

WILL OF ABIGAIL WELLS (1691-1772)
HAMPSHIRE Probate Records, Volume XII, p. 21

In the Name of God Amen I Abigail Wells late of Deerfield Now of Northampton in the County of Hampshire in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England Gentlewoman being through age Infirm in Body but of a sound and Perfect mind and Memory (Blessed be God) Do this twenty Sixth day of June AnnoDom 1769 Make and Publish this my Last Will and Testament in Manner following Principally I Recommd my soul to God who gave it Hoping for Eternal Life only for Christs Sake and I order that my body when decd be Buried in a Decent Christian Manner by my Executors herein after Named believing that the same shall be Raised to life again According to the Scriptures

And I dispose of my estate in the following Manner that is to say I give All my real Estate to my kinswoman Mrs Elisabeth Phelps the Wife of Mr Nathaniel Phelps of Northampton to have and to hold to her & her Assigns During her Natural Life and No Longer Also my House and Homestead where I Now dwell after this Term therein before Devised to the said Elisabeth Phelps Shall be Determined I give the said Nathaniel Phelps Husband of the said Elisabeth to have and to hold During his Natural Life and no Longer

Also I give my real Estate Excepting the House and Homestead abovesaid after the Term therein above Devised to the said Elisabeth shall be determined I give and devise to the Present Children of them the Said Nathaniel Phelps and Elisabeth his Wife Namely Burnham Nathaniel Rufus Elijah Elisabeth and Anna in the proportion following (viz) two tenth parts thereof to him the Said Burnham his Heirs and Assigns forever Two tenths to him the said Nathaniel his Heirs and Assigns forever Two tenths thereof to him the said Elijah his Heirs and Assigns forever Two tenths to him the said Rufus his Heirs and Assigns and one tenth part to her the said Elisabeth her Heirs and Assigns forever and one tenth Part to her the said Anna her Heirs and Assigns forever Also all the remainder of my Estate in the before said House and Homelot and Homestead after the Several terms therein devised to my said kinswoman and her said Husband Respectively Shall be Fully Ended and Determined I give to therein said Children abovementioned to have and hold to them in Just Simple as an Estate in Common in the same Proportion as is above Specified in the foregoing Devise of real Estate to them herein before made

Also I give to my said kinswoman the Wife of the said Nathaniel the use of all my household stuff and furniture and Wearing Apparel during her Life and after her Decease I give the said Household Furniture and Wearing Apparel to her said Daughters Elisabeth and Anna aforesaid— Also I give all the residue of my Personal Estate which Shall remain after the payment of my Debts to the above named Sons of the said Nathaniel & Elisabeth Namely Burnham Nathaniel Rufus and Elijah forever—

And I Declare that my Will is that in Case of my said kinswoman the Sd Elisabeth Should Die before my Decease that at my decease those Devises to whom any of the estate abovesaid is Devised Either real or Personal and Given to be taken Immediately after the said Elisabeths Term therein Should be Expird shall be revive take and Enter upon the Estate in the same Manner that they Would in Case that no Term or terms therein had been Devised to the Said Elisabeth

Lastly I hereby name and Appoint my Kinsman Mr Samuel Childs of Deerfield and Mr Ebenezer Childs of Shutesbury Executors of this my last Will and Testament I Witness Whereof I have here unto set my hand & seal at the Day and Year above said

Signed Sealed Published and Declared by the said Abigail Wells the Testatrix and for her Last Will and Testament in Presence of us and in her Presence we have Attested to it and in Each other

Joseph Hawley

Mary Hawley

Sarah Clark [Clapp?]

At a Court for Probate of Wills &c Holden at Hatfield within and for the County of Hampshire on the first Tuesday in August being the fourth Day of said Month Anno Domini 1772 P Israel Williams Esq. Judge said Court the foregoing Will was Presented by Ebenezer Childs one of the Executors therein Named and for Probate and Joseph Hawley Esq and Mercy Hawley two of the Witnesses to the Executing the same personally appearing made oath that they saw Abigail Wells sign and Seal and heard her Publish and Declare the same to be her Last Will and Testament and that she was of Sound Mind and Memory when She did it and that they Together with Sarah Clapp [Clark?] Signed as Witnesses to the same in Presence of the Testatrix and Each other Whereupon it is Considered that the same be and hereby Proved Approved ratified and Confirmed as the Last Will and testament of Said Deceased

p Israel Williams Judge Prob