

The Will of Jonathan Fairbanks 1594-1668
Of Dedham, Norfolk, Massachusetts

In the yeare of our Lord one thousand sixe hundred sixty and eight, the first day of the fourth month, com'only called June; I Jonathan ffarbanke of dedham in the Countie of Suffolke Senioe, Being sicke and weake, And expecting that the day of my desolution is drawing neere doe in the name alad feare of God ordaine and make this my Last will & Testamt for the disposing and settling of the things of this life, with which the Lord hath at prsent Intrusted me in manner & forme as followeth;

viz first I commit my soule to God that gave it, Trusting in the alone Righteousnes & mediation of Jesus Christ my Redemet & aduocate, & my body to the earth whence it was taken, to be after my decease Desently buried therein in christian buriall at the discretion of my Executor.

In prims I give & bequeath vnto grace my Deere & well beloved wife, All and Every prt & pfcell of my whole moueable Estate whatsoeuer as well within dores as without, namely all my household stuffe, of all & Euery sort & kinde as allso all my cattell of all kinds all my corne cartes ploughs workeing tooles & utensils of husbandrye all debts due to me & whatsoeuer Ells come within the denomination of moueable Estate & all this I giue and Bequeath to my said wife, to despose of when And to whom shee shall at any time see meete.

*And more I giue to grace my said wife an Annuitie of Eight pounds pr Annm to be paid to her or her assignee to her vse yearely & euery yeare, in two equall prts. * *Ite I glue & bequeath to George (ffarbanke my secon)d sonne & to his heyers*

for euer, sixteene pounds the one halle whereof shall be payed to him within the space of one (....) yeare next ensueing after the decease of my said wife; And whereas I haue already giuen and doe herby confirme to my said sonne George all that my prt in the generall deudent (dividend ?) already laid out thro Meadfield & some workinge tooles & such like small things, my will & my mind is, That the said percell of lande and thoe tooles and other small thing soe giuen shall be all indifferently & Equally aprized and if they shall together amount to the value of eight pounds then it shall be accounted for his first payment.

* * *

And I glue & bequeath to my daughter Mary the wife of Christopher Smith the sume of sixteene pounds, which sixteene pounds I glue to my said daughter in prticular, And distinct from her husbands Estate & to be allwayes at her dispose, this sixteen pounds to be payed in two equall (sum'es ?) of Eight pounds.

* * *

Item More I giue to my said daughter Mary Three pounds to purchase her a suite of aparrell to be paid within the space of three months next after my decease. Item. I giue and bequeath to Jonas ffarbanke my third sonne & his heyers for euer the like sume of sixtene pounds to be allso payed in two equal sumes.

* * *

Item I giue & bequeath to Jonathan ffarebanke my yongest sonne & to his heighers the like sume of sixteene pounds, to be paid allso in two Equal Sum'es.

Item I giue and bequeath to Sarah the Eldest daughter of my sonne John flarebanks one young beast betwixt one and two yeares of age, & more three pounds to be payed by my Executor when she shall attaine lawfull age, the young beast before mentioned I Reserue out of the cattell bequeathed to Grace my wife;

Item I giue & bequeath to my sonne in lawe Ralph Daye ffourty shillings to be payed within six monthes after my wives decease;

Item. I giue & bequeath to each of the foure Children of the said Ralph which he had by my daughter Susan his late wife the sum'e of flourtie shillings to be payd them seuerally as they shall attaine lawfull age pruided all my other Legacies to my three sonnes & my daughter be first payed in manner as is aboue Expressed;

Item my mind ~ my will is that all these my legacies aboue bequeathed, the specie or kind of payment whereof is not named shall be all payed in current Contreypayment at price then Currant In ded (ham I glue ~ bequeath) To John ffarebanke my Eldest sonne all my houses &-' lands whatsouer, not being formerly aboue (mentioned ? togeth)er with all my common Rightes & towne pruiliges whatsoeuer, to haue posses &' injoy the same (....) & his heyers to enter vpon all my lands forthwith after my decease; and all my houses and yardes at the end of foure mo'nthes n(ext followin)g the same;

Item I doe nominate apoiht and ordayne John Fairebancke my afforesaid Eldest Sonne, To be my sole Executor to whom I coremitt all nessary trust d~' power Requisite for the due and

full prformance & Execution of this my last will as it belongs or is necessary for an Executor to doe in all & euery prt as is aboue expressed;

Item I allso name & intreate my very loueing friends Eleazer Lusher & Petter Woodward Sene to be ouerseers to the performance of this my present will & to be assisting to my aboue named Executor therin as themselues shall see cause, & I doe hereby reueoke & make null & voide all other or former wills whatsouer by me formerly made; & doe auouch & decleare this prsent wrighting, as is aboue herein entered, to be & contayne my true onely & last will & testemant.

