

Will, VA, Accomack, James Gray 1719

In the name of God Amen.

I, **JAMES GRAY**, of the county of Accomack in Virginia, being very sick and weak of body but of perfect sense and memory, thanks be to God for the same, do hereby make this my last will and testament.

IMPRIMIS I give and bequeath my soul into the hands of almighty God, who gave it me, and my body to year earth from whence it was taken to have a Christian like burial as shall be thought fitting by my executors, hereafter to be named.

AND as for my estate, which God, of his Mercy hath been pleased to give me, after my debts and funeral charges are paid I give and bequeath as follow with viz.

ITEM I give and bequeath unto my daughter **ESTER [ESTHER] GRAY AYMES** the plantation where on I now dwell and as much land there in two adjoining as may contain to 200 acres of land, beginning on the land of **THOMAS STRINGER** and from ye main branch to run up to the head of my land and to have an equal breadth on the aforesaid branch with my other two daughters **ELIZABETH [GRAY]** and **DOROTHY [GRAY]**, that is to have her part in breadth as each one of them which land I give unto my daughter **ESTER** during her life and after her death ye Plantation whereon I now dwell, 100 acres of ye aforesaid land I give unto my grand-son **JAMES AYMES** and ye heirs of his body lawfully begotten. And for want of such heirs, to my grand-son **WILLIAM AYMES** and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten. And for a want of such heirs to ye next heirs of my daughter **ESTER**, male or female, to them and their heirs forever.

And the other hundred acres of land given to my daughter **ESTER** during life, after her death I give onto my grand-son **WILLIAM AYMES** and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten. And for want of such heirs to my grand-son **JAMES AYMES** and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten. And for want of such heirs to ye heirs of my daughter **ESTER** as aforesaid.

ITEM I give and bequeath unto my daughter **ESTER** one feather bed and furniture and one mare.

ITEM I give and bequeath unto my daughter **ELIZABETH GRAY HINDMAN** 200 acres of land next unto the land I have given my daughter **ESTER** and her children from ye Branch up to the head of my land to have equal breadth and ye Branch as each one of my other daughters said land I give unto my daughter **ELIZABETH** during her natural life and then to my grand-daughter **ESTER MACOME HORNSBY [ESTHER MACOMB]** to ye heirs of her body lawfully begotten. And for want of such heirs to ye heirs of my daughter **ELIZABETH** that she hath had by her husband **RICHARD HINMAN** and their heirs forever.

ITEM I give and bequeath unto my daughter **DOROTHY GRAY LITTLEHOUSE** 200 acres of land next unto the land I have given to my daughter **ELIZABETH** and her children and the said land to have an equal breadth on ye branch as each other parcel of land before given, the said land I give unto my daughter **DOROTHY** during her natural life and after her death to my grand-son **PETER WADKINSON** and The Heirs of his body lawfully begotten and for want of such heirs to ye next heir of my daughter **DOROTHY** and their heirs forever but my will is ye my grand-son **PETER** may live on ye said land and have ye benefit of what he shall build, clear, and fence, not disturbing his mother.

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ITEM I give and bequeath unto my daughter **DOROTHY** one feather bed and furniture and two heifers of two or three years old each of them.

ITEM I give and bequeath unto my two grand-sons **WILLIAM LITTLEHOUSE** and **SIMON LITTLEHOUSE** each of them a breeding cow.

ITEM my will is if any of these, my grand-children, will not live on ye Land that I have given to them that they not rent it out to any of my family on penalty of forfeiting their right to ye said land and my will is that ye hand mill be for use of all my children and remain on the plantation where on it now is and that my cart and wheels maybe for ye plantation use.

ITEM I give and bequeath unto my grand-son **JAMES AYMES** my least gun and an iron-bound chest, one heifer called **JAMES**'s heifer and my spoon molds and appurtenances to them belonging.

ITEM I give and bequeath unto my grand-son **WILLIAM AYMES** one small chest and two-year-old heifer.

ITEM I give and bequeath unto my grand-son **PETER WADKINSON** two ewes.

ITEM I give and bequeath unto my grand-son **JAMES GRAY HUDSON** my great gun.

ITEM I give to my four daughters (to wit) **ELIZABETH, DOROTHY, MARY [GRAY HUDSON]**, and **ESTER** all the rest of my estate after my debts and Legacies are paid to be equally divided amongst them.

Last I appoint and make these four daughters before mentioned to be the executrix has of this my last will and testament revoking all other wills or will made by me at any time or times whatsoever and do declare this to be my last will and testament.

Has witness my hand and seal this 21st day of August in year of Our Lord 1719.

**JAMES GRAY** {seal, his mark}

Signed and sealed in ye presence of us

**ARTHUR LAYLOR**

**ROBERT WATSON**

**WILLIAM MEARS** {his mark}

The within last will and testament of **JAMES GRAY**, deceased, was proved in open court of Accomack County by the oaths of **ARTHUR LAYLOR, ROBERT WATSON,** and **WILLIAM MEARS**.

And witness to the same November ye 3rd 1719 with ye court admitted to record.

Test **CHARLES SNEED**

Recorded October 1719 Charles Sneed

ANIMAL MARKINGS: **EDWARD CURTIS, THOMAS SIMSON, JACOB MORRIS**

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