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King Geo. II's Will Apr. 3/14 1751

See also Addl. MSS Section I Nos 10-14

In the Name of the holy & blessed Trinity.

We George II., by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France & Ireland, Defender of the Faith, Duke of Bronswic-Luneburg, Arch Treasurer of the holy Roman Empire & Elector &c. declare: Whereas Our Ancestors have settled the hereditary Succession in Our Electorate, & the Rest of Our German Dominions, by establishing & introducing the Jus primogenituræ; & whereas nothing certain has been settled & agreed upon as an Appannagium & suitable maintenance for the younger Sons & their Families; That We therefore, according to the Example of Our Ancestors, & especially of Our late Grand Father, Ernest August, Duke & Elector of Bronswic-Luneburg, and Bishop of Osnabruck of pious memory, who in His last Will provided for His younger Sons, who did not succeed to the Administration of His Dominions, by rich Legacies, suitable to the nature & Proportion

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of the Provinces, which belonged to the said Our Late Grand Father, have resolved, to establish Something certain, and to make, as Duke and Elector of Brunswic Luneburg, so far as concerns all Our German Dominions and Affairs, this Our paternal Disposition and Law, according to Our paternal Power, and the received Observance in the Families of the Princes & Electors of the holy Empire, and to have it laid by, till it shall please allmighty God to call us out of this World. Therefore, after having well and maturely considerd, We ordain & regulate by this Our Will:

1.

First We declare, and it is Our Will, that when it shall please God, to dispose of Our Life, that We will be buried next to the late Queen, Our ever sincerely beloved Spouse, and Our Remains to be deposited by Hers in the same ~~Tomb~~ Coffin.

2.

We

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We ordain, and it is Our Will, that Our dear Grand Son, Prince George, or in Case He should die before Us, He who, according to the Right of Succession, established in Our Family, shall be the next, shall alone succeed to Our Electoral & other German Dominions, and inherit alone Our Allodium in Germany, safe those Dispositions, which We make by this Our Will, or may for the future make; and We make and constitute hereby Our Grand Son, Prince George, or Him, who, as mention'd above, shall follow, according to the Right of Primogeniture, Our sole Heir titulo honorabili.

3.

We settle hereby as a Competency and Appanaguim for Our Son William, Duke of Cumberland, out of Our Cash and ready money, which We have successively saved, and which is kept at Hannover,

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one for all, the Sum of three Millions, three Hundred & Eight Thousand, ninety one Dollars 32. Gros, current money, being what We intended for Him, according to Our former Donation and Cessions, which, so far are hereby ~~are~~ confirmed and corroborated, so that of this Sum, to which We constitute Our Son William, Duke of Cumberland, titulo honorabili, He, or His male Posterity, begotten out of a Marriage, suitable to His Rank, shall annualy have the Interest of three per Cent, consequently Ninety nine Thousand, two Hundred, Forty two Dollars, 27 Gros, current Money; which money, is to be paid by the Chamber of Finances of Our then reigning Grand Son, or His then reigning Posterity, every Year, half at Easter, half at Michelmas, as a perpetual Appanagium for ever, without Hindrance or Delay, and as long, as any of the said our Sons male Posterity, begotten in the aforesaid manner, shall remain.

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4.

But in case, Our Son William, Duke of Cumberland, should find a proper Opportunity to lay out the whole or part of this Appanaguim of three millions, three hundered eight thousand ninety one Dollars 32. Gros, current money, as mention'd in the foregoing Paragraph, in order to make any Acquisitions in Germany, in Lands & Possessions, which may be conveniently situated, with respect to Our Dominions, or to buy there Lordships or orther manors, then Our reigning Grand Son, or His then reigning Posterity, shall likewise be bound and obliged, to cause the money, thus avantageously & safely laid out, undisputably to be paid upon receipt: Yet as it is obvious, that the amount of the interest, at 3. per cent, for the main Stock, thus laid out & paid down, ought to be kept in, and deducted, from the Ninety nine Thousand, two hundered

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& Forty two Dollars 27. Gros, which the Chamber
Finances of Our reigning Grand Son, or His th
reigning Posterity, is bound annualy to pay;
it is Our Will, and We ordain hereby, that Ou
Son, William, Duke of Cumberland, shall be bou
to give to Our reigning Grand Son, or His then
reigning Successor, sufficient Security, for th
money thus paid to Him; and it is further
Will, that the Lands & Possessions, or Lordship
and Manors, thus bought and acquired, shall
of the same nature and Quality, and have th
same Fidei-Commis remain upon them, a
the Capital, or main Stock, which has been
laid out in the said Acquisition; So that
upon the Demise of Our Son William, Duk
of Cumberland, without leaving behind h
any male Posterity, or in Case His Progeny,
out of a Lawfull Marriage suitable to His
Ranck, should come to fail, the said —

Acquisition

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Acquisitions, are to return to the reigning Branche.

