

Will of Mary Shackelford

April 15, 1768

Transcribed by John Sharp, jhnshrp@gmail.com

I have found several copies of Mary's will, some more legible than the others. The first (and what I think is the original) will copy that I found (Sources 723a and 723b) is almost illegible. But then I found another in the Card Catalog on Ancestry.com and it's so neat and legible that it must be a copy of the original will by someone with much better handwriting, and good paper that the ink didn't bleed through like Sources 723a and 723b. So this new copy is the one that I will transcribe below.

"In the Name of God Amen. I Mary Cavenagh widow of Carteret County in the Province of North Carolina being weak and sick but of sound Mind and Memory, do make ordain and appoint this and this only my last Will and Testament – first – I bequeath my soul to God who gave it and my Body to the Dust to be buried in decent manner as my after-named executors shall direct and appoint, and as to what worldly Estate it hath pleased God to bless me with – I Will and dispose of it as follows, that is to say – Imprimis, after all my Just Debts and Funeral Charges are paid and answered I give and bequeath unto my oldest sons Abraham and Jacob Wade one Negro Man named Windsor Jointly between them, to be divided or disposed of as they shall think proper; to them their Heirs and Assigns for ever. I also bequeath unto my said son Jacob two cows and calves to him his Heirs and Assigns.

Item – I give and bequeath unto my son Enoch Ward one Tract of Land lying and being in said County of Carteret at a place called Bells Neck (as mentioned in two Patents the one granted to Annanias Cavenagh deceas'd and the remainder Land which was purchased by said Cavenagh of Edward Ward) to him his Heirs and Assigns for ever. I also give and bequeath to my said son Enoch a Negro Woman named Sarah, one girl named Violet, a girl named Junior [?], a girl named Dinah, & a girl named Lucy, them with their issue to him his Heirs and Assigns for ever. I also bequeath unto my said son Enoch all my Household Furniture Plantation Utensils and all my Quick stock beside what is mentioned already and shall be here after mentioned in Other Legacies to him his Heirs and Assigns for ever.

Item – I give and bequeath unto my oldest Daughter Elizabeth Canada the sum of Twenty Pounds Proclamation Mony [sic] to her, her Heirs and Assigns for ever.

Item – I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Mary Thomson the sum of Ten Shillings Proclamation Mony [sic] to her, her Heirs and Assigns for ever.

Item – I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Joanna Simpson the sum of Twenty Pounds Proclamation Mony [sic] to her, her Heirs and Assigns for ever.

Item – I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Sara Benthall the sum of Twenty Pounds Proclamation Mony [sic] and one cow and calf to her, her Heirs and Assigns for ever.

Item – I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Henrietta Chadwick one Negro Girl Named Rose to her, her Heirs and Assigns for ever.

Item – I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Jane Davis one Negro Girl Named Flora to her, her Heirs and Assigns for ever.

Item – I give and bequeath unto Cavenagh Simpson, son of my said Daughter Joanna Simpson one Man to him, his Heirs and Assigns for ever.

Item – I give and bequeath unto Ananias Canada, son of my said Daughter Elizabeth Canada one Man to him, his Heirs and Assigns for ever.

And lastly revoking all former Wills I appoint my said son Jacob Wade and Enoch Ward Executors to Execute this my last Will and Testament according to the true intent and meaning here of: In Witness whereof I the said Mary Cavenagh have hereunto set my Hand and seal this Fifteenth Day of April in the year of Our Lord One Thousand seven hundred and sixty Eight.

Mary (her mark) Cavenagh (seal)

The Name Ward was interlined before the executing of these presents.

Seal'd Sign'd and Deliver'd in presence of us

Sam Leffers

Jos Davis

Peleg Dufey

Carteret June Court 1768

This May Certify that Sam'l Leffers Came into Court and made oath on the Holy Evangelist that he saw Mary Cavenagh sign, seal, & Deliver the foregoing writing to be Her Last Will and Testament and that he saw Jos Davis & Peleg Dufey Evidence the same.

Test. Rob Read C. J. C."

Ok, so what do we learn from this Will? Although not from this will, we know that Mary Shackelford was first married to Robert Wade who died in 1745. She had the following

children with Robert Wade – Abraham, Jacob, Sarah, and Jesse (I think it's Jesse, I have seen it as Isaac, but I think it's Jesse). Sarah is not mentioned in Robert's will (Source 888), as she may have been born after Robert died in 1745. Some sources list other children for Robert and Mary: Elizabeth (who marries __ Canaday), Joanna (who married Joshua Simpson), Mary (who marries __ Thomson), Henrietta (who marries __ Chadwick), and Jane (who marries __ Davis). These 9 children appear to have still been alive when Mary's will was written.

Mary then married Enoch Ward, who appears to have died in early (March?) 1751. Enoch was the widower of Elizabeth Shackleford – Mary's sister. Mary and Enoch appear to have had one child – Enoch Ward, Jr. It may be that Enoch Ward, Sr. brought Abigail and Susannah and two sons – James and Richard from his marriage with Elizabeth (see Enoch's will – Source 889).

She then married Ananias Cavenagh, who died in 1763. It doesn't seem that Mary and Ananias had any children together.

So it looks like Mary only names her children with Robert Wade and Enoch, but not Enoch's children with Elizabeth (Mary's sister) or Jesse Wade (a son with Robert Wade).

