

WILL OF

JOHN de la HOWE

In the name of God Amen. I John de la Howe of the County of Abbeville in the State of South Carolina M: D: being of sound and disposing mind, memory and understanding, do make, ordain, and publish this my last will and testament.

Inprimis, it is my will and desire that my remains shall be buried as near as can be to the spot where those of the late Miss Rebecca Woodin are deposited, on the hill opposite to the dwelling house wherein we both resided together, and I still do reside, on my plantation or farm named Lethe, as the last mark and testimony of my friendship, and sense which I ever have retain'd of her merit; and it is further my will, that as soon as it can conveniently be after my decease, a substantial brick wall shall be built round our Sepulchres, not less than ten feet square in the clear, eight feet above ground, and two bricks thick; with a substantial door and lock, and that the whole of it, shall be forever kept up and in good order, and the Area within clear of bushes and weeds; and the following inscription in large Iron Capitals shall for ever be kept incised in the door. Rebecca Woodin Obiit 4. Oct. 1788 - Ioes de la Howe fundator hujus Seminarii Agriculturalis, with the date of my decease. I give and devise all my real and personal estate of whatsoever nature it may be, so in possession as in right, (excepting what is hereafter by this my last will otherwise disposed of;) to the President and Agricultural Society of this State of South Carolina, now or lately holding their usual meetings in the City of Charleston, and to such of their members as the said Society pro tempore shall name and appoint to take the execution and trust contained in this my last will and testament upon them, and to their successors in said appointment forever, that is to say

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circumstances may render adviseable, and the Wisdom of the Society shall suggest;) to a plan proposed in the Columbian Magasine for the month of April, one thousand seven hundred and eighty seven; with this difference that this farm School is principally by me intended, for by the yearly income of the estate by me devised and bequeathed by this my last will, for ever both educating in conformity to said plan, and also lodging, feeding and uniformly cloathing, twelf poor boys and twelf poor girls, whose parents, or who themselves have resided in Abbeville County aforesaid not less than six years, and actually continue to reside within the compas or extent of said County; but that orphan Children, (Cateris Paribus;) shall have the preference. And it is my Will that they shall purchase such of their cloathing themselves, as can be made out of the produce of the farm and that the trustees shall be pleased to procure out of the ready money which I shall leave at my decease such implements for facilitating labour, as may not only answer that purpose, but contribute at the same time to the facilitating the labour of the neighbours and making them more industrious; provided that not above one hundred pounds sterling be employ'd in the purchase of said implements. And I do wish, and recommend, the use of Beach leaves, gathered before the frost, and dried in the shade for bedding, as the leaves of the beach tree, cured as mentioned, make as comfortable, and by far more healthy bedding than feathers, as they will remain good for four or five years, and may be easily renewed and as being introduced amongst the poorer class of Citizens, (whose bedding is now a blankit) they may thereby enjoy one that is comfortable and healthy. And it is my Will, that such part of my personal estate as the Trustees shall not think immediately necessary, or particularly usefull for carrying on the farm and farm school, shall be by them sold

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having the boys instructed in reading, writing, arithmetic, principles of Geography, and of Geometry so far as to render them versed in practical surveying, and the girls in reading, writing, and four common rules of arithmetic, he will and shall instruct both boys and girls, (so as occasion offers) in such Chymical principles, as the success of their different operations depends upon, as malting, brewing, distilling, baking, fixing different colours, making vinegar, soap, cheese, butter &c &c.

~~And it is my will that such children as~~ reside conveniently in the neighborhood for attending the school, may be admitted to be instructed as the children of the farm School, those of parents not able to pay the schooling, Gratis, and those who can afford it, at such rate as they and the Master can agree upon, but to such number only ~~as the trustees shall judge that the Master can~~

conveniently instruct, provided that all Children admitted into the said farm school, shall be obliged to conform to such rules and regulations, as the trustees or Master shall from time to time reasonably make for the Government thereof. And it is further my will that in the Choice of a Master for the said farm School, skill, industry and morals, shall be the only qualifications attended to, and that in the admittance of poor children, no manner of regard shall be paid to what religion or sect they or their parents profess; and that it shall be a particular charge to the Master, to teach and instruct them only in the general, plain and practical parts of religion and morality, without meddling with speculative and controverted points, or with such as constitute the particular Character of any sect.-

In case that it should appear to the Society, that the yearly income of the estate by this my last will given and devised,

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In case that it should appear to the Society, that the yearly income of the estate by this my last will given and devised, should not be sufficient to carry immediately my above disposition into full effect (which however is not expected) I in that case request them to make such begining as the yearly income may bear the expenses of, in such manner that the stock on the farm, as horses, mares in particular, horn cattle, & sheep may be kept up for the use of the farm, but as I shall leave a considerable sum in ready money, I recommend that such suitable but simple buildings in the way of my present overseer's house may be

immediately erected to answer the plan to the whole extent, but that all the outward timber may be of Chessnut. It is also my will, that my tract of land, part of which I do now keep inclosed and reside on, made up of twenty one ~~original tracts~~, and by a late resurvey containing two thousand six hundred and thirty acres, shall be forever so far in deviseble as that five hundred acres shall be laid out for the farm, including what is under fence, and that one thousand acres shall forever remain in wood or forest, in order to supply the farm with convenient range and with fuel and timber and in process of time contribute to the support of the institution, but that the surplus land over and above the five hundred, and one thousand acres before specified may be by the trustees to farm let in such tracts as they shall ~~think~~ to the best advantage, provided that no tract of land by this my last will devised shall ever be let on a more extensive lease than that of fourteen years, and that every such lease shall contain a condition, that the Lessee shall not cut or willfully suffer to be cut any timber or wood from of the said thousand acres reserved for the use of the farm school, unless by and with the express permission of the trustees. And it is my will, that in case the agricultural Society of South Carolina, should against my expectations the Plan being relative to the institution of the Society should declare or neglect appointing trustees for taking upon themselves the execution of this my last will and testament, or the trust contain'd in the same, or that the said Society should at any time be dissolv'd or annihilated, that then and in each of those cases, the execution of this my last will or the trust contain'd in it, shall devolve upon such trustees as the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Legislature of this State shall please to name and appoint; and as the aim of this my last will and testa-

