

The Will of Thomas Skillman (1671 – 1740 Newtown, Queens, NY)

The son of Thomas Skillman, a British Immigrant and Annetje Aten, whose father was a Dutch Immigrant
Thomas was a planter, with a large plantation in what is now Long Island City in Queens

Page No.
Old Liber

501

Sixth day of June then next following being duly and Lawfully sworn thereto and I do ^{plain} depose and constitute you the said Isaac van Lam Admior of all and singular the Goods Rights and Credits which were of the said Joseph Ley so as afores^d Deceased In Testimony whereof I have caused the Prerogative seal of the said Province of New York to be hereunto affixed this twenty sixth day of June Anno Domini (1740)

{ Tho^s Skillman's Will }

In the Name of God Amen I Thomas Skillman of New Town in Queens County or Nassau Island in the Colony of New York German being at present Sick and weak in but of sound and perfect mind memory and understanding (blessed be the Lord for his Mercy) but calling unto mind the uncertain State of this Transitory Life and that all Flesh must yield unto Death when it pleases God to call do make Ordain constitute and declare this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following (that is to say) first and principally I commit my precious and Immortal Soul into the merciful hands of God my Creator hoping through the Merits Death and Passion of my blessed saviour and Redeemer Christ Jesus to have and receive a full pardon and free Remission of my manifold Sins and to inherit everlasting Life and my Body to the Earth from whence it was taken to be buried in such Christian and decent manner as to my Executors hereafter named shall be thought meet and convenient and as touching such Temporal Estate which the Lord in Mercy far above my Deserts hath been pleased to bestow upon me I give devise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form, *Imperius*. I Will and Order that all such debts and duties which I owe in Law or Conscience to any person or persons whatsoever as also my funeral charges to be well and truly satisfied by my Executors within some convenient time after my Decease

397

Item I give and bequeath unto my dearly beloved Wife Ann Skillman all my Estate both Real and Personal (except my Negro man Sam and my Negro Woman Darks) to be possessed and enjoyed by her during her Widowhood but if she happens to remarry then I Will and Order that she shall have only twenty pounds Current money of the Colony of New York paid her out of my Estate by my Executors within three months after such Remarriage and that in shall be in Lieu and stead of her Dower, Item I give and bequeath unto my son John Skillman the sum of Ten Shillings current money aforesaid to be raised out of my Estate and paid unto him within three months after my Wifes Decease or Remarriage and that for his Birthright Item I give and bequeath unto my sons Abraham Skillman and Benjamin Skillman and to their heirs each the sum of fifty pounds Current money as aforesaid to be raised out of my Estate and paid unto them within a twelve month after my said Wifes Decease or Remarriage and so to remain to them and their heirs I also give and bequeath to my said sons Abraham and Benjamin and their heirs all my Horses Waggon ploughs harrows and other Utensils of Husbandry to be possessed and enjoyed immediately after my Wifes Decease or Remarriage or at such time she is willing to acquit them Item after my Wifes Decease or Remarriage I give and bequeath all the remaining part of my Real Estate to my sons by name John Skillman, Abraham Skillman, Isaac Skillman, Jacob Skillman, Benjamin Skillman and Joseph Skillman, to be equally divided amongst them and so to remain to them and each of them their and each of their heirs and assigns for ever and I do give full power to my Executors to sell my Negro man Sam and my Negro Woman Darks as soon as convenient after my Decease to discharge my debts and funeral charges and what debts shall still remain I Will and Order that my said Sons shall pay in equal proportion amongst them that is to say John ^{Abraham and Jacob each a sixth part} a sixth part, Benjamin a sixth part and Joseph a sixth of all such remaining debt any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding I also Will and Order that before any division be made of my Real Estate that the hundred pound

given to my Sons Abraham and Benjamin be first
 allowed to them out of my said Real Estate Item
 I give and bequeath to my Daughters and Grand
 Daughter after my Wifes Decease or Remarriage all
 my moveable Estate (Except what is hereinbefore given
 and bequeathed) that is to say to my Daughter Mary
 now the Wife of John Bond two eleventh of my
 said moveable Estate to her and her heirs and
 assigns to my Daughter Mercy now the Wife of
 John Fine I give and bequeath the profits and
 incomes of two sevenths of said moveable Estate
 to be paid her yearly after my Wifes Decease or
 remarriage by my Executors but if her husband
 the said John Fine happens to depart this Life
 before my said Daughter Mercy then my Will is
 that she shall receive the said two sevenths part
 of my said Estate moveable into her own hands
 and for her own use but if my said Daughter
 Mercy shall depart this Life before her Husband
 the said John Fine then my Will is that the
 said two sevenths of my said moveable Estate
 shall be divided amongst the Children of my said
 Daughter Mercy both Male and Female in equal
 proportion and so to remain to them and each of
 them their heirs and assigns, and to my Daughter
 Ann now the Wife of Hendrick Van Derwater I
 also give two sevenths of my said moveable Estate
 after my Wifes Decease or Remarriage and to my
 Grand Daughter Ann Van De Water now the Wife
 of Jonas Marten I give one seventh of my said
 moveable Estate to have and to hold my said
 moveable Estate to my said Daughters and Grand
 Daughter in proportion as aforesaid to them their
 heirs and assigns and whereas my Son Jacob
 has at his own cost and Charge built a house
 on my plantation at Hemstead Swamp in the
 limmit of New Town I Will and order that after
 my Wifes Decease or Remarriage there shall be
 indifferent Men Chosen to Value said House
 and that he shall have so much paid him out
 of my Real Estate as said House shall be valued
 at and whereas I have a conveyance of John
 Van Horne and Catherine his Wife for a certain
 Tract of Land lying at Pariton in New Jersey and
 my Son John Skillman and Isaac Skillman
 have paid part of the consideration money my Will
 and order is that if they shall pay the remaining

398

part thereof so as I and mine are fully discharged therefrom and acquitted thereof that then my other sons by name Abraham, Jacob, Benjamin and Joseph Skillman shall release the same unto the said John Skillman and Isaac Skillman and to their heirs and assigns and further I do give full power & Authority to my Executors after my Wife Decease or Remaniage to grant bargain Sell and convey all my Real Estate wheresoever it be or is to be found and that their conveyance or conveyances shall make the buyer or buyers an Indefeasible Title in the Law for the same to the end that what is above written may be done lastly I do nominate constitute and appoint my beloved sons Abraham Skillman Jacob Skillman and Benjamin Skillman Executors of this my last Will and Testament: desiring them to Execute fulfill and see the same performed according to the true intent and meaning thereof In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & Seal the twenty third day of February in the thirteenth year of his Majesties Reign and in the year of our Lord and Saviour Christ Jesus one thousand seven hundred and thirty nine.

Thomas I Skillman (L^{td})
Signed Sealed Published Pronounced and Declared by the said Thomas Skillman as his last Will and Testament in presence of us the subscribers Barnardus Van Landt John Papelie, Cornelius Berrien Junr.

N. York Secrys Office July 4th 1740
Then and there Barnardus Van Landt and John Papelie appeared before me John Robinson being thereunto appointed & made Oath that they saw Thomas Skillman Seal Sign publish & declare the above writing as his last Will and Testament & that he then was of sound mind & memory to the best of their understanding & that they also saw Cornelius Berrien Junr. Sign his name as Witness thereto in conjunction with them in the Testators presence.

Mem^d that at the same time Abraham Skillman Jacob Skillman & Benj^t Skillman the Exors named in the above Will likewise appeared before me & took the Oath for the due Execution thereof.