

Transcript of William Chapman Will, Calcutta 1748

Extract from early Bengal wills index records on lds 2046652

Chapman, Sarah, of Calcutta, spinster: Brother:
John. Nephew: Charles. Niece: Sarah. 24 May
1760. 16 Sept. 1760. B.W. 154. 50. 167.

* Chapman, William, of Calcutta, mariner. Wife:
Mary. Brother: Michael. 14 Sept. 1748. 7 Oct.
1748. B.W. 157. 47. "

Chappell, William, of Calcutta, gentleman. Mark
Anthony Bromelen. 20 Sept. 1716. 13 Dec. 1716.

The commentary below relates to lds506794 Bengal Wills rg 154 v47-52 1747-1766

First section of film - Proceedings of the Mayor's Court of Calcutta December 1747 – December 1748, being the minutes of meetings followed by copies of wills for which the court granted probate. The Will of William Chapman is on page 11 and the top of page 12.

William Chapman, Mariner, married Mary Hampton (Samuel Hampton's much older half sister) in Calcutta on 14 September 1740. Mary was 19 and Samuel, a child of father Charles Hampton's second marriage, was then just short of 5 years' old.

Mary Chapman died on 23 January 1784 aged 63, and was buried in South Park Street Cemetery, Calcutta, with her adopted daughter Eleanor Watson who had died earlier. *"Here also lyeth the body of Mrs. Mary Chapman, who departed this life on the 23d of January, in the year of our Lord 1784, aged 63 years, Universally lamented by all that knew her, being a pattern of Virtue, Piety, Charity and Friendship. No empty form of words are here expressed, But simple truth as it's by nature dressed"*.

Mary Chapman left a lengthy 1784 will which we also have a copy of.

Adrian Fletcher – Sydney, August 2011

WILLIAM CHAPMAN'S WILL, 1748
(Transcription August 2011)

In the name of God Amen. I William Chapman of Calcutta in the Kingdom of Bengall (sic), Mariner being weak in body but of sound mind memory and understanding, do make and ordain this my last will and testament.

I recommend my soul to God and my body to be interred at the direction of my executor hereafter named. In the next place I will that all my just debts and funeral charges be paid and discharged and as to such worldly effects it has pleased God to bless me with I dispose thereof as follows.

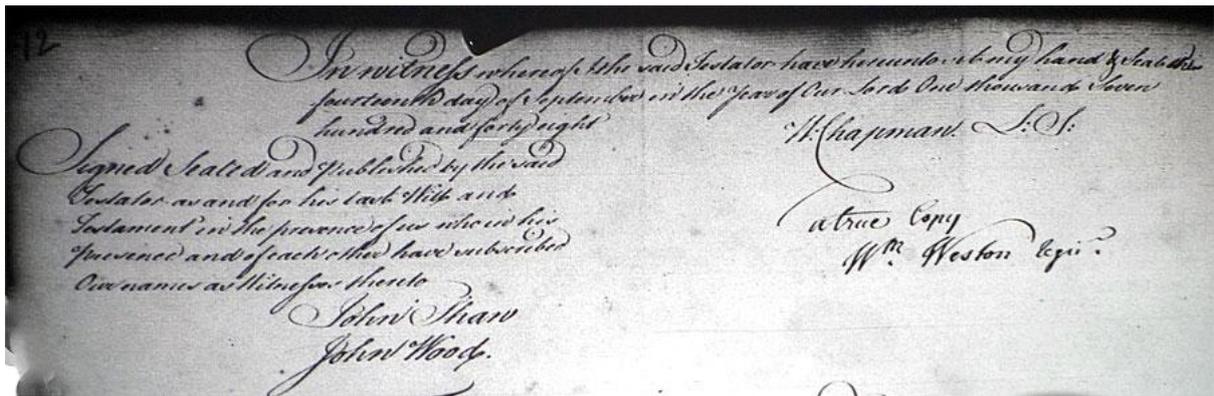
I give and bequeath unto my dear and beloved wife Mary Chapman the household furniture as follows to wit two elbow chairs six common chairs and one table all of blackwood together with her bedchamber furniture and all her jewells (sic) and toys and also my slaves.

