

**John Howver (1802-1865) of Rockingham County, Virginia
Last Will and Testament, dated October 18, 1865**

Source: Rockingham County Courthouse, Harrisonburg, VA; Will Book I, p. 418-420

Just & true appraisement of the estate of Ann Orcheltree dec'd
Given under my hand January 3^d 1866.
P. Interest calculated up to January 3^d 1866. Charles Lewis N.D.

Clerk's office of the County Court of Rockingham Feb. 26th 1866
This appraisement of the estate of Ann Orcheltree dec'd. was this day
presented in the office aforesaid, and admitted to record
Teste
L M Gambell C. R. C.

In the name of God Amen. I John Howver of the County
of Rockingham, and State of Virginia, being conscious of the un-
certainties of life & knowing that I am still in the enjoyment
of reasoning faculties, make this my last will and testament
as follows. And first I resign my soul into the hands of the
great God who gave it and my body to be decently interred
after my decease. And to such worldly estate as it hath be-
-longed to God to entrust to me with, I dispose of the same as follows.
First, I will to my eldest son Abraham this heirs forever all
my land upon which I now live, lying east of the County road
now running through my farm, said road to be the section line
with the exception of the building now used as a blacksmith
shop, & the lot upon which it now stands as it is now fenced
with this reservation, that the said Abraham my son, shall give
to my second son Joseph the right to mow & remove two tons
of hay annually from the upper end of the meadow
belonging to the land above named lying east of the County
road so long as my son Abraham shall hold the same
or the same so long as the Sr. Joseph my son, shall hold
& occupy the land hereinafter specified as his under the
will. In addition to the above I will to my son Abraham, of
my personal property, one horse, one cow, five head of sheep,
one bed, and one tin plate stove, and the smaller copper
Kettle. The above property subject to the conditions hereinafter
specified. And to my second son Joseph, I will all my land
upon which I now live lying west of the aforesaid County
road with the buildings pertaining thereto, and the black-
-smith shop, and the lot upon which it stands, lying
east of said road, to him & his heirs forever. In addition
to said lands, I will to the said Joseph, all my personal
property, which shall remain after my son Abraham here-
-tofore named, and my son George hereinafter named shall
have received their portion as herein provided & specified.
The conditions upon my two sons Abraham and Joseph
shall hold the above lands are as follows. First that
each of my two eldest sons Abraham and Joseph shall
shall give jointly to my beloved wife Maria, if she sur-
-vives me, a good maintenance for all her necessary wants
and comforts, and a home with them during her natural

lifetime, & furthermore that they shall execute, each of them a bond payable to my wife, as follows, My son Abraham shall a lien on the lands specified herein to be his, for four hundred dollars (\$400.00) and my son Joseph a bond of like character with a lien on the lands herein specified as his, for three hundred dollars (\$300.00) I the said that my two sons above named do faithfully & truly comply with the conditions, above named in, giving a comfortable maintenance to my wife, then as long as these conditions shall be complied with their bonds shall be null & void, but if upon satisfactory evidence the above conditions of maintaining my wife are not complied with then their bonds shall be paid to my wife in full and the above named lands shall be bound for the same. And further that in case of the death of either one or both of my sons above named, then if my wife is a survivor and require it the above named bond or bonds shall be paid in full, without interest until such change take place, should either of my above named sons not comply with their part of the conditions of maintaining my wife while the other does then upon satisfactory evidence the delinquent shall be bound to pay as above specified, the full amount of his bond.

Second Condition, that my son Joseph shall pay to my daughter Joanna (who is married to George Stetson) \$319.00 three hundred & nineteen dollars, making with what I have already given her, six hundred dollars to be paid in equal annual payments, the first payment to be made in twelve months, after my decease, and that my son Abraham shall pay to my son George three hundred & fifty seven dollars (\$357.00) making with what I have already given him (six hundred dollars) in three equal annual payments the first payment to be made in twelve months after my decease.

In addition to the above provisions for my son George, and what I have already given him, I bequeath to him one cow, five sheep and ~~some~~ Bureau & one bed, to be given him out of my personal property, and furthermore I appoint my two eldest sons Abraham & Joseph to take my place as Administrator of the estate of Christian Evensole, and to settle up the same - paying all claims of said estate due it from me, as well as to pay any debts which I owe, for which purpose they shall hold & use all the individual bonds which I now hold, as well as my two waggons, a road waggon & a two horse waggon, two threshing machines, with everything belonging to them, and a lot of tobacco on hand, of one hundred & seventy-five pounds more or less. Should the above lands, waggons, machines &c. be pay my liabilities, as administrator of said Christian Evensole did, then the said amount whatever it shall be shall be equally divided between my two eldest sons as above named. Furthermore I will to my four children above named an equal share in a certain house & lot belonging to me, and lying in the county of Greenbrier and State of Virginia upon the conditions that they each take an equal part in securing the

same. The provisions which I have herein made for my wife are in lieu of her dower at common law.
 In witness whereof I John Rowser the Testator have to this my last will & testament written on one sheet of paper set my hand & seal this eighteenth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred sixty five
 John Rowser (seal)

Signed, sealed, and delivered in the presence of us the undersigned who have subscribed in the presence of each other
 Cornilius B. Hammael
 Daniel Wampler,
 Solomon Hunt,

County Court of Rockingham County Feb. Term 1866
 This last will & testament of John Rowser dec'd. was presented in Court and was proved by the oaths of Daniel Wampler & Solomon Hunt two of the undersigned witnesses thereto & ordered to be recorded
 S. W. Gambill Clerk

An Inventory of the Personal Estate of William Purvis dec'd. made by me as the Administrator thereof on the 27th day of September 1865. with a column on the right hand for the appraisers to annex the value of the several items

Four bushels Timothy seed @ \$3.25 - \$12.00; 6 bush. Clover seed @ \$2.25	25.00
One lot books, 5; 1 table \$0; 1 setts \$0; 1 bedstead & bedding \$40.00	5.00
Forty five lbs wool @ 3/4 per lb. \$16.65; 18 lbs Hops @ 3/4 -	35.00
One bedstead & bedding \$5.00; 1 slate and books, 5	6.00
One 8 day clock, \$4.50; 1 rocking glass, 50; 1 clothes Press \$5.00	10.00
One Culp Board, \$10.00; 1 set Quilt wain \$3.00; 5 chairs \$3.00	15.00
Two chairs 50 ^{cts} ; 5 setts \$4.50; 2 Rocking chairs, 75; 1 table & cover \$3.00	8.00
One bedstead & bedding, \$9.00; 5 mill shels, 25; 1 chest, 50; 1 setts \$1.25	11.00
One chest 75; Sugar Skiff box 25; 1 trunk 15; 1 saddle rack, 25	1.00
Two Quilt frames 10; 5 chairs \$3.00 & fittings 02; 2 planes 13	3.00
One box Crisco 50; 1 set sundries 75; 1 wheel & reel \$5.50; setts \$4.50	11.00
Three 7 day wheels & benches 75; 2 Rocking cradles 25 set sundries 50	6.00
Two Sackles 25; 2 Sackles & benches \$1.25; 1 Coat 1 knife	1.00
One lot Sundries 25; 2 chairs \$1.50; 1 cow bell 7c. 25; 1 bedstead \$17.50	3.00
One wheel & reel \$15.00; 2 Cans \$2.00; 1 Copper Kettle \$14.00	17.00
One Stove, \$40.00; 1 Churn Bucket 50; 1 set Sundries 15	4.00
1 set Sack & barrel 25; 1 set Sack & barrel 25	2.00