

Source: Mayflower Descendant Vol 18 973 B 2 M d

The will of Obadiah Bowen of Swansea, Mass., with all other records or documents on file relating to his estate, found in the Bristol County, Mass, Registry of Probate, at Taunton.

Obadiah Bowen's will was twice recorded, in Book II, page 290, and in Book III, page 1.

(OBADIAH BOWEN'S WILL)

(2:290) in the Name of God Amen the Eleventh day of Decemb^r one Thousand seven Hundred & eight I Obadiah Bowen of Swansey in Y^e County of Bristol in New England Yeoman being Grown Ancient & weake of body Yet of sound mind & memory blessed be God for the same and being willing & desirous to set my house in Order & settle my outward Estate which the Lord in mercey hath Lent me I Do make this my Last will & testam^t In manner & form following Viz: Imprimis I Commit my soul into the hands of God who gave it hoping through grace to Receive the Remission of all my sins And through the Mirrits of my Blessed Saviour Jesus Christ to be made pertaker of the Inheirittance of y^e saints in Light and my body to be Decently buried according to the discesio of my Executors of this my Last Will and Testament hereafter Named And as touching such worldly Estate wherewith it hath pleased God to Bless me in this life I give Demise and Despose of the same in the following manner and form.

My will is that all my Just Debts which I owe to any person or persons whatsoever he be duely payd by my Execut^r out of my Estate in time Conveinient after my Decease

Imp^{ms} I give to my well beloved son Samuel Bowen of Cohansey Ten pounds silver money at the fifteen pery weight and seventeen pounds of the like money I give to my said son Samuel Bowen and my daughter hannah Brooks Equally to be divided betwixt them I do also give to my daughter hannah Brooks my bed and bedding

Item I give to Lidia Mason a Cow

Itt: I give & bequeath unto my Grandsons Aron Bowen & Daniel Bowen sons of my son obadiah Bowen Deceased to them and Each of them for Ever All y^t my Right & Interest of and in the lands both divided and undivided scittuate lyeing & being within the Township of Attleborough in the County of Bristol afores^d Equally to be divided

between them:

Item I give unto my Grandson Nathan Bowen son of my s^d son obadiah Bowen to him the said Nathan Bowen for Ever All that my two Divissions of lands in Rehoboth the one being allready laid out & the other now due to be layd out by y^e selectmen of Rehoboth afores^d that land weh is allready layd out being somewhat distant from Blissess saw mill and also all my Right of fresh meadow viz^t two peices of fresh meadow the one lyeing at a place called the great meadow the other somewhat distant from s^d meadow.

Itt I give and bequeath unto my son Joseph Bowen his heires and Assignes for ever All that my Division or Divisions of land layd out adjacent to said Josephs lands within the Township of Rehoboth afores^d and allso the whole of all my undivided lands throughout the Commons of undivided lands both in the township of Rehoboth & Swansey aforesaid

Itt I give and bequeath unto James Bowen & Hezekiah Bowen forever Respectively all that my lot of land of land lyeing & being in Rehoboth afores^d Contayning Twenty acres it being Recorded to william Bowen in said Rehoboth land Records and to all other of my Relations not herein mentioned that should under any Tollerable pretence Claime any portion of my Estate left I give one shilling allso in full sattisfaction to them all: And whereas there is Amongst my household stuff four pewter platters that were given to me in my infancy when I was Baptized I do now give one of s^d platters to my Grand Daughter Katherine Bowen And one of them to my Grandaughter Sarah Bowen and one of them I give to my Granddaughter Alice Bowen and the fourth & last platter I give to my Grand daughter Elizabeth Mary Bowen. that is to say to each of them a Platter

Item I Give to my Grand daughter a smale iron Kettle

Itt I give and bequeath to my son Thomas Bowen all the Rest of my Estate not yet disposed of And finally I do hereby make Constitute Appoint & ordain my said son Thomas Bowen to be my sole Executor of this my last will and Testament & doe allso Charge him to see it (p.291) Punctually and duely performed according to the purpose & true meaning thereof And I do allso hereby Revoke and uterly null & make void all former wills & testaments by me at any time made Either by word or wrighting to be of no Effect or Use But this my last will & Testament to stand firm & good In witness wherof I the said obadiah Bowen have

hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seale with my own hand
given and publised and Declared the day & year first above written

