

Will, DE, Sussex, NEHEMIAH DAVIS Sr. 1788

In the name of God Amen.

I, **NEHEMIAH DAVIS Sr.**, of the county of Sussex in the Delaware State, being weak and infirm of body but a perfect mind and memory calling to mind the mortality of my state and that it is appointed unto all men once to die, do constitute and appoint my last will and testament and Manner and form following, viz:

I do recommend my soul and spirit to almighty God that gave it and my body to be decently buried in the earth from whence I was taken at the discretion of my executor you're after mentioned, and as two such worldly Goods wear with it has pleased God to bless me I do give and dispose of the same in the manner following, Viz:

FIRST I give and bequeath to my son **MARK DAVIS** all the lands and improvements they're onto belonging on the south side of the dividing line that **RHOADS SHANKLAND** run and adjoining the land of **JOSEPH DRAPER**, deceased, with paying on to my son **WILLIAM DAVIS** the sum of £140 of gold or silver to be paid in one year and a half after my decease.

SECONDLY I give, devise, and bequeath to my grandson **NEHEMIAH DAVIS**, son of **NEHEMIAH DAVIS**, the other half of my lands, lying on the north side of the dividing line that **RHOADS SHANKLAND** run, adjoining the lands of **ELIAS TOWNSEND** but it is my will and desire that my son **NEHEMIAH DAVIS** shall enjoy the use and profit of the aforesaid land during his natural Life.

MY WILL AND DESIRE is that all the lands and marsh below the dividing line undivided be equally divided between my son **MARK DAVIS** and my aforesaid grandson **NEHEMIAH DAVIS** all and singular this aforesaid land and marsh accepting 6 acres to be laid off to the said **MARK DAVIS**, beginning at the graveyard at a walnut and running down the said division line to intersect with the branch to be laid off and contains 6 acres of land and all the appurtenances thereunto belonging to them their heirs and assigns forever.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto the heirs of **EUNICE DRAPER**, the wife of **SAMUEL DRAPER**, deceased, the sum of £40 of gold or silver.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto the heirs of **ELIZABETH DRAPER**, Widow of **JOSEPH DRAPER** deceased, the sum of £40 of gold or silver.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto my daughter **ELIZABETH DRAPER** one negro woman named HANNAH.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto my son **WILLIAM DAVIS** one negro man named SYE with £40 of gold or silver and one of the best beds and furniture.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto my wife **SUSANNAH DAVIS** £150, one mare and saddle, to be paid on to her, the said **SUSANNAH DAVIS**, by my executor, hereafter named, provided always, and I do hereby order and desire it, that if the abovesaid **SUSANNAH DAVIS** shall claim any part of my estate further than what is given her above, in right of dower, or in consequence of articles of agreement entered into previous to my marriage with her or any other account was whoever that then and in such case the above gift of £150, mare, saddle to be paid by my executor has to be null and void anything herein or elsewhere contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

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All the residue and remaining part of my estate I give and bequeath to the heirs of **SARAH DRAPER**, wife of **HENRY DRAPER**, deceased. The heirs of **EUNICE DRAPER** deceased, **ELIZABETH DRAPER** the wife of **JOSEPH DRAPER** deceased, and my son **WILLIAM DAVIS** to be equally divided among them.

It is my will and desire that all the heirs that are of age shall take their equal and just part of my estate at the appraisement.

And I do hereby nominate and appoint the said **WILLIAM DAVIS**, executor of this my last will and testament, utterly disannulling and making void all and every other will or Testament by me heretofore made.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 30th day January in the year of Our Lord 1788.

NEHEMIAH DAVIS {seal}

Signed, Sealed, published, pronounced, and declared to be the last will and testament in presence of us:

THOMAS DAVIS
ELIAS TOWNSEND
RACHEL ATKINS DAVIS

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Sussex County

Memorandum the 13th day of April 1791 before me **PHILLIPS KOLLOCK**, register appointed for the probate of wills and granting letters of administration for the county of for said appeared **ELIAS TOWNSEND** and **RACHEL ADKINS DAVIS** two of the witnesses to the within will being duly sworn on the Holy Evangels of Almighty God did severally depose and say that in their site, presence and hearing the testator, **NEHEMIAH DAVIS** did sign, seal, publish, and declare the same to be his last will and testament and that in at the doing there of he was of a sound and perfect mind, memory, and judgment and that they and each of them together with **THOMAS DAVIS** subscribed the same as Witnesses in presence of the testator and at his request.

PHILLIPS KOLLOCK, register

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