

The Last Will and Testament of William Gant, Stationer of Bristol 1733 - 1781

In The Name Of God Amen

I William Gant of the City of Bristol, Stationer, being of sound and disposing mind _____ and understanding, thanks be to Almighty God do make this my last Will and Testament as follows that is to _____ first and principally I _____ my soul into the hands of Almighty God and my body to the earth to be _____ interred at the discretion of my executrix hereinafter named and as to such worldly estate and effects as it hath pleased God to bless me with I give and dispose thereof as follows viz* in the first place I will and direct that all my just debts, funeral expenses and the cost of proving this my will shall be paid and satisfied. Then I give and bequeath unto my honoured father William Gant of London, weaver, an annuity or yearly sum of six pounds to be payable and paid by half yearly payments to wit at Midsummer and Christmas Days clear of all taxes and deductions whatsoever and during the term of his natural life the first payment of such said annuity to be made at such of the said days of Midsummer Day or Christmas Day as shall first happen next after my decease. Then I give and bequeath unto my loving sister Ann Gant of Spitalfields, London, spinster, the sum of thirty pounds of lawful British money to be paid unto her within twelve months next of my decease which so said annuity and legacy I will shall be paid by my executrix hereinafter named out of my ____ and personal estate. ____ I give devise and bequeath unto my loving wife Elizabeth all and singular my freehold messuages or tenements lands and hereditaments whatsoever and wheresoever situate lying and being to hold unto her my said wife Elizabeth her _____ and ____ forever. All the rest and residue of my household goods, ?plate, Stock in Trade and all and singular _____ my personal estate whatsoever and wheresoever I give and bequeath unto my said wife Elizabeth and I do hereby nominate ?constitute and appoint my said wife Elizabeth sole executrix of this my last Will and Testament and do hereby revoke all former will or wills by me at any time heretofore made and do declare this to be my last Will and Testament witness whereof I have to this last Will and Testament set my hand and seal this 26th day of April in the year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty one. William Gant, signed sealed published and _____ by the Testator William Gant as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who in his presence at his request and in the presence of each other subscribed our names as witnesses.

Geo. Rogers of Bristol Ch ____

Jno. Thorbran, Geo. Bourne, apprentices to Testator

This Will was proved in London on the thirty first day of May in the year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty one before the Right Worshipfull Peter Calvert, Doctor of Laws _____ or commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury lawfully ?constituted by the oath of Elizabeth Gant, widow, the relict of the deceased and the executrix named in the said will to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods, chattels and credits of the said deceased, she having been first sworn by commission duly to administer.

Some punctuation has been added for easier reading