Obadiah Bowen (S)

Signed sealed and Delivered
In the presence of us
Caleb Eddy
John Paddock
John Devotion

Bristolss: october 14th 1710 then Caleb Eddy and John Paddock
Jun^r two of y^e wittnesses of the within written will of Obadiah
Bowen above Named Came before me Natha^l Paine Esq^r Judge of the
Probate of wills & granting Administrations within the County
aforesaid & made Oath that they were present and did see the said
Deceased signe seal publish & declare this Instrum^t to his will
and Testam^t & that he was of a Disposing mind when he so did
and that they together with John Devotion the other witness set
their hands as witnesses at the same time

John Cary Reg^r

Nath^l Paine

Entered Nov^r 29 1710 by John Cary Reg^r

(From original bond) On 14 October, 1710, "Thomas Bowen
of Swanzy in the County of Bristol" as "Executor.... of his late
Father Obadiah Bowen of Swanzy Deceased" with Joseph Bowen &
James Bowen of Rehoboth" gave bond for 300, "Currant Money".
The bond bears the autograph signatures of "Thomas Bowen" "Joseph
Bowen and "James Bowen", also of "Caleb Eddy" and John Cary as
witnesses.

(From original inventory) An Inventory of the Estate of
Obadiah Bowen late of Swanzy Deceased Apprized by us the sub-
scribers hereof october the 4th day Anno Domini 1710:

Imp ^{rs} his wearing Cloathes both woollon & Linning	05	10	0
his Bookes two Bibles old & c:	00	12	00
one sword 5 ^s	00	05	00
one feather Bed & boster a pillow 2 pair of shet & a pair blankets and Coverlets	08	00	00
A pair of old Curtaines	00	10	0
one feather bed and beding	07	00	0
Three bedsteeds at	01	08	0
A Table & Nine Chaires & 3 Chusings: at	01	13	6

A Cubbard 40 ^s & Chest 8 ^s	08	08	0
3 Pewter platt ^{rs} a plate 2 Cupes and warming Pans & one pewter bason	01	00	0
A pair of stilliard	01	00	0
5 wooden bowles & a tray & Churn	00	09	6
in silver money at 15 ^d weight	17	00	0
one Iron pott & 2 iron Kettles at	01	03	0
hack tongs a pair of Pothook Candlestick	00	05	0
one old Brass Kettle & skillet	00	08	0
two Chaines 12 ^s Horss Chaines 6 ^s old Iron at 10 ^s a share & Coulter 6 ^s	01	14	0
one old hand saw 2 ^s bark shave & beaming Knifes 7 ^s	00	09	0
An old wheel and a hammer--with Real	00	04	0
more silver money 13 7-2 ^d in y ^e house 5 5-0: Abroad	18	12	2
Tubs & barills & old Lumber	00	05	0
his lands in Attlebororough divided and undivided	40	00	0
his lands & meadows in Rehoboth given to Nathan bowen	20	00	0
lands and rights to land in Rehoboth & Swanzy given to his son Joseph Bowen at	15	00	0
Twenty acres given to James an Hezekiah Bowen	05	00	0
	119	18	2

Caleb eddy
John Carey prisers

since brought in by the Exec^{rs}:

Octb ^r 14: 1710 An old horss	1	5	0
frying pan Cops Ring & staple	0	6	0
a bill from Rob ^t Cartter	2	0	0

Thomas Bowen Exe^r of the last will and Testament of obadiah Bowen
late of Swanzy deceased Appeared this fourteenth day of october 1710
before Natha^l Paine Esq^r Judge of Probate of wills & c within the County
Bristol & made Oath the Inventory on y^e other side Containes the whole
of the estate that the s^d Deceased Dyed seized of & is come to his
knowledge & that when he knowes of any more he will reveal it that it
may be of Record herewith

John Cary Reg^r

Nath^l Paine

Bristol as In the second Book folio 291 Novemb^r 29: 1710 the above
and within written was Enterd: by John Cary Reg^r

(3:57) On 16 October 1711, "Samuel Bowen of Cohanze in the County
of Salem in the Province of West New Jersey" gave power of attorney to
"Isaac Ayars of Cohanze aforesd late of Rhod Island" to receive from
"Thomas Bowen of Swanzy...New England" everthing "Due by will from his
& my Honrd Father Obadiah Bowen Sen^r Deceased". The witnesses were
William Porter and Sarah Wheaton. On 24 October 1711, Samuel Bowen
acknowledged the instrument, before Abraham Porter and Woollo Dalbo,

Justices of the Peace for the County of Glossester & of Province of New Jersey."

