

[ENGLAND]

Dame Jane Mico's Will, 1670

Dame Jane Mico: [1]

In the Name of God Amen I Dame Jane Mico Relict of Sr Samuel Mico Knight Deceased, confidering with my selfe that thare is nothing soe cartaine as Death and nothing more Uncertaine then the houre Doe therefore while I have in some mesure health of body and perfection of memory and understanding make this my last Will and Testament in maner following

[1] First I com^mend my Sole into the hands of God my maker hoping and affuredly beleiving through the onely Death and passion and merritts of my Deare Savior Jefus Christ to be maide partaker of Life everlasting

[2] my Body I commite to the Earth to bee interred in or neare the Grave of my Deare Decesed husband

[3] And whereas my decefed husband left unto mee all his Jewells plate and household stufe besides the moiety of his estate accruing unto mee by the Custom of the City of London I [doe] [2] dispose of it as follows, viz I give to my Brother Peter Robinson Five hundred pound^ʒ [3] of lawfull money of England

[4] And whereas I bought or purchased of William Bouchier George Farwell John Bouchier and William Prettiman in the names of my Brother in Law Andrew Barker and my Brother William Robinson All those Medowes and pastures grounds com^monly called great Kingsham little Kingsham and Cornwelle otherwife Cornwelle Clofe with the appurtenaunces Scituate lyeing and being in Ampney St Peters alias Eastington in

the County of Gloucester I Doe heare by give and bequeath the same unto Samuell Robinson Sonne of my Brother William Robinson of Chafhunt in the County of Hartford hee the said Samuell Robinson Dying without hieres male then to the hieres male of my Brother William Robinson, but if hee my Brother William Robinson shall have no Sonne of his Body [begotten] [4] Then I give the said Lands to Samuell Barker Sonne of my Brother in Law Andrew Barker and his hier^f forever

And Whereas I have purchafed or bought in the names of my Brother Andrew Barker and my brother William Robinson of Henry Powle and Sr Richard Powle severall meadowes lyeing in Bufcott alias Barnardiscott in the County of Berks com^monly called the Corne Marsh or Marsh meadowes contayning by estimation Sixty foure Acres, and two other parcells of meadowes lyeing in Bufcott aforesaid Conteyning four or five Acres I Doe heareby give and bequeath the same to Samuell Barker Sonne of my brother in Law Andrew Barker forever

And whereas I haveing a great Kindness for Samuell Mico my deare husbands Kinsman Son of John Mico of Crofcombe in the County of Somersett and well knowing that my deare husband with my selfe had thoughts of marrying him to one of my Neece^ʒ and when and as Jone as hee shall marrie such Neece of mine viz^t One of the daughters of my Brother in Law Andrew Barker or my Brother William Robinson aforementioned then and not before or otherwise I give and bequeath to him Two thousand poundes [5] Lawfull money of England

and on the forementioned Condition I give and bequeath to him a Farme called the Littell Parke which I bought or purchased in the names of my Brother Andrew Barker and my Brother William Robinson of the Right honorabell the Marquis of Worcester in the Manner of Crookham Scituate lyeing and being in the severall Parishes of Thatcham in the Countey of Berks and Kingesdeane in the Countey of Southampton now in the tenor or occupation of Thomas Browne;

[1] [UK National Archives PROB 11/334/494, which is hand labeled as Penn quire no. 169, pages 322 to 324; here called source A. For reasons unknown, there is also a second somewhat more readable copy at Penn quire no. 178, pages 399 to 400, here called source B. This B source does not appear to be electronically indexed on the Archives' website, but is findable on Ancestry.ca. As well, there is a third document, a "sentence" in Latin about this will at PROB 11/333/661, Penn quire nos. 112-113, pages 363-364; but this copy is so bad and my Latin so poor that no attempt is made to include it here. The original will is one long block of English text; the version presented here shows each sentence or clause as a distinct paragraph numbered in the margin.]

[2] doe: B. (A omits.)

[3] [In 1670 the English pound represented 3.58 troy ounces of silver. The modern (2022) Canadian price of silver is \$28.33 per troy ounce. So that pound equates to Can\$101 in silver, and a gift of £500 would be like Can\$51,000. A more elaborate comparison based on prevailing income levels (GDP *per capita*) in England in 1670 (£10) and in Canada in 2022 (about Can\$70,000) suggests this gift would be more like Can\$3.5M today.]

[4] begotten: B. (A omits.)

[5] [£2,000: Can\$200,000 in silver today; but based on relative incomes more like Can\$14M.]

