

Southampton County Will Book 4 1783-97 LVA Reel #17

p. 33--will of Martha Smith-- gives Negro Mill the use of the house she lives in with ground sufficient for cotton, potatoes etc--18 Aug 83--rec 11 Sept 83--execs are Abidan and Joshua Bailey who affirm--

p. 46 – Robert Lundy – of Southampton county – gives 27 Negroes to heirs – I lend to my sister Elizabeth Hoof during her natural life [my old?] Negro Rachel and at her death my desire is that she be set free and if she should by age or infirmities become so as not to be able to get her living by labour, then my two sons William and James and my daughter Elizabeth shall maintain her jointly so that she may not suffer. It is my will and desire that my Negro Jenny be set free and she is hereby at? my death manumitted accordingly with her increase my executors shall apply to court for a certificate – 1 May 83 – rec 9 Oct 83

p. 253 - Thomas X Holt of Southampton County – gives two slaves to heirs – My desire is that my Negro woman Hannah may have her liberty to live where she pleases amongst my children without controle and in case she should be unable to maintain herself to be maintained out of my estate – sells four Negroes – 29 Dec 86--rec 11 April 87

p. 285 – Matthew x Vick Senior – of Southampton County – I lend to my loving wife Sarah Vick during her natural life the use and labour of my Negro wench Patience and her children Mason and Peter and after her death I give the said Negro wench Patience and all of her increase to my daughters Milly Porter, Winny Porter, Lydia Vaughan, and Isabel Vick to be equally divided between them to them and to their heirs and assigns forever hoping that each of my said daughters will find within themselves the liberty of conscience to set the said Negro wench Patience at her own liberty and discharge her from the service of any person whatsoever before she arrives at ta period of life too late to make provision for her future support and all of her increase as they may arrive to the age of twenty five years --leave under direction of execs the labour of my two Negro fellows Sharper and Simon either for them to be employed on the plantation whereon I now live or to be hired out for the best price that can be got for them from those whom they may choose to live with until their labor shall together with what part of my estate I have directed to be sold and my now outstanding debts be full enough and sufficient to pay and discharge all my just debts and the legacies herein contained and as soon as that may happen that my said Negroes Sharper and Simon immediately be set at liberty and discharged from the service of any person whatsoever and enjoy the benefit of freedom forever afterwards in the same manner as if they had been naturally born free-- 26 Sept 88 – rec 9 Oct 88

p. 336 --I Negro X Tom (formerly the property of Lemuel Jones of Sohampton) leaves to wife Fanny after the payment of just debts all estate--26 Oct 87--rec 8 Oct 89--Lemuel Jones is witness and Edmund Johnson named exec

p. 356 – Jean X Browne – of Southampton County – Whereas I am in possession of two negroes (whom I have heretofore held as slaves) of the following names (to wit) Windser and Abram I do by virtue of the act of assembly in that case made and provided manumit and set them free and I hereby release all my right title and claim that I might have to the above named Negroes as slaves – 5 Sept 89 – rec 14 Jan 90

p. 437 - Etheldred Taylor – of Southampton county – gives five slaves to heirs – My will and desire is that Eastser's child called Cherry be when old enough bound to some good industrious woman till she is old enough to be emancipated and then set free – 20 Feb 91 – rec 14 July 91

p. 452 – Thomas Davis – of Southampton County – gives First I give and bequeath to Henry Davis Senior My well beloved uncle two Negroe girls in North Carolina in Northampton County Hanna and Lettice providedly after my death he bring each of the two said girls Hannah and Lettice in Virginia give each of them nine months schooling and manumit them at the age of twenty one years of age. Hannah was born July 1777 and Lettice was born December 1781 and will be free in 1802, Hannah in 1798 – will not dated--rec 13 Oct 91

p. 471 - Henry Turner – of Southampton County – leaves L500 to children including one not yet born-- my Negroes Peter, Abraham, Antony, Jesse, Isham, Tom, Venus, Olive, Jude, and Patt my will and desire is that they shall all be free people in this our land and my Negroes Jack in Northampton he shall pay my estate sixty pounds with the discount of this years hire – has stores in NC and VA--13 Dec 91 – rec 8 March 92

