

At a Court of Probate holden at New Britain within and for the District of Berlin on the 3rd day of January A D 1884.

Present Lile Stillman Esq Judge

The last will and testament of Ashbel Wells late of Berlin in this District, deceased, is exhibited in Court by Charles H Northam of the town and county of Hartford in this State, one of the Executors therein named, and having been duly proved is by this Court approved and ordered to be recorded and kept on file. Said Executor accepts the trust. The said will and Testament is as follows viz;

I Ashbel Wells of the City of Savannah in the State of Georgia do make and declare this my last will and testament -

After payment of my debts and charges I dispose of my estate in the following manner - I give and devise unto my beloved wife Mary A Wells all my real estate which lies in the said City of Savannah and the State of Connecticut, whether the same be owned by me in severalty or in common with others to her and to her heirs and assigns forever -

Also I give to my said wife all my stock or interests in the following companies and concerns - The New York and Savannah Steam Navigation Co and The Home Insurance Co both established in the city of New York -

Bank of Savannah established in the said city of Savannah - Augusta And Waynesboro Rail Road Co chartered in Georgia - Steamer Seminole registered at Savannah.

I give to Charles H Northam of Hartford Connecticut and Henry Brigham of Savannah Georgia and the survivors of them and their successors as herein after provided for, the sum of fifteen thousand dollars, upon trust to pay the interest, dividends and income thereof to my said wife annually during her life, and at her decease to pay over to Lucy S daughter of my late half sister Hannah H Wells the one third part of the principal and of the advance thereon if any such there be over and above the annual proceeds paid to my wife as aforesaid, and the residue to divide equally between Wells H. - William Philip and Joseph, sons of my said late half sister, and if any of the said children shall die before my said wife and

before such division is made, leaving issue and issue to receive the parents share - but if there be no issue then such share to be divided equally among the survivors -

I also give to each of the children aforesaid daughters and sons of my said late half sister, one thousand and dollars to be paid over within twelve months after my decease -

I give to each of the children of my late half brother Thomas Wells Five hundred Dollars - The shares of those who shall be of the full age of twenty one year at my decease to be paid over within twelve months thereafter -

The shares of those not of age to be paid into the hands of the husband of my said late half sister, Philip H Sellers, to hold in charge and manage during the minority of said children - he paying them annually the interests and income thereof, and the principal as they shall severally arrive at full age.

I also give to said Philip H Sellers the sum of five thousand dollars upon trust to pay the profits, interest and income thereof to my half sister Harriet M Brown during her life - then to her children and the survivors of them in equal shares and after their decease to divide the principal equally among his own children hereinbefore named -

I give to my negro slave George his freedom and I give into the hands of my wife the sum of three hundred dollars to bear his expenses to Liberia whenever he chooses to go - If by any chance my property should prove insufficient to discharge my debts and meet and satisfy all the provisions in this will, I direct that the estate hereinbefore bequeathed to my said wife shall not be encroached upon until all the other bequests be taken and exhausted but if it shall be more than sufficient (as I suppose will be the case) then all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate real and personal, I give and devise unto my beloved wife to belong to her, her heirs, executors and administrators and assigns forever.

In case either of my said trustees, Charles H Northam and Henry Prigmore, shall decline to accept the trust to which they are hereinbefore named, or shall die or desire to be discharged therefrom before the final execution of the same then the survivor shall have power to nominate

or appoint some suitable person to be approved by the Court of Probate of the District or County where my estate shall be in settlement to be a trustee in his place - And in case said Philip H. Sellen shall refuse to accept his said trust, or shall die or desire to be discharged therefrom before the final execution of the same and in case any vacancy shall at any time exist in respect to any of the foregoing trusts which has not been provided for herein, then the Court of Probate aforesaid shall have power to fill such vacancies and appoint new trustees who shall have full power to perform the aforesaid trusts -

It is my will that my said trustees shall not be required to give bonds to the Court of Probate where my estate shall be settled, for the performance of any of the trusts herein contained - I hereby constitute and appoint my said wife together with the said trustees Chas H Northam and Henry Brigham to be my Executors and Executors of this my last will and Testament -

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 23^d day of August A D 1853

A Wells and Seal

Signed sealed published and declared by the said Ashbel Wells as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who at the request of the said testator and in his presence and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names and respective places of residence as witnesses

J. J. Studley, New Britain, Ct.
John Stanley, New Britain, Ct.
Apr 18 love New Britain, Ct.

State of Connecticut

County of Hartford New Britain Aug 23 1853

Personally appeared before me J. J. Stanley and made solemn oath that he attested the within will of Ashbel Wells and subscribed the same in the presence of the testator and in the presence of the other two witnesses to said will and that they also subscribed and attested said will in the presence of the deponent of each other and in

the presence of said testator and that said testator at the time of the execution of said will was of sound mind and memory and signed and published said will in the presence of said deponent and the other subscribing witnesses thereto
Seth C. Case
Justice of the Peace

State of Connecticut
Probate Office District of Berlin
I hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a true copy of record.
In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of this Court
This 30th day of January, A D 1854
John M. Atwood.
Clerk



I Giles Stillman, Judge of Probate for the District of Berlin hereby certify that the above certificate is in the proper hand-writing of John M. Atwood whose name is subscribed thereto, and that at the time of making and subscribing the said certificate he was the Clerk of said Court, and that the seal by him affixed is the seal of said Court.

This 30th Day of January, A D 1854

Giles Stillman Judge of Court of Probate for Berlin District State of Connecticut

You do solemnly swear that this writing contains the true last Will of the within named Asbel - Wells deceased, as far as you know or believe; and that you will well and truly execute the same, by paying first the debts and then the legacies contained in the said Will, as far as his goods and chattels will thereunto extend and the law charge you; and that you will make a true and perfect inventory of all such goods and chattels - So Help you God.

Sworn to before me this third day, April, 1854
John M. Stillman
acc

Henry Brigham

Recorded April 26th 1854