So Mary's children are:

With Robert Wade:

- Abraham
- Jacob
- Jesse (but not mentioned in Mary's will, so maybe deceased by then)
- Elizabeth
- Mary
- Joanna
- Sarah
- Henrietta
- Jane

With Enoch Ward, Sr:

- Enoch Ward, Jr
- Enoch Ward, Sr. had the following children with Elizabeth Shackleford (Mary's sister):
 - James
 - Richard
 - Abigail
 - Susannah

With Ananias Cavenagh

- None

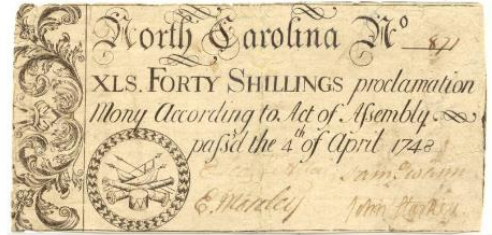
As I read Mary's will, I wondered what "Proclamation Money" was. I found the answer from the [University of North Carolina online library](#).

Proclamation money, 1748
Issuer: North Carolina colony
Printer: James A. Davis, New Bern

Proclamation money became a term for paper money. The term refers to Queen Anne's 1704 proclamation setting exchange rates between the British pound and various foreign moneys current at the time. The

1748 series was produced from plates with a high degree of ornamentation, including this depiction of a drum, cannons, and flags. These three images are used today on the U.S. Army emblem and seal. The cannons represent British Army implements and the drum is a symbol of public notification of the army's purpose and intent to serve the nation and its people. On other notes of the 1748 series, vignettes include a crowned lion, Fort Jackson and the Union Jack, and a unicorn, all symbols associated with Britain.

North Carolina Collection Numismatic Fund



North Carolina, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998 for Mary Canenagh

Carteret > Wills, Vol C-D, 1760-1916

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In the Name of God Amen. I Mary Canenagh widow of Carteret County in the Province of North Carolina being weak and sick but of sound Mind and Memory, do make Ordain and appoint this and this only my last Will and Testament first I bequeath my soul to God who gave it, and my Body to the Quaker to be buried in decent manner as my after named Executors shall direct and appoint, and as to what worldly Estate it hath pleased God to bless me with I Will and dispose of it as follows that is to say, Inprimis, after all my just Debts and Funeral Charges are paid and answered I give and bequeath unto my two oldest sons Abraham and Jacob Trade one Negro Man named Windsor jointly between them, to be divided or disposed of as they shall think proper: to them their Heirs and Assigns for ever. I also bequeath unto my said son Jacob two cows and calves to him his Heirs and Assigns.

Item I give and bequeath unto my son Enoch Word one Tract of Land lying and being in said County of Carteret at a place called Bells Creek (as mentioned in two Patents the one granted to Annas Canenagh deceased and the remainder Land which was purchased by said Canenagh of Edward Word) to him his Heirs and Assigns for ever. I also give and bequeath unto my said son Enoch a Negro Woman named Sarah, one girl named Violet, a girl named Junior, a girl named Omiah & a girl named Lucy, them with their Issue to him his Heirs and Assigns for ever. I also bequeath unto my said son Enoch all my Household Furniture Plantation Utensils and all my Lived Stock beside what is mentioned already and shall be here after mentioned in Other Legacies, to him his Heirs and Assigns for ever.

Item I give and bequeath unto my oldest Daughter Elizabeth Canada the sum of Twenty Pounds Proclamation Money, to her, her Heirs and Assigns for ever.

Item I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Mary Thomson the sum of Ten shillings Proclamation Money to her, her Heirs and Assigns for ever.

Item I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Joanna Simpson the sum of Twenty Pounds Proclamation Money to her, her Heirs and Assigns for ever.

Item I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Sarah Bonshall the sum of Twenty Pounds Proclamation Money, and one Cow and calf to her, her Heirs and Assigns for ever.

Item I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Henrietta Chadwick one Negro Girl named Rose to her, her Heirs and Assigns for ever.

North Carolina, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998

Carteret > Wills, Vol C-D, 1760-1916

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Item I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Jane Davis one negro Girl named Flora to her, her Heirs and Assigns for ever.

Item I give and bequeath unto Cavenagh Simpson, son of my said Daughter Joanna Simpson one young Mare to him his Heirs and Assigns for ever.

Item I give and bequeath unto Ananias Canada, son of my said Daughter Elizabeth Canada one Mare to him his Heirs and Assigns for ever.

And lastly revoking all former Wills I appoint my said Son Jacob Wade and Enoch Ward Executors to Execute this my last Will and Testament according to the true intent and meaning hereof: In Witness whereof I the said Mary Cavenagh have hereunto set my Hand and seal this Fifteenth Day of April in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven hundred and sixty Eight:

Mary ^{her} Cavenagh ^{mark} (Seal)

The Name Ward was interlined before the executing of these presents.

Seal'd Sign'd and Deliver'd in presence of us.

Sam Leffers

Jos Davis

Peleg Dufey

Carteret June Court-1768.

This May Certify that Sam Leffers came into Court and made Oath on the Holy Evangelist that he saw Mary Cavanagh Sign Seal & Deliver the foregoing writing to be her Last Will and Testament and that he saw Jos Davis & Peleg Dufey Evidence the same

Test Rob Read, C, J, C