

# Using Probate Records in Your Family History Research

## *Class 1: The Basics*

David Allen Lambert, Chief Genealogist

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



American Ancestors®  
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

# Meet today's presenter



David Allen Lambert  
Chief Genealogist

# OVERVIEW

- **Presentation (60 mins.)**
  - What are probate records
  - Probate terminology
  - What information do they contain
- **Q&A (30 mins.)**

Sep. 19. 1690. The Inventorie of Robt. Mackelaflin of Wrenhamdale  
 & & &  
 The house & servants acres of Land ----- 094 = 00 = 00  
 10. Cows & one yearling 7: 10 one horse 4-10-00 ----- 009 = 00 = 00  
 11. 18 Sheep 17: 2. money 4. bedding 4-5-0 curtains & vallises 5 ----- 011 = 19 = 00  
 12. wooden ware 11. a little Kettle & pinceter 10 worn att waorn 50 003 = 18 = 00  
 13. plowshare & bullock & stubbithe 5. old hewer 4: 6 one axe 2: 6 ----- 000 = 18 = 00  
 14. one axe more 3. Bottle & wedges & drawing knife 2. ----- 000 = 14 = 00  
 15. one old warming pan 15. great pot 15. Little pot 10. pot hooks 2 ----- 001 = 08 = 06  
 16. one mortising ax 4. hand saw & other Iron Utensills 3 Cow bell 2 ----- 000 = 09 = 00  
 17. Spinning wheel 12. Churn & distrying pan 6. 1/2 pound sheeps wood 8 002 = 03 = 06  
 18. Baskets 18. felt. Wool 12. Scive, 12. hat 10. gloves 2: 6. Gimlet 3 001 = 07 = 09  
 19. 2 earthen ware 2 Gun 25. bagg of hops 12. hemp 2 ----- 001 = 10 = 00  
 20. wood & lumber 5. a pike 4. baggs 5. & disswon 2: 6 000 = 13 = 06  
 21. 4 h. 6 = 00 = 00 ----- 012 = 02 = 06  
 22. 17 ----- 002 = 16 = 00  
 23. ----- 000 = 18 = 09  
 -----  
 24. 12 1 = 00 = 06  
 25. 000 = 09 = 00  
 -----  
 26. 101 = 09 = 06  
 -----  
 27. 00 = 14 = 00  
 28. 04 = 12 = 07  
 29. 10 = 6 = 07



Voice of  
David Allen Lambert  
Chief Genealogist

# What is a Probate Record?

- Court process that disposes of a deceased person's estate
- Describes how an estate will be distributed
- Names who will administer the estate
- Contains a list of property/possessions owned by the deceased

# Why use probate records?

- Verify family relationships
- Substitute when vital records are lacking
  - Approximate death dates
  - When a daughter was married by
- Trace the origin of family items or property
- Context of ancestor's life

# Why use Probate Records?

- Many published genealogies never went to the bother of searching probate and deeds
- Because old handwritten documents are often a challenge they are overlooked by genealogists

# Challenges of Probate Records

- Not everyone left a probate record
  - i.e. women
- Deceased may have had multiple marriages
- Not all children are always listed
- No uniformity
- Difficult to read

Tip

Don't assume your  
ancestor didn't  
have a will.

# English Probate Overview

# English Probate

- Debate on the origins of early probate in England
- Oral wills in the presence of witnesses
- Church Courts of England had a monopoly on proving probates until the Probate Act of 1857 introduced in Parliament; there were over 300 Church Courts in England in 1857
- Not until 1882 could a wife who predeceased her husband make a will except with her husband's permission

# Primogeniture

- A system of inheritance in which a person's property is inherited by their firstborn legitimate child after their death
- Primogeniture: (Latin) “primo” first, and “genitura” relating to a person's birth
- A daughter could inherit if and only if she had no living brothers or the descendants of deceased brothers
- Today, primogeniture has largely been abandoned; instead, a person's property is dispersed through a will or through the laws of intestate succession

# Successions in English Probate

- *In England* when an individual dies intestate with no surviving spouse, but with living children or other descendants, the entire estate will pass to the children in equal shares
- In situations when a son or daughter has died, their specific share of the inheritance will be divided amongst their children



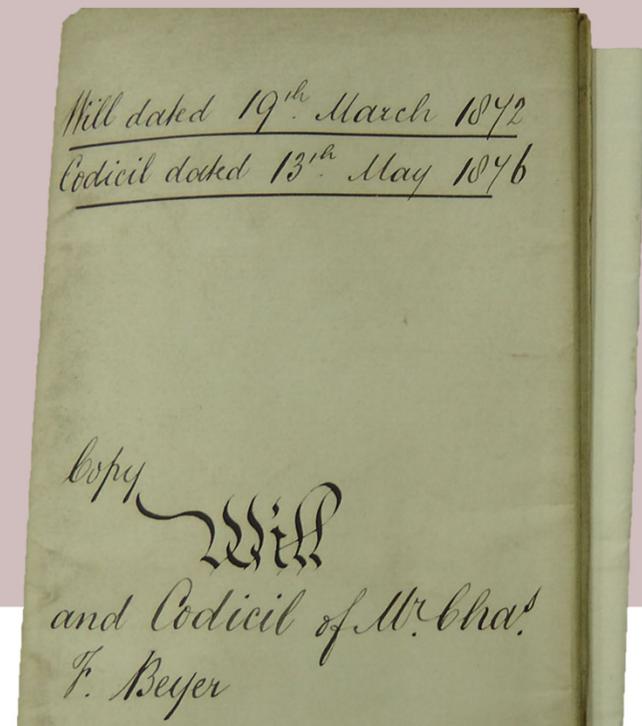
# Probate in America

- Early American probate system traces back to the English system with some exceptions depending on time period and location
- Probate laws and resulting records differ from state to state; time period to time period
- First probate court in U.S. established in Massachusetts in 1784
- U.S. probate courts:
  - Surrogate
  - Orphan courts
  - Courts of the ordinary, etc.

# Probate Terminology

# Generic Probate Terms

- **Personal and Real Estate:** the possessions belonging to the deceased outlined for distribution
- **Testate:** dies *with* a Last Will & Testament
- **Intestate / Administration:** dies *without* leaving an actual will of any kind



# Generic Probate Terms - People

- **Testator / Testatrix:** an individual leaving a will
- **Executor / Executrix:** a person with the responsibility of having a will proved and acting on its conditions
- **Administrator / administratrix:** an individual appointed by the court to administer the estate

# Generic Probate Terms



**File Papers:** the original documents associated with the probate file



**Record Books / Copy Books:** copies of certain probate files copied into bound record volumes



# QUESTIONS?

# Types of Probate Records

# Documents found in Probate Records

- Will
  - Written
  - Holographic
  - Nuncupative
- Codicil
- Letters of Administration & Letters of Testamentary
- Inventory
- Accounts
- Division, distribution
- Guardianship Records
- Miscellaneous Probate Papers
  - Dower Records
  - Bill of Sales
  - Receipts

# Testate vs. Intestate

## Testate

- Will
- Codicil
- Letters of Testamentary
- Inventory

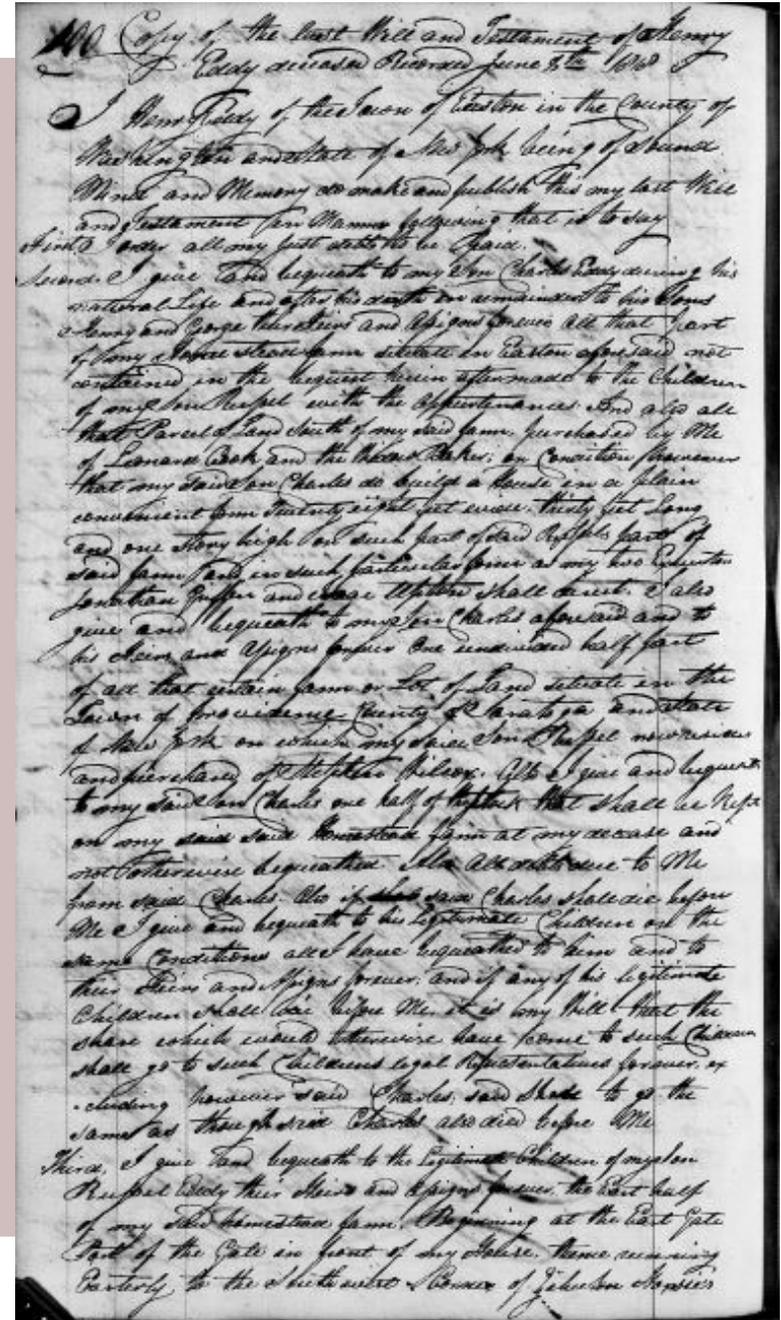
## Intestate

- Letters of Administration
- Inventory
- Guardianships
- Distributions

# Wills and Codicils

# Wills

- Written by the deceased
- Indicates how the deceased wants his or her estate distributed



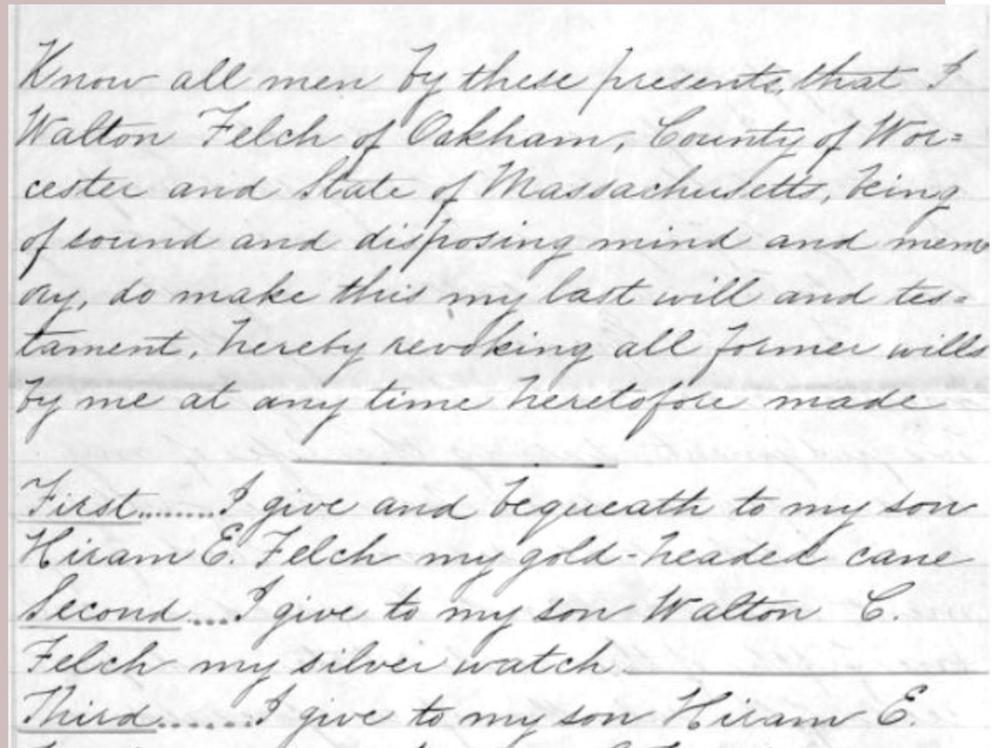
In y<sup>e</sup> Name of God Amen this twelfth Day of March In y<sup>e</sup> year of  
 Our Lord one Thousand seven hundred thirty & nine of forty, and In y<sup>e</sup>  
 Thirteenth year of his Majesties Reign of William Johnson of Newbu  
 In y<sup>e</sup> County of Essex In y<sup>e</sup> province of y<sup>e</sup> Massachusetts Bay In New  
 England Shipwright being through y<sup>e</sup> Goodnes of God In A comfortable  
 Measure of helth & of A disposing Minde & Memory, calling to mind  
 My own Mortality, not knowing y<sup>e</sup> Day of My death, do make this  
 To be My last will & Testament as touching such worldly Estate  
 Wherewith it hath pleased God to Bless Me in this life I Give  
 And Dispose of y<sup>e</sup> same In y<sup>e</sup> following Manner & form —

