
First part of Beilby Porteus' will referring to Port Tobacco, Maryland¹

I Beilby Porteus

D D Bishop of London being in sound health both of body and mind but not forgetful of the uncertainty of life Do hereby make this my last will and testament. First I recommend my soul into the hands of Almighty God in humble hope of his mercy through the merits of my blessed redeemer Jesus Christ.

After I am judged to be dead it is my wish that my body may be kept as long as it can without offence and that it shall not be nailed up in the coffin till my physician and apothecary shall pronounce it necessary to do so, and that return to life is naturally impossible. It is also my desire that I may be buried in a private manner at Sundridge in Kent attending to the directions which I shall leave for that purpose.

And as to the temporal Estate wherewith it has pleased God to bless me I dispose of the same as follows (that is to say) I do give

and devise all that Tract of Land called Saint Matthew near Port Tobacco in the State of Maryland in North America containing about two hundred and fifty acres with the appurtenances now in the possession of

Mrs Martha Porteus [inserted at side: widow the relict of my late brother Edmund Porteus] as tenant for life

thereof and unto which I am entitled under the will of my said brother for an estate in fee simple in remainder immediately expectant on the decease of the said Martha

Porteus, unto my Grand nephew Thomas Porteus Esquire and his heirs to hold the same

¹ *Will of The Right Honorable and Right Reverend Beilby Porteus or Lord Bishop of London, Doctor in Divinity of Saint James Westminster, Middlesex, 9th June 1809*, The National Archives (TNA), Kew, PROB 11/1499/81. Online access via <<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D393388>> [accessed 1/6/22]. The TNA version is a copy entered into the will register of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury and related Probate Jurisdictions. Fulham Palace Trust also has a copy of the will in its collection which is currently on display.

remainder in fee of and in the same hereditaments
unto and to the use of the said Thomas Porteus his
heirs and assigns for ever.