

History of Deacon William Locke

William Locke was born in December 1628, at Stepney Parish, London, Middlesex, England, to William and Elizabeth Locke.

William Locke came to New England at the age of six with the Davies family on the "Planter which sailed from London in 1634. The record shows that the ship was embarked around 22 March 1634.

Among those listed as passengers were:

Nicholas Davies, 40 years

Sara Davies, 48

Joseph Davies, 13

William Lock, 6+

William Locke, perhaps an orphan, is believed to have been a nephew of Nicholas Davies whose will contains the following:

"... and, I give unto my cossen William Locke of Owborne two silver spoones and five shillings in silver." The will was dated 27 April 1667, and was probated 12 March 1669 or 1670.

Nicholas Davies was a man of property. He settled at Charlestown. Woburn was incorporated and set off from Charlestown in 1642. His wife died 23 March 1643, and he married second Elizabeth Issacke of Woburn. In 1648 he sold his house and land in Woburn to William Reed and moved to Charlestown. His will also mentioned his wife of Boston.

Nothing further is known of the childhood of William Locke or of how long he remained with the Davies family.

He was married, on 25 December 1655, to Mary Clarke, daughter of William and Margery Clarke of Woburn. Mary was born 20 December 1640.

William Locke acquired considerable property. In 1650 he purchased two lots in Woburn, owned formerly by John Sybley and Benjamin Hubbards, for which he paid in 'clapbord bolts'. To this was added several other parcels of land, by purchase or grant, and the list of his holdings included land at Pine Meadow, Great Meadow, Maple Meadow, Corner Hedge, Waterham, Mineral Hill, Mine Hill, Copper Mountain, Settle Meadow, Pond Meadow, Cedar Swamp, Beach Island, Bull Meadow, Hog Swamp, et cetera.

From time to time he disposed of his land by gift to his sons and all of his children except Elizabeth, who married James Markham, lived in his immediate neighborhood.

William Locke was a farmer and carpenter. He participated in town affairs and served on important committees. In 1675, 1676 and 1678, he was Surveyor of Fences. He was Constable in 1677 and 1701. He was chosen Selectman in 1686 and 1696 and grand juror to the Supreme Court in 1695.

He became a member of the Woburn church and served as one of its Deacons and main pillars for many years. In his younger years he had opposed the view that church fellowship was a prerequisite for 'having a voice in the election of the rulers of the State' and, with others, was fined for claiming a right of voting for the Governor. Part of the fine was later remitted.

His house became the home of his son, Ebenezer, and later the home of Ebenezer's son, Samuel, who kept an inn for several years. The house was sold 21 October 1741, to Samuel Wyman for 900 pds.

William died on 16 June 1720 at Woburn Massachusetts.

Will of William Locke Sr. of Woburn

"In the Name of God, Amen."

I WILLIAM LOCKE Sr. of Woobourne in the County of Middlesex in her Majts. province of the Massachusetts Bay, in New England, Yeoman, being very aged, and not knowing the day of my death, but with all knowing it to be a Christian duty to set his house in order, and through the goodness of God I am at this day in pretty good health, of sound understanding and perfect memory, I do therefore make and publish this writing to be my last will and testament, hereby disannulling all former wills by me made at any time, and in the first place. I give my Soule to God that gave it me, and my body to the earth to be decently buried, In hopes of a glorious resurrection to life againe through the death and Merits of Christ Jesus my lord and only Saviour, and with reference to that portion of temporall good things that god of his bounty hath bestowed on me, I do dispose thereof as is hereinafter expressed.

my Will is that all my just debts be fully payd and my funerall charges defrayd out of my moveable estate, before any division be made thereof.

my Will is that all my wareing Cloaths both Woolin, Linen, Lethur &c be equally divided amonst my sons that shall survive me, my meanig is my own natural sons and not sons in law.

