

## Will of Mathias Wenrich I (translation)

In the name of God Amen the eighth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty four, I Mathias Wenrich Sr. of Tulpehoccon Township in the County of Berks and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania yeoman, being at present very old, infirm and sickly in body, but of perfect mind and memory, Thanks be to God therefor, calling unto mind the mortality of my body, and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to Dye, do make and ordain this my last will and testament; That is to say principally and first of all, I give and recommend my Soul into the Hands of God who gave it, and for my body I recommend to be buried in a Christian like manner, nothing doubting but at the General Resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God, and as touching such Worldly Estate wherewith it Hath Pleased God, to bless me in this life, I give devise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form.

Item; It is my will and I do order that in the first place all my just debts and funeral charges be paid and satisfied. It is my will and I do order that the sum or sums of money which my son Mathias owes or is indebted to me yet, for a certain plantation which I have sold or granted to him, as will appear by a certain indenture, shall be equally divided amongst my eight children following, that is to say my sons John, Thomas, Michael, Francis and my daughters Easter the wife of Jacob Spatz, Magdalena the wife of Nicholas Deck, Elizabeth the wife of John Ache and Susannah the wife of Peter Shaffer, or their heirs. I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Judith one cow, one bed with bedstead and all other things thereto belonging, the small chest, a spinning wheel, the small iron pot and iron pan, tea kettle, pepper mill, two pewter plates and ½ dozen spoons, six earthen potts and two dishes, one iron ladle, two teacups and saucers, a table, her hymn books, all the flax, tow, wool and yarn spun which I shall have, two sheeps, two chairs, one tub, one bucket and a half ----- casks, a two gallon cask, one glass bottle, all which foregoing articles shall be in full for my beloved wife Judith one third share of my personal estate, and to have no further demand for the same. It is my will and I do order that the remainder of my personal estate shall be sold upon public Vendue after my decease and the money arising shall be equally divided amongst my aforesaid eight children, or their heirs.

It is my will and I do order that the plantation whereon I now live situate in Tulpehoccon Township in Berks County shall be let or rented out for the halves, and the other half part and income of my said plantation I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Judith so long she remains my widow and no longer-- also to live in the small or spring house, the liberty of the barn to put her cattle and provender therein and to have fire wood from the same the tenant has, so much as she has need of, all the aforesaid half which I did devise unto my beloved wife, shall be delivered unto her as customary, that is to say the grain when threshed and the hay to be put in the barn, which shall be in full for her widow dower.

And it is my will and I do order that after my wife should dye or marry again, that then my aforesaid plantation shall be sold upon public vendue, empowering hereby my herein named executors to grant to such purchaser or purchasers such title or conveyance as required by law, and the money arising from the sale of my aforesaid plantation shall be equally divided amongst my aforesaid eight children or their heirs and representatives.

## WENRICH FAMILY REVISITED

## Will of Mathias Wenrich I, continued

It is further my will and I do order that my two sons to wit Baltzer and Mathias shall have no share or shares any more of my estate both personal and real because they have received their hereditaments already, in the land sold to them heretofore, and likewise that the aforesaid sums of money or share of my daughter Easter the wife of Jacob Spatz shall not come or be paid into the hands of my son in law Jacob Spatz, ----- shall only be for the use of my daughter Easter in case she lives after her husband if not, then for the use of her heirs.

And lastly I do hereby appoint and constitute my son John Wenrich and my son in law Nicholas Deck to be my only and sole executors of this my last will and testament and do hereby revoke, disannuling and making void all former wills and testaments by me heretofore made, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

Witnessed by:

Henry Spyker

and

Michael Walborn

*The mark of*  
  
*Mathias Wenrich sen.*



The early frontiersman copied his clothing after the Indians because buckskin was plentiful and each family made their own clothing.



A home of a settler in the early 1700's.

Mathias Wenrich I (1704-1/5/1785)

m. Judith

Mathias took naturalization oath in 1744 and the Oath of Allegiance in 1777. Seven of his children were baptised at the Little Tulpehocken Church west of Bernville. He deeded part of the homestead to Mathias II in 1774 and moved to Tulpehocken.

1. John Balthaser Wenrich (5/18/1726-4/24/1816)

m. Catharine

They lived on the west part of the homestead at Heidelberg.

2. John Wenrich (7/8/1727-6/12/1793)

m. 1st Christina Mountz (1734-1791)

John was a farmer and blacksmith at Tulpehocken.

3. Mathias Wenrich II (5/1/1729-3/18/1808)

m. 1st Eva Rosine Schauer (Shower)

They lived on the east part of the homestead at Heidelberg.

4. Esther Wenrich (7/25/1731-

m. Jacob Spatz

A Jacob Spatz was at Heidelberg in 1790.

5. John Thomas Wenrich (9/8/1734-3/24/1830)

m. Magdalena

Thomas moved to what is now Schuylkill County by 1780.

6. Conrad Wenrich (2/1/1737-

He was not mentioned in will. Is believed to not had children.

7. Michael Wenrich-Venrick (ca 1740-ca 1827) of Wythe County, Va.

m. Elizabeth Michael was taxed at Tulpehocken in 1775 and 1779. He was in (now) Wythe Co., Virginia in 1789 and later.

8. Maria Magdalene Wenrich (3/8/1740-9/14/1812) Bur. Jonestown, Pa.

m. Nicholas Deck Jr. June 21, 1761.

The Historical Society at Reading has a record of their 10 children.

9. Elizabeth Wenrich She became second wife of

John Ache (1721-1808) listed in a D A R record.

A John Ache lived in Cocalico Twp, Lancaster County in 1790.

10. Susannah Wenrich

m. Peter Shaffer

11. Francis Wenrich (1750-1827)

m. Elizabeth Krieger (1751-1824)

Francis moved from Tulpehocken to Dauphin County in 1784.