

## ARTICLE III.

JONATHAN EDWARDS' LAST WILL, AND THE INVENTORY  
OF HIS ESTATE.

[The following documents are valuable as illustrating the character of the age in which they were written, and the style of living which prevailed in that age, particularly among the clergymen. They throw light on several incidents in the biography of President Edwards. They illustrate the contrast between his outward condition in life and that of several European divines contemporary with him. Bishop Butler, for example, was consecrated Bishop of Bristol in 1738; and, as the revenues of his see amounted to only four hundred pounds per annum, the Deanery of St. Paul's was presented to him in 1740. He thus secured an income which enabled him to expend five thousand pounds in improving the Episcopal palace in Bristol. In 1747 the Primacy of the English church was presented to him [by King George II.], and the sum of twenty thousand pounds was offered to him by his nephew on condition that he would accept the office. He declined it, however, but in 1750 accepted the Bishopric of Durham, which was far more lucrative than that of Bristol. After a life distinguished by his generosity to the poor, he died in 1752. Nine months afterward, Jonathan Edwards made his last Will. It is explained by the Inventory accompanying it. Both the documents illustrate the difference between the external privileges of the sage of Stockbridge and those of the sage of Durham. The documents are copied *verbatim et literatim* from the Records in the Probate Office at Northampton. The orthography and punctuation are, of course, not those of President Edwards, but of the clerk who penned or transcribed the documents.

It may be here stated that, of the three sons named in this Will [Judge] Timothy Edwards was in his fifteenth year when the Will was written; [Dr.] Jonathan Edwards was in

his seventh year; and Pierrepont was in his third year. The "daughter Burr" was the mother of Colonel Aaron Burr, and the "daughter Dwight" was the mother of President Timothy Dwight.

Rev. George Allen of Worcester, Massachusetts, who has been very enterprising and successful in his antiquarian researches, and Hon. George W. Hubbard of Northampton, Massachusetts, who is noted for his accuracy in attending to historical documents, deserve the thanks of our readers for the publication of the following Will and Inventory. It would not have been attempted without their aid. — E. A. P.]

In the Name of God Amen. the fourteenth day of March 1753.

I Jonathan Edwards of Stockbridge, in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New-England, being in my usual State of Health of Body, and in the perfect Exercise of my Understanding & Memory, through the Goodness of God; but considering the Frailty and Mortality of Mankind, and having much in the Infirmary of my Constitution to put me in Mind of Death, and make me sensible of the great Uncertainty of my Life, do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament.

And first of all, I give and commend my Soul into the Hands of God that gave it, and to the Lord Jesus Christ it's glorious, al-sufficient, faithful, & chosen Redeemer, relying alone on the free and infinite Mercy & Grace of God through his worthiness & mediation, for its eternal salvation; And my Body I commend to the Earth, to be committed to the Dust in decent Christian Burial, at the Discretion of my Executrix hereafter named; hoping, through the Grace, Faithfulness, and almighty Power of my everlasting Redeemer, to receive the same again, at the last day, made like unto his glorious Body.

And as touching such worldly Estate as it hath pleased God to give me, I give, demise and dispose of the same in the following Manner & Form.

*Imprimis*, I will, and hereby order that all my just & law-

ful Debts be paid and answered, and the Charges of my Funeral born by my Executrix.

Item, I give to each of my three sons, Timothy, Jonathan & Pierpont, Six hundred and thirty eight ounces of Silver, to be paid out of my Estate by my Executrix. So much of this sum as is necessary to be expended for the bringing Them up to Learning, or to some Trade, if my Executrix shall think fit that They should be so brought up; It being my Will that it should be left to her Discretion whether They, or either of Them, should be brought up to Learning, or to some Trade, or what business They should be brought up to. And if They, or any or either of Them should be brought up to Learning, or some Trade, then the Expence of the foresaid Legacy for their Education to begin from the Time They enter the College (if brought up to Learning) or when They have spent two years in an Apprenticeship, if brought up to any Trade. Excepting, that in Case any, or either of Them should be put as Apprentices to a Physician without going to College, then the Expence of the foresaid Legacy to begin with their Apprenticeship. In like manner if any, or either of Them should be put to the study of the Law, without going to College, then the Expence of the foresaid Legacy to begin from the Time of their going from Home on that Study. The Remainder of this Legacy to my sons (if any thing shall remain) to be paid Them after their taking their first Degree at College, or as soon as their Apprenticeship is finished. But if They, or any, or either of Them should not be sent abroad, either to Learning or an Apprenticeship, then the whole of the foremention'd Legacy to be paid Him or Them when arrived at the age of twenty one years.

