

Probate inventory of Valentine Bird, 1680

From J. Bryan Grimes, ed., *North Carolina wills and inventories* (Raleigh, N.C.:
Published under authority of the Trustees of the Public Libraries, 1912), pp.
472–474.

As you read...

PROBATE INVENTORIES

An inventory of a deceased person's estate would have been drawn up before his or her estate could be settled — in particular, so that goods could be sold to pay off debts. Because Margaret Bird forgot to bring a list of her husband's debts to court with her, we don't know how much he owed, or whether there would have been anything left for his wife to live on after his debts were paid.

VALENTINE BIRD

Valentine Bird was one of the most prominent English residents of Albemarle County and served on the governor's Council. In 1673 he was appointed the county's first customs collector, but apparently had no intention of ever collecting any taxes. In 1677 he joined John Culpeper in Culpeper's Rebellion against a corrupt acting governor and what supporters saw as unfair taxation.

ALBEMARLE August 2d 1680

Wee the Subscribers being Ordered by the Grand Councill for the appraismt of ye Estate of Capt. Vallentine Bird Deceased wee doe In order hereunto appraise the sd Goods and Chattles as is brought before us to the best of our Skill and Judgment:

Imprimis 3 pr fine holland Sheets at 50 Shillings per paire	07:10:00
3 Pr of Course Sheets att 30 s pr	04:10:00
1 Pr of Course at	01:05:00

2 Prs halfe worne Sheets 15 s Pr	01:10:00
3 browne Orsenbrigg Sheets at 5 s	00:15:00
1 Pr worne Sheets	00:08:00
11 pillows at 2s 6p	01:07:06
6 pillows at 2s. 6p.	00:15:00
4 Cubboard Cloathes	00:16:00
1 fine Holland Cubboard Cloth	00:08:00
1 Dozn Daipr Napkins & Table Cloth	01:10:00
1 Dozn and 9 Daiper napkins	01:18:00
3 Table Clothes	00:18:00
6 course Table Clothes	01:10:00
2 dozn & 4 Course Napkins	01:10:00
16 Course Towells	01:10:00
1 fine holland Towell	00:05:00
1 Tankard and 1 Dozen Silver Spoons	13:07:04
1 Sett Curtains vallens & Counterpanes	01:10:00
1 Sett of old Curtains and Vallens	00:10:00
1 fringed Shoulder belt	00:10:00
1 gray Shagd Rugg	00:10:00
1 green Shagd Rugg	01:00:00
1 Shagd Rugg	01:05:00
1 Shagd Rugg att	01:02:00
1 Dark Cullowed Rugg Shagd	01:00:00
1 Large Black Trunck	00:15:00
1 Smaller Black Trunck with Drawers	00:15:00
1 small Chest	00:10:00

1 Iron bound Chest	01:00:00
1 Iron bound Chest	01:00:00
1 New ffeather and boulster	06:00:00
1 ffeather Bed and Boulster	04:00:00
1 Hammacker	00:18:00
1 bed boulster and pilloe	05:10:00
1 bed boulster Coverlet & pillow	04:10:00
1 Looking glass	00:05:00
1 Glass Case	00:10:00
1 dressing box	01:00:00
1 Warming Pann	00:10:00
1 Bed Stead	00:08:00
One Pcell of books	06:00:00
2 hair Brushes	00:01:06
23 Round and Square Bottles	00:12:00
15 yd of Keirse	01:17:06
11 Prs plain Shoes at 3:s Pr	01:13:00
1 Black walnut Table & frame	01:00:00
10 Chairs	02:10:00
1 Couch at	01:00:00
1 Table and frame	00:13:04
1 Table Cloth	00:06:08
1 Striped Carpet	00:05:00
1 Whip saw	01:00:00
1 bed stead and Cradle	00:10:00
1 fowling piece	01:10:00

