

Will: William Fletcher, Gentleman of Mitcham, Surrey, England, 1654

Below is my best effort at transcribing the Will of William Fletcher of Mitcham, Surrey, England; written 5 December 1653, and recorded 14 January 1654. I acquired a digital copy from the National Archives at Kew in August 2015: PROB 11/240/60. The underlined portions represent text I am unable to interpret, or text where I question my interpretation. Hopefully, the reader can get a general idea of the intention of the Will. Links to further information are found below, following the closing of the Will. Pam Garrett

Will of William Fletcher, Gentleman of Mitcham, Surrey; 14 January 1654; PROB 11/240/60

In the name of God Amen - The fifth Day of December in the year of our Lord God according to the Account used in England one thousand six hundred fifty and three I William Flesher of Mitcham in the County of Surrey gentleman being sick and weake in body but of perfect mind and Memory praised be God therefore ___ the frailty and ___ of this ___ life do therefore make and ordaine this my ___ Testament containing therein my last Will in manner and form following that is to say First and principally I commend my Soule into the hands of Almighty God my maker and ___ and Jesus Christ his only and ___ Sonne my beloved Saviour and Redeemer by whose ___ and passion I ___ to ordaine full and free pardon and forgiveness of my Sinne and and life everlasting my Body I Comitt to the Earth to be buried in the parish church of Mitcham aforesaid in ___ decent and ___ manner as to my Executrix hereafter named shall ___ And I will that all ___ as I shall ___ owe truly owe and be ___ unto any person or persons at the time of my death shall be well and truly paid by my Executrix hereunder named within ___ time after my death And as ___ that worldly ___ and ___ all and personall which it hath pleased Almighty God of his mercy and goodness to bestowe upon me my Debts by me owing out of my personal Effects first paid ordered I do give ___ and ___ as followeth and ___ I do give _____ the kind as followeth that to say I give and ___ unto my dear and loving Wife Margaret Fletcher All those my _____ or ___ Millis Lands and _____ their ___ lying and being in the parish of Horton in the County of Burks and now or late in the ___ of Edmond Phises who I purchased unto ___ and my ___ of and from Thomas Bullstrode Esq to have and to hold ___ same and ___ of ___ the _____ unto the said Margaret Fletcher and her assignes for the ___ of her natural life and the _____ of the said _____ Mills Lands and _____ after the death of my said wife I give devise and bequeath unto my son William Fletcher to hold the same unto him and his Assigns for ___ of his natural life And the remainder of the said _____ Mills Lands and ___ with their _____ lying and being in the said parish of Morton after the Death of my said wife and sonne I give devise and bequeath unto my ___ and ___ Grandchild William Fletcher and to the heirs of his Body lawfully begotten And for default of _____ I give devise and bequeath the remainder of the ___ unto the ___ sonne of my said sonne William Fletcher that shall be living at the time of my said Grandchild William Fletchers death and to the heirs Male of the Body of ___ sonne of my sayd Sonne William that shall survive my grandchild William Fletcher And for default of ___ to the right heirs of my said Sonne William Fletcher All those my Lands Meadows pastures and _____ lying and being in Shotlan in the Said County of

