

In the name of God amen I Joseph Wicks son of Benj<sup>a</sup> Wicks of Kent County in the State of Maryland being very sick and weak in body but blessed be God of sound & perfect memory, do by these presents make ordain and declare this my Will and testament as follows —

First I give out & bequeath unto Simon Wicks Surveyor, my Negro man Stepmey and within four weeks after my death I desire my friend Simon Wicks to sell the said Negro Man, <sup>Stepmey</sup> free by executing such writings agreeable to Law and have it Recorded as will prevent him or any other person from making a slave of the said Negro Man Stepmey. Secondly after my just Debts and ~~paid~~ funeral charges are paid, I bequeath all the rest of my Estate to my wife Margaret Wicks, and in case it necessary to Administer upon my Estate, my Will is that, my wife shall be my whole and sole Executor as Witness my hand and Seal this fifteenth day of April Anno Domini 1704. —

Jo: Wicks son  
of Benj<sup>a</sup> . . . Seal

Signed Sealed in

the presents of William Grainger, George Hanson August 10<sup>th</sup> 1704 Then came William Grainger & George Hanson the two subscribing Witnesses to the within last Will and Testament of Joseph Wicks late of Kent County deceased and severally made Oath on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God that they did see the Testator herein named Sign and Seal this Will and that they heard him publish pronounce and declare the same to be his last Will & Testament, that at the time of his so doing, he was to the best of their apprehensions, of sound and disposing mind memory and understanding, and that they respectively subscribed their names as Witnesses to this Will in the presence, and at the request of the Testator, and in the presence of each other. —

Recorded at Nicholson Reg

Nicholson Reg