

**Will of James Adams – written 15<sup>th</sup> Sept 1774 and transcribed by Linda Rodgers © 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2013**

In the name of God Amen

I James Adams of Swanburne in the County of Bucks esquire being of sound mind Memory and understanding (praised be God for the same) calling to remembrance the uncertainty of this life, to make & publish this my last will & Testament in manner following, First & principally with all humility I Resign my Soul to Almighty God & my Body to be buried at the discretion of my Executrix hereafter named; & as to such temporal Estate wherewith it hath pleased the divine Providence to Bless me, I dispose of the same in manner following; First I give & bequeath my Silver kitchen, & one half part, of all other my Plate & Linnen, also all my China, wood coals, wines & liquors, of all sorts which shall be in or about my dwelling house & premises at Swanburne aforesaid at the time of my deceasing, also my white Bed, Bedstead & Bedding, thereunto belonging in the lodging Room where I now live. And all the furniture in my best Parlour at Swanbourne aforesaid & likewise my Chariot & Horses & all such of my Household Goods & Furniture which shall be in & about my Dwelling House at Old Brentford in the County of Middlesex, & all my ready money & Securities for money, Arrears of Rent, & debts due, & owing to me, at the time of my decease, to my loving Wife Elizabeth Adams, to, & for, her sole use, benefit, & disposal & I hereby nominate & appoint my said Wife sole Executrix of this my last will & Testament. also I give & bequeath unto my said Wife, the use of all the rest of my household goods & Furniture, which shall be in, or about my said dwelling house at Swanburne aforesaid for & during the term of her natural life. And my will is, & I do hereby direct that an inventory of such household goods & furniture the use whereof I have given to my said Wife for life be taken immediately after my decease & signed & subscribed by her, & delivered to my trustees herein after named next I give & devise to my said Wife for the term of her natural life all that my farm land & premises thereto belonging situate & being in the parish of Swanbourne aforesaid which is now in the tenure & occupation of William Burrell, & also all that my farm Lands & premises thereto belonging situate & being in the parish of Swanburne aforesaid now in the tenure or occupation of Thomas Kemp & likewise all that my messuage or tenement situate & being in Swanburne aforesaid wherein I now dwell with the house close yards Gardens & other the appurtenances thereunto belonging & also all that my messuage or Tenement situate & being in Swanburne aforesaid with the house close & appurtenances thereunto belonging now in the possession or occupation of Barbara Anstee Widow & also all that my messuage or tenement situate & being in Swanburne aforesaid with the appurtenances thereunto belonging now in the occupation of Mary Martham Widow & also all those my three Cottages or tenements situate & being in Swanburne aforesaid with their and every of their appurtenances now in their several tenures or occupations of Caphe Hoggason Widow & Francis Kympton & also all that my enclosed close of pasture or In and around lying & being in Swanburne aforesaid with the appurtenances now in the occupation of Thomas Ludgate & called or known by the name of Linnards To hold the said Farms messuages Lands & premises with their & Every of their respective appurtenances unto my said Wife Elizabeth Adams for & during the term of her natural Life. The keeping all & singular the said premises in good and sufficient Tenantable repair. Also I give & bequeath unto Iling son of George Iling late of Little Horwood in the County of Bucks Yeoman deceased the sum of one hundred Pounds of Lawful money of Great Britain to be paid to him within six months next of my decease Next I give devise and Bequeath unto my good friends George Howland of Haverhill in the County of Essex Esquire the Reverend Edward Milward of Bottle Chayden in the Parish of East Chayden in the said County of Bucks Clerk & Thomas Green of Whitchurch in the said County of Bucks Gentleman all & singular other my Freehold and Leasehold Messuages Lands Tenements Hereditaments & premises situate lying & being in the several parishes of Little Horwood & Swanburne in the said County of Bucks now in the several Tenures or Occupations of Joseph Midwinter & Thomas Ludgate & also the said farms Messuages Lands & premises in the several

