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LIFE OF MARGARET SHIPPEN, WIFE OF BENEDICT  
ARNOLD.

BY LEWIS BURD WALKER.

(Concluded from page 334.)

THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF MARGARET ARNOLD.

I Margaret Arnold of Bryanston Street, London, Widow, do make & constitute this to be my last Will & Testament in respect to all such Real and Personal Estate as I may die possessed of in England & its Dominions—Attached by principles of the strictest Integrity as well as in conformity to the Will of my late beloved Husband, I am earnestly desirous of doing equal justice to all his children, having had but little expended upon them, and as a very small part of the property I have to bequeath has ever belonged to their Father, I trust that in the dispositions I am about to make of it they will believe me actuated by principles of justice and not doubt my sincere regard for them—It is my wish that my funeral may be as plain as is consistent with the situation of my Family, avoiding all superfluous expense, and that my just Debts may be paid—To my Daughter Sophia Matilda Arnold I give & bequeath all my Furniture, Linnen, Cloaths, Trinkets, Glass, Books, Wine & all the stores in my House in Bryanston Street, together with the Lease of the said House—I also give & bequeath to her all my Plate and plated Articles—As it is my intention, in conformity to his own wishes, to send my son George to India, should I die before he is equipped, for this purpose it is my wish that he should have the means of doing it—I therefore give & bequeath to him the sum of Five hundred pounds for this purpose, or to fit him out in any other line of life that he may prefer, but in case he may be fitted out at the time of my decease I then give & bequeath him Three hundred pounds only—I give & bequeath to my sons Edward & James Arnold One hundred pounds each, and, after paying my Debts & Legacies as before & hereinafter mentioned it is my Will that all the remainder of my personal property in England may be divided into Three equal parts or

shares, one share to be paid to my daughter Sophia Matilda Arnold, and the remaining two shares I give & bequeath to my son William Fitch Arnold—And I intreat my tenderly & equally beloved children to believe that in making this distribution, I am actuated only by the consideration of their different necessities—And it is my Will that the remainder of any property I now have not otherwise herein disposed of, or that I may die possessed of, both Real & personal in Great Britain & its Dominions, namely, Canada, New Brunswic, to be equally divided between my sons Edward Shippen Arnold, James Robertson Arnold, George Arnold & William Fitch Arnold, and my Daughter Sophia Matilda Arnold, their Heirs & Assigns forever, But in case of the death of either of them before having attained the age of Twenty one years, that then their part or share go to the Survivors of my before named children to be equally divided between them, as also all such personal property already herein specifically bequeathed to them—And should my Executors conceive it to be for the benefit of my Children to dispose of any of the Property, either Real or Personal while they are under age, They are hereby authorized to do so, but in the disposal of Real Property I require that it should be with the concurrence of those who are of age—Col. William Fitch having bequeathed to my son William the sum of Five hundred pounds which was paid & irrevocably given by his sisters Anne & Sarah, and vested in the three per cent Consols, amounting at this time, with the accumulated Interest to Eleven hundred & thirteen pounds & eight pence, and a Deed of Trust having been executed by Miss Anne Fitch & myself, I hereby empower my hereinafter named Executors to act jointly with Miss Fitch as Trustees for him—And having authorized my son Edward with the concurrence of Miss Fitch to draw Bills to the amount of Eight hundred pounds to be paid out of the above Trust money in order to obtain for it a better interest in India, it is my desire should he draw previously to hearing of my death, that Miss Anne Fitch as surviving Trustee, in concurrence with my Executors, should pay his Bills from the above Fund to the amount of Six hundred pounds, the remaining Two hundred pounds from the money that I have bequeathed to my Daughter Sophia, the Interest of which Two hundred pounds to be appropriated to her use, the principal also to be considered her property—And I hereby constitute & appoint Miss Anne Fitch & Daniel

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Coxe, Esqr, and Jonathon Mallet Esqr and Farguer Esqr my Executors to this my last Will & Testament, In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand & Seal this Twenty sixth day of January in the Year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred & four 1804

(signed) MARGARET ARNOLD (seal)

Signed Sealed published &c  
in the presence of

JANE FARGUER No. 13 Portland Place

E. CARLOW, W. BULL Servants to Testatrix

A true Copy from the Probate of Mrs Arnolds Will in my possession, except the above abbreviation of publishment &c.

(signed) DAN. COXE, Surv. Extr.

LONDON 24th Aug. 1807.

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THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF BENEDICT ARNOLD.

I, Benedict Arnold of the City of London being of sound Mind and Memory do make and constitute this my last Will and Testament in manner following.

