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Isaac Porcher's Last will and Testament

Bundl. K. K. No. 18:

In the name of the Father and the Son and of the holy Ghost Amen.

I Isaac Porcher born in the Kingdom of France of the Province of Berry in a Town named Sainte Severre, being by the grace of God sound both of Body and mind, but knowing there is nothing more certain than Death, nor nothing more uncertain than the hour thereof, and being desirous to settle my affairs, whilst it pleases God to spare me time, first I commit my Soul unto God my creator beseeching him to be merciful unto me thro' the infinite merits of Jesus Christ my Saviour, as for my Body I commit it to the Earth leaving the care thereof to my dear Children who are Isaac, Peter, Elizabeth Marianne and Susanna Porcher. Secondly for my Executors I constitute my said two sons charging them to observe what I shall hereafter order them, And as to my Legacies I acknowledge to have heretofore given to four of my said Children (that is to say) Isaac, Peter, Elizabeth, and Susannah what share I thought I was able to give them, out of what Estate it was pleased God to bestow upon me, so there remains only my said Daughter Marianne to whom I give besides a Negro Woman named Doll, which I gave her a long time since and her three Children One Negro man named Cesar, one Named Bacchus, One named Hammie, One named Hercules, and one Paul, and one Negro Woman named River and her Male Child Nam'd Peter.

Thirdly I dispose of my Lands after this manner, That my Son Isaac Porcher shall have a piece of Land, which lies from the avenue of his Plantation to the first Creek which is upon the path from his said Plantation to mine and also four hundred acres of Land which are part of two tracts of land Surveyed by Col. Moore & Col. Bell, with the provision that he shall not take up any of the cleared land of a Plantation which my Son Peter hath settled upon a piece of Land I have given him, and that the same shall be laid out from my said son Peters Plantation to the line where they were first began to be surveyed by Col. Bell, and that he shall take what shall be wanting to make up the four hundred Acres upon the Land which was Surveyed by Col. Moore, and as I have formerly given three hundred acres to Charles

Colleton, the Husband of Susannah Poer my said Daughter my Wife  
that thofe shall be Landors in fuch manner as thofe land shall as wey com  
upon the land which he has cleared, and fo as it may not jarjufidus  
Plantation I have Joyning to his, and when thofe two Seven hundred  
have been taken out of my land, I Devide that the remainder  
shall be equally Divided betwix my said Son Peter and Daug  
Marianne.

Item I give unto my said son Peter, for the good Services he has  
me, my Plantation together with all the land belonging to it, to him  
and his heirs for ever, with the Condition that my dear Daughter  
Marianne shall and may live upon the same, as long as she the  
thinks fit, and have her Chamber in the Dwelling house, and moreover  
that she shall have the length of Ten Chains of land belonging to my  
Plantation, which shall begin at the corner of the fences which part  
the Plantation of thofe said Colleton, and the Plantation Commonly call  
the short fence, and shall run along the path, and then shall be draw  
a line at right as poſſible to join the two Plantations belonging  
my said Son Peter.

Item I give unto my said Son Peter all the Land I have upon the old  
path, as I am obliged therunto by the Treaty of Marriage, I m  
with Mrs Gordon Deceased, when my said Son married his Daught

Item I give unto my said Son Peter and Daughter Marianne  
any other Lands whatsoever.

As to the remainder of my Estate I give all my Stock of Hooſt &  
Sheep and Land, unto my said Son Peter and Daughter Mariana  
equally to be shared between them. As for the Horses, they  
be disposed of as they shall think fit for the use of the plants  
Except a Mare and Mare colt which I give unto my said Daughter  
Marianne, and also a Horse which has been broke for her,  
because of the Services which she renders me daily, and has been  
unto my dear Wife, I likewise give unto her all household Goods, Lin  
Plates and Bed, which shall be found in my house after my Deceas  
As for all other Plantation Tools and Utensils they shall remain unto

Said Son Peter.

Item In wacion of my said Son Peter and Daughter Elizabeth have had no tan  
particularly by me given them, I order my said Son Peter to pay unto each  
of them one Year after my Deceas the sum of Two hundred pounds, & thofe  
shall receive in Rice after the rate of Sixty Shillings a hundred weight —  
As to other slaves shall remain unto me, after my said Daughter  
Marianne hath taken thofe I give her by this my last Testament, they  
shall be equally parted between my afterward five Children, but in case  
my said Daughter Susanna should happen to die without Children, my  
will is that such slaves as her husband shall receive after my death shall  
return unto my other four Children. And when it shall please God to take  
me out of the world, If I leave any debts, and that my said Son Peter should  
not have made an end of paying for six Negroes which he has bought this  
Year, my will is that such other slaves as shall be able to work, shall  
not be parted till such time as thofe debts are paid, or else that all  
my Children shall be obliged each of them to pay their part.

