

The Last Will and Testament of

Christopher MERRIWEATHER



Transcribed from the original and the court copy held by The National Archives

Probate Court:

Prerogative Court of Canterbury

Original reference: PROB 10/1340

Court Copy reference PROB 11/460

Testator:	Merriweather	Christopher	
Executor:	Slade	James	Son in law

Beneficiary	Given Name	Relationship	
Merriweather	Christopher	Son	
Merriweather	Richard	Son	
	Quinney	Daughter	
	Elianor	Granddaughter	Daughter of Quinney
Slade	Dorothy	Daughter	
Slade	Ann	Granddaughter	Daughter of Dorothy Slade, a minor
Slade	Christopher	Grandson	Son of Dorothy Slade, a minor
Slade	James	Grandson	Son of Dorothy Slade, a minor
Slade	Richard	Grandson	Son of Dorothy Slade, a minor
Slade	William	Grandson	Son of Dorothy Slade, a minor
Slade	Dorothy	Granddaughter	Daughter of Dorothy Slade, a minor
Slade	Mary	Granddaughter	Daughter of Dorothy Slade, a minor
Slade	Mary	Daughter	Widow
Slade	Christopher	Grandson	Son of Mary Slade
Slade	Mary	Granddaughter	Daughter of Mary Slade
Slade	John	Grandson	Son of Mary Slade
Slade	Elizabeth	Granddaughter	Daughter of Mary Slade
Slade	William	Grandson	Son of Mary Slade
Wansey[?]	Bathsheba	Daughter	
Crabb	Ann	Granddaughter	[[?] Daughter of Bathsheba]
Crabb	Bathsheba	Granddaughter	[[?] Daughter of Bathsheba]
Wickham	Sarah	Daughter	
Unnamed		Grandchildren	Children of Sarah Wickham
Merriweather	Elizabeth	Daughter	Potential wife of Thomas Short
Unborn		Grandchildren	Of Elizabeth Merriweather
Fry	Elinor	Granddaughter	
Handcock	Hester [?]	Granddaughter	A minor
WITNESSES & OTHER NAMES			
Butcher	John	Clare	William jnr
Claggett	John	Short	Thomas

I **Christopher Merriweather** of Warminster in the County of Wilts Yeoman the sixteenth day of February In the year of our Lord One Thousand Six hundred Ninety and Nine being in the twelfth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord William the third King of England &c Doe make my last Will & Testament in manner and forme following Imprimis

I do hereby give and bequeath to my Sons **Christopher & Richard** to each of them fifteen Shillings to buy them Mourning Rings Item I do hereby devise and give to my Daughter **Quinny** twenty shillings and to her Daughter **Elianor** my Grand Childe Five pounds to be paid within Six Months after my Decease.

Item I Doe hereby devise and give to my Daughter **Dorothy Slade** twenty Shillings & to her Children **Anne Christopher James Richard William Dorothy and Mary** to each of them Five pounds to be paid to each of them as they do respectively attain the age of One and Twenty years & if One or more of them dye before they shall attain to the Age of one and twenty years then his or their part or parts so deceaseing shall be equally divided it divided among the survivors, the aforesaid Legacies given to the said Children to be paid of those Moneyes due to me on bond from my Son **Christopher**

Item I do hereby give and bequeath unto my daughter **Mary Slade** Widow twenty Shillings & to her Children **Christopher Mary Dorothy John Elizabeth & William**, to each of them Five pounds to be paid within Six Months after my decease And I will that the Mothers Receipt for the said several legacies to her Children given shall be a Sufficient discharge to my Executor hereinafter named

Item I do hereby give and bequeath to my Daughter **Bathsheba Wansey**[?] twenty Shillings & to my Grand children **Ann and Bathsheba Crabb** five pounds apiece to be paid within twelve Months after my Decease

Item I do hereby give and bequeath to my daughter **Sarah Wickham** twenty Shillings and to her Children Forty pounds to be equally divided between them to be paid within one whole Year after my Decease & the Fathers receipt shall be sufficient Discharge to my Executor And my Wish is that the Father equally divide the said Forty pounds between the Children of my said Daughter **Sarah**

