

Will of William Williams of St Anne Jamaica 1761

It is relatively rare to come across a will written with such venom and passion as this one of William Williams. He had written another one earlier in the same year leaving the majority of his estate to his son, presumably his eldest son, William Williams. That the will was revised in this way only months later suggests that his son William had died. What the supposed sins of his son Gershom Williams were is not clear from the Will. That Gershom Williams was left only one shilling was a device commonly used to prevent him contesting the will on the grounds that he had been forgotten. There does appear to have been another brother Job Williams, for when Gershom Williams died in 1765, having come to an accommodation with the Foundling Hospital for the payment of £4500 to them in instalments in return for them conceding his interest in the estate, Gershom left his property to his second wife Anna and his brother Job. Whether Job was the father of the nephews and nieces mentioned in this will is unclear.

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William Williams Esq Jamaica Is./.

William Williams entered March 1761 Lib.34 Folio 105

This is the last Will and Testament of me **William Williams of the parish of St Anne** in the County of Middlesex and Island of Jamaica Esquire who has thought proper and do make disposition or disposal of my Estate and Effects in manner following (viz) First I will order and direct and appoint that all such Just debts as I shall owe at the time of my decease shall be paid and satisfied.

Item I give devise and bequeath all that my Plantation or Sugar work commonly called or known by the Name of Flatt Point Plantation together with the Capital Messuage or Mansion house and the several Outhouses Works Buildings Wood Land and other Lands and Tenements there on Built or thereunto belonging with their rights Members and appurtenances and likewise all that plantation

heretofore sugar work commonly called by the name of Woodstock plantation together with the Dwellinghouse and all other houses buildings Lands Tenements and hereditaments thereto belonging and the Rights Members and appurtenances thereof both which said two plantations are situate in the said parish of Saint Anne and also all that my Plantation Penn and Pimento Walk with the Capital Messuage or Mansion house the several Outhouses Buildings Tenements and Hereditaments there on or thereunto appertaining with all Woods Woodlands and other Lands and premises whatsoever belonging to me situate in the Parish of St James in the County of Cornwall in the said Island of Jamaica Together with all and every the negro Mulatto and other Slaves whatsoever to me belonging (and not otherwise herein disposed of) with their future Offspring Issue or increase unto my **Worthy Friends Robert Arcedeckne** of the Parish of Saint Katherine in the said County of Middlesex **Zachary Bayly** of the parish of Kingston in the County of Surry in the Island aforesaid Esquires and Mr **Michael Atkins** of the City of Bristol in the Kingdom of Great Britain Merchant upon Trust and Confidence and to the Intent and purpose that they some or one of them do and shall as soon as conveniently may be after my decease, convey sell and dispose of all and every the said Plantations Lands Tenements Hereditaments Slaves and Premises with their and every of their Appurtenances for the most best or greatest Price Sum or Sums of money that can or may be gotten or obtained for the same either Together or Separately and the money or monies Goods or Effects arising or to arise from such sale or sales do and shall remit or cause to be remitted sent or consigned to my Worthy friend Michael Atkins In Trust that he do and shall as soon as conveniently may be after the same shall come to his hands pay the nett proceeds of such Moneys Goods or Effects to the Treasurer or Treasurers for the time being of a Society who now do or lately did call themselves the Governors or Guardians of the Hospital for the Maintenance and Education and Education (sic) of exposed and deserted young Children in Lambs Conduit Fields London which money or monies so to arise as aforesaid I desire may be applied towards carrying on the Designs of the said Society.

Item I give and bequeath to my **Nephew George Williams** and to my **Niece Mary Gallimore** the wife of Mr **Jarvis Gallimore** five hundred pounds apiece Jamaica money. Item I give and bequeath to that most abandonedly Wickedly Vile detestable Rogue and Imposter who hath assumed and now does or lately did go by the name of **Gershom Williams** pretending to be a Son of mine one Shilling only to buy him an Halter wherewith to hang himself being what he hath for a long, long, very long while past Merited and deserved from the Law and hands of the Hangman for his great and manifold Villanies.

Item I do hereby Subject Charge and make liable my whole Estate as well real as personal to and with the payment of my Just Debts Bequests or Legacies and Annuities herein or hereby given bequeathed and appointed.

Item I do hereby Manumitt Release and make Free from all manner of Slavery and Servitude whatsoever one **Negro Man Slave named Harry** and his **Sister named Katey** both belonging to me, such Manumission and Freedom of each of them respectively to Commence and Begin from and immediately after my decease and I do also give him the said Harry and her the said Katey the sum of Twenty pounds Per Annum apiece Jamaica money for and during each of their respective Lives for their support and Maintenance with full and free Liberty for each of them respectively to reside and dwell on either of my Plantations or Estates at his and her own Option or Choice without any hindrance Molestation or Controul by any person whatsoever and all the rest and residue and remainder of my Estate whatsoever or wheresoever I give devise and bequeath unto my said Worthy friends Robert Arcedeckne, Zachary Bayly and Michael Atkins in Trust also to be sold and the monies arising therefrom to be paid likewise into the hands of the Treasurer or Treasurers for the time being of the said Society in Order to be applied to the same or like use as is herein before directed and appointed and I do hereby constitute and appoint my said Worthy Friends Robert Arcedeckne, Zachary Bayly and Michael Atkins Executors of this my last Will and Testament, hereby also bequeathing and Entreating each of them to accept of one hundred Guineas Sterling apiece for Mourning. In Witness whereof I the said William Williams the Testator have to this my last Will and

Testament contained in one sheet of paper all in my own hand Writing set my hand and Seal the eleventh day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty nine Wm. Williams

Signed Sealed Published and declared and declared (sic) by the said William Williams the Testator as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who Subscribed our names as Witnesses thereto in his Presence. **Charles Blackstock. William Midlemost. William Thomas.**

B.

Jamaica Is./.

This is a Codicil to be annexed to, and taken as part of the last Will and Testament of me William Williams of the parish of St Ann in the County of Middlesex and Island of Jamaica. And First I give and bequeath to my **Nephew James Williams** of the parish of St James's Planter Brother to Mr George Williams in my said Will named the sum of Five hundred pounds. Item I give and bequeath to **Mr George Lawrence, Mr James Lawrence, Mrs Jean Gabaudan, Wife of Mr Frances Gabauden, Mrs Sarah Treacey Wife of Mr John Treacey** and to **Mrs Sarah Morgan Sinclair** Wife of Mr Sinclair all of the parish of St Ann the several bequeaths or Legacies of Two hundred pounds apiece to be raised and paid to them in a convenient time after my decease at the discretion of my Executors in my said Will In Witness whereof I the said William Williams do to this Codicil set my hand and Seal this 20th February 1760 William Williams

Signed sealed declared and delivered by the said William Williams as a Codicil to be annexed to his last Will and Testament in the presence of us Witness **William Thomas. Thomas Watkins**

Vera Copia T.Hay Secretary.

On the twenty first day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty eight Administration (with the Will and Codicil annexed) of the Goods Chattels and Credits of William Williams late of the Parish of St Anne in the County of Middlesex and Island of Jamaica Esquire deceased was granted to **John Edwards** the lawful Attorney of Zachary Bayly Esquire one of the surviving Executors named in the said Will as well for the use and benefit of the said Zachary Bayley

now residing in the said Island of Jamaica as for the use and benefit of Robert Arcedeckne the other surviving Executor named in the said Will now residing in North America he having been first sworn duly to administer Michael Atkins the other Executor named in the said Will dying without having taken upon him the Execution thereof. E.S.