

Surry County Will Book No. 12 1783-1792 LVA Reel 3

p. 20 – James Davis – of Surry County – gives 5 slaves to heirs, leaves one to his widowed daughter-in-law until marriage or death, then directs that she be sold, and sells two – it is my further will and desire that my executors shall sell all my Negroes at private sale, allowing them the liberty of choosing their own Masters – My will and desire is that my Negro wench Lucy may be set free agreeable to the Laws of Virginia by my executors – 9 Dec 83 – rec 24 Feb 84 – inventory p. 42 lists 8 slaves including a Lucy

p. 206 – John X Cheatham – of Surry County – I give and bequeath to my loving wife Martha Cheatham my two Negroes Sue and Sall, to be by her set free or otherwise disposed of as she may at any time think fit. Being convinced that freedom is the natural right of all mankind, on which account I am much distressed in mind respecting the slaves I now possess, and in order to provide for their future releasement as far as at this time appears practicable, I do hereby vest full power and authority in my wife Martha Cheatham and my two sons James Cheatham and Stephen Cheatham for either of them and in case of the death of the other at any time hereafter to set free or to divide them and their future increase, except the above named Sue and Sall, among my children or such of my children as they may think fit, but that none of them, my said slaves, shall be on any account sold at any time hereafter – 30 March 88 – rec 27 Jan 89 – inventory p. 305 lists 17 slaves

p. 301 – Samuel Bidgood – I desire that all the rest and residue of my estate be sold for twelve months credit and after my just debts is paid I give the rest of my estate to my daughter Polly Wren Bidgood to her and her heirs forever and it is my will and desire that if my daughter Polly Wren Bidgood should die before she comes to lawful age or marry that my Negro Sam shall be free and that Elizabeth Gray Supo should heir the whole of my estate – 10 March 91 – rec 27 Sept. 91

p. 319 – James Gilchrest – if case my sister has left no child, I give the above mentioned to my boy Billy Buck, the white son of servant Fanny, except 25 pounds to Dew Graham – I give and bequeath to my black smith Jack his freedom after being hired out three years after the first of January 1790 with bond and approved security which hire I give to my boy Billy Buck, at the same time if Jack don't think fit to accept offer he shall continue as slave for life, if he chooses to be a freeman I give him the set of smith tools that is with him and five pounds to buy him provision to live on the first year. Let Jack have choice of master yearly but not to hire himself. I give to my boy Billy Buck his freedom after my death it also my desire that the same Billy Buck shall be put to school after he is old enough to be taught to have as good an English education as can be got in Virginia, but I rather would have him sent home to Glasgow to be taught there as he will have a sufficient fortune to support him. I give and bequeath to my servant Fanny her freedom immediately after my death is known, also I give Fanny twenty five in cash to begin to keep house with after her freedom. I give and bequeath to my faithful servant Sarah her freedom after the first of January 1790, I also give her the year hire with Mr. Thomas

Peter which is 5 pounds payable on the first of January next. I give and bequeath to all the rest of Fanny's children, to say Nancy, Glasgow, Jenny, Charlotte, their freedom after they are the age of twenty one years, but to be hired out till that time to people that will do justice by them, let them have always choice of a master, except Glasgow, which is not to be free till Billy Buck is twenty one years old. Of the above hire money, I give to my boy Billy Buck. I give and bequeath to my boy Billy Buck the Negroes following, vizt, blacksmiths Charles and Ben to be hired out till my boy Billy Buck is 21 years of age at which they are to have their freedom, and five pounds cash to be paid them the 1st of January following after Billy is of age, which will be 19 years after the third day of April last. If they don't think proper to accept my offer, they shall be slaves for life. The hire money of Charles and Ben I give to my boy Billy Buck. Let the above Negroes have choice of a master during their servitude. Take bonds with approved security from year to year, but not to let them hire themselves. I give my Negro boy Lewis to my boy Billy Buck but to be hired out till Billy comes of age, the boy to be left in Fanny and Sarah's care till he is able to be hired out. The only Negro belonging to me not mentioned, which is not fit for anything but to be a slave, named Sal, I desire her to be sold on long credit, but to have choice of a master with bond and approved security which bond I give to my boy Billy Buck. I give and bequeath to my Billy Buck all bonds and accounts due me or maybe due me on the 1st day of January 1790 to be applied to his use also my furniture in my room to say 6 table silver spoons, 5 tea ditto, one bed and furniture, one desk and bookcase, 2 tables, and 6 chairs to be put in the care of his mother Fanny except the silver spoons with my silver watch and gold seal which Mr. Thomas Peter or his lady Mrs. Peter will be kind enough to take care of for him till he comes of age. But on a second thought concerning my boy Billy Buck, if school masters here in Virginia don't do justice by him in his schooling, Mr. Thomas Peter or his lady shall please to send him to Glasgow or any other place in Scotland where justice will be done him in his education which I leave this boy entirely in their care to do by him as they think fit but I wish him to be sent home to Scotland by that time he is 12 years old to finish his education, if his estate will afford it. Mr. Peter will please to send him to the college of Glasgow. I wish him to be taught church music also and dancing. Mr. Thomas Peter or his lady will please to have him boarded in creditable house or where he may learn something... I give to my servant Fanny to be delivered to her after my death my bed, also may be delivered to Fanny with a pair of good bed blankets – 15 May 89 – (continued) since my return from Britain I bought a piece of land from David Putnee, which if no other will is made, I give part of it, say 80 acres, to Fanny during her natural life, at her death to Billy Buck, to which I give the whole of my lands which I may die possessed of... also my stock of trade with Mr. Johnson and profits thereof – my desire that my executors may buy such a piece of land, as that land Patent, Short, sold Richard, and Shackleford for the use of Fanny and Sarah to be paid in bond by the same if possible to raise the children on... if any of my Negroes should refuse to comply with my desire, it is my desire the said Negro or Negroes should be slaves for life - 14 June 90 – rec 28 Feb 92