Inprimis I Give & Bequeth unto My Dearely & well Beloved wife —  
 Abigail Johnson y<sup>e</sup> southerly End of My dwelling house with y<sup>e</sup> one  
 Half of My Grate Celler with liberty of passing & Repassing In to  
 The same with y<sup>e</sup> one half of My Garden plot to use & Improve as  
 shee shall see cause during her Naturall life & also I give unto  
 My s<sup>d</sup> wife all y<sup>e</sup> household stuff of all sorts that I had with her  
 At y<sup>e</sup> time of our Marriage and also I give unto My s<sup>d</sup> wife y<sup>e</sup> use &  
 Improvement of y<sup>e</sup> wholl of My household stuff which I have bought

## Last Will & Testament

# Types of Wills

- Written Will
- Holographic Will
- Nuncupative Will

A photograph of a handwritten will document on lined paper. The text is written in cursive and is divided into three numbered sections. The first section states the testator's name and location, and that this is their last will. The second section lists bequests to two sons: a gold-headed cane to Hiram E. Felch and a silver watch to Walton E. Felch. The third section begins with a bequest to Hiram E. Felch.

Know all men by these presents, that I  
Walton Felch of Oakham, County of Worcester  
and State of Massachusetts, being  
of sound and disposing mind and memo-  
ry, do make this my last will and tes-  
tament, hereby revoking all former wills  
by me at any time heretofore made.

First.....I give and bequeath to my son  
Hiram E. Felch my gold-headed cane

Second....I give to my son Walton E.  
Felch my silver watch.

Third.....I give to my son Hiram E.

# Codicils

- An addition or change to a will
- Add heirs
- Change distribution of estates
- Acknowledge deaths of heirs in will
- Change administrators

# Codicil of Henry Eddy

Remit of Van Schaick  
Copy of the Codicil annexed to the last Will and  
Testament of Henry Eddy deceased Recorded June 5<sup>th</sup> 1789  
Whereas I Henry Eddy of the Town of Boston County of Washington  
and State of New York have made my last Will and  
Testament of the date of the tenth day of April in  
the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixteen  
in and by which Will and Testament in the seventh Item  
thereof I said Give and Bequeath all the Residue of my Estate  
both real and personal to my Sons Charles Eddy and Rufus Eddy  
their heirs and Assigns forever in equal Shares; Now I the  
said Henry Eddy by this my writing solemnly declare  
to be a Codicil to my said last Will and Testament and to  
be taken as a part thereof Will and bequeath the share of my  
Residue Estate (so as aforesaid will be to said Rufus Eddy) to my  
Executors Jonathan Griffin and Isaac Upton and the Survivors  
of them during their and each of their natural Lives and  
after their decease to Nathan Davis Junior of the Town of  
Galway County of Saratoga and State of New York in  
trust and for the uses and purposes following that is to say  
that they the said Trustees take the whole charge of said  
Residue property during the natural Life of my said Son  
Rufus Eddy, and they pay over to the use of the family

W<sup>h</sup> I said Rufus so much thereof from time to time as  
said Trustees shall deem said family shall see and  
that within six Months after the decease of said Rufus said  
Trustees pay over all such parts thereof as I shall be responsible  
- as in blessing the Contract and profits thereof to the legal  
Representatives of said Rufus standing and according to  
them said Trustees reasonable pay for their trouble and expenses  
in the premises, and that if all said Trustees shall die before  
the decease of said Rufus that what shall remain unpaid  
of said residue appertaining to said Rufus shall be in a  
reasonable time after the decease of said Trustees paid over to  
said Rufus, and if any of said Residue be real property my  
Will is to bequeath the same after the decease of said  
Trustees to said Rufus his heirs and Assigns forever if he  
shall outlive said Trustees, if not then to his Children  
their heirs and Assigns forever, and that this said Will be taken  
instead of said seventh Item in my said Will as to said  
share in trust except so much as I do bequeath to my said  
and seal this thirty first day of March 1789 and order  
the same to be affixed to my said Will as a part thereof  
Henry Eddy of Saratoga  
In presence published and  
declared by the said Henry Eddy to be a Codicil  
to his last Will and Testament in presence of us  
Joshua Dickinson  
Calvin Smith  
Elisha Cook

# Letters of Testamentary and Administration

# Letters of Testamentary

- Issued by the court
- Exists if a person left a will
- Allows the executor to take control of the deceased's estate and distribute it according to the will

Washington County, N.Y. Be it Remembered that 1855  
 on the eighth day of June in the year of our Lord one  
 thousand eight hundred and eighty five before Me Henry  
 Martindale, Surrogate of the County of Washington  
 personally came Calvin Smith one of the Witnesses to  
 the preceding Will and Codicil who being by Me duly  
 sworn on his oath declared that he saw the said Calvin  
 sign and Seal the Will and Codicil of which the  
 preceding are Copies and heard him declare and avouch  
 the same to be his last Will and Testament and the  
 said Calvin testified that at the several times thereof the  
 said testator was of sound disposing Mind and Memory  
 according to the best of the knowledge and belief  
 of him the deponent. That his Name thereto is of  
 his own proper hand writing which he subscribed  
 to the said Will and Codicil as a Witness at such  
 time in presence of the testator, and that he saw  
 Jacob Van Osse and Jacob Van Schaick also  
 subscribe their Names to the said Will as Witnesses  
 in the presence of the testator, and at the exe-  
 cution of the said Codicil he also saw Joshua  
 Dillingham and Peter Hoag subscribe their  
 Names thereto in the presence of the testator.

And he it further Remembered that on the same  
 day and for aforesaid also personally came before  
 Me the said Surrogate Jonathan Griffin  
 and Charles Cook, <sup>Examiners in the said Will, James</sup> and were duly qualified to  
 the true and faithful performance of said Will  
 by being duly affirmed as Executors according  
 to Law

Henry Martindale  
 Surrogate

Washington Co., NY Wills, Vol. 4, p. 105



Council thereof, that at the several times thereof the  
said testator was of sound disposing Mind and Memory  
according to the best of the knowledge and belief  
of him the deponent. That his Name thereto is of  
his own proper hand writing which he subscribed  
to the said Will and Codicil as a Witness at each  
time in presence of the Testator, and that he saw  
Jacob van Buren and Gerrit van Schaick also  
subscribe their Names to the said Will as Witnesses  
in the presence of the Testator, and at the exe-  
cution of the said Codicil he also saw Joshua  
Dillingham and Fisher Hoag subscribe their  
Names thereto in the presence of the Testator

## Letters Testamentary for the estate of Henry Eddy

And be it further Remembred that on the same  
day and for aforesaid also personally came before  
Me the said Sundgate Jonathan Griffin  
and Charles Eddy, <sup>Executors</sup> in the said Will named  
and were duly qualified to  
the true and faithful performance of said Will  
by being duly affirmed as Executors according  
to Law  
Henry Martindale  
Sundgate

## Letters Testamentary for the estate of Henry Eddy

# Letters of Administration

- Issued if an individual died intestate
- The court appoints an administrator/trix
  - Distribute the estate of the deceased

14 Dec. 1722  
1000

**K**NOW all men by these presents, That We  
 Hannah Phillip, widow & John Cutler Yeoman both of Cambridge  
 in the County of Middlesex

within His Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New-England, are  
 holden and stand firmly bound and obliged unto James Parsons  
 Judge of the Probate of Wills and Granting Administrations within the  
 County of Middlesex in the full Sum of One thousand Pounds,  
 Currant Money in New-England: To be paid unto the said Judge  
 his Successors in the said Office or Assigns: To the true  
 Payment whereof, We do bind our selves and each of us, our, and each of our  
 Heirs, Executors and Administrators, jointly and severally for the whole and  
 in the whole, firmly by these Presents. Sealed with our Seals. Dated  
 the 14th Day of December Anno Domini, One Thousand 722  
 Annoque Regni Regis GEORGII, 9<sup>o</sup>

**T**he condition of this Present Obligation is such, That if the above-bounden  
 Hannah Phillip who hath this day taken upon her the Administration  
 of the Estate of her late Husband Andrew Wilson of Cambridge in the  
County of Middlesex do make or cause to be made, a true and perfect Inventory of all and singular the Goods, Chattels,  
 Rights and Credits of the said Deceased, which have or shall come to the hands, possession or know-  
 ledge of her the said Administress or into the hands and possession of  
 any other person or persons for her: And the same so made, do exhibit or cause to be exhibited  
 into the Registry of the Court of Probate for the aforesaid County of Middlesex at or before the  
14th Day of March next ensuing. And the same Goods, Chattels, Rights and  
 Credits, and all other the Goods, Chattels, Rights and Credits of the said Deceased, at the time of her  
 Death, which at any time after shall come to the hands or possession of the said Administress  
 or into the hands and possession of any other person or persons for her do well  
 and truly Administer according to Law. And further do make, or cause to be made a just and true  
 Account of her said Administration upon Oath, at or before the 14th Day of December  
 which will be in the Year of our Lord, One thousand 723  
 And all the rest & residue of the said Goods, Chattels, Rights & Credits which shall be found remaining  
 upon the said Administrators Account (the same being first examined & allowed of by the Judge or  
 Judges for the time being, of Probate of Wills and granting Administrations within the County of  
Middlesex aforesaid) shall deliver and pay unto such person or persons respectively as the said  
 Judge or Judges by his or their Decree or Sentence pursuant to Law shall limit & appoint. And if it  
 shall hereafter appear, That any last Will and Testament was made by the said Deceased: And the  
 Executor or Executors therein named do exhibit the same into the Court of Probate for the said County  
 of Middlesex making request to have it allowed and approved accordingly. If the said Administress  
Administress within bounden being thereunto required, do render and deliver  
 the said Letters of Administration (Approbation of such Testament being first had and made) into the  
 said Court: Then the before Written Obligation to be Void and of none Effect, or else to abide and  
 remain in full Force and Virtue.

Sealed and Delivered  
 in Presence of  
Martha Curish  
Hannah Phillip  
John Cutler

Hannah + John

John Cutler

Estate of Andrew Wilson Middlesex Co.  
Probate File No. 25114

**K**NOW ALL Men by these Presents, That We  
*Rannah Phillips, widow & John Cutler yeoman both of Cambridge*  
*in the County of Middlesex*

within His Majesty's Province of the *Massachusetts Bay* in New-England, are holden and stand firmly bound and obliged unto *Francis Foxcroft* Judge of the Probate of Wills and Granting Administrations within the County of *Middlesex* in the full Sum of *one hundred* Pounds, Currant Money in New-England: To be paid unto the said *Judge* his Successors in the said Office or Assigns: To the true Payment whereof, We do bind our selves and each of us, our, and each of our Heirs, Executors and Administrators, jointly and severally for the whole and in the whole, firmly by these Presents. Sealed with our Seals. Dated *14th* Day of *December* Anno Domini, One Thousand *722* Annoque Regni Regis GEORGII, *9o*

*14 Dec. 1722*  
*1806*

**K**NOW ALL Men by these Presents, That We  
*Rannah Phillips, widow & John Cutler yeoman both of Cambridge*

*Massachusetts Bay* in New-England, are  
 reg unto *Francis Foxcroft*  
 Granting Administrations within the  
 Sum of *one hundred* Pounds,  
 e paid unto the said *Judge*  
 said Office or Assigns: To the true  
 s and each of us, our, and each of our  
 inly and severally for the whole and  
 ts. Sealed with our Seals. Dated  
 Anno Domini, One Thousand *722*  
 Regni Regis GEORGII, *9o*

s such, That if the above-bounden  
*for the Administration*  
*of Cambridge withed.*

all and singular the Goods, Chattels,  
 come to the hands, possession or know-  
 or into the hands and possession of  
 do exhibit or cause to be exhibited  
 county of *Middlesex* at or before the  
 e same Goods, Chattels, Rights and  
 the said Deceased, at the time of his  
 possession of the said *Administration*  
 r person or persons for *her* do well  
 ke, or cause to be made a just and true  
 e the *14th* Day of *December*

Credits which shall be found remaining  
 amined & allowed of by the Judge or  
 Administrations within the County of  
 rson or persons respectively as the said  
 Law shall limit & appoint. And if it  
 s made by the said Deceased: And the

shall hereafter appear, the  
 Executor or Executors therein named do exhibit the same into the Court of Probate for the said County  
 of *Middlesex* making request to have it allowed and approved accordingly. If the said *Ad-*  
*ministrators* within bounden being thereunto required, do render and deliver  
 the said Letters of Administration (Approbation of such Testament being first had and made) into the  
 said Court: Then the before Written Obligation to be Void and of none Effect, or else to abide and  
 remain in full Force and Virtue.

