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Last Will and Testament of D. A. Covington, Dec.  
In the name of God Amen. I  
David A. Covington of the County of Union,  
and State of North Carolina being in good  
health, and of sound and disposing mind and  
memory, but calling to mind the frailty and  
uncertainty of human life and being desirous  
of settling my worldly affairs, and directing how  
the Estates which it has pleased God to bless me  
with, shall be disposed of after my death, while  
I have strength of body, and capacity of mind  
so to do, Do make and publish this my Last Will  
and Testament, hereby revoking and making  
null and void all former Wills by me heretofore  
made, and first of all I commend my immortal  
being to God who gave it, and my body to the Earth  
its mother dust, to be buried in a decent and  
Christianlike manner suitable to the wishes of  
my family and friends, 1<sup>st</sup> and as to my worldly  
Estate Real, Personal or mixed, I desire it to remain  
undivided and to belong in common to my Wife  
and Children, and to be under the control man-  
agement and Supervision of my dear Wife, until

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my family and friends. 1<sup>st</sup> and as to my worldly  
Estate Real, Personal or mixed, I desire it to remain  
undivided and to belong in common to my Wife  
and Children, and to be under the control man-  
agement and Supervision of my dear Wife until  
such contingencies of which I shall hereinafter  
speak may take place!

Item 2<sup>nd</sup> My debts if any, I want my Wife to  
pay out of such funds of mine that may  
come into her hands, and if necessary to sell  
property to pay debts to do so, though I presume

There will be none.  
 Item 3<sup>d</sup> I wish my beloved Wife to raise my Children, provide for them, and Educate them and to employ any means therefor that are available, as that she may have acc<sup>ts</sup> of that which is now mine, or that may arise or proceed therefrom.

Item 4<sup>th</sup> My Wife I want to have full power and authority to buy or sell Land and Negroes or any other species of property that she may think conducive to the Interest of herself and our Children. If she chooses to sell off the Lands here, or where ever we may reside at my death and move to another Country I wish her to do so, and in fact I would prefer her to remove to where some of her Brothers are, if she thinks it would add to her enjoyment and protection, as well as promote her interest, and to be plainly understood I want my beloved Wife in whom I have the utmost Confidence, to stand in the same relationship to all my property and Estate, and also to my Children that I now do, to buy or sell, any and every thing that she likes to sell or to buy.

understand I want my beloved Wife in whom I have the utmost Confidence, to stand in the same relationship to all my property and Estate, and also to my Children that I now do, to buy or sell, buy and every thing that she pleases, to give off to the Children as she chooses, and to controul every thing pertaining to my worldly Estates, in such way as will promote her own happiness and interest, together with that of our children, and for her to be the Judge of what is best.

Item 5<sup>th</sup>. In the event of the marriage of any of my Children, my Wife is requested and hereby empowered to give off to such Child or Children what ever portion of the Property, Land, Negroes or any thing else that she may think right, but I would advise her to hold till she sees how the marriage (if a Daughter) turns out.

Item 6<sup>th</sup>. In the event of my Wifes marriage again I then should want all the property, Land and Negroes and every thing else to be divided between my Wife and our Children, and for my Wife to have two shares and the Children one each, that is, if it should then be as it now is.

Five Children and my Wife would be Six Heirs. My meaning is that in the event of my Wifes Marriage for the property to be so divided that she will get twice as much as any one child, say in seven shares for her to have two, and the five Children one share each, and in that proportion be the number of our Children more or less, and the property which falls to her, to be hers so long as she lives, and at her death to be equally divided among all her Children.

Lastly I appoint my beloved Wife Susannah, A. Cobington Executrix to this my last Will and Testament.

P.S. - Should my Wife not marry again (and she says she will not) but in the event she does, I do not want to impose any unreasonable restrictions upon her, but what I want to say is, if she does not marry another, At her death all the property Real, Personal or mixed, to be equally divided among our Children, and their lawful Heirs.

And should one of my Children die to whom a portion of my property or Estate had been

and I appoint my beloved Wife Mrs. Hannah C.  
Covington Executrix to this my last Will and  
Testament.

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I do not want to impose any unreasonable restric-  
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not marry another, At her death all the property  
Real, Personal or mixed, to be equally divided among  
our children, and their lawful Heirs.

And should one of my children die to whom  
a portion of my property or Estate had been  
advanced, leaving no lawful issues, then in that  
event the property so advanced, to revert to those of  
my children or their Heirs, if any children that  
are alive, I mean to my living children and  
the children of those that are dead. Reviewing  
the appointment of my beloved Wife as Executrix  
as above.

I do hereby sign, seal, and publish this as my  
last Will and Testament. This the 18<sup>th</sup> day of  
October 1859

D. A. Covington 

State of North Carolina } This the      day of March 1870