

Will of John Amsden (1721-1794)
Hampshire County Probate, Vol. 19, p. 76-77

In the Name of God Amen. I John Amsden of Deerfield in the County of Hampshire and State of Massachusetts in New England Yeoman bearing in Mind my own mortality, being of sound and perfect Mind and memory (blessed be God) Do this Second day of August in the Year of our Lord one Thousand Seven hundred and ninety four make and publish this my last Will and Testament in Manner following that is to say principally I give myself to God my rightful Sovereign and owner hoping for a gracious acceptance with only through the merits and righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ the only Mediator between God and Man. And I order after my Decease my Body to be Interred in a decent and Christian manner nothing doubting but the Same Shall be raised to Life again at the second and glorious coming and appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ my only Savior And as to my worldly Estate I dispose thereof in the following manner, first I will and direct that all just Debts as I Shall owe at the time of Decease and my Funeral Expenses Shall be in convenient time, paid and discharged by my Executors out of my Personal Estate.

Item I give and bequeath to my well beloved wife Lydia one third part of all my personal Estate to dispose of for her Sole use and benefit forever. Item I give and devise to my sd wife one third part of all my real Estate to be to her sole use and benefit forward during the time of her natural Life and from and after the termination of that Estate I give and devise the afore mentioned on third part of my real Estate to my Son John Amsden to have and to hold the sum to him his Heirs and assigns forever.

Item I give and bequeath to my Daughter Mary Dewolf wife of John Dewolf twenty five pounds Lawful Money besides what I give her at her Marriage to be paid to her the sd Mary out of personal Estate by my Executor hereafter named within one year after my Decease.

Item I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Lydia White wife Salmon White one hundred and twenty five pounds Lawful Money over and above what I gave her at her Marriage to be paid out of Personal Estate by my Executor hereafter named within one year after my Decease.

Item I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Elizabeth Amsden Two hundred and twenty five pounds Lawful Money to be paid out of Personal Estate by Executor hereafter named within one year after my Decease. Also to my sd Daughter Elizabeth the use and Improvement of a convenient Room in my dwelling House at the (Bars so called) during her Natural Life provided she does not marry—

Item I give and bequeath unto Luther Chapins of Belchertown in the County aforesd a Son of my sd Wife by her first Husband thirty pounds Lawful money to be paid out of my personal estate by my Executors hereafter named within Eighteen Months after my Decease. Item I will and order that my Executors hereafter named shall within Twenty months after my Decease deposit in the hands of then Deacon or Deacons of the Church of the Town of Deerfield five pounds Lawful Money to be paid out of my Personal Estate and it is my will that the said Deacon or Deacons Distribute the sums according to their Discretion to the most needy persons in said Church. Item All the Rest and Residue of my Estate and Effects both Real and Personal whatever and wherever to be found I give and bequeath unto my only Son John Amsden to have and to hold the same to him his Heirs and assigns forever subject however to the payments of my Debts and funeral Expenses and the Legacies above mentioned. And my Will is that all my afore sd Legacies bequests and Devises to my sd Children Shall be to them their Heirs and assigns Respectively forever and I do hereby nominate constitute and appoint my beloved wife Lydia

Amsden and my Son John Amsden Executors of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the second day of August aforesd.

Signed, Sealed, Published and Declared by the said John Amsden the Testator as and for his last Will and Testament in Presence of us who have hereunto in his Presence and at his Desire set our names as Witnesses.

Jonathan Arms

Amasa Smith

Pliny Arms

John Amsden (Seal)

Hampshire Ss Ma Court of Probate holden at Deerfield within and for the County of Hampshire on the fourth Tuesday of November being the twenty fifth day of said Month in the year of our Lord 1794. The foregoing has presented as the last will & testament of John Amsden late of Deerfield in the County of Hampshire deceased, by the executors therein named for probate, and Messrs. Jonathan Arms & Amasa Smith two of the subscribing witnesses to the same appearing made oath that they saw John Amsden the testator sign & seal and heard him publish & declare the same to be his last will & testament. That he was of sound mind & disposing memory when he did it. That they together with Pliny Arms all signed as witnesses to the same at the same time in the presence of the said Testator & of each other Whereupon it is considered that the same be and hereby is proved, approved ratified and confirmed as the last will & testament of said deceased.

Eleazr. Porter J. Prob.