

## Text of the Will of Meredith Maddy of London 1643

In the name of God **Amen** I Meredith Maddy of London being of sound and perfect memory Blessed be the name of the Lord God Therefore do make this my last Will & Testament in manner and form following

First I commit my poor sinful Soul which is a Spiritual Substance Immortal and Created after the image of God into the hands of God as into the hands of a most faithful Creator and Redeemer trusting to be saved by the Merits of the precious blood of the Lord Jesus my most loving Saviour and by none other means And my body to be burried in the earth from whence it came in the Chapel of St Thomas in Southwark in the County of Surry near my late Wife Joan Maddy deceased And as to the small portion of Landes Leases Goods & Chattels which the Lord God has of his rich mercery vouchsafed given and hitherto to preserve unto me I Devise and dispose as followeth

**First** I give and bequeath all the 3rd part of that Tenement and Lands which I bought of William Whiting and Mary his wife lying at Halfpennywick in the parish of thorn Church in the County of Essex unto **Jonathan the son of the said Wm Whiting** and to the Heirs of his body to be lawfully begotten and not to be passed on or enjoyed by him until he shall attain to the full age of 21 years AND if he shall hapen to depart this life before he doth come to the said age of 21 years then I give and bequeath the sd Tents and Lands to the uses expressed in this my Will and my will is that my exors shall in the meantime hold & enjoy the sd Tenemts and Lands and the profits thereof to the said Uses

**Item** I give and bequeath the rents Issues & profits of my freehold lands in the Parish of St James Garlick Heath in London and my Lands annuities in the parishes of Michael Church Eskley and Dorstone in the County of Hereford and of those Leases of several Tents in the parishes of Armiwells in the County of Hereford (Hertford??) and Stephney alias Sickney Heath in the County of Middlesex and also the Lease which I hold from the Masters and fellows in pembroke Hall Cambridge of a Tent called by the name of the Two Wresthers situate in the parish of St Anthony's in London to be employed for & towards the satisfying such legacies and other monies which by this my Will shall be given and bequeathed to Pious uses

**Item** I give and bequeath unto the **4 Daugrs of my sister** late the wife of Thomas Morris of the parish of Wye in the county of Kent the sum of £40 Viz to each of them & to be employed for the use and benefit of their children and equally divided among them or the survivors of them as every of them shall accomplish the age of 21 years or day of marriage the same being with the consent of Parents or Guardians otherwise not but yet the same not be pd until 3 years after my decease at the soonest

**Item** I give to **John Morris my nephew** for the use of the children of Wm Morris son of the sd Thos Morris the sum of £10 to be distributed and employed in manner as aforesd and I appoint the same to be paid within the space of 3 years next after my decease And I appoint and will that security to be then given to my Executors for the employment of the sd £40 & £10 as is above expressed

**Item** I give unto the sd John Morris my nephew and to his wife and daugr the sum of £3 to buy each of them a ring and to my sd Sisters Daughters and to the Husband of every of them the sum of £6 to be equally divided among them Viz to each of them 20s a piece which is sd £3 and £8 I likewise appoint to be pd within 3 years after my decease

**Item** I give unto Wm John and Mary the children of Grace Dagenham in the County of Essex the sum of £6 to be equally divided among them at their several ages of 21 years or sooner upon security that it shall be employed their benefits in the xxxxxxxxxxxx but yet the same not to be paid until 3 years after my decease at the soonest **Item** I give unto Wm the Son of Thos Griffiths whilst he lived dwelling at the Lower Dock the sum of £40

**Item** I give unto Elizth Wildred Parish in the Poultry London widow the sum of 40s a piece

**Item** I give unto Stephen Evans and his wife 40s and to his children the sum of 40s to be equally divided amongst them as they shall attain the age of 21years and in the interim to be recd by their

parents upon security given to improve the same for the use & benefit of their sd children which sd several sums above mentioned is likewise to be paid within 3 years next after my decease

**Item** I give to Walter Powell of the parish of Nowchurch (Vowchurch?) in the county of Hereford & to his wife and to his son and Daughter £6 to be equally divided between them

**Item** I give to Thos Jones in the County of Hereford and to my cousin his wife the sum of £8 and to every of their children now living in the County Of Hereford the sum of 40s

