

Will of Anthony Langley Swymmer

1760 PCC Prob 11/855

Anthony Langley Swymmer was born on 6 July 1725 in the parish of St Thomas in the East, Jamaica. His grandfather Anthony Swymmer, who died in 1688, had been an early colonist of Jamaica. The Swymmer family, who were Bristol merchant venturers, provided indentured labour to Jamaica and engaged extensively in the slave trade. This will is interesting in the detail it provides of the Swymmer family holdings in Jamaica. Anthony Langley Swymmer married Lady Arabella Astley in London in 1748, but the marriage was childless and the main beneficiaries of his estate were the descendants of his sister Jane Langley Swymmer who had married Richard Chaundler Champneys.

Note: I should apologise for my inability correctly to read the Welsh place names referred to in the will.

This is the last Will and Testament of me **Anthony Langley Swymmer of Mould** in the County of Flint Esq being of sound Mind Memory and Understanding at the time of making hereof blessed be Almighty God for the same Whereas I am seized and possessed in Fee Simple of and in all that Parcel of Land or Plantation called Nutts River Plantation in the Parish of St Thomas in the East in the Island of Jamaica in America containing about 2036 Acres and a half and a Parcel of Land in the same Parish called Clark's River Land containing about 1120 Acres and also a Parcel of Land adjoining to and part of Nutts River Plantation purchased of Richard Risby containing about 332 Acres and a Parcel of Land at Milk River in the Parish of Vere in the said Island called Swymmer's Land or Milk River Land containing by Estimation 4000 acres and a Tract of Land of about 1100 acres in the Parish of St George at the North side of the said Island of Jamaica and a piece of Foot Land in Spanish Town in the said Island near the Beef Market subject to and charged with the Payment of one Annuity or clear Yearly Rent charge of sixty Pounds per Annum to the **Reverend Mr Thomas Horne** for the life of **Thomas Rowney** of the City of Oxford Esq and also one other Annuity or clear Yearly Rent charge

of Three hundred Pounds per Annum by me thereof granted to the Honourable George Bennett for the Term of his life and also subject to a Mortgage thereof granted by me to **Henry Swymmer** of the City of Bristol Merchant by Indentures of Lease and Release bearing date the seventh and eighth days of February 1757 for securing the principal sum of four thousand Pounds with Interest and to one other Mortgage by me granted to the said Henry Swymmer by Indentures of Lease and Release bearing Date the eighth and ninth days of the same February for the further sum of £4000 and Interest by way of collateral security for the like sum due on Mortgage to him of my Manner and Lands at Mould aforesaid hereinafter mentioned Now I do hereby charge all my said Plantations and Lands in the several Parishes and places aforesaid or elsewhere in this said Island of Jamaica together with all the Dwelling Houses Curing Houses Boiling Houses Still Houses Rum Houses Storehouses Warehouses and all other Buildings on the said Plantations and Lands and all the Negroes there with their Issue and Increase and all the Quick and dead Stock thereon and all other Appurtenances belonging to the said Plantation and Lands or usually enjoyed therewith subject to the two several Annuities and Mortgages thereon herein before recited with the payment of an Annuity or clear Yearly Rent charge of Two hundred Pounds per Annum to **Hester McCartney** Single Woman lately living with me at Ashford in the County of Middlesex for the term of her life payable by four equal quarterly payments the first payment thereof to begin and be made on the first usual Quarter Day which shall happen after my decease But this Annuity is so given upon condition that the said Hester McCartney shall not intermarry or cohabit with any Man after my decease and if she shall so marry or cohabit after having received notice of this condition annexed to this [illegible] of the said Annuity to her the payment thereof shall [illegible] thenceforth cease and determine And I do hereby charge my said plantations Lands and Premises in the said Island of Jamaica in the next place with the payment of and Annuity or clear Yearly Rent Charge of Two hundred Pounds per Annum to my friend **Mr Thomas Felton** for the term of his life payable by four equal Quarterly payments the first payment thereof to begin and be made on the first usual Quarter Day which shall happen after my decease But in case the said Thomas Felton shall be otherwise provided with a clear

