

Will of John Biggs 19th March 1697 -

I John Bigg of Elizabeth River in the County of Norfolk in Virginia being often sick & Weak in body, but now of good and Perfect Memory... minding to putt in Order al and singuler my Estate both reall & personall to the intent there should by Noe Stryfe for the same after my Decease...Desire & pray my Children & all Others to bee Contented with my last Will & Testam' without any trouble, buissines, or vexation of any of them against the Other, for any of my Said Estate; as they will answare for the same before the Judgmt Seat of God...I... bequeath to my Son John Bigg (Whom I doe hereby...apoynt to bee my Sole Only and absolute & lawfull heire..all my estate both reall & personall Except Such leagacyes hereafter Mensoned...I Give him my said Son John Bigg; all my land I am Now pesessed off my Manner plantation, and all the land belonging to the Same...Including a Small parcell of land that George Whidbey lives upon by my permission dureing My life; allsoe the Land wch my Son Jabez held in his lifetime by Pattent bareing Date the 23d Day of Aprill 1688 Wth Said Land is allsoe my p[ro]per Right; all which with the land I hold Now by my Owne Patent baring date the 21th Day of Aprill Ano Domini 1690; I give to my Said son Jno Bigg...as is Expressed in the Pattent aforesaid, To have & to hold the said Plantacon...unot the Said John Bigg my Son, and the heires of his body... The heires Male first to take place & soe in Order, but if my Said Son John Shall Dye Without Issue... then my land with the Apurtenances, to my Grand son John Whidbey...and for lack of Such Issue to my Grand Son George Whidby...then to descend to the rest of my Duaghter Elizabeth's children...& for lack of Such Issue, thento my Duaghter katherin Mercer's Children, and their heires, the Male first alwayes to take place, and for want thereof the ffemale & their heires And for lack of Such Issue, to the Next right heires of mee the Said John Bigg, the ffather forever; Butt if my Son John Bigg have Children...or in defect thereof, My Grand Son John Whiteby or for lack therof the Said Geroge Whitebey in defect therof any of the heire Afore Menconed...are at their owne liberty to give the Said land to which they like best of their Children Either Male of female; Butt if my Son John Bigg have lawfull Issue & Dye intestate, then my land aforesaide to fall & Descend to his Children whether male of female, the Male first...the Meaning is that if the Male Die the female to take place [Note: a dozen words heavily corsed out here.] I Give & bequeath to my Son Thomas Bigg, My Daughters Ann Faux (Fewox), Katherin Mercer, Elizabeth Whitby, Joane Sykes, Pheebe Bigg, Dorothy Bigg to Each of them I give twelve pence or One Shilling lawfull Money of England or the vallue ther of...Item I doe allsoe Give unto my son in law Mathew Caswell & My Grand Children John Hassold & Martha, Ffrancis, William, Jabez, Jean & Mathew Caswell to Each of them One twelve pence of One shilling Sterling...all the aforesaid legacyes to bee paid in Six Monthes after my Decesase...And this to bee the full Share...for Each of those persons, above Names...And the reason why I give them...Noe More, is for their Disobendience, and Other material matters best Knowne to my Self Item I doe hereby...Appoynt my Son John Bigg to bee my...Onley Executor...And to take full...possession after my Decease of all my Estate...to the use of himself and his lawfull Issue hee paying those Legacys afore bequeathed, and if my Son John Should die before proof of this Will, his wife to Act as Executorix but On the behalf of his Lawfull Issue in Wittness Where of I the Said John Bigg have Subscribed this my last Will & Testamt wth my Own hand...this 4th Day of Sept ano Domini 1694 John Bigg & Seale...in the

p[re]sence of us John Portlock Tho. Nash Tho; Etheridge Joseph Hodgis Wm Maund Wm
(his mark) Etheridg, Rebecka (her mark) Hodgis 'and many Others' Proved in Court 15h
March 1696/7 by the Oathes of Joseph Hodgis Jno Portlock Tho: Nash & Thomas
Etheridge & is Ordered to bee recorded Malachi Thruston Cl Cur" (Norfolk co., Va. Will
Book 6: p.77 [Transcription by David L. Kent])