

Will of John Levesque

In the Name of God Amen I John Levesque of Hoxton Town in the Parish of St. Edward Shoreditch in the County of Middlesex Stock Broker being of sound mind and memory do make this writing and I declare it to be my last Will and Testament First I desire to be buried at a small expense and that one horse and pair and one coach and pair do attend my Funeral only Whereas I have thirty London Assurance ship shares standing in my name in the Books of the Corporation of the London Assurance Birchin Lane my Will is that my Wife **Magdalen Levesque** shall receive the interest and dividends of the same for her own use and benefit during the term of her natural life and after her decease I will and devise the said thirty shares between my three daughters namely **Ann Mary** and **Elizabeth** to be divided between them share and share alike as they shall respectively attain the age of twenty one years or day of marriage whichever shall first happen and if any one should died before having attained the age of twenty one years and unmarried then to be equally divided between the two survivors share and share alike and likewise /page/ if two should died before having attained the age of twenty one years and unmarried then I will and bequeath the whole thirty shares to the survivor her heirs and executors. I will and bequeath unto my **aunt Susan Barbet** five pounds for mourning and likewise to the same Susan Barbet a clear annuity of (?) pounds sterling per annum to be paid her quarterly the first quarter to be paid her the next quarter day after my decease and so to continue every quarter day till her decease provided she does not live with my said Wife on the same footing she did with me during my lifetime for it is my Will that if she does this legacy to be null and void or else to remain in full force. I will and bequeath the reversion of a freehold at (?) Hill left me by my cousin **Jacob Dore** after the decease of his wife **Magdalen Therese Dore** unto my Wife Magdalen Levesque. I beg of my old friend and (?) Mr Edward Austen of Birchin Lane to accept of five guineas and be Executor of this my last Will and Testament and I hereby appoint my said wife Magdalen Levesque and Mr Edward Austen Executrix and Executor of this my last Will and Testament. All the (?) and resident household furniture linen plate and every effect of whatsoever nature belonging to me at the time of my decease I will and bequeath unto my said wife Magdalen Levesque and hereby declare this to be my last Will and Testament all in my own hand writing. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this third day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety five. John Levesque.

Codicil. Whereas since making the aforesaid Will I have sold my thirty London Assurance Ship Shares and bought forty five Shares in the said Corporation my Will is that thirty five shares of the Corporation of the London Assurance be (?) in the same manner as the thirty Ship shares mentioned in my foregoing Will. The remaining ten shares to fall in the residue. Witness my hand this 25th day of January 1796 John Levesque.

John was buried 20 December 1797 at St Matthew Bethnal Green.

January 13th 1798 **Appeared personally** James Beuzeville (?) (?) in the parish of Saint John (?) in the County of Middlesex Gentleman and John Bernard of Old Street in the Parish of Saint Luke in the same County of Middlesex Gentleman and being sworn on the Holy Evangelists to depose the truth made Oath and deposed as follows - that they knew and were well acquainted with John Levesque late of Hoxton Town

in the Parish of Saint Edward Shoreditch in the County of Middlesex aforesaid deceased for several years before and to the time of his death which happened on the 12th day of December last and also with his manner and character of handwriting and subscription having often seen him write and subscribe his hand and that having now carefully viewed and perused the paper writing hereunto annexed purporting to be and contain the last Will and Testament with a Codicil thereunto annexed the said Will beginning thus "In the name of God Amen I John Levesque of Hoxton Town in the Parish of Saint Edward Shoreditch in the County of Middlesex Stock Broker" ending thus "In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the third day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety five" and thus subscribed "John Levesque the said Codicil beginning thus "Codicil Whereas since making the aforesaid Will" ending thus "Witness my hand this 25th day of January 1796" and thus subscribed "John Levesque" they these exponents to further dispose and say that they verily and in their consciences believe the whole body (?) and Contracts of the said Will and Codicil and the subscriptions thereto to be all of the proper handwriting and subscription of the said John Levesque deceased. James Beuzeville, John Bernard. Same day the said James Beuzeville and John Bernard were duly sworn to the truth of this affidavit before me. J. Sewell, Surr. (?) Henry Blake Notary Pub.

This Will was proved at London with a Codicil the twenty fourth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety eight before the Worshipful John Sewell, Doctor of Laws Surrogate of the Right Honourable Sir William Wynne Knight Doctor of Laws (?) Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury lawfully constituted by the oath of Magdalen Levesque Widow the relict of the deceased and Edward Austen the executors named in the said Will to whom administration of all and singular the Goods Chattels and addits of the said deceased was granted they having been first sworn duly to administer.