

Will of Gilbert Ford 1767

Gilbert Ford was born in England about 1722 and married his first wife Mary Calliard in 1748. She died in May 1754, the date of his second marriage, to Elizabeth Aikenhead is not known. There seem to have been no surviving children from either marriage. He was Attorney General for Jamaica in 1760 and a Member of Council in 1764. He died in Jamaica in 1767 and was buried at St Andrew's (hopefully in the church yard as he had requested) on the 14th of October.

Elizabeth Aikenhead's sister Margaret Eleanor was married to Samuel Alpress in 1761; Milborough married twice first to John Harvie and then to Thomas McLean. Their brother was John Lawrence Aikenhead, all were children of William Aikenhead who died in Jamaica about 1760 and was brother to Archibald Aikenhead mentioned in this Will.

After Gilbert's death his widow settled in England and remarried to Samuel Townsend and had two children with him. There are at least two portraits of her extant.

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Jamaica Is.

Gilbert Ford Esq

In the Name of God Amen.

I Gilbert Ford of the Parish of St Catherine in the County of Middlesex in the Island of Jamaica Esq. being of sound and disposing Mind Memory and understanding do make publish and declare this my last Will and Testament in Writing in manner and form following (that is to say) first I give devise and bequeath all my Estate Real and Personal in the Kingdom of Great Britain of what Nature or kind soever all that Plantation and Sugar Work and the Lands thereunto belonging formerly the Estate and Property of **Thomas Ayscough** Esq. lately deceased and whereof I am now Mortgagee in possession commonly called and known by the Name of Mount Sion Plantation situate in the Parish of St John in this Island together with the Slaves Cattle Stock Plantation Utensils and Implements of Planting upon or belonging to the said Plantation as well as those purchased and put thereon by me

since I have been in possession of the same as those in Mortgage and all my Estate Right and Interest in the said Plantation Lands Slaves Cattle Stock Utensils and Implements and all Moneys due and owing to me from the same and from the Estate of the said Thomas Ayscough and from his Daughter **Grace Hamson Ayscough** to whom I was Guardian and all my Claims and Demands whatsoever in law and Equity thereon unto my dear **Brother James Ford** of Albemarle Street Piccadilly London Doctor in Physic to hold unto him my said Brother James Ford his Heirs Executors Administrators and Assigns to his and their own proper use and benefit absolutely for ever subject nevertheless to and he or they paying thereout all such Debts as I shall happen to owe in Great Britain at my death and also the following Legacies to wit unto my **Niece Anna Maria Ford** Daughter of my said Brother the Sum of one thousand pounds sterling Money of Great Britain at her age of twenty one years or day of Marriage which shall first happen unto my **Nephew Gilbert Ford** son of my said Brother the like sum of one thousand pounds sterling Money aforesaid at his age of twenty one years or day of Marriage which shall first happen unto my **Niece Elizabeth Ford** daughter of my deceased **Brother Edward Ford** the sum of three hundred pounds like Sterling Money at her age of twenty one years or day of Marriage which shall first happen unto my **Brothers John Ford** and **Thomas Ford** the sum of one hundred pounds like Sterling Money each unto my aunts **Ann Hill Judith Wise** and **Mary Garmon** the sum of one hundred pounds like Sterling Money each unto my good friends **James Laroche** the Elder of Bristol Esquire Mrs Laroche the Wife of the said James Laroche and her three Sisters named **Mary Casamajor (?) Elizabeth and Ann** Messires (?) Hilton and **Mrs Mary Watson of Bath** Biscoe of London Merchants the sum of ten Guineas each to buy Rings.

