

judicial office, he was appointed by the legislature to fill the vacant seat on the bench. . . . During the few years that he occupied this important and responsible station, his assiduity in the despatch of business, his impartiality, his dignified amenity of manners, his promptitude of decision, his legal learning, his firmness and independence, were acknowledged and applauded. . . .

In the autumn of 1814 on his return from one of the courts of his circuit, he was thrown from his horse and his ankle severely injured. This accident confined him for several months and terminated at last in a permanent lameness. His constitution never recovered from the effects of this long confinement. . . . He expired on the 4th day of May, 1816. . . .

As an advocate my father was diligent, faithful and conscientious, despising the tricks of pettifoggers, and too candid and upright, too great a lover of justice to abuse the confidence reposed in his truth and integrity. . . . As a judge he was courteous, firm, indefatigable, patient in hearing discussion, and merciful in the exercise of his authority.

THE MORRIS FAMILY

I have never been taught to recognize any as relations except the posterity of WILLIAM MORRIS the elder, the first of the family known to have resided in the county of Hanover. This old gentleman, we have reason to suppose, settled early in the last century on a tract of land on Taylor's creek in that County, the greater part of which still remains in the possession of his descendants.

It is evident from the large amount of property, real and personal, disposed of by his will, that William Morris the elder was a judicious man in the management of his affairs, and, in this respect, has transmitted his character as well as his blood to many of his descendants. A copy of this document. . . . is now in my possession, and, both as a matter of curiosity and as an introduction to my account of the family, I shall--transcribe it literally, preserving even the original orthography. . . . It is said to be wholly in the testator's handwriting, and is in the following words:

"In the name of God amen I William Morris of Hanover County being sick and crasie in body, but in perfect sense and memory do make this my last will and testament hereby revoking all Former Wills whatsoever, First I resign my soul to God that gave it and my body to the grave in hopes of a joyful resurrection through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, and as to the wordly goods it hath pleased God to bless me with, I Dispose of in form and manner following To wit: I give and bequeath to my son Silvanus Morris one brindle cow with calf now at my home plantation, and two steers at Ducking hole plantation. Item - I give and bequeath to my grandson John Morris and his heirs forever, the plantation whereon I now live with the land adjoining between Gleady swamp and Ben's swamp, and from the head of Ben's swamp a direct course to the line between me and William Nelson Gent; I also give to my said Grandson eight negroes viz: Sue, Daniel, Beck, Jemmy, little Peg, Young Will, Old Will, and Moll; I also give to my said Grandson all the stock of cattle & hogs upon my home plantation. Item - I give and bequeath to my daughter Martha Morris and her heirs forever five negroes viz: Fellishie, Peg, Abram, Judy and York, and that she have the priviledge of working them on the land where they now live untill the heir or heirs shall be of age. Item- I give and bequeath to my daughter Gheodocia Morris and her heirs forever that part of the tract of land whereon I now live, below Gleady swamp, also eight negroes viz: Canterbury, Amie, Sibba, Abie, Easter, Hamick, Aily and Gillender, allso the stock of cattle and hogs at the plantation called Canterbury's on the land given to her, I allso give to my said daughter one featherbed and furniture and my young sorrill horse. Item - I give and bequeath to my daughter