Sealed and Delivered  
 in Presence of  
*Martha Givish*  
*Hannah Phillips*

*Rannah + Wilson*

*John Cutler*

Estate of Andrew Wilson Middlesex Co.  
Probate File No. 25114

1722  
1000  
Know all Men by these presents, That We  
Hannah Phillip, Widow of John Cutler Yeoman both of Cambridge  
in the County of Middlesex

**The Condition of this Present Obligation is such,** That if the above-bounden  
Hannah Phillip who hath this day taken upon her the Administration  
of the Estate of her late Husband Andrew Wilson of Cambridge in the  
County of Middlesex  
do make or cause to be made, a true and perfect Inventory of all and singular the Goods, Chattels,  
Rights and Credits of the said Deceased, which have or shall come to the hands, possession or know-  
ledge of her the said Administration or into the hands and possession of  
any other person or persons for her the said Administration: And the same so made, do exhibit or cause to be exhibited  
into the Registry of the Court of Probate for the aforesaid County of Middlesex at or before the  
14th Day of March next ensuing. And the same Goods, Chattels, Rights and  
Credits, and all other the Goods, Chattels, Rights and Credits of the said Deceased, at the time of his  
Death, which at any time after shall come to the hands or possession of the said Administration  
or into the hands and possession of any other person or persons for her the said Administration  
and truly Administer according to Law. And further do make, or cause to be made a just and true  
Account of her said Administration upon Oath, at or before the 14th Day of December  
which will be in the Year of our Lord, One Thousand 729  
And all the rest & residue of the said Goods, Chattels, Rights & Credits which shall be found remaining  
upon the said Administrators Account (the same being first examined & allowed of by the Judge or  
Judges for the time being, of Probate of Wills and granting Administrations within the County of  
Middlesex aforesaid) shall deliver and pay unto such person or persons respectively as the said  
Judge or Judges by his or their Decree or Sentence pursuant to Law shall limit & appoint. And if it  
shall hereafter appear, That any last Will and Testament was made by the said Deceased: And the  
Executor or Executors therein named do exhibit the same into the Court of Probate for the said County  
of Middlesex making request to have it allowed and approved accordingly. If the said Administration  
within bounden being thereunto required, do render and deliver  
the said Letters of Administration (Approbation of such Testament being first had and made) into the  
said Court: Then the before Written Obligation to be Void and of none Effect, or else to abide and  
remain in full Force and Virtue.

Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New-England, are  
and stand firmly bound and obliged unto Francis Foxcroft  
the Probate of Wills and Granting Administrations within the  
County of Middlesex in the full Sum of One Thousand Pounds,  
Money in New-England: To be paid unto the said Judge  
his Successors in the said Office or Assigns: To the true  
whereof, We do bind our selves and each of us, our, and each of our  
Executors and Administrators, jointly and severally for the whole and  
sole, firmly by these Presents. Sealed with our Seals, Dated  
Day of December Anno Domini, One Thousand 722  
Amoqne Regni Regis: GEORGII, 5<sup>o</sup>

**The Condition of this Present Obligation is such,** That if the above-bounden  
Hannah Phillip who hath this day taken upon her the Administration  
of the Estate of her late Husband Andrew Wilson of Cambridge in the  
County of Middlesex  
do make or cause to be made, a true and perfect Inventory of all and singular the Goods, Chattels,  
Rights and Credits of the said Deceased, which have or shall come to the hands, possession or know-  
ledge of her the said Administration or into the hands and possession of  
any other person or persons for her the said Administration: And the same so made, do exhibit or cause to be exhibited  
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or into the hands and possession of any other person or persons for her the said Administration  
and truly Administer according to Law. And further do make, or cause to be made a just and true  
Account of her said Administration upon Oath, at or before the 14th Day of December  
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And all the rest & residue of the said Goods, Chattels, Rights & Credits which shall be found remaining  
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Judges for the time being, of Probate of Wills and granting Administrations within the County of  
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the said Letters of Administration (Approbation of such Testament being first had and made) into the  
said Court: Then the before Written Obligation to be Void and of none Effect, or else to abide and  
remain in full Force and Virtue.

Sealed and Delivered  
in Presence of  
Martha Gerrish  
Hannah Phillip  
John Cutler

Estate of Andrew Wilson Middlesex Co.  
Probate File No. 25114

14 Dec. 1722  
1806

**K**NOW ALL Men by these presents, That We  
 Hannah Phillips, Widow & John Cutter Yeoman both of Cambridge  
 in the County of Middlesex

within His Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New-England, are  
 holden and stand firmly bound and obliged unto Francis Foxcroft  
 Judge of the Probate of Wills and Granting Administrations within the  
 County of Middlesex in the full Sum of One Thousand Pounds,  
 Currant Money in New-England: To be paid unto the said Judge  
 or in the said Office or Assigns: To the true  
 and our selves and each of us, our, and each of our  
 Assignors, jointly and severally for the whole and  
 these Presents. Sealed with our Seals. Dated  
 the 14th Day of December Anno Domini, One Thousand 722  
 Annoque Regni Regis GEORGII, 5<sup>o</sup>

Sealed and Delivered  
 in Presence of

Martha Gerrish  
 Apr: 1722

Hannah + Wilson

John Cutter

...ation is such, That if the above-bounden  
 taken for the Administration  
 in the County of Middlesex

Inventory of all and singular the Goods, Chattels,  
 or shall come to the hands, possession or know-  
 or into the hands and possession of  
 me so made, do exhibit or cause to be exhibited  
 fore said County of Middlesex at or before the  
 And the same Goods, Chattels, Rights and  
 Credits of the said Deceased, at the time of his  
 hands or possession of the said Administration  
 of any other person or persons for her do well  
 ther do make, or cause to be made a just and true  
 at or before the 14th Day of December  
 1722

Rights & Credits which shall be found remaining  
 first examined & allowed of by the Judge or  
 granting Administrations within the County of  
 no such person or persons respectively as the said  
 pursuant to Law shall limit & appoint. And if it  
 tament was made by the said Deceased: And the

shall hereafter appear, the  
 Executor or Executors therein named do exhibit the same into the Court of Probate for the said County  
 of Middlesex making request to have it allowed and approved accordingly. If the said  
 within bounden being thereunto required, do render and deliver  
 the said Letters of Administration (Approbation of such Testament being first had and made) into the  
 said Court: Then the before Written Obligation to be Void and of none Effect, or else to abide and  
 remain in full Force and Virtue.

Sealed and Delivered  
 in Presence of

Martha Gerrish  
 Apr: 1722

Hannah + Wilson

John Cutter

Estate of Andrew Wilson Middlesex Co.  
 Probate File No. 25114

# Inventory

# What is an Inventory?

- Appraisal of deceased's real estate and personal property
- Provides a value for the estate
- Can provide clues about the lives of your ancestors

# What can an Inventory tell us?

- How much land/property an ancestor owned
- Job/trade
- Education level
- Level of wealth/status

Real estate viz.

$\frac{2}{3}$  parts of 63 rods of land, w<sup>th</sup>  $\frac{2}{3}$  parts of a dwelling house, standing thereon, the same being situate in said Amisbury, adj<sup>o</sup>. land of Joseph Morse & others. } \$ 300. 00.

About 3 Acres &  $\frac{1}{2}$  Land situate in said Amisbury, adjoining land of Valentine Bagley & others. } 80. 50.

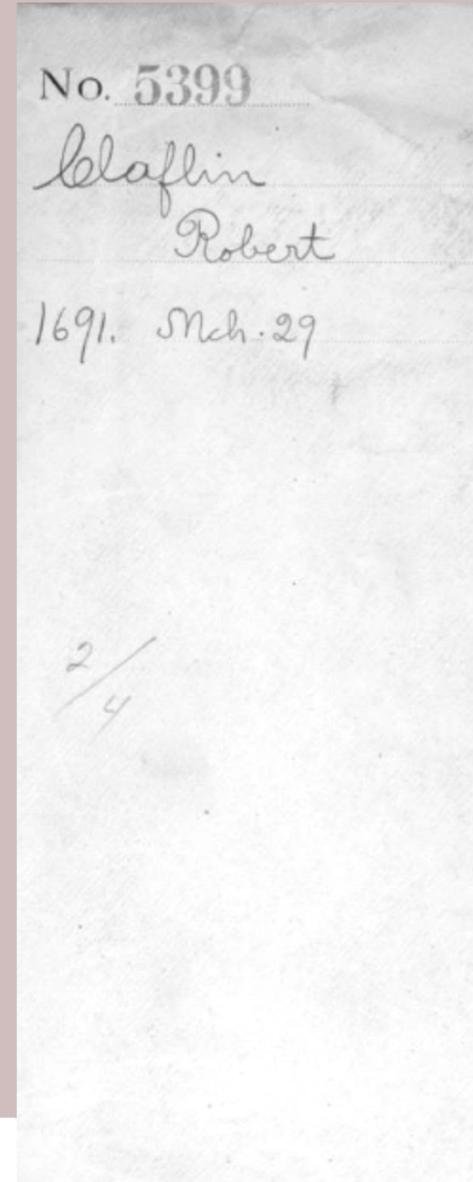
\$ 380. 50

Personal estate, viz.

Bible & other books \$ 3. 00.	Wearing apparel \$ 27. 25.	30	25.
Truison & straps \$ 0. 25.	1 Feather bed <sup>4</sup> w <sup>th</sup> bedstead cord & under bed, \$ 9. 00.	9	25.
1 do 55 ft. w <sup>th</sup> bedstead, cord & under bed, _____		15	75.
20 Sheets \$ 10. 00.	5 Bolster cases \$ 1. 00.	11	00.
10 Pillow cases \$ 2. 70.	10 Bed quilts \$ 7. 50.	10	20.
3 Wollen blankets \$ 1. 00.	7 Table cloths \$ 2. 00.	3	00.
13 Towels \$ 1. 62.	1 Desk, \$ 6. 00.	10	62.
1 Bureau \$ 3. 00.			
Large square table \$ 1. 75.	1 Card table \$ 1. 25.	3	00.
2 Kitchen tables \$ 0. 50.	2 Sight stands \$ 0. 50.	1	00.

