

Will of Thomas Skillman, of New Town, Queens, Long Island, NY, 23 Feb 1939/40

From *The Skillmans of New York*, by Francis Skillman, 1892.

<http://skillmansofamerica.com/SONY.pdf>

Probate on 4 July 1740

Beneficiaries:

Sons John, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Benjamin, Joseph

Daughters: Mary, Mercy, Ann

Grandchildren: Ann Van Dewater (dau of Ann)

Slaves Sam and Dorcas

Executors Sons Abraham, Jacob and Benjamin

In the name of God, Amen ! I, Thomas Skillman, of New Town, in Queens County, on Nassau Island, in the Colony of New York, Yeoman, being at present sick and weak in, but of sound and perfect mind, memory and understanding, (Blessed be the Lord for his mercy,) but calling unto mind the uncertain state of this transitory life and that all flesh must yield unto death when it pleases God to call: "Do make, ordain, constitute and declare this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following, that is to say: First and principally, I commit my precious and immortal Soul into the Merciful hands of God, my Creator, hoping through the Merits, Death and passion of my blessed Saviour and Redeemer Christ Jesus to have and receive a full pardon and free Remission of my manifold Sins and to inherit everlasting life, and my body to the earth from whence it was taken, to be buried in such Christian and decent manner as to my Executors hereafter named shall be thought meet and convenient, and as touching such temporal estate which the Lord in Mercy (far above my deserts) hath been pleased to bestow upon me, I give, devise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form:

Imprimis. I will and order that all such debts and duties which I owe in law or conscience to any person or persons whatsoever, as also my funeral charges, to be well and truly-satisfied by my Executors within some convenient time after my decease.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my dearly beloved Wife Ann Skillman all my estate both real and personal (except my Negro man Sam and my Negro woman Dorcas), to be possessed and enjoyed by her during, her widowhood, but if she happens to remarry, then I will and order that she shall have only twenty Pounds current money of the Colony of New York paid her out of my estate by my Executors within three months after such remarriage, and that it shall be in lieu and stead of her dower.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my son John Skillman the sum of Ten Shillings current money aforesaid, to be raised out of my estate and paid unto him within three months after my wife's decease or re-marriage, and that for his birthright.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my sons Abraham Skillman and Benjamin Skillman, and to their heirs, each the sum of fifty Pounds currant money as aforesaid, to be raised out of my estate, and paid unto them within a twelve month after my said wife's decease or Re-marriage, and so to remain to them and their heirs. I also give and bequeath to my said sons Abraham and Benjamin and their heirs all my horses, waggons, ploughs, harrows and other utensils of Husbandry, to be possessed and enjoyed immediately after my wife's decease or re-marriage, or at such time she is willing to acquit them.

Item. After my wife's decease or re-marriage I give and bequeath all the remaining part of my real estate to my sons by name John Skillman, Abraham Skillman, Isaac Skillman, Jacob Skillman, Benjamin Skillman, and Joseph Skillman to be equally divided amongst them, and so to remain to them and each of them, their and each of their heirs and assigns forever.

And I do give full power to my Executors to sell my Negro man Sam and my Negro woman Dorcas, as soon as convenient after my decease, to discharge my debts and funeral charges, and what debts shall still remain I will and order that my said sons shall pay in equal proportion amongst them, that is to say: John a sixth part, Abraham a sixth part, Isaac a sixth part, Jacob a sixth part, Benjamin a sixth part and Joseph a sixth of all such remaining debts, anything herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding. I also will and

order that before any division be made of my real estate, that the hundred Pounds given to my sons Abraham and Benjamin be first allowed to them out of my said Real Estate.

Item. I give and bequeath to my daughters and granddaughters, after my wife's decease or re-marriage, all my moveable Estate (except what is herein before given and bequeathed), that is to say:

To my daughter Mary, now the wife of John Bond, two-sevenths of my said moveable Estate to her and her heirs and assigns;

to my daughter Mercy, now the wife of John Fine, I give and bequeath the profits and incomes of two-sevenths of said moveable estate to be paid her, yearly after my wife's, decease or re-marriage by my Executors, but if her husband, the said John Fine, happens to depart this life before my said daughter Mercy, then my will is that she shall receive the said two-seventh part of my said estate moveable into her own hands, and for her own use, but if my said daughter Mercy shall depart this life before her husband, the said John Pine, then my will is that the said two-sevenths of my said moveable estate shall be divided amongst the children of my said daughter Mercy, both male and female, in equal proportion, and so to remain to them, and each of them, their heirs and assigns.

And to my daughter Ann, now the wife of Hendrick Van Dewater, I also give two-sevenths of my said moveable Estate after my wife's decease or remarriage and to my granddaughter Ann Van Dewater now the wife of Jonas Martin, I give one-seventh of my said moveable Estate, to have and to hold my said moveable Estate, to my said daughter and granddaughter in proportion as aforesaid to them, their heirs and assigns.

And whereas my son Jacob has at his own cost and-charge built a house on my plantation at Hempstead swamp, in the Limmit of New Town, I will and order that that after my wife's decease or re-marriage there shall be indifferent men chosen to value said house, and that he shall have so much paid him out of my real estate, as said house shall be valued at.

And whereas I have a conveyance of John Van Horne and Catherine his wife for a certain tract of land lying at Rariton, in New Jersey, and my son John Skillman and Isaac Skillman have paid part of the consideration money, my will and order is, that if they shall pay the remaining part thereof so as I and mine are fully discharged therefrom and acquitted thereof, that then my other sons, by name Abraham, Jacob, Benjamin and Joseph Skillman, shall release the same unto the said John Skillman and Isaac Skillman and to their heirs and assigns, and further I do give full power and authority to my Executors (after my wife's decease or re-marriage) to grant, bargain, sell and convey all my real estate, wheresoever it be or is to be found, and that their conveyance or conveyances shall make the buyer or buyers an indefeasable title in the law for the same, to the end that what is above written may be done.

Lastly. I do nominate, constitute and appoint my beloved sons Abraham Skillman, Jacob Skillman, and Benjamin Skillman Executors of this my last Will and Testament, desiring them to execute, fulfill and see the same performed according to the true intent and meaning thereof. In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal the twenty-third day of February in the thirteenth year of His Majesties reign, and in the year of our Lord and Saviour Christ Jesus one-thousand seven hundred and thirty nine.

Thomas (his mark) Skillman

Signed, sealed, published, pronounced and declared by the said Thomas Skillman as his last Will and Testament, in presence of us, the subscribers, Barnardus Van Zandt, John Rapelie, Cornelius Berrien, Junr.

W York Secy Office[??} July 4th 1740

Then and there Bernardus Van Zandt and John Rapelie appeared before me, John Robinson, being thereunto appointed and made oath that they saw Thomas Skillman seal, sign, publish and declare the above writing as his last Will and Testament, and that he then was of sound mind and memory to the best of their understanding, and that they also saw Cornelius Barrien, Junr., sign his name as witness thereto in conjunction to them, in the Testator's presence.

Memdm. That at the same time Abraham Skillman, Jacob Skillman and Benj. Skillman, the Executors named in the above Will; likewise appeared before me and took the oath for the due Execution thereof.