

The Last Will & Testament of John Bower Deed
In the name of God Amen

I John Bower of the County of Ashe & State of North Carolina
Being Weak in Body but of a Sound & Disposing mind
& Memory do make & Declare this my Last will and
Testament in Manner & form as following

I Give & Bequeath unto my Beloved wife Elizabeth Bower
the Plantation I now live upon & the adjoining Tracts
Including my Dwelling house Kitchen & Mill & all other
out Houses & Buildings with every improvement thereon
During the Term of his Natural Life in satisfaction
of his Power of all my Real Estate

& My will & Desire is that the said Premises be
Leased from year to year or for a longer Term of Time
at the Discretion of my Executors & the Proceeds thereof
Paid over to the said Elizabeth Bower for his sole &
Scherate use I further Give & Bequeath to my wife
Elizabeth Bower the use of one Black ^{Girl} named Phibe
one horse best his own blessing Two cows his choice
all my Household & Kitchen furniture all Promises
& Pottery on hand at the Time of my Death for &
During the Term of his natural Life

I Give & Bequeath unto my Daughter Mary Rivers
five Dollars

I Give & Bequeath to my Beloved Sons Absolom Bower
& George Bower Twenty five Dollars Each

I Give & Bequeath to my Daughter Sarah Council wife
of Jordan Council for Two Negro Boys by the name of
George & Troy

I Give to my Beloved Son Absolom Bower his Executors ^{trust} administrators
or assigns a Tract of Land on Water Creek Wharton James Grimsby
now living containing Ninety five acres the same more or less
also one Negro boy named Anderson to him the said Absolom
Bower to have & to hold in Trust for the sole use &
Benefit of my Daughter Catharine Grimsby & her
children forever

I Give & Bequeath to my son-in-law Jordan Bannell one
Black boy by the name of Ned to be his Right & Property
with this condition that he pay to my son George
Bower the Value of said boy in Cash I Give & Bequeath
the amount of the Value of said Negro boy Ned if
Taken by the said Bannell & if not said boy
Ned to my son George Bower his Executors Administrators
or Assigns to hold the same with Every Interest therein
in Trust for the Benefit of my Daughter Elizabeth Parker
& her children for Ever

I Give & Bequeath my to Jordan Bannell for my Negro Girl
Phibe & increase which Bequeath is to take Effect after
the Death of my wife Elizabeth Bower to him the said
Jordan Bannell his Executors Administrators & assigns
to have & to hold in Trust for the Benefit of my
Daughter Eve Watters & her children for Ever
it is my will & Desire that all the Property of what
kind so ever herein Bequeathed the said Phibe
Bower George Bower & Jordan Bannell as Trustees
for the use & Benefit of the said Catharine Grimsley
Eve Watters & Elizabeth Parker & their children
as aforesaid be Valued & that my Executors make
the Portion of Each to be made Equal & that the Portion
or Part of my Daughter Mary River be also made as
nearly Equal as convenient with the Balance of my
Daughters aforesaid & for the Purpose of enabling my
Executors so to do it is my will that all my Property
of what kind so ever it may be not herein
Specially Bequeathed shall be Sold on a Reasonable Credit
by my Executors & the Proceeds of such Sale when
collected to be Equally Divided Between the Trustees
& Trust as aforesaid & the said Mary River so as to
make three Several Shares Portions Equal Shares &
Share alike it is my will & Desire that the
Plantation on which I live & other Real Property
Given to my wife Elizabeth Bower after her Death
Go to my son George Bower if he will Take it

at a Reasonable Valuation & Pay the other Legatee, their
Disproportionable Part of the Value thereof but if he will
not Take the aforesaid Primaries upon the said Terms
then either of the other of my Children will be at Liberty
So to Take Said Primaries But if Neither of them
will So Take the Said Primaries So as aforesaid then it
shall be Sold by my Executors to the best Bidder
on such a Credit as shall be Designated by my Executors
& the Proceeds of such Sale when Collected Equally
Divided between all my Children as aforesaid
Share & Share alike as well as all the Personal
Property Left by my wife Elizabeth Bower at her
Death which may Constitute any Part or Parcel
of my Estate Provided always that all Portions
Parts or Parcels of my Said Estate which Constituting
Part or Share of my Daughters Catharine Grimsley
Ever Watling & Elizabeth Parker shall Go to their
Respective Trustees herein before mentioned & that the
Said Trustees shall hold the same in Trust as
aforesaid for the Benefit of the Said Catharine Grimsley
Ever Watling & Elizabeth Parker & their Children for Ever
Provided always that the Said Trustees or Either of
them at any Time after the Reception of their Respective
Share or Portion of my Estate in Trust as herein
before stated may Seize the same in the hands
of a Guardian or Guardians for the use & Benefit
of the Said Catharine Grimsley Ever Watling &
Elizabeth Parker & their Children as aforesaid
my will & Desire is that my Woman Servant
have her choice of a home & among my Children
to Live with & I Request them to allow her to Live
among them as she may Chose I hereby constitute
& appoint my Son & Heir Bower & George Bower
& my Son-in-law Jordan Cornwell my Lawfull
Executors to all intents & Purposes to Execute this my
Last will & Testament

according to the true intent ~~and meaning~~ of the Sense
of Every Part & Clause thereof hereby Revoking all ~~other~~
& Declaring that Null & void all other wills & Testaments
by me heretofore made In Testimony whereof I the
Said John Bower do hereunto set my hand &
Seal this 24th day of June 1838
in the Presence of ~~me~~ John Bower Secy

Peter Earnest
Sarah River