

WILL OF ELIJAH WILLIAMS (1745-1793)  
HAMPSHIRE Probate Records, Volume XVIII, p. 109-110

This is the last Will & Testament of me Elijah Williams of Saint John in the County & City of Saint John in the province of New Brunswick Esqr. Now a resident at Deerfield in the County of Hampshire and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, whereby I order & dispose of all my Estate in the following manner—

First, it is my Will that all the just Debts which I shall own at the Time of my decease be paid and that my funeral be directed, and the charges of it paid, by my Executors hereinafter named. I give and bequeath to my Sister Abigail Williams & to my Sister Lydia Jones & to each of their respective Children Viz. Ebenezer Hindsdale, Sarah Jones, Thomas, Elijah, Abigail Bliss, Eleazar, Lydia & Dwight; and Sophia Jones, Abigail Blake, Francis and Henry Williams a ring of the value to twenty eight Shillings of the Commonwealth aforesd to be procured for and given to each of them in convenient Time after my decease by my Executors and I hope that my Sisters and their Children afore mentioned will not think from the manner of my disposing of my Estate herein after I am wanting in love and affection to them or that I am influenced by an undue partiality in favor of some others of my kindred; but as some of my relations appear to be more amply provided for than others, I wish the following Dispositions which I think proper to make may meet the approbation of all, I give & devise to the Children of my late Sister Eunice Felton Viz. Harriet, William, Eunice, Elijah & Charles all my lands in Winhall in the State of Vermont to be equally divided between them—and my Will is that my Executors hereafter mentioned shall immediately after my Decease enter into possession of the aforesaid Lands and conduct & manage the Same with all rents & profits which may arise there from to the best advantage for the benefit of the Children of my said Sister Eunice Felton till they shall respectively come of age, Viz. the males twenty one years; and the females eighteen years—at which time my Will is that their respective Shares Shall be Set out to them agreeably to the laws of the State of Vermont to hold in Severalty –and my Will for her is that in Case either or any of the Children aforementioned of my said Sister Eunice Felton Shall die before he, she or they Shall arrive at the age of twenty one or eighteen Years respectively, then the Share of Shared of Such Child or Children so dying I devise to the Survivor or Survivors of the same Children to be taken or equally divided between them agreeably to the makes aforementioned. I give devise & bequeath to my brother John Williams all Such Real Estate as belongs to me by virtue of my being Heir to my late Hond father Elijah Williams and all Such Sum or Sums of money which may be due to me form the said John by any means at the time of my decease—All the rents and residue of my Estate both Real and personal, whether in the province of New Brunswick –Commonwealth of Massachusetts—State of New Hampshire or State of Vermont or elsewhere, I give devise and bequeath to my two Nephews Richard Williams & John Williams Sons of my Brother John Williams –And my Will is that my Brother John Williams Shall immediately after my Decease enter into the possession and take the Charge of all my Estate heretofore given or devises to my said Nephews—Richard & John—and manage the Same with all rents and profits arising thereon to the best advantage for my said Nephews until they Shall respectively arrive to the age of twenty one years – at which time they shall receive and go into possession of their respective Shares. And if either of my said Nephews Shall die before he arrives to the age of twenty one years my Will is that the Share of my estate hereby given to him Shall be to the Survivor of my said Nephews, his Heirs and Assigns forever—

And I hereby ordain constitute and appoint my Brother John Williams Esqr. & Seth Catlin Esqr. both of said Deerfield Executors of this my last Will and Testament hereby revoking all former Wills by me at any time made and declaring this to be my last Will and Testament, in Witness whereof I have hereto Set my Hand and Seal this fifth Day of June in the Year of our Lord one thousand Seven hundred and ninety two

Signed sealed published & declared by the Sd Elijah Williams as & for his last Will & Testament in presence of Us, who hereto subscribed in his presence at his request as Witnesses to his signing sd Will & in presence of each other—the words “both of said Deerfield being first mentioned”

Elijah Williams Seal

Samul Barnard

Wm Stodd. Williams

Ebenr Barnard Junr

Hampshire Ss At a Court of probate holden at Northampton within and for the County of Hampshire on the first Tuesday of April being the Second day of said Month in the year of our Lord, 1793. The foregoing was presented as the last Will and Testament of Elijah Williams late of Deerfield in the County of Hampshire Esqr. decd. By the Executors therein named for probate and Messrs. William Stoddard Williams & Ebenezer Barnard Jr. two of the Subscribing witnesses to the Same appearing made oath that they saw Elijah Williams the Testator Sign and Seal & heard him publish and declare the Same to be his last Will & Testament that he was of Sound mind and disposing Memory when he did it that they together with Samuel Barnard Esqr all Signed as Witnesses to the same, at the Same time, in the presence of the Sd Testator and of each other. Thereupon it is considered, that the Same be & hereby is proved, approved, ratified & confirmed as the last Will and Testament of said deceased.

Eleazar Porter J. Prob