

Signed & Sealed in  
the Presents of - }  
Joseph Hambleton }  
Joseph Sealy }  
Thom<sup>n</sup> Kundall }

This Will Was Proved before his Excellency  
this 25<sup>th</sup> Day of March 1748 by the Oath of  
Joseph Sealy One of the Witnesses to the Within  
Will at Same time Qualified Sarah Sealy  
Francis Pelot William Sealy Jun<sup>r</sup> & Will<sup>m</sup>  
Elbert Executrix & Execs therein Named

Recorded this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 1748

In The Name of God Amen the Twenty Third day of January in  
the Year of Our Lord God Anno Domini One Thousand Seven Hundred  
and Forty Seven I John McNeash of the Parish of St Johns in Colleton  
County in the Province of South Carolina Planter Being Very Sick  
& Weak of Body But of Perfect Mind & Memory Thanks be Given  
unto God therefor Calling to mind the Mortality of my Body and  
Knowing it is Appointed for all men Once to die do make & Ordain this  
my Last Will & Testament that is to Say Principally and first of all  
I Give and Recommend my Soul in to the Hands of God that Gave it  
& as for my Body I command it to the Earth to be Buried in a Christian  
like & decent Manner at the discretion of my Execs Nothing Doubting  
but at the General Resurrection I Shall receive the same a Gain by  
the Almighty Power of God & As touching Such Worldly Estate Where-  
With it has pleased God to Bless me With in this Life I Give Beque-  
ath<sup>ing</sup> Disposse of the same in manner and form following that  
is to Say I Imprimis that all my just Debts be Paid first to my  
Will that my Tract of Land in Prince Williams County in Indian  
land<sup>Should be sold by my Execs & the remainder of my sole Estate</sup> to be Equally Divided Betwixt my Beloved Wife Margrett & my  
Child John and Jane McNeash all the remainder and Residue of my  
Estate then left to their Sole Use & Behoof & Heirs for Ever & Last of  
all I constitute Ordain & Appoint my Beloved Wife Margrett McNeash  
& William Jenkins and James Buttler to be my Soul Exe<sup>c</sup> of  
This my Last Will & Testament Also I do hereby utterly dis<sup>o</sup>lve revoke &  
disannull all & Every other former Testaments Wills Legacees and bequests &  
Execs to me in any ways before named Willed & Bequeathed Ratifying & Con-  
ferring this & no other to be my Last Will & Testament In witness Whereof I  
have hereunto set my Hand and Seal the day & year before mentioned  
Signed Sealed Published Pronounced and John McNeash (Seal)  
Declared by the said John McNeash as his

Last Will & Testament in the presence of us the Subscribers

Josua Grinball  
John Gregory  
Martha Hunnaham

This Will Was Proved before his  
Excellency this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 1748 by the  
Oaths of Josua Grinball & John Gregory two of the  
Witnesses to the Within Will at Same time Qualified  
Margrett McNeash Executrix therein Named

Recorded this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 1748

In the Name of God Amen I Charles Sheafsheard of Charles Town  
in the Province of South Carolina Vis<sup>t</sup> being in Good health and of sound  
disposing mind & memory Praised be God having a due Sense of the Shortness  
and Uncertainty of life do make & declare this my Last Will & Testament  
in Manner & form following first I resign my Soul to Almighty God who  
gave it Hoping for Eternal Salvation & redemption through the merits  
of my Blessed Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ my Body I command to the Earth  
to be Buried in a plain and decent Manner to prevent all reflections that  
may be cast on my Executrix (I positively direct my funeral to be conduct-  
ed as follows that my Coffin does not exceed £ 20 Currency in Value that  
no Burnt Wine nor Scarves nor hat bands be given that a few of my Best  
friends only be invited to See me to my Grave & that my funeral in-  
General be Conducted with as much Fugality & little Expence as possible  
having always had in Contempt the vain and Idle Expences that  
often attend such Occasions.

Icm Whereas it is my earnest desire that all my just debts be duly  
paid & satisfied I hope my Creditors will out of Compassion to my wife  
& young children give such indulgence in point of time to my Executrix as  
may be necessary as well for the Sale of such Part of my Estate as I shall  
hereafter direct to be Sold as for the recovery of such debts as may be due to  
me at the time of my decease not doubting that if my Estate be not lessened  
by the Expence of Law Charges but it will be sufficient to pay all my  
debts & afford a small subsistence for my family & I do hereby direct &  
empower my Executrix herein after mentioned to Sell & dispose my Estate as  
follows -

I Imprimis to use all proper and speedy means to  
recover all debts due to me at my decease Secondly to Sell all such Slaves as  
she can most conveniently Spare together with such Goods as she thinks of  
least Use to her in business Thirdly to Sell the Lands at Wachawee and  
reserve to the last the Lease of Brampton Bryan & my own House and  
Land in which we now live and that she applies the money so arising  
towards the discharge of debts in this Province -

Icm I give and  
bequeath all the rest and residue of my real and personal Estate unto my  
dearly beloved wife Ann Sheafsheard to her & her Heirs begotten by me or  
to be begotten and in case of their deaths to her Assigns with a full power  
after my death to hold on or sell the said Possessions as she shall think most  
advantageous to herself and family Being well satisfied that she will take  
all proper & due care of the maintenance of our infant children &  
Promote their Education & Interests to the utmost of her power -