- [8] And when the aforesaid Samuell Mico shall have given a full Discharge according to Law when hee comes to One and Twenty yeares of age to the Executors of my Deare husband for his Estate in their handes then I give him One Thousand pound [6] of lawfull money of England
- [9] and if hee doe it not to their Satisfaction I then give it to Redeeme poore Slaves in what manner my Executors shall think most convenient
- [10] And I give to Samuell Mico aforesaid my Deare husbands Picture sett with Diamondf
- [11] and I give him my Crimson Damask Bedd with all that belong to that sute and my great Looking Glasse and my Marble Tabell when hee comes to the Age of One and Twenty yeares [or] [7] hee Dying before that age I give them to my Two Executors
- [12] But if the abovefaid Samuell Mico doe not marry one of my Neecef aforesaid My Will is if hee be a Civill man and doe marry into a good family and has a Portione with her answerable to his estate and has a Sonne that lives to the Age of a man I then give him the Littell Parke in the Manner of Crookham in the parish of Thatham in the countey of Barks and Kingesdeane in the County of Southampton;
- [13] but if hee have no Sonne [I give it to his brother Richard Mico's Sonne if hee have any,
- [14] If he have no Sonne] [8] then to my two Executors I give it
- [15] I give my Brother Andrew Barker One Hundred poundf [9]
- [16] I give to Jane Barker my God Daughter my Brothers Daughter Two thousand pound [5] that Mr Pitt has on a Morgage and Fifteen hundred pound [10] that the East Indey Compainie has of myne One Bonde made in her Name
- [17] And I give her my Croftick Bedd with all that belongs [the] [11] Sute and [halfe] [12] my householde stufe that is not Disposed of by this my Will
- [18] I give to Elizabeth Barker my Brothers Daughter three hundred pound [13]
- to Mary Barker I give two hundred pounds [14] [19]
- Item I give my Sister Mary Robinjon Twenty pound [15] [20]
- to my Cosen Elizabeth Day her Daughter I give one hundred pound [9] [21]
- to Jane Day my God Daughter I give one hundred pounds [9] to Thomas Day to Peter Day to Elizabeth Day to Mary Day Twenty pounds [15] apeece [22]
- Item I give my Sister Winnifrid Robinjon Twenty pounds [15] [23]
- to Samuell Robinjon my Brothers Son I give one Thousand pound [6] lawfull money of England [24]
- To Jane Robinjon my God Daughter I give Five hundred pounds [3] and my Bedd wrought in greene and all that belongs to it and the other part of my household stufe, not disposed of by this my Will [25]
- I give to Mary Robinjon my Brothers Daughter Three hundred pounds [13] and Two hundred pound [14] to his Son John Robinjon Lawfull money of England [26]
- I give to all my Cosen Garmans Forty Shillings [16] a peece to bye [them] [17] Ringf and to my Cosen Jane Harris and my Cosen Briget Wegwood Twenty pound [15] a peece to my Cosen Anne Barrow five pounds [18] to my Cosen Katherine Harris five pounds [18] and five [18] to my Cosen Thomas Barrow to my Cosen Samuell Hare Tenn pounds, and Twenty [15] to his Sonne Samuell Hare [27]
- I give to my Cosen Jane Hare Twenty pounds [15] Daughter of my Cosen Richard Hare [28]
- I give Twenty pound [15] to my Cosen Jane Daintrey my God Daughter [29]
- To my Cosen Edward Mico I give hundred pound [9] when hee has Compounded with his Creditors [30]
- To my Uncle Mico I give Tenn pounds [19] and Tenn [19] to his Sonne John Mico and to Elizabeth Wagstafe his Daughter [31]

[6] [£1,000: Can\$100,000 in silver today; but based on relative incomes more like Can\$7M.]

[7] or: B. (A omits.)

[8] Passage interpolated in the margin of A. B has it in the text.

[9] [£100: Can\$10,000 in silver today; but based on relative incomes more like Can\$700,000.]

[10] [£1,500: Can\$150,000 in silver today; but based on relative incomes more like Can\$10.5M.]

[11] the: B. (A omits.)

[12] all: A. halfe: B.

[13] [£300: Can\$30,000 in silver today; but based on relative incomes more like Can\$2.1M.]

[14] [£200: Can\$20,000 in silver today; but based on relative incomes more like Can\$1.4M.]

[15] [£20: Can\$2,000 in silver today; but based on relative incomes more like Can\$140,000.]

[16] [40 s (= £2): Can\$200 in silver today; but based on relative incomes more like Can\$14,000.]

[17] them: B. (A omits.)

[18] [£5: Can\$500 in silver today; but based on relative incomes more like Can\$35,000.]

