

Will of William Culbreath

In the name of God amen. I William Culbreath of Mecklenburg County planter but poorly in health but in perfect mind and memory thanks be given unto God for the same calling unto mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed once for all men to die do make and ordain this my last will and testament that is to say, Principally and first of all I recommend my soul into the hands of the almighty god that gave it me, and my body. I commend to the earth to be buried in decent Christian burial at the discretion of my executors nothing doubting but at the general resurrection I shall receive the same again by the almighty power of god and as touching such worthy estates wherewith it hath pleased god to bless me in this life with I give, devise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form – Item. I give and bequeath to my son Thomas Culbreath tract of my land that I now live on containing to 203 acres after the death of my wife to him and his heirs forever – Item. I lend to my loving wife Marget Culbreath the land I now live on and five Negroes by names Charles, Dick, Fill, Win; Hannah during her natural life – Item. I give to my grandson John Culbreath son of my son John Culbreath one negro man Sam to him and his heirs forever - Item. I give to my daughter Patty Ramsey two negroes by names Liddy and Fill after the death of my wife to her and her heirs forever – Item. I give to my grandson William Culbreath son of my son William Culbreath one negro girl Edy to him and his heirs forever – Item. I give to my daughter Mary McNeill two negroes names Sary and Hannah after the death of my wife to her and her heirs forever – Item. I give to my daughter Marget Culbreath two negroes by names Rose and Dick and a bed and furniture and a horse to the valuation of twelve pounds and bridle and saddle that she now claim's and twenty pounds cash to her and her heirs forever after the death of my wife – Item. I give to my daughter Isbel Culbreath two negroes by names Charles and Frank after the death of my wife to her and her heirs forever - Item. I give to my son Thomas Culbreath six negroes by names Jack, Bristol, Jo, Steavan, Jane, Win and my still after the death of my wife to him and his heirs forever – Item. I lend to my loving wife Marget Culbreath my stock of horses that is not willed away and stock of cattle and stock of hogs and stock of sheep and wagon and gear and all the rest of my estate that is not mentioned of all kinds during her natural life and at the death of my dear and loving wife my will and desire is that my executors shall set up my estate to the highest bidder with twelve months credit if not paid punctually to the day interest from the date and my will and desire is that after my estate is sold by my executors and the bonds are taken with appraised securities such as my executors chooses that the bonds shall be made in seven divisions after my just debts is paid and lots drawn for each legatee according to their legacies given – Item. It is my will and desire that after my estate is divided that all of my son John Culbreath's children shall be entitled to one seventh part of my estate that does not stand willed away except John Culbreath his son and it is my will and desire that it shall be an equal division among all the rest to them and their heirs forever the death of my wife – Item. I give to grand daughter Isbel Culbreath daughter of my son William Culbreath one seventh part of my estate that is not willed away after the death of my wife to her and her heirs forever – Item. I give to my five children Patty Ramsey, and Mary McNeill and Marget Culbreath and Isbel Culbreath and Thomas Culbreath five sevenths of my estate that does not stand willed away after the death of my wife to be equally divided among them to them and their heirs forever – Item. And last of all I appoint my son Thomas Culbreath wholly

and solely my full power executor of my estate this my last will and testament given under my hand and seal this twenty eighth day of May one thousand seven hundred and eight seven.
Signed in presence of us:

Lem Wilson
Zachariah Glascock
John Wilson

William Culbreath

At a court held for Mecklenburg County the 8th day of October 1787 this will was proved by the oaths of Lem Wilson, Zachariah Glascock and John Wilson witnesses thereto and ordered to be recorded. And on the motion of Thomas Culbreath the executor therein named who made oath thereto and together with Samuel Hopkins Jr. and John Hopkins his securities entered into and acknowledged their bond in the penalty of eight thousand pounds conditioned as the law directs certificate was granted him for obtaining a probate of said will in due form. John Brown

The slaves, by name are:

Charles These correspond to those listed in the 1787 but for Frances.

Dick

Fill (Phil)

Win (Winny)

Hannah

Sam

Liddy

Edy

Sary (Sarah)

Rose

Frank

Jack

Bristol

Jo (Joe)

Steavan (Stephen)

Jane

What this tells me:

William Culbreath's widow is Marget. She will live on the estate with some slaves until her death.

Son Thomas is given the 203 acre estate on which his mother is allowed to live until her death.

Son Thomas is named Executor.

Daughters Patty Ramsey, Mary McNeil, Marget, Isabel will receive slaves.

Grandson John by William's son John will receive one slave

Grandson William by William's son William (who is dec'd 1771) will receive one slave.

When widow Marget dies:

The remainder of the estate not already assigned to legatees will be set up for public auction.

The proceeds will be divided into 7 parts as follows:

Thomas Culbreath will receive one-seventh.

Mary McNeil will receive one-seventh. (Mary is the wife of John McNeil)?? **Or Hector?**

Patty Ramsey will receive one-seventh. (Patty is the wife of Gilbert Ramsey)

Marget Culbreath (later called Marget Jr) will receive one-seventh.

Isabel Culbreath will receive one seventh.,

Granddaughter Isabel by William's son William (who is dec'd 1771) will receive one-seventh.

Grandchildren by William's son John (EXCEPT grandson John) will share one-seventh part.

Of note: William did not mention his grandson William in the division of the estate. This grandson received one slave. His sister Isabel is to receive her father William's one-seventh.

The appraisal of William Culbreath II's estate took place on Nov 30th, 1781 and was presented to the court on Jan 14th, 1782. Son died before father.

The appraisal was done by Thomas Greenwood, John McNeil, and Baxter Davis.