

Will of William Swymmer 1715

PCC prob 11/545

William Swymmer was the younger son of Anthony Swymmer and Joan Hayman of Bristol, born about 1650 he was buried at St Augustines in that city on the 6th of February 1714/15. The family were merchant venturers and early colonists of Jamaica in the person of William's older brother Anthony. They transported indentured labourers to Jamaica and engaged extensively in the slave trade. His four sons – John, who died in 1700, Anthony, William and Henry were all involved in the family business. His daughter Elizabeth married Sir William Daines.

In the Name of God Amen I **William Swymmer the Elder** of the City of Bristoll Esqr one of the Aldermen of the said City being in good health of Body and of sound and disposing mind memory and understanding thanks be to God for the same and considering with myself the certainty of Death and the uncertainty of the time thereof Doe therefore this Seventeenth Day of May in the year of our Lord One thousand Seven hundred and Eleven make and ordain this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following That is to say Imprimis I commend my Soul into the hands of Almighty God my Maker stedfastly hoping that through the alone Merits and intercession of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ I shall enjoy Life Everlasting And my body I committ to the Earth from whence it came to be interred at the discretion of my Executor hereinafter named And as for such worldly Estate as it hath pleased God to bestow on me I give and dispose thereof as followeth

First I give and bequeath unto my **Daughter Dame Elizabeth Daines** wife of **Sr William Daines** of Bristoll aforesaid Knight the summe of One thousand Pounds of lawfull British Money Item I give and bequeath unto my **Son William Swymmer the younger** the summe of One thousand Pounds of like lawfull Money item I give and bequeath unto **my Son Henry Swymmer** the summe of One thousand Pounds of like lawfull Money item I give and bequeath unto my **Daughter Anne Swymmer** the summe of Two thousand and Six hundred pounds of like lawfull Money all which said severall

summes of Of money hereby given to my said Children I appoint shall be paid to them respectively within one Year next after my Decease Item I give and bequeath unto my **Grandaughters Anne and Sarah Daughters of the said Sir William Daines** and of his said Wife the summe of Two hundred pounds apiece of lawfull British Money And it is my will that the summes hereby given to my said Grandaughters Anne and Sarah shall at the End of one Year next after my Decease by the said Sir William Daines their Father and my Son Anthony Swymmer and in their names be placed forth at Interest for the benefitt of my said Grandchildren and that the said Legacys or summes of Money hereby given to them with all Interest that shall be made thereof shall be paid to my said Grandaughters at their respective Ages of Eighteen Years or Days of Marriage which shall first happen And in case either of my said Grandaughters shall happen to dye before such her Age or Marriage then my Will is that the Legacy hereby given to her so dying and all Interest thereof made shall be paid to the survivor of them at her said Age of Eighteen or Day of Marriage which shall First happen And in case of both my said Grandaughters shall happen to dye before such their Ages or Days of Marriage then my Will is that the said Legacys or Summes of Money hereby given them and the Interest thereof shall be paid to their Mother the said Dame Elizabeth Daines Item I give and bequeath unto my **Grandchildren Elizabeth William Anthony Henry and Mary Children of my said Son William Swymmer** the summe of Two hundred pounds apiece of lawfull Money of Great Britain and it is my Will that the Legacys or Summes of Money hereby given to or intended for the said Elizabeth and Mary Daughters of the said William Swymmer my Son shall at the End of one Year next after my Decease by the said Sr William Daines my said Sons Anthony Swymmer William Swymmer and Henry Swymmer and in their names be placed forth at Interest for the benefitt of my said Grand daughters and that the Legacys or Summes of Money hereby given to the said William Anthony and Henry Sons of my said Son William Swymmer shall at the End of one Year next after my Decease be from time to time untill my said Grandson's shall attain their respective Ages of One and Twenty years be and ventured to Sea by and in the names of the said Sr William Danes my said Sons Anthony Swymmer William Swymmer and Henry Swymmer and at their discretion for the benefitt of

