

Will of Major General Robert Hunter (1666-1734)

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.

Considering seriously my latter end I Robert Hunter¹ Esquire late of Burton Penwarden in the County of Lincoln but at this time Captain General and Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Island of Jamaica being at present of sound mind and memory (praised be God for the same) do therefore make and ordain this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following that is to say

Imprimis I do hereby Ratify and confirm the Settlement made in my marriage of my Estate in Chirtsea in the County of Surry

Item I Will that all just debts which I shall owe at the time of my decease together with my funeral expenses shall be first paid out of such Estate Real as well as personal as I shall dye seized and possessed of

Item I do hereby give devise and bequeath unto my loving friends Peter Beckford² the Elder Richard Mill³ and John Stewart Esqrs and the Survivor or Survivors of them and the heirs Executors and Administrators of such Survivors all and singular my Messuages Lands Tenements Hereditaments Negroes Stock Cattle and all and singular other my Estate whatsoever Real and Personal in this Island upon Trust that they and the Survivor or Survivors of them and the Executors and Administrators of such Survivors do and shall sell and dispose of the same and every part thereof and the produce thereof remit to my Executors and Trustees in Great Britain herein after named to be by them applied to the discharging paying off and satisfying of my Debts and the several and respective Legacies to my Daughters hereinafter devised and in [Ease] of my Estate in Great Britain

And in regard of the marrying of my daughter Catherine⁴ to William Sloper⁵ Junior Esquire that by Articles of Agreement of the 23rd of November 1727 and by Indentures of Lease Release bearing date the Twenty fourth day and Twenty fifth day of November

¹ Major General Robert Hunter (1666-1734) [[Wikipedia](#)], the Testator, son of Margaret née Spalding (1655-1734) and James Hunter (1635-1734), husband of Elizabeth née Orby (1686-1716).

² Presumably Peter Beckford (1643-1710) [[Wikipedia](#)].

³ Presumably Richard Mill, Chief Justice of Jamaica.

⁴ Catherine Orby Sloper née Hunter (1712-1797), daughter of the Testator and wife of William Sloper MP (1709-1789).

⁵ William Sloper MP (1709-1789), son in law of the Testator, son of Rebecca née Abbot (?-1741) and William Sloper MP (1658-1743), husband of (i) Catherine Orby née Hunter (1712-1797) and (ii) Susannah Maria née Arne (1714-1766).

following I have charged my Estate in the County of Lincoln with an Annuity or Rent Charge of four hundred pounds per annum and a portion of Six Thousand pounds to my Daughter Katharine now the wife of William Sloper the younger Esq^r to be paid in such manner as in the said Articles and Indentures are mentioned Now I doe hereby Ratify and confirm the said Articles willing and requiring my Executors and Trustees in Great Britain to raise and pay off the same as soon as conveniently they can either out of the Profits and Rents of my English Estates or out of any Debts due and to be paid in to them there or to be remitted from [here] by my Executors in this Island or by my Trustees John Johnston James Alexander and others in the Province of New York and new Jersey in America

And it is my further Will that all such Estates in Lands Tenements Hereditaments and all Estate whatsoever real or personal which at the time of my decease shall be in the possession of or under the care of my said Trustees John Johnston and James Alexander Esq^{rs} or the Survivor of them In Trust for me shall be by them or the Survivor of them sold and the amount or produce of the same remitted to my Executors and Trustees in Great Britain in aid of my Estate in Great Britain and in discharge of my debts and Legacies

Item I give and bequeath to my daughters Henriette and Charlotte⁶ the sume of ffive thousand pounds Sterling to each of them to be paid at their respective ages of one and Twenty to them or either of them or the day of their marriage which shall first happen And in case of the death of either of them before their said age of one and twenty or marriage as above then the portion of the Daughter shall Revert to and continue in my said General Estate disposed of by this my last Will as follows

Item all the rest residue and remainder of my Estates whether in Great Britain this Island New York and New Jersey in America or elsewhere and particularly a debt due to me by the Crown for Subsisting the Palatines sent to New York by her late Majesty Queen Anne Her Order amounting to the Sume of Twenty one Thousand Pounds and upwards principal as it was duly and Regularly Stated Audited and Reported by Mr Auditor Harley and that Report Lodged in the Treasury

All the said Estates Debts and Claims whatsoever not herein or hereby disposed of I do give bequeath and devise unto my Son Thomas Orby Hunter⁷ and the heirs of his body lawfully to be begotten But upon this Express Condition that he the said Thomas shall not marry contract marriage or enter into matrimony with Sarah Kelly widow of Charles Kelly of the Parish of S^t Katherines in Jamaica But in case the said Thomas shall and do persist in and accomplish any such Resolution contrary to my Express Command to him to the contrary than and in such case this Devise of my Estate to him and the heirs of his

⁶ Charlotte Gray née Hunter (c1700-1788), daughter of the Testator, wife of Lt General George Gray (1709-1773) 3rd Baronet Gray of Denne Hill.

