

I, William Stoughton of Dorchester in the County of Suffolk within his Majesty's Province of Massachusetts Bay in New England. [indistinct word] being many ways minded (?) of the frailty of this life and by the growing decay and infirmities of my old age made sensible of the near approach of death, and being at present (through God's goodness) of sound disposing mind, most humbly begging and believing the pardon of all my great and many Sins both of heart and life and grounding my hope for the same and of the enjoyment of everlasting life, upon the alone merits and righteousness of the eternal Son of God made man, my most dear and blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the great Mediator and Surety of the new Covenant, do now make and declare this my Last Will and Testament revoking all others whatsoever heretofore by me made.

My body I commit to the earth by a decent Funeral, wherein my Will is that all unprofitable Ceremonies and Expenses be avoided. Strictly prohibiting and forbidding any Military appearances therein as altogether contrary to my mind and inclination.

As to the worldly estate which God hath bestowed on me (for which I most humbly thank a bountiful Lord and Maker) I do order and dispose of the same as followeth.

In the first place, I will all my just debts to be duly and speedily paid, and then by way of particular Legacy and Testimony of my affection and respect to the persons here after named. I do give and bequeath as follows.

That is to say, to the Reverend M. Samuel Torrey five pounds.

To Mrs. Esther Flint, forty shillings and to each of her children five pounds.

To Mr. Nathaniel Clap of Rhode Island five pounds.

To my Kinswoman Mary Maxfield, Widow, five pounds.

To the Church of Dorchester, I give two pieces of Plate for the Communion of six pounds value each; as also the sum of Fifty pounds to be settled (?) and kept under improvement by the care and diligence of the Deacons from time to time under the oversight of the Teaching and Ruling Officers of that Church, the yearly Income to be for any such service of the Church as shall be judged most needful.

Towards the relief of the poor of Dorchester, I give the like sum of Fifty pounds to be improved by the care of the Selectmen and annual income to be distributed to the most needy Inhabitants.

Unto the School of Dorchester I give the sum of one hundred fifty pounds to be alike secured and settled under improvement for a yearly advancement of the Salary of the School Master, wherein my will is that if within the space of ten years next following the date of this my last Will, the Town of Dorchester shall not have provided and settled such a salary of their own proper gift as shall make up the present salary already settled to be and continued to the full value of forty pounds a year. In that case, I say my Will is that until they shall have provided and

settled a salary to that value of forty pounds a year, the whole income and improvement of this my gift shall yearly be paid in to the Steward of Harvard College in Cambridge and at the discretion of the President and Fellows thereof be given towards the encouragement of some well deserving student there coming from or belonging to the Town of Milton if any such there be; otherwise to some other that may well deserve it.

Unto the Church of Milton I give one piece of Plate for the Communion of six pounds value;

and to the Town of Milton I give out of my great wood Lot there Forty acres, to be conveniently and equally laid out to them. The whole improvement thereof to be for the benefit of the poor of that Town as the Selectmen thereof shall judge best.

Unto the Widow and Children of my late dearest Friend and faithful servant of Christ Mr. John Collins of London, deceased, I give the sum of one hundred pounds, the Debt due to me for what I lent and laid out for the maintenance of old Mrs. Collins of Charlestown during her life being at this time thirty seven pounds (for the payment whereof the house and grounds that she lived in stands made over and secured to me by her Deed of Trust/being to be reckoned as part thereof).

Of which hundred pounds I give twenty pounds to Mrs. Margaret Collins, his [indistinct word], and the remainder to his three sons, namely Mr. Edward Collins, Mr. Francis Collins, and Mr. Thomas Collins, the last of whom (being a scholar) to have double to either of the other. And in case of the death of the said Mrs. Collins or of the said Edward or Francis Collins before payment made to them, the part of the deceased to go to the said Thomas Collins or his Children but if he also shall be deceased before payment made as aforesaid, his part shall go to his children if he leave any, otherwise the same shall be distributed to his brothers or their Children that shall be surviving.

Unto Theophilus Minot I give the Sum of three hundred pounds.

