

## Leah Blackman's Will

[ Transcribed by Peter H. Stemmer. ]

I Leah Blackman (widow) of the Township of Little Egg Harbor in the County of Burlington and State of New Jersey being of sound and disposing mind and memory do make and publish this my last will and Testament as follows - First it is my will and I do order that all of my just debts and funeral expenses be duly paid and satisfied as soon as conveniently can be after my decease.

Second If my son William E. Blackman fully carries out the provisions and orders hereinafter named, then I give and bequeath to him his heirs and assigns forever my house and lot of land situated on Marine Street in the village of Tuckerton in the Township of Little Egg Harbor County of Burlington and State of New Jersey, the land being the two building lots (now comprising one lot) that I bought of Joseph E. Sapp and wife and Nancy W. Sapp, on the fourth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-two:

Third- It is my will and I do hereby order my above named son William E. Blackman that if he has the abovesaid house and lot of land that he should pay all of my monthly dues and other demands in the present Building and Loan Association of Tuckerton Burlington County and State of New Jersey, the payments commencing with the month of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-two also he must pay the taxes on the abovesaid house and lot of land commencing with the date of this will and outstanding to the end of my life also he shall pay my funeral expenses (which must be decent) and likewise be at the expense of purchasing and putting up tombstones to my grave, they to cost not less than fifty dollars, and if there is not tombstones put to my late husband (Ezra Blackman's grave) before my decease then the said William E. Blackman shall have tombstones erected to my said husband's grave they to be equally as good as my own tombstones, and if I am ever under the necessity for calling on the said William E. Blackman for necessary food, fuel, clothing or any other necessities of life he shall provide me with these things. It is my will and I do order that if the abovesaid expenditures are not paid in proper time by the said William E. Blackman and his legal heirs Executors or administrators as assigned then the abovesaid house and lot of land shall be held in security (by my Executors) until these demands are fully satisfied:

Fourth- It is my will and I do hereby order that if my son William E. Blackman and his heirs had the abovesaid house and lot of land that he or his heirs (in case of his death) shall pay the sum of fifty dollars to each one of the following named persons (in case of the death of one or more of them) to their legal heirs As follows: Fifty dollars to Melinda wife of Captain Ezra L. Hanson, fifty dollars to Thomas Blackman, fifty dollars to Somers Elihu Blackman, son of my deceased son Elihu M. Blackman, fifty dollars to Elizabeth A. Somers wife of Captain Job Somers, fifty dollars to Susan L. Brown wife of Timothy W. Brown, and fifty dollars to Lovenia A. Blackman.

The above stated six bequeaths of fifty dollars each in the aggregate amount to the sum of three hundred dollars and this sum of money my house and land on Marine street herein bequeathed to my son William E. Blackman must be security for until fully paid by the abovesaid William E. Blackman or his legal representatives viz. If he or his legal heirs comply with the conditions and provisions of this will and become possessed of the abovesaid house and lot of land on Marine street as herein before described.

Fifth- If the abovesaid William E. Blackman (or in case of his death) or his legal representatives refuse to comply with all of the abovesaid conditions and commands, then it is my will and I hereby order my Executors herein named to withhold the bequest of the above and House and lot of land from the said William E. Blackman or his legal heirs, and put it up at public sale and sell it to the highest bidder, and out of the proceeds of the sale of the said house and lot of land (if there be sufficient money) I order my Executors to pay my son William E. Blackman the sum of seven hundred dollars, this sum being intended to fully compensate him for all the work he has done for me since I have been a widow and also for all monies he has let me have from time to time, and over and above the seven hundred dollars if he and his legal heirs accept of that instead of the house and lot of land the said William E. Blackman must be paid all of the money he has paid into the before mentioned Building and Loan Association commencing with the month of April in the year above written.

Sixth- After the date of this will I shall keep a strict book account of my dealings with my son William E. Blackman and I order my Executors to settle with him in strict accordance with my book account. If my son William E. Blackman (or in case of his death) his legal heir or heirs has the [sic] house and lot of land herein bequeathed to him the said William E. Blackman or if he or they take the seven hundred dollars in lieu of the house and lot of land and with either of them the demands I have herein allowed,

then it is my will command and I positively order that he the said William E. Blackman or his legal representatives shall be allowed (out of my estate) pay for any notes of hand or bills or demands of any kind whatsoever that he or they may present against my estate for the above named bequeaths are intended to compensate the said William E. Blackman or his legal representatives for all that I have ever had or shall have of mine or them.

Seventh- The balance of my real estate where ever situated and being I order my Executors to sell at public sale and to the highest bidder and also all of my personal property to be sold at public sale and to the highest bidder.

Eighth- Whatever Mortgages, Bonds, notes of Hand, book account or other dues I am possessed of at the time of my death, I order my Executors to collect and place the proceeds with the other accounts of my Estate.