p. 503 – Moses X Phillips – of Southampton County – My Negro man Mingo having served me faithfully and honestly I hereby manumit and set him free and I give him the shoemakers and coopers tools which has now works with – gives one Negro girl Aggey to Mary Cocke the wife of Wm of Surry--1 Nov 91 codicil says Cocke dead so Aggey and dau Betty given to friend S Kello – 30 Sept 89 – rec 13 July 92

p. 687 – James McNeil – of Southampton County – My will and desire is that my Negroe woman slave named Molly should from and after my decease have and enjoy her full liberty of freedom and also such rights and privileges of citizen as free Negroes may enjoy by the laws of this state existing at my death and I request my Executors particularly to execute my said above mentioned will directing the said emancipation that the same may be properly and fully effectuated as I shall herein direct the bulk of my estate to my nephew Alexander McNeil my desire is that the said Alexander should give such bond or bonds as may be required by the court of Southampton or any other court upon the full execution of my will directing the said emancipation of my said slave Molly according to act of assembly in such case made and provided or pursuant to such laws as may be existing and in force at the time of my death and the said Alexander should do all other act or acts legally required for the said emancipation and if my said nephew Alexander McNeil should refuse to give such bonds or do such other acts as may be legally requisite to effectuate the said emancipation then I bequeath one hundred pounds to two of my Executors, vizt, Tho Edmunds and Charles Taylor herin after named in order to secure and indemnify them against all expense which may accrue for the emancipation of the said Molly or for other expenses respecting the same which may thereafter accrue and on such failure of my said nephew I request my said Executors Thomas Edmunds and Charles Taylor to give bond and do such other acts as my be requisite for the full emancipation of the slave according to law and if the said Tho Edmunds and Charles Taylor should be at no expense for the emancipation or for the maintenance of the said Molly if she should hereafter come upon the parish then I devise over the said hundred pounds to my said nephew Alexander McNeil his exors admors or the remainder of the said hundred pounds to my said nephew after deducting such sums as my said executors Thomas Edmunds and Charles Taylor may be forced to expend by reason of said

bonds and said emancipation –Molly not to be sold for debt until all the rest of my estate should be exhausted– 9 Oct 94 – rec 11 June 95

p. 701 – Mary [W mark] Whitehead – of Southampton county – gives 2 slaves to heirs – I leave my two Negro men Anthony and London to be hired out two years each of them after my death and the money arising therefrom to be applied to the use of my daughter Elizabeth Newby and then tis my will desire they should be set free if the law will admit of it. I leave my Negro girl called Joan to my daughter Elizabeth Newby till she arrives to the age of eighteen years and then to be set free if the law will admit of it. I also leave to my daughter Polly Cotton my Negro girl called Pat till she arrives to the age of eighteen and then to be set free if the law will admit of it. I give my negroe woman called Beck her freedom after my death. If the law will not admit the above named Negroes to be set free Anthony London and Pat and Joan I leave them and their increase to be equally divided between my three daughters – leaves another slave each to daus Eliz and Polly 19 July 95 – rec 10 Sept 95

p. 712 – Olive X Browne – of Southampton county – Whereas I am in possession of sundry Negroes whom I heretofore held as slaves of the following names to wit., Toney, Mourning, Ben, Molly, Amos??, Toney, Sam, Jacob, Burwell, William, Sarah, Amy, and Liddy, I do by virtue of the act of assembly in that case made and provided manumit and set them free and I hereby release all right, title, and claim that I might have to the above named Negroes as slaves, and it is further my will and desire that if any of the female Negroes above named should have increase after the present date such child or children shall enjoy there full freedom in the same manner as the others and whereas some of the above Negroes are now under the age of twenty one years and may be so at the time of my death it is my will that my friend Thomas Lain have the service and labour of such negroes until they arrive to the said age of twenty one both those named above and such as may be born after the date of this my last will and testament – 9 Oct 94 – rec 10 Dec 95

p. 725 – Ann Myrick – of Southampton County – leaves two Negroes to heirs – my will and desire is that my old servant Bird shall have his freedom at my death. I also give him one sorrel filly – 18 Feb 95 – rec 11 Feb 96

