

Roger Williams University

DOCS@RWU

---

Documentation

---

## Houghton-Sprague House: Will of James Houghton

Follow this and additional works at: [https://docs.rwu.edu/baker\\_documentation](https://docs.rwu.edu/baker_documentation)



Part of the [Historic Preservation and Conservation Commons](#)

---



## In the Name of God Amen

This Seventeen Day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eleven: I James Houghton Senior of the Town of Lancaster in the County of Middlesex in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England Yeoman -- Being sensible of my own frailty and weakness of Body though otherwise in some good measure of competent memory and understanding praised be God for it: Do here make this my Last Will & Testament In manner & form following (that is to say) first and principally I commit my soul to almighty God my creator hoping to gain free and full pardon of all my sins through the alone [Mirritt/merit] and mediation of Jesus Christ my blessed Lord and glorious redeemer. And my body to the earth to be decently buried with Christian burial. As to my outward or worldly estate--that God of his goodness hath pleased to bestow upon me: my Will is that it be bestowed ordered bequeathed and improved as is hereafter expressed in this my Will.

[Imp] After all my [costs?] debts funeral charges and other necessary expenses are fully paid and discharged out of my estate: my will is and I do hereby give and bequeath unto Mary my beloved wife the third part of all my personal estate to be to her proper use benefit and disposal and also her thirds or dower in all my real estate--both housing land and meadows during the time of her natural life.

To my son James Houghton upon consideration of his being likely to be settled on that living which was formerly his brother Ralph Houghton's: I do hereby give unto him the said James Houghton twenty pounds of money or equivalent that is due to me—from the estate of my son the said Ralph Houghton deceased. And all my second division lot of intervale land lying at the plumtrees which was [sometime?] the [land?] of Gamaliel Bramen.

To John Houghton my second son now surviving, I give all that my upland—swamps and meadow—lying on the west side of the highway on the [west?] side of my dwelling house between said way and the hemp swamp, and all that my intervale lot on the second division lying at the plumtrees which was the proper lot of my late honored father Ralph Houghton deceased and the said John Houghton paying to his brother James Houghton the sum of four pounds in money or equivalent thereto and also reserving my said wife's dower in said land as abovesaid.

To my three youngest sons namely Thomas Edward and Ephraim Houghton I give all that my housing and lands adjoining lying on the east side of said highway and all my meadows both at the plumtrees and pond meadows to be all equally divided considered both as to quantity and quality to each of the said three brethren when and as they shall come to the age of twenty one years, still reserving my said wife's dower therein as above said they paying to their brother James Houghton three pounds apiece each in money or other species equivalent: and to each of my five sons above named I give twenty pound [? ] right apiece, the whole of that here given to my said three youngest sons to be for the use and benefit of son's wife and any children that shall be with her till such time as it shall be liable to division as above said.

To my two daughters namely Hannah Houghton and Experience Houghton I give to each of them twenty pounds apiece to be paid by my executors out of my personal estate in case there be so much free after debts and my said wife's third [?] are discharged and set out and if in case it should fall short then what is wanting shall be paid and made up by their five brothers aforementioned, to be paid by them in equal proportion, the said Hannah Houghton to have her twenty pounds paid within twelve months after the decease of me the said James Houghton senior and Experience to have [hers?] paid when she shall [?] to the age of 20 years or at the time of marriage [?] and also hereby make and constitute my said loving wife Mary Houghton and my son James Houghton joint executors to this my Will and that this is my Last Will and Testament. I declare by my hand and seal the day and year above written.

Signed and sealed and declared in presence of

/s/Thomas Wilder  
/s/Samuel Willard  
His [ ] mark  
/s/John Houghton

/s/James Houghton  
His [ ] mark

Middlesex County  
[C ] 19 Sept 1711  
Mary Houghton and James Houghton<sup>Jr</sup> the  
Executors [above?] named did establish this wife  
of James Houghton and for probate and Thomas  
Wilder, Samuel Willard and John Houghton under  
oath they [...to difficult to read]  
/s/ [?Winthrop F. Foxcroft JPro]