

In the name of God Amen

I John ~~6~~ Saunders of the County of
Hanover being of sound mind and memory do make this my last
will and Testament in the following manner to wit:

I wish my estate to be kept together until the end of this war, un-
less my sons William and John, whom I now appoint my executors,
shall deem it best to break it up earlier, ~~and~~ while it is held together
I desire my daughter Anni to live in the place upon the same terms as
during my life and to be charged with no board, nor ~~are~~ she and her
son Robert ever to be charged anything for their maintenance at my han-
ds during her widowhood. To my beloved daughter ^{and} as a remembrance of
her great love of and kindness to me; I bequeath as a special legacy
my negro girl Lucy Ellen during her life and at her death to belong in
full right to her son Robert or his heirs.

The balance of my negroes I desire to be divided equally among all my
children whenever my land may be sold and the proceeds arising from
the sale of the land and of my perishable property and all other monies
on hand at that time to be also equally divided among all my children
after deducting from the share of my son Joseph a bond I hold of him with
interest thereon from its date. The share of all my ^{property} falling to my son Joseph
I do not give him in fee, but hereby appoint my two executors as
above named, trustees for his benefit to hold his share and use it
for his interest in the manner which may seem to them most
conducive thereto and whatever part

During my life and to be charged with no board, nor are she and her
son Robert ever to be charged with anything for their maintenance as my son
as during her widowhood. To my beloved daughters as a remembrance of
her great love and kindness to me; I bequeath as a special legacy
my Negro girl Lucy Ellen during her life and at her death to belong in
full right to her son Robert or his heirs.
The balance of my Negroes I desire to be divided equally among all my
Children whenever my land may be sold and then the proceeds arising from
the sale of the land and of my perishable property and all other monies
on hand at that time to be also equally divided among all my Children
after deducting from the share of my son Joseph a bond I hold of him with
interest thereon from its date. The share of all my property falling to my son Joseph
I do not give him in fee, but hereby appoint my two executors as
above named, Trustees for his benefit to hold his share and use it
for his interest in the manner which may seem to them most
conducive thereto and whatever portion of his share may remain
at his death, I hereby give and bequeath to his son Thomas. He
I request that my son William and John shall not be
held to be surety upon qualifying as executors or Trustees of this my will
and Testament. In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand
and affixed my seal on this 27th day of January in the year of
our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty four
Signed, sealed, published and declared as the last
will and Testament of the Testator.

Thomas J. Purjeur
William J. Childers

(Stamped)

John C. Saunders
his mark

Hanover County Court:

This day personally appeared before me a justice of the peace for the County aforesaid, W. C. Shafter and deposed that he wrote the will of John C. Saunders and that the above is a true copy. Also appeared before me the same day Tho. J. Purjeur and W. J. Childers and deposed that they know the ^{above} to be a true copy of the original will and that at August Court for the said County in the year 1864 they appeared before said Court as witnesses to the said will and that it was then admitted to probat given under my hand this 27th day of Nov. 1865

P. S. Murby J.P.

A. A. Court of Quarterly Session held for Hanover County at the Court-house on Tuesday 28th day of November 1865

This paper writing purporting to be the last will and Testament of John C. Saunders deceased was this day offered for probat by John D. Saunders also the following evidence to wit: William Childers testified that on the 27th day of January 1864 he attested the will of John C. Saunders and in the presence of Thomas Purjeur another witness that he has distinct recollection of the Substantive contents of the will of John C. Saunders and that the paper now offered is a true copy of it in substance and he believed in the very words the said testator being of sound mind

ved in the very words he said ~~as before~~ ^{being} of said ~~man~~ ^{man}
said wife in his presence, and in the presence of the said Thomas J
Parzear and they in his presence at his request with the presence of
each other, subscribed their names to the said will as witnesses, and after
wards at August Court of the said County in the year 1864 the original
paper purporting to be the will of the said John C Saunders deceased
was produced in Court and proved by the Oaths of said Thomas J Parzear
and himself as the attesting witnesses thereto, and the paper now offered
for probate is a true copy of said original paper. The further part
of the said paper is continued until the next Court and a Commission is awarded
to take the deposition of ~~the said~~ Thomas J Parzear the other subscribing witness
to the said will, and at a Court of ~~Monthly~~ ^{Supreme} held for the said County at
the Courthouse on Tuesday the 26th of December 1865

This day came John B Saunders and moved the Court to complete the probate
of the will of John B Saunders deceased which was only partially proved at the
last Court and continued until this day for the deposition of Thomas J Parzear
the other subscribing witness to the said will, said witness now present
in Court gave the following evidence, That on the 27th day of January 1864
he was called upon to attest the will of the said John C Saunders, and that
the said John C Saunders dictated his will in his presence and that of
the said William Childers and they at his request in his presence and in
the presence of each other subscribed their names as witnesses. The said Testa-
tor was at the time of proof of sound mind. That he has seen the original
will with his sign. There is no contingency since the death of the said

Testator read and had it before him on the August, Court of this County in
1868 when in Court he proved the same and that the paper now off
and for probat is a true copy of the said will then proved and there-
upon the Court being satisfied by the evidence that the said
paper writing contained the true last will and Testament of the said
John Saunders deceased, the original having been destroyed by the
public Enemy

Teste

H. A. Goudie C. J. C.

Truly Recorded

Teste

In the name of God and of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ Thro-
ugh and in virtue of whose atonement I hope to be saved, I make and publish
this my last will and Testament revoking all other wills heretofore
at any time made by me.

Item 1st It is my wish and desire that my youngest son James T. Thorn-
ton collect the interest now due on my money vested in State Stock and
payable annually in Richmond, that he pay all my just debts out of
the same, and that he have the residue thereof as a gift from me.
And I do hereby give and bequeath it to the said James T. Thornton, his heirs forever.