

1133. T. 2nd ed.

John Gresham

Last Will & Testament

Mrs. Sarah Gresham

W. John Gresham

Exhib.

Exhib. 18 March

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Exam. of Examinee. Peter

Maryland In the name of God Amen, I John Goshain of Annapolis do hereby the
fourteenth 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 recommend my Soul to Almighty God Hoping for Salvation, through the Merits
and Intercession of My Saviour and Redeemer 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 thereof in Manner following

I will and desire that all my just debts be honestly and punctually paid, as soon as possible.

Item Whereas the Honble Charles Gilbert Esq. Gov. of Maryland hath been pleased to Appoint me to be
Sheriff of Annapondale 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 Goshain
Sheriff of the same County for as long time (if he shall behave himself well, as I hope I trust he will) as
will complete the space of three years from the date of my Commission; And whereas my good Friends
Benjamin Fackler and Charles Carroll Esq. at my request became bound with their individual form
for the due 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 said Friends nor any other
that will become Surety for my said son, may suffer or lose thereby, I hereby fully Authorize &
Impower my said Friends Fackler & Carroll to Dispose of my whole Estate real and personal
or so much thereof as may be necessary to raise Money or to cause to be raised by my said Friends and
every other person that shall be surety for my said son John for all costs, damages, charges and
troubles they shall be obliged to expend or be put to, by reason means or occasion of being
bound as aforesaid; And in case my said Friends & my sons Sureties shall not be damaged
as I hope they will not. Then I dispose of my Real and personal Estate as followeth -
I devise all my houses & lots in Annapolis with their Appurtenances and the Plantation near the Town
called part of Edwards 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 plantations vizt my
Fathers late Dwelling Plantation being part of Leffers Marsh, and the Land thereto adjoining
and therewith used. And I have fully with Francis Addition in Satisfaction of her Power: 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 plantations that my wife shall not choose judiciously
and the other after my wifes death to him & his Heirs for ever.

Item I devise unto my said son John my part of a tract of Land called Growerton and another tract
called Health being on Maggoty River to him & his Heirs for ever.

Item I will and devise that my two tracts of Land the one called Bartholoms resolution and the
other Henry Ridge both containing by Schmatins Survey 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 moiety I
devise to my said son Thomas & his Heirs for ever.

Item I devise unto my son Richard and his Heirs for ever two Tracts of Land being in Baltimore
County one called Goshain College, the other called Hattaway's both containing by Estimation seven
hundred and fifty Acres.

I give unto my daughter Sarah & Elizabeth a part of Land lying on Chester River called Annors containing by Estimation one thousand Acres, to be equally divided between them, Sarah to have the one half & Elizabeth to have the other half for ever, and the other moiety I give unto my daughter Elizabeth for ever.

I give & give unto my said son John & his Heirs a parcel of Land on Chester River called Mother's gift containing by Estimation three hundred Acres subject to such limitation & disposition as I shall or shall direct by an Instrument under my hand & seal to be executed in the presence of three Witnesses under which Instrument I shall have & same force & effect as if made in & made part of this my will.

I give and bequeath unto Myra Each of my daughters, Priscilla, Sarah and Elizabeth thirty pounds for their living & the same or gifts assigned them by my father.

I give & bequeath unto my said son John Gasaway Son of Mr. Thos Gasaway five pounds for

I will and direct that my personal Estate after payment of my debts & Legacies be divided into twenty one equal parts, five parts whereof I give & bequeath unto my wife to whom I also give and bequeath all my right claim and demand of any Estate left us by my wife's Parents, I give & bequeath unto my son John four parts of the said one & twenty parts unto my Daughter Priscilla I give & bequeath three parts unto my son Thomas I give and bequeath three parts, and to each of my other three children vizt Priscilla, Sarah and Elizabeth two parts. And I constitute and appoint my dearly beloved wife and my son John to be Executors of this my last will and Testament, so long as my said wife shall continue, 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 John Calvert & my Friends Mr. Jacob Henderson & Mr. Daniel Dulany will direct and advise my Executors in the Management of my Estate, and be Assistant & helpful to my family; And I hereby revoke all former Wills by me made heretofore made, and declare this to be my last will & Testament, which is wrote on halves of one of large paper on both sides. In Testimony whereof I have put my hand & seal & day & year aforesaid.

Signed sealed published & declared

By the Testator in presence of the following words vizt well, or any of them, (Gent, sole) being first interlined

27th of Decemb^r 1723. Then Mr. Sarah Gasaway, widow of the above said John Gasaway did declare her approbation of and consent and Agreement to the provision made for her in the foregoing will, by her said husband before us.

Dulany.

Cha. Calvert

Sam^l Fringer

Cha. Carter

Jacob Henderson

Annapolis Decemb^r 25th 1723

Thomas D. C. Sam^l Fringer & D^r Charles Carroll two of the subscribing Witnesses to the foregoing will, and made oath on the holy Evangelists of Almighty God that they saw the Testator John Gasaway sign & seal the same and heard him publish & declare the same to be his last will and Testament, and that at the time of his doing he was to the best of their knowledge & Apprehension of sound & disposing Mind & Memory, and that they and the Honble Charles Calvert & Jacob Henderson the other Witnesses subscribed the said will in the presence of the said Testator. Sworn to before us. Dulany.

28th Decemb^r the above said Jacob Henderson, proved the foregoing will in the same manner as D^r Fringer & D^r Carroll before us. Dulany.