

Will of Ithamar Mill 1755

PCC Canterbury Prob 11/819

Ithamar Mill was one of eleven children of Adie and Joan Mill. She remained unmarried living with her sister Joan, who died before her. Both women received life time annuities and an inheritance from their brother Richard Mill who owned property in Jamaica, and died there in 1739.

Although the Will is full of interesting small bequests to friends and relations, and the need to disentangle the consequences of loans made by her dead sister to a now dead cousin, perhaps the most intriguing feature is the legacy of one shilling to her cousin Richard Bathurst in Jamaica. It is most likely that this is the Colonel Richard Bathurst who sold his ruined Orange River Estate and fled to England about 1750 bringing with him a small black slave who would grow up to fame as Francis Barber, the servant and later legatee of Dr Johnson. The explicit legacy of a nominal sum was included in Wills to prevent the person from contesting the Will, which they might have done if left nothing.

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In the Name of God Amen

I **Ithamar Mill in the parish of St Luke Chelsea in the County of Middlesex** Spinster being of sound mind and memory Do make and declare this my last Will and Testament as follows First I will and devise in case I should dye in or near Chelsea that I may be buried in the new Burial Ground in the said Parish as near to the Remains of my **late dear Sister Mrs Joan Mill** as possible I want to have only an Hearse and one Coach and be buried by Day Light otherwise in all respects as my said Sister was and I do desire that Mr Robert Ramshire? of Bowlane in the City of London undertaker (if alive) may have the Conduct and Management thereof (if it please God I should die in Chelsea aforesaid or Barns or Richmond or where so can conveniently come) and do direct my Executor herein after named to lay out therein Thirty Three pounds or thereabouts and do leave and bequeath for such

purpose the sum of Thirty Three pounds being about the proportionable charge with what was expended at the Funeral of my late dear Sister But if it should happen in any other Place then my will and desire is to be buried as near as possible but leave it entirely to the direction of my said Executor and it is my Will and desire that all and Singular my just Debts and Funeral Expenses be paid and discharged by my said Executor as soon as conveniently may be after my decease and as to the disposition of the remaining part of my Estate and Effects I dispose thereof in manner following that is to say I give and bequeath unto my **Cousin Mr Robert Salusbury Cotton of Charles Street** in the Parish of Saint Margaret Westminster in the County of Middlesex Apothecary the sum of one Hundred Pounds of lawfull Money of Great Britain to be paid by my said Executor within a year or sooner after my decease if he can conveniently and also to the said Mr Robert Salusbury Cotton and his Wife to each of them Ten Pounds Ten Shillings for Mourning and to each of his Sons **Robert Salusbury** and **Nathan John Cotton** a pair of my Silver shoebuckles and to his **Daughter Martha Cotton** my Table Diamond Ring and a Small Green Emerald Ring and Whereas my **late cousin Thomas Cotton** (Younger Brother to the aforesaid Mr Robert Salusbury Cotton) of South Lambeth in the County of Surry Merchant was and still stands bound unto my said late Sister Mrs Joan Mill to whom I am Administratrix in and by one Bond or obligation bearing date on or about the Thirtieth Day of April which was in the Year of our Lord one Thousand Seven hundred and forty Three in the Penal Sum of one Hundred pounds conditioned for the payment of Fifty pounds (which was by her to him previously lent and advanced) with lawfull Interest at a Time therein mentioned and long since past and likewise was and still stands bound unto me in one other Bond or obligation bearing date on or about the Eighteenth day of November One Thousand seven hundred and Forty Three in the Penal Sum of Two hundred Pounds conditioned for the payment of one hundred pounds at a time therein mentioned and likewise long since past which said sum of one Hundred Pounds was by me lent and advanced previous to the Execution thereof and Whereas my said late Cousin Thomas Cotton was and at this time stands bound unto myself and my said late Sister Mrs Joan Mill in and by one other Bond or obligation bearing date on or about the seventeenth Day of October one

