

Will Book C, 1840 to 1876, Pages 146 and 147  
Clerk of County and Probate Courts, Chicot County  
Lake Village, Arkansas 71653

*The first entry on page 146 is noted as recorded August 22nd, 1859, by B.F. Stephenson, Clerk.*

*The second entry begins about one third of the way down the page:*

I, John J Bowie of sound and disposing mind and memory but "sum" what bodyly afflicted, bringing to mind that it is the common lot of all men to die and having been repeatedly warned within the last few weeks that the time was not far distant when I would have to go the way of all flesh - prompted by the above warnings I now "declaire" the following to be my last will and testament: In the first-place I wish to be burried in a plain way and never to have any "toom" or other marks of respect placed over or about my grave, and further I am in hopes that none of my family or friends will ever "wain" (morning) for me, I go the way that all before me has gone. and all I leave behind me will soon follow. I leave five heirs by my first wife, namly, Mary Bennett, Sarah Stuart, John Bowie, Junior a miner son of Reason Bowie deceased. Nancy Sanford and Matilda Homer all of which I have "heartofore" given what I believed to be an equal an full "shear" of my Estate, and I hope and request that none of them will interfer with my younger childrens property left them by this will. I have also one other daughter, Harriet E Hollingsworth, the same has been done for her as was for my first family of children. My present wife also had two children before we was married, "Namly" William P Kirkland and his sister Mrs Elizabeth Hamilton both of them, I have also done all I think it was my duty to do-.

What ever estate I now own or "posess" either real or personal, I wish to dispose of it as follows to wit. First to pay all of my just debts. After this is done the first proseeds arising out of the estate of one thousand dollars is to be paid to Martha B. Leatherman, which must be done in five years from the date hereof which will be in full for her part of my estate. the balance to be "equally" divided between my wife Amerrica A Bowie and our two sons John R. Bowie and James W. Bowie, and it is further my "desire" and request that America A Bowie my wife be left "soal" exectrix of this my last will and that she and our two sons be allowed to manage their estate without giving any security for their acts. And I further "desire" that in the event of the death of my wife that heer estate be "eaqually" divided between our three children Martha, John, and James. and I further request that the girl Masy be sold and the money arising from the sale be paid over to Mrs. Fondlin of Vicksburg of whom I purchased her. To prevent fraud from being practised on my estate I leave inclosed a correct list of all my just debts. I now declar this to be my last will and hearby revolking all former will written by myself at any residence this 29 day of September AD 1853.

John J Bowie

test  
DN Banham  
Sam Nelson  
PG Scruggs

State of Arkansas  
County of Chicot

In the court of Probate in said county in term time.

Be it remembered that on this 8th day of August AD 1859, in open court was exhibited for probate the annexed instrument of writing purporting to be the last will and testament of John J Bowie deceased late of said county of Chicot by America A Bowie, therein appointed Executix and at the same time cause

end of page 147.

*From Mortality Schedules of Arkansas, 1850 to 1880, all deaths within the past 12 months.*

The 1860 schedule lists John J Bowie, died in June (1859) of paralysis in Chicot County. He was a 72 year old male, born in Kentucky.

The same schedule also lists John R Bowie, died in December (1859) after being ill with pneumonia for 42 days. He was born in Arkansas and died in Chicot county at the age of 25 years.

Filed for Record August 1<sup>st</sup> 1859  
and Record August 22<sup>nd</sup> 1859  
at St. Louis Mo  
Wm. P. Axtell

I John A. Bowie of County of St. Louis and disposing myself and money but I am what by my office being going to travel that it is the common lot of all men to die and having been repeatedly warned with in the last few weeks that the time was not far distant when I would have to go the way of all flesh - prompted by the close warnings I now declare the following to be my last will and testament: In the first place I wish to be buried in plain way and prefer to have any debt or other obligations of respect placed over or about my grave and further I wish to be buried in the common lot of all men that all before me has gone, and all I have obtained one wife follows: I leave five girls by my first wife namely Mary Bennett, Sarah Stewart, John Bowie, and a minor son of Jason Bowie deceased Mary Stewart and Matilda Horner all of which I have received from what balance to be paid as per full list of my estate, and I do not request that money there will interfere with my money which I have left there by this will. I have also my other daughter Harriet & Harriette with the same has been for years as was for my first family of children - my first wife also had two children before we were married

(17)  
Wm. P. Axtell  
Wm. P. Axtell

What ever I do not own or possess either real or personal I wish to dispose of it as follows: first to pay all of my just debts, after this is done the first proceeds arising out of the sale of one thousand Dollars to be paid to Martha B. Southman which must be done in five years from the date hereof which will be in full for her part of my estate the balance to be equally divided between my wife Annice A. Bowie and our two sons John B. Bowie and James W. Bowie and it is further my wish and request that Annice A. Bowie my wife be left sole executrix of this my last Will, and that she and our two sons be allowed to manage their estate without giving any security for their acts, and I further desire that the do want after death of my wife that her estate be equally divided between our three children Martha, John, and James and I further request that the best money be sold and the money arising from the sale be paid over to Messrs. Partridge & Co. of St. Louis of whom I purchased here to prevent fraud from being practiced on my estate. I have enclosed a correct list of all my just debts. I declare this to be my last will and hereby putting all former wills written by myself at any residence this 29 day of September A.D. 1853

at St. Louis Mo  
John A. Bowie  
Wm. P. Axtell

most be done in five years from the date hereof which will be in full for her part of my estate the balance to be equally divided between my wife Annice A. Bowie and our two sons John B. Bowie and James W. Bowie and it is further my wish and request that Annice A. Bowie my wife be left sole executrix of this my last Will, and that she and our two sons be allowed to manage their estate without giving any security for their acts, and I further desire that the do want after death of my wife that her estate be equally divided between our three children Martha, John, and James and I further request that the best money be sold and the money arising from the sale be paid over to Messrs. Partridge & Co. of St. Louis of whom I purchased here to prevent fraud from being practiced on my estate. I have enclosed a correct list of all my just debts. I declare this to be my last will and hereby putting all former wills written by myself at any residence this 29 day of September A.D. 1853

at St. Louis Mo  
John A. Bowie  
Wm. P. Axtell

Not of Arkansas  
County of Clark Mo  
Be it remembered that on this 28 day of August 1859 in open Court was exhibited for Record the above instrument of writing purporting to be the last will and testament of John A. Bowie deceased late of said County of Clark Mo by Annice A. Bowie, then official executrix, and at the same time came