
William Shakespear

Will dated 1806

UK National Archives

1 In the Name of God Amen I

2 **William Shakespeare** of *Newington Bagpath* in the County of Gloucester[,] considering
3 the uncertainty of my life and commending my soul into the hands of Almighty God and
4 ordering my body to be buried in such devout manner as to my Executor hereinafter
5 named shall [---] [---] do make my will in manner following [:] [Imprimis?] [=Firstly?] I order all my
6 just debt to be paid and for the remainder of my estate after my debts & funeral
7 paid and defrayed[,] I give and bequeath to the Revd. **Lewis Clutterbuck**¹ of *Newark*
8 *Park* in the County of Gloster² the friend of my late cousin **George Miller** Esqr[,] and who
9 in consideration thereof has fairly offered to undertake the execution of this my will in
10 trust[,] to allow my wife **Mary Shakespeare** the interest arising from the sum of six hundred
11 and sixty pounds which is due to me on bond from the said **Lewis Clutterbuck**[,] for and during
12 her natural life or as much of the same as she shall continue to be my widow and not
13 otherwise for the support of herself and the care and better maintenance [of] my four³ children
14 hereinafter mentioned[,] And also to allow my said wife to have use and enjoy the house garden
15 and premises at *Newington Bagpath* which we now occupy and all the furniture linen and
16 household ware therein contained for her natural life or [-----] such of it as she
17 shall continue my widow[,] And from and after her decease or marriage I give the said house
18 and all the furniture linen and household ware to my only son **William**[,] the furniture linen
19 and household ware at his own disposal[,] but the house at his decease to go to his eldest
20 son[,] And if he should have no son to his eldest daughter[,] my will and meaning being that
21 as this is the house in which our family have long dwelt that he shall not mortgage
22 or alienate the same but that it shall remain in the family[.]⁴ I give to my eldest
23 daughter **Sarah** my lifehold[?] house and premises situated at *Tetbury* in the County of
24 Gloster and hold under the foefees of the said [---][,] I also give to my said daughter

¹ In the parish of Ozleworth but not, it appears, the Rector of it. That office seems to have been in the Mayo family.

² sic

³ There are five total, but Sarah had married in 1807.

⁴ The son is the "William the Younger" of George 2's Will. The son died quite early, so what happened to the house is as yet unknown.

25 **Sarah** the sum of one hundred pounds to be paid to her upon the death or
26 marriage of my said mother⁵[.] I give to my second daughter **Mary** the freehold house and
27 garden at *Newington Bagpath* now in the occupation of **John Saintsbury**[.] I also give
28 to my said daughter **Mary** the sum of one hundred pounds to be paid to her upon the
29 death or marriage of her said mother[.] I give to my daughter **Betty** the freehold house
30 at *Newington Bagpath* in the occupation of William So[--][.] I also give my daughter
31 **Betty** the sum of one hundred pounds to be paid to her upon the death or marriage
32 of her mother[.] I give to my youngest daughter **Catherine** the freehold house and
33 garden situated at *Newington Bagpath* in the occupation of **Nathaniel Evans**[.] I
34 also give to my said daughter **Catherine** the sum of one hundred pounds to be
35 paid to her upon the death or marriage of her mother[.] All these legacies to my
36 said children I give in trust to the **Revd Lewis Clutterbuck** who I hereby
37 appoint Trustee as well as sole Executor of this my Will[.] And I hereby further
38 direct that if either⁶ of my said children shall die before they attain the age of
39 twenty one years without leaving issue of his or her body or bodies lawfully
40 begotten[.] the house and money hereby given to them and the accumulation of the same
41 by rent[?] or interest shall form part of my residuary estate hereafter divided[.]
42 And with respect to all the rest and residue of my property wheresoever and what
43 soever as well original as accrued I hereby direct that upon my youngest child's
44 coming of the age of twenty one years the whole shall be equally divided amongst
45 all my surviving children[.] and if either of my said children shall have married and
46 died leaving lawful issue before the brother my youngest child shall have attained
47 his age of twenty one years then[.] and in that case[.] my will is that such issue shall
48 have that share of my residuary estate which their mother would have had if
49 she had outlived the period of her brothers coming of the age of twenty one years[.]
50 To this my last Will and Testament contained in one sheet of paper I have this day
51 set my hand and seal /—/**Wm Shakespear** [---] Signed sealed and published to be the last

⁵ Which is what the Will says, meaning *her* mother presumably. See the corresponding phrase for the next daughter.