# Inventory

- Robert Clafflin, 1691  
Wenham, Massachusetts



Sep. 19. 1690. The Inventory of Robt. Mackelaflin of Wrenhamdale  
 & S & S  
 The house & contents across of Land ----- 054-00-00  
 10. Cows & one yearling 7-10 one horse 4-10-00 ----- 009-00-00  
 10. 18 Sheep 12. 2. mery 4. bedding 4-5-0 curtains & vallises 8-011-19-00  
 10. wooden ware 10. a little Kettle & pincet 10 worn att wear 50 003-18-00  
 plowshare & pulber 6. stubble 5. old horse 4. 6. saw axe 2. 6. ----- 000-18-00  
 one axe more 3. Bottle & wedges & drawing knife 2. ----- 000-14-00  
 one old warming pan 12. great pot 15. Little pot 10. pothooks 2 ----- 001-08-06  
 one mortising ax 4. hand saw & other Iron stensills 3. Cow bell 2 ----- 000-09-00  
 Spinning whorls 12. Churn 4. distrying pan 6. 12 pounds sheeps wood 8 002-03-06  
 baskets 18. felt. wools 12. scive 12. hat 10. gloves 2. 6. Limblet 3. 001-07-07  
 10. earthen ware 2. Gun 25. bagg of hess 12. hamp 2 ----- 001-10-00  
 butter tub 2. wood & lumber 5. a pike 4. baggs 5. & disswon 2. 6. 000-18-06  
 swine 4-10. hays 32. 6. Inderm 40 bush. 6. ----- 012-02-06  
 Red 6. bush. 24. Beans 3 bush 15. In my hands 17 ----- 002-16-00  
 Sheeps wools 10 1/2 lb for 18 tobacco leaf ----- 000-18-09  
 Taken by Richd. Hutton of the Estate of Mackelaflin jun: & S & S ----- 121-00-06  
 by Jm. Batchelder sen: In working tooly ----- 000-09-00  
 his wages from yr Country ----- 04-12-07  
 05-06-07

# Inventory



October 30<sup>th</sup> 1692

Item Recd of Thomas first Son of Wrenham  
in the County of Essex Administrat<sup>r</sup> to the Estate  
of Robert Macheluffin Son of Wrenham late  
Deceased of the County of Essex Macheluffin in  
the Administrat<sup>n</sup> have hadly owing to  
obeying my self & for my heirs or Administrat<sup>r</sup>  
that as I have now see in particulars shall  
be hereafter in the account mentioned shall be  
accomplish to the said Administrat<sup>r</sup> as  
upon the account of my Legacy which shall be  
paid or assign'd to me by the County Court  
of Essex for the above Estate the particulars  
are as followeth viz:

a Cow at three pound	4 8 95
40 pence ten shillings	3 0 0
40 pence ten shillings	0 10 0
40 pence ten shillings	0 1 6
40 pence ten shillings	0 7 0
40 pence ten shillings	1 15 0
in all eight pound thirteen shillings & six pence	8 13 6
as witness my hand	8 13 6

Witnessed

John Gilbert

Obidin A. Abbs

Ri marks

Samuel Smith

10:13:6

9:10:0

## Inventory of Personal Estate

# Accounts

# Accounts

- List of debts owed to the estate
- List of debts the estate owes to others
- Published in newspapers

Berkshire Co. Court of Probate April  
4<sup>th</sup> 1820. Then personally appeared  
Charles Sedgwick the person mentioned  
in the above Petition & order of notice  
thereon & made oath that he had  
published the same three weeks  
successively in the Berkshire  
Star printed at Stockbridge as therein  
directed — Before me whereupon  
it is received & ordered to be put  
on file — W. Walker, J. Prob.

~~Berkshire Co. A Court of Probate holden at  
Lenox within and for S. County on the Court day  
of April. 4<sup>th</sup> 1820. The above certificate is  
received and ordered to be put on file~~

# Why look at accounts?

- Hint at status of ancestor
  - Do they owe a lot of money?
  - Are they lending money frequently?
  - Do the debts add up to more than the value of the estate?
- Potential family and associate connections
  - Extended family
  - Business associates

Estate of John Spring, Berkshire Co.  
 Probate File No. 1944

Barnabas Ordwell, Administrator on the estate of John Spring, late of Stockbridge, Mason, deceased,  
 begs allowance of this his second account of payments and charges <sup>in</sup> administration in  
 the estate of John Spring, late of Stockbridge, deceased,  
 to Barnabas Ordwell, Administrator on said estate, D<sup>r</sup>

To p<sup>r</sup> the following persons the sums annexed to their  
 respective names, allowed to them by the Commissionery  
 on said estate on and payable April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1799, viz.

1. To Silas Pepon	0.93
2. To Rufill Smith	2.72
3. To Abraham Rice	0.60
4. To Samuel Partridge	1.68
5. To Benjamin Hatte	2.97
6. To Smith Dunlap	21.86
7. To Capt. Oliver Partridge	2.90
8. To do	5.57
9. To John S. Hopkins	6.25
10. To Moses Barnum	2.66
11. To Edward Edwards	11.55
12. To Seth Hamilton	2.70
13. To Ephraim Taylor	0.25
14. To G <sup>r</sup> Seymour	11.67
15. To do	2.25
16. To John Sergeant	6.32
17. To John James	0.70
18. To Isaac Byington	0.67
19. To Anna Bingham	22.49
	<u>\$ 106.68</u>
To interest thereon, from April 3 1799, to Nov <sup>r</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> 1803, 4 years & 6m & 27 days --	29.30
20 To p <sup>r</sup> Joseph Woodbridge's account against said estate January 29 1799	5-
To interest thereon from 2 <sup>nd</sup> 29 <sup>th</sup> Aug 1799 to Nov <sup>r</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> 1803 -- 4.9-	1.42
	<u>\$ 132.40</u>

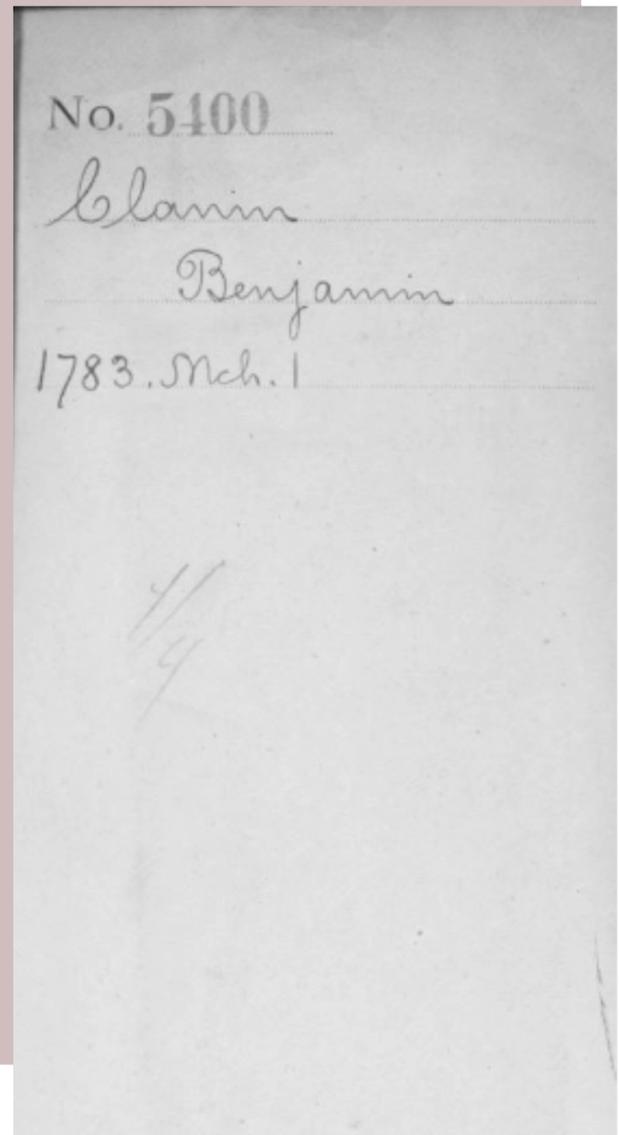
Carried over

Estate of John Spring, Berkshire Co.  
Probate File No. 1944

Estate of John Spring, late of Stockbridge, Masson, deceased,	
1793	To Barnabas Bridwell, Administrator on said Estate <span style="float:right">D. C.</span>
Oct. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	To attending and taking administration on said Probate Court <span style="float:right">1 -</span>
	To p <sup>o</sup> . Probate Fees <span style="float:right">2 55<sup>c</sup></span>
Oct. 13	To 1 days attendance in making an Inventory and apprais- ing the estate <span style="float:right">1.</span>
	To <del>the</del> hand half a day collecting the articles <span style="float:right">- 25<sup>c</sup></span>
	To liquor &c for the appraisers &c <span style="float:right">" 75<sup>c</sup></span>
	To p <sup>o</sup> . 3 appraisers, 1 day each <span style="float:right">3</span>
Nov. 6	To attendance at Probate Court, for the purpose of exhibiting the Inventory &c & expenses <span style="float:right">1</span>
	To p <sup>o</sup> . Probate Fees <span style="float:right">1 64<sup>c</sup></span>
27	To 1 days attendance in selling the personal estate, not un- due (except Household Furniture) <span style="float:right">1.</span>
	To expenses of liquor &c at vendue <span style="float:right">1.</span>
Dec. 25	To $\frac{1}{2}$ a days attendance with the Commissioners to receive and examine accounts of creditors <span style="float:right">- 50</span>
	To p <sup>o</sup> . the expense of the house <span style="float:right">- 75<sup>c</sup></span>
	To p <sup>o</sup> . for a stamp for the Inventory <span style="float:right">50</span>
1794 Jan. 20	To attending one day with the Commissioners of Insolvency <span style="float:right">1.</span>
	To the expenses of myself & the Commissioners <span style="float:right">1. 25<sup>c</sup></span>
	To arguing the Case, Anna Bingham vs John Spring's estate <span style="float:right">2 -</span>
30	To attending with the Commissioners another day <span style="float:right">1</span>
	To the expenses of myself & the Commissioners <span style="float:right">1 25<sup>c</sup></span>
March 24	To half a days attendance with the Commissioners and argu- ing the cause Bingham vs Spring's estate, on the first argument opposed by Mr. Woodbridge and on the second by Mr. Williams <span style="float:right">2 -</span>
	To the expenses of myself & the Commissioners <span style="float:right">- 75<sup>c</sup></span>
	To p <sup>o</sup> . the Commissioners fees, 3 dollars each, as p <sup>o</sup> . <span style="float:right">6 -</span>
<hr/> 30 19	

# Accounts

- Benjamin Clannan, 1783



Newburyport Feb<sup>ry</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1708  
This may Certify that I the Subscriber am fully Content that my brother  
in Law Edward Harris should Administer upon my late Husband  
Mery<sup>as</sup> Glavin's <sup>deceas'd</sup> Estate & that he should take guardianship for the  
Children  
Witness my hand Deborah Crain

## A request from the Widow

Commonwealth  
~~Province~~ of ~~the~~ } By the Honourable *Benj<sup>r</sup> Greenleaf*  
 Massachusetts-~~the~~ } Esq; Judge of the Probate of Wills, &c. in  
 and for the County of Essex.

Essex, ff. To *Joseph Sturges Esq. and David*  
*Moody & Ebenezer Greenleaf*  
 all of *Newburyport*, and Freeholders in said  
 County GREETING.

YOU are hereby appointed a Committee, (being first  
 sworn) to divide and set off, both for Quantity  
 and Quality, one third Part of all the real Estate of  
*Benjamin Blannin* late of *Newburyport*  
 deceased, intestate, unto his Widow *Deborah Blannin*  
 as her Right of Dower in said real Estate, to and for her  
 Use and Improvement, during her natural Life; setting out  
 the same by Meets and Bounds: And when you have so  
 done, make Return of your Doings, together with this  
 Warrant, into the Registry Office of the Court of Probate,  
 in and for said County. Given under my Hand, and the  
 Seal of said Office, this *twenty eighth* Day of *April*  
 A. D. 17*83*, in the ~~Year of the King's Reign~~

*B Greenleaf*

*Benj<sup>r</sup> Greenleaf*

*April 20. 1783*  
*The within named*  
*Committee was*  
*sworn to the faith*  
*ful discharge of*  
*their Trust.*