Ninth- After complying with all of the above conditions of this my will whatever residue there is of my estate I order it to be equally divided among all of my legal heirs, Namely -

Melinda wife of Captain Ezra L. Hanson, Thomas Blackman, Samuel Elihu Blackman son of my deceased son Elihu M. Blackman, Elizabeth A. wife of Captain Job Somers, William E. Blackman, Susan L. wife of Timothy W. Brown, and Lovenia A. Blackman. If any of the above legatees should die before I do then their legal heir or heirs is to have their share of the above bequests.

Tenth- If my son William E. Blackman or his legal representatives fail to comply with my order about the tombstones for my husband and my graves, then I order my Executors to withhold one hundred dollars out of my bequests to William E. Blackman or to his legal representative (in case of his death) and with the one hundred dollars I order my Executors to have tombstones erected to the said graves as herein before stated.

Eleventh- The Copyrights to my literary works I give and bequeath to all of my legal heirs the proceeds (if any) to be equally divided between them. A Copyright lasts twenty-eight years from the date thereof.

Twelfth- It is my will and I hereby order that if any one or more of my legetees herein named should proceed to contest the legality (by entering a cavet against the Probate of this my last will and testament) that he she as they shall forfeit his her or their right to any of the bequests herein named and be utterly disinherited of all my earthly possessions.

Lastly I hereby nominate constitute and appoint my friends Maja B. Mathis of Bass River Township in the County of Burlington and State of New Jersey, and George W. Mathis of Tuckerton in the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Burlington and State of New Jersey the Executors of this my last will and Testament.

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this first day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-three.

Signed sealed and published and declared, as her last will and Testament by the testator in our presence, at the time and we at her request and in her presence, have hereto set our hand as witness.

S. Bartlett  
CW Palmer

Leah Blackman

### Leah Blackman's Inventory

A true and perfect inventory of the personal property of Leah Blackman late of the county of Burlington deceased Made by Maja B. Mathis executor and Charles W. Palmer and Alfred Palmer two disinterested freeholders this second day of December A.D. 1886.

1	sideboard & contents	5.00
1	sofa & 6 chairs	4.00
3	rocking chairs	2.00
10	odd chairs	1.50

5	picture frames & Book rack	.75
2	Lamps & Mantle shade	.50
1	Tea stand	1.00
1	Table & cover	.75
2	Mirrors	1.50
	lot of canned fruit	1.00
	dishes cutlery & spoon	3.00
	scales & weoghts	.50
3	Small stoves	2.00
	sundries in North room	2.50
	Lot of iron & tin ware	1.50
	Lot of wine in cellar	3.00
	Wash stand & contents	1.50
	Beds & Bedding	20.00
	Desk & contents	5.00
	Copy right	1.00
	Bureau & contents	2.00
	Lot of Books	3.00
	Rag carpet	2.50
	Lot of Matting	3.00
4	bee hives & Bees	1.00
		69.50

Maja B. Mathis Executor

CW Palmer     )  
                           ) Appraisers  
 Alfred Palmer )

**Leah Blackman's Family as portrayed in her book, *The History of Little Egg Harbour Township*, pages 311-12**

Elihu Mathis, son of Job Mathis, was a surveyor, and by his unswerving adherence to justice and preciseness in his works, he gained the confidence of his acquaintances, many of whom, when they were involved in difficulties, or had business to be entrusted to other hands, unhesitatingly and confidently sought his counsel and efficient aid. He was unusually well versed in the law for one who had not been educated for a lawyer. He, like many of his name, was distinguished for the soundness of his judgment, for keeping his own counsel and the confidences of others, and also for his firmness when he thought he was in the right. He assessed the township of Little Egg Harbor for nine years in succession; he was several years a Justice of the Peace, and two years a member of the Legislature of New Jersey. He died the 11th day of December, 1856, aged 64 years and three months. Elihu married Amelia, daughter of Benjamin Seaman, of West Creek, Ocean county, N. J. Their children were **Leah**, Sabra, Amelia, Lydia, Benjamin Franklin, Sophronia Almira, and Lovenia Elvina.

**Leah**, daughter of Elihu Mathis, married Ezra Blackman, and had children named Melinda, Thomas, Elihu M., Elizabeth A., William E., Susan L., and Lovenia E.

Melinda Blackman married Ezra L. Hanson. Their child was named William Lockwood Hanson.

Thomas Blackman married Mary Lane; their children were Leilu and Leonard.

Elihu M. Blackman married Margaret, daughter of Charles Mathis; their child was named Somers Elihu Blackman.

Elizabeth A. Blackman married Captain Job Somers.

William E. Blackman married Sarah E. Jones.

Susan L. Blackman married Timothy W. Brown.

Lovenia E. Blackman, unmarried.