

The last will & Testament of Samuel Stocking Deacon of the Church in Cheltenham

dated in Cheltenham 13 of November 1681. Know all men to whom these presents may come that I Samuel Stocking Deacon of Cheltenham in the cooperation of correction & consent of the Mayor of Hartford being under writing bearing for other witness perfect up of my understanding & memory committing my soul unto the hands of my Christ my Redeemer in hope of finding mercy through his merits, & leaving my body unto decent burial according to the direction of my beloved wife Hannah & over need do leave this my last will & Testament concerning the several estates which I do last bequeath well acquainted being

1. I give the just debt & legacies being first paid by my executor I give unto my loving wife Bethia Stocking my whole when dead legacy of ten shillings the highway with all the buildings thereon & appurtenances thereon belonging with my whole lot in the long meadow with my whole lot at pistol point & half my meadow lying on the other side of the brook. that it may that part of the lot next the river with all my children lead & conveyed both present & moving together with all my stock & moveably. This I give & bequeath for my loving wife during the term of her widowhood. & upon her decease I give unto her four pounds yearly to be paid to her by my executor to be received out of the estate which I bequeath my son Daniel Stocking with charge of the one half of the household (if he be single) which I bequeath four pounds to be paid in term of her widowhood & both that & the four pounds yearly to be paid during the term of her widowhood. I give more over my will that my said wife upon her decease in case she marry again I divide the one half of the household & the other half of the household between my two daughters Bethia & Lydia, & that the other half of the household which I bequeath to my daughter Bethia be at her decease in like manner divided between my two daughters.
2. I give to my son Samuel Stocking my whole estate upon that hill between the end of the White & Green willow only excepting six acres adjoining to the end of the hill which I give to my daughter Bethia, to her & her heirs forever, moreover I give to my son Sam the remaining half of the estate over the brook with the acre of the swamp adjoining to it moreover I give him my whole estate at the cold spring on the west side of the highway to Hartford, moreover I give unto him my sayd house with the whole of my lot at pipe stamsway with the half of my estate next unto weatherfall Bowls with the half of my lot at pistol point on his mother's decease on charge of her condition by me to go there unto him by his & assigns forever.
3. I give unto my son John Stocking the whole of the land & Building my Father Stocking Deacon bequeathed me by his last will & Testament within the Township of Hartford & I give to him his heirs forever, bequeathing the same & the legacies bequeathed in the first will my which the other estate willed me by my sayd father's decease with all appurtenances.
4. I give unto my daughter Lydia my lot next unto Thomas Rannys abutting upon the common with the deep swamp next this I give to her & her heirs forever, with a good mill to be bequeathed her with a Twelve month after my decease.
5. I give to my sons George & Ebenezer all my land on the east side of the river & the meadow granted to be equally divided between them excepting the one half of my green with next unto Hadham Bowls this I have specified I give to them & their heirs forever.
6. I give to my son Steven my whole lot upon the Hill Bowled upon the land of Thomas Rannys the corner east west & south with my whole estate in the boggy meadow with all my upland & down in the farthest end this I give to him his heirs forever giving the improvement of the boggy meadow to my son Daniel till the said child come of age to inherit.

- I give to my son Samuel Stocking my whole estate upon the hill between the end of the
 White & great willow only keeping six acre adjoining to the end of the hill which I
 - give to my daughter Bethiel, to her & her heirs forever, moreover I give to my son Sam^l
 the remaining half of the arable over the brook with the acre of the swamp adjoining
 to it moreover I give him my whole estate at the cold spring on the west side of the
 High way to Hartford, moreover I give unto him my sayd downland the whole of my late at
 pipe stunsdown with the halfe of my estate next unto weatherfield Bouds with the
 halfe of my late at pistol point in his mother's decedse or any of her estate by me & my go
 these unto him & his heirs & assigns forever.
3. I give unto my son John Stocking the whole of the land & Buildings my Father Stocking son
 decedse bequeathed me by his last will & Testament within the Township of Hartford & the
 to him & his heirs forever, keeping the same & the legacy bequeathed in the said will
 which the other executors will me by my sayd father's decedse with all covenants.
4. I give unto my daughter Lydia my late next unto Thomas Rameys abutting upon the river with
 & Deep swamp & the I give to her & her heirs forever with a good mill to be
 delivered her with a Turbine mill after my decedse.
5. I give to my sons George & Ebenezer all my land on the east side of the great river & the meadow
 & upland to be equally divided between them excepting the one halfe of my piece next unto
 Haddam Bouds & the sayd land specified I give to them & their heirs forever.
6. I give to my son Steven my whole lot upon the Hill Bounded upon the land of Thomas Ramey
 the one my eye west & south with my whole estate in the boggy meadow with all
 my upland & down in the farthmore these I give to him & his heirs forever giving
 the approvement of the boggy meadow to my son Samuel till the aforesaid child
 come of age to inherit.
7. I give to my son Samuel my whole Meadow lying on the east side of the high way within the buildings
 with my whole lot in the long meadow with the halfe of my late at pistol point & halfe my
 meadow over the brook with the remainder of the swamp adjoining thereto with the
 one halfe of my late lying on the west side of the way as you go to Hartford adjoining
 to the land of Anthony Martin on the North. The land of Thomas Ramey south the
 High way east & common with this I say I give to my son Daniel that is to say the west
 end of it, the other halfe of sayd lot to my son Samuel these aforementioned
 parcels of land as specified I give to him my sayd son Daniel & his heirs forever with
 the other halfe of my late next weatherfield Bouds.
8. I give unto our pastor in the North Colling as an expression of my affectionate respects
 to him Three pounds to be paid within a year after my decedse.
9. moreover I leave my son Samuel Stocking sole executor of this my last will & Testament
 willing that when said full expenses he is at in the execution hereof be well &
 truly paid him out of the stock before distribution be made & the remaining stock
 be upon my wife's decedse or marriage distributed equally amongst my children.

10. it is also my will that in case any of the children I leave before they come of age to inherit that then the estate of the child received be divided among those of them who survive in manner following that is to say that my son Samuel have double the rest or equal share or part thereof. Finally it is also my will that my expected & beloved children Mr Nath: white & John Seney should accept the oversight of the execution of this my last will & Testament in all & each the particular of it, which office of trust I request from them, & in special (as in all things I need full to afford them full right & counsel so in special) that my children be brought up in the nurture & admonition of the Lord & that this is my last will & Testament Subscribed by me this 13th of November in the year of old time 1683.

Samuel Stocking Senr.

Signed in the presence of
Nath: white John Seney

Upon further relation consideration & consideration being that in perfect use of my reason & memory at aforesaid though under pressure of bodily weakness I am able to make this following declaration in my above mentioned last will & Testament & am fully able to request my whole lot in the long meadow to my son Samuel & by him for use which I had formerly given in my above written will to my son Samuel the use of it to my daughter Louisa wife during the state of her widowhood & that this is my last will & Testament in reference to the premises I witness by Subscribing my hand this 20th of December in the year one thousand six hundred eighty & three

Samuel Stocking Senr.

Signed in presence of
Nath: white
John Seney