**Item** I give unto Thomas Maddy of Michael Church Eskley my cousin Phillip Maddy of Dorstone in the County of Hereford and to their wives the sum of £8 to be equally divided between them and every of their children which are not poisoned with the Sour xxxxx of the church of rome the sum of £5 and my meaning is that £25 of those portions bequeathed unto five of those children Viz Jenkin Philemo Thos Francis & Jane Maddy shall be satisfied out of a Debt which my Cousin Augustine Maddy shod have pd me upon Bond for divers years past And if he should refuse to pay the same and those same parties refuse to accept the debt for their legacies then my Will is if they shall be paid their sd Legacies as every one of them shall attain unto 21 years of age by their father out of such monies as he oweth me

**Item** I unto all the children & Grand children of all those that were Cousin Geimans?? to my Father and Mother the sum of 20s a piece to buy them a few lambs or a young Bullock withal which being well employed may Gods blessing be improved for a Beginning of a Stock when they come to deal in the world And whereas my two cousins before mentioned Thos Maddy & Phillip Maddy are to pay me an annuity of £25 a piece per Annm and their Lands are xxxxxx for the payment thereof And that they owe me monies upon other specialties which they have promised to disburse towards the finishing of a Fee School in those parts and whereas I Have determind and resolved to erect such a Free School in the parish of Dorstone which I trust is in good forwardness already for the building thereof And to endow the said School with £20 Pann for the maintenance of the Master there for ever my Intenet meaning is that out of the sd Annuities the xxxxx for maintenance for the school master shall be by the sd Thos & Phillip Maddy paid proportionable half yearly & quarterly during the continuance of the sd Annuity until some other Lands may be purchased worth £20 P Ann which may be settled upon the sd School for the maintenance thereof forever AND if my sd two cousins shall procure the sd building to be finished and pay all the arrears of the sd Annuity and other duties which shall be due & payable unto me at Michaelmas next ensuing and orderly and duly pay the rest of the payments for the time to come then my meaning is that the said Thos Maddy who hath a great charge of children shall have £6 yearly abated towards the Support of his charge for 5 years next after & that the sd Phillip Maddy shall have £3 yearly abated him of his sd Annuity for the like time

**Item** I give and bequeath to the Churchwardens of the parishes of Dorstone and Michael Church Eskley the sum of £4 P Ann to be paid unto them for ever upon the 21st day of October yearly for the use of the Poor of the said Parishes viz 40s for each parish and that the same be distributed yearly to the Poor in each of the said parishes upon the feast of the Nativity of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ and in the public assembly for my desire is that my benevolence be not conferred upon Dogs and swine Viz any that one noted to live in any noted or known notorious Sin as Swearing lying Railing Slandering Drunkenness Whoreing Stealing picking Quarreling or the like therefore I woud have it distributed in the face of the congregation and in the names of the parties recorded in a Book

**Item** I give for the comfort and support of a zealous and Orthodox Divine that preach 8 sermons yearly in Michael Church Eskley the sum of £4 to be pd Quarterly for ever in hopes that God will stir up some other in time to add thereunto for the Enlargement of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ

**Item** to further the marriages of honest sober maidens who have demeaned themselves diligent and faithful in one service 7 6 or 5 years or who have been painful in the house of their parents 20 years or more I give & bequeath £20 P Ann to be paid them successively one after another provided that they be inhabitants of Michael Church Eskley Dorstone Clifford or Long Town and that they be not married to any that are tainted with the common sins of the times Viz swearing and good

fellowship and that they that are of my kindred and of my own name especially and being qualified as before may be preferred before others

**Item** I give £100 to be lent unto young Tradesmen or beginners dwellers within the parishes of Michael Church Eskley Dorston Long Town Clifford Abeydore & the Hay as followeth Viz £16. 13s. 4d. to be lent unto each of these 6 parishes and they to trade or use the same one year without giving any allowance for the same save only procuring 6 sermons in those 6 churches to be preached and allowing the Preacher 6s. 8d and his dinner for his pains which £100 Will it shall be paid into the hands of the Churchwardens of the sd several parishes and those to give security to my Executors to dispose thereof according to this my Will and to take Security for the same of the sd Young men

**Item** I give to my loving friends and cousins Peter Mills and Jane his wife the sum of £4 and the commodities & profits of the lease in Storehouse Yards in the Parish of Stepney before mentioned from the nativity of our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ which shall be in the year of our Lord 1643 for the raising of Stock for his son Joseph Mills & for the mending of his Daughters portion until the expiration of the Lease

