

*The Last Will and Testament of
Jeffrey Whitaker
of Bratton
Will proved
8th August 1775*



Probate Court of London
Original reference
Will dated 6th February 1775

Testator:	Whitaker	Jeffrey	Late Schoolmaster of Bratton
Executors:	Collins	Catherine	Sister Sole Executrix

Beneficiaries		Relationship to testator	Other Information
Surname	Given Names		
			Baptist Minister of Trustees Choice
			Poor Children of Bratton for Education
Carter	William		London Bookseller
Collins	Catherine	Sister	
Collins	John		of Devizes
Cowdall	James		
Demay	Joan		
Grant	William, Snr.		
Maslen	Thomas	Servant	
Millard	John		
Morgan	Thomas	Kinsman	
Nevill	Henry		
Otridge	Jane		
Otridge	Rebecca		
Pepler	Thomas		
Pierce	Christopher		
Ransom	Letitia		
Rendall	George		Westbury Surgeon
Rendall	Sarah	Kinswoman	
Rundle	William	Kinsman	brother of Thomas Morgan
Salisbury	John		
Smith	Robert		
Tucker	Anne, Snr.		Late of Westbury Leigh
Walter	Thomas		
Witnesses			
Kingdon	John		
Whitaker	Aldridge		

Drewett	Mary		
Other Names			
			Unnamed co-heiress of Solomon Gunstone
Gunstone	Soloman		Deceased Landowner

I Jeffrey Whitaker of Bratton in the County of Wilts (late Schoolmaster there) do make my last Will and Testament written with my own hand in manner and form following that is to say first I give to the Trustees for the time being of a house in Bratton aforesaid lately erected for pious and religious uses at a place called Browns Plat the sum of three hundred and fifty pounds in Trust and confidence that they the said Trustees their assigns and surrogates for ever do receive the interests and profits arising therefore and pay and apply it as follows that is to say the interest and profits arising from one hundred pounds part thereof to the Baptist Minister that shall stately or occasionally preach in the said house at their discretion till they shall think proper with the friendly assistance of others to build a house for the use and residence of such Minister then they shall pay and apply the said one hundred pounds towards the erecting such house and of the interest and profits arising from one hundred and fifty pounds another part thereof they shall pay one Guinea yearly and every year to such Baptist Minister as they or the majority of them shall chuse to preach a sermon in the said house annually for ever on the twenty sixth day of October and the remainder of the interest and profits arising from the said one hundred and fifty pounds they shall to and for the use of such Baptist Minister or Ministers who shall stately or occasionally preach in the said house at their discretion and of the interest and profits arising from fifty pounds another part thereof they shall pay to and for the use of such poor of Bratton aforesaid as they shall think fit to be given and distributed on the said twenty sixth day of October or within six weeks after annually for ever and of the interest and profits arising from the remaining fifty pounds they shall pay for the teaching and instructing of such poor children of Bratton aforesaid in reading and writing as they shall think fit and if any disagreement shall arise between the said Trustees concerning the payment and distribution of any of the before mentioned pious and charitable legacies it shall be determined by the majority of them and it is my will and earnest desire that those sums of money before mentioned to be given to and for pious and charitable uses may be put out on such undoubted securities or else that they should purchase some freehold lands with it so that the annual receipts and payments in the manner before mentioned may be perpetuated if possible to the latest generation Next I give to my kinsman Thomas Morgan all that my freeholds estate messuage or tenement with the lands and appurtenances thereunto belonging lying and being in the Parish of Edington and County of Wilts which estate I lately purchased of the coheiresses of Solomon Gunstone late deceased To him and the heirs male of his body lawfully issuing for ever and for default of such issue to my kinsman William Rundle brother of the said Thomas Morgan and to the heirs male of his body lawfully issuing for ever and for default of such issue to my own right heirs male for ever Also I give to the said Thomas Morgan all my leasehold messuages or tenements with the land and appurtenances there unto belonging lying and being in the Parish of Edington and Bratton aforesaid being his gift if the lives I hold them by so long continue but if the lives survive him then for the remainder term I have in the said leasehold estates I give to my sister Catherine Collins all which leasehold estates and the freehold estate before mentioned shall be subject to and charged with the payment of all annuity or clear yearly rent of sixty pounds forty pounds part thereof to be paid yearly and every year by quarterly payments to and for the use of my said Sister Catherine Collins the first quarterly payment of ten pounds to her at the end of six calendar months after my decease the second quarterly payment to be made to her at the end of three calendar months after the former and so every quarterly payment to be made every third calendar month serving her life the remaining twenty pounds to be paid yearly and every year by quarterly payments in life manner to and for the use of my kinswoman Sarah Rendall the first quarterly payment of five pounds to be paid to her at the end of seven calendar months after my decease the second quarterly payment to be made at the end of three calendar months after the former and so every quarterly payment to be made every third calendar month after the former during her life Also I give to the said Catherine Collins and to the said Sarah Rendall to dwell in any one of my houses also such fruit of my gardens and orchards and such fire wood and the use of such of my goods they may occasion for during their lives Also I give to the said Thomas Morgan all such goods as are in housekeeping necessary and which was continuously made use of for that purpose in my life time Also I give him my library of books with all the Mathematical Optical and other instruments the furniture of the school and all papers commonly used there I give also to him such hay and cattle wood and timber found on any of my estates as far as my right extends all while subject to the use of my Sister Catherine Collins during her life Also to the said Thomas Morgan my best watch my other watch to his brother William Rundle Also to the said Thomas Morgan my five arms silver hilted sword and walking canes To the said William Rundle three hundred pounds To William Carter of London bookseller fifty pounds To George Rendall

of Westbury Surgeon ten pounds To Anne Tucker the elder late of Westbury Leigh ten pounds To John Collins of Devizes ten pounds To Thomas Maslen my late servant five guineas To John Salisbury Henry Nevill Thomas Pepler Robert Smith Thomas Walter William Grant the elder James Cowdall John Millard Christopher Pierce Joan Demay Letitia Ransom Rebecca Otridge and Jane Otridge To each of those twelve the sum of one guinea all the rest residue and remainder of my good chattels and personal estate I give to my Sister Catherine Collins and constitute and appoint my said Sister Catherine Collins sole Executrix of this my last Will and Testament To witness whereof I have here unto set my hand and seal this sixth day of February in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Five 1775 [signed by *Jeffery Whitaker*] Signed sealed published and declared by the said Testator as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who at his request and in his presence and in the presence of each other have subscribed our hands as witnesses [signed *John Kingdon - Aldridge Whitaker - Mary Drewett*] each signed their own names

Probate

This Will was proved at London on the eight day of August in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Five before the Worshipful Andrew Coltee Duvarel Doctor of Laws and Surrogate of the Right Worshipful Sir George Hay Knight also Doctor of Laws Master Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury lawfully constituted by the Oath of Catherine Collins Widow Sister of the deceased and sole Executrix named in the said Will to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods chattels and credits of the said deceased having been first sworn duly to administer