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May
1772

In the Name of God Amen, the twenty ninth Day of September in the Year
of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy three, I William Steel
of the County of Essex and Province of North Carolina, being very sick
and weak in Body, but of perfect Mind and Memory, Thanks be given unto
God for the same, and being to spend the mortality of my Body, and
knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make an
order and give my last Will and Testament: That is to say, principally
and first of all I give and recommend my Soul into the Hands of God
that gave it, and for my Body I recommend it to the Earth, to be buried
in a Christian like and decent Manner, at the Discretion of my Execu-
tors, 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 wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this Life, I
give over and dispose of the same in the Manner and Form following
That is to say. In the first place I give and bequeath to Elizabeth,
my dearly beloved Wife, the third Part of all my personal Estate and
Furniture, together with the Use and sole Privilege of my dwelling House
and Lot in the Town of Salisbury during her natural Life and at
her decease to fall to my Son John Steel and his Heirs and Assigns
forever, I likewise do give and bequeath for the Use of one
Negro Man named Bredget and her four Children untill my son
John comes to full Age, and then they are to be his, I likewise do
Will & Order that she may have the Use of the Chinese Money
in her own Hands free of paying any Interest untill each of
them respectively comes to full Age. I also give and bequeath
unto my well beloved Daughter in Law Margaret Gillespie two hun-
dred & fifty Pounds of proclamation Money, which money is to be
raised and paid out of my personal Estate. I also give and
bequeath to my well beloved ~~daughter~~ Son in Law Robert Gillespie
two hundred and fifty Pounds of proclamation Money to be
raised & paid out of my personal Estate likewise.

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I also give and bequeath to my only son
Tract of two hundred and twenty five Acs.
of Salisbury, also sixteen Lots of Land ago
in the said Town, and one ^{half} Lot No. 2 in the Town
Buildings and Improvements thereon. I likewise
unto my said Son John one Negro Man named Tom
Children together with her Inories and likewise all the
personal Estate, and if it should happen that my said son
should die before he comes to full Age, then and in that Case the one half
or moiety of the real & personal Estate hereby willed to him, to be given
equally divided, between my Daughter in Law and Son in Law Margaret
and Robert Gillespie share and share alike and the other remaining Part to
be equally divided, betwixt my Brother John Steel's four Children Share
Share alike or the survivors of them. I likewise constitute make &
ordain my well beloved Wife Elizabeth, together with my trusty and wellbelov'd
Friends Matthew Tapp and Maxwell Chambers my only and sole Executors
of this my last Will & Testament, and I do hereby utterly disallow, revoke
and rescind all and every other former Testaments, Wills and Legacies,
Bequests and Executors, by me in any Manner before this Time made,
willed and bequeathed; ratifying and confirming this, and no other,
to be my last Will and Testament. ~~Witness~~ ^{Witness} whereof I have hereunto
set my Hand and Seal the Day and Year first above written.

Signed, sealed and published,
pronounced and declared by the said
William Steel, as his last Will and
Testament, in the Presence of us
the Subscribers that is to say.

James Kim
D. Osborn
Wrightshier Army

Wm Steel