p. 331 – George X Gardner – I give unto my daughter Sarah Gardner the use and care of a Negro girl Margaret which I have manumitted until she shall arrive at the age of freedom, but if my said daughter should die before the said Margaret is free my will and desire is that my wife and daughter Elizabeth have the care and management of her until she arrives to age – 19 Oct 90 – red Feb 20 92

Surry County Will Book No. 1 1792-1804 LVA Reel 8

p. 1 – Martha X Drew – of Surry County – I give and bequeath to my son John Drew my two Negroes to wit. Harry and Fanny to him and his heirs forever, but in case the said John Drew should die before he arrives to the age of twenty one years or married it is my will and desire that the said Negroes Harry and Fanny should be emancipated and set free agreeable to the laws now existing – 12 March 92 – rec 25 Sept 1792

p. 17 – Nicolson Watkins – of the county of Surry and parish of Southwark – It is my will and desire that my Negro boy Davy shall have his freedom after he arrives to the age of twenty one years – 14 Dec 90 – rec 22 Jan 93

p. 27 – Mary Revely – of Surry county - I give my Negro man by the name of Castilio After his serving Thomas Bland this year whom he now lives with his freedom forever – 31 Jan 93 – rec 26 Feb 93

p. 141 – Robert Pyland – of Surry County – I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Sally during her natural life my Negro woman Sucky and at her death to be at her own liberty – 23 Nov 95 – rec 26 April 96

p. 169 – Samuel Bailey – of Surry – I give to my daughter Margaret Bailey...three young Negroes until they arrive to the age of freedom. – 22 March 96 – rec 27 Sept 96

p. 361 – William Browne – of Surry--I emancipate and set free my servant Simon and old Gilly The latter I desire may remain on the plantation during her life and be supported out of my estsate – I give and bequeath to my daughter Sally during her life the following Negroes, to wit. Woodley, Silvia and her children, namely Jenny, Rose, Moses, and Sally Ann, Maria, the wife of Simon and her child Mary Ann, and at the death of my said daughter I emancipate and set free the said Woodley, Silvia, Jenny, Sally Ann, Maria and her child Mary Ann, and all the future progeny of the said females and I then give and bequeath the above mentioned boy Moses to William Ruffin son of Theoderick B Ruffin and his heirs, and the aforesaid girl Rose and such issue as she may then have to Jane B. Ruffin daughter of the said Theodorick B Ruffin and her heirs –wants his Negro man Woodley to be kept by Nicholas Faulcon as a hostler or hired out for that purpose as the said Faulcon may think proper –other provisions for slaves to be kept together until distributed to William Browne son of Henry Browne late of Norfolk—also wants Simon to continue at plantation with Faulcon but if latter chooses not to live there then execs to get some decent and discreet person to live there and for Simon to continue to assist in taking care of house and furniture and to be paid annually a compensation equal to his services -- 14 Nov 99 – rec Dec 24 99

p. 447 – Mary X Alexander of Surry– I lend to sister Mourning Edwards (furniture, a horse, and money)...and after her death what shall then be in being it is my will and desire that it may be sold by my executors and equally divided among my nephew and nieces hereafter named, and all