Inprimis. It is my Will that all my Just Debts and Funeral Expenses be first paid; the latter I request may be only decent but by no means attended with any expence that can possibly be avoided.

Item. I give to my Sister, Hannah Arnold Forty pounds Sterling per annum during her natural Life to be paid to her annually out of Interest of such Monies or Income of such Estate as I may die possessed of, provided she shall and does give up to my Heirs or Executors all Obligations that she may have against me; and also does relinquish all Claims against my Estate, except for the Annuity before mentioned.

Item. I give and bequeath to my sons Richard and Henry all Sums of Money that they are in any wise Indebted to me; and having in the course of the last and present year written to them to Draw Bills of Exchange upon me in London for the following Sums of Money, Viz; One hundred and eighty pounds Sterling (to make up a sum of three hundred pounds, part of which I have paid to them) to enable them to Build and Stock

their farm in Canada. Also two hundred and thirty pounds Sterling to enable them to pay two protested Bills; as also three hundred and sixty pounds sterling to enable them to pay all their Debts due in January 1801, to the total amount, adding these sums, of Seven hundred and seventy pounds Sterling. I give and bequeath the before mentioned Sums of Money to my Sons, Richard and Henry equally; and it is my Will and Pleasure that these Bills of Exchange for the before mentioned Sums be honored by my Executors, and paid out of the Estate I may die possessed of.

Item. I Give Devise and Bequeath to my Beloved Wife her Heirs, Executors and Administrators all my Estate both *Real* and *Personal* that I may die possessed of, after paying my Debts and Legacies as before and herein after mentioned, for her own use and benefit during her continuing a Widow and to be disposed of among *all* my Children at her Death, as she may think proper, not doubting her doing them all equal justice. But should she Marry again, Then it is in that case, my Will and Pleasure that all my property shall be divided among my Children upon her second Marriage, and in that case, I hereby Give, Devise and Bequeath all my Estate both Real and Personal that I may have, or die possessed of to my Children to be divided among them in such equal proportions as my beloved Wife shall think Just and Proper, consideration being had to these Sums of Money that they have already received and that have been Expended upon them for their Education, &c. And Consideration being also had to their respective Ages and Situations in Life, not doubting that she will do them *all equal Justice* as she knows *it is* and has always been my intention (as my affection has been equally divided among them) to make an equal provision for them all.

Item. I give, devise and bequeath to John Sage, now in Canada, living with my Sons there (being about 14 years of age) Twelve hundred Acres of Land, being part of a Grant of thirteen thousand four hundred Acres of Land made to me as an Half Pay Officer for myself and Family by Order of the Duke of Portland, by his Letter directed to Peter Russell Esqr. President of the Council in Upper Canada, dated the 12th of June 1798, which said 1200 Acres of Land I give to him to be located altogether in one place out of the before mentioned Grant as my Executors may judge equal and fair. I also do

hereby give and bequeath to the said John Sage twenty pounds per annum to be paid to my Sons Richard and Henry for his use for Board Cloathing and Education untill he shall be of the Age of Twenty one Years to be paid out of the Estate I may die possessed of— I also give and bequeath to the said John Sage, fifty pounds to be paid to him when he shall attain the age of twenty one Years.

I do hereby Constitute and Appoint my Beloved Wife Sole Executrix to this my last Will and Testament. And in case my Wife should Marry again or die Intestate, I do hereby Constitute and Appoint Miss Ann Fitch and Miss Sarah Fitch of Devonshire Street, Joint Trustees to manage my Estate, and carry this my Will in Execution, and they are hereby authorized (should it be necessary) to Sell any part of my Real Estate for that purpose, and to give receipts to the Purchasers for the Purchase Money which shall be considered as good and valid.

But should my Wife die Intestate, I do hereby give, devise and bequeath to all my Children all my Estate both Real and Personal, that I may die possessed of after paying my Legacies, &c. Viz. The whole to be divided into twelve equal shares; and to Sophia I give four shares; to William I give two shares; to George I give two shares; and to Richard, Henry, Edward and James, I give each one share, and I do hereby Appoint the before named Trustees to see the same carried into Execution.

And I do hereby Constitute and Appoint my Beloved Wife Sole Executrix to this my last Will and Testament.

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal in London this 30th day of August in the year of our Lord One Thousand eight hundred.

BENEDICT ARNOLD. (Seal.)

Signed, Sealed, and Published by Brigadier General Benedict Arnold as his Last Will and Testament in the presence of us who subscribe our names as Witnesses hereof and in his Presence, and in the Presence of each other.

HARRIET NEWPORT

ANN PRINCE

WILLIAM YOUNG.