

Will of Robert Halhed 1778

PCC Canterbury Prob 11/1039

Robert Halhed was the son of Richard Halhead of Banbury, Oxfordshire (1685-1755) and Grace Hazel. He was born illegitimate in Jamaica about 1725, one of at least four children of Grace Hazel. His mother, Robert and his sisters Elizabeth and Susannah were all accorded the rights of whites by the Jamaican Assembly in 1746. (A brother Richard appears to have died young). Robert who is listed as a landowner in 1754, and a surgeon in St Thomas in the Vale, was accorded further full rights in 1752 "In 1752 a private act was passed, granting him the same rights, liberties, franchises, and immunities as His Majesty's liege people do now hold and enjoy". At some time after this he appears to have moved to England and married a wife named Elizabeth. He also made contact with his cousin William Halhed, a banker. His sister Elizabeth had married Thomas Peirce of London before 1746 and his sister Susannah was living with him unmarried at the time of his death. Robert, Elizabeth and Susannah are described as mulattos in 1746 so it is to be assumed that Grace Hazel was a free, or freed, negro. Robert also had a half sister named Leah who married Thomas Leadbeater in Jamaica.

In the Name of God Amen. I **Robert Halhed of Abingdon Street Westminster** in the County of Middlesex **late of the Parish of Saint Andrew in the county of Surry in the Island of Jamaica** Esquire being somewhat indisposed in Body but of sound Mind Memory and Understanding do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following that is to say First I will and direct that all my just debts and Legacies and Funeral Expenses be fully paid and satisfied for the payment whereof I subject charge and make liable all my Estate both real and personal whatsoever and wheresoever

Item I give and bequeath unto my dearly beloved **Wife Elizabeth Halhed** all my Plate Jewels Watches Rings Linnen China Apparel and Household Furniture of what nature kind or sort soever and also the Sum of Five hundred Pounds of Lawful Money of Great Britain for her own sole and

proper use and Benefit I give unto my dearly beloved **Son Robert Spencer Halhed** the Sum of twenty Guineas for Mourning I give unto my **Sister Susannah Halhed who now lives with me** the Sum of ten Guineas for Mourning I give unto my **Cousin William Halhed of Clapham Esq.** five Guineas for a Mourning Ring I give unto **Mrs Mary Stevens Widow** the Sum of twenty Guineas for Morning and onto **her daughter Mary Stevens** the Sum of Twenty Guineas for Mourning I give unto **William Simpson of the Inner Temple London** Gent the Sum of Twenty Guineas for Mourning and his trouble of being one of my Executors All the rest residue and remainder of my said real and personal Estates whatsoever and wheresoever after Payment of my said debts Funeral and the several Sums or Legacies by me given the hearing to the before named persons that I shall and may die seized or possessed of or in any wise interested in or intitled unto either at Law in Equity Civil or Ecclesiastical either in the Kingdom of Great Britain the said Island of Jamaica or elsewhere in his Majesty's Dominions I give devise and bequeath unto my said dear Wife Elizabeth Halhed and said Son Robert Spencer Halhed as follows that is to say the Interest and Produce thereof only in Moieties or half part as hereinafter particularly mentioned to wit I hereby direct that all the Principal Money arising from the said Rest Residue and Remainder of my said Estates and Effects be put and placed out in the joint Names of my Executors hereinafter appointed on good Securities at the most Interest that can be had and got for the same one Moiety or equal half part of which said Interest Money as also Moiety or equal half part of the Yearly Rents that shall and may from time to time arise and grow due for and from the aforesaid real Estate I give devise and bequeath unto my said dear Wife Elizabeth Halhed and her Assigns for and during the term of her natural Life with full legal Power and authority for her and them to receive the same accordingly and from and after the decease of my said Wife I give devise and bequeath the said Moiety of the said Principal Money and real Estates unto my said dear Son Robert Spencer Halhed his Heirs Executors and Administrators when he shall arrive at and attain his age of twenty five years and as to the other Moiety or equal half part of all such said Interest Money and said yearly Rents as shall arise and grow dealing from the aforesaid real Estates I order will and direct that the same from time to time be received by my said dear Wife

