

Here are some transcriptions of the handouts on Reading Old Handwriting. If you find any mis-transcriptions (or typos), please let me know ([tdoherty@udel.edu](mailto:tdoherty@udel.edu)).

Also, if you have transcriptions for the missing lines or pages shown in red on p.7 to 10 of this document, please send the transcriptions to me, and I'll comment on them.

In the name of God, Amen,

I Samuel Tillett of the State of

North Carolina, Currituck county, being in an afflicted State of health and weak in body, but of sound mind memory, thanks be given to Almighty God, calling to mind the Mortality of my body, and knowing that is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last will and Testament Viz. principally and first of all I command my soul into the hands of Almight =ty God, that gave it, and my body I commend unto the earth to be buried in decent Christian burial at discretion of my executors hereafter to be named, and touching such worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me with in this life. I give, devise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form.

Item. I lend to my beloved wife Lovey Tillett (whose maiden name was Lovey Russell, afterwards the lawful wife of Jessee Ethridge, and married to me after his decease, by shich reason I title her how Lovey Tillett my wife) the use of the mannor plantatian whereon I now live, with the dwelling house and all other out houses belonging to said plantation during her widowhood. Item. I give and bequeath to my son Thomas Tillett, one hundred and thirty acres of land, to the northward of my land adjoining William Ethridges, to him and his heirs forever. I give and bequeath to my daughter Sally Tillett one hundred and thirty acres to the southward of my land, to her and her heirs forever: Als. I give to said daughter one Negro, named Luis, to her and heirs forever. I Give and bequeath to [my] son Jessee Tillett one hundred and thirty acres in the middle between my son Thomas and Sally Tillett's land, to him and his heirs forever. Item, my Will is that my vessel be sold to pay my debts. Item. All the rest of my property not given away, to be equally divided among my wife as before mentioned, and my three children. Thomas, Sally and Jessee Tillett. Item. I do nominate and appoint y brother Thomas Tillett whole and sole executor of this my last Will and Testament satisfying and canfirming [confirming] this and no other to be my last Will and Testament. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set

Will of Samuel Tillett, County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 20 Jan. 1812, Currituck Co., North Carolina, vol. 3, p. 13. FHL film 018,753

p.6 (Sperry p.146)

Otis Son of William Caswell & Hannah his  
 Wife was Born Middleborough May y<sup>e</sup> 12, 1784,  
Nancy Daughter of William Caswell & Hannah his  
 Wife was Born Taunton June y<sup>e</sup> 10, 1787,  
Hannah Daughter of William Caswell & Hannah his  
 Wife was born Poland [Maine] September y<sup>e</sup> 18, 1793,

Poland, Androscoggin Co., Maine Town Records, p. 51. FHL film 011,739 (8<sup>th</sup> item).

p.7 (Sperry p.174)

**This Indenture** Made this thirteenth  
 Day of May in the Eight Year of the Reign of our Sove:  
 erign Lord George the Second Annoq Domini one thousand  
 Seven Hundred thirty and five Between Catherina  
 Brett of the Fish Kill in the County of Duchess in the  
 Provence of New York in America of the one Part and Gyse-  
 bert Peele of the Corporation of Kingstown in the County of  
 Ulster in the Provence Aforesaid Yoeman of the other Part  
 Wittnesseth that the said Catherina Brett for and in  
 Consideration of the sum of Two Hundred and Ten Pounds  
 Currant Lawfull Money of New York Aforesaid as also one  
 Cow to her in hand paid by Gysebert Peele the Reciept  
 whereof whereof shee doth hereby Acknowledge hath bar  
 gaind and sold and by these presents doth Bargain and  
 Sell unto the said Gysebert Peele/all that Certain Messuage  
 Tract or Parcell of Land Scituating Lying and Being  
 in the County of Dutchess Aforesaid and known to be part  
 of that Land Called Menisinek: Beginning at the South  
 East Corner of the Land Called Francoy's Possession by a butter

Indenture, Dutchess County, New York, 1735, p.248. FHL film 565,011

p.8 (Sperry p.194)

