

*The Last Will and Testament of  
John Aldridge  
of Bratton  
Will proved 1713*



Probate Court of London  
Original reference

<b>Testator:</b>	Aldridge	John	Gent of Bratton
<b>Executors:</b>			
Aldridge	Mrs		

Beneficiaries		Relationship to testator	Other Information
Surname	Given Names		
?	Charity	Granddaughter	Daughter of Deborah
?	Mary	Granddaughter	daughter of Sarah
Axford	Deborah	Daughter	
Axford	Elizabeth	Daughter	
Axford	Grace	Daughter	
Axford	Isaac	Friend	of Earl Stoke
Axford	Mary	Daughter	
Axford	Sarah	Daughter	
Axford	William	Friend	son of Isaac
Ballard	John	Grandson	
Ballard	John Aldridge	Grandson	
Ballard	Jonathan	Grandson	
Clark	Elizabeth	Granddaughter	
Clark	John	Grandson	
Edgell	James		of Warminster
<b>Witnesses</b>			
Whitaker	Mary		
Whitaker	John		
Merritt	John		
<b>Other Names</b>			

I John Aldridge of Bratton in the County of Wilts Gentl. Do revoke all former Wills by me made and declare my last Will and Testament to be as follows [that is to say] Impris I give and devise to my trusty friends Isaac Axford of Earl Stoke in the said County Wilts William Axford son of the said Isaac and James Edgell of Warminster in the said County Wilts and their heirs for ever all my messuages lands and hereditaments whatsoever in the parish of Upton Scudamore and in West Ashton in the said County or in either of them and the .....and.....thereof to the use of them the said Isaac Axford William Axford and James Edgell and their heirs during the life of my daughter Sarah on trust that they do receive and apply the rents and profits of the premises to and for the sole and separate maintenance and use of the said Sarah and not to or for the use or benefit of her husband nor to be subject to charged or affected with his receipt incumbrance

release disposition demand or power and from and after the death of the said Sarah to the use of all and every son and sons of the body of the said Sarah successively according to their seniority and of the devises of their respective bodies the elder of the same sons and the devises of his body to take and be preferred before the younger and the devises of his body and for default of such issue to the use of the daughters of the body of the said Sarah and of the heirs of their bodies by equal shares and portions as tenants in common and for default of devises of the body of any one or more of the same daughters to the use of the others and other of the same daughters and of the heirs of her and their bodies and for default of such issue to the use of my daughter Elizabeth and of the son sons daughter and daughters of her body as is before limited to the said Sarah and to the son sons daughter and daughters of her body and for default of such issue to the use of my daughter Deborah and of the son sons daughter and daughters of her body as is before limited to the said Sarah and to the son sons daughter and daughters of her body and for default of such issue to the use of my own right devises for ever provided nevertheless and that my will is that by and out of the rents issues and profits of the premises the person and persons to whom the premises shall from time to time belong do during the life of my daughter Mary receive and apply yearly the sum of twenty pounds of lawful money of Great Britain on the five and twentieth day of March and the nine and twentieth day of September by equal portions to and for the sole and separate maintenance and use of my daughter Mary and to or for the use and benefit of her husband nor to be subject to charges or affected with his receipt incumbrance release disposition demand or power and do also during the life of my daughter Elizabeth receive and apply yearly the sum of ten pounds of like money on the five and twentieth day of March and the nine and twentieth day of September by equal portions to and for the sole and separate maintenance and use of my daughter Elizabeth and not to or for the use or benefit of her husband nor to be subject to charged or affected with his receipt incumbrance release disposition demand or power The said yearly sums of twenty pounds and ten pounds to be free clear and exonerated of and from all taxes charges and impositions whatsoever by Authority of Parliament or otherwise it shall be lawful for them the said Mary and Elizabeth respectively their respective Executors Administrators and Assigns to levy from time to time by distress on the premises all arrears of the said Isaac Axford William Axford and James Edgell and their heirs all my messuages lands and hereditaments in Bratton aforesaid whereof I am seized or .....to of any estate of inheritance in possession .....remainder or .....to those uses [that is to say] to the use of my grandson John Aldridge Ballard during his life with power to make and estate to his wife for her life for a .....thereof and from and after the determination of that estate to the use of the said Isaac Axford William Axford and James Edgell and their heirs during the life of the said John Aldridge Ballard In trust to preserve the contingent uses hereinafter limited and from and after the death of the said John Aldridge Ballard to the use of all and every the son and sons of the body of the said John Aldridge Ballard successively according to their seniority and of the heirs of their respective body and bodies The elder of the same sons and heirs of his body to take and be preferred before the younger and the heirs of his body and for default of such issue To the use of the daughter and daughters of the body of the said John Aldridge Ballard and of the heirs of their bodies and for default of such issue to the use of Elizabeth the daughter of the said Sarah and of the son sons daughter and daughters of her body in like manner as is before limited to the said John Aldridge Ballard and to the son sons daughter and daughters of his body and for default of such issue To the use of Mary the daughter of the said Sarah and to the son sons daughter and daughters of the same Mary in like manner as is before limited to the said John Aldridge Ballard and to the son sons daughter and daughters and for default of such issue To the use of my grandson Jonathan Ballard and of the son sons daughter and daughters of his body in like manner as is before limited to the said John Aldridge Ballard and to the son sons daughter and daughters of his body and for default of such issue to the use of my grandson John Ballard and of the son sons daughter and daughters of his body in like manner as is before limited to the said John Aldridge Ballard and to the son sons daughter and daughters of his body and for default of such issue to the use of my own right devises for ever Item I give to Charity the natural or reputed daughter of the said Deborah the yearly sum of twenty pounds of lawful money of Great Britain payable during the life of the said Charity out of my personal estate on the ninth and twentieth day of September and the fifth and twentieth day of March in equal portions and in case the said Charity do marry the consent of the said Isaac Axford William Axford and James Edgall or the survivors or survivor of them testified by writing executed signed in the presence of two or more credible witnesses then the said yearly sum of twenty pounds given to the said Charity shall cease and I give to the said Charity in lieu thereof four hundred pounds of lawful money of Great Britain payable immediately after such marriage and not before Item I give to the children of the said Deborah three hundred pounds of like money payable to them respectively at their respective ages of one and twenty years or dates of marriage which first happens with interest after the date of five pounds per .....and if either of the same children die under the age of one and twenty years and unmarried then the share and interest of the said three hundred pounds of the child or children so dying shall as and be to the use of the survivors of the same children by equal portions if ....of them so survive but if no more than one of them so survive then to such sole survivor Item I give to them the said Isaac Axford William Axford and James Edgall their heirs and admir.s the sum of one hundred pounds upon trust that such interest thereof as shall be actually raised during the life of the said Deborah shall be applied yearly for the sole and separate maintenance and use of the said Deborah and to or for the use or benefit of her husband nor as he shall direct and after the death of the said Deborah the same one hundred pounds shall go and be to the use of her children in like manner as the said three hundred pounds is before limited to go but my intent is not the said Charity have any share or interest in the same three hundred pounds or one hundred pounds Item I give to my daughter Grace the sum of two

