

Stephen Leek Will – 3/14/1753

[transcribed by Peter H. Stemmer from the recorded copy on microfilm at the New Jersey State Archives]

In the Name of God Amen this fourteenth day of March in ye year of our Lord One Thousand Seven hundred and fifty three I Stephen Leek of Little Egg harbour in ye County of Burlington and province of west New Jersey yeoman Being very Sick and weak in body But of perfect mind and memory Thanks be to God Therefore But Calling to any mind my one mortality of this body and beleaving it is apointed for all men once to die Do make ordain This my Last will and Testament That is to Say princibly and first of all I do humbly Give and Recommand my Soul into the Hands of God that gave it praying it may be Received into the arms of his mercy for Christ Jesus sake and as for my body I Recommend to the Earth to be Buried in a Christian Like decent manner at the discretion of my Executor and there to Lye according to Gods appointment and as Touching Such worldly Estate which God hath Graciously been pleased to Bless me with I do give and devise and dispose in the form and Manner as followeth *Imprimis* It is my will and I do order that in ye first place all my just Debts and funeral Charges be paid *Item* and then I do Give and bequeath unto Sarah Leek my wedded wife the use and Revenue of my new Dwelling house and Cleared Land and firewood during her Life time in this world and on Longer(?). I do also Give her all my moveable Estate Except So much as I Shall order my Executor to Levie out of my Estate afterwards beneath to pay Several Legicies to my other Children I do order my Executor to mak Sail of my movable Estate to pay my Just Debts Then to pay out the hereafter Legecies as I Shall hereafter Give Except her bed Reasonable furnature Iron Pot _____ and one Chest not to be sold. I Then order my Executor at his discretion when he hath made sail of my Estate and Colected in the money to pay out to my wife or widow yearly or oftner as her nessesesity Require till all Such money is paid to her for her Suport. *Item* I likewise give and bequesth unto my well beloved Son John Leek whom I make ordain Constitute & appoint my only son (?) Executor of this my Last will and Testament _____ at the death of my wife Sarah Leek all my Certain _____ Land and _____ to him the said John Leek his Heirs Executors administrators and assigns forever moreover I also Give my said Executor Ten Shillings to be devied out of my moveable Estate. *Item* I give and bequeath unto my Daughter hanah Garrison Ten Shillings to be paid by my Executor *Item* I give and bequeath to my daughter Rachel Ford Ten Shillings *Item* I give and bequeath to my daughter Sarah Leek Ten Shillings all to be paid by my Executor and all to be _____ out of my moveable Estate and I do hereby uterly Disallow and Revok and Disanull all and Every other Former Testaments Wills Legicies and Executors by me named or willed or bequeathed Befour this time Ratifying and Confirming This and no other to be my Last will and Testament in wittnes whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal Dated Day & Year first Above written N.B. first _____ Executors _____ before the signing hereof between ye 17 & 10 Line(?) Stephen P. Leek [Seal] Signed Sealed published pronounced & declared by said Stephen Leek this his Last will and Testament In the presence of ms(?) Mathias, Johnson, Lydia Gale, Samuel Lewis ~ Mathias, Johnson & Samuel Lewis two of the witnesses to the within will being duly Sworn on the Holy Evangalists of Almighty God did depose that they were present and Saw Stephen Leek the Testator therein named Sign & Seal the Same and heard him Publish pronounce & Declare the foregoing Instrument to be his last will and Testament & that at the time of the doing thereof the said Testator was of Sound and perfect disposing mind and memory So far as these disponents know and as the verely believe and that Lydia Gale the other Subscribing Evidence was present at the same time and Signed her name as a witness to the said will together with these Deponents on the _____ of the said Testator Sworn at Burlington ye 14th of May _____ 1753 Before me F. Scattergood Surrogate Be it Remembered that the last will and Testament of Stephen Leek being duly proved as above said Probate & Letters Testamentary(?) now(?) was Granted by his Excellency Jonathan Belcher Esqr Governor of the Provence of New Jersey _____ unto John Leek the Sole Exec. In the PP(?) will and _____ a true & perfect Inventory & _____ a Just acct. when thereunto Lawfully required. Given under the puragtive Seal of the said Province at Burlington the 14th day of May Ann. 1753.

_____ Reg Clerk