

On 28 September 1697, Samuel Finch, Sr. of Stamford executed four deeds of gift, each witnessed by Abraham Ambler and Samuel Hait, and signed by Samuel Finch with his signature. They were not recorded in *Stamford Land Records*, however, but were recorded in *Fairfield Probate Records*, 4:153-153a, as though they collectively constituted a will and testament:

This Deed of Gift Testifieth yt I, Samuell Finch of Stanford, . . .do grant. . .thes following percells of land and meado & my personall Estate to ye persons hereafter mentioned, as followeth: . . .unto my Son Samuell Finch, that house, farm and lot which [he] now lives upon. . .as his proper Right & Interest. . .and all my land near tilesom brooke; and also that peice of land on ye west side of. . .ye north feild; and my long lot of land upon Shiphand. . .and. . .one halfe of all my out land, devided or undevided, Excepting what hereafter I shall Give in perticular of said lands; more, I Give him one four year old Steer to be possesd of, all this after my decease. . .It is to be understood that halfe my Salt medow in ye East feild Shall be Said Samuells as the other lands.

I Give, Grant and Conforme unto my wel beloved wife, Sarah Finch, one halfe of my hous and one halfe of the seler and halfe ye barne and one therd part of ye homsted belonging to ye house, dureing ye term of her widowhood, & after her decease or marriage, to remaine and be unto my Son Joseph Finch. also one therd part of all my personall Estate whatever, Excepting what I shall hereafter Give in perticular, [and] one therd part of all ye remainder when due debts are paid. I Give to my wife one bed and beding. I Give to my Said wife, not to be valued by apprisement, & do order my wife to be in Equall proportion with Joseph to pay my Just debts, & therefore in perticular I Give to my s'd wife, one halfe of my Corn, English and Indian graine, and one halfe of that oldest percell of Swine; and one halfe of those debts due to me. . . .

I give, grant & Conferme to my Son Joseph Finch ye halfe of my dwelling house, barne & seler & two therds of my homsted belonging to Said house, & ye peice of Land at Shiphand at ye rocke, & halfe of my Land and meddoe not mentioned, Excepting what I Shall give in perticular. also, I Give him, after my wives marriage or decease, yt part of houseing & land She posest, Granted by me to her; also I give Joseph my oxen, Cart, plows & harnes, Iron & wooden, belonging thereunto, & my

steel trap & one halfe of ye Crop of Corn, boath English & Indian, & halfe my percell of oldest swine, devided all between him and my wife. also I Give him his bed and beding, not to be Apprised With ye Estate, and order him to pay half my Just debts, and to receive one halfe of the debts due to me. . . .

I, Samuel Finch Sen'r of Stanford do Give, Grant, make over & Conferme unto my four daughters, Sarah Holly, martha Mead, Susannah Seely, & Rachill Finch, as followeth: I give unto Sarah one half of that East Swampe I bought of the Towne. . . .I give unto my daughter Susanna one halfe of ye East Swampe. . . .more, out of my personall estate, fifty shillings more then Sarah & Martha. . . .I give unto my daughter Rachill Finch five pounds out of my Estate & her bed & beding, not to be Apprised. [In addition he gave to each of his four daughters] . . .one quarter part of that Estate I have not given in perticular, to be posed of it after my decease and Settlement of my Estate.