

PREROGITIVE COURT (Wills, Original) Will of John Gresham, 1723, G no. 71, MdHR 1330-32 [S540-32, 1/12/3/4]

Maryland SS

In the name of God Amen. I John Gresham of Annapolis Esq the
fouteenth day of December in the year of our Lord God Seventeen hundred and twenty three, Being
Sick and Weak, but of Sound and perfect Mind and Memory Make this my Last will and Testament

First And Principally I recomend My Soul to Almighty God hopefully for Salvation, through the merits
And Intersion of My Saviour and Redemer Jesus Christ, and my body to the Earth to be buried
in Decent and Christian like manner. And as for what worldly Estate it hath pleased God of his
Bounty to Bestow on me, I dispose there of in Manner following[:]

Impris I Will and desire that all My just debt's be honestly and puntucually paid, as soon as possible.

Item Whereas the Honorable Chalres Calvert Esq. Governor of Maryland hath been pleased to Appoint me to be
Sherriff of Annarundel County, And the better to Support My Family hath Generously promised in
case of my death before the expiration of my Sheriffalty, to Appoint My Eldest Son John Gresham
Sheriff of the same County for so long time (if he shall behave himself well as I hope & trust he will) as
will compleat the Space of three year's from the date of My Commission, And whereas My good friends
Benjamin Tasker and Charles Carroll Esqrs. at My request became bound with me in the final form
for the one Execution of the said office, and that My Son cannot enjoy the same without giving
good security for the just Execution thereof. To the end that neither my friend's or any other
that will bound Surity for my Said Son, may suffer or lose [torn], I hereby fully Authorize &
Imporwer my Said ffriends Tasker & Carroll to Disposs of my Whole Estate Reale and personal
or So much thereof As my be necessary to raise Money or tobacco to reimburss my said ffriends and
every other person that Shall be surety for my said Son John for all cost's, damages, charges And
troubles they on every of them shall be obliged to expend or be part to, by reason, meanes or occasion of being
bound As aforesaid; And in case my said ffriends & my Son's Surety's shall not be [illegible]
as I hope they Will Not, Then I dispose of My Reale And personale Estate as followeth

I devise all my homes & lotts in Annapolis with their Appurtenances and the Plantation near the Town called part of Howard's Inheritance with its Appurtenances unto my wife during her life and after her death unto my Son John & his Heirs for ever.

Item I devise unto my wife during her life her choice of the two following plantation's Vizt. My Father's Late Dwelling Plantation being part of Selby's Marsh and the Land thereto Adjoining and there with used. And Shaw's folly with Francis's Addition in Satisfaction of her Dower. My wife to make her election as soon, as possible after my decease.

Item I devise unto my Son John the one of the said Plantation's that my wife shall not choose Juediocly And the other after My wifes death to him & his heirs for ever.

Item I devise unto my Same Son John my part of a tract of Land called Brewertown and another tract called Health lying on Maggothy River to him & his Heir's for ever.

Item I will and devise that My two tract of Land the one called Batchelor's resolution and the other Hiccory Ridge both containing by Estimation Sixteen hundred and thirty Six acres be equally divided between my daughter Priscilla and my Son Thomas, And being So divided I devise unto my said Daughter her first choice to her & her Heirs for ever, And the remaining Moyely? I devise to my said Son Thomas & his Heir's for ever.

Item I devise unto my Son Richard and his Heirs for ever two Tract's of Land lying in Baltimore County and called Greshams Colledge, the other called Hathaway's Trust both containing by Estimation Seven hundred and fifty acres.

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Item I devise unto my daughter's Sarah & Elizabeth a tract of Land lying on Chester River called Anne[page torn] containing by Estimation one Thousand Acres, to be Equally divided between them, Sarah to have [page torn] in Choice, Which to her I devise to her Heirs for ever, And the other Moyely? I devise unto My dauther Eliza. & her Heirs for ever.

Item I devise & give unto my Said Son John & his Heirs a parcell of Land on Chester River called Mother's gift containing by Estimation three hundred acres Subject to Such limitation & desposition As I shall order & direct by an Instrument under my hand & Seal to be Executed in the preformance of three Witnesses under Which Instrument Shall have the same force & Effect as if recited in & made part of this my Will.

Item I give & bequeth unto Each of my daughter's, Priscilla, Sarah and Elizabeth thirty pounds Stirling being [page torn - legacy's?] or gaifts asigned them by My father.

Item I give & bequeth unto my God son John Gassaway, Son of Mr. John Gassaway five pounds Ster.

Item I will and devise that my personal Estate after the payment of my debt's & Legacy's be devided into Twenty one equal parts; five part's where of I give & bequeth unto My wife to whom I also Devise and bequeth all my right and demand of any Estate left us by My wifes Parents I give & bequeth unto my Son John four part's of the said one & twenty parts unto My Daughter Priscilla I give & bequeth three parts, unto my Son Thomas I give and bequeth three parts, And to each of my other three children Vizt Richard, Sarah and Elizabeth two part's. And I Constitute and Appoint my dearly beloved wife and my son John to be Executor's of this My last will and Testament, so long as My said wife Shall [cornference?] Sole, And when she shall Marry I Appoint my said Son to be Sole Executor of this my last Will. And I earnestly request and entreat that the Honble. Chars. Calvert & my ffriends Mr. Jacob Henderson & Mr. Daniel Dulany will direct and Advise My Executor's in the management of My Estate, And be assistant & helpful to my family. And I hereby revoke all former Wills by me made heretofore And desire this to be my last Will & Testament Whereof I hereunto put my hand & Seal the day & year afd.

Jno. Gresham [seal]

Signed Sealed published & delivered
by the testator in the presence of
the following wards Vizt sevrell or any of
them, Present, Sole,) being first Interlined

Cha. Calvert
Saml. Stringer
Cha. Carroll
Jacob Henderson

28th December the Revd. Mr Jacob
Henderson, proved the forgoing will in
the Laws Manner as Dr. Stringer &
Dr. Carroll before me

DDulany

27th of December 1723. Then Mrs. Sarah Gresham wife of the above [illegible]
John Gresham Esqr. declared her approbation of and Assent to said agreement
the provision made for her in the foregoing will, by her deced. husband
below me

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Annapolis December the 25th 1723

Then Came Dr. Saml. Stringer & Dr. Charles Carroll two of the
Subscribing witnesses to the foregoing Will, and made oath on
the holy Evangeliss of Almighty God, they they saw the Testator
John Gresham sign & Seal the Same and heard him publish & deliver
the Same to Be his last will and Testament, And that at the time of his so
doing he was (to the best of their knowldge & apprehension) of sound
& discerning Mind & Memory, And that they and the Honble Charles Calvert
& Mr. Jacob Henderson for the other witnesses subscribed the said will in the
presence of the said testator. Sworn to before me,

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