On 16 November, 1711, Isaac Ayars of Cohanzey, an attorney for Samuel Bowen receipted to Thomas Bowen, executor, for 18, 10^s, in full of a Legacie" in will of Obadiah Bowen. The witnesses were Nathaniel Millerd and John Cary. The power of attorney and receipt were recorded 16 November, 1711

(3:76) On 16 October 1711, "Timothy Brooks & Hannah Brooks his wife of Cohanze...west New Jerse" gave power of attorney to "Our well beloved Brother John Brooks of Rehoboth...New England" to receive from Thomas Bowen of Swanzey everything "Due by will from his and our Honrd Father Obadiah Bowen Sen^r Deceased". Hannah signed by a mark. The witnesses were Samuel Bowen, Isaac Ayars and Nicholas Johnson. On 24 October, 1711, Samuel Bowen and Isaac Ayars "did Testify this to the act and Deed of the persons whose lands are to the seals" before Abraham Porter and Woollo Dalbo, Justices of the Peace for Gloucester County, New Jersey.

On 10 March, 1711/12, John Brooks of Swanzey, as attorney for Timothy and Hannah Brooks, receipted to Thomas Bowen, executor, for 8, 10^s, in money, "& one bed & bedding in full of a Legacie...unto s^d Hannah Brooks". The witnesses were Jonathan Peck and John Cary. The power of attorney and receipt were recorded 10 March, 1711/12.

(3:95) Bristol ss In Bristol May the 12:1712:

The accompt of Thomas Bowen of Swanzea in the County of Bristol Executor of the last will and Testament of Obadia Bowen Late of said Swanzey Deceased.

Imp^{rms} the said Accomptant Chargeth himself with the Estate Left by the s^d Deceased Obadiah Bowen Contained in an Inventory upon Record Amounting to the sum of 153 09^s 02^d.

The Accomptant further desireth allowance for such & so much of the Estate as he hath payd in Legacies to severall of the children and Grand Children of the s^d Dec^d Obadiah bowen given & bequeathed in his last will and Testament.

Payd unto Isaac Ayres for the use of Samuel Bowen of Cohanse as by Receipt the sum of 18-20-00.

payd to John Brooks for the use of Timothy Brooks and Hannah his wife as p^r Receipt 08-10-00 & one bed and bedding a Legacie given s^d Hannah

payd to Joseph and Lidia Mason one Cow as p^r receipt

Delivered to Jacob Chase one pewter platt^r give to his wif Allice, as p^r Receipt

Certain lands given to Joseph bowen Accepted of by him as p^r his Receipt

Certain lands given unto James and Hezekiah Bowen by them Accepted as by their Receipt

Certain lands given to Daniel and Aron Bowen by them Accepted as by their Receipt

Delivered to Mary Bowen Alias Bush as p^r Receipt a pewter platter given to her in and by s^d will

Delivered to Abigail Bowen for the use of her Daughter Sarah Bowen one platter as by her Receipt

Delivered to Ephraim Smith for the use of his wife Mary a smale Iron Kettle the Rest of the Estate given to the Executor as by the s^d will may appear Bristol ss By Natha^l Esq^r Judge of Probate & c

Thomas Bowen Executor as abovesaid presented the above written accompt of his Administration upon the Estate Left by his s^d Father Obadiah Bowen and Made Oath that it Containes a Just and true accompt of his said Administration so far as he hath proceeded therein which I do Accordingly allow and approve off and order the same to be off Record-- Bristol May the 12: 1712

Jurr^t Coran Natha^l Paine

Entered May 14, 1712: this is to signify that Allice the Daughter of Joseph Bowen the wife of Jacob Chase hath Rec^d a pewter platt^r which was given to her by her Honored Grand-father in his last will"

Signed by Jacob Chase

"october y^e 24th 1710. Then Rec^d of Thomas Bowen a Certain pewter platter which my hon^d Grandfather gave me in and by his will". Signed by the mark of Mary Bowen Alias Mary Bush".

These three receipts were recorded 24 May, 1712.

(The spelling and raised letters are as the will reads.)