

Will of Aduell Mill 1695

PCC Canterbury Prob/11/428

Aduell Mill was a bookseller and stationer in London. A bill dated 1672 shows he was supplying parchment and vellum to Lord Fanshawe at the Chequer Office together with Anthony and Elizabeth Dowse. In 1687 he purchased a business from Robert Scott for £10,000, issuing a catalogue of books for sale, but within three years the business had failed and Mill was made bankrupt in 1691, ruining Scott in the process. That he had the capital to buy the business in the first place, and refers to the ownership of property in his will, suggests that his designation of 'Gentleman' in the will was genuine. What is less clear is whether following his bankruptcy he sought employment in the Navy, as the will refers to earnings from Naval prize money. His eldest son Aduell was sufficiently well educated to become an interpreter in the Navy, and his son Richard subsequently owned property in Jamaica, supporting two surviving spinster sisters in London, Joan and Ithamar.

Know all men by these presents That I Aduell Mill of London Gentleman Have and by these presents doe make ordaine and constitute my loving Wife Joan Mill to bee my true & lawfull Attorney irrevocable for me and in my name and for my life to aske demand & receive of and from the Right Honble the Treasurer or Paymaster of his Majties Navy and Commr for prize-money and whom else it may concerne As well all such wages & pay bounty moiety prize-money And all other sume and sumes of money whatsoever so [illegible] and which hereafter shall or may be due or payable unto me pursuant to their Majties gracious Declaration of the 23d of May 1689 And also all such pencond salleryed smart money and all other moneys and things whatsoever which now and at any time hereafter is and shall be due to me for my wages & pay & Arreares thereof & service or otherwise in any of their Majties Ships Frigats or Vessels or any Merchant Ship or Ships As also to demand recover & receive of all other person and persons whatsoever whom it doth or may concerne all & singular such other sume or sumes money goods wares affectd wages debts dues

claimes & demands whatsoever which now and hereafter is or shalbe due and payable unto mee either by bond bill book accompt or otherwise howsoever And moreover in my name & for my proper use to demise and let by Lease in Writing or otherwise all or any of my Messuages Lands or tenements to such person or persons And for such terme of yeares conditions and reservacons as my said Attorney or her Counsell shall think fit & convenient Giveing and hereby granting unto my said Attorney my full and whole power in the premises and to recover and receive all and singlar the sume and sumes of money matters and things aforesaid And upon non payment thereof or any part thereof All such person and persons whom it may concerne and where need shall require their Executors Admns and goods to sue arrest attach seize imprison prosecute and condemne and to compound and agree and out of prison to release and discharge, And upon Receipt of the said premises or any part thereof acquittances releases or any other discharges for me and in my name to make seale and deliver and one Attorney or more for substitute and at pleasure to revoke and generally act and doe all other acts matters and things whatsoever needfull and necessary to be done in and touching the premises as fully and effectually as I ought or could doe if I were personally present Ratifying and allowing for firme and valid and irrevocable all & whatsoever my said Attorney shall lawfully doe or cause to be done in or touching the premises by virtue of these presents And I the said Adieill Mill considering the incertainty of this transitory Life doe make and declare these presents to containe my last Will and Testament (that is to say) I doe hereby give unto my said Wife and Attorney all such wages sume and sumes of money Lands Tenements goods chattles and estate whatsoever wherewith at the time of my decease I shall be possessed or invested or which shall then belong or of right appertaine unto me And I doe here by nominate and appoint the said Joan my Wife and Attorney to me my sole Executrix And doe revoke all former Wills and Deeds of Guift by me at any time heretofore made and doe ordaine these presents to stand and be for and as my last Will and Testament In Witnesse whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seale the Eighth day of March Anno Dom one thousand six hundred ninety fower And in the seaventh yeare of the Raigne of

King William the Third Adieil Mill Signed Sealed published and declared in the presence of E.Hearne?

Simon Caley Tho: Breamer ./

Probate in Latin, granted to Joan Mill relict of the deceased on 5th November 1695.