

Anticipating his death, Johannes Liebrich drew up a will in April of 1785.¹⁷ The text in English reads as follows:

“In the Name of God Amen.

I, John Liebrich of Rapho Township in the County of Lancaster and State of Pennsylvania, being old and weak but, God be thank'd, of sound memory and understanding, I therefore commit my soul into the hands of my Creator trusting upon the mercy of my Redeemer and my Body to the Earth from whence it came. First, I order and direct that my Funeral expenses and just debts shall be paid out of my Estate after my decease. Secondly, I order and it is my will that my beloved wife Catherine shall have all my Estate in her Hands and Possession until after her decease. Further, I give and bequeath to my only son Nicholas the sum of Five Pounds a forehand for his Birth Right which said five Pounds shall not be paid to him until after the decease of my said wife Catharine. Then I give and bequeath unto my fourth Daughter Margret the sum of Five Pounds a forehand which said five Pounds shall not be paid to here until after the decease of my said wife. Then it is my will and order that after the decease of my said wife and not sooner (that is when my son Nicholas and my Daughter Margret each of them have received five pounds as a forehand) the remainder left after the decease of my said wife shall be peaceably divided in equal shares amongst my children, viz, my Daughter Apolonia, second Daughter Mary Elizabeth my son Nicholas my third Daughter Hanetta and my fourth Daughter Margret. Lastly I nominate and appoint my said beloved wife Catharine Executrix of this my last will and Testament making hereby null and void all former and other wills by me heretofore made declaring this and no other to be my last will and Testament. Done this thirtieth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand and seven hundred and eighty five. Signed sealed published pronounced and declared by the said John Liebrich in the presence of us and upon his have subscribed our names as witnesses....

Godlieb Spohm [and] Charles Smith.”

In addition to these items, iron potts, pans and ladles, shouffell and tonge and a pair of pleating irons valued at 2.0.0 were found, as well as a Continental Loan Office Certificate dated 21 May 1779 for 800 dollars and other miscellaneous items. Whether that was ever repaid by the United States government is unknown.

This is obviously not the inventory of a poor man, but was that of a successful farmer. In fact, his probate records describe Johannes as a "yeoman". Unlike today's association of that term with the navy, the term "yeoman" then described a landowner who farmed his own land and who had respectable social standing. This must have stood in stark contrast to what would have been his lot had he stayed behind the walls of his birthplace.

When a man died, as Johannes Liebrich did Sept. 17, 1785, it was necessary to take an inventory of his estate, and this was conducted October 5, 1785:

Estate Inventory of Johannes Liebrich 1702-1785

Item	Value	Item	Value
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Coat, jacket, breeches	2.00.00	Good bed and bedflatt	4.2.6
4 pair of trousers	6.0	Another bed	3.10.0
4 petty coaths	1.2.6	3 keeberlings	?
Bonnet and beaver hat	5.0	23 pounds of wool	1.11.9
24 women's shifts	6.0.0	3 bed covers	1.0.0
6 different jackets	7.6	44 pair of fulled stockings	6.12.0
2 pair of stockings/2 hatts	5.0	38 pair unfulled stockings	3.16.00
10 short gaunds	15.0	6 bushels of wheat	1.13.0
11 men's shirts	3.0.0	88 pounds of bacon	1.2.0
10 pounds linnen yarn	1.2.6	Copper kettle	2.0.0
23 sheetings	6.18.0	Silver buckle/tea spoons	1.4.0
4 more petty coaths	1.0.0	2 cloacks	0.7.6
1 apron/6 handkerchiefs	0.10.0	1 pair of man's shoes	0.0.6
3 aprons	0.6.0	10 kaaps	0.7.6
2 pair of linen stockings	0.7.0	38 Nettings	2.16.0
4 tables	1.13.0	A barrell with a little salt	0.1.6
2 3/4 lb Flax	0.2.9	A copper kettle	2.0.0
Spinning wheel & Yeal	0.7.6	A cagg with dry apples	0.1.6
2 barrells with flour	0.7.6	Donsdraufs(?) and basket	0.3.0
9 Baggs	0.3.9	Woolen Yarn	0.6.0
24 Table Cloaths	3.12.0	Hand towls	0.6.0
1 Chest	0.2.0	Iron Curtain Sticks	0.0.0
3 pr of Wooll Casts(?)	0.4.0	Little cage/half bushel cage	0.6.0
12/1/2 Hemp Linnen	1.5.0	5 Cheers	0.12.6
1 Ten plate stove	4.10.0	Wooden ware	0.10.0
Pewter Ware	1.10.0	Tin Ware	0.6.0
A pair of Hillyards	0.6.0	Coffe Kettle/Handle/Lamps	0.11.6
2 fire hoals(?) And Mortar	0.4.0	Linnen ware & Koffe Mill	0.6.0
Netting Needles/Siscors	0.2.6	Bible and 3 Him books	0.18.0
23 sheetings	6.18.0	A chest	0.15.0
Bonds and notes	192.7.11	Cash	40.12.4

These assets were valued at 323.12.00 (pounds. shillings. pence)