Unto Mr. John Danforth I give fifty pounds, my Negroman Dick, my little silver drinking can and one of my silver headed canes which he shall choose and my silver Standish.

Unto his wife Mrs. Elizabeth Danforth my niece and to her heirs for ever give my little Orchard on the hill by Nathan Bradley.

Unto my niece Mrs. Sara Tailer I give as a particular remembrance of me, twelve pounds to buy a piece of plate.

Unto each of the children of my nephew Tailer and of my nieces Nelson, Danforth and Cooper that shall be alive at my death I give the sum of ten pounds.

To my niece Elizabeth Danforth, I further give my down bed with its furniture and the furniture of the Chamber where it stands, also all my Pewter and Brass and Linen and the one halfe of all my other household stuff.

The other halfe thereof I give to my Nephew William Tailer aforesaid. To whom I do

also give and bequeath the sum of one hundred pounds.

I confirm unto the said Mr. John Danforth and his children by my niece all that Upland and Salt Meadow which I formerly gave him and is in his possession already.

Unto Sarah Maxfield I give forty shillings and if she be in my service when I die, I will that it be made up five pounds beside all wages due.

Unto John Maxfield I give forty shillings.

Unto Mrs. Joanna Atkins, my present housekeeper, I give forty shillings.

Unto my loving and respected Kinswomen Mrs. Warren, Mrs. Hutchinson, and Mrs. Woolcot, I give forty shillings apiece to buy each of them a ring.

Unto each of the children of my kinswomen Mary Smith deceased and Mary Maxfield I give twenty schillings to buy some good practical book in remembrance of me.

Unto my very good friend Doctor Bailey and his wife I give five pounds apiece.

My Library I give to such of Mr. Danforth's sons as shall be bred up Scholars, only my Law books I give to Mr. John Nelson and my best Quarto Bible to his wife, my niece.

Unto the Judges of the Superior Court, I give twenty shillings apiece for a ring, and the same sum for the same purpose I give to my very good friends Major Nathan Thomas and Nathaniel Byfield Esq. and his wife and Major Stephen Sewall.

Unto Mr. James Maxwell Door Keeper to the Council and Mrs. Corlet of Cambridge and to Nathan Bradley [indistinct word] of Dorchester I give the sum of forty shillings apiece.

Unto Mrs. Nelson, my niece I give one of my [indistinct word] silver tankards, the other I give to my niece Mrs. Cooper and to her Son William Cooper my Silver teapot.

All the rest of my plate I give unto my nephew William Tailer and my said niece Danforth equally to be divided between them.

Unto the children of the Colonel Bartholomew Gedney, deceased, I give twenty shillings apiece for a ring in testimony of my respect to that family for their father's Sake my especial and dear Friend.

And unto Edward Tusfrey I give twenty shillings for a ring.

AND WHEREAS through the great goodness of God (for which I most solemnly bless him) as a testimony of my unfeigned respect to Harvard Colledge at Cambridge, the place of my first publick education (which Nursery of good Learning hath been an inestimable blessing to the Churches and People of God in this Wilderness and may ever continue to be if this People continue in the favour of God) I have lately erected and finished an additional Building to that

Colledge with the previous consent and grant of the President and Fellows that it shall be in my liberty to make an establishment and appropriation of some part of the Income of that Building to be for the benefit of some students in particular as I shall reasonably appoint.

It is therefore my desire and will accordingly and I do hereby direct and appoint that for and during the space of five years from and next after the date of this my Will, there be reserved out of the Revenues and Incomes of the said Building the Sum of Twenty Pounds a year which shall be exhibited toward the support of education of Elijah Danforth, son of the Reverend Mr. John Danforth before named, Pastor of the Church of Dorchester who is now resident at the Colledge.

And at and after the expiration of the said five years that there be reserved out of the Revenues and Income of the said Building the Sum of ten pounds [indistinct word] yearly forever to be exhibited at the discretion of the President and Fellows of the Colledge for the time being towards the support and education of some poor Schollar at the Colledge as they shall judge most indigent and deserving. A Minister's son to have preference of others, *ceteris paribus* (?).

