The Last Will and Testament of John Winslow

"In the name of god Amen the twelveth day of March in the yeare of our Lord according to the Computacon of the Church of England one thousand six hundred and seaventy and three AnnoRegni Regis Car: Secundi Anglia &xxji I John Winslow Senr of Boston in the countie of Suffolke in New England Merchant being weake of Body but of Sound and perfect memory prayed be Almighty God for the same Knowing the uncertainetyof this present life and being desirous to settle that outward Estate that the lord hath lent me I doe make this my last Will and testament in manner and forme following (that is to say) ffirst and principally I comend my soule to almighty God my Creator hopeing to receive full pardon and remission of al my sins and salvation through the merritts of Jesus Christ my Creator hopeing to receive full pardon and remission of all my sins and salvation through the merritts of Jesus Christ my Redeemer : And my body to the Earth to be decently buryed with such charges as to the Overseers of this my last Will and Testament hereafter named shall be thought meet and convenient And as touching such worldly Estate as the lord hath Lent me my Will and meaneing is the same shall be imployed and bestowed as hereafter in and by this my Will is Expret - "Imprimis I Doe revoake renounce and make voice all Wills by formerly made and declaire & appoint this my last Will and Testament:

"Item I Will that all the Debts that I justly owe at the time of my decease to any person or persons whatsoever shall be well and truly contented and paid in convenient time after my decease by my Executor or overseers hereafter named. Item I give and bequeath unto my Deare and well beloved wife Mary Winslow the use of my now dwelling house with the gardens and yards thereunto belonging for and during the tearme of her naturall life Item I give and bequeath unto my said wife the sume of foure hundred pounds in lawfull mony of New England to be paid unto her by my Executor or Overseers hereafter named in convenient time after my decease: Item after the death of my said wife I give and bequeath my said dwelling house with all the Land belonging to the same unto my sone John Winslow and to his heires to ever he or they paying when they come to possesse & enjoy the same the sume of ffty pounds of Lawfull mony of new England unto william Payne the sone of my Daughter Sarah Meddlecott - And also to parnell Winslow Daughter to my Son Isaack Winslow the full sume of ffty pounds of like Lawfull mony; and my will is that both the said sums be paid into the hands of my Overseers to be improved for them untill they come to age or the day of Marriage with the full profitt that they make of the same and in case either of the said Children dye before they come of age or to marriage as aforesaid: My will is that the survivor of them shall then enjoy both the said sums: But in case both of them should dye before they come to age: My Will is that then the said sums shall be Equally divided amongst the Daughters of my Daughter Latham to be paid unto them as they come to age or marriage as aforesaid Item my will is that my Katch Speedwell (whereof I am the sole owner) and the produce of the cargo that I sent out in her : be (at her return to Boston) disposed of by my Overseers hereafter named and the neate produce thereof be Equally divided amongst my Children my sone John Winslow onely Excepted and to have no part thereof : Item I give and bequeath unto my sone Benjamin the full sume of one hundred pounds to be paid him by my Executor or overseers hereafter named when he shall attaine the Age of twenty one yeares Item
my Will is that if my sone Edward Winslow shall see cause to relinquish his sd part and intrest in the sd katch Speedwell and her proceeds: then my Will is that he shall have one quarter part of my Katch John’s Adventure unto his owne proper use: And then the said Katch and Cargo to be Equally divided among my other Children: my son John Excepted as afforesaid together with my sone Edward from having any part in the afforesaid Katch or Cargo Item I give and bequeath unto my grandchild Susanna Latham the sume of thirty pounds in mony to be paid her at the day of her marriage And to the rest of my Daughter Latham’s Children I give and bequeath unto: Each of them five pound pr peecce to be paid unto them as they shall come to age or the day of marriage Item I give and bequeath unto my sone Edward Winslows Children the sume of five pounds pr peecce to be paid unto them as they shall come to age or the day of Marriage Item I give and bequeath unto my sone Edward Grey his children that he had by my Daughter Mary Grey the sume of twenty pounds pr peecce to be paid unto them when they come to age or the day of their respective marriages Item I give unto my sone Joseph Winslow’s two Children five pounds pr peecce to be paid unto them as afforesaid Item I give unto my Grandchild Mercy Harris her two Children five pounds apeece to be paid unto them as afforesaid Item I give and bequeath unto my Kinsman Josiah Winslow now Governor of New Plimoth the sume of twenty pounds to be paid unto him by my overseers in Goods: Item I give unto my Brother Josiah Winslow the sume of twenty pounds to be paid unto him by my overseers in Goods: both in convenient time after my decease Item I give unto my kinswoman Eleanor Baker the Daughter of my Brother Kenelm Winslow five pounds to be paid her in goods by my overseers in convenient time after my decease Item my will is that what my Estate shall amount unto more then will pay funerall Charges My Debts and Legacyes in this my will give and bequeathed it shall be divided (after the Decease of my said wife) among my seaven Children in Equall proportions Except any one of my said children shall have any Extraordinary providence befall them by way of any Eminent Losse then that part of my Estate that shall remaine as afforesaid shall be divided & distributed according to the prudence and discretion of my overseers hereafter named or any two of them: Item my will is that in case any of my now children shall dye before my said wife that then his or their proportion of the said remaining Estate shall be disposed to his or their Children if they have any: if not, then that part or parts shall be equally divided amongst the survivors of my said Children: Item I give to Mr Paddyes widdow five pounds as a token of my love Item my will is that my Negro Girle Jane (after she hath served twenty yeares from the date hereof) shall be free: and that she shall service my wife during her life and after my wifes decease she shall be disposed of according to the discretion of my overseers hereafter named or any two of them: Item I doe nominate and appoint my sone John Winslow the sole Executor of this my last Will and testament. Item I doe hereby nominate & appoint my loving friends Mr Thomas Brattle Mr William Tailer and Mr John Winsley my Overseers to see this my will performed so far as they can: And I doe hereby give unto my said Overseers five pounds apeecce in mony as a token of my love Item my will is that my said Overseers or any two of them shall & hereby have full power to make saile of any part of any of my vessell or vessells that I have not hereby disposed of: And also any other goods wares and merchandize for the best advantage of my afforesaid Children: And better paymt of other Legacyes by me hereby given & bequeathed: Item my will is that during the absence of my said Executor my Overseers above named or any two of them have full power to act in all matters and things respecting this my will as if he was personally present: And farther my Will is that my said Executor shall not act in any matter or thing respecting this my will with out the advice and consent of my said overseers or two of them And that my executor shall not under any pretence whatsoever claime any more of my estate then I have hereby bequeathed him In Witnesse whereof I the said John winslow Senr have hereunto set my hand & seale the day and yeare first above written John Winslow
Signed sealed & published by John Winslow Senr as his last will & Textamt in the presence of us - John Joyliffe, John Hayward ser"
The inventory of the goods of John Winslow, deceased 1674