my said Grandsons and that such Legacys or Summes of Money given as aforesaid to the said Children of my said Son William Swymmer with all Interest and increase that shall be made thereof shall be paid to such of them as are Daughters at their respective Ages of Eighteen years or Days of Marriage which shall first happen and to such of them as Sons at their respective Ages of One and Twenty years And in case any or either of such my said Grandchildren shall happen to dye before the said Legacys or Summes of Money hereby intended for him her or them so dying shall become due and payable then my Will is that such Legacy or Legacys of him her or them so dying shall go and be paid to the Survivors or Survivor of my said Grandchildren equally at such time and times as the other Legacys hereby given to him her or them would become due and payable according to the true meaning hereof Item I give and bequeath unto my Grandaughter Anne the Daughter of my said Henry Swymmer the summe of Two hundred pounds of lawfull Money of Great Britain And it is my Will that the said Two hundred pounds shall at the End of one year next after my Decease by the said Sr William Daines my said Sons Anthony Swymmer William Swymmer and Henry Swymmer and in their Names be placed forth at Interest for the benefit of my said Grandaughter and to be paid to her withal Interest that shall be made thereof at her Age of Eighteen Years or Day of Marriage which shall first happen And in case my said Grandaughter Anne the Daughter of my said Son Henry Swymmer shall happen to dye before her said Age of Eighteen Years or Day of Marriage then I appoint the said Two hundred pounds and all Interest and Increase that shall be made thereof shall be paid to my said son Henry Swymmer And it is my further Will that when any Monys shall be paid in that shall be lett out at Interest or any Adventures shall be returned that shall be sent to Sea for the benefitt of my said Grandchildren that then and so often it shall be lawfull for and I do hereby direct the said Sr William Daines my said Sons Anthony Swymmer William Swymmer and Henry Swymmer and the Survivors and Survivor of them from time to time to imploy again the said Monys so paid in and Adventures returned in such and the like manner as I have before directed untill my said Grandchildren shall respectively be capable of receiveing thereof as aforesaid And it is my further Will that they the said Sr William Daines Anthony Swymmer William Swymmer and Henry

Swymmer my Sons and or any or either of them shall at any time or times hereafter be charged or chargeable with any Monys that shall happen to be lost by the insufficiency of any Security or Securities to be taken for the said Moneys or any part thereof or by any Adventures that shall be sent to Sea pursuant to this my Will which shall happen to be lost Item I give and bequeath the summe of One hundred pounds of lawfull British money to be paid within three Months next after my Decease to do then Churchwardens of the Parish of St Augustine within the said City of Bristoll to be by them imployed either in the purchase of Lands or to be lett out at Interest from time to time for Ever And I appoint that the yearly profitts of such Lands or the Interest of the said One hundred pounds in case the same shall not be laid out in the purchase of Lands shall yearly on All Saints Day for Ever be distributed in Clothing to and amongst such poor People of the said Parish of St Augustine as the Churchwardens of the said Parish shall think fitt Item I give and bequeath unto my **Cousin Hannah James** Ten pounds And to **Aminta(?) The Daughter of my Kinswoman Elizabeth Jordan** Ten pounds Item I give unto my **Cousin Elizabeth Alloway** Ten pounds Item all the rest and residue of my Moneys Goods wines (?) Merchandizes Ships parts in Ships Chattles Leases and personall Estate whatsoever and wheresoever my Debts Legacys and Funeral expenses being first paid and discharged I give devise and bequeath unto my said Son Anthony Swymmer And I do hereby constitute and appoint my said Anthony Swymmer whole and [illegible] Executor of this my last Will and Testament Hereby revoking all former Wills by me at any time heretofore made In Witness whereof I have to this my last Will and Testament contained in these Four Sheets of Paper affixed together sett my hand to the three First Sheets and my hand and Seal to the last of the said Sheets the Day and Year first above written./Wm.Swymmer./. Signed Sealed published and declared and delivered in the presence of **John King Jos: King Henry Fane**

Probate (in Latin) dated 2 March 1714 granted to Anthony Swymmer son of the deceased.

Transcribed by Anne M Powers

November 2012