**Item** I give unto my cousin Catherine Jones an Annuity of £5 P Ann during her natural life to be paid unto her Quarterly out of my Lands at Garlick Heath & a Bond of £20 owing by Wm Bowyer of Cambridge St & to Ann Jones living in London & to Margery Jones living in Worcestershire the sum of £10 a piece to be paid unto them ALSO by my cousin Thos Maddy I give Charles Williams & his children 10s apiece to be pd as aforesaid

**Item** I give unto the two servants of my cousin P Mills the sum of 10s apiece and for the two servants of Stephen Evans 10s a piece to be pd as aforesaid

**Item** I give & bequeath unto 3 servants of Mr Carter of Garlick Heath the sum of 10s to be equally divided amongst them

**Item** I give & bequeath to my loving Friend Henry Carter and his wife living in Garlick Heath the sum of 40s unto Peter Goodborn the elder living in Southwark the sum of 40s unto the widow of Watkin Maddy (if she be living) the sum of £5 unto her two Daughters that live in Surry £5 apiece unto the rest of her children that be at home with her 50s apiece

**Item** I give to my cousin James Maddy 20s & to every one of his children 10s apiece

**Item** I give unto Eliz the daughter of my cousin Wm Maddy £5 unto her sister Jane 40s and each of her children 10s a piece & to her brother Phillip the sum of £50

**Item** I give unto my cousin John Maddy & his daugr Eliza Maddy & to his son Watkin Maddy 20s apiece

**Item** I give unto the children of Watkin Maddy and to all the rest of the children of John Maddy and his Grand children the sum of 40s a piece and to Walter of the Park 40s & to his wife & Children 20s apiece and my meaning is that all the Legacies not above limited to be pd shall be paid within 3 years of my decease

**Item** whereas I now hold a lease from the Master & Fellows of Pembroke Hall in Cambridge and have bestowed since the last renewing of the sd Lease about £400 in repairing and new Building the tenements granted thereby & have been forced to spend about the recovery of the rents above £500 more and have yet owing this Day for rent for the same above £500 & from one of the Tenants can get neither house nor rent my xxxxx desire and will is that if the sd Masters & Fellows will be pleased to renew the sd Lease for 40 years that then my Executors out of the rents thereof purchased of the Masters & Fellows certain Scholarships & Fellowships in the sd House or Cottage for the better Education of those Poor Scholars which shall be raised out of the School of Dorstone aforesd that in time come by their only institution in the sd Cottage they may by Gods pleasure being abroad the waters of life to moisten the barren places in the Western parts of this Kingdom AND my meang is that out of the rents of the sd Houses the Quit Rent being satisfied the said monies for the purchasing of Scholarships & Fellowships shall be paid from time to time half- yearly towards the satisfaction of the same as long as my Executors shall be freely & clearly dealt with the renewing of the sd Lease and for my House at Garlick Heith after my cousin Peter Mills hath built the same

according as I proposed and the expense thereof discharged then my will and meaning is that all the profits and revenues of the sd House from thence ensuing shall be bestowed upon pious uses as the God of Heaven & Earth shall direct my sd cousins Heart

**Item** I give unto the Free School to be erected in the parish of Dorstone aforesd all my Divinity Books to stand for a Library there for ever The rest & residue of all & singular my Goods & Chattels Lands & Leases Hereditaments Plate Household xxx Linen Woolen & Chattels whatsoever by me not herein disposed of after such debts which I shall owe at my Death my funeral charges & the proving of this my Will shall be pd done & performed I leave to the disposal of the sd Peter Mills of the PARISH OF Christ Church & London & Thos Maddy of Michael Church Eskley whom I make and ordain sole exors of this my last Will & Testament & for the sd Thos Maddy's pains therein I give to him out of the monies which he oweth me £60

