

LIONEL READING'S WILL.

No. CAROLINA, BATH COUNTY. SC.

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN, The Twelfth day of July, 1708, I, Lionel Reading, of this County, Esq., being of perfect mind, memory and health, Thanks be given to God, Therefore Calling unto mind the mortality of my body and Knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, Doe make & ordain this my Last Will & Testament, That is to Say, Principally, and First of all, I give and Recommend my Soul into ye hands of God that gave it & my body I Recommend to the Earth, to be buried in a decent Christian Buriall, at the discretion of my Executors, nothing doubting but at the Generall Resurrection I Shall Receive the Same again by the mighty power of God: And as touchin Such Worldly Estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this life, I Give, Demise & dispose of the same in the following Manner & Form:

Imprimis, I Give & bequeath unto mary, dearly beloved Wife, One Negro Woman called Joan, the same to enjoy & possess during her naturall Life; and after her decease, the Said Negro woman, with her Increase, to be disposed on to any of the Children born of her Body, as my Dear wife shall think fitt to bequeath the Same thereto. Likewise, I give her one Bed w'h its Furniture; with one third part of the pewter potts and Brass ware that I shall be possessed withall at my Death; and Four Cows & Calves; & also, all the male Cattle wth what hogs and Sheep shall be found on & belonging to ye Plantation I now live on, to be Enjoyed during her natural Life, & after her decease to be disposed on to the Child or children of mine, born of her body, as she thinks fitt; & also, three horses; & also, ye Plantation I now live on to Enjoy ye Same during her natural life.

Item, I give & bequeath to my well beloved Son, Nathaniel Reading, the Said Plantation after his mother's decease, to him & his heirs for Ever, Provided he returns back from England & personally Enjoy ye Same, But if he should not return from England, to Live on & enjoy ye Same, That then, my Son, Churchill Inherit & possess, to whom I Give and bequeath it, to him & his heirs forever, provided his brother Nathaniell Return not to Claim & Injoy the Same; & Likewise, to my Son

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Nathaniell, I Give one Negro Man called George, to him and his heirs for ever, provided he returns (as aforesd.) to Injoy the Same; and one Feather bed with Furniture, with a hand Mill, w'th four Young Cows and Calves, the Said Cattle, Negro and Houshold Stuff, to be delivered to him when he shall arrive at the age of fifteen years, with their Increase, male and Female, to him & his Heirs; and the Same not to be paid out of his own Cattle w'ch are of a different mark from mine, as by Record appears.

Item, I give & bequeath to my Daughter, Sarah, thirty pound, money of this Province, to be paid at my decease; & one Cow & Calf, I bequeath to her first born Child; & ye youngest of my horses now running in the Woods, I bequeath to her husband, David Dupuis.

Item, I Give and bequeath to my daughter Mary, my Negro Man called Jeffery, w'th one Bed & Furniture, one Iron pott, w'th five pound, current money; with four Cows & Calves, ye said Legacy to be delivered her att ye Age of fiveteen Years or att ye day of her marriage with her Mothers Consent.

Item, I Give to my daughter, Ann, one Negro woman called Diana, w'th one bed & Furniture, one Iron pott, w'th Five pound current money; & four Cows & Calves, to be Delivered att the age of fifteen years, or at ye day of her marriage; w'th her Mothers Consent.

Item, I Give & bequeath to my son, Thomas, one Negro Boy called Tom, with a Bed and Furniture; w'th four Cows & Calves, to be paid him att ye age of fifteen years.

Item, I Give and bequeath to my Son, Churchill, one Negro Girl, called Han, w'th one bed and Furniture; & also Four Cows & Calves, the Same to be paid him at the age of fifteen years.

Item, my Will & Intent thereof, is so, That if it should please God that any of my Children should die unmarried & under ye Age, that ye Same part & Legacies to them bequeath'd, Shall be Equally divided & Given to those of my Children yt shall be alive, & likewise wt Estate & Effects to me belonging, not herein mentioned, after my lawfull debts are paid & discharged, I leave to my wife's Disposall & that att her death, to give & leave to any one or more of our Children she shall best approve of.

And hereby, I Constitute & ordain my Dear Wife & Mr. Davis Dupuis, & Mr. Humphry Legg, my Executors of this my last Will & Testament; and I do hereby utterly disallow, disannul & Revoke all & every other Former Will or Testament, Legacies & bequests, or Executors by me made or named, Ratifying & Confirming this my Last Will & Testament.

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In witness whereof, I have hereunto Sett my hand and Seal, the day and year above written.

LIONEL READING. (Seal)

Signed, Sealed, Published, Pronounced & Declared by the Said Lionell Reading, as his last Will & Testament in the presence of us: the Subscribers:

JAMES LEIGH,

HENRY BROOK.

JNO. LAWSON.

(Negro and Houshold Stuff, the Said Legacy, David Dupuis, these Words Interlined before Signed & Sealed.)

SR. RICHARD EVERARD, Barrt., Gov.

These may certify that the within Will was proved upon Oath in due form by the Oath of James Leigh, Esq., one of the Evidences.

Given under my hand, this 18th. Day of Febry., 1725.

RICHD. EVERARD.

Letters granted with the Will annexed, to Grace Reading, the Widow, the Exors, refusing to Act.