

The 1783 will of Adolf Walrath first appeared in 1932 in the St. Johnsville Enterprise and News. At that time it was in the possession of Alice Walrath Bellinger, great great granddaughter of Adolf.

I became interested in finding the original because Adolf was the father of my 4<sup>th</sup> great grandfather (John Adolf Walrath) and I was curious about the way in which he was named – some have referred to him as Johann Walrath. I knew that Alice had no children but she had a nephew, Cecil. In the mid 1970s I wrote to Cecil and inquired about the will and other documentation that I had. He referred me to his son, Richard, who, at that time had no knowledge of it.

Earlier this year I tried again to locate the 1783 will. As luck would have it I talked to the wife of Ronald Walrath, Richard's brother. Subsequent conversations with Richard produced the original 1783 will along with other documents.

What follows is my transcription of the original. There are no significant differences between my transcription and that which appeared in 1932. Seventy five years later, because of the way in which it has been folded there are a couple of words that are not readable – notably, the name of Adolf's wife, Anna. However it must be presumed that it was readable in 1932. The document had no indentations or separation of paragraphs. I have added paragraphs to improve the readability.

Many thanks to Richard Walrath!!

Jerry L. Walrath  
590 Augusta Blvd.  
Naples, FL  
May 10, 2007

## **Will of Adolf Walrath**

In the name of GOD, AMEN! This twenty sixth day of May in the seventh year of our Independence, and Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty Three, I Adolf Walrath of Palatine District in the County of Tryon and State of New York, Yeoman, being very sick, but of good and perfect mind and memory, praised be God for the same, considering the certainty of death, and the uncertain hour of it, I have thought fitt (sic) to dispose of the temporal estate which is (sic) pleased God to give me, recommending first my immortal soul into the house of God and my Savior Jesus Christ, and my body to the earth to be buried in a Christian manner, at the discretion of my executors, 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 bequeath and dispose of the same in the following manner and form.

/Imprimis/ I give and bequeath to my well beloved son John Walrath the sum of two pounds New York Currency in right of his promigeniture (sic) and that he shall be satisfied what Hereinafter shall make, devise and bequeath unto him.

/Item/ I give and devise unto my well beloved wife named *Anna*<sup>1</sup> during the term of her natural life if she remains my widow all my estate and lands I now live upon with the buildings on said land directed (sic) and also my personal estate for her support and maintenance.

/Item/ I give and devise unto my sons named John Walrath, Jacob Walrath and Adolf Walrath to them and their heirs and assigns forever my lands which I have and now live upon and the land on which my said son John Walrath now lives on, lying in Lot number seventeen, lying in a Patent granted to John Schuyler and others with the buildings on said land erected, and also fifty acres of land in Lot number thirty two in Klocks Purchase.

/Item/ I give unto my well beloved son Henry Walrath, his heirs and assigns forever all the lands which I have in Klocks Purchase Lot No. 32 (excepting what is herein above devised) being about one hundred and twenty five acres.

/Item/ I give unto my daughters named Catherine, Dorotia, Annet, Anna and Maria their heirs or assigns each of them the sum of twenty five pounds New York Currency, to be paid to them or their written order by my sons John, Jacob and Adolf their heirs or assigns yearly to each of them five pounds thereof till the above said sum is paid, the first payment is to be paid six years after my decease.

/Item/ I give and devise unto all my children here above named all my household furniture to be divided among them or their heirs, share and share alike.

/Item/ I give and devise unto my daughters named Anna and *Maria*<sup>2</sup>, each of them, one cow and one heifer and two sheep and one sow. /Item/ I give unto my daughter Dorotia one breeding sow.

/Item/ I give and devise unto my sons named John, Jacob and Adolf, their heirs and assigns all the remaining part of the horn cattle, sheep, hogs, horses and farming utencels (sic).

/Item/ My will and desire is that if any of my said children should dye (sic) without heirs, then such personal estate of the deceased shall come and be divided among all my children, share and share alike or their heirs.

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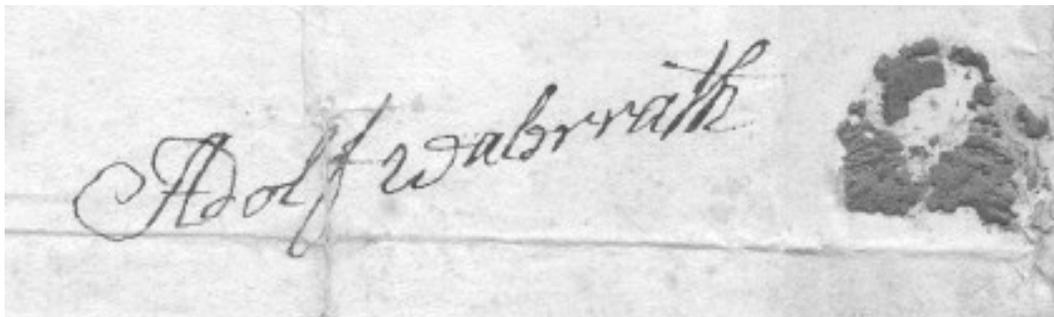
<sup>1</sup> Because of the condition of the original (it was folded), the name was obscured. However, in the 1932 transcription, presumably by Alice Walrath Bellinger, the name was transcribed as Anna. The document at that time was in better condition than today.

<sup>2</sup> Again, the condition of the original obscured the name. But in the 1932 transcription it appeared to the transcriber that the name was Maria.

/Item/ I will and devise-desire that if any one of my sons above named, John, Jacob and Adolph should be willing to sell his share in the above said real estate which I have devised unto him or them then he or they shall apply unto my executors thereafter named, and they or the majority of them shall value such real estate, and the buyer shall pay to the seller such sum as the executors shall appraise, and the seller shall give a good and lawful lease and release to the buyer, his heirs and assigns forever.

Lastly I do hereby declare all what is herein written to be my last will and testament, and desire it may have effect either as testament, codicil or donation or in any manner that may render it more effectual notwithstanding any neglect, mistake or want of form that may be committed in it. I do will and desire that all of my children together shall chose (sic) three honest men who shall with my executors hereafter named honestly divide all my personal estate as above mentioned. I do hereby name and appoint as Executors of this my last will and testament, my well beloved friends Henry Walrath, Esquire, John Windecker and Friterich Bellinger to execute this my last will and testament whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first above written.

ADOLF WALRATH

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, which reads "Adolf Walrath". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. To the right of the signature is a circular wax seal, which appears to be broken or partially used, with some residue visible. The paper shows some creases and a horizontal line, possibly a fold or a ruling line.

Signed, sealed, published and declared by the said Adolf Walrath as and for his last will and testament in the presence of us whose names are hereunder written who did each of us subscribe as witnesses at the request and in his presence in the room where he then was.

JACOB H. KLOCK  
GEORGE KLOCK  
JACOB K. KLOCK