Provided nevertheless, when any of my own kindred descended either from my Father or from my Uncle Mr. Thomas Stoughton late of Windsor in the Colony of Connecticut Deceased shall happen to be a student at the Colledge and stand in need of support, such shall be preferred in first place to the said Exhibition and next unto them any poor Schollar that shall come either from the Town of Dorchester or the Town of Milton within this Province.

And that none shall receive the benefit of this Exhibition that shall not actually reside at the Colledge nor for any longer time than until he shall have taken the degree of Master of Arts.

As a further Testimony of my desire to promote good Literature and the Education of Such Therein as may be serviceable to God and these Churches I do further give and bequeath unto the President and Fellows of Harvard Colledge aforesaid and their successors forever all that my Pasture in Dorchester which is now in the occupation of John Robinson and all that my parcel of Salt Meadow which is in the occupation of John Trescott, Willing and appointing the clear Rent and Income of both to be exhibited in the first place to a Schollar of the Town of Dorchester and if there be none to a Schollar in the Town of Milton and in want of such to any Indian student that may be at the Colledge and in want of such then any other well-deserving Schollar that shall be most needy.

And for the further encouragement of Indian Students, my desire and will is that when any such shall be sent to the Colledge, one of the Garret Chambers in the Building by me erected may be allowed to two of them gratis.

And concerning the Pasture hereby given to the Colledge, My Will is that first of all out of the Rents all the Fence property belonging thereunto be well repaired or new made so as to be good substantial stone wall fence of the best sort.

The whole remainder of my Estate in Lands and moveables I give devise and bequeath in equal proportion and on due apprisement divided unto my nephew William Tailer and my three

aforesaid nieces, To wit, Elizabeth Danforth, Elizabeth Nelson and Mehatabel Cooper, To hold unto them and their heirs forever. And as to the division, my Will is that my said Nephew Tailer and my said Niece Danforth shall have and enjoy all my Lands and houses within the body of the Town of Dorchester. That is to say, my said Nephew Tailer shall have in his part my Mansion house and all the Buildings belonging to it; with the Orchard and Lands adjoining as they are now fenced in on both sides of the highway, halfe my Salt Meadow wheresoever lying and halfe of all my Pastures and Swamp Meadows as they are now fenced in. And my said Niece Danforth shall have contained in her share the other halfe of all my Salt Meadows, Pasture and Swamp Meadows with my Lot lying by the Burying place. A just and equal apportionment of them all to be made either by mutual consent or by indifferent men mutually chosen, and their determination to be conclusive.

And my Will is That my said Mansion house and house adjoining shall be let and reckoned at halfe the reasonable value only.

Unto the furtherance of the work of Gospellizing the Indians I give to that Corporation one hundred pounds.

To my worthy and dear friends Samuel Sewall and Isaac Addington, Esq. I give the sum of ten pounds apiece. Desiring them to be the Overseers of this my Will.

To John Leverett, Esq. and his wife and Mr. Thomas Newton I give twenty shillings apiece for a ring.

And in case during my life I shall my selfe satisfy and pay any of the Legacies herein before given unto any person or use herein mentioned it shall be accounted so far a performance of my Will in that respect without any other payment or demand to be made therefor.

And of my Last Will and Testament I do nominate ordain and constitute my said nephew William Tailer and my three nieces afore named, to wit, Elizabeth Danforth, Elizabeth Nelson, and Mahetabel Cooper to be Executors and will that they pay all my Legacies within one year after my decease. Unto which payment of my Legacies I do make all the improvements, rents and income of my whole Estate for the space of one year after my death liable before the partition or division of my said Estate between my Nephew and Nieces shall be made.

And in testimony that the before written is my last Will and Testament I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the Sixth day of July. Anno Domini One thousand Seven hundred and one and annoque RR Guilielmi Tertii Anglio & decimo tertio.

Signed, Sealed, Published and Declared by the Honorable Wm. Stoughton Esq. as and for his last Will and Testament in presence of us who subscribed our names as witnesses thereto in the said Testator's presence Thomas Mawdelsey [indistinct word], William W. Ryal, Thomas Evans, Alexander Atkins.