- [32] and I give Five pound [18] to Sara Hogis his Daughter to Richard Mico Son of John Mico One hundred pound [9]
- [33] To my Cozen Nathaniel Withers Two hundred pounds [14] I give;
- [34] To my Aunt Barnit I give Tenn pounds [19] and five [18] to her Daughter Elizabeth Shepeard
- [35] I give Fiftey pound [20] to my Cofen John Stone
- [36] I give Twenty pounds [15] to my Cofen Jane Mico Daughter of my Cofen Walter Mico of London
- [37] I give five pounds [18] to my Cofen Anne Slade to my Cofen Marget Fowles to my Cofen Francis Comers to my Cofen Francis Stone
- [38] I give to Sr John Mordaunt Barronet fore hundred pound [21]
- [39] I give to Mrs Katherine Mordaunt Tenn pounds [19]
- [40] I give to Mr Robert Oldesworth Twentie pounds [15]
- [41] I give five pound [18] to John Suter
- [42] and I give all the Servants I have at my Death Fifty Shillens [22] a pece to Sara Oliver five pounds [18]
- [43] Item I give Fifteene hundred pounds [10] Lawfull money of England to build an Almmanes house with some of it for Tenn poore Widdowes of the age of fiftety or upwards
- [44] the rest of the money I would have Land bought with it for a yearly Revenue to bee equally Divided among them yearly as my Executors shall thinke best
- [45] and my Executors shall have the Disposall of it for their Lives
- [46] then I desire the Company of Mercers to take it into their care to Dispose of it according to my Will
- [47] and I would have it built for the poore of London in what place my Executors think most Convenient
- [48] I give fore hundred pounds [21] to the Towne of Fareford in Glofsterfhire to bee lade out on Land
- the yearly Revenue to put out fore poore boyes of that Towne Prentices, and this is to Contynue forever
- And I would have thofe Boyes [that are] [23] [49] chofen to bee such as can fay the Lords Prayer the Ten Comandements the Beleeve and the Church Catechifme
- And I give One hundred pounds [9] to the Alm- [50] mens house at Chafhunt in Hartfordfhire to buy Land the Revenue there of to bee yearly equally Divided to the poore of that ouse fourever
- [And] [24] I give Fiftey pound [20] to the Poore [51] of that parishe in Which I lived at my Death,
- And furthermore I doe hereby Declare That [52] Wharas I gave Samuel Mico aforefaid Two Thousand pounds [5] When hee had married one of my Neeces he not performeing it I give one of the saide Thousand pounds [6] to Redeeme poore Slaves Which I would have put out as my Executors thinke [the] [25] best for a Yearly Revenue to Redeeme some yearly
- And if the abovefaid Samuell Mico marry one [53] of my Neeces I then give him my best pearl necklace and all my plate that I Doe not give away by this my Will'
- I give [unto] [26] Mr John Pollexfen my gilte Cup [54] and Salver to it,
- And Lastly my will is that after my Debtes and [55] funerall Expencis Which the Lawe allowes first to bee paid I give the over plus of my Eftate or any thing else that I have not given [away] [27] by this my Will to my two Executors to bee equally Divided betweene them,
- And I make and ordaine my Deare Brother Wil- [56] liam Robinfon of Chafhunt in the County of Hartford one and my Deare Sister Elizabeth Barker of Fareford in the County of Glofster the other two Executors of this my last Will and Testament
- And I Doe Revoke and make void all former [57] Wills and Bequests:
- In witnes whare of I have heare unto and to one more of the same Tennour and Date being all Writeing with my own hand and Subscribed my name and affixed my Seale the first Day of July one Thousand Six hundred and Seaventy. Jane Mico,

[19] [£10: Can\$1,000 in silver today; but based on relative incomes more like Can\$70,000.]

[20] [£50: Can\$5,000 in silver today; but based on relative incomes more like Can\$350,000.]

[21] [£400: Can\$40,000 in silver today; but based on relative incomes more like Can\$2.8M.]

[22] [50 s. (= £2.50): Can\$250 in silver today; but based on relative incomes more like Can\$18,000.]

[23] *that are*: A. *to be*: B.

[24] *And*: A. *Item*: B.

[25] *the*: A. (B omits.)

[26] *unto*: B. (A omits.)

[27] *away*: (A. B omits.)

Signed Sealed published & Declared in the presence of Jon Mordaunt Tho: Barrow Robt Oldjfnorth Rich: Manningham Anne Barrow Mary Stevens.

