

Vardaman, John 1714

APRIL 5, 1715

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REG OF WILLS, NCPs.
PROBATE FILES

January 29, 2000

David,

This is a copy of an abstract of the will of John Vardaman of New Castle County (Delaware/Pennsylvania) dated March 1,⁴ 1714. This document was sent to me by Mrs. Dorothy Tierney of Natchitoches, LA, a Vardaman family descendant and researcher, in 1988.

Note that the three counties comprising the state of Delaware as we know it, New Castle, Kent and Sussex, became part of the Province of Pennsylvania in 1682. Although it briefly gained its own deputy governor in 1691, it was "reunited" with Pennsylvania under one governor in 1693. In 1704 Delaware established its own separate legislature and in 1710 its own executive council; however, it remained nominally a part of the Province of Pennsylvania under the Pennsylvania governor until 1776 when it was organized as a separate state.

This probably explains the passage in George Leland Summer's book, *Historical and Genealogical Annals of Newberry County, SC*, wherein he writes:

"William Vardeman came from Pennsylvania with his family before the Rev. War. He settled near Hunting Fork, between the Enoree and Tyger Rivers. He made his will February 4, 1783, and died about 1788, leaving widow Bridgit and children: John, William, Peter and James. James inherited the home plantation at Hunting Fork. Some of the other sons moved to Georgia and Alabama. James sold his lands later, so it is probable he, too, went to Alabama."

There are some errors in this passage:

- (1) William Vardaman originally moved from Delaware (then part of Pennsylvania) to Virginia ca 1734 and only much later (ca 1766) to South Carolina.
- (2) Hunting Fork is a branch of Indian Creek which is a western tributary of the Enoree River about 10 miles upstream from where the Enoree joins the Broad River. The Tyger River, north of the Enoree, runs roughly parallel to the Enoree and joins the Broad River approximately 6 miles north of the Enoree. Indian Creek and its tributaries all lie west of the Enoree, consequently the Vardaman lands on Hunting Fork could not lie *between* the Enoree and Tyger. Instead, they lie just to the west of the Enoree.
- (3) While it is true that James' three sons all moved to Georgia and two of the three later moved on to Alabama, only one of William's other sons did so. Two of William's other three sons (John and Peter) moved from Virginia to Kentucky while William, Jr., did in fact move from Virginia to Wilkes County, GA. James, never moved to Georgia but, instead, died in Newberry County, SC, in 1797.

Also, please note the mark that John Vardaman is supposed to have used when signing documents, ⊕, a circle with a crossed T inside. It is very interesting that an Israel Peterson,

believed to be a son of Peter and Karen Peterson of New Castle County, Pennsylvania (Delaware), and brother-in-law of William Vardaman used a mark which was a crossed T with an additional bar through the middle of the T as $\overline{\text{T}}$.

JHV *JHV*

Will: John Vardaman
1714/15
New Castle County, Delaware

.....

In the Name of God Amen I John Vardaman of Apoquininny Creek in the County of New Castle upon Delaware being this Seventeenth day of March in the first year of Our Sovereign Lord George by the Grace of God of Great Britaine France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith in Anno Dom 1714/15 sick in body but of perfect mind & memory calling to mind the uncertainty of this life and well knowing that all flesh must Dye doth make this my last will & Testament in manner & form following -

Imp^{re} I give my Soule into the hand of God that Gave it (to) me and my body to the Earth to be Decently Buryed at the Discretion of my executrix hereafter named no ways doubting but at the Resurrection my soule and Body shall be again united by the Mighty power of God where I shall secure full Remission & forgiveness of all my sins thru the Merits of my Dear & Blessed Savior & Redeemer Jesus Christ and (illegible word) all what goods both reall & personall which the Lord has been pleased to bless me with in this life, I give and bequeath as followeth -

Item I will & it is my will that all such debts which in Right of Conscience I owe unto any person & the probate of this my last will be Duely paid.