Item I desire and authorise **William Nedham** of the Parish of Vere Esquire **Rose Herring May** of the Parish of Clarendon Esq **Thomas Gordon** of the Parish of St Catherine Esq and **Robert Cooper Lee** of the said Parish of St Catherine Gentleman or any two or more of them to enter upon and take possession immediately after my decease of the said Plantation or Sugar work called Mount Sion and the Lands thereunto belonging and the Slaves Cattle Stock Utensils and Implements upon or belonging thereto and the same to manage and take care of and to receive and take the profits and

produce thereof In Trust nevertheless and for the use of my said Brother James Ford his Heirs and Assigns and I further desire and authorise the said William Nedham Rose Herring May Thomas Gordon and Robert Cooper Lee or any two or more of them to settle and adjust with any Person or Persons whom it may concern all and every my claims and demands in any manner or Right whatsoever against the said Plantation Lands Slaves and Premises late of the said Thomas Ayscough deceased and against his Estate and against his said Daughter and if need to be to refer the same to the Arbitration of indifferent Persons whatsoever my said Trustees or any of them shall do in the Premises shall be binding and conclusive to my said Brother James Ford and all persons claiming upon.

Item in case my said Brother James Ford shall happen to die before the making of this my Will or before me, then I give devise and bequeath all my Estate Real and Personal in Great Britain of what Nature or kind soever (subject nevertheless to and charged and chargeable with my said debts in Great Britain and the several Legacies above mentioned) unto and amongst all and every the children of my said Brother James Ford that shall be living at my death equally to be divided between them share and share alike to them and their several and respective Heirs Executors and Administrators for ever and in such case of the decease of my said Brother James Ford before the making of this my Will or before me I give devise and bequeath the said Plantation and Sugar work called Mount Sion and the Lands thereunto belonging and the Slaves Cattle Stock Utensils and Implements upon or belonging thereto and all my Estate Right and Interest there in and all Moneys due and owing unto me from the same and from the Estate of the said Thomas Ayscough and from his said Daughter and all my claims and demands in Law and Equity thereon unto the said William Nedham Rose Herring May Thomas Gordon and Robert Cooper Lee and the Survivors and Survivor of them and the Heirs Executors Administrators and assigns of such Survivor Upon Trust to sell and dispose of the said Plantation Lands Slaves and Premises and my Estate Right and Interest therein as soon as conveniently may be after my decease and to collect and get in the said Moneys owe[d] to me and thereout to Pay apply and dispose unto and amongst all and every the children of my said

Brother James Ford that shall be living at my death equally to be divided between them Share and Share alike.

Item I manumise and set free my **Negro Cook Wench named Cuba** from all manner of Slavery and Servitude and I give and devise unto the said Cuba for the term of her natural life for her Support and Maintenance all my Footland situate near the Church in Spanish Town and the Houses thereon Upon condition nevertheless that she behaves kindly and dutiously as a Servant unto my dearest Wife her Mistress during her stay in Jamaica otherwise the said devise to be null and void.

Item Whereas I have lent and advanced unto and for the use of **Mr John Brammer** the Sum of fifteen hundred Pounds Current Money of Jamaica or thereabouts and the same is proposed to be repaid me out of the demand he has against the Estate of my **Ward Miss Mary Garland** which demand is to be ascertained and secured by Decree in Chancery. Now I do hereby Will and direct that the Moneys due to me from the said John Brammer be secured by Proper Decree out of the demand aforesaid of the said John Brammer as soon as the said Decree is obtained after which it is my further Will that the said Moneys so to be secured shall not bear or carry Interest, nor the Principal Moneys be paid or demanded until my said Ward shall attain her age of twenty one years or day of Marriage which shall first happen and I bequeath unto the said Mary Garland the Glass Bookcase and Chest of Drawers now used by her in my House and I permit and Release unto her all moneys paid by me for the use of her or her Estate on any account what ever since she has been under my Guardianship.

Item I permit and release unto **Mr William Morris Attorney** at Law Moneys that may be due to him to me at the time of my death.

Item in case I shall happen to die in Jamaica it is my express Will and direction that my body be buried in the church yard thinking it a disgrace to the House of God to be made Charnel House but I give and bequeath the sum of one Hundred Pounds Current Money of Jamaica unto the Churchwardens of the said Parish of Saint Catherine to be by them applied towards the amendment of the Pews of the Church of the said Parish.

