in the following Manner first I recommend my Body to the Earth & my soul to the hand of Almighty God that Gave it, & as to my worldly Estate I leave in the following manner Item I give to my loving wife Martha Bell, four negroes Frank Tom Lee & Kate also my flock of Cattle & Sheep & Hogs, three head of Horses, Botton the mouse trap Filly & Young Black Cows & one third part of the house hold & Kitchen furniture, as her own property for her to dispose of as she thinks proper, I now Give to my Loving wife The Lands whereon I now live during her natural life. also I lend her old Sarah & old Isaac & Young Pat— Item I give to my son Benjamin Bell the Land that I possess lying in Scotland Neck joining of Marmaduke Norflets & James Smiths Land, I also Give him the Land whereon I now live after the death of My wife— Item I give to my Daughter Milley Bell one Negroe Girl by the name prep. I now leave the remaining part of my Estate to be Equally divided between my two Children Milley Bell & Benjamin Bell after my my Just debts are paid. Item I now leave the whole of my property to my wife Martha Bell as long as she lives a Widow or while my Children comes of age or marry & my will is that my son Benjamin shall have his proper to himself at the age of nineteen years I NOW appoint my loving wife Martha & my friend Drew Smith my whole & sole Executors of this my Last will & Testament, In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal this day of 1796

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Executors of this my Last Will & Testament, In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand
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Signed in presence of us
Josiah Duke Thaddeus Bell

Marmaduke Bell 

Stafford County, Va August 1797 Then this Will was exhibited in open
Court & duly proved by ^{oath} Josiah Duke one of the subscribing witnesses thereto and
on Motion ordered to be Recorded

Attest J. Long C. C. L.