the Negroes hereafter named...Negroes George, Lucy, Bob, Qually, Daphne, Dick, and Dick (commonly called little Dick), also Sam, Jenny, Mima, Lucy (the younger), Nancy, Moses, and Eliza. It is my will and desire and I do by this my last will and testament liberate and set free from slavery the following Negroes, to wit., George (abt 42 yrs), Lucy (abt 44 yrs), Bob (abt 25 yrs), Daphney (abt 25 yrs), Qually (abt 22 yrs), Dick (abt 19 yrs), little Dick (abt 19 yrs), Jenny (abt 15 yrs), Sam (abt 10 yrs), Mima (abt 8 yrs), Nancy (abt 8 yrs), Moses (abt 6 yrs), Lucy (the younger) (abt 8 yrs), and Eliza (abt 3 yrs) as fully and freely as if they had been born free – it is my will and desire and I do hereby direct that all that part of my estate given to the Negroes now under the age of twenty one years to wit Dick, little Dick, Jenny, Sam, Mima (the younger), Nancy, Moses, and Eliza be retained in the hands of my executors for the purpose of indemnifying the parish until they shall severally arrive to such age and on the arrival of each of them to such age my executors shall pay to each person so aged his or her proportion then remaining in their hands, but in case any of the aforesaid infant Negroes should die before they arrive to such age in that case my will and desire is that his or her parts shall be equally divided among the aforesaid – 10 Jan 97 – rec 26 Aug 00

p. 471 – Richard Cocke Jr. – secondly that the woman Becky and her son Robert Kennon which I have bought of John Hartwell Cocke and paid one hundred pounds for as per receipt shall be free immediately, then I request that the whole of my estate real and personal except what I shall particularly give away should be kept together under the direction of my executor hereafter named for the support and education of Robert Kennon until the said Robert Kennon shall attain the age of twenty one years or until his death whichever shall first happen, if the latter it is my desire that my executors do emancipate or set free all my Negroes above the age of twenty one years the males and the females above the age of eighteen years, keeping those under such ages until they arrive to the same, and as they may to be freed in the same manner as the others, but if the said Robert Kennon should live to attain the age of twenty one years, then I desire the Negroes may be freed in the same manner except that Robert Kennon should keep the young ones until they arrive to the ages fixt for their freedom by me and no longer – 4 Oct 00 – rec 24 Feb 01

p. 477 Joel Wall of Surry County –I do emancipate and set free my two Negroes James and Phillis from all claims of my heirs and successors forever. I do leave the use of my Negro boy Archer to my loving wife Rebecca until he shall arrive to the age of twenty on years and the said Archer to be free from my heirs or any other person or persons whatsoever. My desire is that my executors should emancipate and manumit the above Negroes according to law – 10 May 99 – rec 24 Feb 01

p. 559 John Wesson of Surry County – At the decease of my wife it is my will and desire that all the slaves which I now own and their increase may receive their freedom on the following conditions, and whereas among those there may be some who from old age or bodily infirmity that will be unable to support themselves, it is my will and desire that such may receive from my estate so much as is sufficient with their own honest laborings to keep them sufficiently, this to be determined on by my executor, if alive or the acting overseers of the poor for Surry county if he is dead, and all those that are forty two years old are to receive ten pounds each the first day

of January after my decease for them to begin with and such thereof as is under age that have no parents living or if living or unwilling or unable to provide for them, shall be bound by the court until they shall arrive at the age of twenty five years (the Negroes thus bound are by the masters or mistresses taught to read the bible), but further it is my express will and desire that if any on or more of the above slave shall be so imprudent and fool hardy as to act any unlawful or criminal act against their said mistress or any one also, that if they should escape the halter, that then he she or they shall be sold for and on account of my estate and to be thereby removed out of this county or state and further should my wife after my decease desire to emancipate all or any part of the said Negroes it is my will and desire that she may do so whether old or young ones, but should she do so, it is to be understood that they are to be emancipated agreeable to this present clause –leaves some land to the Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal church for the support of orphan children of Methodists or the poor (no signature) – rec 22 June 02

NOTE: microfilm of the later pages of this book are very light and not easily read

Surry County Wills, etc No. 2 1804-1815 LVA Reel # 9

p. 87–will of Robert Jonathan of Surry–gives to his loving wife Mary her freedom during her natural life and to be emancipated according to law–gives hhd property etc to wife–to son Robert Jonathan his freedom when he is 21–confirms to him what already given–if Robert dies without heirs then his estate to be divided among three daus ie Susanna, Hickabeck and Fanny–in case or should my above named daughters either of them be sold and sent out of the state as far out of their knowledge, that they are to be deprived of the above gift and those that remain in this part of the state to receive or be entitled to the same–names friend Abram Williams and John H. Bell as execs–27 Dec 1805–rec 25 Feb 1806

p. 176–inv of Robert Jonathan’s estate–total value is L177.9.2 including One Negro woman Mary and child named Bob valued at 75L–inv dated 28 April 1807–rec same

p. 194–estate acct of Robert Jonathan–estate sale produces 107L plus and some accts collected–after debts paid etc the estate has 12.9.61/2 –no indication of the sale of Mary or Bob in the estate acct–they seem not to be included–acct recorded 28 July 07

