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UPGRADE >

WILL of Francis Willoughby (in full)

""The Worth Francis Willoughby Esqr & late Dept. Governr of this Colony.

""It being appointed to man to dye, and the hand of the Lord now going abroad
in taking away the young and the strong, and myselfe having severall warnings from the Lotd. It being the
duty of every man to set his house in order, so as to be
ready to attend the call of the Lord Jesus, what houre soever he shall please to come.

I leave my soul with the Lord Jesus Christ, who onely gives boldnes in that day,
and onely can deliver from the wrath to come. My Body to a comely buryal at the
discretion of excesatrix ; And do dispose of that littel the Lord in mercy hath lent
me as followeth.

" ' Imprimis. My Will is that my just Debts be paid, and obligations made good,
both in old, & New england : in peticular an obligation in trust to Mr. William
Webb and Mr. Thomas Brague for Two hundred pounds.

"' Item. My will is that my dear mother's will be made good, wherein she gives
one hundred pounds to my son Francis with the Improvement : one hundred pounds
to my son Nathaniell or to my son Francis in case of his death, with those other
legacies given by her to the rest of my children ; or any other that are not yet paid :
The legacies given by my Dear father to my son Jonathan : my daughter Sarah & my
son Nehemiah being already paid.

" ' Item. Whereas my son Jonathan, being my eldest child hath cost me much
money both in breeding up and severall other ways, to the value of near a treble
portion already, and for other serious, & deliberate considerations wch I am not
willing here to mention ; I will and bequeath to him the sume of Ten pounds, with
such of my wearing apparell as my dear wife shall see fit, it being a griefe of soul to
me that he should run out an estate so unprofitably as he hath done to his present
suffering, I being incapable to act to further degree of helpfulnes to him unless I
would be unfaithfull to the rest of my family, which I cannot doe without breach of
that rule which God hath layd downe to direct me by : Expecting that upon consideration
he will rest satisfyed with this my will without making any disturbance to the
least prejudice of my other estate, or molestation of my dear wife; which if he
should doe I leave him under the brand of an unnaturall and most disobedient
childe, which upon examination his owne Conscience (when I am gone) cannot but
fly in his face to great amazement ; this act of mine being upon mature deliberation
after a serious debate with my owne heart : His legacy to be paid him within six
months after my decease.

" ' Item. I give to the children of my son Jonathan, that are borne, and alive at
this time, the sume of five pounds to each to be paid when their father's legacy
is paid ;

"' Item. Whereas my dear wife hath brought a considerable estate with her,
and because I would prevent disputes by virtue of any law here, or elsewhere, I doe
freely confirm her right in, and accordingly bequeath unto her all that household
goods, plate, and Jewells which she brought with her, with ail-that I gave her in particular

before or since marriage, with whatever hath been given her in particular by
 my mother or any other person ; All which can be no other wayes cleared then by her
 owne testimony, which I declare to be sufficient, having that confidence in her that
 she would not challenge the least thing that she hath not right unto.

" Now for the ordering the rest of my estate, I do it as followeth

:

" My debts and legacies being deducted, both what I have already given with what I shall hereafter give, the remainder of my estate I shall divide into eight equall

parts (not knowing otherwise how to deal equally, my trade & way being under so
 much unsertentie as it is). Three parts and a halfe whereof (or three eights & one

sixteenth of the whole) I bequeath unto my loving and my beloved wife over &
 above what I before gave unto her, to hold and enjoy as her owne proper estate
 forever. The other four parts & a halfe (or four eights and one sixteenth of the

whole) I order as follows. To my son Nehemiah one sixt part, accounting what I

have already paid him (as ^ an account in my book bearing date the of 1669) to in part payment : To my son

William one sixt part, to be paid him at the age of

twentie one yeares ; to my son Francis, and daughter Susanna three sixths, that is to

be say one sixt, and two thirds of another sixt to my son Francis, he being the eldest

child by my now wife Margaret ; And the other sixt, and one third of a sixt to my

daughter Susanna : And whereas there is a probability of my wife being now with

child, I bequeath the other sixt part unto it, whether sonne or daughter.

" Now if it should please the Lord to take away any of my children before the
 age of twenty-one yeares if sonnes, or daughters before the age of eighteen, or day of
 marriage, I do will that their portions shall be equally distributed among the survivors,
 and so with reference to the child my wife is big with, if God in his vvisdome
 shall see meet to dispose of it.

