

# Will of Anthony Swymmer 1688

## PCC Prob/11/393

---

*Anthony Swymmer was the son of Anthony Swymmer and Joan Hayman who were married at the church of St Augustine the Less in Bristol on 03 Jun 1639. He was probably born between 1640 and 1650. Like his father and brother William (who outlived him) he traded as a merchant in Bristol and built up a trade with Jamaica where he acquired and developed extensive plantations. The family traded both in indentured labourers and in slaves. He was married to Jane Langley the sister of Elizabeth Langley, wife of Dr Fulke Rose of Jamaica. Note that the reign of Charles the Second is calculated not from the Restoration in 1660 but from the death of his father Charles I. The Swymmers continued to own property in Jamaica for most of the eighteenth century.*

In the Name of God Amen this Eleaventh day of October in the Six and Thirtieth yeare of the reigne of our Sovereigne Lord Charles the second by the grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith Anno Domini One Thousand Six hundred eighty foure I **Anthony Swymmer** now of the City of Bristoll Esquire late Resident in the Island of Jamaica and now bound thither againe and being in good health of body and of sound mind and memory Doo make and ordaine this my last Will and Testament in manner and forme following First I Commend my Soule unto Almighty God my body to bee decentlie buried at the discretion of my Executors herein after named hoping to receive a glorious resurrecion to life eternall through the meritts and mediacon of Christ Jesus my most merciful Saviour/Item/I give and bequeath unto my well beloved **mother Mrs Joane Swymmer Widow** Twenty pounds in mony and alsoe an Annuity of Tenne pounds during her life to bee paid her yearly by my Executors herein after named Item I give to **my Honoured Uncle William Hayman Esqr now Mayor** of the City of Bristoll and my loving **brother Mr William Swymmer** of the same City Merchant and to my **sister Elizabeth Wasbrow wife of Richard Wasbrow** Sopemaker there and to my **brother and Sister Fulke Rose of St Jago de la Vega Esqr and**

**his wife and to my brother and sister Mr Andrew Langley and his sister Mrs Martha Langley** Tenn pounds sterling a piece and to **Meredeth Davies** of the city of Bristoll Merchant who formerly lived with mee in Jamaica five pounds Sterling as an acknowledgement of his faithfull service to mee Item I will that all my debts and Covenants and especially those made in Relation to my wife and the Child and Children betweene us begotten and to begotten bee surely and duly paid observed and performed And all the rest and residue of my personall estate Chattells reall and personall money jewells rings plate goods wares merchandizes rights and Creditts my debts legacies charges of my funerall and Probate and performance of this my Will being satisfied paid and discharged I give and bequeath to **my sonne Anthony Swymmer** And I commit the care Tuition and Guardianship of him to my said Uncle and brothers William Hayman William Swymmer and Fulke Rose until hee shall attaine his age of Twenty one years and I make and ordaine them the said William Hayman William Swymmer and Fulke Rose Executors in Trust of this my last Will and Testament until my said sonne Anthony Swymmer shall attaine his said age of Twenty one yeares and when hee shall attaine his said Age I make him sole Executor of this my last Will and Testament And I will that my said Executors in Trust shall manage and receive the rents Issues and profitts of all and singular my Plantation and Plantations part and parts purparty and puparties of all and every plantacon plantacons and of all other the Messuages Lands Tenements and Hereditaments whereof I shall dye seized of any estate of Freehold or Inheritance in the Kingdome of England or in the Said Island of Jamaica or elsewhere untill my said son Anthony Swymmer shall attain his said Age of Twenty one years And that then my said Executors in Trust shall accomptt for and pay over the same to my said sonne Anthony Swymmer to and for his owne use and benefitt when my said sonne Anthony Swymmer shall attain his said age of Twenty one years /Item I give and devise to my said sonne Anthony Swymmer All and singular my Plantation and Plantations part and parts purparty and puparties of all and every plantacon and plantacons and of all Servants and Stock thereunto belonging and all other the Messuages Lands Tenements and Hereditaments whereof I shall die seized of any estate of Freehold or Inheritance in the Kingdome of England or in the said Island of

Jamaica or elsewhere To have and to hold the same unto my said sonne Anthony Swymmer and the heires of his body lawfully to bee begotten and for want of such Issue I give and devise all and singular the said premises to the Heirs of my owne body begotten and to bee begotten and the heirs of his and their body & bodies lawfully to bee begotten and for want of such Issue I give and devise the same to my **nephew Anthony Swymmer second sonne of my said brother William Swymmer** and the Heirs of the body of my said nephew Anthony Swymmer lawfully to bee begotten and for want of such Issue I give and devise the same to my **my nephew William Swymmer Third sonne of my said brother William Swymmer** and to the heirs of the body of my said Nephew William Swymmer lawfully to bee begotten and for want of such Issue I give and devise the same to my owne right heirs for ever And my will and desire is that my said Executors in Trust shall put my said sonne Anthony Swymmer to some good Schoole in England and cause him to bee well instructed and taught in the grounds of Learning and the Religion of the Church of England and shall if they see occasion putt and bind him apprentice to some good Trade or breed him up as Gentleman according as they shall finde him disposed and inclined And that they shall handsomely maintaine and educate him out of the estate hereby given him Saveing that I give to my deere and loveing wife Twenty pounds sterling for mourning and all her wearing apparrell rings, chaines, jewells, and ornaments of her person and especially the Lockett of Diamonds I gave her before our intermarriage In witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seale Dated the day and yeare first above written. Antho: Swymmer Signed Sealed and Published by the above named Anthony Swymmer to bee his only last will and Testament in the presence of and at his request attested by **Thomas Langton William Jones Wm. Meredith Wm. Brayne John Sellwood./**

Probate was granted at London 13 October 1688 to **William Hayman and William Swymmer** two of the Executors with the option to grant administration to Fulke Rose the other executor who was at the time in Jamaica.

Transcribed by Anne M Powers

Revised with updated biography November 2012