⁶ sic

52 Will and Testament of William Shakespeare in the presence of us this thirteenth day of
53 July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and six⁷ /—/ **John Jones Clerk**
54 **Wm. Holborow /—/ John Holborow /—/**
55 **This** is a codicil to my Will above signed and made by me the said Wm Shakespeare
56 **END OF PAGE 1**

⁷ 13th July 1806

1 **PAGE 2**

2 confirming the above will I hereby give to my son **William** the sum of one hundred and
3 fifty pounds to be paid to him upon the death or marriage of his mother in the same
4 manner as his sisters legacies are bequeathed /—/ Wm Shakespear ([--]) signed sealed and published
5 by the above named William Shakespeare as a codicil to his will above executed this
6 thirteenth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and six in the
7 presence of us /—/ **John Jones Clerk** / —/ **Wm Holborow** /—/ **John Holborow**

8

9

Newington Bagpath 29th September 1810

10 This a codicil to the last will and testament of me William Shakespeare of the
11 parish above named[,] mason[,] [Imp---is] I hereby give and bequeath to my daughter **Sarah**
12 **Holborow** all that freehold dwelling house situate in *Newington Bagpath* which came
13 to me by inheritance upon the death of my late brother **John Shakespear** and out of the
14 regard I have for her to heirs executors administrators and assigns for ever[.] I also hereby
15 give to my daughter **Betty**⁸ all that freehold messuage situated at *Bagpath* aforesaid [in]
16 the occupation of **Edmund Daniels**⁹ and which came to me by gift of the late **George Miller**
17 Esqr of *Ozleworth* in the county of Gloster and out of the regard I have for her to
18 her heirs executors administrators and assigns for ever[.] I hereby also give to my youngest daughter
19 **Catherine** my two dwelling houses situated in *Bagpath* aforesaid occupied by **William Scott**
20 and **Nathaniel Crow** which also came to me by gift of **George Miller** Esqr of *Ozleworth* and out of
21 the regard I have for her to her to her heirs executors administrators and assigns for ever[.]
22 I hereby furthermore ratify and confirm all other bequests acts and deeds in my Will aforesaid
23 these bequests only excepted[.] Signed sealed and delivered by the said William Shakespeare as a
24 codicil to his last Will and Testament the day and date first mentioned in the presence of us
25 **Wm Shakespear**/—/ **William Miller**¹⁰ /—/ **Lewis Clutterbuck** /—/ The Clerk of John Hedges Junior

26

⁸ Who perhaps married John Holborow; a man of that name is a witness to the Will. (Ozleworth registers, 1812)

⁹ A nephew; eldest son of Mary Shakespear (sister of the testator) and William Daniels.

¹⁰ The only Wm. Miller still alive in 1810 so must be Melicent's William, although this would be well before Melicent's time.

27 On the **6th March 1829** admon with the will and 2 codicils annexed of the goods chattels of
28 William Shakespear late of Newington Bagpath in the country of Gloucester deceased was
29 granted to **Sarah Holborow** (wife of **Daniel Holborow**) the *daur e¹¹* out of the residuary
30 leagees named in the said Will having been first sworn by caution duly to [-----] The **Revd**
31 **Lewis Clutterbuck** [---] the sole [Executor] and residuary legatee In trust named in the said Will having
32 died without having taken upon him the probate or execution of the said Will at least in the
33 Prorogative Court of Canterbury¹² /—/

¹¹ sic

¹² William Shakespear must have died between 1810 and 1827. His son William's estate had probate granted September 1827 and his father's demise must predate that year.