Hartford June 16<sup>th</sup>: 1698Hon<sup>ble</sup> S<sup>r</sup>

I received your Letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> Instant by the Post Sam<sup>l</sup> Rogers  
And according to your Comand I have communicated the same to the Councill here for  
their

advise. And now send to your Hon<sup>r</sup> Inclosed a Copie of Colon<sup>ll</sup> Dongans~  
Letter of November the fift 1683 Containing his Claim upon this Colonie  
of all the Land lying within twentie miles of Hudsons River. The act  
of the Generall Assembly holden at Hartford Novemb<sup>r</sup> the 14<sup>th</sup> following  
Comissionating Maj<sup>r</sup> Gold, Colon<sup>ll</sup> Allin, And M<sup>r</sup> Pitkin to treat with Colon<sup>ll</sup>  
Dongan about the Dividing Line between York and this Colonie, And  
their instructions to the Comissioners. A writ formed Articles of ag—  
reement, Concluded Novemb<sup>r</sup> 28: 1683: between Colon<sup>ll</sup> Dongan Govern<sup>r</sup>  
of New york with his Councill Robert Treat Govern<sup>r</sup> of Connecticut. An  
Account of a Line RunE [running] by persons Comissionated by Colon<sup>ll</sup> Dongan  
Octobe<sup>r</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>: 1684 Intended for a dividing Line between the Province  
of New york and this Colonie &c: The Severall Applications of the towns  
of Rye and Bedford to this Court with Such papers as were propeer [proper] in by  
their deputies. And the Acts of the Govern<sup>r</sup> and Councill, and Generall  
Assembly thereupon. Which is all that by the Advice of the Assistants here,  
is to be found upon Record, of any weight in the Case depending. The  
Worshipfull Assistants have directed me to signifie to your Hon<sup>r</sup>, that  
they are Credibly informed, from the Affirmation of Colon<sup>ll</sup> Dongan  
that there is nothing sent into England Concerning this Late pretend—  
ed Agreement, neither is there any thing thereof in the office of Re—  
cord in the Governm<sup>t</sup> of New york, I have inclosed also the Order of the Gen<sup>rl</sup>  
Assembly Impowering Comissioners to treat with the Rhode Islanders~  
I have sent also by the post Copies for the Severall townes in the  
Countie of Newlondon and for Windham of the acts of the Last GE—  
nerall Assembly. They Require much writing but I intend to send them  
all out this week. I am Required by the Worshipfull Assistants how  
to Send to your Hon<sup>rble</sup> Copie drawn by Called Colon<sup>ll</sup> Allin Intitled a  
A Copie of Conecticut first Charter. which is Submitted to you Hon<sup>r</sup> Wise  
Consideration according to their Order: I am Hon<sup>ble</sup> S<sup>r</sup>:

Your Hon<sup>r</sup> Most humble and

Obedient Servant.

Eleazar Kimberly

Eleazar Kimberly to Fitz-John Winthrop, 16 June 1698, Winthrop Family Papers,  
Massachusetts  
Historical Society, Boston, MA. Courtesy Massachusetts Historical Society.

p.9 (Sperry p.220)

S

Honoured

S:<sup>r</sup>

My father being just going to Plimouth desired me to inform you that he received your letter by the post, and if the Sandwich men are not gon [gone] before he gets there he will stop them till Aprill: S:<sup>r</sup> I have sent a letter which my father received from John Bill & he would desre [desire] you to agree with him; his wages are about 3: or 4: pound as my father reconed when he was there. S:<sup>r</sup> please to pardon my unhandsome writing. I remaine your dutyfull & obedient nephew.

This day the ship's sayl'd [sailed] for JW. [John Winthrop] England.

S:<sup>r</sup> please to remember me to my Cousin.

March 7:<sup>th</sup> 1697/8

John Winthrop to Fitz-John Winthrop, 7 March 1697/8, Winthrop Family Papers, Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, MA. Courtesy Massachusetts Historical Society.

p.10 (Sperry p.222)