IN WITNESS thereof I have to this my last Will set my hand & Seal

**the last day of August 1643**

Meredith Maddy

Signed Sealed published and acknowledged by the sd Testator for his last Will and testament on the last day of August 1643 In the presence of Thos Smyth Robert Morris JB (John Bensons mark) AND WHEREAS I lately had and now have divers suits in London both for means against me which cannot be brought to period without the xxx of Council and they must begin again Therefore I do intreat Mr Richard Newdigate Council at Law to be an Assistant unto my loving friend Peter Mills wherein I shall have occasion to use him about those suits & I do appoint him to receive for his salary therein the sum of £29 sterling and whereas there is liklihood of much trouble about some causes in Herefordshire especially about some business wherein concerneth Roger Ball I earnestly desire the help and assistance of my Christian and faithful friend Mr Bennett Hoskyns to be furthering & assisting to my loving cousin Thos Maddy in bringing all business to a settled end by his wisdom & discussion & withal to see the free school finished and those things brought to a period which the sd Roger Ball and for his pains & trouble both in settleing the sd school & xxxxxx of it with a sufficient maintenance which I do appoint to be had out of my Lands at Garlick Heath London I do give and bequeath to the sd Mr Hoskyns for care and pains therein the sum of £20 sterling to be Pd by my Ecors

**Probatum a London 23 Ana Dom 1645**

Valued at (per annum)

|                                      |            |    |          |    |          |
|--------------------------------------|------------|----|----------|----|----------|
| The Tenements called the 2 Wresthers | 66         | .. | 0        | .. | 0        |
| The House yard in Ratcliff           | 34         | .. | 0        | .. | 0        |
| Garlick Heath                        | 160        | .. | 0        | .. | 0        |
| Hartford                             | 26         | .. | 0        | .. | 0        |
|                                      | <b>286</b> | .. | <b>0</b> | .. | <b>0</b> |

**The will of Meredith Maddy1643**

**Proved 1645**

**The inquisition conducted by The Charity Commissioners**

**At The Guild Hall London 1672**

Whereas by an Inquisition indented taken at Guildhall in the City of London the 19th day of October in the 24th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord Chas the 2nd And in the reign of our Lord 1672 Before Sir Geo ....man Sir Chas. Hooker Knts Nicholas Archbald John Troughton Joseph Lane Theopilus Smith xx Savage John Owen Thos Warndale Esqs John Tekill Wm Pearce Thos Walkington Stephen xxxxxxxx Gents commissioners by virtue of His Majesty's Common under the Great Seal of England & bearing date the 1st February then last past to them & divers other or any 4 or more of them directed for the due examination of the statute made in the High Court of Parliament at Westminster 27th of Sept in the 43 year of the late Queen Eliz being an Act to redress the misemployment of Lands Goods Stocks of money heretofore given to charitable uses by and upon the Oaths of 14 honest and lawful men of the City of London being duly impanelled returned & sworn according to the Statute of Common It was then and there found and presented that Meredith Maddy late of London Clerk deced by his last Will & Test in writg bearg date the last day of Augt 1642 amongst divers other legacies & bequests did therein devise will & appoint the-----

Rents issues & profits of all his Freehold Lands in the parish of St James GarlickHieth in London this Land & annuities in the Parishes of Michael Church Eskley & Dorstone in the county of Hereford & of these leases of sevl Tenants in the parishes Amwell in the coy of Hertford & Stepney als Slebn heath in the co of Middlesex & to be employed for & towards the satisfying of such legacies & other monies which by his sd Will shod be & was by him therein given to pious uses and it is therein further found & presented that the sd Meredith Maddy in sd Will declared that whereas he had resolved to build a free school in the sd Parish of Dorstone & that the same was at that time in a good forwardness for the building thereof & would endow the same school with £20 P Annum for a maintenance of a schoolmaster there for ever. The said Meredith Maddy in a postscript added to his Will & made part thereof directed the sm Free School should be endowed with the s £20 P Ann of his Lands ?? at Garlick Hieth in London aforesd and--- further in his sd Will devised & bequeathed unto the Church Wardens of the Parishes of Dorstone & Michael Church Eskley aforesd the sum of £4 p Ann to be paid unto them for ever upon the 21st day of Decr yearly for the use of the poor of the sd Parishes (viz) 40p yearly for each parish & that the same shod be distributed yearly to the poor in each of those parishes upon the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in the public assemblies for

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That his desire was that the benevolence should not be conferred upon any ..

That were or should be noted to live in any known or notorious sin as...