Item, I give to such of my sons as shall be brought up to Learning (if any of Them shall be so brought up) my whole Library (excepting such Part as is hereafter mention'd, as given to my Executrix) to be given into their Possession, as soon as They have taken their first Degree: This over & above the foremention'd Six hundred thirty eight ounces of Silver.

Item, I give to my Daughter Elizabeth, Six hundred thirty by eight ounces of Silver, to be paid to her out of my Estate my Executrix, when she comes to be eighteen years of age.

Item, I give to my Daughters Lucy, Susannah & Eunice, each of Them, three hundred nineteen ounces of Silver, to be paid to Them out of my Estate, by my Executrix, when They marry, if They or either of Them should marry before They come to be eighteen years of age, or if otherwise as soon as They arrive to that age.

Item, I give to my Daughter Burr, two hundred seventy nine ounces of Silver in Addition to the Forty ounces which she has already had of her Portion, to be paid to her or her Heirs on Demand.

As to my Daughter Parsons & Daughter Dwight, They having already received their full Portion, of three hundred nineteen ounces of Silver, I make no Addition thereto in this my last Will and Testament.

Item, I will that my Children that are unmarried should be supplied by my Executrix with what she sees to be necessary beyond the Produce of their own Industry, for their Subsistence, Support & Education, until the Times Specified as above, for their receiving, or beginning to receive the fore-mention'd Legacies bequeath'd to Them.

Item, I give to my beloved Wife (whom I hereby constitute make and ordain the Sole Executrix of this my last Will and Testament) all my Manuscripts, and as many of my printed Books as comes to ten Pounds in lawful money of this Province, such as she shall chuse: and to Her I give no more of my Library, in Case one or more of my sons are brought up to Learning, & take a Degree at College: But in Case none of Them should be brought up to Learning, then I will that all my Library should be Her's. Also I give to Her, my said Executrix (with the abovesaid Limitations respecting my Library) my whole Estate, real & personal, both what is now in my Possession, and also the Portion of my Father's Estate which shall fall to me or my Heirs, to be hers, her Heirs & assigns forever, she paying

out of it the foremention'd Legacies in the manner & Time specified as above, and paying my Debts, & defraying the Charge of my Funeral, and taking the Care and Charge of the Maintenance & Education of my Children as abovesaid.

And if any of my Children should die before the Times specified as above, for their receiving the Legacy herein bequeath'd to them, then 'tis my Will that what should otherwise have been paid to them by my Executrix, shall be hers & her Heirs.

And I do hereby ratify and confirm this, and this only to be my last Will and Testament, utterly revoking, disallowing and disannulling all, and every other former Testaments, Wills, Legacies & Bequests & Executors by me in any wise before named, will'd & bequested ;

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & Seal this fourteenth Day of March 1753.

JONATHAN EDWARDS.



Signed Seal'd, published & declared by the said Jonathan Edwards, as his last Will & Testament, in the Presence of us the Subscribers.

