

ANN WHITLOCK OF DOWNTON, WILTS

The following will was sent in by Eddie Gullick as part of a collection of wills relating to Pitton, Wiltshire that he put together:

I Ann Whitlock of Downton in the County of Wilts Spinster being weak in Body but of sound Mind, Memory and Understanding And considering the certainty of Death and the uncertainty of the time thereof And to the End I may be better prepared to leave this World whenever it shall please God to call me hence Do therefore make this my last Will and Testament in manner following First I give and bequeath unto my Niece Diana Whitlock Daughter of my Brother Alexander Whitlock late of Farley in the said County of Wilts deceased the Sum of Ten Pounds ALSO after the said Sum of Ten pounds and my Debts and Funeral Expenses are justly and truly satisfied and paid I give and bequeath unto my Nephew William Fiander of Winterslow in the said County of Wilts Wheelwright One third of the remaining part of such Estate and Effects as I shall dye possessed of be it of what nature or kind so ever ALSO I give unto my Sister Mary Batten now wife of Gabriel Batten of Farley aforesaid Labourer one other third part of the remaining Estate and Effects to her sole and separate use exclusive of her said now Husband and of every after Husband And that he and they shall not have any thing to do there with And that it shall and may be lawful for her to give and dispose of the same by her last Will and Testament to any Person or Persons or in any manner she shall think fit not withstanding her Coverture And as if she shall be Sole and not Covert ALSO I give unto my sister Sarah Ransom of Farley aforesaid Widow the other remaining third part of my said Estate and Effects And lastly my Will and desire is to be buried at Farley aforesaid And I do hereby nominate constitute and appoint the said William Fiander Mary Batten and Sarah Ransom joint Executor and Executrixes of this my Will hereby revoking and making void all former and other Wills by me at any time or times heretofore made and do declare this only to be my last Will and Testament IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal this Sixteenth day of September in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven hundred and Sixty seven

Signed Sealed and published and declared
by the said Testatrix to be her last Will
and Testament in the presence of us

the mark of

Samuel Newman, Sarah Collins, Sarah White

Ann Whitlock

At Sarum on the 2d of April 1771, The Joint Extor & Extrixes above named was duly Sworn before me -
Rich'd Keble Sur

Downton

The Will of Ann Whitlock

This will was proved at Sarum Apr 2d, 1771 before the Revd Richd Keble ck B.D. lawful Surrogate of the Revd & Worshipful Wm. Whitworth ck Mr of Arts Archdeacon of the Archdry of Sarum and by him Admin of the Effects of the sd Testatrix was granted to Wm Fiander Mary Batten & Sarah Ransom joint Extor & Extrixes named therein being first Sworn to the truth of the sd will to perform the Same & to Exhibit or Justify & an'r when lawfully required. Tho. Spratt Not'ry Publ Act'ry & D.

Ann's will is interesting for several reasons. Being an elderly spinster (age 76) she ties several generations together by mentioning siblings and nephews and nieces.

Ann Whitlock mentions her brother Alexander Whitlock in her will. The name Alexander runs for several generations in this family. The first we know of is Ann's grandfather Alexander Whitlock who died fairly young was buried at Farley July 14, 1675. He married Margaret leaving children Margaret, Alexander, William, Robert & John. John was baptized January 15, 1675 so was only a few months old when his father died. Ann was obviously named after her mother as her parents were Alexander and Ann Whitlock. Ann was the eldest baptized August 30, 1691. Mary, Alexander, Elizabeth and Sarah followed, the last born in 1704. Her brother Alexander and his wife Catherine had two children according to the 1766 survey of Pitton. A son Alexander and a daughter Dinah (Diana). Ann's nephew Alexander is shown as deceased by 1759 thus breaking a line of four generations of Alexanders. The sister Diana is mentioned in the will and records show her father died in 1762 age 63

Ann's efforts to use her will to give her 75 year old sister a little independence from her husband leaves you wanting to know more about this family.

Our thanks to Eddie for this item, a good example how wills can both tie generations together and also open a the window of history a crack and give you a quick glimpse of your ancestors' daily life.