5.

Our Son William, Duke of Cumberland has free Will, to dispose of this Appanaguim, settled upon Him & His male Posterity, begotten out of a Marriage, suitable to His Rank, amongst His lawfull male Progeny, so that He may divide it, according to His own Pleasure, between them, and assign to each of Them whatever Portion He may Himself think right & proper: Which same Liberty, the whole male Posterity, of the said Our Son shall likewise enjoy, so that They may dispose, to Their male Heirs begotten out of a lawfull Marriage, of the Portion, which They may come to share in the Appanaguim, settled and establish'd as above.

6.

Whereagainst Our Son William, Duke of

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Cumberland, and His male Heirs, who are to enjoy this Appanaguim, are obliged to provide Them selves for the Maintenance of Their female Posterity; Nor are Our Grand Son, Prince George when He shall come to reign, nor Those, who are to follow Him in the Succession of Our German Dominions, bound, to contribute anything towards the Maintenance or Portion of those Princesses.

7.

But in case ~~the said~~ Our said Son should die without male Issue, begotten out of a Marriage suited to His Rank, or His male Posterity, according to the Decree of Divine Providence should come to fail; Then the Appanaguim of three Millions, Three Hundered eight Thousand & ninety nine one Dollors 32 Gros, current money, returns to the then reigning Prince over Our German Dominions, and we

kept

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kept by Him, yet He is obliged, in case there should be Princesses, to provide for Their Portion, and suitable Maintenance.

8.

And as our dear Daughters cannot according to the Practice received in Our Family, & in Conformity of the Pacta Domus, which are its fundamental Laws, ~~&c~~ inherit Our Dominions Succession or pretend to any part of them, We therefore recommend to Our Grand Son, Prince George, and to those, who shall succeed Him in the Gouvernment of Our German Dominions, not only to provide for Their suitable Maintenance, and for the Portion of those, who at Our Demise may happen to be unmarried. But also to have care that, in case one or the other of Our Daughters should marry, the faithfull States of Our German Provinces may contribute towards Their Portion, what in such cases has

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always been practised in Our Family.

9.

And that ~~the said~~ Our said Daughters, (whom We heartely love, & who by Their filial Affection & Deportment, have always given us much Comfort,) may receive a Testimony of ~~their~~ Our sincere paternel Love and Affection; We leave ~~them~~ hereby, for remembrance Sake, and as a Legacy, first to

Our eldest Daughter, Princess Anne, married to the Prince of Orange Nassau, Forty Thousand Dollars.

Our second Daughter, Princess Amalia Sophia Eleonora, Forty Thousand Dollars.

Our third Daughter, Princess Elisabeth Caroline, Forty Thousand Dollars.

Our fourth Daughter, Princess Mary, married to the Hereditary Prince of Hesse Cassel Forty Thousand Dollars.

Our

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Our fifth Daughter, Princess Louise, married to the King of Danmarc & Norwegue, Forty Thousand Dollars; in such a manner, that these Legacy's shall be payd to each of the said Our Daughters, immediately after Our Demise, out of Our privy Purse.

10.

Should it be the Will of allmighty God, that one or more of the said our Daughters should die before Us; then Her, or Their Legacy, is to be divided equaly among Our remaining Daughters: But in case, which Divine Providence may avert, They should all die before Us; then this Legacy stands entirely void.

11.

All our Jewels, which We have bought with Our own Money, or which have been left to Us by Our Ancestors, are to remain for ever

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by Our Family as a perpetual Fidei Commis
and to go to Our Successor in the Electorate.

12.