Also I will and direct that all my estate and effects whatever not herein mentioned before and disposed of be sold at publick outcry and all my credits collected and gathered as soon as conveniently may be after my decease.

Also I give and bequeath unto Edward Evans of Calcutta Musician the sum of one hundred and twenty Arcot Rupees to buy him mourning and a ring to wear in remembrance of me.

Also I will and direct that all the rents and dividend of my estate be put out at interest in the Hon^{bl} the United East India Company's bank at Calcutta aforesaid if the Honourable the President and Council will receive the same but on their refusal to accept thereof to be placed out on such good security as my Trustees or the survivors shall think necessary and the one half of the interest or produce shall be paid unto my said wife for and during the term of her natural life who's receipts from time to time shall be a sufficient discharge not withstanding her future coverture and the other half of the interest or produce shall be annually remitted by bill or bills of exchange to be drawn by the said President and Council unto my well beloved brother Michael Chapman of Leadenhall Street, London for and during the term of his natural life and in case of the death of my said wife and brother or either of them I will and direct that the whole of the principal so set apart for him or her so dying shall as soon as conveniently may after such death or deaths be paid to and amongst such children of my said brother as shall be then living share and share alike if more than one and if but one then the whole to be paid to such children so surviving.

And I do hereby nominate constitute and appoint Captain Jonathon Ransom and Bartholomew Plaisted* both of Calcutta aforesaid trustees and executors of this my will hereby revoking disannulling and making void all other former wills by me at any time heretofore made in words or writing.



Signatures, witnesses etc

14th day of September 1748

* *Bartholomew Plaisted was the Surveyor who got unseated by the Council in June 1748 and replaced by Charles Hampton Snr for a time.*

See next page for the original William Chapman will copy

1) In the name of God Amen William Chapman of Calcutta in the Kingdom
of Bengall, Mariner being weak in Body but of sound Mind Memory & Understanding
do make and Ordain this my last Will and Testament.

(2) My mind may be (to God and my body) to be interred at the discretion of my lawful
heir after my death in the most place I will that my just Debts and Burials
be paid or paid and discharged and as to such worldly Effects it have pleased
God to bless me with to dispose thereof as follows.

I give and bequeath unto my dear and beloved Wife, Mary Chapman the Sum of
£1000 as follows to wit. Two Silver Chairs one common Chair and one of
all of Blackwood together with her Bed Chamber furniture and all her Jewels
and Toys as also my Slaves.

And I will and direct that all my Estate and Effects whatsoever not herein
mentioned before and disposed of, be sold at public Auction and all my Debts
collected and gathered up as far as conveniently may be after my decease.

And I give and bequeath unto Edward Evans of Calcutta Merchant the Sum of One
hundred and twenty five Rupees to buy him Mourning and a Ring being
in remembrance of me.

And I will and direct that all the Stocks and Dividends of my Estate to be put out to
Interest in the East India Company Bank at Calcutta as soon
if the Honorable the Board and Council will receive the same but in their
refusal to accept thereof to be put out on such good Security as may be made
the Survivors shall think necessary and the one half of the Interest or profit
shall be paid unto my said Wife for and during the term of her natural life
whose Receipts for the same shall be an efficient discharge notwithstanding
my future coverture and the other half of the Interest or produce thereof
shall be annually remitted by Bill or Bills of Exchange to be drawn by the said
President and Council unto my well beloved Brother Michael Chapman
Esquire Master Coach London for and during the term of his natural life
in case of the Death of my said Wife and Brother or either of them I will and direct
that the whole of the principal so set apart for him or her or any of my
soon as conveniently may after such Death or Deaths be paid to and among
Children of my said Brother and shall be divided equally and share and
share alike and if but one then the whole to be paid to such Child or Children
And I do hereby nominate constitute and appoint Captain Jonathan
and Bartholomew Clavick both of Calcutta as Executors of my will and be
thine my Wife to wit (writing) directing and making such alterations
therein by me or any of us as before made in words or writing.