

good friend George Merrick, esq, executor of this my last will and Testament; and I do hereby utterly disannul, revoke and make void all and every other, former, will and wills, testaments, legacies and bequests by me before made, ratifying and confirming this and no other, to be my last will and Testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this fourteenth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty seven

signed, sealed, published, pronounced and declared by the said W^m Morris as his last will and Testament in the presence of us the subscribers

W^m Morris. (Seal)

Samuel Collyer,
William Taylor,
Jonathan ^{his} Taylor,
march

March Court 1767. Proved by the oaths of Samuel Collyer one of the subscribing witnesses thereto agreeable to law
John London. C. Ck.

At June Court 1767. George Merrick, esq and Mr Stokely, Bishop executors named in the within will qualified as such agreeable to law, ordered that letters testamentary issued accordingly
John London. C. Ck.

In the name of God Amen. I Thomas Merrick, of New Hanover County, in the Province of North Carolina, being of sound mind, memory and understanding, but considering the uncertainty of this life, do make and publish this my last will and Testament, in manner following, that is to say. I bequeath my soul to the Almighty who gave it, and my body to be buried without any superfluous expence there. I will and desire that whatever just debts I may owe be paid out of the first profits of my estate that comes to the hands of my Executors. I give and bequeath unto my brother George Merrick, and to his heirs and assigns, two hundred acres of land, about two miles above Holly Shelter Creek Bridge, to be laid off by parallel lines on the lower line of a tract of land patented by me containing six hundred acres, said lower line running forty four degrees west two hundred and eighty nine poles. I give and bequeath unto my good son John Lillington son of Thomas Lillington Esq, and to his heirs and assigns six hundred and

forty acres of land in New Hanover County, above Arthur's Creek,
 on the east side the North East River, adjoining the Samuel Ashe,
 and David Williams; lands on Arthur's Creek.
 Item. I give and bequeath unto Sarah Moore daughter, of Mr.
 Nathaniel and Mrs. Margaret Moore, and to her heirs and assigns
 my negroe girl called Anna, and a young boy, named called Lina,
 branded with the two initial letters of my name.
 Item. I give, devise and bequeath unto my dearly beloved wife
 Elizabeth Merrick, and to her heirs and assigns all my house and
 kitchen furniture, all my plate, all my sheep, all my hogs, four
 of my best horses, one third part of all my cattle, and one third
 part of all my negroes, to be divided and delivered to her, with
 in six months after my death, and it is my desire that my said
 wife do continue to live in and occupy the house and plantation
 where I now live called Richland, during her widowhood, and
 that till then, it be kept in good order and repair by the joint
 force and interest of the whole of my negroes as they stand now.
 Item. I give, devise and bequeath unto my eldest daughter Sarah
 Merrick, and to her heirs and assigns all the plantation now
 live on, called Richland, containing three hundred acres according
 to the patent; and it is my will that the houses, fences, gardens,
 orchards, and the whole of the cleared land be kept in good order
 by the joint force of my childrens negroes till they are divided
 to them as is hereafter mentioned. Also I give and bequeath unto
 my said daughter, Sarah, and to her heirs and assigns one hun-
 dred and a fifty acres of land adjoining the above mentioned
 plantation, which I purchased of the heirs of Richard Plaz, dead
 and lately. I give, devise and bequeath unto my two daughters
 Sarah Merrick, and Dorothy Merrick, and to their heirs and assigns
 all the rest, residue and remainder, of my estate, both real and
 personal, of what nature, kind or quality, what soever, whereof
 I may die seized or possessed of, or be intitled to at the time of my
 decease, to be divided to them in equal shares when my daughter
 Sally arrives to the age of eighteen years old, and in case either
 of them die before they are married or arrive to the age of eighteen
 years, then and in such case I will and bequeath the part or portion
 of the deceased child to her surviving sister, and to her heirs and
 assigns; and in such case that both my said daughters Sarah
 and Dorothy should die before marriage or that they arrived to the
 age of eighteen years, that then and in such case I will and be-
 queath the use and profits of that part of my estate allotted to them
 to my beloved wife Elizabeth Merrick, during her life, and after
 her decease I give, devise and bequeath the whole of it both real
 and personal to my god son Maurice Jones son of Mr. Thomas and
 Mrs. Margaret Jones, and to his heirs and assigns forever, and

is my will, that after my just debts are paid, that then two thirds parts of the neat profits of my chidrens part of my estate (after, quitrents, taxes and other, incumbrances and necessary charges and expences are discharged) be paid to my beloved wife Elizabeth Merrick, for the maintenance and education of my two daughters Sarah and Dorothy Merrick, and for their use, to be laid out as she shall think proper for them. And the remaining one third part of the neat profits as aforesaid, be laid out yearly by my Executors in purchasing young negro slaves, for the use and advantage of my two daughters as aforesaid; and it is my desire and request, that my Executrix or Executors or either of them do yearly, render and account to the Court of their proceedings in their executorship, And I do will, ordain, constitute and appoint my beloved wife Elizabeth Merrick, my true sufficient and lawful Executrix, and Frederick Jones Senior Esq, and my brother George Merrick, to be my true, sufficient and lawful Executors of this my last Will and Testament. And I do hereby revoke and make void all other Wills by me at any time heretofore made and declare this to be my only last Will and Testament. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this

These are to certify, that Mrs. Elizabeth Merrick qualified before me as Executrix to the within last Will and Testament of Thomas Merrick, Esq deceased, by taking the oath prescribed by law, given under my hand this 3rd day of September, 1767.

John^s Garnett

At Septe, Court 1767

The within instrument of writing was produced in Court by Samuel Swann Esq, purporting to be the last Will of Thomas Merrick Esq, late of New Hanover County dec^d, and it was proved by the oaths of Samuel Ashe, George Moore, Samuel Swann and James Moraw Esquires, who swore that the name Thomas Merrick in the first line of the said instrument of writing, as also the whole writing thereof, was the proper hand writing of the said Thomas Merrick, they being severally well acquainted with the said Testator's hand writing and had often seen him write

Test

John London. C^l C^l