

WILL OF THOMAS WELLS II (1693-1743)
HAMPSHIRE Probate Records, Volume VI, p. 219

In the Name of God Amen

This Twenty fourth Day of Febuary AnnoDom 1743, I Thomas Wells the Second of Deerfield in the County of Hampshire & Province of Massachusetts Bay in New England Cordwainer being in a weak & decaying State as to my Body but of Sound disposing Mind Memory & Judgement do make this my last will & testament in Manner & form following that is to Say first & Principally I commend my Soul into the hands of God my faithfull Creator & redeemer in hopes of obtaining the pardon of all my Sins & the gift of eternal Life thro' the merits & mediation of the Lord Jesus Christ, & my Body I commit to the Earth to be decently Interred at the Discretion of my Executors hereafter to be named believing that God by his almighty labor will raise it up & that my Soul & Body will be reunited at the last Day & as touching Such temporal Estate as God hath betruusted me withal (after my Just Debts & funeral Charges are paid) I give & Dispose of them as follows (viz)

Imprimi I give to Sarah my beloved Wife over & above that part of my whole Estate which would belong to her according to Law of Said Died Intestate twenty five pounds old Tenor Bills of Public Credit to buy her a mourning Suit & ring & also the use of the South half of my Mansion house which I now live in (except the Kitchen or Back house & also one half of the cellar & well with free Liberty at all Times to pass & repass thro' the sd. Kitchen or Back house to the sd. Cellar & well Likewise one fourth part of my Orchard & one fourth part of my Barn & Backyard during her remaining unmarried or my widow

Item. I give to my Son Eliezer Wells Sixty pounds in old Tens Bills of Publick Credits or in other Bill equivalent there to be paid him by my Executors when he shall arrive at the age of twenty one years besides the part which will be here after assigned him

Item it is my will that all the remaining part of my Estate whether real or personal Moveables Bills Bonds Money or what Soever (except what I shall hereafter reserve for the maintenance of my Children be disposed of in the following Manner that is to say it Shall be divided into nine equal parts & each of my eight Sons viz Eliezer, Ebenezer, Joseph, Benjamin, Thomas, Augustus, Agrippa, & rufus I give divide & bequeath one full part thereof whether real or Personal to them their heirs & assigns for ever to be paid each of them when they Shall arrive at the Age of twenty one years & the other one part thereof I divide & bequeath into my two Daughters viz Sarah & Mary their Heirs & assigns for ever to be divided equally between them the Sd Sarah & Mary & paid to each of them their particular parts when they Shall arrive at the age of twenty one years or one their Marriage day of they Shall Marry before they arrive at that Age of twenty one years or on their marriage Day if they Shall Marry before they arrive at that age, and further it is my will if it please God to take Away one of my afore named Children by death that then that part of my Estate which the decd Child or Children were to receive Shall be divided among the Surviving Children afore mentioned in the Same proportion to each of them as the other part of my estate that is to Say if they Die before they come to the Age of twenty one years aforesd or before the Time of Marriage as afore Sd if it be a Daughter that deceases – And further it is my will that that part of my real Estate which belongs to my wife dureing her natural Life & that part which I have given her to the use of dureing her widowhood Shall at the Expiration of Sd Terms be divided in the afore mentioned manner among all my above named

Children, and likewise it is my will that the rents Interests Money & Incomes of all my Estate both real & Personal (except that part which belongs to my wife as afore Sd be Employed for the Support & Maintenance of my afore named Children until it comes to be paid to my Children as afore Sd & whereas it So may happen that this Income of my Estate may not be Sufficient to Support & maintain my Children at present it is therefore my will that if any Executer hereafter to be named Shall find it necessary for the Support of my Children they Shall disburse So much out of my estate also Support them with the aforesaid Income of my Estate &c I do here name my beloved wife Sarah together with my Brethren Eben Wells & Nathaniel Hawks to be the Executors of this my last will & Testament & I do hereby make & declare all other former wills made by me to be to be Utterly Null & void of what Tenor or Date Soever, In witness whereof I the Sd Thomas Wells the Second have here unto affixed my hand & Seal the Day & Year at first mentioned Signed Sealed & Declared to be his last Will & Testament by the afore Sd Thos Wells 2nd in presence of
Ebenezer Barnard
Joes. Barnard
Abner Barnard

Thos. Wells 2nd Seal

At a Court of Probates holden at Northampton within & for the County of Hampshire on the Second Tuesday of May being the 8th Day of Sd Month AnnoDom 1744 P John Stoddard Esq Judge of Probate the Executors in the foregoing will Names presented the Same for probate & Messer Ebenezer Barnard, Joseph Barnard, & Abner Barnard who all Subscribed as Witnesses to Sd Will personally appearing Made Oath that they Saw Thos Wells 2nd 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 in the Sd Testrators presence wherefore the foregoing is ratified Approved & Confirmed as the last will & Testament of Sd decd

p- John Stoddard