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p. 3 – Ann X Edmunds – of Southampton County – I give my Negro man by the name of Juber his freedom – 31 Oct 94 – rec 21 Aug 97

p. 33 – Henry Davis – of Southampton County – I give unto my two Negro girls named Hannah and Lethea their freedom after they become twenty one years of age to be enjoyed by them agreeable to an act of assembly for the manumission of slaves. I give unto my Negro Sam the use of twenty acres of land during his natural life bounded by the deep branch, Richard Blows line then down the horse pen branch to the beginning - 12 Oct 97 – rec 11 April 98

p. 97 – Charles Nicholson – of Southampton County – From a thorough Conviction that Slavery and Oppression are inconsistent with the Will of the God of Justice and Mercy, I hereby emancipate the following Negroes to wit., Daphne, Lettice, Cain, Stuart, Alek, Sharper, Judith,

Amy, and all other Negroes to whom I have or may hereafter have any right. All the balance of any estate I give to my Father of which he will the within named Daphne a comfortable maintenance during life, except that, I give all the within named Negroes a legacy of ten pounds each – 27 Aug 98 – rec 17 Dec 98

p. 101 – Howell Myrick – of Southampton County – I desire what of the black people that falls to me may be liberated and those that remain under age shall serve until they arrive to the age of twenty one years – 15 May 98 – rec 17 Dec 98

p. 171 – John Meglamre – of Southampton County – gives eight slaves to heirs – my will is that my Negro man Cuper shall be free at the death of my wife – 15 May 97 – rec 20 Jan 00

p. 187 – John Wilkinson – of Southampton County – my executor has full power to make sale of any of my slaves which I have not set free should they behave amiss – my Negro woman Liddy and her children Peggy and Eve is to be set free and be maintained out of my estate until Nathaniel Wilkinson comes of age. My will and desire is also for Peggy and Eve to have four hundred dollars each out of my estate before it is divided – 11 June 99 – rec 21 April 00

p. 224 – Thomas Wood – of Southampton County – I lend unto my beloved wife my Negroes Roger, Will, Stephen, and Avey during her natural life and at her death it is my will and desire that my Negro man Roger for his faithful services and for his fidelity and attachment to me shall have his freedom and that the others shall be sold with the increase – for the faithful services and for his fidelity and attachment to me I give my negro man Roger his freedom at the death of my wife which I desire he may thereafter enjoy as long as he lives – 9 Dec 00 – rec 19 Jan 01

p. 251 – Benjamin Ruffen – of Southampton County – gives five slaves to heirs – it is my will and desire that all my Negroes may be sold after my death except such as are herein excepted – It is my will and desire that my Negro man Tom in consideration of his long and faithful services may have his freedom after my death. It is my will and desire that my Negro man York may have his freedom after my death – wants no one to wear black on my account and wants no sermon at his funeral--12 Jan 01 – rec 20 April 01

p. 278 – Joseph Powell – of Southampton County – My further will and desire is that the Negroes not free at my decease, to be hired out until they are free and the money arising to be equally divided amongst my sons...and my daughters – 25 Sept 00 – rec 20 July 01

p. 354 – Mary X Bedingfield –of Surry County – First if provided I leave an heir or heirs and that should live to arrive at the age of twenty one years if a son or eighteen if a daughter I give to him or her which ever it may be my Negro woman Patte and her child Eliza with all my other estate of every kind to him or her as it may be and his or her heirs forever. But if I leave no such heir or that should die under the age above mentioned, I leave my Negro woman Patte to be free that no person under me may claim any right or property to her person or property that she may hereafter acquire but that she may fully enjoy her freedom. I also give her five dollars cash to be raised out of my estate. And provided she shall have a child or children and I leave no heir that shall arrive to the age or ages above mentioned then the child or children that she the said Patte may hereafter have I leave to be free at the usual age of people free born. I leave my Negro girl