Annual Income of Two hundred Pounds per Annum the said Annuity hereby to him devised is from the time of his having and receiving such a they dearly Income as aforesaid decease and determine and whereas I am justly indebted to divers Persons in several Sums of Money upon Bonds and otherwise the particulars whereof are set forth in a List or Schedule thereof deposited by me in the Hands of the said **Henry Swymmer** and of **Anthony Pye** of the parish of Saint Andrew Holborn in the County of Middlesex Gentleman I do hereby in the next place charge all my said Plantations Lands and Premises in the said Island of Jamaica with the due payment of all the said Debts in the said List mentioned and all other my Debts which I may happen to owe at the time of my decease of what nature soever that the personal Estate which I shall dye possessed of will not extend will be sufficient to pay And it is my Will and desire that the said Debts be discharged in such order and course of payment as my Executor and Executrix herein after appointed shall find most proper and necessary preferring those which may be due to Trades People and bear interest but first keeping down the Interest of such of the said Debts shall carry Interest and from and after payment and discharge of the several Annuities and charges hereby made payable out of my said Estate in Jamaica and subject thereto I do hereby in the next place charge the said Estate and Premises with the Payment of and Annuity or clear Yearly Rent charge of four hundred Pounds per annum to my dear **Wife Arrabella Swymmer** for the term of her life by four equal Quarterly Payments the first payment thereof to commence and be made on the first usual Quarter Day after my decease or after discharge of the several prior charges on the said Estate in case the same shall not extend to pay as well the said last mentioned Annuity as the said prior Charges and Incumbrances and in the next place I do charge my said Plantations and Lands in Jamaica with the Sum of five thousand Pounds for the use and benefit of my **niece Sarah Champneys** to be paid to her on attaining her age of Twenty one Years or on her Marriage with the consent of my said Wife together with Interest for the same after the rate of four Pounds per cent per Annum in the meantime and Lastly I do hereby charge my said Estate in Jamaica with the payment of and Annuity or clear Yearly Rent Charge of Two hundred pounds per Annum to the said **Henry Swymmer** of Bristol my very good Friend for the term of his

life by four Quarterly Payments the first of the said Payments to begin and be made on the first usual Quarter Day after my decease or after discharge of the several prior Charges on the said Estate in case the same shall not extend or be sufficient to pay as well the said last mentioned Annuity as the said prior Charges and Incumbrances And it is my will and Intention that the said several Annuitys hereby given and devised shall be paid and payable in Sterling British Money in London without any Deduction or abatement for Remittance and Exchange or on any other account whatsoever and I do hereby give devise and bequeath my said Plantations Lands and Premises in the said Island of Jamaica charged and chargeable as aforesaid and also subject to the payment of any Legacy or Devise which I may think proper to give by any Codicil by me hereafter to be made and which my Personal Estate on disposed of shall not extend to pay unto my **Nephew Thomas Champneys** and his Assigns for the term of his natural life and from and after his decease to the first and all and every other the Son and Sons of the Body of the said Thomas Champneys and the Heirs Male of the Body and Bodies of such Son and Sons lawfully issuing severally and successively intail and for default of Issuing Male of the body of the said Thomas Champneys To all and every the Daughter and Daughters of the said Thomas Champneys and the Heirs Male of their Body and Bodies as Tenants in common and for default of such Issuing to my Niece Sarah Champneys for the term of her natural life and from and after her decease to the first and all and every other the Son and Sons of the Body of the said Sarah Champneys and the Heirs Male of the Body and Bodies of such And Sons Severally and Successively intail and for want of such Issuing Male of the Body of the said Sarah Champneys To all and every the Daughter and Daughters of the said Sarah Champneys and the Heirs Male of their Body and Bodies as Tenants in common and for default of such Issuing to the said Henry Swymmer for the term of his natural life and from and after his decease with the like Remainders over To his first and other Sons and their Issuing Male severally and successively intail with Remainder for want of Issuing Male to his Daughters and the Heirs of their Bodies as Tenants in common And for default of such Issuing to **my Kinsman William Swymmer of Roughborough** in the County of Somerset Gentleman for his life with the like Limitations over to his first and other Sons

and the Issuing Male of their Bodies severally and successively in Tail as is herein before devised of and concerning the same Estate to the said Henry Swymmer and his This you and for default of This you Male of the said William Swymmer To **my Kinsman Anthony Swymmer** of the City of Bristol Gentleman for life with the like remainders over to his Issuing in Tail Male and for default of Issue Male of the said Anthony Swymmer to the Right Heirs of the said William Swymmer for ever

