

Sarah Gill, will – 1771/1775

In the name of God Amen. I Sarah Gill of the Parish of Great Oakley in the County of Essex widow being in good Health of Body and of sound and disposing Mind and Memory (praised be Almighty God) considering the certainty of Death, and the uncertainty of the time thereof, and revoking all former Wills by me heretofore made, do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament in manner and Form following (that is to say)

First and principally I commit my Soul to Almercifull God, my creator, hoping through the Mediation of Jesus Christ to obtain Pardon and Redemption of all my Sins and to inherit eternal Life. My Body I commit to the Earth to be decently buried according to the Direction of my Executors herein after named. And as to the worldly Estate wherewith it hath pleased, or shall please God to bless me, I order and dispose thereof as follows:

I give devise and bequeath all my Freehold Messuage or Tenement Farm and Lands situate lying and being in Toleshunt Knights otherwise Toleshunt Bushes in the County of Essex now in the Occupation of Charles Richardson or his under-Tenants, with the Barn, Stables, outhouses and Appurtenances thereunto belonging unto my Son Thomas Allen and his Heirs and his and their Assigns to the use and behoof of the said Thomas Allen and his Heirs and his and their Assigns forever.

Also I give devise and bequeath the Term or Terms which at the time of my Decease shall be to come and unexpired of and in the Farm wherein I now dwell and which I now hold called Great Oakley Hall in the County of Essex, and all the Stock and Crops, Corn, Hay, Cattle, Utensils and Implements of Husbandry thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining unto my said Son Thomas Allen his Executors or Administrators, upon this Condition and not otherwise, provided he my said Son Thomas doth and shall pay out of my Estate reall and Personal which I do hereby make chargeable for the said Purposes, the following Legacys herein after named in the manner herein directed,

that is to say, provided he doth & shall pay to my Executors and Trustees herein after named the sum of Two Hundred Pounds of good and lawfull money of Great Britain, in Trust however for the sole use of my daughter Sarah the wife of Ralph Bull her Executors or Administrators within one year after my Decease:

Also provided he my said Son Thomas doth and shall pay to my Executors and Trustees aforesaid the sum of Four Hundred and Fifty Pounds of good & lawfull Money of Great Britain, in trust however for the sole use of my Daughter Rebecca Allen her Executors or Administrators within one year after my Decease. And I direct that during her minority & the interval between my Death & her receiving the said Legacy, she shall be maintained and provided with all necessarys by my said son Thomas his Executors or Administrators: But in case my said Daughter Rebecca shall happen to dye before she attaineth the Age of twenty one years and shall leave lawfull Issue, then I give devise and bequeath the Legacy aforesaid to be equally divided between them, if more than One, at their respective ages of Twenty one years, and in the mean time she same to be placed out at Interest for his her or their Benefit: But in case there shall be no such Issue or such Issue shall happen to dye before the age of Twenty one years, then I give devise and bequeath the said Legacy to be equally divided between the Brothers and Sisters of my said Daughter Rebecca their Executors or Administrators.

Also I give and bequeath unto my said Daughter Rebecca Two Silver table spoons, six silver Tea spoons, & one pair of Silver Tea Tongs to her own Use & behoof.

Also I give and bequeath all my wearing apparel to be equally divided between my Three Daughters Sarah Bull Rebecca Allen and Mary Gill to their several uses and behoofs:

Also I give devise and bequeath all the rest and residue of my Goods and Chattels, Rights, Credits and Estate whatsoever and wheresoever Real and Personal which I shall dye possessed of, after payment of my just Debts Charges of my Funeral and the proving this my Will and other incident Charges and the Maintenance and Legacys herein before given and directed unto my said Son Thomas Allen and his Heirs Executors or Administrators and his or their Assigns, provided he gives no trouble by delaying or Litigation to my Executors & Trustees herein after names concerning the Provisos before mentioned.

And I do constitute and appoint my said Son in Law Ralph Bull and my cousin John Keable Executors of this my last Will and Testament, and my Mind is that my said Executors shall be Trustees and shall each of them be answerable only for his own Acts Receipts and Payments, and that he or they shall and may be saved harmless and deduct out of my Personal Estate or Moneys arising therefrom in his or their Management from time to time all such Costs and Charges as he or they shall pay sustain or be put to by reason of the Execution of this my Will or his or their Acting in Consequence thereof or any part thereof.

And lastly I do declare these Presents contained in Two Sheets of Paper to be my Last Will and Testament.

In witness whereof I the said Sarah Gill the Testatrix have to both the said Sheets subscribed my Name, and to the last of the said Sheets have put my seal this second day of September in the Eleventh year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third and in the year of our Lord one Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy One.

Signed Sarah Gill

Witnesses: Francis Evans, Francis Clark, Francis Bowling.

The testatrix was of the Parish within named and died there on or about the 20th of September last.

Will proved on 24th October 1775.

ERO document reference: D/ACW 33/5/29