

Will of John Swymmer 1700

PCC Prob 11/456

John Swymmer was the eldest son of William Swymmer a Bristol merchant and his wife Elizabeth, he was baptised at the church of St Augustine the Less in Bristol on 14 November 1666. He married Rebecca Merrett on 9 April 1696 at St Philip and St Jacobs, Bristol. The marriage seems to have been childless. Rebecca was clearly a notable needlewoman and must have brought money of her own to the marriage there being reference in the Will to a marriage settlement, and to her having spent twenty-five pounds of her own money on medical expenses for her husband. The Will and following Memorandum clearly describe a young woman of property. John was survived by his three brothers Anthony, William and Henry and his sisters Elizabeth (who was married to Sir William Daines) and Ann.

In the name of God Amen

I **John Swymmer of the City of Bristol Esqr** late one of the Sheriffes of the same City being weake in body but of the perfect mind and good memory Doe make and ordaine this my last Will and Testament hereby revoking all former Wills First I give my soule into the hands of my Heavenly Father trusting for salvation in and through the meritts of Jesus Christ his only Son my alone Saviour and Redeemer And my body to be decently buryed according to the discretion of my Executors hereafter named only I desire to be buryed before sunsett And as to the worldly Goods and Estate with which it hath pleased God to bless me I dispose thereof as followeth First I doe order and direct my Executors duly to performe the covenants and articles of marryage with **Rebecca my Wife** Item I give and bequeath unto my said Wife twenty pounds to buy her mourning and alsoe her cupboard of plate and alsoe the gold watch given her before marryage and also a Dyamond Ring and earrings given her since marryage and alsoe the wrought bedd she is now working and alsoe her wearing apparell and ornaments belonging to her person and alsoe the Bay Horse and furniture she usually

rides on and alsoe all the China ware in my house and alsoe halfe my Lynnen and household goods
Item I give and bequeath unto my **Father William Swymmer Esq** and to my **Mother Elizabeth
Swymmer** Ten pounds apiece to buy them mourning item I give and bequeath unto my
Grandmother Mrs Barbara Merrett Ten pounds to buy her mourning Item I give and bequeath unto
the Governors and Guardians of the Mint in Bristoll Fifty pounds for the use of the poore there Item I
give unto my Man servant **Thomas Weaver** Forty shillings and to **Mary Hayman** and **Mary Walford**
twenty shillings apiece and a hood and scarfe apiece Item all the rest of my estate goods chattells
[illegible] of what nature or kind soever and wheresoever my debts and legacies being paid I doe
give and bequeath unto my **brothers Anthony Swymmer William Swymmer and Henry Swymmer**
and my **sisters Dame Elizabeth Daines and Ann Swymmer** to be equally divided betweene them
share and share like And lastly I doe nominate and appoint my said brothers Anthony Swymmer
William Swymmer and Henry Swymmer Executors of this my last Will and Testament desiring them
to see the same duely performed according to my true meaning In witness whereof I have to this my
last Will and Testament contained in one sheet of paper sett my hand and seale the twenty third day
of April in the year of our Lord God one thousand seven hundred. Jno. Swymmer. Signed Sealed
published and declared by the said John Swymmer to be his last Will and Testament in the presence
of us **Richard Lane Geo. Atwood Jo: Cobbe** Notary Pub./.

Memorandum That I John Swymmer of the City of Bristoll Merchant Doe declare and ordaine
this to be an addition to my last Will and Testament and to be annexed thereto And I doe hereby
give and bequeath unto my loving Wife the eight locketts the Jewell and Pearle Necklace she had of
her Grandmother and alsoe the easy chaire the cabinett the great glass the tableboard and stands in
parlour at my house in Small Street Bristoll and alsoe the wrought bedd and bedstead over the
kitchen there with all the bedding and other furniture thereunto belonging and all other the
furniture belonging to that Chamber And alsoe all the furniture of the Dying roome their and all the
worke of her owne making and the gold toylett that covers the cupboard of plate And alsoe my
stove and clock and case in the parlour and alsoe the window curtaines in the hang'd roome and all

the White fustian curtaines in the forestreet Chamber there and halfe the other bedds with their furniture and of my bedsteads linnen brass pewter and other household stuff to be equally divided and then my Wife to choose her halfe And I doe ratify and confirme my said Will and doe declare this to be parte thereof And moreover I doe give and bequeath unto my Wife all the rings now in her custody and wearing and all the gold in her possession viz three Jarebus(?) at twenty five shillings six pence in value Jack(?) seaven Carolus at twenty three shillings six pence in value each one meddall at thirty shillings value one double guinea one double Louedore(?) six smaller pieces of gold value about forty shillings and six guineas Item I give unto my Wife the screene in my house at Small Street and alsoe twenty five pounds which she had expended of her owne money in my sickness In witness whereof I have to this Codicill sett my hand and seale the seventeenth day of May Anno Domini one thousand seven hundred. John Swymmer. Signed sealed published and declared by the said John Swymmer to be parte of his Will and to be annexed thereunto in the presence of us **Thomas Weaver** **Henry Watkins his marke Jo: Cobb./.**

Probate (in Latin) granted to Anthony Swymmer William Swymmer and Henry Swymmer 15th June 1700.

Transcribed by Anne M Powers

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