Att a meeting of the Select men  
 for granting Libertey to the Inhabitants  
 to gitt Timber on the Towne Com!on for  
 ther [their] owne use in the Towne Dec<sup>b</sup>. 27 . 1697  
 Libertey granted to Benj:<sup>a</sup> Edwards for  
 Timber for building an End to his barne  
 of fourteen fott [foot] long  
 and for one hundred of Rayles  
 Mordichai Larkum Two hundred of Rayles  
 and fifety posts: for fenceing his land  
 John Gott six pine Trees for to make board  
 and Shingle for a Lean too to his hous  
 John Browne Two hundred of Rayles and  
 fivety [fifty] posts and liberty for Gurts for  
 his barne & Slepers to lay a floare [floor] on  
 in his dwelling hous  
 Goodman Cue Thre score posts & one  
 hundred of Rayles & thre pine Trees  
 for boards  
 Sergt. James Friend Pine Timber Trees  
 a nuff [enough] to make one Thousand of board  
 for finishing his dwelling hous  
 & Two hundred of Rayles & fivety posts  
 Robart Hebbart {Hebbard} one hundred of Rayles  
 & fivety [fifty] posts for fenceing his land  
 Theophilus Rix Two hundred of Rayles  
 and fivety posts for fencing his land  
 Caleb Kemball, one hundred & half of  
 Rayles & fivety posts & two pine Trees

Wenham, Essex Co., Massachusetts, Town Records, 1697. FHL film 878,669.

p.11 (Sperry p.226)



**A List of Delinquents in Murderkill Hundred [1818]**

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| <b>David Aron not able to pay</b>                                | <b><del>221</del></b> |
| <b>William Andrewsons personal He dead and no property</b>       | <b>199</b>            |
| <b>Robert Artis Dead and no property</b>                         | <b>150</b>            |
| <b>Thomas Armstrong not to be found</b>                          | <b>150</b>            |
| <b>Samuel Biron went to the back Countries last spring early</b> | <b>196</b>            |
| <b>James Bauchamp N worth nothing</b>                            | <b>150</b>            |
| <b>David Bear not to be found</b>                                | <b>220</b>            |
| <b>Matthews Bethards dead</b>                                    | <b>60</b>             |
| <b>John Bostick Deceas'd last winter not one Cent</b>            | <b>224</b>            |

Skip 9 lines

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>John Dill of Philamon lives in Maryland no property here</b> | <b>267</b>          |
| <b>Charles Errixen [Ericson from other tax lists]</b>           | <b>211 [xd out]</b> |
| <b>John Farlow moved back</b>                                   | <b>150</b>          |
| <b>John Fisher Hatter left this last winter and no property</b> | <b>200</b>          |
| <b>Edward Fisher says that he pays tax in the other hundred</b> |                     |
| <b>Smithers &amp; Fisher</b>                                    | <b>500</b>          |
| <b>Thos Green Carpenter went away last spring early</b>         | <b>200</b>          |
| <b>Abraham Hurlack no such person</b>                           | <b>442</b>          |
| <b>Peter Henry Henry N sold up</b>                              | <b>240</b>          |
| <b>Henry Hendrixon Run away with his wife's daughter</b>        | <b>240</b>          |

**Allowances made by the Justices Grandjurymen and Assessors  
Members of the Levy Board and Court of Appeal both held at Dover and for  
Kent County on Delaware on Tuesday the fifteenth day of November and Tuesday  
the fifteenth day of December Annoque Domini Seventeen Sixty three**

To John Wells and wife for keeping Mary Lavery after child the ensuing year     £7  
To Catherine Hand[?] for her support the ensuing year To the care of Obd<sup>h</sup> Voshall     1 10

skip last 25 lines

p.14

Will of Ann Ford of Harrison Co, Ohio [Harrison Co Probate Book 1813-1878, p.79-81

**Ann Ford's Will**

**To all persons to whom these presents may come Greeting:**

**Know ye that by virtue of a written Article of agreement made and duly  
executed by and between William Ford and George Cummins and Ann Ford  
wife of the said William Ford bearing date the [blank] day of [blank]  
eighteen hundred and [blank] the said Ann Ford was duly authorized and  
empowered to make and execute her last Will and Testament at any time she  
might see cause and thereby dispose of all her estate both real and personal in  
such manner as she the said Ann Ford might think fit, (any thing in  
either in law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding.) Therefore I the said  
Ann Ford being weak in body but of sound and disposing mind and memory  
do this twenty sixth day of December eighteen hundred and twenty make & publish  
this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following, that is to say,  
Imprimis, I give and bequeath to my daughter Sarah Kinsey my silver framed  
spectacles, and one fourth of my wearing apparel.  
Item I give and bequeath to my daughter Eleanor Chicken one new spinning  
wheel and one fourth part of my wearing apparel.**

p.15

**Item - I give and bequeath to my son Daniel David the whole of his Note which I hold against him principle and Interest.**

