

Thomas Parker's Will

In the name of God Amen I Thomas Parker of the County of Southampton and State of North Carolina do make and ordain this to be my last Will and Testament making these being all other wills by me heretofore made to be this disposer of all my property both real and personal of which I am possessed as follow. —

1st Item I give and bequeath unto my son Richard Parker my friend John A. Burford James Bradley & James Ewan and their heirs forever one Negroe girl by the name of Dolly and her increase which said Negroe Dolly and her increase of give to the said Richard Parker John A. Burford James Bradley and James Ewan and their heirs forever but upon express trust and confidence that they the said Richard Parker John A. Burford James Bradley & James Ewan and their heirs will hold the said Negroe Dolly and increase to the sole separate and exclusive use and benefit of my grand daughter Maria Hale, and pay the same to her uses of full age or marry to whom I give the same and their increase forever.

2nd Item I give and bequeath unto my son Richard Parker my friend John A. Burford James Bradley & James Ewan and their heirs forever the following Negroe to wit Sarah, Elphtha, Emanuel Joe, Jim and Harry and their increase which said Negroes and their increase I give to the said Richard Parker my friend John A. Burford James Bradley & James Ewan and their heirs forever But upon this express trust and confidence that they the said Richard Parker John A. Burford James Bradley and James Ewan and their heirs will receive the rents issues and profits of the above named Negroes and their increase and pay the same to my Daughter Maria Hale to the sole separate and exclusive use and benefit of the said Maria without the interference or control of her husband Leonard Hale or being in any manner subject to payment of his debts or demands and upon this further trust and confidence that the above named trustees will settle the above named Negroes and their increase after the death of her the said Maria to the use and benefit of all

the children of her the said Maria until the eldest come to age or marriage at which time if is my will and desire that the trustees above named divide the above named Negroes and their increase equally between all the children of the said Maria and pay the same and all the increase rents issues and profits that may occur after the death of her the said Maria to all the said Marrias children in equal shares at the coming of age or marriage of the oldest to them and their heirs of give the said Negroes and their increase forever.

3rd Item It is my will and desire that the property above described in trust should remain in the hands of my trustees without the interference or control of the Court in any manner whatsoever.

4th Item I give and bequeath unto my son Richard Parker all and every part and parcel of my estate which is not above disposed of both real and personal of every sort kind and denomination whatsoever after paying my just debts to him his heirs or assigns forever.

5th And I do hereby nominate and appoint my son Richard Parker and my friends John A. Burford, James Bradley and James Ewan Executors to this my last will and Testament In testimony whereof I have set my Hand and Seal this 26th day of September 1797.

Signed and acknowledged { Tho. H. Parker sealed
In presence of

Note the word "that" in the twenty second line of the first clause and the word "the" in the first line in the third clause, and the word "Will" in the third line were interlined before signing.

James Crump
Benj'n Dancy
Hannah M. Lenoir
Sarah Dancy.

Southampton County Sealed
December First 1797

That this Will of Thomas Parker Esq.
was exhibited in Court and duly proved by the Oaths of James
Crump and James Dancy two of the subscribers witnesses thereto
and ordered to be Certified and Recorded before Captain
Richard Parker one of the Clerks thereon and was duly
qualified.

Witness E. Maynes. Esq.