or her Assigns and applied for the genteel Education Support and Maintenance of my said Son Robert Spencer Halhed until he shall arrive at and attain his said age of twenty-five years Then I give devise and bequeath the said last mentioned Moiety of the said Principal Money and real Estates and the Surplus and Savings arising therefrom unto my said dear Son Robert Spencer Halhed his Heirs Executors Administrators and Assigns for ever But in case my said dear Son should depart this life before he shall have attained the said Age of twenty five years unmarried and without lawful Issue Then and in such Case I give devise and bequeath unto my said dear Wife and her Assigns the further sum of five hundred pounds of like lawfull Money and also the whole annual Interest of all the said Principal Money but also all and every the yearly growing Rents of all my said real Estates whatsoever and wheresoever for and during the term of her natural Life and from and after the decease of my said Wife I give devise and bequeath all the said Principal Money and all my said real Estates whatsoever and wheresoever unto and amongst the five Children of **Thomas Leadbeater of Saint Thomas in the East in the said Island of Jamaica Planter** and **Leah his Wife my half Sister** both deceased and which said Children are named **Robert Leadbeater Elizabeth the wife of John MacLeod Rebecca Leadbeater Suzanne Leadbeater and Sarah Leadbeater** their heirs Executors Administrators and Assigns for ever equally to be divided between them share and share alike But in case any or either of them the said Roberts Leadbeater Elizabeth MacLeod Rebecca Leadbeater Suzannah Leadbeater and Sarah Leadbeater shall happen to depart this Life under the age of twenty one Years unmarried and without lawful Issue Then I give devise and bequeath the same part or proportion of him her or them so dying unto and amongst the Survivors and Survivor of them their his or her heirs Executors Administrators and Assigns for ever Share and Share alike And whereas my **late Father Richard Halhed Esq** deceased did in and by his last Will and Testament order and appoint a certain limited Yearly Sum to be paid out of his Estate in the Island aforesaid unto and for the Support and Maintenance of his daughter my said Sister Susannah Halhed (who resides with me as aforesaid and whose present Indisposition requires the daily tender, Concern and Attendance of a near Relation and Friend and having observed with great Satisfaction the Affection constant

attention and personal Regard my said dear Wife hath always shown to my said dear Sister
Therefore I do hereby order direct and appoint my said dear Wife to have the only and entire
Management of the Person and Fortune of my said Sister Susannah Halhed for and during the term
of her natural Life and to receive and take the said Annual Sum so given and directed by the Will of
my said Father and to pay and apply the same as my said Wife shall think fit for the Support Care and
Maintenance of my said Sister Susannah Halhed And I do also hereby nominate and appoint my said
dear Wife sole Guardian to my said dear Son Robert Spencer Halhed and to have the Care of his
Person Education and Management of his Fortune until he shall attain he said age of twenty five
years and Lastly I do hereby nominate constitute and appoint my said **Wife Elizabeth Halhed and
the said William Simpson Executrix and Executor** all of this my last Will and Testament hereby
revoking all former and other Will and Wills by me at any time heretofore buried and do declare this
only to be my last Will and Testament In Witness whereof I the said Robert Halhed the Testator have
to the three first sides hereof wrote my Name and to this fourth and last Side set by hand and seal
this eighth day of February in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight
Robert Halhed. Signed Sealed Published and declared by the said Test total Robert Halhed as and for
his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who have at his Request and in his presence and
that of each other subscribed our Names as Witnesses thereto the Words "the further Sum of five
hundred Pounds of like lawful Money and also" being the first interlined between the third and
fourth Lines of the third Side hereof. **Ann Ballard, Elizth Bonnet, Henry Batten.**

This Will was proved at London on the seventeenth day of February in the Year of our Lord one
thousand seven hundred and seventy eight before the Worshipfull William Markham Doctor of Laws
Surrogate of the Right Worshipfull Sir George Hay Knight Doctor of Laws Master Keeper or
Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury lawfully constituted **by the oath of Elizabeth
Halhed Widow the Relict of the deceased** and one of the Executors named in the said Will to whom
Administration was granted of all and singular the Goods Chattels and Credits of the said deceased

having been first sworn duly to administer Power reserved of making the like Grant to William Simpson the other Executor named in the said Will when he shall apply for the same.