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WILL of Col. William Willoughby (abstract)

"The last Will and Testament of William Willoughby, made at Portsmouth in the County of South Hampton, 1 August 1650; proved at London, 6 May 1651, by Elizabeth Willoughby relict-Executrix, etc. contained in nine articles, and ordered by him to be written on the eight pages of these two sheets of paper, which was accordingly done the same day.

"Wife Elizabeth to be executrix. To eldest son Francis W. the sum of two hundred pounds, to be paid him within twelve months after my death. If wife E. should be married again to another, then I do hereby give unto my said son Francis three hundred pounds more ; and also I give him one-half of my moveable good and half my plate ; which said money and goods he shall receive at or about the time when my wife E. shall be married to another. I do hereby give and bequeath unto each of the three eldest children of my son Fr. W., that are now remaining alive, the sum of fifty pounds apiece ; which for all three amounteth to an hundred and fifty pounds, to remain in the hands of E. my foresaid wife, except she marry herself to another. In that case it is to be made over to my son Fr., to be by him paid unto the male children of his body before said, when they shall come to the age of twenty years, and to the female children either at day of their marriage or at eighteen years of age, which shall first happen. And if any of son Fr. his three children aforesaid should die before their age and time abovesaid, the legacy of that child that should die I make over and do appoint it to be given to his fourth child that shall live, etc. If all die, I give the same to their father to dispose of as he shall see fit.

To son William Willoughby the sum of ten pounds for his portion, and no more, till it shall please God to give him grace, or till he shall be civilized, betaking himself to some lawful calling, to live in the world as a man should do ; which if he do, and after one year's experience thereof there shall be testimony brought concerning the truth of the same, under four godly men's hands, I do hereby give and beq. unto him my said son Wm. W. one hundred pounds, besides the ten pounds forementioned. And if after one twelve month's experience more of his reformation, or being civilized, living as a man should do, with esteem of godly and judicious men in the world, and that there come a testimony thereof under the hands of three godly ministers and three godly able christians, who before their certifying shall be made fully to understand this fifth article of my Will, I do then hereby will and bequeath unto him my son W. one hundred pounds more, which said hundred pounds shall then be at his own dispose forever. Furthermore, if he the said W. W. should by any means really become lame, decrepit, or any other way else become helpless to himself, as by sickness or the like, by which if, for want of relief, he should be ready to perish in such case as this, though he be not changed, neither in heart nor life, and thereby made incapable of enjoying the least part of either the one or the two hundred pounds forementioned, my will therefore is that the two hundred pounds forementioned be put forth to the best use that can be, provided also that it be put into the hands of such who shall

give good security for it ; and so there shall be a yearly pension allowed him out of
the profit thereof, whilst he remains in so helpless a condition as aforesaid, and not
else and no longer. Furthermore, if he the said W. W. still remaining in his
present ' deboisht ' and wicked condition, not reformed as aforesaid, should have
any child or children lawfully begotten of his body, I do hereby will and appointone hundred
pounds of the two hundred pounds to be given his child, if he have but one, at twenty years of age, if a male, and, if it be a female, then at eighteen
years of
age, or at day of her marriage, which should happen first. And if the said W. W., by
his wicked course still remaining incapable of the other hundred pounds by reason
aforesaid, die in said condition, having no more children but one as aforesaid, then,
after the said William's death, I do hereby give and bequeath this other hundred
pounds to the children of my eldest son Francis W., to be equally divided amongst
them, at their age and time aforesaid, etc., etc. If my son W. W. die unreformed,
without lawful issue, etc., then I will and appoint that the two hundred pounds
aforesaid be given to the children of my eldest son F. W., to be equally divided, etc.
—To my cousin Lawrence Hammond the sum of twenty pounds, to be paid him
when he shall be twenty years of age. If he die before he come to that age, then my
wife Elizabeth to dispose of it as she pleaseth. But, if he live till he be twenty
years of age, and also if an augmentation to what I have here given him may tend
to his preferment and future eminent good, I then refer his condition to the care and
dispose of my wife as aforesaid and my son Francis. Seventhly, I give and bequeath
to such poor kindred as doth belong unto me, and to my wife Elizabeth, the sum of
twenty pounds, to be divided amongst them at the discretion of my aforesaid wife,
etc. Eighthly, I give and bequeath to poor housekeepers here in Portsmouth the
sum of five pounds, at discretion of my aforesaid wife and the rest of the overseers
of this my will. To poor housekeepers in the hamlet of Wapping in Middlesex,
London, where I formerly dwelt, the sum of .five pounds, etc., etc. I give and
bequeath unto John Greene the sum of five pounds, for his rare helpfulness and
assistance to my forementioned wife in the management of my business, and settling
my accounts. Ninthly, I do hereby authorize and desire my eldest son F. W., and
my special friends Mr. Maurice Thompson and Mr. John Tailer, to take upon them
the charge, and to be the overseers, of this my will, and in the seeing all and every
the particulars mentioned in the several articles of this my will duly performed, as
my confidence in them is, so also do. I do hereby earnestly desire them to have
especial regard to my beloved wife, whom I have made executrix of this my will, as
knowing that she will be a careful and loving mother to my children ; for which
reason I have given no more from her, whom I do here desire further (out of my
fatherly care also to my children), that, if God should call her away by death, or to a
married condition again, that then she would be careful to make up that to my
children wherein I have been wanting now, out of my respect to her ; on whom, as
my executrix, I have bestowed the most of my estate, because my resolutions are
that my children should subject themselves to her, and not she to them ; on whom,
as my last part of my Will I lay this charge, that, as they regard the command of a
dying father, and as they will answer the contrary at the great day of judgment,
they do love, honor, protect, obey and every way else, to the utmost of their power, submit themselves unto their mother, according to God's word, in
all conditions
whatsoever, that so they might enjoy the desired blessings of long life here and

eternal life hereafter.

"Signed by me this 28 November 1650, with my hand and seal William

Willoughby In presence of John Greene, Lawrence Hammond."

Additional information about this story

Description

Date

Location

Attached to [William Willoughby \(1588 - 1651\)](#)

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