1 musket and fowling piece	01:15:00
2 Smoothing Irons att	00:10:00
1 pair of Stilliards and pea	00:08:00
1 Dozen pewter plates	01:10:00
1 Dozn pewter plates	01:04:00
19 pewter poringr at	01:08:06
6 Small Salts	00:06:00
2 Large Salts at	00:06:00
2 pewter Candlesticks	00:05:00
3 Sawsers at 1s 3p per lb	00:04:06
51 Pewter Dishes at	03:03:09
4 pewter Basons	01:12:00
3 old peweter plates	00:05:00
2 Large brass Candlesticks	01:10:00
A parcel of Tining ware	02:00:00
2 pewter Chamber potts	00:08:00
1 pewter Tankard	00:03:00
1 paire Tongues & Fire Shovell	00:05:00
1 brass Kittle: 32 pound at	02:00:00
3 skillets at 18 shillings	00:18:00
6 bell mettle mortor & pearsell	00:10:00
1 posnet at	00:04:00
1 brass (?) and Ladle	00:05:00
1 frying pann at	00:06:00
3 spitts	00:10:00
1 paire andirons	00:15:00

3 paire pothooks	00:06:00
1: paire racks	00:03:00
1 iron pott wt 50 lb at 4p pr lb	00:16:08
1 iron pott wt 36 lb at 4p pr lb	00:12:00
2 iron pott wt 33 lb at 4p per lb	00:11:00
1 Lignum vitee punch bowl	00:15:00
1 Lignum vitee mortor	00:02:06
1 flesh forke	00:01:00
1 Cradle	00:05:00
Negro men; (vizt: Mingo at	40:00:00
Andrew and Thom: at 35 lb Sterling pr each	70:00:00
women: negroes Hanna; Betty; Betty; & Bess at 30 lb Sterling each	120:00:00
Mary ye Indian	20:00:00
Negro boy mustapha	20:00:00
1 Small Negro boy named Robin at	15:00:00
1 small negro Girl named Jane	15:00:00
1 Negro Child George	10:00:00
1 Woman Servant named Ann ffarmer of 4 years to serve	08:00:00
1 hand Mill	06:00:00
1 sett of wedges	00:10:00
7 weeding howes at 1s: 6p:	00:10:06
8 hilling howes at	00:07:00
2 old Axes at	00:02:00
1 spaid att	00:06:00
1 Trowell at 2s: 6p:	00:02:06
1 broad ax at	00:04:00

1 hand saw at	00:02:00
1 Lathing hamer at	00:01:06
1 coopers adze & rift	00:03:00
22 sheep at 10s:	11:00:00
plantation and housen	80:00:00
12: old Sowes	09:00:00
30 Shotos	07:10:00
6 barrows and board	05:05:00
12 coves and calves at 30s	18:00:00
6: 2 year old beasts	06:00:00
Total is 583 lb—01s—03p	

SAMUELL DAVISS

WM. NEVELL

JNO DIE

Signum

Tobacco lb

By 2000 pounds of tobacco Due from Capt Zacha Gillam &c 2000

I the Subscriber Doe present In humble Manner this as A True Inventory of the Estate of Capt Bird of this County Late Deseased I being his Executrix The Debts of ye Estate being drawne up; I forgott to Bring them; which I humbly Crave Leave to the Next Session of ye Grand Councell; for presentmt of them and that to this Inventory Credits they may be annexed; November 8th 1680

MARGARET BIRD

The pettionar is Lt Allowed for ye Bringing in of the Debts

ROBT JOHNSON HOLDEN, Secrata

Images

Photos, illustrations, or videos of the following items can be seen by clicking on the links below:

- Tankard (available at <http://www.learnnc.org>)
- Warming pan (available at <http://www.learnnc.org>)
- Whip saw (available at <http://www.learnnc.org>)
- Musket (available at <http://www.learnnc.org>)
- Smoothing iron
- Steelyard balance (available at <http://www.learnnc.org>) ("pair of stilliards")
- Porringer (available at <http://www.learnnc.org>)
- Chamber pots (available at <http://www.learnnc.org>)
- Bell metal mortar and pestle (available at <http://www.learnnc.org>)

- Posnet (available at <http://www.learnnc.org>)
 - Pair of andirons (available at <http://www.learnnc.org>)
 - Pot hooks (available at <http://www.learnnc.org>)
 - Hand mill (available at <http://www.learnnc.org>)
 - Wedge (available at <http://www.learnnc.org>)
 - Broad ax (available at <http://www.learnnc.org>)
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On the web

Wills and inventories: A process guide

<http://learnnc.org/lp/pages/1634>

Guiding questions for students investigating daily life in the past through wills, inventories, and probate records.

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