In case that at the time of Our demise Our Grand Son, Prince George, or His Successor, should be under Age; We name hereby Our Son William, Duke of Cumberland, as a Curator and Tutor for the Administration of Our Electoral & other German Dominions, and ordai that as long as this Tutelage lasts, He shall have every Year Hundred Thousand Dollars over & above the yearly Appanaguim of Ninety nine Thousand Two Hundred & Forty two Dollars 27 Gros, stipulated in the 3d Paragraph. And as We have already eventualy declared to Our Privy Counselors at Hannover this Our Intention, by a Rescript of the 26 April a. c., and have boun them by their Oaths and Allegiance, to confor

themselves

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themselves and strictly adhere to it, if by Gods Divine Providence & Direction the Case should happen; So We hope likewise of Our Son William, Duke of Cumberland, that out of Love for Us, and out of Concern for the Wellfare of Our House, He not only will readily undertake this Curatorship, but will also endeavour, with a Zeal, proportion'd to Our own tender Care, to maintain and preserve our German Dominions and Subjects in that prosperous and flourishing Condition, which under the blessing of Almighty God, and to Our sincere Joy and Satisfaction, they hitherto enjoy. And to give, under this heavy care, which requires an exact and thorough Knowledge of the Condition of the Country and its Constitution, to Our Son William, Duke of Cumberland, all possible help, and to make it to Him as easy as possible: it is Our Will and Pleasure, that, as after Our

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Demise, so likewise during the Tutelage, there shall be present here in England two German Ministers, who, with respect to the Affairs and Concerns of Our Electoral and Our other hereditary Dominions in Germany, shall be constituted in such a manner, that though the Eldest of them, is to propound matters and to open the Propositions by Word of mouth, yet both of them are to have in common the Management of Affairs, wether they concern Politica, Cameralia, Militaria, Civilia, or Criminalia, & of what other nature they may be, nothing excepted, so as to propose them conjunctly, to receive and execute both the Resolutions given them and to bring them to be signed. The Said Our Son, will of Himself conceive and understand, and be, by Our own Example, more fully therein persuaded, how well and usefull it is, to ask and receive the Opinion

and

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and Advice of Our Privy Counsellors at Hannover in matters coming under His Deliberation: And as We cannot recommend enough this Method to Him, so We desire of Him hereby expressly to ask and expect allways, in the beforesaid Matters and Concerns, the Advice and Informations of the said Privy Counselors, and, when their Opinions are unanimous, to give them the necessary Validity and Force by the Sanction of His Approbation: But in Case the Ministers should differ in Opinion, He is to chuse and declare Himself for that, which upon mature Deliberation & Examination shall appear to Him the most eligible. We recommend to Our Grand Son, Prince George, and all Our other Successors, when the time of Tutelage shall be expired, to proceed in the same manner.

13.

We

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We make it hereby a perpetual and permanent Law, that nothing of Our German Revenues and ready Cash shall ever be remitted hither, But that it only shall serve to promote the Interest and Wellfare of Our Electoral and other German Provinces. And as it is Our Will, and We expressly ordain hereby, that no Englishman shall ever be set over the said Our German Dominions as a Statthalder, or Governor, or under whatever other titel it may be: So it is also Our Intention, that, as long as God shall grant Us life, We will take care, and Our Successors in the Administration are likewise to make it Their Concern, that Our Privy Counsel at Hanover may always consist of a sufficient number of worthy & able Persons, whose Fidelity, Honesty, and Capacity, Attachment to, and good Intentions for their Sovereign as well as His Subjects

and

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and Provinces, may be depended upon: And it is furthermore Our eager and earnest Request to Our Grand Son, Prince George, or the then being Successor in the Administration, to keep up, and maintain the different Courts and Benches, as well as Our Household established at Hannover.

14.