TIMOTHY WOODBRIDGE  
SAML BROWN  
STEPHEN NASH

May 13<sup>th</sup> 1758 All the witnesses to this Will were Sworn in Comon Form Cor<sup>m</sup> TIMOTHY DWIGHT Jud: Prob'

Hampshire ss May 13<sup>th</sup> 1758 The foregoing Will was presented for probate by the Executrix therein named and Timothy Woodbridge Esq Lt Samuel Brown & Mr Stephen Nash the Witnesses to the Same all personally Appearing made oath that they Saw the rev<sup>d</sup> Jonathan Edwards late of Stockbridge in the County aforesaid Dec<sup>d</sup> Sign & Seal & heard him pronounce & declare the Same to be his last Will & Testament and that he was of Sound mind & memory when he did it & that they all Signed as witnesses to the

Same at the Same time in presence of Said Testator & of each other wherefore at a Court of probate holden at Northampton within & for the County of Hampshire afores<sup>d</sup> on the Second Tuesday of June being the 13th day of Said Month An Dom 1758 P Timothy Dwight Esq Judge of S<sup>a</sup> Court The foregoing Will is ratified Approved & confirmed as the last Will & Testament of Said Deceased

P TIMOTHY DWIGHT

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

HAMPSHIRE, ss. *Probate Office.*

I, Luke Lyman, Register of the Probate Court for said County of Hampshire, having by law the custody of the Seal, and all the Records, Books, Documents and Papers of or appertaining to said Court, hereby certify the Paper hereto annexed to be a true copy of a Paper appertaining to said Court, and on file and of Record in the Office of said Court, the same being the last Will and Testament of Jonathan Edwards, late "of Stockbridge, in the province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England."

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the Seal of said Court, this fifteenth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five.

Attest,

LUKE LYMAN, *Register.*



An Inventory of the Estate of the Rev'd Mr. Jonathan Edwards late of Stockbridge, deceased appraised by Mess. Jos. Woodbridge, Sm<sup>r</sup> Brown, & Josiah Jones.

Cash	£ 11 17 11½	Old D <sup>r</sup>	£ 0 10 0
Best Beever Hat	1 10 0	Black Coat	1 15 0
One D <sup>r</sup> poorer	15 0	Two poorer D <sup>r</sup>	16 0
Best Wigg	2 0 0	Morning Gown	10 0
One D <sup>r</sup> poorer	10 0	Silk Vest	8 0
Great Coat	8 0 0	Callimanco D <sup>r</sup>	15 0
		Leather D <sup>r</sup>	12 0

