

Will: James Eustace

About the year 1730 (possibly earlier) James Eustace was married to Catherine Mathews, daughter of Peter Mathews and his wife Bridget of New York. Eustace was a mariner from the port of Bristol in England, and he was part owner of the ship Antelope (Antilope), along with other Bristol merchants and shippers. The story of how James Eustace and Catherine Mathews met would likely be interesting. James Eustace may have taken up residence in New York for a time, but his Will is written (Nov 1730?) in, and probated (February 1732) in England. It is not clear whether Catherine Mathews went to reside in England with her husband. The Eustace - Mathews marriage was brief, but it may have resulted in a child, Peter Eustace, who was born and died in Bristol England in 1730. See further details under [Catherine Mathews](#) in this database. Thanks to my mother, Aubin Clarkson Hutchison, for her help in transcribing this Will. Pam Garrett, 2015.

Will of James Eustace, Mariner of Bristol, Gloucestershire; 17 February 1732; PROB 11/649/317; written – (?) 20 November 1730

[paragraphs added for easier reading]

Jacobi Eustace – In the Name of God Amen. I James Eustace of the City of Bristol Marrinor being in perfect health and of sound and disposing memory and understanding blessed be God do make this my last Will and Testament in manner following (that is to say)

first I commit my soul to God that gave it hoping for remission of my Sin through the merits of my Blessed Saviour Jesus Christ and my body I commit to the Earth to be _____ [decently entered] at the direction of my executors hereinafter named and as for my worldly estate I dispose thereof thus

Imprimis I give Mr John Norman of the City of Bristol a Gold Ring likewise to Mr John Gorham [Forham] of the said City a Gold Ring both of them One Guinea price

Item: I give, wish and bequeath unto my dear and loving wife Catherine Eustace, her heirs, executors and administrators one Moiety or half part of my real and personal estate except one Silver Tankard, one large salvor, and one Set of Silver Castors, which with the other Moiety or half part of all my Real and Personal Estate, I give, wish and bequeath unto such child or children as my said wife Catherine is now pregnant and now going with child, with equally between them if more than one; and if but one, to that one. But if said child or children shall happen to die before his, her or their age of one and twenty or Marriage, then my will is that my said wife Catherine shall have All my Real and Personal Estate, except 100 pounds sterling to be equally divided between my loving cousins, Noah, George and Sarah Wharton, and do too hereby give my wife and bequeath the same accordingly to her and them, her and their heirs, executor and administrators.

And my will is and I do hereby order and ____ that my said wife shall receive the Interest and profit of my said Real and Personal Estate, given to such child or children as aforesaid if boy or boys till he or they shall be placed forth apprentice, and that the said interest and profit to be paid him or them for his or their use; but if a Girl or girls till she or they be 18 years of age or day of Marriage which shall first happen.

And finally I do hereby nominate and appoint my said wife Katherine Sole executrix and the said John Norman and John Gorham and Mr William Sharpas and John Chambers of New York trustees with my said wife of this my Will and I do hereby revoke and make void all former and other Wills by me made declaring this to be my last

In witness wherof I have to this my Will contained in this one sheet of paper Set my hand and Seal this twentyoth (sic) day of November one thousand Seven hundred and thirty

Jas Eustace

[Eustace] Signed Sealed published and ___ by the said James Eustace in the presence of us who have subscribed our names ___ as Witnesses in his __ and Sight John Sowls Mary Lewis Anne Lewis [John Davis, Mary Davis, Anne Davis]

Note: Probarum seems to be a latin verification of credentials of the lawyer (or court clerk) who wrote the will (or possibly copied the will) to the court record. Plus a summary of terms of the will as it mentions the name Catherine Eustace. Words also included are: February, Johanne Bossworth, Joacim Eustace, Robirte(?), Majesty, and Commission(er).

Who is in the Will of James Eustace?

Katherine Eustace, wife - See more on [Catherine Mathews](#) in this database.

John Norman - John Norman was a business partner to James Eustace. He may also have been a relative, but no relationship is given in James Eustace's Will. Several business related records appear for John Norman, merchant of Bristol at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre. They are among a collection noted as The Calley Papers - Webb Family of Horfield and Westbury on Trym in Gloucestershire and Long Ashton in Somerset. Further research might provide more clues to his identity. These records do indicate that John Norman served as gamekeeper for the manor of Backwell in Somerset (1709), and Lt in a Bristol trainband regiment (1713). In 1727 he served as Warden of the Society of Merchant Venturers of the City of Bristol, and was named as an executor in the 1730 Will of Thomas Freke, merchant of Bristol. John Norman's own Will is available through the National Archives at Kew - Will of John Norman, Merchant of Bristol, Gloucestershire; 30 Aug 1733; Prob 11/660/470.

John Gorham - nothing further known

Noah, George and Sarah Wharton, cousins - Little is known about James Eustace's Wharton cousins. Noah Wharton may be same man who is married to Frances, and has three children christened - Eliza Wharton, 1722 in Newport Pagnell, Buckingham county; George Wharton, 1724 in St Botolph Bishopsgate, London; Noah Wharton, 1727 in Newport Pagnell, Buckingham.

William Sharpas, of New York - See more on [William Sharpas](#) in this database.

John Chambers, of New York - See more on [John Chambers](#) in this database.

John Sowls, Mary Lewis, Anne Lewis, witnesses - nothing further known
alternatively these names are read as John Davis, Mary Davis, Anne Davis.

Further pieces to James Eustace's story:

James Eustace was a mariner from the port of Bristol in England, and he was part owner of the ship Antelope (Antilope), along with other Bristol merchants and shippers - Thomas Freke, Joseph Swaine, Richard Tyler, and John Norman. According to records the Antelope was built in Shoreham, Sussex, and registered in London in 1724. In two conflicting reports, its size is given as 100 tons, or 254 British measured tons. Through the 1720's and 30's the ship participated in the "triangular trade" of goods and slaves, and appears in port records of New York and Barbados.

More about two of James Eustace's business partners (not mentioned in his Will) -

Thomas Freke - A prominent Bristol merchant, involved in the "triangular trade" of goods and slaves. He was a partner with James Eustace in the ship Antelope.

Copy of the will of Thomas Freke of Bristol, merchant, made 11th August 1730; AC/JS/40/2, Bristol Record Office.

James Hasell - A Bristol England native, was the agent for the sale of the slaves at Barbados.

Do you want to know more?

[Link to James Eustace in database](#)

[Link to Catherine Mathews in database](#)