Thousand Seven Hundred and forty four in the Penal Sum of Six Hundred Pounds conditioned for the payment of Three hundred pounds with lawfull Interest for the same unto me and my said late Sister as therein mentioned and on a day long since past which said Sum of Three Hundred Pounds was by me and my said Sister lent and advanced unto the said Thomas Cotton in equal Moietys or Proportions and to the whole whereof I am now become intituled in my own Right and as Administratrix of my said late Sister as aforesaid Now my Will and intent is that the Interest of the said Sums of Fifty Pounds one Hundred Pounds and Three Hundred Pounds which shall be due and owing at the time of my decease shall by the Heirs or Executors of the said late Cousin Thomas Cotton be fully paid and satisfied unto my Executor herein afternamed and all arrears of such Interest being to such times so fully [illegible] Satisfied and discharged accordingly I do hereby give and bequeath the said respective Bonds of Fifty Pounds and one Hundred Pounds and all my Right and Interest therein respectively unto the Children of the said Mr Thomas Cotton in manner following that is to say I do hereby give unto **Thomas Cotton only Son** of my said late Cousin Thomas Cotton aforesaid the said Bond of Fifty Pounds and the said Principal Money thereon due absolutely for ever also I give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth Cotton only Daughter** of the said late Mr Thomas Cotton the aforesaid other Bond of one hundred pounds with the Principal Money thereon due absolutely for ever And I do also further hereby give and bequeath unto the aforesaid Robert Salusbury Cotton Elder Brother unto the said late Cousin Thomas Cotton his Executors and Administrators as well in the aforesaid Bond of Three Hundred Pounds and the said Principal Monies thereon due or received from the Executors or Administrators of his said Brother Cousin Thomas Cotton aforesaid together with the Interest which shall grow due or become payable for the same from the time of my decease and all the [illegible] Ways and Means that can be pursued or taken for the recovering obtaining and receiving thereof respectively to and for his and their own use and benefit and as his and their own Moneys and Effects absolutely for ever also I give and bequeath unto my much Esteemed Friend **Mrs Elenor Marshall** late of Barns in the County of Surry Spinster who has lived with me and at my request accompanied me ever since the Death of my said dear

Sister greatly to comfort and Satisfaction and with whom a great Intimacy and Friendship has subsisted for many years the Sum of Ten Guineas for Mourning and I do also give and bequeath unto the said Mrs Elenor Marshall all and singular my Linnen and Wearing Apparell together with the whole Furniture [illegible] Beds and Bedding Draws Tables Chairs Glass's China Tea Kettles and Lamps and all other my Brass and CopperWare with all my Boxes and Trunks But it is my Will and intention that the Gift of such Boxes and Trunks is not to comprehend or conveyy anything further by the disposition thereof then what is before particularized to be and to her given and bequeathed as aforesaid in case any other Moneys Documents Deeds Papers or Writings or other part or parts of my Effects or Estate should be therein contained at the time of my decease and further it is my Will and Intention that the said Mrs Elenor Marshall should have returned to her whatever Things now hers which she was so kind at any time to give me in particular my Diamond Ring with one Brilliant a Silver Box Candle Box with her arms Engraven thereon and Cabinet of her Mothers Work and Three Alabaster Statues over the Chimney in my Dining Room and whereas I have lately Purchased of or from Valentine Lawford of the City of London Gentleman one annuity or Yearly Rent Charge or Sum of Forty Pounds for and during the Term of my natural Life secured as well by his Bond as a Conveyance in nature of the Mortgage of certain Messuages Lands Tenements and Hereditaments in the Parishes of Saint Thomas the Apostle and Saint Antholin in the City of London payable quarterly as therein mentioned and by the same Bond Mortgage or Conveyance an annuity or Yearly Rent Charge or Sum of Twenty Pounds is for the consideration therein mentioned to be by me paid given or Transferred thereby likewise provided for and devised and directed to be paid unto the said Elenor Marshall for and during her natural Life in case she shall survive me by four equal quarterly Payments in manner therein expressed Now I do hereby ratify and confirm the said annuity or yearly sum of Twenty Pounds unto the said Eleanor Marshall and direct and appoint the same to be to her duly paid and satisfied accordingly and my Will and meaning is that she shall be in no sort lyable or compellable to Pay to my Executor or otherwise any Consideration whatsoever for the same such annuity being by me purchased and for her intended in lieu of a like annual sum to her by me given

