

WILL OF MATHEW CLESSON (1713-1756)  
HAMPSHIRE Probate Records, Volume VIII, p. 231

In the Name of God Amen I Mathew Clesson of Deerfield in the County of Hampshire & province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England gentleman calling to mind my own Mortality not knowing how Soon I may be called to put off this my earthly Tabernacle And at present of Sound mind & memory do make and ordain this my last Will & Testament this first day of June Anno Domo one thousand Seven hundred & fifty Six, first I give my Soul to God who gave it me & my body to the dust to be buried in a decent manner at the Discretion of my Executrix humbly hoping thro the merits of my Redeemer to obtain a glorious resurrection to Immortal life— After my Just Debts & funeral charges are paid by my Executrix hereafter named, I give & dispose of my Estate in the following manner

Imprimus I give my beloved wife Abigail one third part of my personal Estate forever & also the use & Improvement of one third part of my Real Estate during her natural life and

Item as for the remaining part of my Estate, It is my Will that my Children have their Support & Maintenance out of it until they Shall [text missing]

And also that my Hond mother Mrs Hannah Clesson be comfortably Supported & maintained during her natural life out of my Estate & it is likewise my Will & that the remaining part of all my Estate whether Real or Personal be divided among any children in the following manner, viz I give to my Daughter Joanna one tenth part of the remaining part of all my estate whether Real or Personal as aforesd to her & her Heirs forever—

And all the remaining part of my Sd Estate I give & bequeath unto my Three Sons viz Mathew Clesson Samuel Clesson & Joseph Clesson to be equally divided between them to be to them their Heirs forever, my Sons to have their parts or Shares Set off to them when they arrive at the Age of Twenty one years & my Daughter to have her part at the age of Eighteen years or at the time of Marriage & if any one or more of my Children Should happen to die, before they arrive at the aforementioned ages that then the part of my Estate which I gave to the Deceased Shall be divided among the Survivers According to the aforementd Proportion to each of them & lastly I constitute & appoint my beloved wife Abigail Executrix of this my last Will & Testament & I do hereby revoke & make Null & Void all Wills or Testaments made by me at Any Time heretofore, In Witness whereof I have hereunto Set my hand & seal the day & year before written—

Signed Sealed published & declared by the Said

Mathew Clesson his last Will & Testament

In presence of us who Subscribes as Witnesses

in the presence of the testator

Mathew Clesson Seal

Joseph Severance

Ebenezer Barnard

Mary Barnard

At a Court of Probate holden at Northampton within & for the County of Hampshire on the Second Tuesday of Janry being the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the Month Ano Domo 1757 p Timothy Dwight Esq Judge of Sd Court, The foregoing will was presented for Probate by the Executrix therein named & Mr Ebenezer Barnard & Mrs Mary Barnard Two of the Witnesses to the Same appearing made oath that they Saw Captn Mathew Clesson the Testator Sign & Seal & heard him pronounce & declare the Same to be his last Will & Testament & that he was of Sound mind &

memory when he did it & that they with Sergt. Joseph Severance all Signed as Witnesses to the  
in Same in presence of the Sd Testator & of each other wherefore it is ratified approved &  
confirmed as the last Will & Testament of Said Deceased

p Timothy Dwight