Swearing railing or slandering drunkenness whoredom or stealing picking quarrelling or the like & thereof would have the same distributed in the face of the congregation & the names of the parties receiving the same recorded in a book and wherein further bequeathed for the support of a zealous Orthodox Divine the shod preach 8 sermons yearly in Michael Church Eskley the sum of £4 to be paid quarterly for ever and it was therein further found & presented that the sd Meredith Maddy to further the marriage of sober & poor maids that then had or thereafter should demean themselves diligently & faithfully in one Service 7 6 or 5 years or had been painfully in the house of their Parents 20 years or more Did in his Will give & bequeath the sd sum of £10 P ann to be paid to them successively one after another she that is first married to have it one year & then the next & so on one after another Provided that they be inhabitants of Michael Church Eskley Dorstone Clifford or Longtown & be not married to any that should be stained with common sins viz swearing & good fellowship & that they which were of his own hundred & his own name especially & being qualified shod be preferred before others and in & by his sd Will Did further give & bequeath £100 to be lent unto poor Tradesmen or beginners dwelling within the Parishes of Michael Church Eskley Dorston Clifford Abbeydore & the Hay as followeth viz £16.. 13..4.. to be lent unto two men of each of those

6 Parishes & they to trade with or use the same one year without giving any allowance for the same save only to procure 6 sermons in those 6 Parishes to be preached allowing the Preacher 6s/8d & his dinner for his pains which £100 his will was should into the hands of the churchwardens of the several Parishes & they to give security to his Exors to dispose thereof as was before directed & they to take security of the young men for the same and also did will & appoint in these words following viz "And as for my house at Garlick Hieth after that my loving friend & cousin hath built the same according as I have proposed & the expenses thereof discharged then my Will and meaning is that all the profits & revenues of the Houses from thence arising shall be bestowed in & upon pious uses as the God of Heaven and earth should direct my cousins heart And of his sd Will did make the sd Peter Mills of Christ Church London & Thomas Maddy of Michael church Eskley his exors & shortly after died seized of the messuages Lands & Tenmts in Garlick Heath aforesd and that the sd Peter Mills on proved this sd Will in the Court of Perogative of Canterbury the 23rd day of May

In the year of our Lord 1645 and took him the burthen & sole execution thereof by force & virtue of the sd Will & devise & did enter into & upon the messuages Lands & Tenemts then late of the sd Meredith Maddy situate & lying in the sd Parish of St James Garlick Heath aforesaid & receive the Rents Issues & Profits thereof until the time of the late dreadful Fire at London and that the same Premes (all deductions being made) were of the clear yearly value of £50 and upwards until the year of our Lord 1657 & then improved by the sd Peter Mills to a greater yearly value & so continued until the time of the late dreadful fire aforesd at which time the same were burnt down & destroyed & it was further and presented that the TTT soil & ground as the Premes were burnt down as aforesd & with any buildings or any other things whatsoever thereon was of the clear yearly with of £34 P Annum & shod a certain back part of the sd TTT soil & ground was about 13 months then since set and leased by the Exors of the sd Peter Mills unto Dr John Newman at the clear yearly rent of £20 being as ground rent recd for the same & the sd Dr Newman had since rebuilt the same into several messuages or Tenements & did then remain in the possession of his the sd Dr Newman or his assigns & had duly paid the sd £20 P Ann unto thesd Peter Mills his Exors or assg & that the remaining part of the TTTTT Soil & Grounds in or about two years then since was by the sd Peter Mills built into two messuages or Tenemts then in the occupn or possession of Dr Peter Chamberlain & Mr John Richardson as Tenants to the exors or assigns of the sd Peter Mills who made his last will & Test in writing dated the 25th day of July 1670 & thereof Wm Bright & John Fletcher Executors and shortly after he died possessed of the Rems chargable aforesd AND that they the sd Wm Bright & John Fletcher proved the same Will the 12th day of Novr then next follow & by virtue of the sd Will and Exorship possessed themselves of all & singular the aforesd Premes late of belonging to the sd Meredith Maddy in Garlick Heath aforesd out of which sd Charitable uses in question an payable & that the sd Exectors had since the rebuilding of the sd Houses & the letting thereof received the Rents Issues & profits of the same and that the sd TTTT soil in ground on which the sd 2 messuages Tenemts were then built were witht any building thereon of the clear yearly value of £14 p ann & it was lately found & presented that the sd Charitable uses of £20 p annum was paid till the time of the late Fire aforesd but had since been neglected & unpaid for the space of 6 years then last past And that the Charitable bequest of £10 p annum to & for marriage of poor maids devised as afsd was & had been altogether neglected concealed and