

WILL OF NATHANIEL HAWKS (1669-1754)
HAMPSHIRE Probate Records, Volume VIII, p. 102

In the Name of God Amen This Eighteenth day of September one Thousand Seven hundred & fifty four and in the Twenty eighth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Second of Great Britain King &c. I Nathanael Hawks of Deerfield in the County of Hampshire and Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England yeoman, being under bodily illness, weakness but thru Gods Goodness of sound disposing mind & memory; do make this my last will & testament in manner & form following That is to say In the first place, I give my Soul to God who gave it me & my body I commit to the Dust decently to be buried at the Discretion of my Executors hereafter mentioned hoping that it will be raised a Glorious Body & Soul & being reunited they will be made Eternally happy thru the merits of my Redeemer & as for the Temporale Goods with which it has pleased God to bless me I do disperse of them in the following manner –

In the first place, I give & bequeath unto Martha my beloved wife all & Every part of the Houshold Goods or Utensils of what kind soever that She the Said Martha was the owner & brought with her at the time of our Intermarriage or that hath come into my Possession at any time Since by viture of such – marriage & also one third part off my Personal Estate which I Shall be possessed of or that Shall of right belong to me at the time of my Decease to her use & behalf Forever Also I give & bequeath to Martha my Said wife the use Benefit and Improvement of one third part of my Dwelling house & barn & of all & Every part of my Real Estate during her Natural life and further it is my Will that all my Just Debts & funeral Charges Shall be paid out of the remaining part of my Personal Estate which I have not already disposed of to my wife as before mentioned & if it appears that there be not Sufficient Personal Estate to pay the Same, Then it is my will and pleasure that So much of my Real Estate be Sold as to pay the over plus that my personal estate as afore mentioned will not pay and I do herby fully authorize & empower my Executors hereafter named to make Sale of So much of my Real Estate as Shall be wanted or necessary for that Purpose and to execute a good Deed or Deeds of the Same and I do also unto Martha my Wife a good Mourning Suit of apparel & whereas there was a Legacy left by my first wife's Mother Ms Belding Alias Allis to the Children which I had by my Sd wife viz Zadok Asa Submit & Hannah which Said Legacy I have received – Therefore it is my will that the Said Legacy be paid by my Executors to my Said four Children viz Zadok Asa Submit & Hannah deducting out of from Submit & Hannah the Sums which I have paid them of that acct. and Charged them with on my book and further it is my Will that whatever my Daughters Submit & Hannah Shall Stand Charg'd with on my book at the time of my Decease except what they have as part of the afore mentioned Legacy Shall be reckoned to them as So much of the Share or Portion that I Shall give them by this last Will & Testament

Item I give & bequeath to my Children Zadok Hawks Asa Hawks Nathaniel Hawks Simeon Hawks Submit, Hannah Experience & Martha to Them their Heirs & Assigns forever all my Estate whether Real or Personal in the Manner & form & Proportion hereafter mentioned— In the first Place I give & bequeath unto my Son Asa Hawks the Sum of Fifty Three pounds Six Shillings & Eight pence to be Set off to him out of my Real Estate to be to him his Heirs & Assigns forever—

And the remainder of my Estate to be divided in the following manner

To Zadok one fifth part

To Asa one fifth part

To Nathaniel one fifth part &

To Simeon one fifth part—and the other fifth part to be equally divided between Submit, Hannah, Experience & Martha my said Daughters—

And further it is my Will & I hereby order that my four Sons Zadok Asa Nathaniel & Simeon Shall all have an equal part or Share in my Sawmill & in the privilege of the Stream Said Mill standeth on & in Somuch Land that lies round Said mill & Stream as may be Convenient for a Mill yard or yards—

And furthermore I do hereby nominate Constitute & appoint my beloved wife Martha & my Sons Zadok & Asa Hawks Executors of this my last Will or Testament and I do hereby revoke & make void all former wills or testaments at any time heretofore made by me In Witness whereof I have hereunto Set my hand & Seal the day and year first written—

Signed Sealed published & declared by the Said

Nathl Hawks to be his last Will & Testament

In presence of us

Nathaniel Hawks Seal

John Catlin 2nd

John Arms

Ebenr Barnard

At a Court of Probate Holden at Northampton within & for the County of Hampshire on the Second Tuesday of October being the 8th day of Said Month Ano Domo 1754 p Timothy Dwight Esq. Judge of Sd Court The foregoing Will was presented for Probate by the Executors therein named & Messr Eben Barnard Capt. John Caitlin 2nd & John Arms all the Witnesses to the Same personally appearing made oath that they Saw Mr. Nath Hawks 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 all Signed as Witnesses at the Same time in the Said Testator's presence wherefore it is ratified approved & Confirmed as the last Will & Testament of Said Deceased

p Timothy Dwight

At a Court of Probate holden at Northampton within & for the County of Hampshire on the Second Tuesday of October being the Eighth day of Said Month Ano Domo 1754 p Timothy Dwight Esq Judge of Sd Court Messr Ebenezer Barnard John Caitlin the Second & John Arms all of Deerfield in Sd County are appointed & Sworn to make an apprizement of the estate of Mr Nathaniel Hawks late of Deerfield afore sd Decd as it Shall be presented to them by the Executors of the last Will & Testament of the Decd

Timothy Dwight