p. 357–will of Henry Deborix of Surry–bequeaths to Mr. William Allen’s Negro woman Fanny, whom I have for a wife all my property that I have of every species after Dr. Wm Cocke’s acct is paid–nominates Richard Shackleford esq of Pr. George to be his exec–1 June 1810–rec 24 July 1810

p. 498–will of Josiah Wilson of Surry–leaves numerous slaves to his heirs–sets free a Negro woman by the name of Janny who is of a dark complexion and about 29 yrs of age also one hundred pounds in cash to her and her heirs forever, provided she takes the advantage of the law of the state–I give and bequeath to Linda a girl of yellow complexion which I emancipated some time past a certain tract of land containing one hundred and fifty acres more or less which land formerly belonged to Laurance Baker and was bought by me at sheriff’s sale–I also give to the

said Linda the following Negroes to wit: Ruffin and Ann Margreat to her and her heirs forever...if Linda should die before she becomes of lawful age or have issue from her body then my son John to get 100L and son Samuel get 150 acres and son James gets Ruffin and Ann Margreat—wants above mentioned Janny to have the care of her dau Linda until she marries or of lawful age—3 Dec 1809—rec 22 Dec 1812—inv appears in Will Book 3, 23 dated 28 Dec 1812—included are Janny at \$200, Ruffin at \$250 and Ann Margaret at \$200, all listed together among 32 other slaves—rec 22 May 1815—total value of estate in excess of \$24,842

end of book

Surry County Wills etc No. 3 1815-1821 LVA Reel # 9

p. 1—will of Anselm Bailey —leaves land etc to various individuals—I give to Dinah a free woman of colour \$200 to be paid her in ten equal installments—I give to Silva a free woman of colour \$100 to be paid in 5 equal installments—I give to Anselm Hargrove 50\$ [no race mentions] I give to Watson and Elam two free boys of colour \$40 each to be laid out in their educations by John Z Pretlow—29 Jan 1815—rec 27 Feb 1815

p. 425—will of Walter Faulcon of Surry—has schooner to be sold named John and Mary—his bricks, scantling etc to be sold for debts and legacies and rest of estate kept together until the death of Negroe woman Jenny (the cook) and my girl Matilda Ann Rebecca dau of said Jenny—desires that servant Jenny now my cook shall in common with her child Matilda Ann Rebecca have the use of my kitchen, small smoak house, Fowls houses, a garden and yard attached to the kitchen with full liberty to raise what quantity of poultry she may choose and I do give one particularly request that my said servant Jenny shall at all times after my death enjoy fully the profits of her own labor and industry without any inconvenience or hindrance from any person or persons whatever and more over receive from the profits of my estate annually in the month of January during her natural life the following allowances to wit 4 barrels good shelled Indian corn, 1 barrel good flour, 300 pounds well fatted pork, 50 pounds pick'd cotton and \$30 Va money and also the following additional allowances during the time my Girl Matilda Ann Rebecca may be continued by my exec to remain with the said Jenny, namely 2 barrels good shelled Indian corn and 300 pounds fatted pork but when ever my exec believe that the said Jennys has in improper resort of Negroes or other persons visiting her and setting bad examples for my Girl Matilda AR then at their discretion remove the said Matilda AR from the care of her mother the said Jenny and provide for the support of the said girl..until she arrive at age of 15—my said Woman Jenny (the cook) is always to have free use of water from the spring, firewood from my plantation to be at full liberty at all times to go from and return home when ever she may think proper to do so without hinderance....full liberty to use my Cards and wheels when she may think proper—frees my little girl Matilda Ann Rebecca after my death and to fully enjoy the profits of her own labor also gives her the use and labor of one of my Negro Women to be chosen by her from my estate annually plus food allowance etc—plus use of buildings provided mother above and that a house be built by estate for her plus use of a horse etc—rest of his estate to his two sons—2 Nov 1819—rec 28 Feb 1820—

p. 449—will of John Pretlow of Surry—leaves wife \$2500 and some furniture and money to brother and a friend—4th gives to Hannah Warren a woman of color \$50—5th being fully impressed with a sence of duty we owe to the people of Colour and particularly those immediately under our care I give in trust to my bro Joshua Pretlow and friends Samuel Jones and James Stanton all of Southampton all the residue of my estate to be apply'd to the boarding and schooling together with such other benefits as the Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends of which I am a member may from time to time direct of sundry children of colour under my care whose names are as follows to wit: Berry, Abram, Jim, John, Gibert, Hack, Peggy and Livina—after their education the rest of his estate to be equally divided among the above named children still living—18 March 1820—rec 26 June 1820

p. 491—will of Robert Crittenden of Surry—frees Negro man Leonard at his death in consequence of the services which he has rendered him—25 Jan 1821—rec 26 Mar 1821

end of book and end of Surry County will abstracts