Surroy which I purshased to ___ and my __ of and from Alexander ___ of Whitham aforesaid ___ And ___ all my Lands Meadows pastures ___ and _____ lying and being in the parish of Witham in the County of Essex which I purchased _____ Thomas Shawe Martha Shaw and James Edwards to have and to hold the ssaidd Lands and _____ Shotham aforesaid and ___ parish of Witham _____ said sonne William Fletcher and his assigns for the ___ of his natural life and the residue thereof after the death of sayd sonne I give devise and bequeath unto said grandchild William Fletcher _____ Males of his body to be begotten and the remainder _____ I give unto the oldest sonne of my said sonne William that ___ at the ___ of my sayd Grandchild William Fletcher _____ Male of the body of such oldest sonne of my said sonne William that shall survive my sayd Grandchild William Fletcher and for default of such if ___ to the right heirs of my sayd Sonne William Fletcher forever Item I give and devise unto my Executrix ___ under named and to her heirs and assigns forever all that my _____ regard and _____ now in my own possession situated in Mitcham aforesaid to ___ intent and purpose hereunder ___ and upon the trust hereunder ___ That is to say that my said executrix or her heirs do sell the same within five years ___ after my death and such money as shall be raised by Sale ___ I give unto my said Executrix and to my said Sonne equally And in ___ either of them dye before the said house be be sould the share of the sayd money ___ or herein bequeathed to ___ of them ___ dying shall be payed to _- person or persons as shall be appointed by the last Will and Testement of the party soo dying to ___ the same And in ___ my said Executrix or her heirs do neglect to sell the said house orchard and Appertonants within the said time of five years so that it does remain unsold at the end of the sayd five years then and in five ___ I give devise and bequeath the said message and orchard with the Appurtonaments in Mitcham aforesaid unto my brother Henry Foster and to my ___ respected friends Mr Thomas Suite and Richard Forrand of Mitcham aforesaid Esq and to their heirs and Assigns forever to the only ___ and ___ of the sayd Henry Foster Thomas Suite and Richard Forrand their heirs and Assigns forever upon trust and confident that they the said Henry Foster Thomas Suite and Richard Forrand and their heirs and shall ___ and suffer the churchwardens of the said parish of Mitcham and their ___ forever to _____ and take the rents and profits ___ to be by them yearly distributed on the feast of St Thomas the Apostle or within twenty daiys ___ following among ___ poor housekeepers of the said parish of Mitcham by equal portions which ___ person shall yearly be ___ the said feast Day of St Thomas the Apostle by the greater number of ___ of the said parish ___ at a _____ of which ___ shall ___ and the same ___ together And as ___ my personal effects I will that the same shall be devided according to the ___ of the city of London into ___ and equall parts or Shares and of which third parts I give and bequeath unto my sayd Wife Margaret ffletcher as being and to her by force of the said ___ and other of the said third parts I give unto my said Sonne William ffletcher And ___ of the sayd third parts ___ Testators part I do give and bequeath the same as follows that is to say I do will my funeral charges ___ to be ___ and defrayed Item I do give and bequeath to the poore of the said parish of Mitcham five pounds to be distributed amongst them by my Executrix with the advise of the churchwardens ___ within three months ___ after my death Item I give unto my servant Elizabeth Wilson the sume of ___ pounds of lawfull money of England Item I give unto my Aunt Wilson my Aunte Mor ___ Suitshon and my uncle Thomas Frithboy twenty shillings a ___ to buy _____ mourning Ring Item I give unto the **children of my brother Josias Fletcher**

twenty and five pounds out of the summe of fifty pounds which my said brother owes unto me Item I give unto my kinsman Thomas Mulgrave five pounds of lawfull English money
Item I give unto the sayd Richard Forrand Esq forty shillings to buy him a Ring to be _____
and unto **my sayd brother Henry Foster** the sume of five pounds of lawfull money of England
The rest and residue of the last third part of my personal effects not before herein bequeathed I
give and bequeath unto my said wife and my said sonne William Fletcher to be equally divided
between them part and part alike And I do make ordain and appoint my said loving wife
Margaret Fletcher lawfull and sole Executrix of this my ___ Testament and last Will And I do
nominate and the sayd Richard Forrand and Henry Foster ___ of this my Will ___ them to be
assisting unto my said Wife by their ___ and Cunsoll in ___ of this my Will and I do _____
make voyd and ___ all former and other Wills ___ by mee at any time heretofore made and . . .
hand and seale _____ within written William Fletcher

___ John Alford Sr John Watson Joanna Foster

The said testator do by this _____ goddwill give unto **my said brothers Josias Fletcher and Henry Foster** mourning Apparell to be born in remembrance of me over and above the ___ or _____ of them bequeathed in my Will before written witness my hand the first day of
December 1653 W Fletcher witnesses to this posterior John Alsop Sr John Watsonn Joanna
Foster I the said testator by this ___ postereir I do give unto my cousin John Watson forty
shillings for a Ring unto Suzanne Watson wife of Richard Watson my wifes sonne ___ pounds
and to Richard Watson the younger the sonne of the said Richard and Suzan twenty pounds
Thomas Snoate forty shillings and Walter Cullofor twenty shillings ___ the first Day of
December 1653 [this last statement seems to be repeated]

This will was ___ at Westminster the forteenth Day of January in the year of our Lord one
thousand six hundred fifty three before the Judges . .

Extract out of the Regry of Surr.

Do you want to know more?

[Sketch: Who is William Fletcher of Mitcham, Surrey?](#)

[Database Link to William Fletcher of Mitcham, county Surrey, England](#)