

The will of Martha Washington of Mount Vernon

In the name of God amen

I Martha Washington of Mount Vernon in the county of Fairfax being of sound mind and capable of disposing of my worldly estate do make ordain and declare this to be my last will and testament hereby revoking all other wills and testaments by me heretofore made.

Imprimis it is my devise that all my just debts may be punctually paid and that as speedily as the same can be done.

Item I give and devise to my nephew Bartholomew Dandridge and his heirs my lot in the town of Alexandria situate on Pitt and Cameron streets devised to me by my late husband George Washington deceased.

Item I give and bequeath to my four nieces Martha W. Dandridge Mary Dandridge Frances Lucy Dandridge and Frances Hanley the debt of two thousand pounds due from Lawrence Lewis & secured by his bond to be equally divided between them or such of them as shall be alive at my death and to be paid to them respectively on the days of their respective marriage or arrival at the age of twenty one years whichever ever shall first happen together with all the interest on said debt remaining unpaid at the time of my death: and in case the whole or any part of the said principal sum of two thousand pounds shall be paid to me during my life then it is my will that so much money be raised out of my estate as shall be equal to what I shall have received of the said principal debt and distributed among my four nieces aforesaid as herein has been bequeathed, and it is my meaning that the interest accruing after my death on the said sum of two thousand pounds shall belong to my said nieces and be equally divided between them or such of them as shall be

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alive at the time of my death, and be paid annually for their respective uses until they receive their shares of the principal.

Item I give and bequeath to my grandson George Washington Parke Custis all the silver plate of every kind of which I shall die possessed, together with the two large plated coolers, the four small plated coolers with the bottle castors, and a pipe of wine if there be one in the house at the time of my death - also the set of Cincinnati tea ^{and table} china, the bowl that has a ship in it, the fine old china jars which usually stand on the chimney piece in the new room: also all the family pictures of every sort and the pictures painted by his sister, and two small pictures worked one by his sister and the other a present from Miss Betty Brown - also his choice of prints - also the two girandoles and lustres that stand on them - also the new bedstead which I caused to be made in Philadelphia together with the bed, matras bolsters & pillows and the white demity curtains belonging thereto: also two other beds with bolsters and pillows and the white demity window curtains in the new room - also the iron chest and the desk in my closet which belonged to my first husband; also all my books of every kind except the large bible and prayer book, also the set of tea china that was given me by Mr. VanBraam every piece having M W on it.

Item I give and bequeath to my granddaughter Elizabeth Parke Law, the dressing table and glass that stands in the chamber called the yellow room, and Genl. Washington's picture painted by Trumbull.

Item I give and bequeath to my granddaughter Martha Peter my writing table and the seat to it standing in my chamber, also the print of Genl. Washington that hangs in the passage.

Item I give and bequeath to my grand daughter Eleanor Parke Lewis the large looking glass in the front Parlour and any other looking ^{glass} which she may choose - also one of the new side board tables in the new room - also

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twelve chairs with green bottoms to be selected by herself
 also the marble table in the garret, also the two prints of
 the dead soldier, a print of the Washington family in
 a box in the garret and the great chair standing in my
 chamber; also all the plated ware not herein before otherwise
 bequeathed - also all the sheets table linen, napkins
 towels, pillow cases remaining in the house at my death, also
 three beds & bedsteads curtains bolsters and pillows for each
 bed such as she shall choose and not herein particularly
 otherwise bequeathed, together with counterpane and a pair
 of blankets for each bed, also all the wine glasses & decanters
 of every kind, and all the blew and white china in common
 use.

Item it is my will and desire that all the wine in
 bottles in the vaults be equally divided between my grand
 daughters and grandsons to each of whom I bequeath ten
 guineas to buy a ring for each.

Item it is my will and desire that Anna Maria Washington
 the daughter of my niece be put into handsome mourning at
 my death at the expense of my estate and I bequeath to her
 ten guineas to buy a ring.

