

# Will of Samuel Townsend 1794

## PCC Canterbury 11/1247

---

Lieutenant General Samuel Townsend married Elizabeth Aikenhead, the widow of Gilbert Ford in London in 1772. Of those mentioned in his Will Dr James Ford was almost certainly a relation of his wife's first husband, possibly his brother. William Farquhar was connected to him through the Harvie family, having married the widow of Dr Thomas Harvie of Jamaica. Elizabeth Aikenhead's sister Milbrough had been married to his brother John Harvie. Robert Cooper Lee had settled in London after quarter of a century in Jamaica where he had been crown solicitor.

The most unusual feature of this Will is the personal bequest to the Townsend's housekeeper Mary Collins who is specifically mentioned as having been wet nurse to the two Townsend children.

---

In the Name of God Amen

I Major General **Samuel Townsend of Upper Wimpole Street** in the Parish of St Mary le Bone in the County of Middlesex do make publish and declare this my last Will and Testament in writing in manner following (that is to say) I do hereby give devise and bequeath all my Estates real and personal whatsoever in Great Britain Jamaica and elsewhere until I Dear **Wife Elizabeth Townsend** her Heirs Executors Admons and Assigns for ever it being my intention to leave my Dear Children wholly dependent on their own good Mother and I constitute and appoint my said Wife whole and sole Executrix of this my last Will and Testament and also Guardian of our Dear Children during their respective Minorities I wish to have my Dear Son as well educated as possible in the course of which I am convinced the goodness of his disposition and the natural sweetness of his Temper will induce him to make every exertion to accomplish an object of so great importance and will determine him

to pay the strictest attention to the salutary counsel and advice of his good Mother who has nothing so much at heart as his future welfare and happiness and he will remember that my most earnest request to him is that he should pay the strictest obedience to every injunction and command of her who must now be considered by him in the double light of Father and Mother

My sweet amiable Dear Daughter cannot be in better hands than those of the Mother to whom I am persuaded my Dear Child will always show every instance of Duty attention and affection and I do recommend it to my said Dear Wife in every step of moment and consequence to her and our Children to consult and be entirely governed by the Judgement and Friendly advice of my Dearly beloved **Brother Edward Townsend** Esq and my most esteemed Friends **Doctor James Ford Walter Farquhar** and **Robert Cooper Lee** Esq

I give devise and bequeath unto my present **Housekeeper Mrs Mary Collins** the sum of £10 yearly for and during the term of her natural life as a mark of my entire approbation of her Fidelity and excellent good behaviour as well as of her grate care and varied attention to my Children whom she suckled

The place of my interment is a matter of much indifference to me my wife will direct that as she pleases, my wish and desire is that we may be laid together. Lastly I hereby revoke and make void all former Wills by me at any time made and do declare this only to be my last Will and Testament In Witness whereof I the said Samuel Townsend have to this my last Will and Testament sett my hand and seal the 2d day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety one Sam Townsend signed sealed published and declared by the said Testator as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who in his presence at his request and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses hereto **Robert Cooper Lee, Peter Whannell** Clerk to General Townsend, **Adam Whyte** servant to Mr Lee.

This Will was proved at London the twelfth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety four before the Worshipful Thomas Champion Crespigny Doctor of Laws and Surrogate of the Right Honourable Sir William Wynne Knight also Doctor of Laws Master Keeper

or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury lawfully constituted by the Oath of Elizabeth Townsend Widow the Relict of the deceased and Sole Executrix named in the said Will to whom Administration was granted of all and singular the Goods Chattels and Credits of the deceased having been first Sworn duly to administer./.

Transcribed by Anne Powers

22nd March 2012