# Claimants Warrant for Appraisers

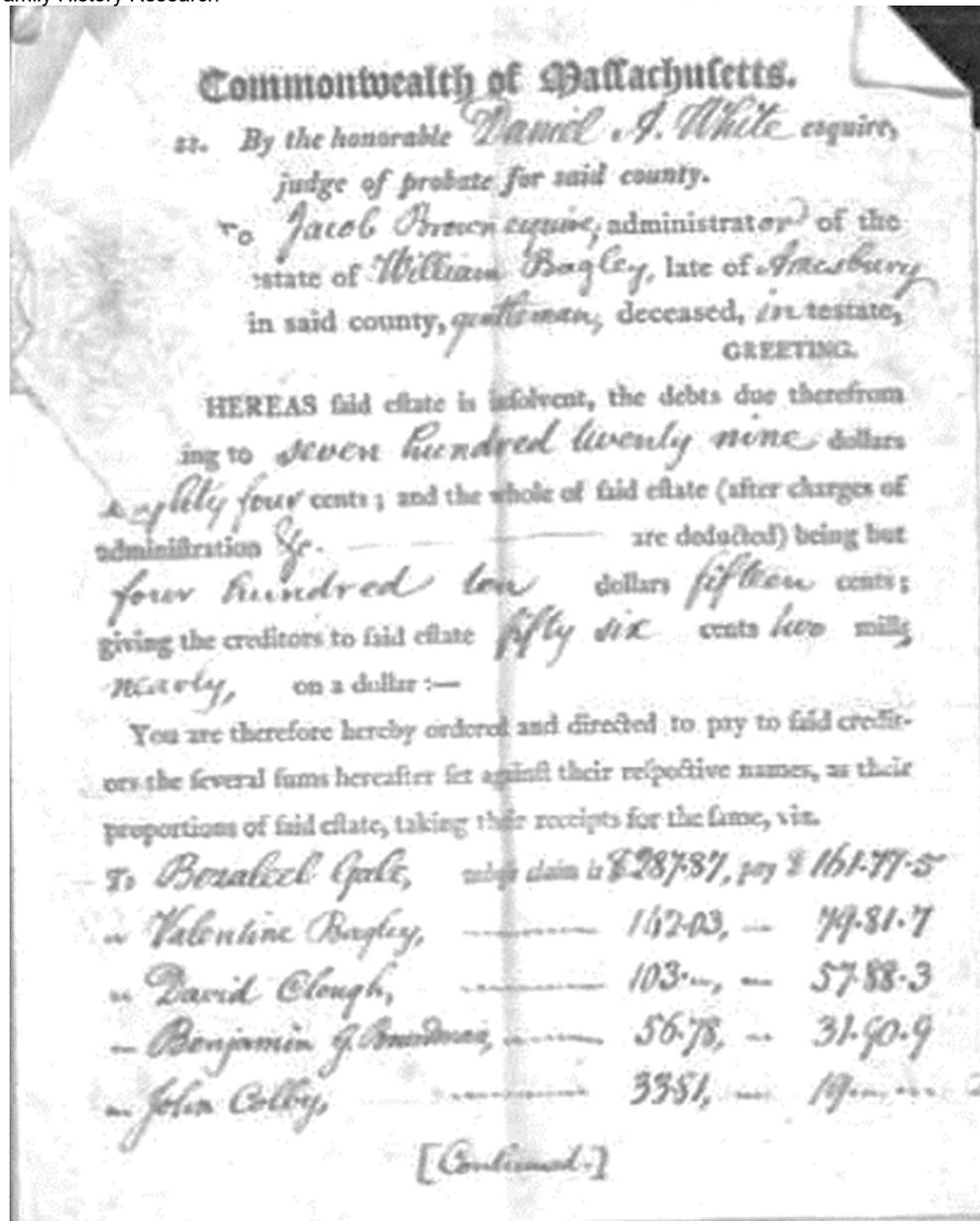
in pursuance to a warrant to us directed by the Hon. Samuel  
Holtin Esq. Judge of Probate, for the county of Essex, ———  
We the subscribers having been first sworn as the said war-  
rant directs, have viewed & divided the homestead of Capt. Will-  
iam Bagley, late of Amherstbury, <sup>Essex</sup> deceased, from the estate of the heirs  
of James Follansbe, with which it lay in common, & undivided  
as follows, Viz. Beginning at the center of the Well on the said un-  
divided estate, thence south forty five degrees west, one rod & eleven  
links, to a stake, thence northwesterly twenty links & an half, to the  
front door of the dwellinghouse, thence through the middle of  
said door, and chimney to a point at the backside of said house,  
the course last mentioned to be parallel, to the east or west end of  
said house, thence north forty six degrees west to land of Joseph  
Morse. thence north forty degrees east one rod & twelve links,  
to a stake, thence south forty six degrees east, five rods, & one

## Co-tenant Division

*Case, ss.* A list of debts against the estate of ~~Capt~~ William Bagley, late of Ames  
in said county, gentleman, deceased, ~~in the~~ <sup>in the</sup> ~~estate~~  
~~being~~ ~~presented~~ exhibited to the Hon. Samuel Holten Esq. Judge of  
Probate, for ~~the~~ <sup>said</sup> county of ~~Essex~~, by Jacob Barron, Adm<sup>r</sup>. of said  
estate, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of ~~February~~ <sup>March</sup> 1813. — Viz.

Due To Capt. Marzilla Sumbar, for Note, & interest. say.	\$ 14. 00
— David Blough for Note, & interest.	106. 00.
— Capt. Valentine Bagley, for two Notes & interest.	139. 64.
— Nathan Song, for Note, & interest & for Acc <sup>t</sup> .	21. 62.
— <del>James</del> <del>Winn</del> <del>for</del> <del>two</del> <del>promissory</del> <del>notes</del> <del>&amp;</del> <del>for</del> <del>int.</del>	
— Royalcel Gale for his account.	313. 40.
On set 1. — 11. — 18	

## Debts owed against the Estate



## Distribution to Creditors

# Divisions/Distributions

# Distributions

- Dividing an estate among heirs
- Occurs after bills are paid, debts collected
- Heirs (children, widow, etc.) mentioned in distribution
- Genealogical importance:
  - List of children if vital records aren't available
  - Married names of daughters
  - Children of deceased heirs

*11* A Distribution of that Part of the Estate of Peter Sturgis late of Fairfield dec<sup>d</sup> which was distributed & sold off to the Widows of said dec<sup>d</sup> for her Dowry in the State of said dec<sup>d</sup> made by us the Surrogate under Oath according to Order of the Court of Probate this 28<sup>th</sup> Day of August A.D. 1777

Distributed & sold off to the Heirs and legal Representatives of Capt. Sarr Sturgis dec<sup>d</sup>

Two acres and eleven Procs of ground on the South Easterly Side of Droches lott so called to extend from front to rear & be of equal width at each End } £28. 19. 5. 3

Two acres of land on half of land at Request Swamp so called . . . . . 12. 10. 0. 0

Two acres one quarter & twenty four Procs of ground at the North end of Ward Island so called to begin at the North end thereof and run southerly to a bound lot about four Procs Southwesterly of a Point running out on the Easterly Side of said Island a little southerly of the mead leading on to the southerly Part of the Bears meadow and from hence a crop to a bound lot in a Brand in said Island on the Westerly Side of said Island about fifteen Procs southerly of the mead that leads on to said Island reserving Liberty for those that own the Remainder of said Island their Heirs and Assigns and those that own meadow adjoining said Island to pass & be pass for Wood & Hay } 30. 3. 5. 3

£71. 12. 11. 2

To the Heirs and legal Representatives of Hannah Jennings dec<sup>d</sup> late wife of Stephen Jennings

Four acres of Land in the Field at the mill plain so called . . . . £39. 19. 6. 2

one acre and eight Procs and an half of salt meadow a little Northwesterly of Ward Island to lye on that Part of the acre and an half Piece so called next adjoining to the Ogden's meadow and is to be divided from the Remainder of said Piece by a Line drawn Parallel with Ogden's Line } 8. 8. 5. 1

£48. 7. 11. 3

To Abigail Sherwood Wife of Jeremiah Sherwood

the whole of the 5<sup>th</sup> Division in Cables long lott so called . . . . £22. 14. 2

one acre and eleven Procs and an half of land at the Northwesterly End of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division in said lott } 1. 17. 10

Twenty five Procs and half a quarter of a Proc of salt meadow in the acre & half Piece to lye of equal width the whole length adjoining to that distributed to Hannah's Heirs } 1. 5. 2. 8

Abigail bought over . . . . . 25. 17. 2. 7

one acre and Twenty eight Procs & three quarters of a Proc of land on the Northwesterly Side of the Hornsted taking half the width of the front between ~~the~~ the Distance of six Feet from the Northwesterly Side of the dwelling house & the Land of David Bartow & to run to the Rear taking a Sufficient width at the Rear to make said Quantity adjoining to John Thorp his Heirs the Privileges in the former distribution mentioned The North Easterly half of the South Easterly half of the Barn } 17. 10. 11. 3

5. 0. 0.

£48. 8. 2. 0

To Grace Perry wife of Micah Perry

Ten acres and sixteen Procs of Land at the southerly End of Ward Island the whole thereof excepting what is herein before distributed to the Heirs and legal Representatives of Sarr Sturgis dec<sup>d</sup> } 27. 6. 6. 1

Twenty one Procs of salt meadow being a part of the acre and half Piece so called and is to lye on the Easterly part of said Piece and adjoin the whole length thereof Easterly to meadow of David Sturgis and adjoin Westerly to that distributed to Sarah } 1. 1. 2. 0

£48. 7. 8. 1

To Sarah Andersons Wife of Ebenezer Anderson

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Division in Cables long lott originally so called all excepting one acre and eleven Procs and an half at the Northwesterly End thereof which is distributed to Abigail } 21. 12. 0

one acre and Twenty eight Procs of Land in the Hornsted to take the whole width at the front between what is distributed to Abigail and the Distance of six Feet from the Northwesterly Side of the dwelling house and to run back to the Rear taking a Sufficient width at the Rear to make the Quantity aforesaid adjoining to John Thorp & his Heirs the Privileges in the former Distribution mentioned } 17. 10. 11. 1

the Southwesterly half of the South Easterly half of the Barn } 5. 0. 0. 0

Twenty five Procs and half a quarter of a Proc of salt meadow being part of the acre & half piece so called and lye between the meadow of Abigail & Grace and is the whole of said Piece that is not herein before distributed } 1. 5. 2. 7

£48. 8. 7. 2

## Peter Sturgis Distribution, Fairfield Probate Dist. File No. 6215

A Distribution of that Part of the <sup>real</sup> Estate of Peter Sturges late of Fairfield dec<sup>d</sup> which was distributed & sold off to the Widow of said dec<sup>d</sup> for her Dower in the State of said dec<sup>d</sup> made by us the Subscribers under Oath according to Order of the Court of Probate this 28<sup>th</sup> Day of August AD 1777

Distributed & sold off to the Heirs and legal Representatives of Capt John Sturges dec<sup>d</sup>.

Two acres and Seven Rods of Ground on the South Easterly Side of Ditches lot so called to extend from front to rear & be of } £28. 19. 3. 3

called . . . . . 12. 10. 0. 0

1 the Northernly End hereof and a quantity of a Point the Southernly of meadow and Island on the Southernly of the } £30. 3. 5. 3

for those that own the Remainder of said Island their Heirs and Assigns and those that own meadow adjoining said Island to past & receive for Wood & Hay } £71. 12. 11. 2

To the Heirs and legal Representatives of Hannah Jennings dec<sup>d</sup> late wife of Stephen Jennings

Four acres of Land in the Field at the Mill plain so called . . . . £39. 19. 6. 2

one acre and eight Rods and an half of salt meadow a little Northernly of Ward Island to lye on that Part of the acre and an half Piece so called next adjoining to the Ogdens meadow and is to be divided from the Remainder of said Piece by a Line drawn Parallel with Ogdens Line } . . . . 8. 8. 5. 1

£48. 7. 11. 3

To Abigail Sherwood wife of Jeremiah Sherwood . . . . £22. 14. 2

the whole of the 5<sup>th</sup> Division in Cables Long lot so called . . . . £22. 14. 2

one acre and Eleven Rods and an half of Land at the Northernly End of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division in said Lot } . . . . 1. 17. 10

£1

£1

Twenty Five Rods and half a quarter of a Rod of salt meadow in the acre & half Piece & lots of equal width the whole length adjoining to that distributed to Hannahs Heirs } . . . . 1. 5. 2. 8

A Distribution of that Part of the <sup>real</sup> Estate of Peter Sturges late of Fairfield dec<sup>d</sup> which was distributed & sold off to the Widow of said dec<sup>d</sup> for her Dower in the State of said dec<sup>d</sup> made by us the Subscribers under Oath according to Order of the Court of Probate this 28<sup>th</sup> Day of August AD 1777

Peter Sturgis Distribution, Fairfield Probate Dist. File No. 6215

Distributed & sold off to the Heirs and legal Representatives of  
 Capt Sam<sup>r</sup> Sturges dec<sup>d</sup>.

Two acres and Eleven Prods of Ground on the South Easterly Side  
 of Drakeslott so called to extend from front to rear & be of  
 equal width at each End } -- £28. 19. 5. 3

Two acres of Land an half of Land at Pequot Swamp so called . . . . . 12. 10. 0. 0

Five acres one quarter & twenty four Prods of Ground at the Northerly End  
 of Ward's Island so called to begin at the Northerly End thereof and run  
 Southerly to a bound set about four Prods Southwesterly of a Point  
 running out on the Easterly Side of said Island a little Southerly of  
 the Road leading on to the Southerly Part of the Beech's meadow and  
 from thence across to a bound set in a Bend in said Island on the  
 Westerly Side of said Island about fifteen Prods Southerly of the  
 Road that leads on to said Island reserving Liberty for those that  
 own the Remainers of said Island their Heirs and Assigns and  
 those that own meadow adjoining said Island to pass & repass for  
 Wood & Hay

£71. 12. 11. 2

A Distribution of that Part of the Estate of Peter Sturges late of Fairfield dec<sup>d</sup>  
 which was distributed & sold off to the Widows of said dec<sup>d</sup> for his Dower in the  
 2<sup>d</sup> Part and the 3<sup>d</sup> Part of the same under Oath according to Order  
 of August A.D. 1777

Legal Representatives of . . . . .