Item whereas I am likewise possessed of an Estate for life and seized of the Reversion in Fee expectant upon the decease of my said Wife Arrabella Swymmer without having Issue of her Body by me of and in the manner of Mould otherwise Mold in the County of Flint with the Appurtenances and several Messuages Tenements and Parcels of Land thereunto belonging in the several Townships of Mould Bryncord Groernafield (?) Biscroe Argoed Nerquiss Leeswood Groesany Lsendrebiffa Crythin [illegible] Trythin Nechan Herseth and Arthmentn in the said County of Flint and of one undivided third part of all Mines Lakes [illegible] Pipes and Flats of Lead and Cole within the Bounds or precincts of Mould aforesaid But the said Manor Lands and Premises subject to the payment thereof of one annuity or clear Yearly Rent charge of four hundred Pounds per Annum to my said Wife for her life for her Jointure in case she shall survive me and also subject to the payment of one other Annuity or clear Yearly Rent charge of sixty Pounds per Annum by me thereof granted unto the **Right Honourable Margaret Lady Dowager Balmerino** of that part of Great Britain called Scotland for her life and further subject to a Mortgage by me thereof made to the said Henry Swymmer by Indentures of Lease and Release bearing Date the 7th and 8th Days of February 1757 for securing the principal Sum of Four thousand Pounds with Interest And now I do hereby give devise and bequeath my said Manor Lands and Premises in the said County of Flint or elsewhere in Great Britain And all my Right and Interest therein unto my said Wife for the term of her life and it being my Will and intent that in case of her surviving me she should enjoy the same for her life free from any charge or Incumbrance thereon I do therefore hereby will and direct that the said Annuity to Lady Balmerino if the same be then subsisting and also the said Mortgage to the said Henry Swymmer be paid and discharged by and out of the Profits and Produce of my said Plantations and

Lands in Jamaica But in case that before the same can be so paid off and discharged out of my said Jamaica Estate any Methods should be taken at Law to compell the payment of the said of charges or of any part thereof out of the said Lands and Premises in Flintshire so as to lessen the Yearly Income and Profits of that Estate to my said Wife Then and in such case I do will and direct that such Yearly Income and Profits be made good to her exclusive of the Profits of the Mines which cannot be exactly ascertained yearly and every year out of the Profits and Produce of the said Jamaica Estate in the first place and prior to all other Charges and Incumbrances to which the said Estate last mentioned is by this my Will or otherwise made Subject and from and after the decease of my said wife I give devise and bequeath my said Manor Lands and Premises in the said County of Flint or elsewhere in Great Britain unto the said Thomas Champneys and his Assigns for the term of his natural life without Impeachment of [illegible] and from and after the Determination of that Estate To the said **Anthony Pye** and to **Ralph Griffith of the City of Chester** Gentleman and their Heirs during the life time of the said Thomas Champneys to preserve the contingent Remainders herein after limited from being defeated But nevertheless to permit and suffer the said Thomas Champneys to receive the Rents Issues and Profits thereof to his own use during his life and from and immediately after his decease To the use of the first and every other Son and Sons of the Body of the said Thomas Champneys and the Heirs Male of their Body and Bodies lawfully issuing severally and successively in Tail and for want of such Issue Male To the use of all and every the Daughter and Daughters of the said Thomas Champneys and the Heirs Male of their Body and Bodies issuing as Tenants in common and for default of any Issuing of the Body of the said Thomas Champneys I give devise and bequeath the said Estate and Premises to the said Sarah Champneys and her Assigns for the term of her life with Remainder to the said Anthony Pye and Ralph Griffith and their Heirs to preserve contingent Remainders in manner aforesaid and from and immediately after the decease of the said Sarah Champneys to the use of the first and every other And Sons of the Body of the Said Sarah Champneys and the Heirs Male of the Body and Bodies of such Sons lawfully issuing severally and successively in tail and for default of such Issue Male to the use of the Daughter and Daughters

