

Will, DE, Kent, Bolitha Laws 1781

And the name of God Amen.

The 15th day of September in the year of Our Lord 1781, I, **BOLITHA [BELITHA] LAWS** of Kent County and the Delaware state, being very sick and weak in body but have perfect mind and memory, thanks be to God for the same, and calling to mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, I do make & ordain this my last will and testament, that is to say:

I PRINCIPALLY AND FIRST OF ALL I give and recommend my soul unto God that gave it me. And for my body I recommend it to the Earth to be buried in a Christian like and decent manner at the discretion of my executors, nothing doubting, but at the general Resurrection I shall receive the Same Again by The Mighty power of God.

And is touching such worldly estate wear with it has pleased God to bless me with in this life I give and devise and dispose of the same in Manner and form of following, that is to say:

IN THE FIRST PLACE I give and bequeath to my well-beloved wife **LEAH LAWS**, besides the one third of all estate real and personal, one negro woman named NANCE, and one negro girl named ANNA to her proper use and advantage during her natural life, and at my wife's, decease the said Negroes together with their increase from this time to my daughters **CHARLOTTE [LAWS]** and **ANNE LAWS** to be equally divided between them.

ITEM I give and bequeath unto my son **JOSHUA LAWS**, whom with my wife I constitute, make, and ordain my only lawful executors and executrix of this my last will and testament, all that plantation tract or parcel of land rain and being in Mispillion hundred and County aforesaid and adjoining my home Plantation called and known by the name of **BEN TURNER**'s together with all profits and benefits arising therefrom from this day forward to him and the lawful heirs of his own constituting.

ITEM I give and bequeath to my son **JOHN LAWS** £10 gold and silver or the value thereof to be paid out of my personal estate by my executor and executrix at my decease or within 12 months after.

ITEM I give and bequeath to my son **WILLIAM LAWS** the sum of £10 of gold and silver money to be paid out of my estate by my executor and executrix in 12 months after my decease.

ITEM I give and bequeath unto my well-beloved son **OUTTEN LAWS** all that tract or parcel of land lying and being on the head of the main branch of Mispillion Creek in the county aforesaid adjoining the land of **WILLIAM FLEMING** and others called and known by the name of **BOWMAN**'s containing 150 acres or thereabouts together with all and singular the improvements and advantages whatsoever to him and his heirs forever.

ITEM I give and bequeath to my daughter **ELIZABETH [LAWS] ANDERSON** one negro named TIB together with all her increase from this day to her and the lawful issue of her body forever.

ITEM I give and bequeath to my daughter **SARAH [LAWS] MANLOVE** one negro girl named EALSE and her increase to her and her lawful heirs of her body, her oldest child accepted.

ITEM I give and bequeath to my daughters **ESTHER LAWS** and **LEAH LAWS** my Negro man called JACOB the said fellow to be held by the first of my two said daughters she

Will, DE, Kent, Bolitha Laws 1781

paying to the other the half value of said Negro in money or otherwise well secured so be paid the set of my said daughters when each and either shall arrive to the age of 18 years.

ITEM I give and bequeath to my well-beloved grandson **BOLITHA ANDERSON** son of **ELIJAH [ANDERSEN]** and **ELIZABETH [LAWS] ANDERSEN** the full sum of £5 gold or silver money or a cow and calf at the option of my said executor and executrix to be paid and 12 months after my decease.

ITEM to my grandson **BOLITHA LAW**'s son of **JOHN LAWS** aforesaid the sum of £5 in gold or silver money or a cow and the calf to be paid out of my estate in 12 months after my decease by my said executor or executrix.

ITEM I give and bequeath to my grandchild **WILLIAM MCGONAGALL** to ewes and two lambs to be paid at my deceased by my said executors as aforesaid.

I don't know how I give and bequeath to my grandchild **ZIPORAH LAWS** one two year old heifer to be paid out of my estate by my said executors as aforesaid.

I give and bequeath to my sons **MAJOR [LAWS]** and **TRUSTAN LAWS** all my home Plantation, that is to say an equal number of acres to each but that my son **TRUSTAN** shall have the part where on the buildings now stand, and further, if both or either of my two said sons **MAJOR** and **TRUSTAN** shall die without lawful issue the survivor of the said two boys shall inherit the whole of said Plantation, only paying the sum of £100 lawful money at the time of one year after the decease of either of said boys to my son **JOHN LAWS** and the like sum to my son **WILLIAM LAWS**.

And if both said **MAJOR** and **TRUSTAN** should die without lawful issue then my said home Plantation shall be, and is hereby bequeathed to, my said sons **JOHN [LAWS]** and **WILLIAM LAWS**, aforesaid, to be equally divided between them to them their heirs lawfully begotten forever.

And after my lawful debts being paid out of my estate by by executor and executrix aforesaid if the remains and reversions should be sufficient to, or would admit, I require and hereby bequeath to each of my unmarried children a horse and saddle, both to the value of £25, but in a more special manner to my daughters and **HESSE [ESTHER] & LEAH** aforesaid.

And I do hereby disallow, revoke, and disannul all and every other former testaments, wills, legacies, bequests heretofore by me in any wise before this time named, willed, bequeathed ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my will and testament.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and your first above written.

BOLITHA LAWS {seal, his L mark}

Signed, Sealed, published and declared in the presence of

**NATHAN FLEMING
LYDA FLEMING
JOHN RALSTON**

Will, DE, Kent, Bolitha Laws 1781

Delaware state

Personally appeared before me, THOMAS RODNEY, Esquire, register for the probate and wills and granting letters of administration in and for the county of Kent, **JOHN RALSTON** and **NATHAN FLEMING** and being sworn say that they saw and heard the testator **BOLITHA LAWS** sign, seal, publish, pronounce, and declare the foregoing instrument of writing instance and request and in his presence and at the same time saw **LYDA FLEMING** sign as a witness to the same.

In testimony where I have I have hereunto subscribed my name April 26th 1783.

THOMAS RODNEY, register

Will, DE, Kent, Bolitha Laws 1781

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