by a former Will and which I esteemed most effectual and is best agreeing with my desire and intention to Purchase and secure in my own lifetime and Whereas also I have jointly with the said Mrs Elenor Marshall contracted and agreed for and purchased of or from Valentine Lawford aforesaid one other annuity or Yearly Rent Charge of Sixteen Pounds a year during the Term of my natural Life and Sixteen Pounds a year to the said Elenor Marshall during the term of her natural Life and at and after the decease of the aforesaid Elenor Marshall the said Sixteen Pounds a year Rent Charge free of all deductions to descend and be paid to **her Sister Mrs Sarah Marshall** for and during the Term of her natural Life and also one other Annuity or Rent Charge of Four Pound a year free of all deductions to be paid unto the said Mrs Elenor Marshall in case She should happen to survive me and also in case I should happen to Survive both the said Elenor and Sarah Marshall one other Annuity or Yearly Rent Charge to be paid to me during the Term of my natural Life each and every of the aforesaid Annuitys secured as well by his Bond as a Conveyance in nature of a Mortgage of certain Messuages Lands Tenements and Hereditaments in Mugwell? Street in the parish of St Olive Silver Street in the City of London Now I do hereby ratify and confirm the said several Sums or Annuitys of Sixteen Pounds and Four Pounds to the said Elenor Marshall and Sixteen Pounds to the said Sarah Marshall as far as my Money was anyway concerned in the purchase of the said annuities and do appoint the same to be only to them paid and satisfied at the time and in the manner as is therein expressed without being lyable to pay to my Executor otherwise any [illegible insertion above]consideration whatsoever for the same Also I give and bequeath unto my Worthy Relations Mr Samuel Blyth Ten Pounds Ten Shillings and to Mr Valentine Lawford Brother of the said Mr Blythe and to Mrs Lawford Wife of the said Mr Lawford and to Miss Blythe only Daur of the said Mr Blythe to each of them Five Pounds Five Shillings for a Ring as an acknowledgement of the many obligations lye under to them and each of them for their readiness to serve me with their kind advice in my affairs and for the Trouble I have from time to time to them respectively given also I give and bequeath unto my **Cousin Mrs Jane Bythell** and **Mr Robert Bodington** and to **Mrs Cotton of James Street** in near Modford? Now Holborn and to **Mrs Cotton widow of the late Mr Thomas Cotton** and

to **Mr Parrott** and **Mr William Williams** Sons of my late worthy and beloved friends **Doctor Williams** and his Widow of Haverford West in South Wales and to **Mr Thomas Kymer** Grandson to my late much Honoured and beloved Friend Mrs **Martha Fowler of Haverfordwest** in Pembroke Shire Southwales aforesaid and to **Mr Charles Owen of Lincolns Inn** and now residing in Tooks Court near the said Society to each of them one Guinea for a Ring and to **Miss Dorothy Owen** my God Daughter Eldest Daughter of the said Mr Owen One Pound Eleven shillings and Six Pence for a Ring also I give and bequeath unto my **beloved Friend Mrs Margaret Draper** Widow of the late **Major Matthew Draper** Fifty Five Pounds of good and lawfull Money of Great Britain and I give unto **Mr Alexander Reid** my late Landlord Five Pounds Five Shillings for Ring and **to my Cousin Mr Richard Bathurst of the island of Jamaica** one Shilling only and as to all the rest and residue and remainder of my annuity Stock in the Bank of England or in any other Publick Funds or belonging to or coming unto me therein or upon any Bonds Mortgages Effects Notes or Personal Estate of what nature kind or quality soever or wheresoever not herein before given or disposed of I give and bequeath the same and every Part thereof unto **Mr Thomas Reid Grocer** at the Ship in Great Russell Street Covent Garden within the Liberty of Westminster and County of Middlesex which Residuum as well as what I hereinbefore to him given as my Executor is by me so disposed of in his favour as a mark of the affection and Regard which as well my late dear Sister in her lifetime as my self always had for him and as a Reward for his Integrity and Steady unblemished Behaviour and do nominate constitute and appoint him the said **Thomas Reid Executor** of this my last Will and Testament and do desire the said Thomas Reid to pay a due observance to this my Will in all its parts and confide in his performing thereof agreeable to my intention hereinbefore declared and Lastly I do hereby revoke all former Wills by me at any time heretofore made and declare this alone to be my last Will and Testament In Witness whereof I have hereunto as also to another part or Duplicate likewise wrote on one sheet of paper set my hand and Seal the 26 Day of June in the 29th year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Second King of Great Britain and so forth and in the year of our Lord one Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty five .-. Ithamar Mill - Signed Sealed Published and declared by

the Testatrix Ithamar Mill as and for her last Will and Testament in our site and presence who in her site and presence and at her request have attested the same (the words /and the deeds relating to the said annuities my will is shall be delivered up to the said Elenor Marshall/ being first interlined).

Sam Blythe. V. Lawford

This Will was proved at London on the Sixteenth day December in the year of our Lord one Thousand seven hundred and Fifty Five before the Worshipful George Harris Doctor of Laws and Surrogate of the Right Honourable Sir George Lee Knight also Doctor of Laws Master Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury lawfully constituted by the oath of **Thomas Reid the sole executor** named in the said Will to whom administration was granted of all and singular the Goods Chattels and Credits of the said Deceased he having been already sworn duly to administer.

Transcription by Anne Powers

September 2011