

Will of Catherine FitzWilliam née Decker (1711-1786)

Note: Paragraph breaks have been added to make the will easier to read; underlines _____ indicate words that I could not read; square brackets [] are words where I am uncertain of the transcription.

I Catherine Fitzwilliam¹ Widow of the late Viscount ffitzwilliam² of the Kingdom of Ireland being at present blessed with Healthe of Body and Mind do make declare and write with my own Hand this my last Will and Testament in the following manner

I give to my Sons William³ John⁴ and Thomas⁵ ffive thousand Pounds apiece of the three Per Cent Bank Annuities reduced And I also give to each of my said Sons the Sum of six thousand ffive hundred Pounds Sterling

In Case my Son William should happen to die before me Then I give the Interest of his Legacies unto his Wife Dorothea Mary ffitzwilliam⁶ (if she shall survive him) for her Life in lieu of the Annuity of two hundred Pounds which I have covenanted to pay to her in and by the Deed of Settlement made previous to and upon their Marriage and from and after the decease of the said Dorothea Mary ffitzwilliam I give the said ffive thousand Pounds Stock of three Per Cents reduced and six thousand five hundred pounds unto such of her Children by my said Son William as shall be living at her death equally to be divided between them if more than one and if but one the whole to such only one Child but if my said Son William shall leave no Child or Children by his said Wife or if he should leave any such Child or Children and all of them should die before the Age of twenty one Years or Marriage then it is my Will that the Legacies hereby given to my said Son William shall after the death of his said Wife go and be equally divided between his said Brothers John and Thomas or to such of them as shall be then living

And in Case my said Son John shall happen to die before me and unmarried and without lawful Issue Then it is my Will that the Legacies herein before given to him shall go and

¹ Catherine FitzWilliam née Decker (1711-1786), the Testatrix, daughter of Henrietta née Watkins (?-1759) and Mathew Decker (1679-1749) 1st Baronet Decker of London [[Wikipedia](#)], wife of Richard FitzWilliam (1711-1776) 6th Viscount FitzWilliam [[Wikipedia](#)].

² Richard FitzWilliam (1711-1776) 6th Viscount FitzWilliam [[Wikipedia](#)], husband of the Testatrix, son of Frances née Shelley (1681-1771) and Richard FitzWilliam (1677-1743) 5th Viscount FitzWilliam [[Wikipedia](#)].

³ William FitzWilliam (1749-1810) son of the Testatrix and Richard FitzWilliam (1711-1776), husband of Dorothea Mary née Eames (1760-1818).

⁴ John FitzWilliam (1752-1830) son of the Testatrix and Richard FitzWilliam (1711-1776), never married.

⁵ Thomas FitzWilliam (1755-1833) 9th Viscount FitzWilliam, son of the Testatrix and Richard FitzWilliam (1711-1776), husband of Agnes née Macclesfield (1739-1817).

⁶ Dorothea Mary FitzWilliam née Eames (1760-1818), daughter in law of the Testatrix, daughter of John Eames (1716-1795) Master in Chancery, wife of William FitzWilliam (1749-1810).

be equally divided between his Brothers William and Thomas or to such of them as shall be then living

And in Case my Son Thomas shall happen to die before me then I give the Interest of his Legacy unto Agnes⁷ his Wife (if she shall survive him) for and during her Life And after her decease I give the said last mentioned Legacies unto such of her Children if any by my said Son Thomas as shall be then living and if there shall be no such Child or Children then my Will is that the said Legacies hereby given to my said Son Thomas shall after the death of his said Wife go to and be equally divided between his Brothers William and John or to such of them as shall be then living

As an acknowledgment for the regard I have for Ephraim Carter and Mary Howell I give to each of them (in Consideration of their long and faithful Services) Twenty Pounds a Year for their respective Lives to commence from the day of my death

In consideration of the Care which Thomas and Mary Drew took of my late Lord and of the long time in which they have with fidelity served me I give ffifty Pounds a Year for their joint Lives and the Life of the Survivor of them to commence from the day of my death

And to the said Mary Drew I give all my Wearing Apparel (Jewels Watches Trinkets excepted) if she be my Waiting Woman at my decease but in Case the said Mary Drew shall not be my Waiting Woman at my decease Then I give all my Wearing Apparel (Jewels Watches and Trinkets excepted) unto such person as shall then serve me in that Capacity

I desire to be privately buried in the Vault made by my ffather in the Church Yard of Richmond and my ffuneral Expenses not to exceed the Sum of Sixty Pounds

I give to the Minister of the Parish of Richmond in Surry for the time being one hundred pounds to be by him distributed to such Poor of the said Parish as he shall think proper

To my Executor I give one hundred Pounds to be by him distributed according to his discretion among those Servants that shall be living with me at the time of my death but having given Annuities to Ephraim Carter Mary Hewell Thomas and Mary Drew I except them from any share of the above mentioned Sum of one hundred Pounds

After my Debts Legacies and ffuneral Expenses which I again desire may not exceed the Sum of Sixty Pounds are paid I give and devise all my Real and Personal Estates to my Eldest Son Richard Viscount ffitzwilliam his heirs Executors and Administrators for ever declaring him sole Heir and Executor of this my last Will and Testament

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal in Richmond Surrey this twelfth day of August in the Year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty

⁷ Agnes FitzWilliam née Macclesfield (c1739-1817), daughter in law of the Testatrix, daughter of Elizabeth and Robert Macclesfield (1700-1780), wife of Thomas FitzWilliam (1755-1833).

two *C Fitzwilliam* (SS) Signed Sealed Published and declared by the said Catherine Viscountess ffitzwilliam to be her last Will and Testament in the presence of us the Witnesses underwritten who have at her request and in her presence and in the presence of each other set Our Hands as Witnesses to the Execution of this her said Will the day and Year before mentioned *Will. Ewer /—/ Tho^s Ewer /—/ Ja^s Sayer ./*

This Will was proved at London the Eleventh day of March in the year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty six before the Worshipful George Harris Doctor of Laws and Surrogate of the Right Worshipful Peter Calvert also Doctor of Laws Master Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury lawfully constituted by the Oath of the Right Honourable Richard Lord Viscount ffitzwilliam of the Kingdom of Ireland the Son of the deceased and sole Executor 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 ./

Ex^d

Transcribed from images on Ancestry.co.uk [here](#)