

Will of Colonel John Bowman

In the name of God Amen, I John Bowman of the County of Lincoln, in the State of Virginia calling to mind the uncertainty of this life and knowing that it is appointed for all men one to die, and as I am at this time weak in body, but of sound mind and perfect memory, thanks be to God for the same, do make by last Will and Testament in manner and form following, that is to say, first and principally, I recommend my Soul to God, who gave it, in hopes of a joyfull resurrection, and my body the Earth to be decently Buried at the descretion of my Executors hereinafter named and as to what worldly estate it hath pleased God to bless me with, I dispose thereof in manner and form following, towit:

It is my will and desire that my just debts and funeral charges be first paid and satisfied out of my estate. I lend to my loving wife Elizabeth Bowman one third part of my estate both real and personal, during her natural life.

It is my will and desire that my Executors hereafter named or such of them as may qualify to this my last Will, may make sale of any of my lands which they think may be most advantageously parted with, and that the money arising by such sale, be applied towards educating my son John Bowman, and that my said Executors be hereby empowered to convey such lands so sold to the purchaser or purchasers thereof, in fee simple clear of all encumbrances whatsoever.

I give and bequeath to my son John Bowman, all the residue of my Estate both real and personal, together with the one third part thereof above mentioned lent to my loving wife Elizabeth Bowman, which third part she is to enjoy during her natural life, to him and his heirs and assigns forever. But if my said son John Bowman should die before he arrives to the age of

twenty one years, without issue of his body lawfully begotten, then and in that case, it is my will and desire that the whole of my personal estate be equally divided, the one half thereof, I give and bequeath to my said wife and the other half to be equally divided between my two brothers, Abraham and Isaac Bowman, to them and their heirs and assigns forever- and that the whole of my real estate be by my aforesaid Executors sold, and the same conveyed by them to the purchaser or purchasers thereof in fee simple clear of all encumbrances, and that the money arising by such sale be divided equally, the one half thereof I give to my said wTife, and the other half I give to be equally divided between my brothers, Abraham Bowman and Isaac Bowman and my sisters Mary Stephens, Elizabeth Ruddle, Sarah Wright, Ryner Durley & Rebecca Brinken to them and their heirs and assigns forever, and in case my said Brother Isaac Bowman should die without issue of his body lawfully begotten then it my Will that his part of my Estate should pass to my brother Abraham Bowman and his heirs and assigns forever, and if either of my said sisters should die before receiving her part of my Estate, that such her part shall be equally divided between all her children then living, to them and their heirs and assigns forever.

I do constitute and appoint my loving wife, Elizabeth Bowman, Ex and my two Brothers Abraham Bowman and Isaac Bowman Exrs. of this my last will and testament, utterly disanulling, revoking and making void all other wills by me heretofore made declaring this only to be my last will and testament. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this Fifth day of February, 1784.

John Bowman

Signed, sealed published & declared by the Testator to be his last Will and Testament in presence of us and at whose request we have subscribed our names.

Joseph Love, James Coe, Richard Foley, Wilson Maddox.

Proved in Lincoln County, Va., now Ky., August 17, 1784. (Copy supplied by V. C. Gilliland, Clerk.)

[Transcribed from pages 161-162 of John W. Weyland's book, *The Bowman's, A Pioneering Family in Virginia, Kentucky and the Northwest Territory*. The McClure Company; Staunton, VA; 1943]