

In the Name of God Amen. I ^{Wm} Meritt of the County
 of Halifax & Province of North Carolina being in perfect Sound Mind & memory
 Thanks be given unto God & Calling unto 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 & Testament that is to say Principally & first of all I give &
 recommend my Soul into the hands of almighty God that gave it & my Body
 to the Earth to be buried in a Christian Like & Decent Manner 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 Where with it Has Pleased
 God to bless me in this life. I give & Dispose in the Manner & form following
 I give to Michael Meritt my son Four Negroes Jude, Jem, Rodger, & Jack —
 I give to Thomas Meritt my son Three Negroes Mingo, Lippie, & Abram —
 I give to Absalom Meritt my son the Plantation where I now live & all the
 Land Belonging thereto. —
 I give to my Grand Son Tho^r Turner One Negro named Rose —
 I give to my son in law Solomon Turner One Negro named Hannah —

Item I give to my son in law Solomon Turner One Negroe named Harroah
And I give to my Grand son Tho^s Merritt Twenty Shillings. —
I also Appoint Richard Merritt & Tho^s Merritt my Executors to this my Last
Will & Testament. And in witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand & affixed
my Seal this Tenth Day of Aug^t One thousand Seven hundred & Seventy Eight
Sign Seal & Delivered in the Presence of us
Jesse Wayne Jr. Jm^c Bap. Jr.
Benjamin Whithead Jr.
mark

William D Merritt
his Mark

Shalifax County J^c Sep^r Court 1784 Then this Will was duly
Proved in Open Court by the Oathes of Jesse Wayne. Jm^c Bap Jr
Benj^t Whithead And on Motion Ordered to be Recorded —

Test

Wm^r Foster & Co