

From **Will of Benjamin Rucker**, dated 20 Nov 1808, prob. 22 Feb 1810 (Circuit Court, Will Book A, p.1-3, 4, 23, Amherst Co., VA):

*In the name of God, Amen. I **Benjamin Rucker** of Amherst County and State of Virginia being weak in body but of sound mind and disposing memory do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following, vis: I will and bequeath to my son **James Rucker** all that tract of land lying in Campbell County on Blackwater Creek, near Lynchburg, containing five hundred and sixty acres (to be the same more or less) together with the following negroes, vis: Lill/Sall, Isaac, Abram, Tom/Jim (son of Jack), Mustapha, & Cate and their increase, likewise £330 which he has recd at sundry times in actual cash or property to that amount to him and his heirs forever.*

*Item—I will and bequeath to my son **Thomas Rucker** all my lands on Stovalls creek in Amherst County, purchased of sundry persons containing 1260 acres (to be more or less), together with the following negroes, vis: Sam, Ally, Minny, Cely, Elijah, & Edmund and their increase, likewise £312 which he the said Thomas Rucker has recd at sundry times in actual cash or property to that amount to him and his heirs forever.*

*Item—I will and bequeath to my son **Gideon Rucker** the two tracts of land I hold on Rutledge Creek in Amherst County, containing 372 acres (to be more or less), together with the following negroes, vis: Gabriel, Frederick, Esther, Delphi, Agg, & Pat, likewise £390 in actual cash or property to that amount which the said Gideon Rucker has received at sundry times to him and his heirs forever, N.B.: The words and their increase being omitted in the last item through mistake, be it particularly understood that the increase of sd negroes are bequeathed to sd Gideon Rucker and his heirs forever.*

*Item—I will and bequeath to my daughter **Lucy McDaniel** the following negroes: Annieha, David, Mary, Sandy, Charles, Pheobe, & Murrah, likewise times or property to that amount to her and her heirs forever.*

*Item—I will and bequeath to my daughter **Milly Brown**, the following negroes, vis: Nan, Dick, Gilberth, Phillis, & Dover, and their increase, likewise £88 in actual cash of property to that amount which the sd Milly Brown has received to her and her heirs forever. And I further will and bequeath to my daughter in addition to the sum already received £200 which is all she is to received being thereby excluded from a participation of any division which by virtue of this will may be made amongst my legatees as I consider it to be equal to my part which may fall to any of my legatees from division of my estate.*

*Item—I will and bequeath to my daughter **Sophia Burrus** the following negroes; vis: Caleb, Major, Betty, Letty, and Nicey, and their increase, likewise £540 in actual cash or property to that amount which she has received to her and her heirs forever.*

*Item—I will and bequeath to my son **Bennett Rucker** all the land whereon I now live containing 750 acres (to be the same more or less), likewise the following negroes: Will, Tandy, Amy, Suckie (?), & Ruth, and their increase to him and his heirs forever, likewise all the stock, horse, hogs, sheep, and cattle, household furniture of every kind and plantation utensils, estimated at £400, also £76 which he has received in actual cash to him and his heirs forever.*

*Item—I will and bequeath to my daughters **Lucy McDaniel, Milly Brown, Sophia Burrus**, in addition to that above bequeath to them £140 each which said sum they have already received.*

*Item—Will and desire that the balance of my estate consisting of negroes as also their monies due me by bond or otherwise may be divided among my legatees to wit: **James Rucker**,*

Thomas Rucker, Gideon Rucker, Lucy McDaniel, Milly Brown, Sophia Burrus, and Bennett Rucker in such manner that the deficiencies now existing among my said legatees according to the above statements may be made good and the balance then remain equally divided so that each legatee's part may be equal and I further desire that the negroes (if possible) may be divided in such manner that they may remain in the family.

I also will and desire that if unfortunately any misunderstanding should arise between any of sd legatees respecting this my last will and testament in order to prevent tedious and expensive law suits, I desire that each of the contending parties shall choose a respectable discreet person as an arbitrator, who in case of disagreeing shall choose another such person as an umpire whose opinion or opinions shall be as binding as determined in any court of the United States of America. And finally I do appoint my sons James Rucker, Thomas Rucker, and Gideon Rucker executors of this my last will and testament. In witness thereof I have hereunto set my hand and Affix my seal this 25 day of June 1808.

Wit: *Benjamin Rucker (seal)*

Richard Rucker

Armistead Rucker

Anthony Rucker

Wit: *Richard, Anthony and Armistead Rucker*

Note: the names of slaves were very difficult to read.

Codicil: 10 Nov 1809: Division of Estate:

To James Rucker 3340 lbs sterling.

To Thomas Rucker 3340 lbs sterling.

To Gideon Rucker from the Brown's estate in all 2240 lbs. sterling.

To Bennett Rucker the same amt.

To Lucy McDaniel the same amt.

To Sophia Burrus the same amt.

To Milly Brown

Legatees of Benjamin Rucker, dec'd, 8 Oct 1810 (D. B. 5, p.18, Amherst Co., VA).

Benjamin mentioned 38 slaves by name in his Will and said he had more.
Will, Tandy, Amy, Suckie (?), & Ruth

To James Rucker – 4 slaves

Lill/Sall, Isaac, Abram, Tom/Jim (son of Jack)

To Thomas Rucker – 6 slaves

Sam, Ally, Minny, Cely, Elijah, & Edmund

To Gideon Rucker – 6 slaves

Gabriel, Frederick, Esther, Delphi, Agg, & Pat

To Lucy McDaniel – 7 slaves

*Annieha, David, Mary, Sandy, Charles,
Pheobe, & Murrah*

To Milly Brown – 5 slaves

Nan, Dick, Gilberth, Phillis, & Dover

To Sophia Burrus – 5 slaves

Caleb, Major, Betty, Letty, and Nicey

To Bennett Rucker – 5 slaves

Total 38 slaves plus others: Benjamin's Will says I "desire that the balance of my estate consisting of negroes . . ."