Note: inventories are valued in pounds (£), shillings (s) and pence (d). There were 12 pence (or pennies) to a shilling and 20 shillings to a pound.

Impr The Household stuff in ye house in sundry things Apprised wth his wareing apparell Att 200 00 00
In new England money 500 00 00
In peeces of Eight 500 1/2 peeces 133 09 04
6 french Crownes at 001 10 00
Eleven Crosse Dollers at 5s 6d pr peece 003 00 06
In English money 003 03 00
2 Barrills of porke 004 19 00
Money Received of Captaine Curwin 005 04 00
Money Received of mr John Richards 012 10 00
Money Received for canvas 010 01 00
two Butts & halfe of sugar sold 032 18 06
Money Received of James Andrews 001 17 04
Money Received of Steephen Hescott 017 18 00
Produce of the Ketch Speedwell with her Cargo Charges Deducted 330 00 00
the produce of the Barke Mary & part of her Cargo Beinge sold the Charges beinge Deducted 209 00 00
To a parcell of Goods Received pr Elias Parkman from England sold & with the Advance Amounts to 145 00 00
To a quarter part of the pinke Jane & Sarah sold for 110 00 00
To another quarter of Ditto Ketch given to mr Edward winslow vallued at 110 00 00
To a hogshead of sugar Came from Nevis vallued Att 006 00 00
To 6 hogsheads of tobacco sold for 032 17 06
To a parcell of leafe & Role robacco unsold vallued att 040 00 00
To old England goods unsold vallued Att 004 00 00
To the Dwellinge house Garden & land Adjoyninge to itt 450 00 00
To cash due from the tresures as pr mr John Richard Receit 012 10 00
To money Due from Nathaniel fryer pr Bill 032 10 00
Due from Nathaniell Winslow pr booke 004 05 00
Due from Goodwife farnam 003 08 00
Due from Goodwife Pearce pr books 001 18 02
Due from Job WInslow pr books 004 17 06
Due from Nathaniell Walker pr books 008 18 00
Due from mr Joseph Roche 200 00 00
Due from mr Richard Patishall Above 009 00 00

The whole summe is two thousand nine
hundred forty six pounds fourteen shillings
ten pence 2946 14 10