of the said Sarah Champneys and the Heirs Male of such Daughter and Daughters as Tenants in common And for want of such This you to the said Henry Swymmer and his Assigns for his life with the like Remainder to the said Trustees and their Heirs to preserve contingent Remainders in manner aforesaid and from and after his decease to his first and other Sons and their Issuing Male severally and successively in tail with the Remainder for want of Issue Male to the Daughters and their Heirs as Tenants in common and in failure of such This you to the said Anthony Swymmer for his life with the like Remainders over to his first and other Sons and their Issue in tail Male and in default of such Issue to the said William Swymmer for life with the like Remainders over to his Issue in Tail Male and in default of such Issue to the Right Heirs of the said William Swymmer for ever Provided always and my will and meaning is that in case the said Henry Swymmer shall survive my said Wife I give and devise the Profits and Produce of all and every the Mines and Minerals part of my said Estate in Flintshire unto the said Henry Swymmer for his life so that the said Mines and Minerals are not to descend with and pass by the Limitations of the said Manor Lands and Premises hereinbefore contained to my said Nephew and Niece and their Issuing until after the decease as well of the said Henry Swymmer as of my said Wife Arabella Swymmer And I do hereby give and grant unto the respective Person and Persons who shall or may come into possession of the said Manor Lands and Premises by virtue of any of the Devises in this my Will contained full Power and Authority to Lease and demise any such part or parts thereof and in such manner as hath been usual and accustomed to be done

Item I give devise and bequeath unto my said Wife such part and so much of the Household Goods Furniture Pictures Plate Linnen and other Utensils which shall be in my House in Grosvenor Street London or in any other House in London or elsewhere in Great Britain which she or either of us shall inhabit or be in Possession of at the time of my decease as she shall make choice of and shall judge necessary for her own use and also my Coach or other Carriage

And Lastly I do hereby appoint my said wife Arabella Swymmer and the said Henry Swymmer to be jointly Executrix and Executor of this my Will and Trustees for the management and application of

my said Plantations Lands and Premises in Jamaica unto and for the several uses and purposes herein before directed concerning the same And also Guardians and Trustees for the care and management of the Estates and Interests hereby devised unto my said Nephew and Niece Thomas and Sarah Champneys until they shall respectively attain their ages of Twenty one years I do hereby revoke all former Wills by me made and do declare this to be my last will and Testament In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal that is to say signed my Name at the bottom of the five former Sheets thereof and to this last Sheet signed my Name and set my Seal this fourteenth Day of February in the thirty second Year of the Reign of his Majesty King George the Second and in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty ninth (sic) Anthony Langley Swymmer Signed Sealed Published and Declared by the said Testator Anthony Langley Swymmer as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who at his request and in his presence and have signed our Names as Witnesses hereto after the inserting of five Lines in the Margin of the Sheet No. Three and of four Lines in the Margin of the Sheet No. Four * - **Edw. Daniell – Isaac De Vie – Anth.Pye**

This Will was proved at London on the third day of April in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and sixty before the Worshipful Thomas Bever Doctor of Laws and Surrogate of the Right Worshipful Edward Simpson also Doctor of Laws Master Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury lawfully constituted by the Oaths of **Arabella Swymmer Widow** the Relict of the deceased **and Henry Swymmer Esq** the Executors named in the said Will to whom Administration was granted of all and Singular the Goods Chattels and Credits of the deceased they having been first sworn duly to Administer.

*NOTE: The marginal additions referred to above are not present in the copy at the National Archives and must be assumed to have been incorporated in it.

Transcribed by Anne M Powers

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