" Now my order is with reference to the portions of my children, that they may

be improved for their advantage in breeding and bringing up, desiring my dear wife

by the afeccon she beare me, to take a littell care of my son William, in case he will

be ruled by her : But if he or his owne mother's relations shall desire otherwise, or carry themselves
 uncivilly towards her, I leave her at liberty, being unwilling to put

her under any snare or inconvenience.

" The portions of my son Francis, and my Daughter Susanna to be paid unto

my wife to be improved for their best advantage, being confident of my dear wives

cordiall affection to me and naturalnes to her children, that no change of her condition

shall turne to the prejudice of her dear little ones.

" Item. I give to my daughter Campfield as a token of my love (she having
 received a liberall portion already) the sum of Ten pounds.

" Item. I give to my aunt Hammond (if alive) the sum of five pounds.

" Item. I give to my cousen Lawrence Hammond the sume of fortie pounds

provided he deale respectively with my wife & assist her about settling my estate :

for wch my minde is hee shall have such reasonable allowance for his trouble & paines

over & above as shal be thought fit.

" Item. I give to our Pastour Mr. Simes and our Teacher, Mr. Shepard fourtie shillings apeece as a token of
 my love. " Item. I do give liberty to my cousen March, during her widdowhood only, to

live in and make use of my house in which she now dwells rent free."

' Item. I give to the use of the school in Charlestowne my three hundred acres

of land given me by the said towne, but never layd out, lying beyond Wooburne.

It . I give to Laurence Dows four pounds; and to Edward Wilson three pounds,

as tokens of my love.

" Item. I give to my man Richard Walden forty shillings : Francis Willoughby.

" Item. I give to the rest of my household servants that shall be in my house

at the time of my death, twenty shillings apeece.

" Item. I give to Mr. Ezekiel Cheever his son Thomas, the sum of five pounds,

provided he be brought up to learning in the College ; Now for as much as the

College hath been a Society that I have had much affection to, and desires for the

prosperity of, having made it my work to solicit the Country in generall, & perticular

persons to take care thereof in order to the advantage of posteritie. It might be expected that I should

manifest my selfe to be cordial in sume more than the ordinary

beneficence: But my estate being very uncertaine, as it is abroad in other mens

hands, & so not knowing what the Lord may doe with it ; And a vessel being lost that

I had bequeathed to that use : But chiefly considering the backwardness and indisposition

that is in the Country to consider their owne interest with reference to

posterity ; and finding particular persons holding their owne and desclaming any

motion for goode that hath been made that way, being at a loss to know what the

mind of God therein may be, and unwilling to injure my family, the estate of my

concernments lying as aforesaid ; I find not any inclination to doe what my heart and

soul is free for ; Desiring the Lord to pardon & forgive that backwardness and indisposition

that seemes to appear in the generality of persons to so worthy a worke as it is.

" Item. I give unto widdow Mash, widdow Hayden, widdow Elise, & widdow

Wilson Twenty shillings apeece.

"Item. Whereas in funerall solemnities there is generally a great expence to

littell profit or advantage to perticular persons : I do prohibit the giving any Scarfes

or ribbens to any persons except magistrates, and those who officiate at my funerall,

and instead thereof do give to the Military Company of Charles-Towne the sume of

Twenty pounds to be paid into the hands of the Selectmen, and commission officers to be by them forthwith improved for the beginning of a stock of armes for the use of

the said Towne, partly for the furnishing of poore men (whose ability will not reach

to the purchase of Armes) upon daies of exercise &c : and chiefly that such armes

may be persuaded as a towne stocke for the publicke use and benefit of the said

Towne to be alwaies in a readynes for any suddin emergency.

"And I do hereby declare that, for as much as my estate is abroad and under

many uncertainties, my will is that if the Lord shall see meet to frowne upon what I

have, that then their be a proportionable abatement made throughout what I have

given away : accounting what God takes from me to be well disposed of, and beleaving

he will make it up to mine as fully as if it had bin given me to divide according

to my intentions.

* 'And I do hereby make and declare my loving and beloved wife my sole

executrix : and doe appoint and desire my loveing friends Mr. Thomas Danforth,

Mr. Richard Russell, Mr. Humphrey Davie* and my cousen Lawrence Hammond

to be over seers of this my last will and testament, and doe give to each of them

twenty shillings apeece as a token of my love : earnestly entreating them that as they did ever manifest any

affection and respect for me, that they would manifest the like

to my wife in all that assistance that she shall stand in need of, she being a strainger