South Easterly Side } -- £28. 19. 5. 3  
 Front to rear & be of }

Swamp so called . . . . . 12. 10. 0. 0

of Ground at the Northerly End  
 thereof and run  
 Southwesterly of a Point  
 Island a little Southerly of  
 of the Beech's meadow and  
 and in said Island on the  
 four Prods Southerly of the  
 long Liberty for those that  
 Heirs and Assigns and  
 Land to pass & repass for

£30. 3. 5. 3

£71. 12. 11. 2

of Hannah Jennings dec<sup>d</sup> late wife  
 mill plain so called . . . . . £39. 19. 6. 2

of Salt meadow a little  
 Part of the acre and an half  
 into meadow and is to be . . . . . 8. 8. 5. 1

divided from the Remainers of said piece by a Line drawn  
 Parallel with Ogden's Line

£48. 7. 11. 3

To Abigail Sherwood wife of Jeremiah Sherwood . . . . . £22. 14. 2

the whole of the 5<sup>th</sup> Division in Cables Long lot so called . . . . .

one acre and Eleven Prods and an half of Land at the Northerly  
 End of the 3<sup>d</sup> Division in said Lot . . . . . 1. 17. 10

Twenty five Prods and half a quarter of a Prod of Salt meadow  
 in the Acre & half Piece & lot of equal width the whole length  
 adjoining to that distributed to Hannah's Heirs . . . . . 1. 5. 2. 8

Peter Sturgis Distribution, Fairfield  
 Probate Dist. File No. 6215

*A Distribution of that Part of the Estate of Peter Sturgis late of Fairfield dec<sup>d</sup> which was distributed & sold off to the Widows of said dec<sup>d</sup> for his Dower in the State of said dec<sup>d</sup> made by us the Subscribers under Oath according to order of the Court of Probate this 28<sup>th</sup> Day of August A.D. 1777*

*Distributed & sold off to the Heirs and legal Representatives of Capt Sam<sup>l</sup> Sturgis dec<sup>d</sup>.*

*Two acres and Eleven Rods of Ground on the ... side ... } ... £28. 19. 5. 3*

*... called ... } ... 12. 10. 0. 0*

*at the Northernly End thereof and on the Northernly side of a Point little Southernly of ... } ... 30. 3. 5. 3*

*... } ... 8. 8. 5. 1*

*... } ... £71. 12. 11. 2*

*To the Heirs and legal Representatives of Hannah Jennings dec<sup>d</sup> late wife of Stephen Jennings*

*Four acres of Land in the Field at the mill plain so called ... £39. 19. 6. 2*

*one acre and eight Rods and an half of salt meadow a little Northernly of Ward's Island to lye on that Part of the acre and an half Piece so called next adjoining to the Ogden's meadow and is to be divided from the Remainder of said Piece by a Line drawn Parallel with Ogden's Line ... 8. 8. 5. 1*

*£48. 7. 11. 3*

*To Abigail Sherwood wife of Jeremiah Sherwood ... £22. 14. 2*

*the whole of the 5<sup>th</sup> Division in Cables Long lot so called ... 1. 17. 10*

*one acre and Eleven Rods and an half of Land at the Northernly End of the 3<sup>d</sup> Division in said Lot ... } ... 1. 5. 2. 8*

*Twenty five Rods and half a quarter of a Rod of salt meadow in the acre & half Piece & lots of equal width to the whole length adjoining to that distributed to Hannah's Heirs ... }*

To the Heirs and legal Representatives of Hannah Jennings dec<sup>d</sup> late wife of Stephen Jennings

Four acres of Land in the Field at the mill plain so called . . . . £39. 19. 6. 2

one acre and eight Rods and an half of salt meadow a little Northernly of Ward's Island to lye on that Part of the acre and an half Piece so called next adjoining to the Ogden's meadow and is to be divided from the Remainder of said Piece by a Line drawn Parallel with Ogden's Line . . . . 8. 8. 5. 1

£48. 7. 11. 3

Peter Sturgis Distribution, Fairfield Probate Dist. File No. 6215

A Distribution of that Part of the Estate of Peter Sturgis late of Fairfield and which was distributed & sold off to the Widows of said dec<sup>d</sup> for his Dower in the State of said dec<sup>d</sup> made by us the Subscribers under Oath according to order of the Court of Probate this 28<sup>th</sup> Day of August A.D. 1777

Distributed & sold off to the Heirs and legal Representatives of

To Abigail Sherwood Wife of Jeremiah Sherwood	-----	
the whole of the 5 <sup>th</sup> Division in Cables Long lot so called	-----	£22. 14 2
one Acre and Eleven Rods and an half of Land at the Northerly	} -----	1. 17. 10
End of the 3 <sup>d</sup> Division in said Lot		
Twenty Five Rods and half a quarter of a Rod of Salt meadow	} -----	1. 5. 2. 8
in the Acre & half Piece & lotie of equal width the whole length adjoining to that distributed to Hannahs Heirs		
		£71. 12. 11. 2

To the Heirs and legal Representatives of Hannah Jenning, dec<sup>d</sup> late wife of Stephen Jenning

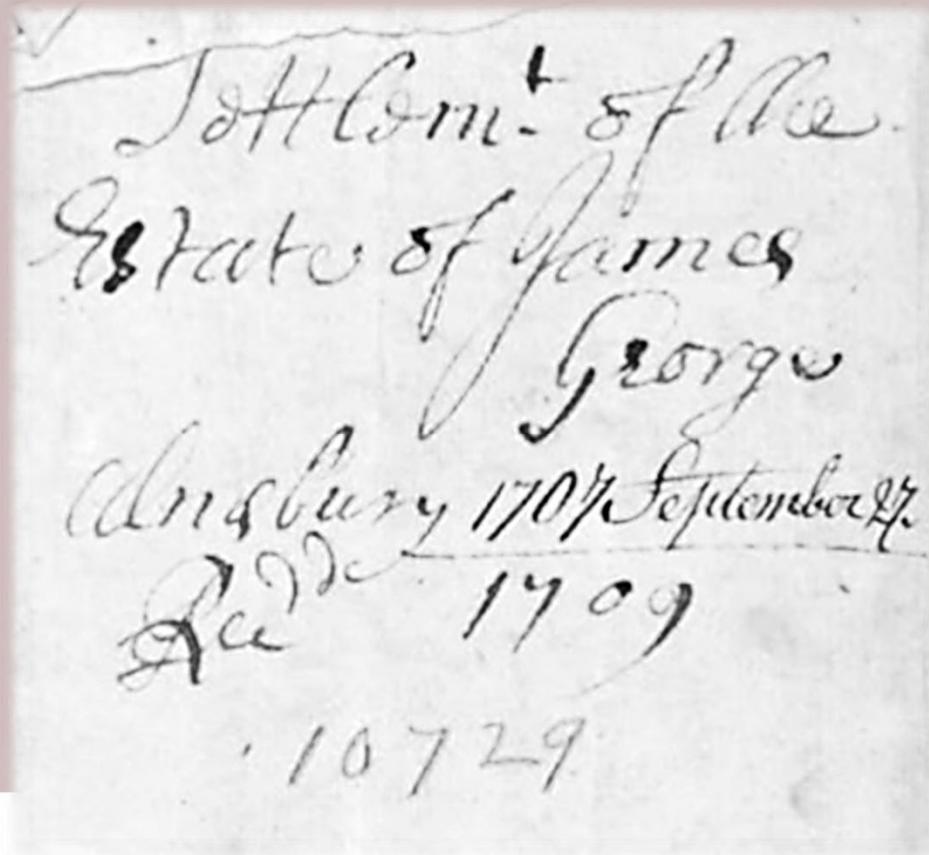
Four Acres of Land in the Field at the Mill plain so called	-----	£39. 19. 6. 2
one Acre and Eight Rods and an half of Salt meadow a little	} -----	8. 8. 5. 1
Northerly of Ward Island to lye on that Part of the Acre and an half Piece so called next adjoining to the Ogden's meadow and is to be divided from the Remainder of said Piece by a Line drawn Parallel with Ogden's Line		
		£48. 7. 11. 3

To Abigail Sherwood Wife of Jeremiah Sherwood	-----	
the whole of the 5 <sup>th</sup> Division in Cables Long lot so called	-----	£22. 14 2
one Acre and Eleven Rods and an half of Land at the Northerly	} -----	1. 17. 10
End of the 3 <sup>d</sup> Division in said Lot		
Twenty Five Rods and half a quarter of a Rod of Salt meadow	} -----	1. 5. 2. 8
in the Acre & half Piece & lotie of equal width the whole length adjoining to that distributed to Hannahs Heirs		

Peter Sturgis Distribution, Fairfield Probate Dist. File No. 6215

# Agreement

- James George, 1709



Proceeds of son & c by agreement to last. 200 have  
agreed to divide & final estate. so out. Left us as  
as followeth: viz. that James George & eldest brother  
shall have a lot in Almsbury belonging to our fathers  
estate. Call'd of Childrens Land.  
2<sup>d</sup>ly to Samuel George: we agreed him a lot in a Division of  
Land in Almsbury Call'd of the Grove at 100<sup>s</sup>.  
3<sup>d</sup>ly to Francis George: we agreed & he shall have our  
fathers share - & also all appurtenances belonging  
thereto: as also a piece of Land Adjacent unto  
Robart Quimby on the north: & southwardly bounded the same  
formerly belonging unto Thomas Haines.  
4<sup>th</sup>ly Sarah George she have eight pounds out of our fathers  
movables: agreed by us to be paid & delivered by Francis  
George her son.  
These are the words for humbly to request your Honours

Agreement for a division of estate

TO the Honourable *Daniel A. White* Esquire,

Judge of Probate for the County of Essex.

HUMBLY shews *Moses Billey* of *Essex* in the  
~~County~~ *County of Rockingham* and *State of New Hampshire*, woman,  
That *cutting billey*  
last an inhabitant of *Salem* in said County, of *Essex*, *mariner*,  
lately, viz. *within five years* died intestate,  
leaving goods and estate, of which administration is necessary. That your petitioner  
is *the father of* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ said deceased, and  
has a legal right to take such administration, and is ready to give bond with sufficient  
sureties for the faithful discharge thereof. Wherefore *he* prays, that your  
honour would appoint *him* administrator as aforesaid, agreeably to law in  
such cases made and provided.

Dated at *Amurich*  
A. D. 18 *19*

this *second* day of *November*

*Moses Billey*

*Samuel Newman  
John Brigham  
Samuel Tenney  
all of New*

Intestate Probate



# QUESTIONS?

# Guardianships

# Guardianships

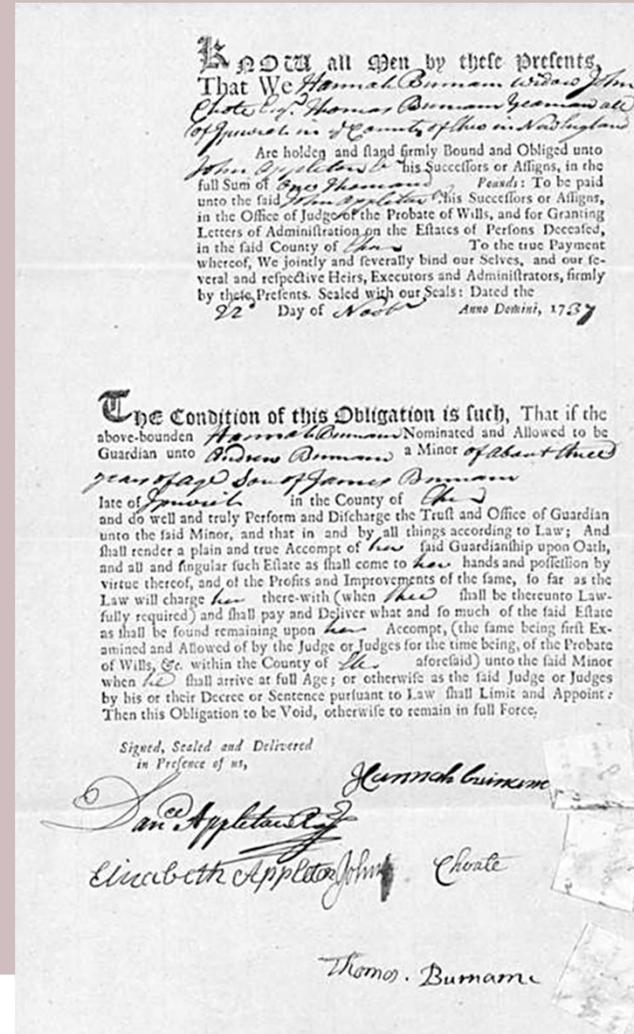
- Appointed for minor children
  - Males: under 21
  - Females: under 18
- Guardians protected the inheritance of minor heirs to an estate
  - Can provide financial support
- After minor becomes of age, the guardian is released
  - Guardian would then make an account of compensation
- Guardians also appointed for adults judged incompetent

# Who appoints the guardian?

- If a minor is under fourteen, the guardian is appointed by the court
- If a minor is over fourteen, they may choose their own guardian