Tenures or occupations of the said William Burrell & the said James Adams, Thomas Kemp, Barbara Austre, Mary Marsham Caphe Hoggason, Francis Kympton & Thomas Ludgate subject to the Estate for the life of my said Wife therein as herein before given & devised to her & also my said household goods & furniture in & about my dwelling house at Swanburne aforesaid after any said Wife's decease And also all other my freehold leasehold & Personal Estates whatsoever and wheresoever To have & to hold such part or parts thereof as are Freehold & Estates of inheritance unto them the said George Howland Edmund Milward & Thomas Green their heirs ..... & concerning the same & to have & to hold all such part parts of my said Messuage Lands & Tenements as are leasehold unto them the said George Howland Edmund Millward & Thomas Green Their Executors Administrators & Assigns for all the term and terms of years that shall be therein to come & unexpired when such . as are herein aftermentioned expressed & declared of & concerning the same that is say upon trust that they my said Trustees. their Heirs executors and Administrators do & shall pay apply & dispose of the Rents incomes & profits of all & singular the aforesaid Premises to them hereby devised & Bequeathed unto & for the use & benefit maintainance Education & bringing up of all & every Child & Children which I shall leave at the time of my departure or decease lawfully begotten of my Body for & during his her or their respective Minority or minorities & when & so ..... as my said Child or Children shall have attained the age of Twentyone Years then in trust that they my said Trustees or their heirs do & shall comply & assure by good & sufficient conveyances & Assurances in the Law all & singular such of my said Messuages Lands & Tenement as are Freehold unto & amongst all & every the Children of my Body lawfully begotten). In case I Shall have more than one Child) To the use of them their Heirs & Assigns for ever as Tenants in common & not as Joint Tenants But in case I shall have only one Child of my Body lawfully begotten Then upon trust in like manner to convey & assure all the said freehold premises unto & to the use of such one Child his or her heirs & assigns forever And also upon trust that they my said Trustees their Executors or Administrators do and shall when my said Child or Children shall have attained the said age of Twentyone Years well & sufficiently assign & transfer & assure all such of my said Messuages Lands & Tenements as are Leasehold & all other my said Personal Estate unto and amongst all & every the Children of my Body lawfully begotten In case I shall have more than one child To hold to them their Executors Administrators & Assigns & be equally divided between them share & share alike But in case I shall leave only one Child of my Body lawfully begotten Then upon trust in like manner to assign transfer & ..... such leasehold premises & personal Estate to such one Child his or her Executors Administrators or Assigns But in case I shall happen to die without leaving any Issue of my Body lawfully begotten Then upon this further trust that they my said trustees & their heirs do & shall with all convenient speed after my decease sell & dispose the Freehold Land & Inheritance of all my said farm lands & premises in Little Horwood aforesaid with the appurtenances in the occupation of the said Joseph Midwinter & also my farm lands & premises in the parish of Swanburne aforesaid in the occupation of the said Thomas Ludgate for as much money as they may or can get for the same & pay & apply the monies arising by such Sales (after the payment of any just debts unto & amongst all & every the Child & Children which shall be then living of my niece Alice Stonnell the wife of Henry Stonnell in the said County of Bucks labourer & of my niece Elizabeth Williamson the Wife of Shadrick Williamson late of in the said County of Bucks Labourer decaasd equally between them share & share alike. And also upon this further trust that they my said Trustees & their heirs In case I ..... of my Body lawfully begotten do & shall from & immediately ..... of my said Wife convey & assure by good and sufficient conveyances & assurances n the Law all & singular the said messuages lands heriditiments & premises by my ..... before .....vised to my said Wife for life unto & to the use of my Nephews James Williamson .....on of my said Niece Elizabeth Williamson his heirs & assigns for ever And also upon .....est that they my said Trustees their Executors or administrators do & shall from & immediately after the decease said Wife in case I shall happen to die without issue of my body lawfully begotten well & sufficiently assign transfer & assure all such of my messuages lands & Tenements by me herein before devised to my said Wife for life as are leasehold & all other

my said personal Estate unto my said Nephew James Williamson his Executors administrators & assigns Also I give & Bequeath unto the said George Howland Edmund Milward & Thomas Green the sum of Fifty Pounds each of lawful money of Great Britain for their care & trouble as Trustees of this my Will And my will is & I do hereby expressly declare that my said Trustees or either of them Heirs or either of their Executors or Administrators shall not be charged or chargeable with or accountable for more of the moneys & Estates than **hear** they shall actually secure or shall come to his or their respective hands by virtue of this my Will So as such loss happen without this willfull default nor the one of them for the other of them or for the acts deeds receipts & faults or disbursements the one of the other And also that it shall & may be Lawfull for them my said Trustees & each & every of them their & each & every of their Executors & administrators in the first place by & out of the premises respectively to deduct & reimburse him & themselves respectively all such loss Costs chas..... expense ..... of them ..... expend . be put unto for or by reason of the performance of this my will on the trusts hereby in them reposed on the management & Execution **these** of respectively or any other thing in anywise relating these unto And lastly I do hereby revoke & make void all former Will & Wills by me at any time heretofore made & do Publish & declare this only to be my last Will & Testament in Witness thereof I the said James Adams have to this my Will contained in six Sheets of paper to the five first Sheets thereof set my hand only & to the sixth & last Sheet these of my hand & Seal the fifteenth day of September in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred & Seventy Four James Adams ..... Signed sealed published & declared by the said James Adams the Testator as ..... his last Will & Testament in the presence of us who have hereunto subscribed our names as Witnesses thereto at the request & in the presence of the said Testator & also in the presence of each other  
Thomas Prentice    John Hawkins    ..... Burnham

Proved at death ..... & Dec 1775