

The widow Mary (Chandler Dudley) Clark was dead in 1774, and her "thirds," so-called, were ordered to be distributed among the heirs, as the following document shows. Her son James Dudley was administrator of her estate.

This Mary (Chandler Dudley) married for her second husband Judah Clark of Lexington, and went there to reside. In 1753 her three younger children, Huldah, Abigail and Benjamin, came to see her, and the selectmen of Lexington were allowed by the Court of General Sessions to enter their caution against them. They were from Lincoln. So Abigail went to Concord, and, after about 60 years, she left a good estate to her heirs and the church. Benjamin Dudley, her brother, also left a good estate at Lincoln. This warning people out of town was a very common, but a most inhospitable and contemptible custom. The towns were poor and mean.

Province of the Massachusetts Bay.

MIDDLESEX, S.S.

In pursuance of a law of this Province, &c. . . . . I do hereby order and assign to Benjamin, youngest son of Joseph Dudley, deceased, the several pieces and parcels of land and other real estate within mentioned and described with the privileges and appurtenances thereon and thereto belonging, TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same to him, his heirs and assigns forever, he paying to his brethren and sisters (children of the said deceased) and to the lawful heirs of such of them as are deceased, their respective proportions therein (after debts and charges of this settlement paid), as follows; and I do accordingly order him the said assignee in the first place, to pay fees and other charges for this settlement (£1. 14. 1.) and to pay the balance due to James Dudley (administrator of the estate of the said deceased's late widow Mary Clark) on his account of administration thereof, £4. 17. 1., and the debts yet remaining due from him in his said capacity, amounting (as by particulars noted on said account) to £19. 16. 4., and then to pay to the other children of the said deceased, viz., Joseph, Elizabeth, Mary, Huldah, Lucy, Rebecca, James, John and Abigail (or to the lawful heirs of such of them respectively, as are deceased), each the sum of £3. 6. 4, as their shares or portions in the said real estate; said payments to be made within six months from the date of these presents, with lawful interest in the mean time. Given under my hand and seal of office this fourth day of January, A.D. 1774.

S. DANFORTH, J. Prob.