# Guardianship

- Andrew Burnham, 1737



 KNOW all Men by these presents,  
That We *Annal Burnam* widow of  
*Chas. Burnam* deceased  
of *County of the City of London*  
Are holden and stand firmly Bound and Obliged unto  
*John Byles* his Successors or Assigns, in the  
full Sum of *£100* Pounds: To be paid  
unto the said *John Byles* his Successors or Assigns,  
in the Office of Judge of the Probate of Wills, and for Granting  
Letters of Administration on the Estates of Persons Deceased,  
in the said County of *the City of London* To the true Payment  
whereof, We jointly and severally bind our Selves, and our se-  
veral and respective Heirs, Executors and Administrators, firmly  
by these presents. Sealed with our Seals: Dated the  
*22* Day of *March* Anno Domini, *1737*

## Guardianship – Andrew Burnham, 1737

The Condition of this Obligation is such, That if the  
above-bounden *James Burnham* Nominated and Allowed to be  
Guardian unto *Andrew Burnham* a Minor of about three  
*years of age* Son of *James Burnham*  
late of *Spencer* in the County of *Ches*  
and do well and truly Perform and Discharge the Trust and Office of Guardian  
unto the said Minor, and that in and by all things according to Law; And  
shall render a plain and true Accompt of *his* said Guardianship upon Oath,  
and all and singular such Estate as shall come to *his* hands and possession by  
virtue thereof, and of the Profits and Improvements of the same, so far as the  
Law will charge *him* there-with (when *he* shall be thereunto Law-  
fully required) and shall pay and Deliver what and so much of the said Estate  
as shall be found remaining upon *his* Accompt, (the same being first Ex-  
amined and Allowed of by the Judge or Judges for the time being, of the Probate  
of Wills, &c. within the County of *the* aforesaid) unto the said Minor  
when *he* shall arrive at full Age; or otherwise as the said Judge or Judges  
by his or their Decree or Sentence pursuant to Law shall Limit and Appoint:  
Then this Obligation to be Void, otherwise to remain in full Force.

## Guardianship – Andrew Burnham, 1737

# Spendthrift Guardianship

- Samuel Bassett, 1840

in and for said county on the ~~first~~ Tuesday in ~~January~~, A.D. 1840.  
On the complaint of the selectmen of the town of ~~Marblehead~~ Marblehead  
in said county, shewing, that, in their judgement, John Bassett,  
of ~~Marblehead~~ aforesaid, fisherman, does by  
excessive drinking and idleness, so  
spend, waste and lessen his estate, as thereby to expose himself ~~and his family~~ to  
want and suffering circumstances; and does also thereby endanger and expose the said  
town to a charge or expense for his ~~and their~~ maintenance and support; and praying  
that some person or persons may be appointed guardian or guardians of the said John  
Bassett — agreeably to the laws of the commonwealth, in such  
cases made and provided:—~~The time and place abovementioned having been assigned~~  
~~for considering the same~~; and it being made  
to appear, that notice has been given to said John Bassett  
~~according to order~~; and the said John Bassett having signified  
~~appearing~~, in writing his consent to be put under <sup>guardianship,</sup> as therein mentioned,  
due examination is had

To the Honorable *Daniel A. White* Esquire, Judge  
of Probate for the County of Essex.

Humbly shews *Samuel P. Bassett*,  
*petitioner* of *Marblehead* in said county

that there is occasion for a guardian to be appointed for  
of *Marblehead* in said county, *John Bassett*, a person given  
to excessive drinking and idleness; that your petitioner has a legal right to take  
such guardianship, and is ready to give bond with sufficient sureties for the faithful  
discharge thereof.

Wherefore he prays, that guardianship of said *John Bassett*  
may be granted to *him* agreeably to law in such  
cases made and provided.

Dated at *Salem* this *seventh*  
of *January*, A.D. 18*40*. *Samuel P. Bassett* by *W. Faber*  
Essex, ss. At a Court of Probate holden at *Salem* in  
and for said county, on the *first* Tuesday in *January*, A.D. 18*40*.

The foregoing petition being duly considered,—It is thereupon decreed by the court here,  
that guardianship, as therein prayed for, be granted to said *Samuel P. Bassett*,  
he giving bond according to law for his faithful discharge of that  
trust.

*D. A. White* Judge of Probate.

Spendthrift

To the Hon Daniel A. White, <sup>requires</sup> Judge of Probate for  
 the County of Essex,  
 The ~~Complainthe~~ Selectmen of the Town of Marblehead,  
 in said county, ~~complain to you~~ <sup>in their judgments</sup> that John Bassett,  
 of said Marblehead, <sup>as formerly</sup> a fisherman, does by excessive drinking  
 and idleness, <sup>so spend, waste, & lessen his estate, as thereby to expose him-</sup>  
 self to want & <sup>circumstances;</sup> sufferings, and does also thereby endanger  
 and expose the said town of Marblehead to a charge  
 or expense for his maintenance & support. They therefore  
 pray that you would appoint some person or persons  
 as guardian or guardians of the said Bassett, agreeably  
 to the laws <sup>of the Commonwealth</sup> in such cases made and provided  
 Dated at Marblehead  
 this 6th day of Jan<sup>r</sup> 1840

James G. Jeffrey  
 Richd. J. J. J.  
 James Goodwyn } Selectmen  
 H. Hubbard }

# Selectmen request a Guardian



# Lunatic Guardianship

- John Burnham, 1755

Spec. 6. To the Select Men of Ipswich in the County of Essex  
Essex

Whereas it is Represented by the Relations of John Burnham  
of Ipswich son of Thomas Burnham yeoman that he is  
Lunatic or Distracted & therefore unable of taking  
Care either of his Person or Estate.

You are therefore hereby Required to  
make Inquisition into his State of Circumstances  
and Represent under your hands how you find him  
and Judge him to be that if need be a Guardian  
may be appointed him as the Law Direct.

Given under my Hand at Ipswich this  
24 of Nov<sup>r</sup> An: Dom: 1755.

Thos: Perry Ind: Prob

Spec. N. To the Select Men of Ipswich in the County of Essex  
Essex

Whereas it is Represented by the Relations of John Purson  
of Ipswich son of Thomas Purson yeoman that he is  
Lunatic or Distracted by the Incurable Offending  
Care either of Person or Estate.

You are therefore hereby Required to  
make Inquisition into his State of Circumstances  
and Represent under your hands how you find him  
and Judge him to be that if need be a Guardian  
may be appointed him as the Law directs.

Given under my Hand at Ipswich this  
24 of Nov<sup>r</sup> An: Dom: 1755.

Thos: Perry Jud: Prob

Lunatic – Non Compos Mentis

Great Nathaniel Low Guardian to John Burrum of  
 Ipswich a person now deceased (since died) this Act of  
 Guardianship of id Burrum exhibited to the Hon<sup>ble</sup>  
 John Choate Esq. Judge of Probate of Wilt, &c  
 January 4<sup>th</sup> 1759

The id Estate in Good  
 By Receipt Estate as of Inventory £. 20  
 By personal d<sup>o</sup> of iditto — 1088. 5. 1  
 By Improv<sup>mt</sup>: of p<sup>t</sup>: of id<sup>o</sup>: Wood Estate 27. 25. 12  
 By sundry debts rec<sup>d</sup> — vid<sup>e</sup>  
 " T<sup>h</sup>: W<sup>o</sup>: W<sup>o</sup>: — 15. 10  
 " T<sup>h</sup>: Burrum (Paper) — 4. 7  
 " John's Life — — — — —  
 " Isaac Burrum — — — — — 12. 2  
 " T<sup>h</sup>: W<sup>o</sup>: W<sup>o</sup>: — — — — — 0. 0. 0. 2. 12. 7. 716. 9. 8  
 By George's personal of id<sup>o</sup>: — — — — — 0. 0. 0.

The id Estate in Good  
 paid by Ward Allowed  
 To Nathaniel Burrum — £ 3. 11. 1  
 To Daniel Choate Esq — 9. 7. 6 1/2  
 To John Choate — — — — — 6. 10  
 To Hugh Floyd — — — — — 9. 2 1/2  
 To Nathaniel Low — — — — — 18. 2  
 To Nathaniel Frederick — — — — — 6. 2 1/2

# Report of the Guardian

An Inventory of the Estate of John Burnham of  
 Ipswich rendered November taken by us the Subscribers being  
 Appointed and Sworn by the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Tho<sup>s</sup> Berry Judge of the  
 Probate of wills in the County of Essex as by his Commission beare  
 with Exhibited may appear is as followeth viz

one Pair of Oxen £6:13:4	one pair of steers 82/8	10 16	
one old Black Cow 31/8	one young Black Cow 40/	3 14 18	
one two year old Stear 18/	one Bay mare 80/	4 18	
one Grey mare 80/	one Iron Grey horse Colt 60/	7	
two Lime Sheats 26/8	two Sheep 8/	1 14 8	
and Iron horse tacking 1/	two yokes 3/2	7 12	
a Cart 2/8	two Load of English Hay 53/4	2 16	
five Load of fresh Hay 11/	five Load of Satt Hay 80/	6	
60 Pound of flax 30/	a pitch fork 1/4	two Rakes 2/	1 13 4
A Cart Hoop 1/	a Riding Chair 11/	2 4	
one oval table 5/4	a square white table 6/8	1 2 4	
two small oval tables with pine Leany 5/4		4 5 4	
two blue Chains 16/	one pair of Bellows 2/	4 8	
a great Iron of a trawle 5/4	five flie & Tongue 2/2	4 10 4	
a pair of Andirons 12/	flatt fork 3	4 2 3	
3 Iron Candlesticks with Brass Nubs 3/2		4 3 12	
2 Plain Iron Candlesticks 1/	two Brass Ditto 11/	4 5 3 19 7	
a Box Iron-heats and great 6/8	frying pan 3/4	4 9 7	
Iron Spit 1/	a small Looking Glass 3/6	4 7 16	
two Brushes one Shilling	a large Iron pick & hooks 6/	7 10	
smaller Ditto with hooks 1/	small Ditto with hooks 2/8	4 6 18	
a Dish Kettle 1/	small Ditto 2/8	a Chafin Dish 6/8	4 13 14
Iron Skillet 6	old Brass Kettle 10/8	small Ditto 16/	1 7 6 8

# Inventory of John Burnham

# Lunatic Commitment

- Elizabeth Dennis, 1836

Essex, ct. May 24, 1836. The foregoing representation being duly considered, and it being made to appear that the facts therein set forth are true; It is thereupon considered and decreed that Elizabeth E. Dennis, of Salem in said county, wife of Devereux Dennis, a lunatic, is so furiously mad, as to render it manifestly dangerous to the peace and safety of the community that she should continue at large, and that she be committed to the state lunatic hospital agreeably to law, and that the sheriff of said county or his deputy or any constable of Salem or said Devereux Dennis be directed to carry into effect this order; warrant issuing accordingly in due form.

*Dr. H. W. Pitt* judge of probate.

Essex, ss. May 24, 1836. The foregoing representation being duly considered, and it being made to appear that the facts therein set forth are true; It is thereupon considered and decreed that Elizabeth E. Dennis, of Salem in said county, wife of Devereux Dennis, a lunatic, is so furiously mad, as to render it manifestly dangerous to the peace and safety of the community that she should continue at large, and that she be committed to the state lunatic hospital agreeably to law, and that the sheriff of said county or his deputy or any constable of Salem or said Devereux Dennis be directed to carry into effect this order; warrant issuing accordingly in due form.

*Dr. W. M. White* judge of probate.

## Lunatic – Commitment Judgement

To the Hon Daniel A White  
Judge of Probate for Essex County

I hereby certify that  
in my opinion it is unsafe to allow Elizabeth  
Dennis to go at large, she being at this time  
furiously mad - you are therefore requested  
to cause her admission to the Lunatic Hos-  
-pital in Worcester -

Salem May 23 1836 - Swett Sutton & Co.  
Mayor of Salem.