Item I give and bequeath unto my well beloved wife Margaret Vardaman all my Estate Reall & personall to be & remain unto her during her naturall Life with full power that if my son Johannes will come & live with his mother and be industrious to work & clear and pay for my land and plantation that then after my wife's Death he my said son Johannes have all the land & the plantation paying unto each of my children to wit Christopher & William Vardaman & Jane Margrita Vardaman Thirty pounds each within such Convenient time as he shall be able to pay it after each Child comes to age But in case my son Johannes will not come & live with his mother that then & in such case my Loving wife shall have the Liberty to choose who she pleases to live with her and not to be molested but to clear the land and pay unto the abov^d Johannes the Sume of thirty pounds & also thirty pounds apiece unto each of my said children as she is able & all my estate both reall & personall to be & remain unto her and her heirs forever But if my son Johannes will come & be Dutyfull & live with his mother & that he help to pay for the Land & pay the above l^d legacies to his Brother and to his sister that then & in such case that after my loving wifes death all my Estate Reale & personall shall be & remain unto him the said Johannes & his heirs forever -

Item I nominate & ordain my well beloved wife Margaret Vardaman my whole & sole executrix of this my last will & testament Disannulling & Disallowing all former wills heretofore by me made Ratifying & Confirming this to be my last will & testament & none other. In witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand & seale the day & year first above written -

Signed Sealed published)
& Declared By the Testator)
this to be his last will &)
Testament in presence of us)

In the name of God Amen I John Vardaman
of Apoguinemy Creek in the County of New Castle upon Delaware
Being this Seventeenth Day of March In the first Year of Our
Sovereign Lord George by the Grace of God of Great Brittain
France & Ireland King Defend. of the Faith et. Annoq. Dom 1714/15
Sick in Body But of perfect Mind & Memory Calling to mind the
Uncertainty of this life, & well knowing that all flesh must Dye Doe
make this my last will & Testament in Manner & form following —

Item:— I give my soule into the hand of God that gave it me & my body
to the earth to be Decently Buried at the Discretion of my Executors
hereafter named no ways Doubting but at the Resurrection my
Soul & Body shall be again United by the mighty power of God
where I shall receive Remission & forgiveness of all my sins thro
the merits of my Dear & blessed Saviour & Redeemer Jesus
Christ And Touching all what Goods both real & personall —
which the Lord has been pleased to bless me with in this life I give
and bequeath as followeth —

Item I will it is my will that all such Deb to which in Right
of Conscience I owe unto any person & the Probat of this my
Last will be Duely paid. # # # # #

Item I give & bequeath unto my well beloved Wife Margaret
Vardaman all my Estate, Real & personall to be & remain
unto her During her Naturall Life with full power that if
my Son Johannes will come & live with his Mother and be
industrious to work & Clear and pay for my land & Plantation
That then after my wifes Death he my said Son Johannes —
have all the land & the plantation paying unto each of my
Children to wite Christopher & William Vardaman & Jane
Margrit Vardaman Thirty pounds each within such
Convenient time as he shall be able to pay it after each

The Land & pay unto the above^d. Johannes the sume of Thirty
pounds & also Thirty pounds a peice unto each of my said Children
as she is able & all my Estate both Reale & personall to be & remain
unto her and her heires for ever. — But if my son Johannes will come
& be Dutyfull & live with his Mother & that he help to pay for
the Land & pay the above^d. Legacies to his Brothers & to his Sister
That then & in such Case that after my loving wifes Death all my
Estate Reale & personall shall be & remain unto him the said
Johannes & his heires for ever. # # # # #

Item I nominate & Ordain my well beloved wife Margarette Vandaman
my whole & Sole Executrix of this my last will & Testament —
Disannulling & Disallowing all former Wills heretofore by me
made Ratiying & Confirming this to be my last will & Testam^t.
& None other. In Wittness whereof I have hereunto Set
My hand & Seale the Day & Year first above written

Lined Sealed published
& Declared by the Testator
this to be his last will &
Testam^t. in presence of us

March the 21st: 1714

Then Came Capt. John Heally, Charles Ford, & John
Danielly in their own proper persons before me
Isaac Gooding one of his Majties Justices of the peace for
the County of new-castle on Delaware & Deposited on the
holy Evangelist as followeth Viz. That upon the
seventeenth Day of this Instant The within & above

Signe the same a Qualm came over his Stomach & so Lay-
Down & Remained Incapable, untill he Dyed - And farther
Said not.

Sworne before me
Isaac Gooding

111
a Copy of Mr. Vardaman
will & Test

W. & dated March 17 1714

Margaret Vardaman