We give to all Our dear and heartily beloved Children, Grand Sons and Grand-Daughters Our paternal Blessing, and wish, as nothing lies more near to Our Heart as Their future temporal & spiritual Happiness, that Allmighty God may keep Them, to the greatest Age, in perfect Prosperity and Content, and that He may pour out over Them all the Blessings, which may be usefull to Them in Soul and Body, and which may make Them perfectly happy here below, as well, as in the blessed Abode, whenever it shall please Allmighty God to call

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Them to Him: Especialy We recommend to Our Grand Son, Prince George, or to Him who shall succeed Us or Him in the Administration all Our German Dominions, and faithfull States & Subjects, whose Wellfare has allways, during Our Life, been our near Concern, and who, during the whole time of Our Administration have allways, to Our great & special Satisfaction behaved with Zeal & Attachment; So that they may be protected in what is due to them, be governed with Love, Graciousness, Lenity and Justice, and the Burthen of their Contributions & Taxes made as easy to them as possible: We furthermore recommend our Privy- & other Counsellors, & all Our other Servants, who have well performed their Duty to Us and Our Dominions, and whom therefore We wish heartily well for the future, recommanding them to Favour & to the Reward, due

to

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to their faithfull Services.

15.

We conclude in this manner, in the Name of Allmighty God, our Testament & last Will, & whatever may in any manner be contrary to, or derogatory from it, & whatever, besides this Our last Will, may be found of Testamentary Dispositions, under what Name and Denomination whatever, is hereby deliberately & maturely by Us annulled and stands void.

And the better to secure and ascertain this Our Will, we have caused three Copies to be made of it, of which We have deposited one with Our Privy Council at Hannover, the other with Our supreme Court of Judicature at Celle, and the third We have kept Ourselfes, declaring at the same time, that, should it happen, that one Copy should be lost, yet the Second, or the third, shall, each by itself, stand

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good in Law, and have full Validity. It is further Our Will, that in case, contrary to Our Intention, there should be found any Thing wanting in it, which might make it doubtfull, wether it could stand good in Law as a Testament, it notwithstanding shall be considered as a Simplex dispositio Patris inter liberos, which it realy is, and shall therefore, and quovis alio meliori modo, be binding, and have full Force.

We reserve to Us however, to alter it, as Circumstances may require, or to add something to it.

In Testimony of which We have signed with Our own Hand, this Our last Will, in Presence of the Witnesses called to that Purpose and have Sealed it with Our Signet, and have caused it to be signed also & Sealed by the said Witnesses. Done at Our Palace at St James

the

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the 3/14th Day of April, the 1751st Year and the twenty fourth of Our Reign.

This is my last Will

(L.S.) George R. of Great Britain & Elector of Bronswick Luneburg.

That the most High and most Serene Prince, George II. King of Great Britain, France & Ireland, Defender of the Faith, Arch Treasurer of the Holy Roman Empire & Elector, Our most gracious Sovereign, has declared to us, the Underwritten, this to be His last Will, when it should please God to call Him from this transitory World, and has Signed and Sealed it with His Royal Signet in Our Presence, as having been called to that Purpose, His Majesty having previously dispensed quoad hunc actum with Our Oath of Allegiance, and that all

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this has been done uno Actu, we certify and attest. Witness Our Hand and Seal. St James April the 3/14. 1751.

(L.S.) Philip Adolph de Munchhausen. (L.S.) Augustus Schutz

(L.S.) Gerhard Andreas de Reiche. (L.S.) Wilhelm Philipp Best

(L.S.) Hermann Hoburg. (L.S.) Christian Schröder

(L.S.) Georg Wölcher.

That the most High and most Serene Princ George II. King of Great Britain, France & Ireland, Defender of the Faith, Duke of Bronsw Luneburg, Arch Treasurer of the Holy Roman Empire & Elector, my most gracious Sovereign, has called me, the underwritten, His Majesty Privy Secretary, John Frederick Mejer, on

the

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the Day as mention'd below, into His Presence in His Palace at St. James, and has there declared to me, this present Volume, consisting of 21. written Pages, to be His last Will, made with full and mature Deliberation, which Will His Majesty has in my Presence Signed and Sealed with His Signet; and further, that the Witnesses, called, & ad hunc Actum dispensed with their Oath of Allegiance have also set their Hand & Seal to this Will, and acknowledged the Hand & Seal to be theirs, and that all this has been done uno eodem que Actu; I certify and attest by this present Instrument, which I have made in Stead of a Publick Notary, and have signed & Sealed it, with the two underwritten Witnesses, having all three been previously dispensed, quoad hunc Actum, with our Oath of Allegiance. Witness our own Hand & Seal. St. James April the 3/14th 1751.

(L.S.) John Frederic Meyer

(L.S.) John Frederic Schönian

(L.S.) John Kramer.

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St James's $\frac{3}{14}$th Apr: 1755.

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