

This 24<sup>th</sup> day of Oct<sup>r</sup> in the year of Our Lord one Thousand seven hundred and Forty I John Best of St Philipps Parish Charleston in the Province of South Carolina Mariner Being in Perfect health of Body & of a sound & disposing memory and understanding mind Thanks be to Almighty God for the same Do make publish & declare this my Last Will & Testament in Manner and form following That is to say

*Imprimis* I commend my Soul into the hands of Almighty God who gave it hoping through the merits of my blessed Saviour Redeemer Jesus Christ to Obtain pardon and Remission of all my Sins And as for my Body I desire it may be decently Buried at the discretion of my Executrix hereinafter Named And as for Concerning my Worldly Goods & Chattels wherewith it has pleased God to bless me with all I give devise bequeath & dispose thereof in manner & form & to the use end intent & purpose hereinafter mentioned Expressed and declared That is to say

I Give devise & bequeath unto my Loving and Affectionate Wife Mary Best the whole Sole of all my Goods and Chattels all my Negroes whose Names are Maria Lucy Rose Oronoko and Carolina & Every Individual Effect or Effects that I am possess of with all for her own use Benefit & advantage for Ever she my said wife discharging all my Just and Lawfull Debts & Obligations as conveniently as in her power may be done to the Satisfaction of all with me concerned I do also place constitute & appoint my said Loving & Affectionate wife my whole Sole Executrix of this my said Will & Testament in witness whereof revoking & making void all other and former wills by me made I have to this my Last will & Testament put my hand & Seal.

The Twentyfourth day as above written signed Sealed published & delivered by the said John Best to be his Last Will & Testament he having put his hand & Seal to this his Will in the Presence of us

} J<sup>r</sup>: Best (SEAL)  
Isaac King Clark  
Tho<sup>s</sup> Simmons

South Carolina

By virtue of a Licentia from the Hon<sup>ble</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Bull Esq<sup>r</sup> Lieutenant Governor Commander in Chief and Ordinary of this Province.

This day Tho<sup>s</sup> Simmons one of the subscribing Witnesses to the within Instrument being by me duly Sworn Declares that he was present & saw the within said John Best sign seal declare & pronounce the within writing to be & contain his last Will & Testament and that he the Testator was then of sound mind memory & good understanding to his belief and also that the other subscribing Witness Isaac King Clark signed his Name as such at the same time with him & in presence of the Testator

This 29 June 1742. Sworne also the Executrix within Named

J. Hammetton

Recorded 4<sup>th</sup> July 1742.

## Elisabeth Woodward

I Elisabeth Woodward widow of Col<sup>o</sup> John Woodward Deceased of the Province of South Carolina Being weak in Body but of Sound and Perfect Memory do make this my Last Will and Testament in manner and form following.

*Imprimis* I Do will and that all such debts as I do owe to any Person or Persons be paid by my Executors hereafter named within a convenient time after my decease.

*I Item* I do will & Give unto my daughter Mary Gibbs one Mustee Hench by name Affected to her and to her Heirs and Assigns for ever with her Increase.

*I Item* I do will and Give unto my daughter Elizabeth Flower one Mustee Gnl by name Pegg to her & to her Heirs and Assigns forever with her Increase.

- Item I do will and Give unto my Grandaughter Elizabeth Gibbes daughter to John & Mary Gibbes, one bed and one Chest of drawers to her and her heirs forever.
- Item I do will and give unto all my Children all the rest and residue of my Personal Estate to be Equally divided Share and Share alike to them and their heirs forever.
- Item It is my Will that if either of my Children or either of their heirs Executors Admors or Assigns shall sue or cause to be sued for the Muster Girl or any of her Increase that is before mentioned and given to my daughter Elizabeth Flower it is my Will that they or either of them shall forfeit their part of their Segacy left by me to be equally be divided between the rest of my Children that do not sue.
- Lastly I do nominate and appoint my Son John Woodward, Richard Woodward, Joseph Edward Flower and John Gibbes to be my Exors and do hereby revoke make null and void all other and former wills by me made and declare this to be my last Will and Testament. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal this 1<sup>st</sup> day of June Anno Dom. one Thousand Seven hundred Thirty and Nine.

Witness

Elis<sup>a</sup> Woodward (SEAL)

Nath<sup>l</sup> Barnwell  
Thomas Weaver  
William Amey  
Richard Mancreiff

South Carolina

By the Hon<sup>ble</sup> William Bull Esq<sup>r</sup> Lieutenant Governor & Commander in Chief and Ordinary of this Province.

This day came before me Thomas Weaver and Richard Mancreiff Two of the Subscribing Witnesses who being duly Sworn declare that they were present and saw Elizabeth Woodward sign seal pronounce and declare the within writing contained her last Will and Testament and that she was then of sound disposing mind and good understanding to their belief. And also that Nathaniel Barnwell and William Amey the other two Subscribing Witnesses signed their Names with them and in the presence of the Testatrix. Sworn the Exors Richard Woodward & John Gibbes at the same time being the 1<sup>st</sup> August 1742.

Spceded the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1742

Wm. Bull

## Ann Drayton

South Carolina

In the Name of God Amen.

I Ann Drayton Simpner being of sound mind and perfect memory thank be to God do make & ordain Revoking and annulling all former Wills by me made This my Last Will and Testament in manner form as following first I Bequeath my Soul into the Hands of Almighty God hoping to obtain Remission of all my Sins through the alone merits of Jesus Christ my only Saviour and redeemer and my Body to the Earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my Executors hereafter named and as to what worldly estate God hath blessed me with and I shall dye possessed of my just debts and funeral expences first be paid I dispose of as followeth.

- Item I Give and bequeath to my Executor Thomas Elliott the sum of Two Thousand five hundred Pounds current Money at my death and also those Negroes hereafter named Riner and her five Children Bette, Sarry, Riner, Else and Rose and Bagg and her two Children Sue and Ishmael and Perculus and Prince two young men and a pair of Saugers Executors and Simon and all their Increase of those Negroes