

Last Will and Testament of Conrad Weiser (1759)

In the name of god amen I Conrad Weiser of the Town of Reading in the county of Berks in the Province of Pennsylvania gentleman being of perfect health of body and of sound and disposing mind & memory (blessed be god for the same) yet considering the uncertainty of human life and desiring to quit myself as far as I may of the cares of this world do make this my last will and testament hereby revoking and making void all other and former wills by me heretofore made. Imprimis (sic) I do will and order that such just debts as may be owing by me at the time of my decease with my funeral expenses be paid by my executors herein after named as soon as conveniently may be after my decease. Item: I give devise and bequeath unto my beloved wife Ann Eve the messuage and lot whereon I now live in the town of Reading to hold to her my said wife during the term of her natural life and after my said wife's decease, I will and order the said messuage and lot to be sold by my executors or the survivors or survivor of them for the best price can be had for the same and the moneys arising from the sale thereof to be divided among all my children or their representatives share and share alike. Item: I give, devise, and bequeath unto my said wife Anna Eve and to her heirs forever my lot of ground situate on Callowhill Street in the said town of Reading mark'd (sic) in the plan of the said town no. 72. Item: I give and bequeath unto my said wife an annuity or yearly sum of twenty pounds for and during her natural life or until she marry again to be paid as hereinafter is directed. Item: I give and bequeath unto my said wife two of my best feather beds of her own choice, all my kitchen utensils and the sum of fifty pounds current money of Pennsylvania to be paid to my said wife by my executors within one month after my decease all which I do declare to be in lieu of her dower and full discharge of all demands she may make on my estate. Item: I give devise and bequeath unto my four sons Philip, Frederick, Samuel, and Benjamin, that is to say to each of my said sons and his heirs forever the part or share to him allotted in a draught or plan sign'd (sic) with my own proper hand and to this will annexed of all that my plantation in Heidelberg in the said County of Berks and my several tracts of land lying contiguous containing in the whole about eight hundred and ninety acres they my said sons paying each of them the sum of two hundred and fifty pounds lawful money of the said province unto my executors for the use herein after mentioned within one year after my decease. Item: I give devise and bequeath unto my aforesaid son Benjamin and his heirs forever the Lordship of the Manor of Plumton with all of the rights thereto belonging or appurtenant (sic) to hold the same together with that part of the said manor which by the aforesaid draught or plan is to him allotted. Item: I give devise and bequeath unto my son Peter and to his heirs all that piece of meadow ground and premises situate in Cumry (Cumru) Township in the said County of Berks purchas'd (sic) by me of Jacob Kern my said son Peter paying unto my executors the sum of five pounds to the use herein after mentioned within one year after my decease. Item: I give devise and bequeath unto my children Philip, Frederick, Peter, Samuel, Benjamin, Maria Mühlenberg and Margaret Fricker all those my lands lying beyond Kittochtiny (sic) mountains and all my grants or rights to lands lying beyond the same mountains to be divided in manner following that is to say to my son Philip two eight parts or shares of the whole and to each of my other children one eight part or share. Item: of my brother John Frederick Weiser do pay unto my executors within three years after my decease the sum in which he may be indebted to me at the time of my decease without interest I do in such case order and empower (sic) my executors to grant and convey unto my said brother all that track of land situate on Swetaro (sic) Creek now in his occupation and on nonpayment there of at the expiration of the said term I do order and direct my executors to sell the said land for the best price can be had for the same and that the money be divided among my children or their representatives share and share alike and whereas it is my intent and purpose that such my children as have been or may be advanced by me in my lifetime shall receive less in proportion of the residuary part of my estate in the distribution thereof than those of my children who have not been so much advanced therefore it is my will and I do order and empower (sic) my executors to sell off as soon as conveniently may be done after my decease all my lands houses and lots whatsoever and wheresoever not before disposed of by this my will for the best price that can be had for the same and to make good and sufficient deeds in fee simple to the purchasers thereof and that the monies arising from the sales thereof together with the one thousand pounds to be paid by my sons Philip Frederick Samuel and Benjamin and the five pounds to be paid by my son Peter and all and singular the rest and residue of my goods chattels ready money debts and securities for money, household goods, stock and all other my personal estate whatsoever or wheresoever or of what nature kind or quality soever (sic) not otherwise by this my will given or dispos'd (sic) of shall be divided and shared into seven parts or shares for my seven children. In such manner and ---- that the shares and purpards (sic) be less or more of each child according as

they shall appear to have been more or less advanced by me in my lifetime, the computation whereof shall be taken from a memorandum book kept by me wherein the same will appear Nevertheless before any distribution be made thereof I do order and direct my executors to secure out of the whole capital the annuity or yearly sum of twenty pounds hereinbefore bequeathed to my said wife in such manner as shall be agreeable to her and correspondent to this my will and I do will and order that the shares of my children Philip Frederick, Samuel, Peter and Maria Mühlenberg and of my son Benjamin if he be arrived at his full age be paid to them respectfully within twelve months after my decease or sooner if the same can conveniently be done but if my son Benjamin should then be under age its my will and order that his brethren put the same to interest and manage it to his best advantage during his minority. Item: I give and bequeath unto my grandson Israel Heintselman one hundred pounds out of the share allotted to his mother which sum shall be put to interest and manag`d (sic) for his best advantage by my sons Philip Frederick Peter and Samuel until he arrives at the age of twenty one years and then be paid to him with the profits thereof and as to the remaining part of my said daughter Margaret's share of the residuary part of my estate I do order and direct my executors to put the same to interest on good security and pay her yearly by the interest thereof during her natural life provided nevertheless if my daughter doth educate her children in the principles and according to the rites of the Roman Church in such case (or after the death of the said Margaret) it is my will and I do order and direct my executors or the survivors of them with the consent of my other children as soon as the same is manifest to them to retain the interest money of my said daughter's share and manage the same to the best advantage for the use of her children to be paid to them in equal shares together with the principle as they shall respectively attain the age of twenty one years and I do constitute and appoint my wife Anna Eve and my sons Peter and Samuel executors of this my last will and testament In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty-fourth day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty nine.

CONRAD WEISER