

Richard Merritt Will

In the name of God amen. I Rich^d. Merritt of the County of Halifax & province of North Carolina being Sick of Body but of sound mind & memory Thanks be to God and Calling to mind the Mortality of my body & Knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die do make & Enact this my last Will & Testament that is to say first of all I recommend my soul to almighty God that gave it and my body to the Earth to be there in Decently buried at the Discretion of my Exors. hereafter named.

Imp^t: my Will & Desire is that my just Debts & funeral Charges be first Satisfied and paid. and as touching my worldly Estate where with it hath pleased almighty God to bless me with I give & Dispose in the following manner.

Item I lend unto my loving wife Sarah Merritt all my Estate untill my Children Come of age or during her Widowhood.

Item I give & bequeath unto my son James Merritt the Land lying above the road on Beechswamp Beginning at a Cypress running up a branch to the top along the road to John Bator line as for a Dividing line. also one feather at the age of Twentyone. to him & his heirs forever.

Item I give & bequeath unto my son Rich^d. Merritt the plantation where now live & also my land below joining M^r. Cottens Thomas Alsbrooks & John. also one feather bea after my wife Decease or widowhood to him & his heirs forever.

Item I give & bequeath to my son Ephraim Merritt all my pinney woods to him & his heirs forever.

at the age of Twentyone. to him & his heirs forever.
Item I give & bequeath unto my son Rich^d. Merritt the plantation where
now live & also my land below joining M^r Cottons Thomas Albrookes & John^s.
also one feather bed after my wife Decease or widowhood to him & his heirs for ever
Item I give & bequeath to my son Ephraim Merritt all my piney wood land
also two Negroes Kate & Sam also one feather bed & furniture (also furnish
to the two above mentioned James & Rich^d) after my wife Decease or widow
to them & their heirs forever.

Item I give & bequeath unto my Daughter Mary Merritt one Negro woman
named Jude and if not recovered it is my will & desire that she shall have
the worth of her made out of my Estate in money to her & her heirs for ever.

Item I give & bequeath to my Daughter Amy Merritt one Negro ~~boy~~ ^{man}
Easter after my wife Decease or widowhood to her & her heirs for ever.

Item I give & bequeath unto my Daughter Sarah Merritt one Negro boy named
Roger & if not recovered it is my Desire that she shall have the worth of
made out of my Estate in money after my wife Decease to her and her
heirs forever.

Item I give & bequeath unto my Daughter Aradice Merritt one Negro boy
named Jack & if not recovered it is my Desire that she shall have the

part of my out of my Estate in money after my wifes Decease to her and
her Heirs forever.

Then I give & bequeath unto my Daughter Anne Merritt one Negro boy Peter
and if not recovered it is my Desire that she shold have the worth of him
in money out of my Estate after my wifes Decease to her & her Heirs forever.

Also one Negro Girl to be bought (about five or six years old) with money out
of my Estate to be Delivered at the age of Eighteen to her & her Heirs forever.

Item I give & bequeath unto my loving wife Sarah Merritt one Negro Girl named
Jane to do as she thinks proper to her & her Heirs forever.

Item my will is that if James Merritt shold Decease or my son Mich^l. Merritt
Decease without Lawfull Issue their Land left to them I give to my son
Ephraim Merritt to him & his Heirs forever.

Item my will is that after my wifes widowhood all the rest of my Estate was
not given away to be sold & the money Equally Divided amongst all my Children
to them & their Heirs forever.

Lastly I appoint my loving wife &c. Christopher Haynes & John Bage my
Whole & sole Exors to this my last will & Testament in Witnes whereof their
heerunts set my hand & affixed my seal this 26 Day of March one thousand
seven hundred & eighty.

signed sealed & published
to be the last will & Testament
In presence of us

Richard^{his} Merritt Seal

Item my will is that after my wife widowhood all the rest of my estate was
not given away to be sold & the money Equally Divided amongst all my children
to them & their Heirs forever.

Lastly I appoint my loving wife ex^{tr} Christopher Haynes & John Bage my
Whole & sole Exors to this my last will & Testament in witness whereof I have
hereunto set my hand & affixed my seal this 26 Day of March one thousand
seven hundred & eighty.

signed sealed & published
to be the last will & Testament
In presence of us

Richard ^{his} Merritt
mark

Thomas ^{his} Merritt
mark

William Haynes
Jesse Haynes

Halifax County N.C. November Court 1781: Then this Will was Ex^h in
Open Court and Duly proved by the Oaths of Jesse Haynes & Thomas
Merritt two of the Subscribing Witnesses thereto whereupon Christopher
Haynes and Sarah Merritt Qua. as Exors and an Action Ordered to
be Recorded Test Wm Patton Clk.

In the name of God Amen We the undersigned