

Col. Jason Woodward of Ashford, Connecticut, dated July 1, 1820

In the Name of God Amen

I, Jason Woodward of Ashford in the County of Windham, State of Connecticut, being advanced in years yet of sound disposing mind and memory do ordain constitute & appoint this my last will and testament in the words & figures following.

To wit: In the first place my will is that after my decease my body be buried in a decent and Christian like manner, & that suitable monuments be erected at my grave in which I shall be reposed—and I do ordain and direct my executors hereinafter named to see my will and directions above stated carried into effect & for my funeral expenses & for the procuring and erecting said monuments in manner as aforesaid, I appropriate one hundred dollars and further order and direct that all my just debts and funeral charges be paid.

2nd: I give and bequeath to my wife *Sarah Woodward & Experience Sumner* the use & improvements of all that tract or parcel of land that I now own & improve, butted & bounded & joined as follows: To wit (description of land) and the buildings thereon standing to them the said Sarah Woodward & Experience Sumner & to the survivor of them as long as they shall remain single & unmarried or so long as they shall live which shall first so appear and after the deaths of said Sarah Woodward & Experience Sumner or after the marriage of both if that shall take place I will & bequeath all the before-described tracts of land with all the buildings thereon standing to *Jason Woodward, George Woodward, Horatio Woodward* & children of my son *Horatio Woodward* and *Jason Warren* son of my daughter *Pamela Warren* now wife of *Luther Warren* of said Ashford to these & others that shall survive & to the heirs of their bodies that shall survive share & share alike in ??? forever.

3rd: I give and bequeath to my grandson *Jason Warren* aforesaid all that my tract or parcel of land known by the name of *Hyde Sumner Farms* situated & being in said Ashford about an half mile northerly of said old parish meeting hall to him the said *Jason Warren* & the heirs of his body in ??? forever.

4th: I give & bequeath to my granddaughter *Phila Woodward Williams* all that tract or portion of land known by the name of the *Works Farm* laying in said Ashford east ... & contains one hundred & twelve acres with the buildings thereon standing to her the said *Phila Woodward Williams* & heirs of her body in ??? forever.

5th: I will & bequeath to my grandson *Simeon Woodward Williams* all the tract & pieces of land known by the name of the *Walker lot* & ??? lot laying in said Ashford about two miles southerly or south of said old parish meeting hall containing about on hundred & eight acres more or less with all the buildings thereon standing & to him the said *Simon Woodward Williams* of the heirs of his body in ??? forever.

6th: I give and bequeath to the old or ??? parish in said Ashford the burying ground so called containing about two acres for the purpose of burying their dead, to them the inhabitants of said old society their heirs survivors & assigns forever for the purposes aforesaid on this condition that they their heirs survivors & assigns shall forever after my decease keep the same free from bushes and noxious weeds & also keep said burying grounds interred with a good & legal finer.

7th: I give and bequeath to my son *Samuel Woodward* ten dollars to be paid him by my executor hereinafter named.

8th: I give & bequeath to my wife Sarah Woodward & Experience Sumner all my household furniture & indoor moveables to them & the longest liver of them so long as either of them shall live & after their decease all household furniture & indoor moveables to go & be equally divided to & among my heirs.

9th: I give & bequeath to my wife Sarah Woodward the use of all the money & notes & all other personal property that I shall die ??? & possessed of or owner of except what is before disposed of & also what is necessary for my executors to bring into effect the provisions and true intent & ??? of this my last will and testament so long as she shall live or remain my widow which shall first happen, but it is on this condition that the said Sarah Woodward shall yearly & every year pay to my son *Horatio Woodward* thirty dollars for ten years after my decease and also pay to my son *Jason Woodward Junior* yearly & every year ten dollars for eight years after my decease. And so that the said Experience Sumner have & enjoy an equal right & privilege with my wife Sarah Woodward to the use & improvement of one yoke of oxen & cart & all my farming tools four cows one horse and wagon & ... & all my swine.

