

WILL

William Feake (1535–1595), Goldsmith

7 May 1595

To be buried in the parish church of Saint Edmund the King in Lombard Street, London, where I am a parishioner, at my pew door.

To twenty poor men of the poorest of my Company of Goldsmiths, twenty gowns of twenty shillings price apiece and twelve pence apiece for their dinner. To ten other poor men, ten gowns of like price and twelve pence apiece for their dinner. To every of my brethren's children now in London and every of my men and women servants, a cloak or gown.

My goods, etc. (after debts paid and funerals discharged) to be divided into three equal parts, according to the ancient and laudable use and custom of the City of London, one part whereof I give to my beloved wife Mary, the second part I give and bequeath unto and amongst Thomas, John, Edward, Sarah, and Rebecca, my children (minors).

The third part I reserve unto myself to be disposed of etc. to poor prisoners in seven prisons, the hospitals, poor and towardly scholars in Cambridge, the Goldsmiths' Company, etc., a house for six poor men or women at Wighton in Norfolk, where I was born, poor goldsmiths' widows, the governors of Bridewell.

To James, Parnell, Mary, Margaret, Judith, and Anne, the children of my brother James Feake, deceased, £10 apiece. I have heretofore given to some of the children of my brother Edmund Feake £10 apiece. I do now give to every of his other children (saving Anne Feake, now dwelling with me) £10 apiece. To the same Anne, £16, besides the £4 I have in my hands and received to her use of the gift and bequest of her mother's brother.

I have already given to some of my sister Jigg's children 40s apiece. I do now give 40s apiece to every of her other children. I have heretofore given to some of the children of my brother John Angell 40s apiece. I do now give the like sum to every of his other children. I have heretofore given unto some of the children of my brother William Angell 40s apiece. I now give the like sum to every of his other children.

£3 6s 8d to every of the children of my brother Simon Feake to whom I have not already given the like sum. To my son James Feake, £300, he entering into bond to my executrix to pay unto my son William and Mary, his wife, during their lives and the life of the longer liver of them, 10s weekly. To my son-in-law Thomas Barneham and Mary, his wife, £200.

I hold for diverse years yet to come, by virtue of two several leases, one from the Goldsmiths' Company and the other from Mr. Younge, grocer, all my now dwelling house in Lombard Street and three tenements in Birchen Lane. My wife Mary shall hold and enjoy my said now dwelling house for life and then the remainder of the years to come in the said dwelling house and three tenements I give and devise unto the said James Feake, my son.

My wife shall at her own charges keep and maintain my son Thomas at his learning and study in the University until he shall attain the age of thirty years. She shall put out my son John apprentice to some honest merchant fearing God and of good trade and credit and for his better preferment shall deliver out with him £100. My son-in-law Thomas Barneham stands bound to me by obligation to pay to my son Edward £200 at his age of 21, and my son James is likewise bound to pay £200 to my son John at his age of 21.

The residue to wife Mary, whom I make sole executrix. I give to her my messuage¹ in Lombard Street called or known by the name of the Sign of Noah, now in the occupation of Noah Farmer, goldsmith, and my two tenements, divided into three, being in Saint Swithin's Lane, which I bought of Mr. Nicholas Herrick, to hold

¹ **messuage** — dwelling-house and all associated out-buildings

for life, the remainder to my son Thomas, then to my son William, then to my son James, next to my son John, next to my son Edward, lastly to my daughters Mary, Sarah, and Rebecca.

Henry F. Waters, "Genealogical Gleanings in England," *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 47 (October 1893):516-517.