

Last Will and Testaments of Philip Van Cortlandt

In the name of God Amen. I Philip Van Cortlandt of the Town of Cortlandt being in sound mind and memory do make this my last will and testament hereby revoking all former wills in manner and form following —

And first it is my will that my Earthly Body be buried at the discretion of my Executors hereafter to be named and all my debts paid soon after my decease —

And whereas it may appear by the last will and testament of my deceased Grand Father Philip Van Cortlandt that the Lot of Land whereon I now reside at the mouth of Croton River being known as front lot Number One of the Manor of Cortlandt was devised and left to my Father Gerrit Van Cortlandt with intail to his eldest Son and as the Laws of the State of New York have abolished all intails and my right established both by Law and the decease of my Father I am authorised to dispose of the same —

And whereas at my decease it may be probable that a Balance of money may be due from me to the Estate of my deceased Father and in order to discharge the same without disagreement among my Relations and to promote harmony and prevent lawsuits. I do hereby direct and it is my will that the said Lot of Land on which I live the same being amply sufficient, shall be accountable for the extinguishment thereof, and as my Brother & Sisters may be entitled to an Equal part of the Balance which may be due from the Estate and as the Land I shall give to Each will be of more value than their individual share of said balance it is my will that no accounts be made thereof. This being a settlement

Therefore in consideration of the above I do in the first

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place give and bequeath unto my Brother Gerrit van Cortlandt and to his heirs and assigns for ever. All that part of said front Lot Number One of the manor of Cortlandt - Beginning at the North East Corner thereof where it joins the Land of John Conklin and runs with the line of said Lot North Easterly to the Landing Road then following the said Road to a run of water, then down the said run of water to Croton River, then to the middle thereof, then down the said River keeping the middle thereof, passing the Deep hole to the Island called Deer Island then to the Tree standing on the South side of said Croton River and in the Corner of the Town of Greenburgh and of the Town of New Castle then down Croton River on the South side thereof to Hudson River then Northerly and as it may run with the waters of the said Croton to the meadow Creek then on the same to the Neck of Land then following the said neck of Land and meadow Creek until it comes to the dike made by Robert Underhill thence a West Line to Hudsons River then Northerly along the said Hudson River to the place of Beginning. Containing about Six hundred Acres of Land Subject to the discharging the aforesaid Ballance and also the payment of five hundred Dollars "when necessary" as stipulated to be paid to the Underhills on the Lease given them for the mill feat to be paid for buildings exclusive of mills which said said buildings were erected on the Lands hereby bequeathed -

Item - I give and bequeath unto my Sister Catharine during her natural life all that part of said Lot Number One beginning at the Line of John Conklin's Land on the North Easterly side of the Landing Road and runs with said Road Easterly to a run of water then down the same to Croton River then to the middle thereof then on the same to the brook North Easterly to the House where David Bond now lives then following on the Brook to where the North

was blown to drain the swamp, thence North westerly course to the line of said Lot Number One in the South westerly End of said Swamp, then following the Line of said Lot to the place of Beginning - Containing about two hundred Acres and after the decease of my said Sister Catharine I give and bequeath the same to her son Thos G Van Wyck his heirs and assigns for ever - Subject nevertheless to the discharging the aforesaid ballance -

Item - I give and bequeath unto my Sister Cornelia and to her heirs and assigns for ever, Subject to the proportion of the aforesaid Ballance - The North Easterly End of said Lot Number One - Beginning at the mouth of Bond Brook and runs to the Lot leased to Jeremiah Gaysley for the Still house, then following on the East side thereof leaving Garret Williams possession of House Stable and Garden on the Corner to the East until it comes to the Road, then on the Road as runs to the North Easterly line of said Lot Number One, then North Easterly along the said line to the North East Corner thereof, then South Easterly along the line to Croton River to the place of beginning containing two hundred Acres more or less reserving thereout for the use of the part to be bequeathed to my Sister Ann that piece of Ground lying before the house where Jeremiah Gaysley lives containing about one Acre to extend far enough so as to include a spring of water which may be brought to the house. Also reserving one Acre Northerly thereof to place a Barn or Stable leaving a Lane between the two Lots from the Road Eastward -

Item I give and bequeath unto my Sister Ann and to her heirs and assigns for ever all that part of said Lot situated between the North bequeathed to my Sister Catharine and the part bequeathed to my Sister Cornelia containing about

two hundred acres including the two acres pieces in front
of the house of Jeremiah Gussley lives - Subject now &
thence to the discharging the before mentioned Ballance

And whereas I am indebted to my Sister Catherine
as may appear from settlements to be made, and in order to
secure the payments thereof, I do direct that my part of
the mills south of Croton and the House and Land in
the possession of John T. Hollman be accountable, and I do
hereby give and bequeath the said House Land and my
part of the said mills and every thing appertaining there-
unto together with what the said John T. Hollman is or may
be in my debt on account thereof unto my Nephew
Gerrit C. Van Wyck and to his heirs and assigns for ever
subject to an equitable discharge of the debt hereafter
to be found due to my said Sister Catherine as
aforesaid

And whereas I have received money from Walter Fowler
which arose from his being miller and superintending the
mills left by the Underhills and have also received some profits
from the Lands belonging to the Estate of my Father south
of Croton River and south and East of John T. Hollman
and whereas I have paid the Taxes and for Improvements
made thereon but perhaps not equivalent and as my deceased
Father by his last Will did give and bequeath to me a part
thereof, therefore wishing that full compensation be made
thereof - I do give and bequeath the said part which is in my
Opinion is of more value than the Equivalent unto my Brother
Gerrit and my Sisters Catherine, Cornelia & Ann and to their
heirs and assigns for ever -

Having thus far arranged and disposed of the Estate
which was ~~derived~~ derived from my Grand Father and Father
in the most equitable manner that my understanding could
devise in order to prevent discord and promote happiness, good
will and Affection among all concerned which I hope
and most seriously pray may be the result -

I shall now proceed to dispose of what it has pleased
my heavenly Father and God to bless me with in addition
And in order to prevent difficulties in the distribution
of Articles of trifling amount and to place in one
confidential Person property sufficient to discharge all
my debts - I do give and bequeath unto my Nephew
Philip G. Van Wyck and to his heirs and assigns for ever
all the residue of my Estate both Real and personal
excepting such parts thereof as I may particularly
designate give and bequeath by a Codicil or Codicils
hereafter to be made and added to this my last Will
with full power to sell and convey Real Estate fore-
close mortgages fulfill contracts collect debts and
pay all what is due from me to the People of the
State of New York and all other demands against me
except such as is already provided for by this my last
Will -

And I do hereby direct and appoint my Brother
Gerrit Van Cortlandt my Nephew Gerrit C. Van Wyck
my Nephew Philip G. Van Wyck Executors and my Sisters
Cornelia Beekman and my Sister Ann Van Hook & her
Executives to my last Will -

Signed sealed published and declared to be my last Will and
Testament the ninth day of March in the year One thousand
Eight hundred and Twenty four -

In the Presence of
Robert Acher
Rachel Tompkins
John Guild

Wm. Cortlandt (21)

Copy of the last will &
testament of General
Philip Van Cortlandt
dated 9th March 1824

Died Feb 1831