

# Last Will and Testament of John Morris

*Pasquotank County, North Carolina — November 18, 1739*

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## Image 1 — Envelope / Cover Note

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Letters if February

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## Image 2 — Last Will and Testament

### North Carolina, Pasquotank County

Know ye That I John Morris being sick and weak of Body but of perfect mind and memory thanks be to God. Therefore Ending to resist the mortality of my Body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to Die, Do make and ordain this my Last Will and Testament that is to say principally the first of all I commend and recommend my soul into the Hands of God that gave it, and my Body I commit to the Earth to be Decently Buried at the Discretion of my Executor and Executors hereafter named, and as to doing such worldly Estate wherewith it hath pleased God to Bless me with and others — I give, promise, and dispose of the same in the following manner & form.

First I will that all those just Debts and Duties as I do owe in right of any manner of person or persons whatsoever, that be well and truly Contented and paid certain, to be paid in Convenient time and place after my Decease by my Executor and Executors hereafter named.

**Item,** I give to my Well beloved son Joseph Morris the one Moiety or half part of my manor plantation and Tract of Land wherever I now dwell that part whereon he now dwells to him and his heirs forever.

**Item,** I give to my well beloved son John Morris the other Moiety or half part of said Land and Manner plantation that part whereon I now dwell to him and his heirs forever.

**Item,** I give to my Daughter Sarah Morris one feather Bed and furniture two pillows also one Brass Kettle also one bolt of oxonbridgs also one piece of narrow Garter also Eleven yards of plush.

**Item,** I give to my Daughter Sarah two Cows & Calves also two mares and all their increase to her and her heirs.

**Item,** I give to my son John Morris two Cows & Calves and four sheep to him & his heirs.

**Item,** I give to my son Zachariah Morris one Feather Bed and furniture it being the Bed that he now lies on with all the furniture thereunto belonging also two yearling Heifers and their increase also one Bay Mare & her increase also two sheep and their increase to him and his heirs.

**Item,** I give to my Daughter Hannah Morris one bolt of oxonbridgs also one Bed furniture also the two year old Heifers and their increase also one iron pot to her and her heirs.

**Item,** I give to my son Isaac Morris one Feather Bed and furniture also two yearling Heifers and their increase also two iron pots to him and his heirs.

**Item,** I give to my True and loving wife Mary Morris one third part of all my Moveable Estate to her and her Disposal.

**Item,** I give the residue of my Estate to be equally Divided Between my five Children — that Remains unmarried by John, Sarah, Zachariah, Hannah and Isaac Morris to them and their disposal.

**Item,** I likewise Constitute, make & ordain my true and loving Wife Mary Morris Executrix and my Well beloved son Aaron Morris and my Trusty & well beloved son Joseph Morris Executors of this my Last Will and Testament. And I do hereby utterly Disallow, Revoke and Disannul all & every other former Testaments, Wills, Legacies, Bequests and Executors by in any ways before this time named, willed and Bequeathed, Ratifying and Confirming this and no other to be my last Will and Testament.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal this 18th Day of the Ninth Month, Commonly Called November In the year 1739.

Signed, Sealed, published, pronounced, and Declared by me the said John Morris as my last Will and Testament in the presence of us the Subscribers being:

**Testes:**

John his † Bolman (mark)

Mary † Albertson

Joseph Robinson

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**Image 3 — Probate Court Document**

**Pasquotank County — January Court 1739**

**Probat**

**His Majesty's Justices**

These may Certifie that Joseph Robinson one of the Subscribing Witnesses to the within Will appeared in Open Court and on his Solemn Affirmation Declared that he was present and saw John Morris sign, seal, publish and Declare the within to be and Contain one Last Will and Testament and that the said John Morris was then and at that time of sound and Disposing Memory and that he also saw John Albertson and Mary Albertson the other Subscribing Evidences make their marks thereto at the same time.

Then also appeared Mary Morris, Aaron Morris and Joseph Morris who were Qualified as Executors in Due form of Law. Ordered that the Honourable Nathaniel Hico Dig[?] Secretary of this Province or his Deputy thereof that Letters Testamentary Issue thereon as the Law directs.

Test **James [Castellaw?]**