In wittnss whereof I the said Jonathan ffarebanke Sene haue herevnto subscribed my hand & affixed my seale the day & yeare first aboue written.

*This a true copy of the will of Jonathan Fayerbank senyore.
as attest Daniel filsher.*

William Avery.

The Will of Jonathan Fairbanks 1594-1668 (Continued)

His will was executed on 4 June 1668 in Dedham, Norfolk, MA. The will mentions a wife, Grace, but there is no way of knowing whether she was the mother of his children. He bequeathed his "whole movable Estate whatsoever, as well within doors as without, to wife Grace. Small bequests were then made to his "second son," George, to his daughter, Mary, wife of Christopher Smith (who were still in England), to Jonas, to Jonathan, to Sarah, eldest daughter of his "son John," and to Ralph Daye, his "son in law," (husband of Susan), and to "each of the four Children of the said Ralph."

Finally he bequeathed to John, his eldest son, all his "houses and lands whatsoever, not being formerly above (mentioned?) and together with all my common Rights and town privileges whatsoever, to have possess and enjoy the same (-----) and his heirs (-----) to enter upon all my lands forthwith after my decease; and all my houses and hordes at the end of four months next following the same". And he made him sole Executor of the will.

The father, it would seem, had a good opinion of the English law of primogeniture, and so John, his eldest son, came into possession of the homestead. From that time down to July, 1892, the old house was continuously occupied by him and his descendants, Joseph, Joseph 2d, Ebenezer, Ebenezer 2d, Prudence, Sarah (Sally), Nancy, and Rebecca, the last of the family tenants.

In July, 1892, the house was struck by lightning and considerably damaged. Miss Rebecca's pet dog, lying under the bed where she was sleeping, was killed, but she escaped with a severe shock. Shortly after this event, deeming the house no longer a desirable place of abode, she abandoned it, leaving a strange family in charge, and removed to Boston. Thus for the first time in over two hundred and fifty years the old house was occupied by persons not "to the manor born." But after spending several months in Boston she returned to dwell in the time-honoured mansion, of which she was then the sole owner, and is still living there (Fall of 1896).

The Will of Jonathan Fairbanks 1594-1668 (Continued)

As we learned of the children of Jonathan earlier (John, George, Mary, Jonathan, Jonas, Susan, Sarah, Martha, James), so now lets go through some of the children and tell what we know. John Fairbanks was born about 1618 in Sowerby, Parish of Halifax, Yorkshire, England. He was baptized on 15 Feb 1618 in Parish of Halifax, Yorkshire, England. He died on 13 Nov 1684. John married Sarah Fiske in 1641. He lived for a time, it is supposed, in a house of his own, but later, after his father had built an addition to his house, he occupied with his family a part of it before his father's death.

Two grants of land were made to him by the town, viz : in 1640, six acres "at ye east end of his fathers lot ," and in 1642, two acres seventeen rods "upland fit for improvement with the plough." In 1656 he received, with others, "common rights according to the proportions of his estate," eight and three fourths acres. In 1628, at an assembly held the 21th of ye 7th month, John Rogers and John Farebanke were "appoynted to goe vpon ye discou'y of

Charles Riur with such men as shall by ye courts appoyntmt call them ye 2nd day of ye next weeke." In 1663 he was sent by the selectmen of Dedham in company with Daniel Fisher to examine the land at Deerfield, then called Petumtuck.

His name appears many times in the Town Records, and he held local offices: He was received into ye X 4d 3m 1651; Inherited old House in Dedham, MA; Report of 2nd marriage to Mary Fish after 1683 is questionable; and was a Signer of The Covenant of Dedham, MA.