

The Last Will and Testament of John Drake of Goshen, Orange County, New York

Transcribed from Record of Wills Recorded at Albany, New York, v. AD41-AF41
FHL film #0481438

In the name of God Amen I John Drake of the Precinct of Goshen in the County of Orange and State of New York yeoman being of and infirm body but of sound and disposing mind memory and understanding and calling to mind the uncertainty of life and certainty of death do therefore make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following, to wit, first and principally I commit my soul into the hands of my creator hoping for a joyful resurrection to eternal life through the merits and satisfaction of Christ my redeemer and my body to the earth to be decently buried at the direction of my executors herein after named and as to my wordly estate which almighty God of his infinite mercy hath been pleased to bless me with, I dispose thereof as follows, to wit, imprimis after all my just debts and funeral expenses are paid which I desire my executors to do as soon as convenient, I give devise and bequeath unto my dear wife Martha Drake one good riding horse or mare, side saddle and bridle, two good milch cows all my sheep and hogs also all my provisions and grain of every kind, with the grain growing in the ground at the time of my decease also one feather bed with bedstead and bedding compleat and one chest and one box. Item I give devise and bequeath unto my said wife the farm or plantation whereon I now live with the appurtenances thereunto belonging during her widowhood and after her marriage or decease then my will is and I do hereby give devise and bequeath the same unto my son Benjamin Drake to have and to hold the same to him his heirs and assigns forever. Item I give and devise unto my said son Benjamin Drake all and singular my fishing place with the right and privilege of fishing in the river Delaware near Minisink to have and to hold the same to him his heirs and assigns forever. Item I give devise and bequeath unto my sons Joseph, Benjamin, Samuel, William, and Zephaniah and to the heirs of my son John all my right, title interest, share and proportion of in and to all and singular my lands, meadows and mills with the appurtenances situate lying and being in Kings and Queens Counties on Long Island and which descend to me on the death of my grandfather Adam Brewer dec'd to be equally divided between them share and share alike to have and to hold the same to them their heirs and assigns forever as tenants in common and not as joint-tenants. Item I give and bequeath unto each of my daughters Martha Jackson, Mary Holly, and Esther Knapp the sum of five shillings to be paid to them respectively with a year after my decease. Item I give and bequeath unto my grand-daughter Martha Holly daughter of Joseph Holly one good milch cow to be delivered her within one month after my decease and all the rest residue and remainder of my personal estate I give and bequeath unto my said wife my said son Benjamin and my grand-daughters Martha and Mary Holly (daughters to Joseph Holly) their executors, administrators and assigns to be equally divided between them share and share alike and I hereby nominate and appoint my friend Captain Colvil Bradnor and my said son Joseph Drake executors to this my last will and testament hereby revoking all former will and wills by one heretofore made. In witness where of I have hereunto set my hand and seal this sixth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy nine.

Signed John Drake

Witnesses: Daniel Vail, Isaac Smith, W. Thompson

Proved February 28, 1780, New York Surrogate's Court, Orange County