Last Will and Testament of Captain Thomas Carter

Lancaster County, Virginia

In the name of God, Amen the sixteenth day of August 1700, I Thomas Carter Senior of the County of Lancaster being sick in body but of good and perfect Memory, Thanks be to Almighty God and calling to Remembrance the uncertain Estate of this Transitory life............ and now for the settling of my temporal estate and such goods, chattels and debts as it hath pleased God far above my Deserts to bestow upon me. I do order give and dispose the same in manner and form following that is to say that first I will that all Those Debts and Dues as I owe in right or conscience to any manner of Person or Persons whosoever shall be well and truly contented and paid or ordain to be paid within convenient time after my decease by Execs. hereafter named.

Item I do give my son Edward Carter one hundred acres of land to him and his heirs forever but if so be the said Edward will not join with his brothers within three months after my Decease to pay Equal charge for the laying it out and let his mother have what Timber she shall have occasion of for Repairing houses and fences on my now dwelling plantation during her life that then he shall have no benefit of it but I do give it to son John Carter to him and his heirs forever.

Item I do give unto my son Henry Carter one hundred acres of land to him and his heirs forever only Reserving my wife to have the benefit of getting what timber She shall have occasion of for Repairing and Building on my now Dwelling Plantation but whereas the said Henry is in England and if it should happen he should never come in again I do give the said land unto my son James Carter to him and his heirs forever. Item, I do give unto my son John Carter one hundred acres of land to him and his heirs forever only Reserving the Same Privilege to my wife as in, the other two.

Item I do give my Negro, Dick unto my loving wife Katherine during her natural life and then to be Divided Amongst all the rest of my children only my son Edward to have no share of him.

Item I do give all my personal estate whatsoever its to be Equally Divided my loving wife and children only reserving the great table to my wife whereas my son in Law hath Received fifteen hundred and sixty pounds of Tobacco in part of the estate his Grandfather in Law Edward Dale gave his wife I having no Receipt for it and if the said William George will not be accountable for it then it is my will that he shall have no part of my said estate but only one shilling sterling in full part of his wife portion

Item I do give unto my son Thomas Carter my now Dwelling Plantation with one hundred acres of land to it to him and his heirs forever after my now Loving wife Katherine decease.

Item I do nominate my son Thomas Carter my ecce and my loving wife my exetrx of this my last will and Testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

Published in the presence of Thomas Carter Senior (Seal)

Signed John Davis, Thomas: White Richard Stephens

Date: Aug 1700

Place: Lancaster County, Virginia