

William Pearce, will.

I William Pearce of Halifax County & State of North Carolina. do this 17th day of April
in the year of our Lord one thousand, Seven Hundred & ninety four, make my last will & Testament
in the following, manner. That is to say: In primis, after my just Debt & funeral Expenses
are paid off, I lend to my wife, the one third part of my Land, & also the one third part of all my Personal
Estate, during her widow hood, & after her marriage, or if she never marries, after her death, I give the
aforesaid Land & personal Estate, to be equally divided between my Daughters, Mary & Elizabeth, to them
their heirs & assigns forever, all the remainder of my Estate, both real & personal, I give to be equally
& fairly divided, between my aforesaid Daughters, Mary & Elizabeth Share & Share alike to them
& their heirs forever, with following restrictions: That further, my will & Desire that if either of
My Daughters, Mary or Elizabeth above said, should die, without leaving a Child or children
lawfully begotten, that her proportion of the said Estate should go to the other & if she be dead
& her Children lawfully begotten, if any such there be. And my will is also, that if both of
my said Daughters, Mary & Elizabeth should die without leaving any heir lawfully begotten,
that then & in that case, all the property, bequeathed to them in this will, shall go to & be equally
divided, between, William Higdon the son of My Daughter, Sarah & Henry Turner the
son of my Daughter, Martha, to them & their heirs forever; Thereby appoint my friends
Isaac Rich, & Lovat Burger, Executors of this my last will & Testament, and I do hereby
revoke all other Wills & Testaments by me heretofore made; In witness whereof, I have set my
hand & Seal the day the day & year above written

William Pearce

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their heirs forever, with following restrictions: His further my will & Desire that if either of
My Daughters, Mary or Elizabeth above said, Should die without leaving a Child or children
lawfully begotten, that her proportion of the said Estate Should go to the other if she be dead
to her Children lawfully begotten if any such there be. And my will is also, that if both of
my said Daughters, Mary & Elizabeth Should die without leaving any heir lawfully begotten
that then & in that case all the property, bequeathed to them in this will, shall go to & be equally
divided between, William Higdon the son of My Daughter, Sarah & Henry Turner the
son of my Daughter, Martha, to them & their heirs forever; I hereby appoint my friend
Isaac Ricks & Lovat Burger, Executors of this my last will & Testament, and I do hereby
revoke all other Wills & Testaments by me heretofore made; In witness Whereof I have set my
hand & Seal the day the day & Year above written

William Praser

Sealed & delivered in presence of us -
Diedly Witnesses Michael Wimbrough }
Benjamin Merrett }

Halifax County N.C.

February Session 1797 then the will was exhibited in open Court
& duly proved by the oath of Benjamin Merrett one of the Subscribing Witnesses thereto &
on Motion ordered to be Recorded, Whereupon Isaac Ricks one of the Executors therein named came
in & was duly qualified thereto

Wm. Long Clot

Joseph & Gray of the County of N. Hampton & State of N. Carolina of perfect mind & memory