Cloth D <sup>o</sup>	£ 9	7	0	12 Damask Napkins at 2s	£ 1	4	0
Camlet D <sup>o</sup>		3	0	4 Damask Napkins		8	0
pr of Leather Breeches		12	0	One D <sup>o</sup>		1	6
pr Cloth D <sup>o</sup>		10	0	8 Tea Napkins at 6d		4	0
Flannel Vest		2	0	2 pr of Sheets and	}	3	17
4 Shirts at 12s		2	8	2 pr of Pillow Cases			
3 D <sup>o</sup> at 5s.		15	0	One Sheet		14	0
2 prs of Collars and Sleeves		8	0	pr of Sheets		3	0
6 Cravats 2 Stocks 12				One pr D <sup>o</sup>		9	3
Bands		16	0	One pr D <sup>o</sup>		8	3
4 Caps at 9d		3	0	One pr D <sup>o</sup>		7	6
4 pr of Gloves at 1s		4	0	One Sheet		11	6
2 pr of Mittens	£ 0	2	6	One pr Pillow Cases		3	0
2 pr of Knee buckles		1	4	One pr D <sup>o</sup>		3	6
Pocket Compas			8	One pr D <sup>o</sup>		5	0
pr of small Scales		10	0	One pr D <sup>o</sup>		3	0
Lancet		1	0	One pr D <sup>o</sup>		6	0
pr Spectickles		5	3	Two pr D <sup>o</sup> at 3s		6	0
pr D <sup>o</sup>			9	One pr D <sup>o</sup>		2	6
8 pr Stockings		12	0	One pr D <sup>o</sup>		1	6
pr Boots		14	0	White Counterpain		18	0
Staff		8	0	Bed, bed covering,	}	6	0
Belt		2	0	Sheets &c in West Room			
Household Furniture				D <sup>o</sup> with Curtains	}	6	13
2 pr of Sheets and	}	3	0	&c in East Room			
4 pr of Pillow Cases				D <sup>o</sup> complet	13	17	
20 yds of Sheeting at 2s		2	0	One old D <sup>o</sup>		5	15
9½ of Irish Linen		1	11	4½	One D <sup>o</sup>		3
1½ of Bag Holland		11	4½	One small D <sup>o</sup>		18	0
Damask Table Cloth		18	0	Silver Tankard		12	0
Diaper D <sup>o</sup>		12	0	One Can and Por-	}	9	10
One D <sup>o</sup>		3	6	ringer D <sup>o</sup>			
Damask D <sup>o</sup>		2	0	Dish D <sup>o</sup>		3	0
3 Diaper D <sup>o</sup> at 10s		1	10	0	Server D <sup>o</sup>		4
One D <sup>o</sup>		8	0	0	9 Spoons D <sup>o</sup> at 13s		5
One D <sup>o</sup>		0	10	0	7 Tea Spoons D <sup>o</sup>		1
One D <sup>o</sup>		7	0	0	pr Tea-tongs D <sup>o</sup>		14
One D <sup>o</sup>		8	0	0	Pepper Box D <sup>o</sup>		1
2 D <sup>o</sup> at 5s		10	0	0	Burnt China furni-	}	6
2 D <sup>o</sup> at 4s		8	0	0	ture, Bowl & 12 Plates		
One D <sup>o</sup>		12	0	0	Pewter Tea Pot,		4
One D <sup>o</sup>		2	6	0	One small D <sup>o</sup>		3
One D <sup>o</sup>		3	0	0	One D <sup>o</sup>		0
Plain D <sup>o</sup>		1	0	0	Earthen D <sup>o</sup>		2
21½ yds of Diaper at 2s 4d		2	10	2	Small D <sup>o</sup>		1
6 Diaper Towels		7	6	0	2 Earthen Bowls		2
2 D <sup>o</sup> at 2s 2d		4	4	0	2 White stone Sauce Boats		2
2 D <sup>o</sup> at 6d		1	0	0	China Bowl		10
4 D <sup>o</sup> at 9d		3	0	0	Small D <sup>o</sup>		4
8 D <sup>o</sup> at 1s		3	0	0	One D <sup>o</sup>		2
3 D <sup>o</sup> at 1s		3	0	0	Sugar Dish China		3
3 D <sup>o</sup> at 10d		2	6	0	Cream Cups D <sup>o</sup>		2
					4 China Plates		8
					12 China Tea Cups & Plates		15