Salem May 24 1836. Here certify that I  
concur in the opinion above expressed  
& am of opinion moreover that Elizabeth  
Dennis ought to <sup>be</sup> removed immediately

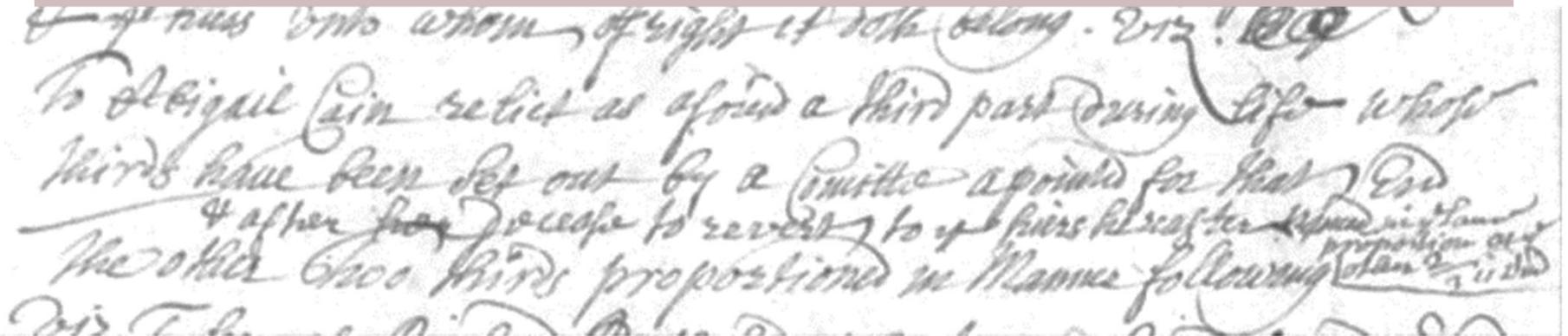
A. S. Peirson  
Physician

## Affidavits to support claim

# Miscellaneous Probate Papers

# Dower Record

- Portion of an estate given to a widow by law from her deceased husband's estate; usually 1/3



of the same unto whom of right it doth belong. Viz! *[illegible]*  
To Abigail Cain widow as aforesaid a third part during life whose  
thirds have been set out by a committee appointed for that purpose  
& after her decease to revert to her heirs hereafter *[illegible]*  
The other two thirds proportioned in manner following *[illegible]*  
Viz! *[illegible]*

Estate whereof Joshua Adams late of said Kingston, mariner deceased died seized, and you are to assign and sett off to Mary Cook (formerly the widow of the said Joshua deceased, & now the wife of Sylvanus Cook of s<sup>d</sup> Kingston) her thirds or right of dower in said Estate, and you are to assign & sett off the same by notes & bonds, quantity & quality considered, so that she may hold and improve the same in severally during her life - and you are to make

under your hand & upon in under my hand & seal of Day of July in the year of our Order of the Judge of Prob<sup>ts</sup> Thos<sup>es</sup> Lothrop Regr

To the Honble Joseph Cushing esq<sup>r</sup> Judge of Probate &c for the County of Plymouth - In pursuance of your Hon<sup>rs</sup> warrant dated July 7<sup>th</sup> 1788. empowering and directing the subscribers to take a view of the Real Estate whereof Joshua Adams late of Kingston mariner deceased died seized, and to assign and sett off to Mary Cook formerly the widow of said deceased, her thirds or right of dower in said Estate &c - we have accordingly attended said Service and sett off the same as follows - (viz) - we have assigned and sett

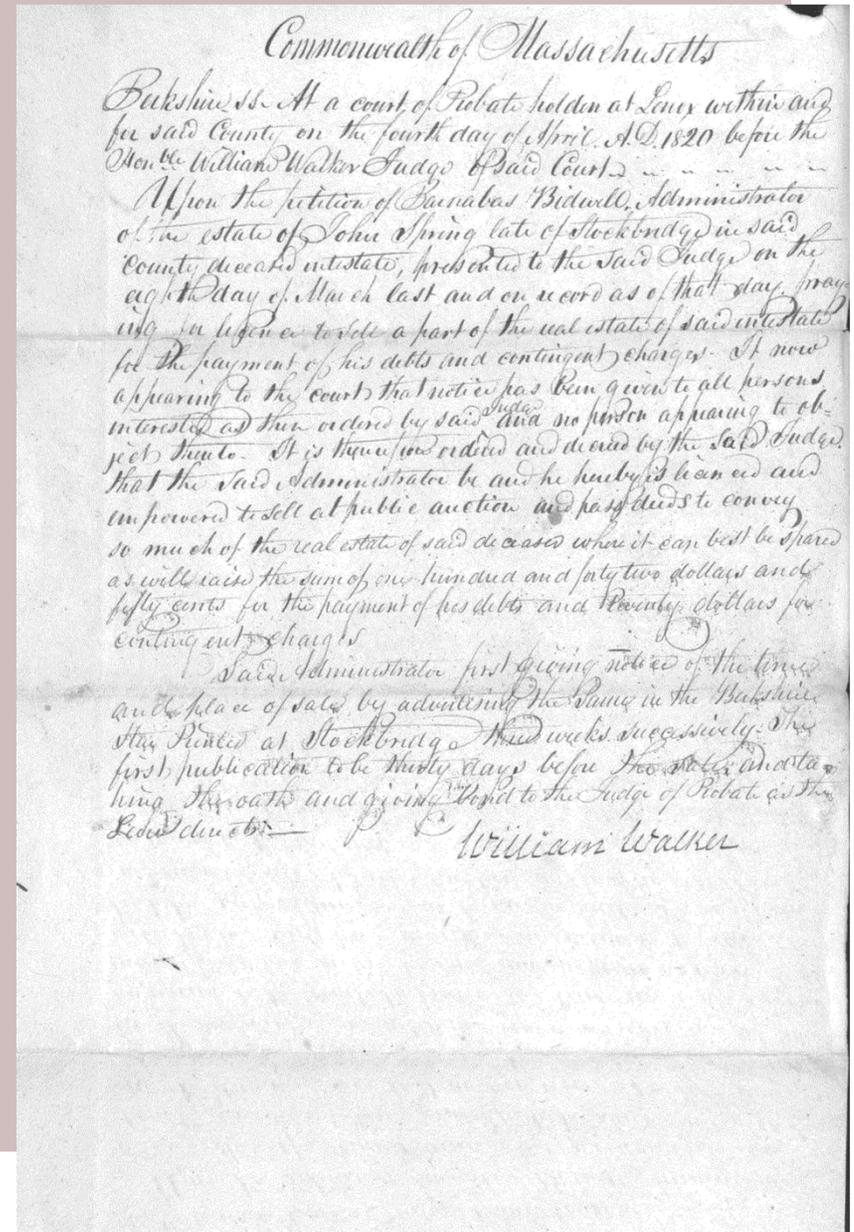
estate &c for the County of Prob<sup>ts</sup> dated July 7<sup>th</sup> 1788. im- a view of the Real Estate er deceased died seized, and widow of said deceased, her re accordingly attended said we have assigned and sett

off to said Mary Cook the easterly part of the dwelling House and the land on which it stands, bounded, beginning at a stake and stones near the north east corner of said House thence ranging westerly by the back side of said House and parallel thereto at the distance of six feet therefrom till it comes opposite to the center of the old stack of Chimnies, thence southerly through the center of said Chimney through said House to the middle of the front door and till it comes to a piece of Land called the four Rod Square thence by said Land easterly to the high way, thence by the high way northerly to the bound first mentioned to include all the room above and below within said limits, also the whole of the little back room which is intersected by the aforesaid line passing thro<sup>o</sup> said House - we have also assigned to said Mary Cook a piece of Land near the dwelling House containing about two thirds of an acre (more or less) bounded, beginning at the north westerly corner of the piece of Land called the four Rod Square, thence north sixty two degrees west till it comes to an acre of meadow belonging to Geshorn Cobb and wife, thence by said meadow south westerly till it comes to the southerly corner thereof, thence continuing the same course till it comes to Cobbs other Land, thence easterly by said Land till it comes to the south westerly corner of the aforesaid piece of Land called the four Rod Square, thence by said Land northerly to the bound first mentioned, with the one third part of the Barn thereon standing - also about seven acres more or less, being partly wood Land and partly cleared Land lying at the westerly corner of the farm, bounded, beginning at said westerly corner, thence by the range of Cobbs Land south fifty eight degrees east sixty three Rods to a stake and stones, thence north twenty four degrees west

Plymouth Co. Probate Records, Vol. 30, p. 401

# Bill of Sale

- Property may have to be sold in order to pay debts
- Sold at public auction
- Approved by the probate court



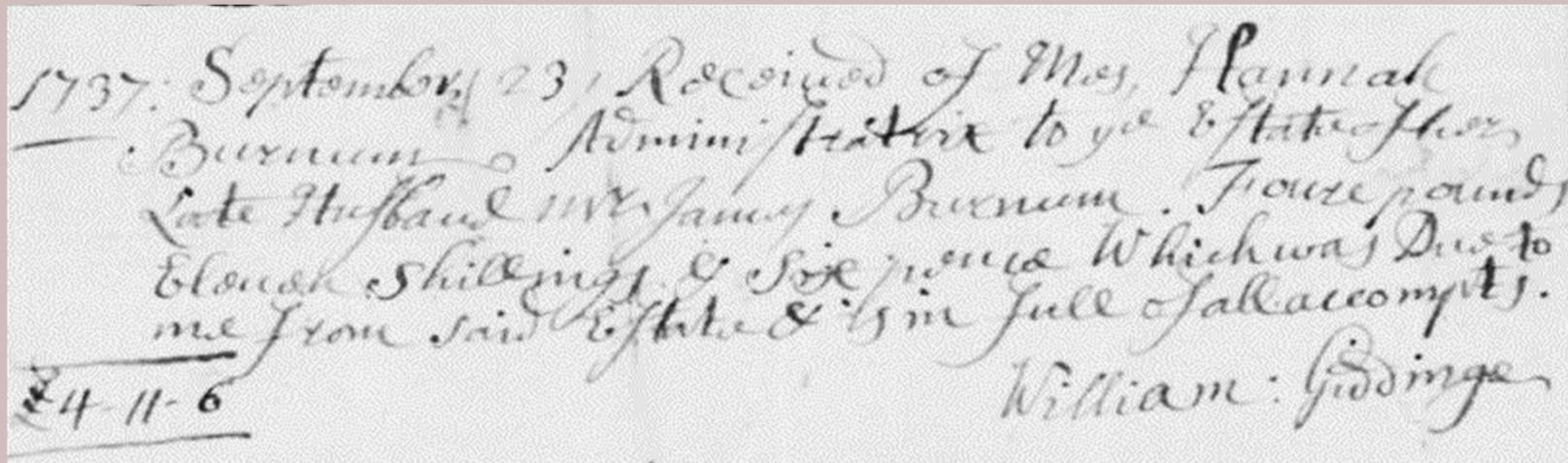
To the Honourable Daniel A. White Esquire Judge of Probate  
for the County of Essex -

Stephen L. Greely of Gilmanton in the County of Strafford and  
State of New Hampshire Gentleman, respectfully represents - That  
he is Guardian of his children Ann Maria Greely and Stephen  
Sewall N. Greely minors under the age of twenty one years, that  
the said minors are seized in fee simple in common with  
Thomas Burns and his wife Jane Burns in her right, and the  
heirs at Law of Mark Coffin late of said Newburyport decedent  
of one undivided fourth part of the following piece of land  
with the buildings thereon, situated in Newburyport aforesaid  
to wit - one piece of land with a Dwelling house and out  
houses thereon containing about sixty rods and bounded  
by the street -

Sale

# Receipts

- Record of the administrator collecting or paying debts
- Record that the estate has been distributed



1737: September 23, Received of Mrs. Hannah  
Burnum Administratrix to ye Estate of her  
late Husband Mr. James Burnum. Four pounds  
Eleven Shillings & Six pence Which was Due to  
me from said Estate & is in full of all account.  
£4-11-6  
William: Giddings



# Tip

Look at all receipts in a Probate case. The married surname of a daughter may be revealed.

# Next up . . .

- Locating probate records
- Understanding and leveraging probate records in your family history research

# QUESTIONS?

**Hire Research Services**

*research@nehgs.org*

**Chat with a Genealogist**

*AmericanAncestors.org/chat*

The screenshot shows the AmericanAncestors.org website. The header includes the logo 'AmericanAncestors by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY' and the tagline 'A National Center for Family History, Heritage & Culture'. Navigation links include 'Search', 'Events', 'Join', 'Give', '10 Million Names', 'Publications', 'Expert Help', 'Tools', 'Signature Projects', and 'Centers & Initiatives'. A 'MY ACCOUNT' button is visible in the top right. The main content area features the title 'Using Probate Records in Family History Research 2024' and a welcome message: 'Thank you for registering for the online course, *Using Probate Records in Your Family History Research!*'. Below this, a paragraph explains the importance of probate records and the course's focus. A final paragraph lists course features: 'This course includes three 90-minute classes; exclusive access to handouts and recordings of each presentation; and in-depth q&a sessions with the instructor.'

[AmericanAncestors.org/using-probate-records-family-history-research-2024](https://AmericanAncestors.org/using-probate-records-family-history-research-2024)



# THANK YOU!

[AmericanAncestors.org/education](https://AmericanAncestors.org/education)



NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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AmericanAncestors.org

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