

The Last Will & Testament of  
James Nourse, of Piedmont, Berkeley co. Virginia  
dated 25 March 1784



In the name of the one only supreme God  
of his Christ Jesus and of his Holy Spirit

I James Nourse of Piedmont in the County of Berkeley Virginia, and of Annapolis in the State of Maryland formerly of Bedford Street Covent Garden London and Son of John Nourse of Weston in the County of Hereford in England, being of sound mind do make this my last Will and Testament appointing my wife Sarah Nourse executrix and my Sons Joseph and James Nourse joint executors to this my said Will Imprimus. I give to my Wife Sarah Nourse exclusive of her Settlement Piedmont house with all its appurtenances, plate & furniture heretofore belonging to it, with twenty Acres of land near the house so to be laid off as to include Ten Acres of Meadow — her life. To my Seven younger Children, Viz. Robert, William, Elizabeth, Sussanah, John, Gabriel & Michael 100 hundred pounds sterling, as an Equivalent to what the elder three like have had on the Sale of the Spring quarter tract. To my Apprentices John Bannion and Catherine Bannion if they Save their Time duely out twenty pounds each. It is my desire that all the Degro or Mulatto children that shall or have been born since the first day January 1781 shall be free at the age of twenty five years. The rest and residue of my Estate real & personal wheresoever situated it is will I desire be divided equally between all my children Viz. Joseph, James, Catherine Burton, Robert, William, Elizabeth, Susanna, John, Gabriel & Michael. Share & share alike to them and their respective heirs forever. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty fifth day of March 1784 as  
Declared to be my last Will

in presence of Horatio Gates,  
Aquila Paca, Chris Richmond

*James Nourse*



30th Sept. 1784

In addition is the Executors within I named, I add my Son William Nourse.

[signed] James Nourse

[signed] John Bannion

[signed] Eliza Nourse

William Powell  
Munk

On the back of the foregoing Will  
was the following endorsement

Ann Arundel County B. } Then came Samuel Mead and Henry Powell  
December 17<sup>th</sup> 1781 & } Two of the subscribing witnesses to the within  
Will and severally made oath on the Holy Evangel of Almighty God that  
they did see the Testatrix therein named sign and Seal this Will, and  
that they heard her publish pronounce and declare the same to be her  
last Will and Testament; that at the time of her so doing, she was to the  
best of their apprehensions of sound and disposing mind, memory and  
understanding; that they together with William Powell respectively  
subscribed their names as witnesses to this Will, in the presence, and at the  
request of the Testatrix and in the presence of each other & . . .  
Sworn before Tho<sup>s</sup> Gasparway Reg<sup>r</sup> Will for A<sup>l</sup>l<sup>o</sup> & . . .

Examined

In the name of the one only supreme God  
of his Christ Jesus and of his holy Spirit . . .  
I James Nourse of Piedmont in the County of Berkeley Virginia and of  
Annapolis in the State of Maryland formerly of Bedford Street Covent  
Garden London and Son of John Nourse of Weston in the County of Esex-  
ford in England, being of sound mind do make this my last Will and  
Testament appointing my Wife Sarah Nourse executrix and my  
Sons Joseph and James Nourse joint executors to this my said Will  
Imprimis I give to my wife Sarah Nourse exclusive of her  
Settlement Piedmont house with all its Appurtenances, plate &  
furniture heretofore belonging to it, with twenty Acres of Land on  
the house so to be laid off as to include ten Acres of Meadow  
for life to my Son younger Children Viz<sup>t</sup> Robert William  
. . .

pounds Sterling, as an Equivalent to what I have else have had on  
 the sale of the Spring quarter tract. To my Apprentices John  
 Bannow and Catherine Bannow if they serve their time duly out  
 twenty pounds each. It is my ~~last~~ desire that all the Negro or  
 Mulatto Children that shall or have been born since the first day  
 January 1781 shall be free at the age of twenty five years. The rest  
 Residue of my Estates real & personal where soever Situated it is My  
 desire be divided equally between all my Children Viz<sup>d</sup> Joseph, James  
 Catherine, Bivton, Robert, William, Elizabeth, Susanna, John, Gabriel  
 & Michael. Share & Share alike to them and their respective heirs forever  
 In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this  
 twenty fifth day of March 1784.

Declared to be my last Will  
 in presence of Horatio Gates  
 Agt. Poca Chris. Richmond

James Nowise



30<sup>th</sup> Sept 1784

In Addition is the Executors within named I add my Son  
 William Nowise James Nowise

John Bannow

Elias Nowise

on the back of the afore-  
 say Will was the following  
 endorsements to wit

Am Annsdel County Va. December 23<sup>d</sup> 1784. Then came Joseph Nowise  
 and William Nowise and made Oath on the Holy Evangelis of Almighty  
 God that the within Instrument of writing is the true and whole  
 last Will and Testament of James Nowise late of Annsdel  
 County Va. deceased that he they come to their heirs or possessors

That Joseph Nowise Agt for All my  
 Sons & Daughters of the said James Nowise late of Annsdel  
 County Va. deceased

Exam