Eliza to Martha Atkinson wife of Robert until she arrive to the age of eighteen years provided I leave no such heir as above mentioned and then under the same provisors I leave her the said Eliza to be free that no person under me may have any claim to her person or property but that she may fully enjoy her freedom – 14 June 00 Memo: if Martha Atkinson should not live until Eliza left to her doth arrive to 18 yrs my desire is that her daughter Ann Hart should have her until she comes of age- rec 18 Oct 02

p. 498 – Bartholomew X Boone– of Southampton County – It is my will and desire that my Negro man Abram should have his freedom and my will and desire is that if either of the above legatees at all interrupts the said Negro man Abram in his freedom that he or they shall be disinherited and have nothing of the above legacies but that it shall fall to the Commonwealth – 22 Feb 04–rec 21 May 04

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p. 313–will of John Taylor of Sohampton–I give unto my wife Sarah Taylor all the Negroes I now own and the increase of them which I got [at] the death of Col Thos Williamson–I emancipate all the Negroes now in my possession owned prior to my marriage with my present wife–7 Jan 1805–rec 17 Mar 1806–

p. 380–will of Samuel Edmunds of Sohampton–gives to his wife Betsy Edmunds the Negroes Amey and her children Winney, Amos, Phill, Ziba and Jonas to her and her heirs forever–lends to his wife the remainder of his Negroes of all kinds young and old during her natural life and at her death my express desire is that if the laws of the land will admit of it that they be liberated as they arrive at the age of 25 yrs and that the young Negroes do serve my nephews Etheldred Edmunds, Daniel Myrick and John Nicholson until they arrive at the aforesaid age of 25 and then be liberated, but in case the laws are not altered and the said Negroes cannot be liberated without being subject to be taken up by the Overseers of the Poor and sold then my desire is that they be divided equally among my relations hereafter named–then follows 12 heirs named–if wife Betsy fails to make distribution of the above Negroes at her disposal then to be freed if possible unless law not changed and in that case to be added to group and distributed along with rest to his heirs–if that happens wants Negroes divided along family lines as much as possible–leaves \$200 as token of esteem to be divided among Negroes Cesar, Fegan, Hark, Ben, Natt, Jim, Charles, Stephen, Ned and Bob–25 July 1806–rec 21 Sept 1807– Inventory taken 9 Nov 1809–p.488–lists slaves Caesar at \$300; Fagan 400; Herculus 333.33; Ben 400; Nat 400; Jim 400; Charles 400; Stephen 333.33; Ned 250; Bob 400; Tom 350; Jesse 100; Abram 300; Peter 300; Patience 100; Cate and her grandson Ely 150; Lydia and her son Aaron 320; Hester 200; Beck and her son Frank 320; Cynthia 300; Phillis 300; Amy 283; Dorcas 283; Agness 150; Isaac 200; Arthur 200; Nelson 200; Edy 150; Daniel 150; Moses 120; Alfred 120; Patrick 100; Jack 80; Amy and child Prissy 300; Winney 180; Amos 150; Philip 150; Zeba 80; Jonas 60–ret 18 Jan 1808–p. 711 begins estate account which notes the delivery of slaves to widow agreeable to will on 28 Nov 1807–on 19 Feb 1810 the \$200 left to slaves pd to N. Sebrell–[Nicholas Sebrell appears to be son-in-law–see his will in WB 7 p. 17]

p. 388–will of William Bradshaw of Sohampton–at my death my Negro woman Sarah shall have

her freedom and have the liberty of her house where she now lives during her life viz if the law will allow her to be free if not I give her to my within named dau Lucy to her and her heirs forever—23 April 1807—rec 18 May 07—

p. 405—will of Joseph Ruffin of Sohampton—has property in NC too—leaves numerous slaves to various heirs—emancipates Negro man Charles—26 Jan 1806—rec 16 March 1807

p. 479—will of Edmund Tyler of Sohampton—gives to four daughters the following Negroes to wit: Manny, Citney, Willis and Luisa to be equally divided according to value upon this particular condition that they do not them to be transported as one of the family and case they do so my will and desire is that they shall be free'd by my executor hereafter named—10 May 1803—rec 18 Jan 1808—not clear the meaning of his phrasing

