

The will of Charles Meachen aka Machin farmer of Yaxham

Dated 9th August 1803

Executor: The sole executor dying in the lifetime of the testator abitration with the will amend was granted to Charles Machin of Yaxham Norfolk one of the residuary legatees.

First I give to Martha Starke my housekeeper my best bed and bedstead now standing in the Parlour Chamber with the furniture to the same belonging, a chest of drawers and half a dozen chairs such as she shall think prefer to make choice of and all my silver spoons to be taken by her immediately after my decease and all my money, farming stock and residue and remainder of my goods, chattels, effects and personal estate whatsoever after and subject to the payment of my funeral expenses, just debts and probate of this my last will, I give and bequeath unto Henry Machin of Yaxham victualler, his executors administrators upon trust that he the said Henry Machin his executors or administrators do and shall as soon as conveniently may be after my decease sell and convert into money all my farming stock, goods and chattels not hereintofore by me disposed of land all such part of my personal estate subject to all reasonable charges and expenses attending such sale. I will, order and direct all be paid to and equally divided between my son Charles Machin, my illegitimate children Elizabeth Nevill whom I had by Frances Nevill now the wife of William Edwards, Robert, Mary and Sarah Starke whom I had by the said Martha Starke share and share alike within one month next after such sale or sales and in case any of them my said illegitimate children shall be under the age of twenty one years when their respective parts or shares shall become due and payable as aforesaid then my will is that the part share of him, her or theirs so under age shall be placed and managed at interest by the said Henry Machin until they shall respectively attain that age and the interest paid and applied in the meantime for his or her and their respective maintenance and benefit and when and so soon as they shall attain that age I give and direct his, her and their respective parts or shares to be paid to him, her or them but in case any of them my said illegitimate children shall die before their part or share of the said residium shall become due and payable I give the part or share parts or shares of him, her or them so dying unto and to be equally divided among the survivors of them and my said son Charles Machin if he shall be then living. And my Will is that the said Martha Starke shall have her living in my Dwelling House and the use of my furniture until such sale shall be made without paying rent or making satisfaction for the same.

Lastly I appoint the said Henry Machin sole executor of this my Will and give him five guineas for his trouble and declare my will and meaning to be that the said Henry Machin his executors or administrators shall not be responsible for any loss which shall by misfortune and not wilfully happen in the putting or managing at interest the said trust money or any part thereof and that he shall and may retain in his hands any out of the same all reasonable cost charges and expenses as he or they shall bear or expend or to be put unto in about or anyways relating to the trust aforesaid.

In witness whereof I the said Charles Machin the testator have to the first sheet of this my last Will and Testament which is contained on two sheets of paper set my hand and to this last sheet set and put my hand and seal this Ninth day of April in the year of Our Lord One thousand eight hundred and three.

The Mark of Charles Machin Seal

Signed Sealed published and declared by the said Charles Machin the testator as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us and in the presence of each other and have subscribed our names as witnesses thereto Jno Hammerton Charles Machin

On the 9th day of August 1803 with the will as amended was then duly granted to Charles Machin one of the residuary legatees of this will by the authority of the Worshipful the Commissary, the executor dying in the lifetime of the testator