I do give unto my loveing and well-beloved wife Mary after the payment of Debts &c. as aforesd I do give unto my sd wife the one half of all my personall and moveable Estate, both within doors and without to be to her own proper use benefit and behoofe and to dispose of as she shall see good, while she liveths and what

remains thereof at her death to whomsoever she shall see good, and that half part of my moveable Estate as above said my said wife shall take it of such things as are most suitable for her, Also I do give unto my said wife the use of one half of my dwelling house namely the West end thereof and half the seller under it, with half of my orchard next home and a garden, and my Executor hereinafter named shall make and maintain the fences about the orchard and garden aforesaid always, and that he do also keep for my said wife one horse, two cows, one swine, and six small fowls winter and summer at all times as he doth his own, and also he shall find and allow to my said wife four pounds and ten shillings a year, yearly and every year so long as she remains my widow, twenty shillings part thereof, he shall pay her in money, and other three pounds and ten shillings in provisions or other such things as she needs at money price, and also yet my said Executor do find and maintain my said wife with good sufficient firewood laid at her door and cut fit for her fire all the time she shall remain my widow, and if my said wife shall marry again, then I give her only the one half of the moveables above said for ever, and thirty shillings a year, yearly during the time of her natural life.

that forasmuch as I have already given unto my eldest son William Locke junr. In building, fencing, in upland and meadowland, and woodland, so much as makes his full portion of my whole Estate, and he is now in a better way of living than any of his brethren and therefore I do give him but ten shillings more besides his part of my wearing Cloathes as abovesaid hereby confirming unto him all that I have formerly given him, to him, his

heirs and assigns forever.

that forasmuch as I have given to my loveing sons Joseph Locke and Samuel Locke their full portions n hosing and lands and otherwise, within the township of Cambridge in ye county aforesd only my said son Joseph Locke he being often sick and weakly I have given him something more in the township of Woobourne, and what I have possessed each of them of I do hereby confirm it to them Respectively, and to their heirs and assigns forever, and I do give each of them ten shillings more as a token of my love, to each of them.

that forasmuch as I have given my loveing son John Locke in houseing and lands in Woobourne and otherwise, by a trade and other considerations, so that he hath had his full portion of my Estate, yett as a token of my love I now give him ten shillings more and confirm ye housing and lands I gave him, to him and his heirs forever.

with Refference to my son James Locke I lett him go work for himself when he was young to gitt something to begin the world with, and also gave him about thirty pounds in money to help him purchase his land and build upon it, so that I have given him his full portion already and now I give him ten shillings more as a token of my love.

I have given unto my son Ebenezer one third part of all my houseing and lands in Woobourne yt I had not disposed of to the rest of my children, since that was done my son Ebenezer hath payd for me above twenty pounds in money to his brother James Locke, part of the thirty pounds above mentioned, and he living in the

house with me, with whom also I leave the care of his mother, my wife abovesd and her maintainance and the payment of all the legacies mentioned in this my will, and he being a loveing and dutiful son both to me and his mother, with whom I leave this great charge, I do give unto my sd son Ebenezer Locke, all the Rest of my housing and lands undisposed of, both at home and abroad, both plowlands, pasturelands, Meadowlands, woodlands and hearbidgs, within the township of Woobourne aforesd as also I give to my said son Ebenezer all my personall moveable Estate undisposed of (he paying all the legacies that I have or shall herein order him to pay) I give it all to him the said Ebenezer Lock his heirs, Execrs. Adminrs. And assignes for ever to his and their own only proper use, benefit, and behoofe, he not to disturb his mother of what I have given her as abovesd.

My will is and I do hereby give unto my daughter Mary Kendall, besides about twelve pounds I have given her already I do now give her thirteen pounds more.

My will is and I do give unto my daughter Elizabeth Markham fifteene pounds more, I haveing given her but about ten pounds already, and my will is that these two legasyes to my daughters be payd the one halfe within halfe a year after my decease, and the other halfe within halfe a year after my wife's decease. LASTLY, my will is and I do hereby nominate constatute and appoint my loveing and dutiful son Ebenezer Locke sole Executor to this my will, - And I do charge all my children to live in peace, and then ye God of love and peace be with them, Dated January ye 8th. in the second year of her Majts Reigne, Anno dmini, Seventeen Hundred and

three.

two words interlined in the Article referring to Ebenezer's part;
viz. (and their) before signing and sealing. Signed, sealed, and
published by William Locke, Senr. to be his act and deed, namely
his last will and testament.

Before us, Jany. 8, 1703.

JAMs. CONVERSE, junr.

JOSIAH CONVERS.

the mark of ANN () CONVERS.

PATIENCE CONVERS.

Signed William Lock