

WILL OF DAVID CHILDS (1718-1760)
HAMPSHIRE Probate Records, Volume IX, p. 172

In the Name of God Amen I David Childs of Deerfield in the County of Hampshire & province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England Husbandman calling to mind my own Mortality & not knowing how Soon I may be called to put off this my Earthly Tabernacle, do make this my last Will & Testament this Sixth day of October Anno Domo one thousand Seven hundred & fifty Six, & being also of Sound disposing mind & Memory first I give my Soul to God who gave it to me & my body to the dust to be buried in a decent Christian manner at the discretion of my Executrix hereafter named humbly hoping that thro' the merits of my Redeemer to obtain a glorious resurrection to immortal life & as for the temporal Estate that God has entrusted me with I dispose of it in The following manner after my Just Debts & funeral Charges are paid by my Executrix hereafter named—

Imprimus I give and bequeath to Rebekah my beloved wife one third part of all my Personal Estate forever, & also one third part of all my real Estate that is to Say the use & Improvement to thereof during her Natural life, and I likewise give to her my Said Wife Thirteen pounds Six Shillings & eight pence lawfull Money of this province out of the remaining part of my personal Estate—

Item I give to David Childs (my eldest Son) Two pounds thirteen Shillings & four pence lawfull money as aforesaid

Item I give to my Daughter Abigail Childs Two pound thirteen Shillings & four pence lawfull money as aforesaid—

And furthermore it is my Will and pleasure that the Support and Maintenance of all my five Children hereafter named Shall be paid out of the Income of the remaining part of my Estate & if the Income thereof be not Sufficient therefore then the remainder to be paid out of my Said Estate—

And further it is my will + pleasure my two Sons David Childs & Lemuel Childs Shall both be made equal or have equal Shares in the remainder of all my Estate whether Real or Personal & also that my three Daughters viz Rebekah Childs, Abigail Childs & Ruth Childs Shall each of them have an equal part one with the other in the Said remaining part of my Estate both Real & Personal—

And it is my Will & Pleasure that the Said remaining part of my Estate both Real & Personal be divided to my five Children aforementioned in the following manner & proportion that is to Say I give & bequeath to my Son David Childs his Heirs & Assigns forever four Eleventh part of my Said Estate both Real & Personal—

And I likewise give and bequeath to my Son Lemuel Childs four Eleventh part of my Said Estate both Real & Personal—

And I also give & bequeath to my Daughter Rebekah Childs one Eleventh part of my Said estate both Real & Personal—

I give likewise to my Daughter Abigail Childs one Eleventh part of my Said Estate both Real & Personal—

And I also give to my Daughter Ruth Childs one Eleventh part of my Said Estate both Real & Personal, the Parts as aforementioned to be to them their Heirs & Assigns forever and lastly I constitute ordain & appoint my Said beloved wife Rebekah Sole Executrix of this my last Will & Testament— hereby revoking & making null & void all other Will or Wills & Testaments

heretofore by me made, In Witness whereof I do hereunto Set my hand & Seal the day & year before written—

Signed Sealed Published + Declared by the Said David Childs to be his last Will & Testament in presence of us who Subscribed as Witnesses in the Said Testator's presence— David Childs Seal
John Arms

Joseph Catlin

Ebenezer Barnard

At a Court of Probate holden at Northampton within & for the County of Hampshire on the Second Tuesday of May being the 13th day of Said Month Ano Domo 1760 P Timothy Dwight Esq Judge of Said Court. The foregoing Will was presented for probate by the Executrix therein named & Mr Ebenezer Barnard & John Arms two of the Witnesses to the Same appearing made oath that they saw David Childs the Testator Sign & seal & heard him pronounce and declare the same to be his last Will & Testament & that he was of sound Mind & Memory when he did it and that they with Joseph Catlin all Signed as Witnesses to the Same at the Same time in presence of Said Testator & of each other wherefore it is ratified approved & confirmed as the last Will & Testament of Said Deceased P Timothy Dwight