10th: My will is that after the death or intermarriage of the said Sarah Woodward & Experience Sumner which shall first happen death or intermarriage—then I will & bequeath & order & direct that my notes, monies & my other personal estate that remains & that is not otherwise disposed of my executors hereinafter named take into their hands & possess and I do order & direct that they my said executors or the survivors of them faithfully & truly take care of my said monies notes & other personal property as aforesaid & that they loan the same on & security to double the amount or more & to see that the interest is paid annually & assured in like manner so that the principal & interest will remain good & undiminished so far as the nature of the case will admit of and at the death of all or the last of my said executors hereinafter named my will is & I do order & direct that all my said notes, monies & other personal estate be equally divided between my other surviving heirs to them their heirs & assigns forever & my said executors are hereby ordered & directed that in all instances if any shall happen to secure & collect the principal & interest in such a manner as they shall judge most beneficial to promote the increase of said property.

11th: I do hereby constitute & appoint Philip Hayward, Esq., Elisha Byles and Daniel Knowlton, Jr. all of said Ashford, executors to this my last will & testament hereby revoking all other wills and testaments made & declaring this to be my last & only will and testament and hereby notifying & confirming the same—signed, sealed, pronounced, published & declared to be my last will & testament in presence of the witnesses hereto subscribing and I & they in each others presence at Ashford this first day of July, AD 1820—Jason Woodward SS in the presence of David Brewster, Luther Topsiss, William Hayward

Probate Court held at Pomfret in the District of Pomfret July 17th AD 1821, present Liam Grosvinor, Esq., Judge—personally appeared Mr. Daniel Knowlton 2nd, & presented to this court an instrument purporting to be the last will & testament of Col. Jason Woodward late of Ashford deceased in which Philip Hayward Esq., Elisha Byles & the said Daniel Knowlton 2nd are named as executors to said will but the said Philip Hayward Esq & Elisha Byles declined & wholly refused to accept the trust reposed in them as far from under their hands an file fully & ??? or to have anything to do with the same and the said Daniel Knowlton 2nd and the trust reposed in him by said will and this court ordered notice to be given to the widow & ligators named in said will to appear if they see ??? before a probate court to be held at Ashford in said district on the 23rd

day of July ??? at 10'oclock AM on said day at the house of Capt. Thomas Bamham in said Ashford when & where they should be heard affecting the proving approving & all owning said instrument as & for the last will & testament of said deceased, Attest Elisha B. Perkins, Clerk of Probate.

At a probate court held at Ashford in the district of Pomfret on July 23 AD 1821, present Liam Grosvinor Esq, Judge, personally appeared, Mr. Daniel Knowlton 2nd, the executor named in the last will & testament of Col. Jason Woodward late of said Ashford deceased, & having returned the citation sent out by this court to notify the widow & ligators named in said will the said widow & ligators or such as represented the minors were present—and two of the subscribing witnesses being called to prove the one ??? the same Mr. David Brewster & William G Hayward and being under oath for the purpose were duly sworn by said court & both of said witnesses that they saw the testator Col. Jason Woodward sign & seal the same in their presence and heard him publish, pronounce & declare the same to be his last will and testament—but that he the said Jason Woodward the testator did not at the time appear to them of sound & disposing mind & memory and in their opinion not capable of making a will (and the other witness being gone to parts unknown) this court having heard said witnesses & others for & against said will and arguments of the court for & against the acceptance of said will & having duly considered the same is of opinion & do adjudge that said instrument presented as & for the last will & testament of Col. Jason Woodward late of Ashford deceased is not proved as law requires—and do make null & void & wholly set aside said instrument as & for the last will & testament of the said Jason Woodward deceased—and do order & decree that administration be granted on said estate—and the said widow & ??? of said deceased declining to accept or take letters of administration on said estate whither of the loss of said deceased this court do appoint Thomas Dow & Luther Warren Esq & also Daniel Knowlton administrators over said estate, who have accepted the trust reposed in them & given bonds with surety for the faithful performance of their task.

Attest: Elisha B. Perkins, Clerk of Probate

Duly recorded & examined by Elisha B. Perkins, Clerk of Probate

Notes: Jason's wife was Sarah Sumner Woodward
Jason names "Experience Sumner" as an equal to his wife
Jason's children listed in his will are:

George

Horatio, d. 1856

Pamela, wife of Luther Warren, d. 1846

Samuel

Jason, d. 1822

His other children from the Hale Collection cemetery records are:

Salla, died in 1815 at age 25, consort to Simeon Williams

Phila, died in 1810 at age 17

Grandchildren named in Jason's will are:

Simeon Woodward Williams

Phila Woodward Williams

Jason Warren, son of Pamela and Luther

Unnamed children of Horatio