

Will of Joseph Watkins (17?? – 1797)

I, Joseph Watkins, of Sussex County [VA], being of sound mind and memory, do make and ordain this my Last Will and Testament in form and manner as followeth that is to say -----

I freely give my beloved daughter, Elizabeth Watkins, all my lands she and her heirs forever, and that my books may be reserved and equally divided between my daughters Elizabeth and Martha Watkins. I also desire that my daughter Elizabeth may be taken from her mother and brought up amongst friends. ¹ I give my loom and all the appurtenances thereof to my wife, Sarah Watkins, and that the remaining part of my estate may be inventoried and sold immediately after my decease.

Lastly I nominate and appoint my brother, James Watkins, and Joseph Bailey, Jun. of the above named County my who and sole Executors of my last will and testament whom I empower as trustees with the care of estate, and my will and desire is that if they think the above division be necessary for the benefit of my children at an earlier period that they shall have full power to make such division at any time when they may see cause or judge necessary and also my desire is that they and also my desire is that they may have the direction of my children's education. In witness of where I shall have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Seal this twenty-eighth day of January Anno Domine one thousand seven hundred and ninety seven.

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| Signed, sealed, published and delivered in the presence of: Wm Trotten, Jeremiah Bailey, Wm Briggs | Joseph Watkins his seal |
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At a court held for Sussex County [VA] the 6th day of July 1797.

The last will and testament of Joseph Watkins deceased was presented unto court by Joseph Bailey, Jun. one of the executors therein named the same was proved by the affirmation of William Trotten and the oath of William Briggs two of the witnesses thereto and ordered to be recorded. And on motion of said executor who made affirmation and gave bond according to Law. Certificate is granted to him for obtaining a probate thereof in due form.

Teste Jn Bailey [?] D Clerk

¹ "friends" in this context probably means the Society of Friends of which he was a member.