⁷ Thomas Orby Hunter MP (c1714-1769), son of the Testator, husband of (i) Mary née Heming (1707-1749) and (ii) Jacomina Caroline née Bellenden (1730-1795).

body shall cease and determine and be utterly void to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever And then and in such case and on failure of of Issue of my said Son Thomas Orby Hunter on the body of some other Wife lawfully to be begotten I do hereby give devise and bequeath my said whole Estate before given to my Son Thomas on the above condition of his not marrying or contracting marriage with the said Sarah Kelly to and amongst my three Daughters Henrietta Katharine and Charlotte and to and amongst the several respective heirs of their Bodys lawfully begotten or to be begotten in equal and proportionable parts to be Equally and proportionably divided and distributed amongst them share and share alike and in case of the death of all my Children without heirs of their bodies as before intended and limited then and in such case I give and bequeath my said whole Estate to Patrick Hunter⁸ Younger of Hunterston in the Shire of Aire in North Britain for Life and after his decease to the Heirs Male of his ffamily in such manner that the same may remain in the [Same] ffamily and Blood of the said Patrick Hunter for ever

And I do hereby constitute and appoint my Brother in Law William Sloper Esq^r Archibald S____son Esq^r and Thomas Beckford of Ashstead in the County of Surry Esq^r Executors and trustees for my Estates in Great Britain and the said Peter Beckford Richard Mill and John Stewart Esquires Executors in Jamaica for my Estate in Jamaica

And do hereby further constitute and appoint the said William Sloper the Elder Archibald Hutchisson and Thomas Beckford Esq^r Guardians to my said Children during their respective Minoritys

And it is my further Will and meaning that as soon as my Son Thomas Orby Hunter shall arrive at his age of Twenty one years (not having married or Contracted marriage with the said Sarah Kelly as aforesaid) he shall be added to the number of and is hereby appointed one of my Executors as well for my Estates in Great Britain as for these in Jamaica New York and new Jersey in America

And Lastly I do hereby subject all my Estates whatsoever to the payment of the several portions and Legacies to my Daughter as well as to the payment of all my just debts hereby revoking all former and other will and wills by me at time heretofore made

In Witness whereof I have hereunto put my hand and seal this fifth day of January in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven hundred and Thirty two and in the sixth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King George the second over great Britain ffrance and Ireland King __ And of Jamaica Lord Defender of the ffaith . *Ro: Hunter* — Signed Sealed Published and declared by the above Testator the day and year aforesaid as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who Subscribed our names likewise in the presence of the testator in the presence of one another — *Charles Rose, J: Wilkinson, James Lawford, Sam^l Williams /.*

⁸ Presumably Patrick Hunter (c1670-1738) 22nd Laird of Hunterston, cousin of the Testator.

Whereas by the above written Will I give to my two Daughters Henrietta and Charlotte to each of them for their respective portions the sume of ffive Thousand pounds to be paid to them at the respective times therein mentioned but have not allotted to them any [as certain] sume for their respective maintenance till their fortunes or portions shall become due and payable Therefore to prevent any disputes which may arise I do hereby declare will devise and appoint the sume of two hundred pounds to be paid yearly to each of my said two Daughters for and in Lieu of all Interest on their respective portions and for and as a maintenance for them until the said sumes shall become payable as aforesaid which said Sumes of two hundred pounds P Annum shall be paid to each of them quarterly out of my whole Estate

In Witness whereof I have hereunto put my hand and seal the year and day abovementioned declaring this Codicil to be part and parcel of my last Will and testament above — *Ro: Hunter* Signed Sealed and declared by the above Testator as a Codicill to his said Will and part thereof in the presence of us who Subscribed our names likewise in the presence of the Testator and in the presence of one another — *Charles Rose, J: Wilkinson, James Crawford, Sam^l Williams* ./ . Exd

This Will was proved at London (with a Codicil annexed) on the fourth day of November in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred Thirty ffour before the Worshipfull John Audley Doctor of Laws and Surrogate to the Right Worshipfull John Bettesworth Doctor also of Laws Master Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury lawfully constituted by the oath of Thomas Orby Hunter Esq^r the son of the said deceased and one of the Executors [named] in the said Will To whom Administration was granted of the Goods Chattels and Credits of the said deceased being first Sworn duly to Administer William Sloper the Elder Archibald Hutcheson and Thomas Beckford Esquires three of the other Executors named in the said Will (according to the tenor thereof) first respectively renouncing the Execution thereof . —

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