

**Will, DE, Kent, Magdaline McKnitt 1784**

In the name of God Amen.

The 12th day of November in the year of Our Lord 1784 I, **MAGDALINE MCKNITT** of the county of Kent on Delaware, widow, being very sick and weak in body but if perfect mind and memory thanks be given to God, therefore, calling to mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for man once to die to make & ordain this my last will and testament. That is to say:

PRINCIPALLY AND FIRST OF ALL I give and recommend my soul unto the hands of God that gave it and I recommend my body 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 AS TOUCHING SUCH WORLDLY estate where with it has pleased God to bless me with in this life I give, devise, and dispose of the same in the following manner and form.

IMPRIMIS I give and bequeath unto my well-beloved son **JAMES MCKNITT** my negro man PETER after deducting the sum of £30 of his father's estate due to him from me as administrator with the interest and other expenses if any.

ITEM I give and bequeath unto my well-beloved son **JOHN MCKNITT** my negro girl ORPAH and negro boy SHELDON after deducting his part of his father's estate yet do in manner aforesaid.

ITEM I give and bequeath to my well-beloved son **ROBERT MCKNITT** my negro boy LABEDU after deducting his part of his father's estate in manner aforesaid.

ITEM I give and bequeath unto my well-beloved son **WILLIAM MCKNITT** my negro boy CURLESS after deducting his part of his father's estate, interest, and other charges as before mentioned for the others being still due.

ITEM I give and bequeath unto my well-beloved daughter [**ELIZABETH**] **BETSY BLACK** all my wearing apparel, fine and coarse, with my gold ring and silver shoe buckles.

AND I DO APPOINT and allow my negro woman PHILLIS to be sold for the payment of my just and lawful debts. And I do desire and order my two younger sons **ROBERT** and **WILLIAM** to be bound to trades. And the two negro boys, before named, to them bequeathed to be kept and taken care of till I said **ROBERT** and **WILLIAM**, my sons, arrive at 21 years of age by **JAMES** and **JOHN MCKNITT**, my two elder sons, and at their expense, who I likewise constitute, make, and ordained my executors of this my last will and testament.

I DO HEREBY utterly disallow, revoke, disannul all and every other former Testaments, Wills, legacies, bequest, and executors buy me any wise before this time named, willed, or bequeath ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament.

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

**MAGDALINE MCKNITT** {seal, her M mark}

Signed, Sealed, published, pronounced, and declared by the said **MAGDALINE MCKNITT** has her last will and testament in the presence of us, the subscribers:

**JOHN KING**  
**ROBERT FLEMMING Jr.**  
**ELIZABETH FLEMING**

N. B. All the rest of my estates goods chattels and effects after payment of all just debts of mine to be equally divided between my four sons above named after my decease this was before signing and sealing of the above added by same Authority as the above.

Delaware state

Personally appeared before me **THOMAS RODNEY**, Esquire register for the proving of wills and granting of letters of administration in and for the county of Kent, **JOHN KING** and **ROBERT FLEMING Jr.**, and being sworn on the holy evangelist to say that they saw **MAGDALINE MCKNITT** sign and seal and heard her public, pronounce, and declare the same as and for her last will and testament. That at the time of her so doing and saying the same she was to their best of their belief of sound and disposing mind and memory, that they, at her instance and request, did in her presence sign their names as witnesses thereto and also the like instance and request and in her presence saw **ELIZABETH FLEMING** sign her name as one other witness to the same.

And testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 15th day of November Anno Domini 1787.

**THOMAS RODNEY**, register

Be it remembered that on the 15th day of November 1787 the last will and testament of **MAGDALINE MCKNITT** deceased was proved and approved in due form and letters testamentary at the same time granted to **JAMES MCKNITT** and **JOHN MCKNITT** who being sworn gave bond in the sum of two thousand pounds current money of the said state with **ROBERT FLEMING** and **JOHN KING** for their faithful performance thereof agreeable to law.

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Transcribed from original documents by Brent R. Brian & Martha M. Brian.

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