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It is further my will, that whenever the yearly income of the estate by me bequeathed and devised, shall be adequate to it, such children as shall have compleated their education at the farm school, provided they have not resided there less time than five years, ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~been~~ <sup>been</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> the satisfaction of the trustees during their residence, shall receive such gratification in cattle from the trustees as in their Judgment they shall think expedient. I give and devise to the heirs of the Rev.<sup>d</sup> M.<sup>r</sup> Samuel Frederick Lucius, in his lifetime V.D.M. the immediately hereafter to be mentioned three contiguous tracts of land, viz, one tract of one hundred and fifty acres, one D.<sup>o</sup> of one hundred acres adjoining the first, and one tract of fifty acres adjoining the two former making together a valuable plantation of three hundred acres, more or less, situated ~~on~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~Savannah river~~ <sup>creek</sup> and Edgfield County ~~below~~ <sup>near</sup> the mouth of Little river, in compensation of such balance of a conditional bond, by me given to the said M.<sup>r</sup> Lucius as the heirs think unpaid (no matter whether any is due by me or not) as executrix and heirs, have hitherto been unwilling or unable to produce the said bond, and tho repeatedly by me required and solicited to it in order to verify the different receipts of the said M.<sup>r</sup> Sam.<sup>l</sup> Fred.<sup>k</sup> Lucius for a large sum on the back of the said bond, by which, and such other vouchers as are in my possession, I believe that the Est.<sup>e</sup> rather would be found in my debt; Provided nevertheless that the said Executrix (now M.<sup>rs</sup> Susanna Gibson of the Congarees) and the said heirs, shall and do within one year immediately succeeding the date of my decease, manifest, declare, and make known to the President, Agricultural Society of South Carolina, that they do accept of the said three tracts of land, or plantation of three hundred acres more or less, in full compensation of what balance ~~may possibly be due me on the said conditional bond but it is my~~

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decease my old negro man Bacchus shall be free and manumitted, as I have consider'd him to be many years ago and as that notwithstanding voluntary services have been perform'd with equal honesty and fidelity, it is my will, that all my common wearing apparel may be given to him, and that during the small remainder of his life, he maintain'd out of the income of my est.<sup>e</sup> both in sickness and in health, with every possible ease and comfort, as his meritorious services deserve every comfort in my power to procure him- I therefore particularly recommend this to my executors and trustees. To my worthy and much respected friend, Dr. Edward Jenkins V.D.M. and his Lady James Linah M.D. and his Lady, and Cap.<sup>n</sup> Edward Linah son of the said James and to his Lady, and to each of them, I give one mourning ring of the value of one guinea ~~which I do request them to accept of, as I have~~ only lost the gratefull sense of their friendship with my breath; knowing, that in their circumstances anything valuable would be beneath their acceptance. To Miss Anne Cook, my present house-keeper, I leave ten pounds sterling in compensation for her services. I do name, request, make and appoint the Honorable President, and South Carolina Agricultural Society, and such of their members as they shall please pro tempore to name and appoint to take the execution and trust of this my last will and testament upon them, and their successors in said appointment forever, Executors and Trustees to this my last will and testament; and I do request Peter Gibert Esq. of Mill creek in said County of Abbeville, to take the execution of it to himself untill such of the Members as the Agricultural Society shall please to name and appoint to take the same upon themselves - And I do by this revoke and annul all former testaments which I may have made at any time previous to this seventh September in the year of

Abbeville County Wills 1787-1815  
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his meritorious services deserve every comfort in my power to procure him- I therefore particularly recommend this to my executors and trustees. To my worthy and much respected friend, Dr. Edward Jenkins V.D.M. and his Lady James Linah M.D. and his Lady, and Cap.<sup>n</sup> Edward Linah son of the said James and to his Lady, and to each of them, I give one mourning ring of the value of one guinea ~~which I do request them to accept of, as a token of my affection~~ I have only lost the gratefull sense of their friendship with my breath; knowing, that in their circumstances anything valuable would be beneath their acceptance. To Miss Anne Cook, my present housekeeper, I leave ten pounds sterling in compensation for her services. I do name, request, make and appoint the Honorable President, and South Carolina Agricultural Society, and such of their members as they shall please pro tempore to name and appoint to take the execution and trust of this my last will and testament upon them, and their successors in said appointment forever, Executors and Trustees to this my last will and testament; and I do request Peter Gibert Esq. of Mill creek in said County of Abbeville, to take the execution of it to himself untill such of the Members as the Agricultural Society shall please to name and appoint to take the same upon themselves - And I do by this revoke and annul all former testaments which I may have made at any time previous to this seventh September, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety six. Whatever ready money I shall leave at my decease (in case it pleases God it should be shortly) is known to my above named Executor Peter Gibert Esq.

John de la Howe (Seal)

Sign'd, Seal'd declared and  
publish'd by the said

John de la Howe the Testator,

Page 7 WILL OF JOHN de la HOWE

as his last will and testament

in presence of

P. Gibert, I. Eymerie, Mark Anna Cook

Recorded in Will Book 1 Page 160

Box 180

Proven March 27th 1795

Recorded date not available

John Bowie C.C.