

We beent held for the County of Southampton the 8. day of Novr 1781
 This will was presented in Court by Micajah Griffin the Executor therein
 named and proved by the oaths of Wm Wells and Eastwell Bricker two of the wit-
 nesses thereto and ordered to be Recorded. And on the motion of the said Executor
 who made oath according to law Certificate is granted him for obtaining as Executor
 in due form giving Security whereupon &c

Eastwell Bricker

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Read
 twice

In the Name of God Amen, I Shewell Branch of the County of
 Southampton being very sick and Weak in body but of Perfect Mind and memory
 thanks be given to God do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament in
 Manner and form following Viz.

Item, I leave the two of my lands & Plantations whereon I now dwell containing
 One hundred and Eighty Acres unto my Loving Wife Elizabeth Branch during
 my said wifes Widowhood or Natural Life but at her Mannage or death & give
 such land to be equally divided betwixt two of my Sons namely Drury and Peter
 Branch to be Equally divided by Three Neighbouring Men.

Item, I give and bequeath unto my Son Jesse Branch my Negro Man named Jacob
 but in my will and devise that my said Slave Jacob shall labour for my four Children
 Namely Drury, Martha, Peter and Jesse Branch and the said Slave Jacob to labour
 on the Plantations whereon I now dwell until my son Jesse arrives to the age of
 Eighteen years from thence the said Slave Jacob to remain with my s. son Jesse
 and his heirs for ever.

Item, I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Martha Branch the sum of thirty
 pounds in Actual Gold or Silver to be raised and leased out of my Estate at the
 discretion of my Executor it is further my will and devise that my Son Drury
 shall have his choice of the two Parts of my land at last taken which half of my
 land as may be by my said Son Drury's choice after divided by Three Neigh-
 bouring men as aforesaid Then I give and bequeath such land as aforesaid
 unto my s. two Sons as before Divided to them & their Heirs for ever.

Item The Remainder of my Estate let it be of what Nature or kind soever I give to
 be equally divided amongst my wife and four Children such Remainder of my Estate
 to be sold and equally divided as aforesaid when my son Jesse arrives to the age of
 years it is further my Will that my Wife and Children shall Purchase such Estate
 as is herein before devised as Remainder and that no other Person or Persons shall have
 a right to Purchase but my Wife and Children at the time I have devised for such
 Remainder of my Estate to be sold which it is my Will that such remaining Estate
 after my just debts and Legacies are paid such Estate of any shall then remain
 divided as aforesaid and I do also constitute and appoint Bailey Branch and
 John Wellons Esqrs. my whole and sole Executors to this last Will and Testament
 Signed Seal Published Pronounced & declared in presence of Ben^{ard} Branch Henry^{son} Branch John^{son} Branch
 & Drury Branch