

of ten thousand dollars conditioned as the Law directs, certificate
is granted him for obtaining a probat thereof in due form,
Liberty being reserved to the other executor in the said will named
to join in the Probat thereof when he shall think fit.

In faith and testimony whereof Leonard
Henley clerk of the Court of Hustings for the
said City, have hereunto set my hand and
caused the seal of my office to be affixed
the twenty second day of September in the year of our Lord
the thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

Leo. Henley, C. H. C.

Virginia
City of Williamsburg To wit.

William W. Candlish, last preceding
Mayor, in the absence of the Mayor for the City aforesaid, in the
State aforesaid, and in the absence of the said Mayor, presiding
Justice of the Court of Hustings for the City aforesaid, do hereby
certify, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by an
act of the Congress of the United States entitled "an act, to prescribe
the mode in which the Public acts records and Judicial proceedings
of courts of record are to be authenticated," that Leonard Henley
whose certificate is annexed to the above and foregoing, copy
of the last will and testament of Joseph Prentiss deceased is
Clerk of the Court of Hustings for the City aforesaid, duly
appointed, qualified and acting as such, that full faith and
credit is due and ought to be given to all his official acts,
as well in courts of Judicature as thereout and that the
Sweeping attestation is in due form. Given under my hand
and the seal of the said Mayor the twenty second
day of September in the year of our Lord one
thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

W. W. Candlish.

I Acknowledge my most unbounded love and affection
towards my two dear boys Jos. Prentis and John Prentis, they
are incapable of seeing any thing unworthy of themselves, or of
behaving in any manner unworthy of that love and affection
they bear towards their sister Eliza A. Mary Anne. I feel
that conviction of their virtue, that I devise all my estate to
them of every sort in Trust, to be divided by them into four
equal parts, one for Jos. one for John, one for Eliza, and the
remaining fourth for my Mary Anne. This will be sufficient
direction for my boys, and altho this paper may be viewed
as my last will, there will be no necessity to have it proved
in court, or to qualify as executors thereof, without my boys
may incline to do so. There need be no Inventory of my personal
property unless my sons may think it proper to shew that they
have acted properly in the disposition thereof. It is my intention
that my dear children shall equally share what property
I may leave, as they are equally entitled, and most certainly
share my love and affection.

It is my wish that such part of my Estate as my sons
may choose may be sold and the money applied towards the
payment of all my Debts. This must be done as soon as can
be after my death, and the surplus applied to the benefit of
my dear children. This will not probably be of much impor-
tance because it cannot be considerable. My children have all
of them been Educated in pious habits and it has been more an
object with me to write into their minds a proper sense of
their duty towards their God, and towards man than to
acquire wealth for their disposal. The one is a never failing
source of delight, the other fleeting and transitory.

I give to my friend and neighbour Mrs. Skelwith as a
proof of my affection and Love my Spectacles, they are in
themselves very trifling but as a memento I know they will
sometimes call me to her recollection also the Chinese picture in
the parlour. To my friend her husband, I give my Floughs
Barrows &c. I give to my friend Alex. Green my riding Horse
saddle and bridle, he will value him as a proof of that regard

which I have ever had for an honest and worthy man, he would
abound with these Characters and they may be found without
a Searcher. I know no man who merits the title in a greater
degree than Alex. Spens and I beg him to believe that I have
often lamented his misfortunes most sincerely, but my situation
in life only allowed me to lament them, not to relieve them.
My two sons will execute this trust with fidelity - If this paper
is to be called my will and to go thro' the usual formalities
of courts, I desire they may not be called on for security, ~~as~~
my mind revolts at the Idea of requiring security from those
for whom I have the most unbounded affection and love, and
who have received from their Father such an education, and
have such a proper sense of rectitude and integrity, as to be
incapable of deviating from it. I desire to them the care of their
two sisters and I know they will value this bequest, as the most
affectionate Brother ought to do. It has pleased an all wise
Providence to protract my life longer than I had expected,
this period has been devoted in preparing myself for my Departure,
and in improving the minds of my Children. The first event I trust
will be marked by calmness, tranquility and resignation to the will
of Heaven. The second object has had my constant and unweary
exertions, and I trust my efforts have not been unsuccessfull.

I beg my dear children to recollect the anxious sollicitude their
Father has expressed so often for their Happiness. However unreason-
able it may be to neglect the admonitions of those having
more experience in life, yet I hope they will have the good
sense and prudence to profit by these Counsels. Pursue the
path into which your dear Father has placed you. The road to
Happiness and respectability is the road to virtue, your hap-
piness will be secured here and a state of bliss await you
hereafter.

My Boys will not suffer their intercourse with the world
to corrupt the purity of their Hearts - Hold fast those virtuous
principles already inculcated in your Hearts, nor suffer the
least deviation from the principles of integrity and honesty.

I bear to the many letters you have received from me, replete
with advice calculated to make you men of Honesty and
integrity and view them as tending to those great objects.
your Happiness is my Happiness and so long as my heart
retains its motion, so long will the prosperity and Happiness
of all my Children, retain its seat there.

After my death let my body be kept until certain
indications of death shall have manifested themselves
unequivocally, then let it be decently interred near that of
your dear Mother, in a plain pine Coffin without pomp
or parade, a few friends may be invited to attend the
ceremony of Christian burial, they may possibly benefit
by the occasion. I feel disposed to say something as to my
spirit. I do believe most confidently that it will repair to
the regions of bliss. I feel the conviction of my own insigni-
ficance and unimportance on a general scale, but thro' the
intercession and merits of my saviour Jesus Christ, who
suffragis me. I am continually engaged on
my heart, which is the source of the greatest delight. My
spirit will return to him who gave it, and I shall be judged
by a merciful and good god in a happier world.

Joseph Prentiss

Oct. 7. 1807

At a Court of Quarterly Sessions continued by adjournment
and held for the City of Williamsburg the 27th day of June 1807.

A writing purporting annexed (purporting) the last will and
Testament, of Joseph Prentiss deceased was produced in court.
Whereupon Robert Sanders, James Temple and George Jackson
being severally sworn, depose and say that they are well
acquainted with the hand writing of the said Joseph Prentiss
deceased, and verily believe the said writing and signature
thereon, were wholly written by the said Joseph Prentiss. And
thereupon the same was ordered to be recorded, and on
the motion of Joseph Prentiss one of the executors in the said
Will named, who made oath thereof according to Law
and entered into and acknowledged his bond in the penalty