

Essex Probate b.328/p.184*

Will of William Morse, b. Oct 17, 1704 in Newbury, written Dec. 5, 1782 & Proved Sept. 7, 1784

In the name of God Amen. **I William Morss of Haverhill** in the county of Essex and Commonwealth of the Massachusetts, **yeoman**, being of perfect mind and memory, thanks be given to God therefore, yet calling to mind the mortality of my body, and knowing that it is appointed to all man once to die, do make and ordain this my last will and testament, first of all I give and recommend it to the earth to be buried in a decent Christian like manner at the direction of my Executor after named, nothing doubting but at the general resurrection, I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God, and touching such worldly estate as it hath pleased God to bless me with in this life, I give and dispose of the same in the following manner, viz.

Imprimis. I give and bequeath to **Judith Morss my well beloved wife**, my Negro wench called Jean at her disposal and two cows and four sheep with the improvement of the one halfe of my now dwelling house, viz the westerly part of the said house, and the cellar under the same and also fifteen bushels of grain good Indian corn, two bushels of wheat, four bushels of rye, two bushels of malt, four barrels of cyder, half a bushel of peas & half a bushel of white beans, four bushels of potatoes and all other sauce growing on my farm at her choise so much as shall be suffucient for her family use and also one hundred and fifty pounds of good pork & eighty pound of good beef, ten pounds of suet & tallow, twenty pounds of flax from the swingle well curried and a sufficient quantity of good firewood to keep a prudent fire to be brought to her door, and cut fit for her fire, and twelve pounds of good sugar, three gallons of molasies, two gallons of rum, six pounds of good sheep's wool more than the wool of her four sheep, and also a sufficiency of all and also a good horse to carry her to the place of publick worship on Lords days and other publick days of worship & necessary occasions, and the use of my house hold goods for woman's use during the term she remain my widow, the above provision to my said wife I order the species to be paid to my said wife annually and yearly during her natural life, she remaining my widow by **my two sons**, Viz, **Henry** three fourth parts, & my son **David** one fourth part to be delivered in season & in good order to her.

Item. I give and bequeath to **my daughter Anna Ordway wife of Benjamin Ordway** seven poounds lawful money to be paid by my son David Morse in six months after my decease, one halfe in stock or provision pay at money's price & one quarter part of my right in Bakerstown in the county of Cumberland in Commonwealth of Massachusetts**, and one quarter part of my house hold goods for woman's use, after the decease of her mother and this is her full share of my estate with what I have given her before this date.

Item. I give and bequeath to **my daughter Judth Bradbury wife of Samuel Bradbury**, seven pounds lawful money in one year after my decease, the one halfe to be paid in stock or provision pay at money price to be paid by my son David Morss, and one quarter part of my house hold goods for woman's use after the decease of her mother, and one quarter part of my right in the township of Bakerstown in the county of Cumberland and Commonwealth of the Massachusetts and this is her full share of my estate with what I have given to her before this date.

Item. I give and bequeath to **my daughter Hannah Ordway wife of John Ordway**, ten pounds lawful money to be paid by my son David Morss, in two years after my decease, the one halfe to be paid in stock or provision pay at money price, and one quarter part of my house hold goods for woman's use after the decease of her mother, and one quarter part of my right in the township of Bakerstown in the county of Cumberland and Commonwealth of the Massachusetts and this is her full share of my estate with what I have given to her before this date.

Item. I give and bequeath to **my daughter Ruth Chase wife of Wells Chase junr.** ten pounds lawful money to be paid by my son David Morss, in three years after my decease, with one quarter part of my house hold goods for woman's use after the decease of her mother, and one quarter part of my right in the township of Bakerstown in the county of Cumberland and Commonwealth of the Massachusetts and this is her full share of my estate with what I have given to her before this date.

Item. I give and bequeath to **my grand children Jacob Richardson and Ednah Richardson children of my daughter Prudence Richardson deceased** three pounds lawful money equally to be divided between them, when they shall arrive to lawful age to be paid by my son David Morss and this is their full share of my estate which I have given their mother in her life time.

Item. I give & bequeath to **my son David Morss** and his assigns all my lands and buildings in Methuen and in the west Parish in Haverhill together with any land in Salem in the State of New Hampshire with all Priviledges thereunto belonging, and also my salt marsh in Salisbury and one half of my wearing apparel with all my stock of cattle and utensils on the farm where he now dwells his performing on his part as ordered in this y last Will and Testament.

Item. I give and bequeath **to my son Henry Morss**, who I nominate constitute & appoint sole executor of this my last Will and Testament all the remainder of my estate lands & buildings in the East Parish in Haverhill with all priviledges thereunto belonging to him and his assigns with all my stock of cattle, sheep, swine and horses not otherways disposed of in this Will, and all my utensils for husbandry; and I give to him my said son Henry Morss my clock and all other personal and real estate, not other ways disposed of in this my last Will and Testament, he paying all my just debts and funeral charges and the funeral charges of Judith my now wife, she dureing my widow and performing for my said wife in her life time as ordered in this will and faithfully execute this my last Will & Testament, and I do utterly revoke and disannul and make void all former Wills and Testaments by me made, willed and bequeathed, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last Will and Testament.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal this **fifth day of December 1782**

William Morss (Seal)

signed, sealed, published, pronounced and declared by the said William Morss to be his last Will and Testament in presence of us. viz.

Joseph Robison, Ephraim Robinson, Thos. Clarke.

To all People to whom these Presents shall come **Benjamin Greenleaf** (Seal) Esqr. Judge of the Probate of Wills, &c. in the County of Essex within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; Sendeth Greeting
Know ye that on the **twenty seventh day of September Anno Domini 1784**. The Instrument aforewrittin, purporting the last Will & Testament of William Morss late of Haverhill in said county yeoman deceased, was presented for Probate by Henry Morss the executor therein named, then present Joseph Robinson, Ephraim Robinson & Thos. Clarke the witnesses there to subscribed, who made Oath that they saw the said Testator sign and seal and heard him declare the said Instrument to be his last Will & Testament and that they all subscribed their names together as witnesses to the Execution thereof in the said Testator's presence; and that he was then (to the best of their judgements) of a sound and disposing mind:

I do prove, approve and allow of the said Instrument as the last Will and Testament of the before named deceased, and do commit the administration thereof in all matters the same concerning, and of his estate whereof he died secured & possessed in said county, unto Henry Morss the before named Executor well & faithfully to execute the said Will and to administer the estate of the sd. deceased according thereto, who accepted of his said trust, and gave bond with Ephraim Robinson and Thomas Clarke as sureties to exhibit an inventory in three months from the date hereof and to render an account by the last Monday of September 1785. In testimony whereof I do hereunto set my hand & seal of office the day and year afore written. B. Greenleaf

Daniel Noyes Reg.

*Copied from micro film by Chuck Hanson- spelling not changed

** Later Maine