Signed Sealed and published in the presence of Jon Mordaunt Tho: Barrowe. [36]

Bee it knowne unto all men by these presents, That Whereas I Dame Jane Mico of London Wid-dowe have made and Declared my laſt Will and Teſtament in Writing bearing Date [the] [28] *primo* July [1670] [29]. I the ſaid Dame Jane Mico by this preſent Codicill Doe Confirme & Ratifie my ſaid Will and Teſtament in every particular

Probatum fuit Testamentum ſupraſcriptum apud cedes Exoniensis ſcituat' in le Strand in Commitatu Middlesex' coram venerabili viro Richardo Lloyd legum doctore Surregato venerabilis et egregii viri domini Leolini Jenkins militis legum etiam doctoris Curiae prerogativae Cantuariensis magistri Custodis sive Commiſſarii legitime conſtituti nono Die menſis Decembris Anno Domini millesimo ſexcentesimo ſeptuagesimo juramento Wilhelmi Robinſon et Elizabetha Barker Executorimi in hujusmodi Teſtamento nominat'

[The above-written will was proved on the 9th day of December in the year of the Lord 1670, at Exeter House located in The Strand in the county of Middlesex before the venerable Richard Lloyd, doctor of laws, ſurrogate, [and] the venerable and worſhipful Sir Leoline Jenkins, knight, alſo doctor of laws, maſter keeper or commiſſary of the prerogative court of Canterbury, as lawfully appointed, by the oaths of William Robinſon and Elizabeth Barker, the executors named in the ſaid will;

quibus commiſſa fuit Adminiſtratio omnium et ſingulorum Bonorum jurium et creditorum dicta Defunta de bene et fideliter adminiſtrando eadem ad ſancta Dei Evangelia jurat; lata prius Sententia definitivo pro valore et validitate hujusmodi Teſtamenti, prout ex Actis Curiae liquet.

to whom was commiſſioned the adminiſtration of all and ſingular the goods, rights and credits of the ſaid deceased, having ſworn to god on the holy gospels to well and faithfully adminiſter the ſame; a definitive ſentence for the value and validity of this kind of will being previously iſſued according to the acts of the court.]

[58]

[59]

And whereas I have in my ſaid Will given unto my Neece Jane Barker the Summe of Fifteene hundred pounds [10] mentioned to bee ſoe much oweing from the Eaſt India Company by a Bond made in her name Which Bond I have ſince altered and received of it Five hundred pounds [3], ſoe that there remains but One Thouſand Pounds [6] put out in her name Now it is my Will and meaning and [I] [30] Doe hereby Declare it ſoe to bee that I Doe give and bequeath unto my ſaid Neece the ſaid ſume of One Thouſand pounds [6] ſoe put out in her name

[Note: These figures indicate that Dame Jane Mico's cloſeſt relatives were made very rich indeed. Many other relatives, "cousins germane", received leſſer but generous legacies too; and all her ſervants received a nice legacy that probably was appreciated, albeit not life-transforming. She gave ſubſtantial amounts to ſeveral charitable purpoſes, firſt the equivalent of Can\$7M to "redeem poor ſlaves". She actually did this twice, once if her nephew did not properly diſcharge her late huſband's executors (para [8], [9]), which he probably did, ſo this gift did not occur; and then the ſame again if this nephew did not marry one of her nieces (para [52]). He did not, ſo the gift prevailed. She alſo gave Can\$10.5M to build an almſhouſe for, and then uſe the income from the remainder to ſupport, ten poor widows in London (para [43] to [47]); another Can\$2.8M the income of which was to provide apprenticeships for four poor boys in Fairford (para [48] to [49]); Can\$700,000 to ſupport paupers in Cheshunt (para [50]); and another Can\$350,000 to do the ſame in whatever pariſh ſhe died in (para [51]).]

[60]

And alſoe I Doe give and bequeath unto my ſaid Neece the ſumme of Five hundred pounds [3] more oweing to mee on a Bond from Isaac Weynell Which I have ordered to bee altered and made alſoe in her Name being in Conſideraton of the [aforementioned] [31] five hundred pounds [3] recd of the Eaſt India Company

[61]

And I Doe further give and bequeath unto my ſaid Neece Jane Barker the ſumme of Three hundred pounds [13] more which is oweing [to] [32] mee by [his] [33] Bond from [his] [34] Father Andrew Barker Eſq

[62]

And my Will and meaning is that this my Codicill and Schedule bee adjudged [to bee] [35] part and parcell of my ſaid laſt Will and Teſtament and that all things therein conteyned and mentioned bee faithfully and truly performed

In witnes whereof I have hereunto ſett my hand and Seale This Twenty fourth of October in the yeare of our Lorde One Thouſand ſix hundred and ſeaventie Jane Mico:

[28] *the*: A. (B omits.)

[29] 1670: A. *one thouſand ſix hundred and ſeaventie*: B.

[30] *I*: B. (A omits.)

[31] *aforementioned*: A. (B omits)

[32] *to*: A. *unto*: B.

[33] *his*: A. (B omits.)

[34] *his*: A. (B omits.)

[35] *to be*: B. (A omits.)

[36] [The Latin text of the probate grant is from ſource B, being eaſier to read than ſource A.]