p. 654—will of William Westbrook of Sohampton— after my decease my will and desire is that my yellow woman slave Charlotte and her child Martha may be manumitted and orders a list of provisions given her along with 20 acres to be set off which he gives to her—and a log house 16x12 to be built for her on the 20 acres—8 Nov 1801—rec Dec 1804—note that this and other documents not always in perfect chronological order—no one will administer estate so put into hands of sheriff—other slaves willed to relatives along with land etc-

p. 700—estate of Howell Myrick dec'd in acct with Robert Mabry late sheriff admr—includes charge to the estate of 2.10.0 for expences to Petersburg looking for Negroes belonging to the estate—ca 1807 or 1808—rec Dec 1809

end of book

Southampton County Will Book 7 1810-1815 LVA Reel # 18

note: first 130 pages or so of this book very faint and difficult to read

p. 280—inv of estate of Hannah Francis taken 2 July 1804 by John Williams (FN) admr—ret 16 Aug 1813

p. 416—will of James Blow of Sohampton—I lend unto Fanny a Mulatto girl born the property of Maj. Thos Vaughan and was emancipated by the said Thos Vaughan which is on record, all the lands that I am possessed of, also one feather bed and furniture. I also lend the above mentioned Fanny my Negro man Jim Hubbard and Phill, my desire is that Jim and Hubbard shall have 5L per year each during life and Phill \$5 per year during life—my desire is that my Negro woman Peggy shall be sold along with the rest of estate and the sum used to pay debts and any balance lent to Fanny—if Fanny should die with an heir or heirs then the above goes to them but if she dies without heirs then legacy goes to Geo Vaughan, son of Thos Vaughan, Jr—8 Nov 1814—rec Jan 1815—est inv appears in Will Book 8 p. 401-02—James valued at \$600, Hubbard at 600, Phill at 300 and woman Peg at \$240—Will Book 8, 461 begins estate account—includes payments to Phil and Hubbard but apparently not to James—in 1817 estate receives from state auditors office a draft on the state treasurer for 770\$ for value of Hubbard—was he executed for a crime?

end of book

Southampton County Will Book 8 1815-1819 LVA Reel # 19

p.18–will of Sally Newsum–leaves slaves to different heirs–will and desire is that Negro woman Anneky be left to herself if the laws of the state will admit of it if not that she have the liberty of choosing who she will live with–22 Aug 1812–rec 17 July 1814

p. 346–will of Benjamin Whitfield of Sohampton–22 Nov 1814–leaves 20 acres to David Day a black man as I raised...to be laid off to him by my execs at the place where he now lives to the best advantage to sure his labor as he has done as 20 acres of land seems not sufficient for a man of industry it is my will he may be indulged to buy more as much as 5 or 6 years at 5 dollars an acre to be as conveniently as possible to his 20 acres–leaves to Aron Day a black boy now living with him in his minority 20 acres of land lying between Jonas Cosby’s land and David Days to be laid off in same manner as his brother David’s by execs–there remains 3 black men as I rasied to wit John Vick, and Richard Taylor in the state of Ohio and Exum Vick with me...gives each \$100–elsewhere in will leaves \$500 to Huldah Sears wife of Paul Sears of Pr. George for the use of her religious travels–leaves 278 acres to be divided among 11 others but none of them identified as black–rec 20 Oct 1817

p. 343–will of Drewry Cotton of Sohampton–will and desire that Negro man Jim and Negro woman Rose should be emancipated if the law at the time of my death sould permit them to be emancipated and remain in this state, but if they cannot be legally emancipated and permitted to remain in this state of Virginia aforesaid then and in that case I give them and their increase to my friend Benjamin Branch to him and his heirs forever–gives to Branch Negro boy Jerry, Negro girl Lucinda, Negro girl Julia and Negro girl Betsey–2 Mar 1818–rec 18 May 1818 –in Will Book 9, 1819-26 p. 50 estate inventory taken 21 July 1818 lists Negro man James at \$700; woman Rose at 400; boy Jesse at 500; girl Lucinda at 200 and girl Betsey at 100–no Julia listed–rec 21 Feb 1820

end of book