**Item - I give and bequeath to my daughter Nancy Buck one new spinning Wheel and one fourth part of my wearing apparel. -**

**Item - I give and bequeath to my son Henry David the whole of the balance which he now owes to me and one fourth part of my Wearing Apparel, I give to Ruth David - wife of Henry David.**

**And with regard to my real Estate my will is that my farm which lies in duck neck in Kent County and State of Delaware shall be sold by my Executors herein after to be named, within the space of One year from and after my decease - And also my Farm which lies in Freeport Township Harrison County and State of Ohio, on which my husband William Ford as aforesaid has his life Estate shall also be sold as aforesaid within the Term of One Year from and after his decease, And the monies thence arising as also all the moneys arising from Notes which I shall hold at the time of my decease and not heretofore provided for in this Will, as also all moneys arising from the rents of my Duck neck farm which shall be due to me at my Decease or which shall become due to my Estate after my Decease together with all monies which shall be in my possession at the time of my decease shall be from time to time divided into six equal shares or dividends by my Executor as it shall from time to time come into his hands, and by him shall be from time to time paid over in the manner hereinafter to be pointed out. Viz.**

**Item - One Dividend or sixth part thereof to be paid over to the only use benefit, behoof & application of Sarah Kinsey wife of Richard Kinsey.**

**Item - One Dividend or sixth part thereof to be paid over to the only use benefit behoof and application of Eleanor Chicken, wife of Daniel Chicken.**

**Item - One Dividend or sixth part to be paid over to Daniel David aforesaid.**

**Item - One Dividend or sixth part to Nancy Buck wife of Nathaniel Buck for her only use benefit, behoof & application:**

**Item - One Dividend or sixth part to be paid to Henry David as aforesaid.**

**Item - One Dividend or sixth part thereof to be divided into five equal parts and to be put to Interest for the use of my Daughter Mary Grewell's five children which she has left Viz. Sarah Grewell her oldest to receive one fifth of her Mother's Dividend when she arrives at the age of eighteen with the Interest thereon.**

**2. Daniel Grewell her Brother to receive one fifth of his mother's Dividend**

Province of }  
New Hampshire}

May the 21<sup>st</sup> 1754 Pursuant to the within Precept I have Summoned the  
Within Named Francis Tucker Edward Man by Reading the within Precept  
to them I have likewise Summoned the within named Henry Biggandin  
by Leaving at attested Copy of the written precept at the Last and usual  
place of his abode . Tho<sup>s</sup> Parker Sherriff

**skip 5 lines**

And Humphrey Fernald and Dorothy his wife (in her right) and Hannah Symmes  
being admitted Def<sup>ts</sup> appear and plead an abatement of this writ viz<sup>t</sup>  
first.. for that the Plat Declares that one Edward Melcher in his lifetime was seized of  
the Premises Demand in his Demesne? as of for and being So seized thereof on the  
26<sup>th</sup> of April 1694 by his Deed of Gift of that Date conveyed the Same to one  
Samuel Jackson and Mary his wife During their lives and the Longest Liver of them  
and after the Deceas<sup>d</sup> of Such Survivor to the Heirs of the Body of the Said mary  
and Declare that by form of Said Gift the Said Samuel was Seized of the  
Premises in Right of Said Mary which is a Contradiction and Repugnant and  
Inconsistant for that the Said Samuel Jackson was Seized in his Own  
Right by force of the Gift and not in Right of Said mary

2dly the Plat<sup>t</sup> Sues for the Premisses as Heir of the Said mary which mary he Says  
was Tenent intail and that the Said Premisses Descends to the Plat<sup>t</sup> from  
the Said mary but dont Declare that the Said Mary is Dead which he Ought  
to have Declared wherefore the Defend<sup>ts</sup> pray judgement that the writ abate  
and for Costs ----- At [attest] Noah Emory -----  
A True Copy att<sup>r</sup> H Wentworth Clek