Item all the Rest Residue and Remainder of my Estate Real and Personal in this island of what Nature kind or quality soever I give devise and bequeath unto my **dearest Wife Elizabeth Ford** to and to the use and benefit of her her Heirs Executors Administrators and Assigns for ever in Manifestation of the Real Value I set upon her many great and good qualities having found her chearful companion in the days of prosperity and most faithful and compassionate friend in the Hour of Distress and Anguish she my said Wife paying out of the Residue of my Estate in this Island all the Debts I shall happen to owe here at my death and the following Legacys to wit unto my said Trustees William Nedham Rose Herring May Thomas Gordon and Robert Cooper Lee fifty Pounds Current Money of Jamaica each to buy Rings unto my **Sisters in Law Margaret Alpress** and **Milborough Harvie** one hundred pounds Current Money aforesaid each unto **Mr Archibald Aikenhead** the Sum of one hundred pounds like Current Money unto **Eleanor Aikenhead** Daughter of the said Archibald Aikenhead the Sum of five hundred Pounds like Current Money at her age of 21 years or day of Marriage which shall first happen unto **Mrs Mary Nord** (?) And her Daughter **Mrs [blank] Dormer** (?) the Sum of fifty Pounds like Current Money each unto **my Trusty agent Jabez Barton**¹ of Kingston [illegible] the sum of fifty Pounds like Current Money unto Mrs Jane Garland and her said Daughter Mary Garland my Ward the Sum of fifty Pounds like Current Money each unto **my God daughter Mary May** the Sum of one Hundred Pounds like Current Money and unto my **friends Matthew Gregory Esq Mr George Watson and Mrs Watson** his Wife and **Mr Charles Hall and Mrs Hall** his Wife the Sum of twenty Pounds like current Money each to buy Rings.

Item it is my intent and meaning that no bequest or Legacy herein contained or being appointed Executor of this my Will shall Release or extinguish any debt due and owing to me from such Legatee or Executor and lastly I constitute and appoint my said dearest Wife Elizabeth Ford sole Executrix of this my last Will and Testament for this Island and my said Brother James Ford Executors thereof for Great Britain and in case of his death before the making this my Will or before me Then I constitute and appoint my said **Friends Marmaduke Hilton and Vincent Biscoe** Executors thereof for Great

¹ Jabez Barton was the Kingston Vestreyman

Britain and hereby revoking and making void all former Wills by me at any time heretofore made I declare this only to be my last Will and Testament contained in four Sheets of Paper to the three first Sheets thereof set my hand and to the Fourth my hand and Seal the first day of April in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty four. Gilbert Ford Signed Sealed Published and declared by the said Testator Gilbert Ford as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who in his presence and at his request have subscribed our Names as Witnesses hereto in the presence of each other. **Daniel Broadbelt, R.Aldred, Thomas Rigby Brodbelt.**

Jamaica Is.

Whereas I have made my last Will and Testament in Writing bearing date on or about the first day of April last Now I do make this codicil to my said Will and Will and direct the same to be annexed thereto and to be [illegible] and taken as part and parcel thereof In case of the death of my dear Wife Elizabeth Ford before me or if any accident should happen during our intended Voyage to Great Britain whereby both others should perish then I Give devise and bequeath all such part of my Estate Real and Personal by my said Will given unto her unto my Brother James Ford (in case he shall happen to survive me) to him and his Heirs Executors Administrators and Assigns for ever and in case of his death before me then unto my Trustees William Nedham Rose Herring May Thomas Gordon and Robert Cooper Lee in my Will named and the Survivors and Survivor of them and the Heirs Executors Administrators and Assigns of such Survivor upon the Trusts and for the Intents and Purposes as I have by my said Will devised the Plantation and Sugar Work called Mount Sion and the lands thereunto belonging and the Slaves Cattle and Stock belonging thereunto unto the said Trustees in case of the death of my said Brother James before making my Will or before me But I nevertheless hereby subject and make liable my said Estate Real and Personal by my said Will given unto my said Wife unto the several Legacys and charges by my said Will made payable thereout And in case of the death of my said Wife before me then I constitute and appoint the said William Nedham Rose Herring May Thomas Gordon and Robert Cooper Lee Executors of my said Will for this Island and in case my said Wife shall survive me and happen to be off this Island at my death then

