

Last Will and Testament of Joseph Pratt I [transcribed from original]

I, Joseph Pratt of the Township of Edgmont in the County of Chester in the Province of Pennsylvania, yeoman, being weak in body but of sound and disposing mind and memory, Praise be given to the Lord for the same and all other his mercies and favours to me, and considering the certainty of Death and the uncertainty of the Time thereof, I do make this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following, that is to say Principally and first of all I recommend my soul into the hands of Almighty God, and my body to be buried in a Christianly decent manner at the Discretion of my Executors hereafter named, and as Touching such Worldly Estate as it hath pleased God to bless me with in this life I give and devise the same in the following manner and form____

Imprimis My Will and mind is that all my just debts and funeral expences be paid and Discharged by my Executors as soon as conveniently may be after my Decease. Item I give and Bequeath unto my loving wife Mary Pratt the sum of one hundred pounds lawfull money of Pennsylvania and the feather beds and the furniture thereunto belonging, and also my large black walnut chest an oval table three chairs an iron pott a small brass kittle and all my china ware, also I give unto her my warming pan and all my pewter marked MI which I had with her, and one milch cow of her own choice, also I give unto my said loving wife the use and full priveledge of my lodging room with firewood suitable for her use to be provided by my son Joseph Pratt, for the term of two years after my Decease; if she so long continues my Widdow. Also my Will is that my son Joseph at his own proper cost and charge sufficiently keep and maintain one cow both winter and summer for her my said Wife for the term aforesaid; Item I give and devise all that my Plantation and tract of land situate in Edgmont aforesaid whereon I now live with all the buildings improvements and appurtenances whatsoever thereunto belonging unto my son Joseph Pratt to be possessed and enjoyed by him his heirs and assigns forever; (Excepting the Priveledge therein given to my wife). Also I give unto my Son Joseph my clock, wagon, furnace in the wall, and iron chains; Also it is my Will and I hereby order that my Negro man Cuffy be sett free and at liberty as soon as he hath earned and paid, or secured to be paid unto my son Joseph the sum of thirty five pounds lawfull money of Pennsylvania. And also my mulatto woman Peggy in like manner sett free as soon as she secures the payment of twenty five pounds of like money unto my son Joseph Pratt; Item I give and bequeath unto my Son in Law Randall Malin my watch; Item I give and bequeath unto my Son in Law Amos Davis my Dutch Servant Boy (Jacob Trustle) to serve him and his assigns the remainder part of his indented time after my Decease; Item I give and bequeath all the rest and residue of my Personal Estate and moveables of what kind soever, after my Debts are paid in the following manner (that is to say) My will is that one full and equal fifth part thereof be paid by my Executors into the hands of my Trustees (hereafter named) within eighteen months next after my Decease, and that my Trustees let out the same on good security and the interest or profits thereof be paid unto my loving wife Mary Pratt or her order during her Natural Life and after her Decease to be equally divided amongst my four Daughters to wit Rose, Sarah, Alice and Ann; also I give

and bequeath the remainder of any Personal Estate unto my said four daughters to be equally divided among them share and share alike; but in case either of them should die before a dividend is made then its my will that their parts be equally divided between their heirs;

I nominate constitute and appoint my son Joseph Pratt and my Son in Law Randall Malin to be my Executors of this my last Will and Testament, hereby revoking and making void all former wills by me heretofore made or declared either by word or writing; Lastly I nominate and appoint my son in law Lewis Lewis and my friend William Lewis of Newtown to be trustees of this my Last Will and Testament to see the same duly observed and performed according to the true intent and meaning thereof, in Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seale this Sixteenth day of the Eleventh month called November in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty six.__

Joseph Pratt

Signed Sealed Pronounced and Declared by the said Joseph Pratt to be his last Will and Testament in the presence of us__

William Griffith

William Lewis

Edward Farr

Mordecai Moore