In the name of God Amen. I, Absalom H. Brooks of the Town of Staunton and State of Virginia, being weak in body, but of sound mind & memory do, for the purpose of disposing of such worldly estate as it hath pleased God to bestow upon me, make and publish this my last will & testament, in manner and form following, to wit.

First - It is my desire & I hereby direct that all my just debts shall be paid out of my personal estate as soon as convenient after my decease.

Secondly - I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Mary the house & lot in which I now reside, together with all my House-hold & kitchen furniture of every description, to be at her entire disposal

Thirdly. It is my desire that my lot of land near the Town aforesaid on the old Winchester road, containing about six acres, and whatever land I may be entitled to in Texas, as the legal representative of my son John Brooks dec^d. shall be equally divided between my son Norborne and my three daughters, their several shares when ascertained, to be held by them in severally, and their heirs and assigns forever, with this exception, that the share allotted to my daughter Mary Ann, shall only be held by her, for and during her life time, remainder at her decease to her children - If however it should be deemed more advisable to sell the said lands than to divide it, which I leave to the discretion of my Executor hereinafter named, then I hereby authorize him to

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