

Will, NC, Bertie, John Drake 1728

In the name of God.

This fifth day of January in year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and twenty eight ... I **JOHN DRAKE** of the precinct of Bertie being sick and weak of body but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be given unto God, therefore & calling to mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die do make and ordain this to be my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First and principally I give my soul into the hands of God who gave it me and my body I commend it to the earth to be decently buried in Christian like manner at the discretion of executors hereafter named, nothing doubting but that I shall receive the same again by the mighty hand of God at ye general resurrection and as touching such worldly estate as it hath pleased God to bless me with in this world I give, devise and bequeath in manner and form following:

IMPRIMIS it is my will that all my legal debts be paid.

I give unto my well beloved wife **SARAH DRAKE** my manner plantation and all the land belonging thereunto until my son **JAMES DRAKE** shall come to ye age of twenty one years and if in case my said son shall decease in his minority then I give my said plantation & land to my said wife to her and her heirs forever, and if in case my said son James shall ... years of twenty one to him and his heirs forever.

ITEM I give and bequeath unto my **JAMES DRAKE** on young mare and her increase also two cows and ... and ... pewter basin and six pewter plates to him and his heirs forever.

ITEM I give and bequeath unto my loving wife all ye rest of my estate to her and her heirs forever.

... of this my last will and testament I make and ordain my trusty and well beloved father-in-law **JAMES BRYANT** my whole and sole executor revoking and annulling all former wills by me heretofore made, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament.

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

JOHN DRAKE {seal, pen flourish}

Signed, sealed, published, pronounced and declared by ye said John Drake to be his last will and testament in ye presence of us

JONATHON SUTTON, Jurat

JOHN DICKENSON, Jurat

RICHARD SUMNER

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Certified May Court 1729

The above will was proved in open court by the oaths of **JOHN SUTTON** and **JOHN DICKENSON** evidence thereto in due form of law and at the same time came into court **JAMES BRYANT** executor of said testator & took the executors oath.

Witness