

The Oldest Will in Virginia

Epraphrodibus Lawson, in Tarrascoe Neck Chuckeytuck Parish, Nansemond County. Lawson must have migrated to the Northern Neck. His will was in Lancaster County, in 1652. It is believed to be the oldest recorded will in the United States. The will follows:

"In the name of God, Amen, I **Epraphrodibus Lawson**, of Rappahannock, being sick of body, but of perfect memory, Glory be to God, do make this my last will and testament. I make and ordain, ye child of my wife; my heir; my wife; third; March 31st, 1652. Epraphrodibus Lawson."

Witnesses: Elos Lors; Joan Lee; Wm. Harper.

Recorded June, 1652.

G. John Phillips.

Note: This last will and testament has suffered the vicissitudes of time, as part of it is torn off.