And as my dear wife was desirous to give something to her God Sons &  
God Daughters, in case I should die before I shall be able to give each of them  
a Slave, my Will is, that they shall each of them have one, out of thofe  
that shall remain to be Shared;

I entreat and desire to each of my  
Children to constantly bear in memory the holy Injunctions made them by  
their Mother upon her Death bed, and that they do all live in a true  
Brotherly Union, And as Charity is one of the greatest Christian Virtues,  
I charge them to take care of the Children of late Mr. Rich. Bourg, as being  
Objects worthy of compassion after having read over my present Testament  
I find nothing therein contained but what is entirely conformable to my last  
will, made in my house in Carolina the 25<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1726. In Testimony  
whereof I have writ it with my own hand, signed and sealed it in the  
presence of.

Upon condition that the late Charles Colleton my son in Law, shall not sell the  
afore said Three hundred Acres of Land, and Plantation, which he hath  
lefted them, Directly or indirectly, but to some of my family, and for

That purpose they shall be obliged to leave. Some few different persons go  
to appraise the same, and in case thereof Colleton should seek some Indis-  
means to frustrate those of my family of them, my wife is then to  
shall have all manner of Little Horments, and that Horment shall es-  
unto my children. I do approve of this addition above written  
also of some words which are interlined, the whole being written  
my own hand

I Porcher (3)

W<sup>m</sup> Witors  
Philip Gourian  
Francis Bides  
Peter Colleton

25 April 1727 Recorded of Chas Hart & City.

Indorsed thus

19<sup>th</sup> April 1727

Personally appeared before me Philip Gourian and Francis Bides  
of the Subscribing Witnesses to the within Will, who being duly sworn  
the Holy Evangelists declare they were present and did see the above named  
Isaac Porcher sign Seal, publish and declare his present Intent  
of writing the to his Testate and Testament, and that he was at this  
time of sound and disposing mind, memory and understanding to make  
of these Deponents Knowledge, and these dep<sup>t</sup> Subscribed their Name  
as Witnesses together w<sup>t</sup> the other W<sup>m</sup> Peter Colleton in hope  
of the said Testator and at his request.

Ar. Middleton

25 April 1727

This Testamentary granted to Isaac and Peter Porche  
Hobcutors Test. Attestagred by

Isaac Porcher's Letter of Administration to Peter Porche and  
Isaac Hobcutor

To the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Arthur Middleton Esq<sup>r</sup> President and Commandant  
in Chief in and over this the M<sup>r</sup> Province of South Carolina  
and ordinary of the same.

To all to whom these presents shall come greeting  
Know Ye that on the Nineteenth Day of April in the Year of our Lord  
One Thousand Seven hundred and Twenty Seven, the last Will and Testament  
of Isaac Porcher deceased was proved, approved and allowed off, the said  
deceased having whilst he lived and at the time of his death divers goods, rights  
and credits within the province aforesaid by means whereof the approbation  
and allowing of his Testament and the power of granting the adm<sup>n</sup> of all  
singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased and also the rendering  
the account & reckoning of the said adm<sup>n</sup> and the final distribution  
and discharge from the same & so no<sup>t</sup> is manifestly known to belong, and that  
the adm<sup>n</sup> of all and singular the goods rights and credits of the said deceased  
and his Testament any manner of way concerning was committed unto  
Peter Porche and Isaac Porcher named executors on the said will & Testament  
being sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God well and faithfully  
to administer the same and to make a full and perfect Inventory of all  
and singular the goods rights and credits of the said deceased & deliver  
the same into the Secretary Office in Charles Town in order to be recorded and  
or before the Nineteenth day of August next ensuing, and to render a true  
and just account & reckoning thereof when thereunto required.

Certified  
Chas Hart & City

In testimony whereof I have hereunto  
set my hand and seal this Nineteenth Day  
of April in the Thirteenth Year of His  
Majesty's Reign anno Domini 1727

25 April 1727

Ar. Middleton  
Recorded of Chas Hart & City