Icm I give and bequeath to my dearly beloved Son & Daughter each of  
them a Mourning Ring as a token of my care & affection for them  
hoping they'll accept thereof as such & not impute the smallness of the value  
to want of regard but capacity having two small children & an uncertain  
fortune to provide for them I pray God that he may be with them

in All their Undertaking & that he Woudt Please to Direct their Ways so  
that it may tend to their Mutual Happiness here and to all Eternity  
Item I give & Bequeath to James Wright Esq<sup>r</sup> William Geo: Freeman  
Esq<sup>r</sup> & Thos: Johnson Esq<sup>r</sup> Each a hauncing Ring as a small —  
Acknowledgement of their repeated Friendships to me Item I nominate  
and Appoint my Said beloved wife Ann Shephard to be the Whole and Sole  
Executive of this my Last Will & Testament and my Said three beloved Friends  
James Wright Wm Geo: Freeman and Thos: Johnson Esq<sup>r</sup> to be Trustees  
to this my Last Will & Testament hoping they will Give my Poor  
distressed Widow all the Advice and Assistance they can Item I do hereby  
Revoke all other Wills heretofore by me made In Witness Whereof I have  
hereunto Set my Hand and Seal this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March 1747

Signed Sealed Published & declared  
by the Said Testator as his Last Will  
and Testament in the presence of us  
Who in his Presence and at his request  
have Subscribed our names

Sarah X Burrell  
<sup>her</sup>  
George Foxly  
Mungo Graham

Recorded this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 1748. Said Will —

John: Shephard (Seal)

This Will Was Proved before his  
Excellency the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 1748  
by the Oath of Mungo Graham one of the Witnesses  
of the Within Will at same time Qualifid  
Ann Shephard Sole Executive named in the

In the Name of God Amen I Edward Vanvelsen of the Parish of S<sup>e</sup> George Dorchester Beaufort County in the Province of South Carolina Cord Wainer  
being Very Sick and Weak in Body but of Perfect mind and Memory  
thanks be to God for the Same but Calling to mind the Mortality of my Body  
and knowing that it is Appointed for All men Once to Die do make & Ordain this  
my Last Will & Testament in manner & form following that is to Say Principally  
& first of all I recommend my Soul into the Hands of God that Gave it and my  
Body to the Earth to be Buried in a Decent & Christian like Manner at the  
Discretion of my Executors Hereafter named nothing dubting at the General resur-  
rection to receive the Same by the Almighty Power of God and as Touching such  
Worldly Goods Wherewithal it hath pleased God to Bless me in this Life I give  
Divise and Dispose of the Same in manner and form Following —  
In witness I will that all my just Debts and funeral Expences may  
be discharged as soon as conveniently may be after my Buriall —  
Item I give Devise and Bequeath unto my Loving wife Catherine  
Vanvelsen during her Natural Life the Lot and Buildings —  
Whereon I now live as also her choice of one Negro Woman to  
Gether with one Bed & furniture now being in her Lodging room  
& the other furniture appertaining to the same room & After her  
decease the said Lot & other the Particulars to be Sold & the money  
arising to be distributed to my Heirs Hereafter mentioned

Item I Give Licence unto my Exors Hereafter named to sell & Dispose of  
my Farm Yard Houses thereon and Land appertaining thereto in case they  
think the same to be most Advantage or if my Son Charles shall follow  
the business of Cordwainer then they may give the said Farm yard with every  
the Appurtenances unto him at the Age of twenty One Years Item my Will &  
Desire is that all other of my Estate Real or Personal of what kind or  
Quality soever be Sold as Conveniently soon as can be after my Decease and  
the money thence arising to be Put out to Interest for the Support of my wife  
and Children vizt Charles William and Francis as also for the Support of  
the Lawfull Issue of my Daughter Rousham Untill each shall Attain the  
Age of Fairteen Years and then to be Bound out Prentices to trades Untill  
they shall Attain the Age of twenty One Years Item my Desire & Will is that  
my Sister Hester Brown may have her residence in the House with such necessary  
provision as may be thought reasonable by my Exors during her Natural life  
or according to her good behaviour whilst living in the same — Item I give &  
Bequeath unto my Niece Catharine Brown the sum of Fifty Pounds curr<sup>r</sup> Money  
to be Paid unto her by my Exors as soon as Conveniently they can after the  
Sale of my Slaves and Land — Item my Desire is that the money arising  
from the Land and Slaves to be Sold (as also what shall be sold after the  
Decease of my wife) more than will support them Untill the time aforesaid  
of fourteen years of age shall be Equally divided between my Sons Charles  
Vanvelsen William Vanvelsen & Francis Vanvelsen & the Issue of the Body of  
my daughter Catharine Rousham, that is the Issue of my Said Daughter  
shall come in for one fourth Part of the whole provided if any of her Children  
die before they attain the Age of twenty one years or have Lawfull issue  
his or her Part shall go to the Survivor or if they Should all die not having  
Lawfull Issue their Part or Share shall revert to my Sons Charles William  
and Francis or to their Heirs for ever; and if either of my Sons Should die  
before they come to the Age of Twenty One Years or have Lawfull Issue that then  
his or their Part do remain to the Survivor or Survivors or their Heirs Lastly I do  
hereby Appoint my Loving wife Catharine Vanvelsen Executive & my trusty  
and Loving Friends George Sommers & William Caswithen Exors of this  
my Last Will & Testament & I do hereby revoke disallow & Disannull  
all former Wills Testaments & Bequests whatsoever allowing this and  
no other to be my Last Will & Testament In Witness Whereof I have  
hereunto Set my hand & Seal this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March One Thousand —  
Seven Hundred and Forty Seven

The above written Will was Signed Sealed Published Pronounced  
and Declared by the above Testator to be his Last Will and  
Testament in the presence of us —

N.B. the Sir name Brown was interlined  
before the handwriting hereof

Edward Vanvelsen  
mark