Item I give and bequeath to my neighbour Mrs. Elizabeth
 Washington five guineas to get something in remembrance of
 me.

Item I give and bequeath to Mr. David Stuart five guineas
 to buy ^{her} a ring.

~~guineas.~~
 Item I give and bequeath to Benjamin Lincoln Lear one
 hundred pounds specie to be vested in funded stock of the
 United States immediately after my decease and to stand in his
 name as his property, which investment my executors are to
 cause to be made.

~~Item I give and bequeath to the vestry of Truro parish~~
 Item when the vestry of Truro parish shall buy a glebe
 I devise will and bequeath that my executors shall
 pay one hundred pounds to them to aid of the purchase, provided
 My Ma Washington

The said purchase be made in my life time or within three years after my decease.

Item It is my will and desire that all the rest & residue of my estate of whatever kind and description not herein specifically devised or bequeathed shall be sold by the executors of this my last will for ready money as soon after my decease as the same can be done and that the proceeds thereof together with all the money in the house and the debts due to me, (the debts due from me and the legacies herein bequeathed being first satisfied) shall be invested by my executors in eight per cent stock of the funds of the United States and shall stand on the books in the name of my executors in their character of executors of my will; and it is my desire that the interest ~~and dividends~~ thereof shall be applied to the proper education of Bartholomew Henley & Samuel Henley the two youngest sons of my sister Henley, and also to the education of John Dandridge son of my deceased nephew John Dandridge so that they may be severally fitted and accomplished in some useful trade and to each of them who shall have lived to finish his education or to reach the age of twenty one years I give and bequeath one hundred pounds to set him up in his trade.

Item my debts and legacies being paid and the education of Bartholomew Henley Samuel Henley and John Dandridge aforesaid being completed, or they being all dead before the completion thereof it is my will and desire that all my estates and interests in whatever form existing whether in money funded stock ~~or any other species of property~~ shall be equally divided among all the persons hereinafter mentioned who shall be living at the time that the interest of the funded stock shall cease to be applicable in pursuance of my will herein before expressed to the education of my nephews Bartholomew Henley, Samuel Henley and John Dandridge, namely among Anna Maria Washington daughter of my niece and John Dandridge son of my nephew and all my great grand children living at the time that the interest of the said funded stock shall cease to be applicable to the education of the said B. Henley S. Henley, ~~and John Dandridge~~ ~~and the interest of the said funded stock shall be so applied~~ when all of them shall die before they arrive to the age of twenty one years, or those living shall have finished their education or have arrived to the age of ~~twenty one~~ twenty one years, and so long as any one of the three lives, who has not finished his education or arrived to the age

ma. Ma. Washington

of twenty one years, the division of the said residuum is to be deferred and no longer -

Lastly I nominate and appoint my grandson George Washington Parke Custis, my nephews Julius D Dandridge & Bartholomew Dandridge and my son in law Thomas Peter executors of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty second day of Sept in the year eighteen hundred -

Martha Washington



Sealed signed acknowledged and delivered as her last will and testament in the presence of us the subscribing witnesses who have been requested to subscribe the same as such in her presence

Roger Randall

William Spruce

Law Lewis

Martha Peter

March 4th 1802

I give to my grandson George Washington Parke Custis my negro man Eliza - that I bought of Mr Gutter Washington to him and his heirs for ever - on Washington

At a Court held for Fairfax County the 25th day of June 1802.
This Last Will and Testament of Martha Washington deceased
was presented in Court by being Washington Parke Custis and
Thomas Peter, two of the Executors therein named who made
oath thereto, and the same being proved by the oaths of
Roger Farrell, William Speer and Lawrence Lewis three
of the Subscribing Witnesses thereto is together with a Codicil
or memorandum enclosed, ordered to be recorded — And
the said Executors having performed what the Law requires a
Certificate is granted them for obtaining a probate thereof
in due form —

Est. Wm. M. P. B.

Will of
Martha Washington
dec^d

Filed Court 1802
No. 1

Recorded in Lib. I

Folio 133.

Codices