hundred pounds and to her daughter the sum of one hundred pounds and in case the granddaughter of the said Grace be living at the end of ten years next ensuing then I give to the same granddaughter the sum of one hundred pounds Item I give to them the said Isaac Axford William Axford and James Edgell their executors and administrators the sum of four hundred pounds upon trust that such interest thereof as shall be actually be raised during the life of my daughter Mary shall be applied yearly to and for the sole and separate maintenance and use of my daughter Mary and not to or for the use of or subject to any incumbrance act demand or power of her husband and after her death the same last mentioned four hundred pounds shall go and be to the use of and in trust for such person and persons and in such manner as my daughter Mary by an will in writing or other writing whatsoever executed or signed in the presence of two or more credible witnesses shall direct and for want of such direction to the use of my Executors and Administrators Item I give to each of the daughters of my daughter Sarah the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds payable at their respective ages of one and twenty years or dates of marriage which first happens and if either of them die unmarried and under the age of one and twenty years then the one hundred and fifty pounds given to her so dying shall go and be to and for the use of the survivor of them and if all of then die unmarried and under the age of one and twenty years then the said several one hundred and fifty pounds shall go and be to and to the sole use of my grandson John Clark Item I give to my granddaughter Elizabeth Clark the sum of three hundred pounds payable at her age of one and twenty years or day of marriage which first happens and if she die before it become payable then the same three hundred pounds shall go and be to and to the use of her Mother Item My will is that after the determination of the estate of my wife for her widowhood in my copyhold tenement and during the life of my daughter Mary they the said Isaac Axford William Axford and James Edgell their Exec. and Adms. shall receive and apply the rents and profits of the said copyhold tenement to and for the sole and separate maintenance and use of my daughter Mary and not to or for the use or benefit of her husband nor subject to or affected with his receipt incumbrance act disposition demand or power Item I give my silver tankard and household goods to my daughters in trust for my wife during her life and after her death to the use of my daughters but my wife shall have power in her life or by her will to dispose of the same tankard and household goods to whom and as she pleaseth Item My will is that the said Isaac Axford William Axford and James Edgell their executors and administrators and every of them do from time to time at their discretion after change or renew of any of the securities belonging to my personal estate or receive any money thereon due and do anything for the benefit of the trust in them hereby .....and shall not in law or equity be answerable for any desperate or irrecoverable debt loss or diminution of my personal estate nor for more than shall actually come to their respective hands and shall out of the trust estate attain and satisfy all their costs charges and damages relating to their said trust or the execution thereof or any suits in law or equity about it and to ....of my said trustees who shall act in the said trust I give five pounds from all the residue of my goods chattels and personal estate I give to my beloved wife and constitute my wife sole executrix hereof witness my hand and seal the twenty ninth day of January in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Twelve The mark of John Aldridge sealed and signed by the Testator John Aldridge in our presence and by him also in our presence declared to be his last Will and Testament and attested and subscribed in the presence of the said John Aldridge by us Mary Whitaker John Whitaker John Merritt [no signatures]

Probatum [ text is in Latin – proved in London – 1713]