White Stone Tea } £ 0 2 0	4 Trammels	£ 0 16 0
Cups &c }	4 Chopping Knife	0 9
12 White Stone Plates	4 Smoothing Irons	8 0
2 Glass Cups	4 Pails	6 0
8 Tumblers D <sup>r</sup>	4 Butter Tubs	5 0
One D <sup>r</sup> at 6d Four } wine Glasses }	A Small Pail	0 9
4 Salts at 9d a Crewet	2 Checse Presses	6 0
One Glass Bottle	Bowls Tubs & Trais	2 11 0
6 Pewter Plates	Barrels	11 0
12 D <sup>r</sup>	One Bar <sup>r</sup> Churn	5 0
8 D <sup>r</sup> for Soop	Frying Pan	6 6
8 D <sup>r</sup> for —	2 Foot Wheels	12 0
Old Pewter	Great Wheel	1 0
10 0 ½	pr of Cards	4 0
8 Pewter Basons	Tea Chest	9 0
2 Pewter Cups	7 Beat Chairs	0 16 4
Large Bason D <sup>r</sup>	7 D <sup>r</sup>	9 4
11 Pewter Platters	Arm Chair	2 0
12 Cake Pans	6 Plain Chairs	8 0
6 Patte Pans	Gun	1 0 0
One Tunnel	2 Powder horns	1 2
6 Tin Pepper Box & Cups	Hone	3 0
Cullander & Candle } Molds }	3 Raisors 3s Gimblets 6d	3 6
8 Tin Pans	Lead 1s Couch Bead 14s	15 0
Brass Candle Stick	Desk and Book Case	2 0 0
D <sup>r</sup>	Small Book Case	1 0 0
3 D <sup>r</sup>	Book Table	6 0
pr of Snuffers w <sup>t</sup> Stand D <sup>r</sup>	Writing Table	6 0
2 Iron Candle Sticks	Looking Glass	4 0 0
2 D <sup>r</sup> and Snuffers	Mess <sup>r</sup> Collman and } Cooper in Metz }	6 0
Long Candle Stick	Silk Fringe	12 0
pr of Hand Irons w <sup>t</sup> } Brass Plates }	One Blanket	2 0
One pr D <sup>r</sup>	One D <sup>r</sup>	9 0
2 pr D <sup>r</sup>	One D <sup>r</sup>	10 0
3 pr of Tonges & Fire } Shovels }	Bed Coverlet	1 2 0
One Fire Shovel	One D <sup>r</sup>	15 0
One Trivet	Two blankets	4 0
pr of Steel yards	Bed Coverlet	5 0
Large Tea Kettle	One D <sup>r</sup>	15 0
Small D <sup>r</sup>	Two blankets	4 0
Copper Sauce Pan	Bed Coverlet	5 0
D <sup>r</sup>	One D <sup>r</sup>	1 6
Brass Skillet	Looking Glass	1 4 0
Brass Kettle	Table	10 0
D <sup>r</sup>	small D <sup>r</sup>	4 0
D <sup>r</sup>	Chest	4 0
Warming Pan	First Trunk	14 0
Iron Pot	Second D <sup>r</sup>	5 6
D <sup>r</sup>	Third D <sup>r</sup>	1 0
Kettle D <sup>r</sup>	Fourth D <sup>r</sup>	8 0
2 Brass Skimmers	Fifth D <sup>r</sup>	1 0
Gridiron	Sixth D <sup>r</sup>	4 0
	Meal Chests &c	18 6
	Two bed steads	6 0

6 Bags at 2s	£ 0 12 0	Quick Stock	
Looking Glass	4 0	A Negro Boy named	} £ 30 0 0
D <sup>r</sup>	1 10 0	Titus	
D <sup>r</sup>	2 0	Horse	3 6 8
Two Chests of Drawers	1 10 0	Yoke of Oxen	11 0 0
Table	3 0	Yoke of Steers	6 10 0
D <sup>r</sup>	3 0	Two Cows at £3,—	6 0 0
Tea Cannister	8 0	Four D <sup>r</sup> at 50s	10 0 0
Small Pictures	2 0	Two Heifers at 30s	3 0 0
42 Glass Bottles	17 6	One Calf	16 0
4 Stone Jugs	8 0	Six Hogs	3 12 0
18 Knives and Forks	14 0		
8 Cussions	5 0	Library	
Hair broom	2 0	Of Folios 38 Volls	26 3 0
Hand brush	1 0	Quartos 34 Volls	8 11 9
Cloth D <sup>r</sup>	0 6	Octavos 99 V <sup>m</sup>	26 16 6
White Stone Mugg	0 9	Duodecimos 130 V <sup>m</sup>	8 15 3
4 Earthen Cupes	1 0	Books published by the	} 4 16 7
Dial	0 6	Owner lately deceased,	
2 Baskets	1 0	25 V <sup>m</sup>	
Chafing Dish	6 0	Pamphlets 586	4 13 0
House and Barn Stores		Manuscripts	
Tow and Linen Yarn	1 2 0	Folios 15 V <sup>m</sup>	} 6 0 0
Wool D <sup>r</sup>	10 9	Quartos 15 V <sup>m</sup>	
8 lb of Cotton Wool	14 0	Sermons 1074 V <sup>m</sup>	
60 lb of Cheese	1 5 0	Maps	
40 lb of Beef	6 8	Four at 6s	1 4 0
Turnips & Potatoes	10 6	Seven at 1s	7 0
Leather unwrought	14 0	One at 6s	6 0
One Raw hide	6 8	Lands and Real Estate	
Hay	8 0 0	Eight Ac <sup>r</sup> lying in	} 21 15 0
Oates	2 5 0	Stockbridge near	
Indian Corn	3 0 0	Dea <sup>r</sup> Browns	} 160 0 0
Buck Wheat	2 6 0	House Barn &c and lot	
Flax	4 0	on which they stand	
Husbandry Utensils		in Stockbridge	} 36 0 0
Cart and Horse gearing	4 0 0	Lot of 12 Ac <sup>r</sup> near M <sup>r</sup>	
Two Chains	1 10 0	Jo <sup>r</sup> Woodbridge's	} 62 10 0
Yoke & Irons	4 0	24 Ac <sup>r</sup> lying on the	
Beatle and Wedges	4 0	Hill in Sd Town	} 30 0 0
Old Sithes	5 8	between Land of	
Hay Knife and Hook	4 0	Mess <sup>r</sup> Jones & Dix-	} 12 0 0
Plow and Irons	15 0	ley's	
Harrow	10 0	5 Ac <sup>r</sup> in the Meadow	} 30 0 0
Hatchets	11 0	between the House	
Saddebags	7 0	and the River	} 12 0 0
Bridle	2 0	About 3 Ac <sup>r</sup> on the	
Tow Axes	9 0	Plain so called in sd	} 12 0 0
Hammer & Pinchers	1 0	Town	
Old Iron	8 6		
Hand Saw and Chissels	3 0		
Break and Hay Fork	1 6		