during such her absence from this Island only I constitute them the said William Nedham Rose Herring May Thomas Gordon and Robert Cooper Lee the Executors for this island. In Witness whereof I the said Gilbert Ford have hereunto set my hand and Seal the eleventh day of May in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty four. Gilbert Ford. Signed Sealed Published and declared by the Testator Gilbert Ford as and for codicil to his last Will and Testament in the Presence of us who in his presence and at his request have subscribed our Names as Witnesses to the same in the presence of each other **James Wilkins, Thomas Ellis, William Rogers.**

As a further Codicil to my last Will and Testament I hereby in case of my death during my Voyage to Great Britain or in the said Kingdom after my arrival there Give and bequeath unto my said Wife Elizabeth Ford the sum of one thousand Pounds Sterling Payable out of my Estate in Great Britain and to be paid her by my Executors there within one Month after my decease Witness my hand this 11th day of May 1764. Gilbert Ford.

Memorandum this fifth day of November 1767 Personally came and appeared before me Thomas Ellis and made oath that he was present and did see Gilbert Ford the Testator within and above mentioned being then of sound Mind and Memory Sign Seal Publish and declare the codicil within and above written bearing date the 11th day of May 1764 to be deemed and taken as part and parcel of his last Will and Testament hereunto annexed and that at the same time James Wilkins and William Rogers were also present and together with him subscribed their Names as Witnesses thereto in the presence of the said Testator and further that he knows nothing of any other Will or codicil since made by the said Testator which may tend to the disadvantage of the Will and codicil is hereunto annexed and codicils above written save the three codicil is hereunto annexed and this Deponent further saith that he is well acquainted with the manner and character of handwriting of the said Gilbert Ford the Testator and very Lee believes the Name Gilbert Ford set and subscribe to the codicil bearing date the 11th day of may 1764 to be the proper handwriting of the said Gilbert Ford he this Deponent having frequently seen him right and sett and subscribe his Name. **Roger Hope Elletson.** Snow Hill

Friday Morning 9th Oct 1767.

Whereas I have made my Will with codicil annexed which is that my House in Spanish Town I further make this addition by way of codicil I direct that £500 Sterling be paid to my dearly beloved Wife Elizabeth Ford in place of the thousand pounds mentioned in my former codicil and I give her five hundred pounds currency to Miss Eleanor Aikenhead and I constitute and appoint [illegible] Esq of St Katherine's to be a Trustee for Mountain River Estate to execute said Trust according to the directions and uses mentioned and advised in my said Will. **G Ford J Marten Butt William**

Elphinston William Greig.

Whereas I have made sundry alterations in my last Will and Testament herein above written by interlineations and Erasements made by my own hand to the Intent that the said Will should be [illegible], but fearing accidents before the same may be affected Do now republish Sign Seal and declare the said above written Instrument contained in four sheets of Paper annexed together to be my last Will and Testament dated at Snow Hill in the Island aforesaid this Sunday Night the 11th day of October 1767. G Ford. Witnesses to the Republication and Signing and Installing of this Instrument in the presence of the Testator and of each other **John Marten Butt William Elphinston James Campbell.**

This Will was proved at London with four codicils on the twelfth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty eight before the Worshipful William Compton Doctor of Laws Surrogate of the Write Worshipful George Hay Doctor of Laws Master Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury lawfully constituted by the oath of **James Ford Doctor in Physick** the Brother of the deceased and Executor named in the said Will for Great Britain to whom administration of the Goods Chattels and Credits of the deceased lying and being in Great Britain but no further or otherwise was granted he having been first sworn duly to administer.

NOTE: Names of signatories have been expanded where these are known.

Transcribed by Anne Powers

1 March 2012