Item I doe hereby give and bequeath to my Daughter **Elizabeth** the Fifty pounds that I lent[?] her and One hundred pounds more but If she Disposeth of her selfe in way of Marriage to **Thomas Short** That then my Executor before he payes the Hundred pounds last mentioned do & shall take bond of the said **Thomas Short** to repay the Said hundred pounds to himselfe within three Months after the decease of my said Daughter **Elizabeth** in case she have noe Children living at the time of her said decease & that the Said Hundred pounds so repaid [unknown] to my Executor shall be to the uses hereafter mentioned

And also if my Said Daughter dye leaving a Child or Children & they all Decease before they come to the Said Age of one & twenty years that then also the said Thomas Short Shall be bound to repay the Said hundred pounds to the uses hereafter mentioned And further my Will is that if my Said Daughter dye leaving One Child that then Thomas Short Shall give bond to my said Executor to pay that Child the said hundred pounds when it shall attain the age of One and twenty Years but if she shall leave more Children then that the Said hundred pounds Shall be equally divided amongst them But if she shall leave no Child then I do give devise & bequeath the Said hundred pounds as a followeth (that is to say)

I give Forty pounds part of the Said hundred to the Children of my Daughter **Mary** And Thirty pounds part thereof to the Children of my Daughter **Sarah Wickham** And I give ten pounds part thereof to my Grandchild **Elionor Fry** & ten pounds part thereof to **Mary** the Daughter of **James Slade** and the remaining ten pounds of the Said hundred to my Daughter **Quinny**,

And my Will is that the said one hundred pounds be paid to my Said Daughter **Elizabeth** within Six Months after my decease And that then If She be unmarried She Shall give bond to my Executor before the receipt of the said moneys That in Case she doth she do Marry the said **James Short**, That then he shall give bond to the Said Executor within One Month after his said Marriage of her, to performe the intent of this Will so far as relates to them concerning the said moneys,

Item I devise and bequeath to my Grand Daughter **Hester**[?] Handcock fourty pounds to be paid her when She attains the Age of one & twenty Years & my Will is that my Executor puts forth the said fourty pounds to use for her into as good hands as hecan, & that my Said Granddaughter Shall have all the use that ariseth thence untill she comes to the said Age, but if the Money aforesaid Should happen to be lost I would not have my Executor answerable for the same, but in case

my Said Grand daughter dye before She attaine the Said Age then I give & devise the Said fourty pounds as followeth viz twenty Pounds to **Christopher** the Son of my Daughter **Mary** & the other Twenty pounds to the rest or her Children equally to be divided

Item I give & bequeath to my Grandaughter **Mary Anne** Slade the daughter of **James Slade** the feather Bed I lye upon, two boulsters, One Pillow one greene Rugg a paire of blancketts & a pair of sheets that I usually lodge in. And for the rest of my household goods (except my plate) I give and Devise to my Daughters **Mary Slade** Wid. & **Elizabeth Merriweather** ^{^aforesaid^} equally to be divided between them.

But if my Said Daughter **Elizabeth** Shall Marry Tho: Short & dye without Issue, or the Said issue if she shall have any shall dye before they attain the Age of One and twenty Years, Then my Daughter **Elizabeths** moiety of the Said goods I give to my Grandaughters **Anne and Bathsheba Crabb**, equally to be divided between them

I Will also that all my Plate be sold by my Executor to defray my funeral expenses Lastly I give & devise unto my Son in Law **James Slade** my Gold ring that I weare and all my wearing Apparell both linnen & woollen, And I give to **Christopher** the Son of **James Slade** Six of my books which he shall choose at his pleasure, the remainder of my books I give my Son **James Slade** whom I hereby constitute & appoint Sole Executor of this my last Will & testament In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & Seale the day & year first above written

[signed] **Christopher Merriweather**

Signed Sealed published & declared to be my last Will
& testament in the presence of (these words. Forty, Anne aforesaid) being first interlined

[signed] John Butcher
[signed] William Clare Junr
[signed] John Claggett

Probate: London 8 May 1701; James Slade, sole executor

Notes

Transcribed from the original will supplemented by the Court copy of the will. Capitalisation, punctuation and line breaks are as in the source.

Text in square brackets [] has been added by the transcriber, Colin Moretti, and is not in the original.

Transcribed by:

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