480 Ac <sup>s</sup> on the Road leading from sd Town to Poontoo- suck in the Ministers Grant	} £144 0 0	One Right & an Half of Land in Marlbor- ough Township	} £10 0 0		
$\frac{1}{4}$ of an Ac <sup>s</sup> in the com- mon Meadow on the south of the River		Land at Windsor to be in the Possession of Mr <sup>s</sup> Easter Ed- wards during her life Time		1 0 0	
Land in Pelham — Ac <sup>s</sup> at 4s 6d p <sup>r</sup> Ac		— — —		A Right in the Sus- quehannah Purchase	2 14 0
Right of Land in Win- chester Township		40 0 0			

T. DWIGHT Jun<sup>r</sup> } Ex<sup>t</sup> of the Ex<sup>t</sup> of sd Dec<sup>d</sup>.  
TIM<sup>o</sup> EDWARDS }

JOSEPH WOODBRIDGE }  
SAM<sup>l</sup> BROWN } Apprizers  
JOSIAH JONES }

July 25<sup>th</sup> 1759. Sworn to by both Exs

HAMPSHIRE ss July 25 1759. Timothy Dwight Jun<sup>r</sup> & Timothy Ed-wards Executors of the last Will & Testament of M<sup>rs</sup> Sarah Edwards Decd who was Executrix of the Will and Testament of the revd Jonathan Edwards late of Stockbridge in the County aforesaid Decd presenting the foregoing Inventory of the Estate of the said Jonathan Decd made oath that it is a True & perfect Inventory of Said Estate as far as has already come to their knowledge & that if more of said Estate hereafter appear they will readily make Discovery of the Same to the Judge of probate for Sd County or his Successors in the office from time to time.

Jurat Cor Jud Att T DWIGHT JUN. Reg.

#### COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

HAMPSHIRE, ss. *Probate Office.*

I, Luke Lyman, Register of the Probate Court for said County of Hampshire, having by law, the custody of the Seal, and all the Records, Books, Documents and Papers of or appertaining to said Court, hereby certify the Paper hereto annexed to be a true copy of a Paper appertaining to said Court, and on file and of Record in the Office of said Court, the same being the Inventory of the Estate of Rev<sup>d</sup> Jonathan Edwards, late of Stockbridge, deceased.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the Seal of said Court, this twenty-third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five.

Attest,

LUKE LYMAN, Register.

