



and her two horse such as she shall
also my wive and half my share
my my said Wife shall continue
my negro man bull shall live
which I give her the improvement
I give and bequeath to my said
ment of the one third part of ^{all} the

Will of David Bush

Courtesy, Stamford Probate Court Records, Stamford, CT

David Bush Will (excerpt)

Greenwich, CT 1797

Courtesy, The Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich, CT

David Bush (1733-97) was one of the wealthiest residents of Greenwich, and the town's largest slave owner, in the late eighteenth century. In 1790, the Bush household included eight slaves and one free black among its members; in 1797 (the year of this will), a household inventory counted ten African Americans. In this excerpt from David Bush's will, he designates which family members should receive articles of his property--property which includes his slaves Patience, Phillis, Cull, Candice, Mille and Rose.

The Bush family continued to own slaves through the early nineteenth century. The 1825 manumission of Candice (Candis), by David Bush's daughter Fanny, marks the latest freeing of any slave in Greenwich. See Candis's manumission statement on the Greenwich Historical Society's website "Slavery & Freedom in the North": <http://www.hstg.org/index.cgi/1622>

Will of David Bush (excerpt)

Made: May 1, 1797

Probated: June 7, 1797

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN.

I, David Bush, of Greenwich in Fairfield County and State of Connecticut, although weak in body yet of a sound disposing mind and memory, do make and publish this my last will and testament in the following manner:

I order my debts and funeral charges to be paid out of my personal estate, excepting the part thereof that I shall in this will otherwise dispose of.

I give and bequeath unto my well beloved wife, Sarah Bush, and to her heirs and assigns forever:--

All my household furniture (clocks excepted), all the bedding and furniture thereof, curtains, sheets, pillow cases, bedsteads, all the crockery in the house, working utensils and all other moveable property in the house, also my negro girls, Patience and Phillis, also my young pied oxen with a yoke and chain compleat for use and my best cart with a good ax and hoe, two horse such as she shall shoes [choose] with three cows, also my swine and half my sheep, also during the time my said wife shall continue my widow, I will that my negro man, Cull, shall live with her as her slave which I give her the improvement of as aforesaid, also I give and bequeath to my said wife the use and improvement of the one third part of all the residue of my estate, both real and personal, she remaining my widow, but if she should marry, my will is that she shall thereafter have only the one half of the said third part during her natural life and from this last provision I exclude my mills and any part in my dwelling house or other buildings on or about the landing adjacent or near to my said dwelling house.

Second, I give and bequeath unto my son, Samuel Bush, and to his heirs and assigns forever, in addition to what I have already given him by deed, a certain lot or piece of land situate in said Greenwich called ? ? bounded easterly on a road leading to Dr. Bush's northerly on the main country road and westerly and southerly on land of Col. Thomas Hobby--also the islands commonly called Captain's Islands, also my clock above mentioned and my wearing apparel, also one hundred pounds New York money to be paid to my sons Justus Luke Bush and Ralph Isaacs Bush.

Third, I give, devise, and bequeath unto my daughters, Mary, Sally, Elizabeth, Fanny, Charlotte, and Grace and to their heirs and assigns forever (excepting a lot being in said Greenwich--one tract or parcel of land hereafter excepted) the following tracts or parcels of land lying and being in Byram Neck called Worden's Lot containing forty-five acres more or less, also a tract of land called Reynolds Lower Place where Abram Lane now lives, containing fifty-five acres, be it more or less, with the dwelling house standing thereon--also a tract of land lying northerly of Isaac Holly's land below Oliver Ferris's dwelling house in said Greenwich, bounded westerly on an highway leading to Stanwich, northerly by lands of the Marshalls, easterly by land of Ezra Marshall, and southerly by land of Isaac Holly, containing twelve acres more or less, also another tract of land in said Greenwich commonly called the ten acres, this ? tract contains about seventy acres, be the same more or less, also another tract of land situate in Stamford in Stanwich Society conveyed to me by Edmond Brown containing twenty-four acres, be it more or less, also that tract of land lying to the northward of the said country road on the east and west sides of Stricklin's Brook so called, bounded westerly on the highway leading to Oliver Ferris's, the said tract including pasture and timber land containing about one hundred acres, be it more or less --

It is my will that the above property shall be divided between said daughters. Mary, Sally and Elizabeth shall have ? hundred pounds New York money each more than Fanny, Charlotte, and Grace. It is my will that what I have given to my daughters Sally and Elizabeth is not to be to them their heirs and assigns forever, only the use and improvement thereof, and at their decease to be to their heirs forever at the time they shall respectively decease, and it is my will if it shall be thought best by my executors hereafter named to sell the lands above devised to my said daughters Sally and Elizabeth that they sell said lands and that my said daughters Sally and Elizabeth shall have the interest thereof during their lives and at the time they shall respectively decease, the principal shall be divided to each of them. Also, I give and devise to my said daughter Fanny, her heirs and assigns my black girl, Candice, to my daughter, Charlotte, my black girl, Mille, to my daughter, Grace, my black girl, Rose....

(signed)
David Bush

Witnesses:

Bezaliel Brown
John Truslow
William Marshal