

Registry of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury

Septemb^r. the 13th Day 1742.

In the Name of God Amen

Septemb^r. the 13th Day 1742.

*Francis
BEST*

In the Name of God Amen.

S^t. Helier in Jersey Septemb^r. the thirteen one thousand seven hundred and forty two. I Francis BEST Lieutenant Governour of his Majesty's Island of Jersey and Commander in Chief of all the Castles, Forts, and Forces etc. And formerly Maj^r in his Maj^{ties} own Roy.^{ll} Regim.^t of Dragoons, being in perfect health and perfect Memory thank be given unto God do make this my last Will and Testament, that is to say, principally and first of all I give and re-command my Soul into the Hand of Almighty God that gave it and my body I re-command to the Earth to be buried at the Decent Christian Burial in the parish where I shall die.

The Charges for my Burial to be one hundred and fifty pound Sterling, and no more, every Officer and friends that shall honoured with their presence my Burial to have a Gold Ring, a Scarf, a Hatband and a pair of white Gloves: this 150 pound to be taken out of the Cash that are by me, and Bank Bills or in case it should not answer it is to be taken from the Debts due to me or other things left by me. I not now been in Debt to any body _____ } £: 150 :

I give and bequeath of the above Dito Cash to every Servant with me when I die twenty pound each to buy themselves Mourning Cloathes £. 20 p.^d each _____ }

I bequeath to the poor of the before mentioned parish where I shall be buried of the above Dito Cash etc. left by me one hundred pound. } £: 100 :-

As touching such Worldly Goods and Estate which God has blessed me with I give and devise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form,

Imprimis I give and bequeath at my deceased to my beloved Nephew Frederick Paul BESE on autrement Comme il Signe en Anglais Frederik BEST who is now here with me, the two thousand pound Bank Stock which I have at the Bank of England and subscribed in my Name. I make my said Nephew Frederik BEST the Executor of this my last Will Jointly with M^r. Simeon BESE perwig maker and M^r. W.^m CHISHOLM of Newport Street and M^r. Stephan GARDES Broker in Sissill Court. _____ } £: 2000 -

Witness my self and seal Francis BEST (LS)

S^t. Helier, in Jersey as on the other side, the 13.th of Septemb.^r 1742 as follow,

Item I also give and bequeath to my beloved Brother Ferdinand BEJSE now Capitaine in the Regiment a Mons.^r Le Collonel de Leyden now in Garison in Namur in the State of Holland Service one thousand pound Stairling of the two thousand pound South Sea Stock of mine and which is subscribed in my name, but if I do survive my said Brother Ferdinand BEJSE then the said mentioned South Sea thousand pound Stock I give to my before mentioned (on the other side) said Nephew Frederick BEST at my deceased -----

£: 1000 -

Item I give and bequeath to my beloved Nephew Henry Bartolomew BEJSE one thousand pound of the before said 2000 pound South Sea Stock which I have and subscribed in my name in the said fund, my said Nephew Hen. Bart. BEJSE is now Cornet dans le Regiment de Dragon de Mons.^r Le Collonel Baron de Matha A present en Cartier a Bergen Op Zoom en Brabant et an Service D' Hollande -----

£: 1000 -

Item of the four thousand and four hundred pound which I now have in the Bank and subscribed in my name in the fund called three per Cent I give and bequeath (out of the said sum) to my beloved Nephew Otto frederic BEJSE or to his Heir, that is if I should survived him, he is at present in Hornbach a la Conté des Deuspont, il est Chatelin et Maistre Drapier. I give and bequeath to the said Otto Frederic BEJSE three thousand four hundred pound out of the before said sum -----

£: 3400 -

Item I give and bequeath to Francis BEJSE my Godson three hundred pound of the above Dito sum of the 4400 pound which I have in the fund of the said three per cent, if in case the said Francis BEJSE survived me and if he does it not it shall fall to his Father Simeon BEJSE perwig maker (living near S^t. Ann Church) if he survived me. And I make the said Simeon BEJSE one of the Executor of this my last Will and Testament jointly with my Nephew frederick Paul BEJSE and M^r. W^m. CHISHOLME and M^r. Stephan GARDES all three mentioned in this Testament.

£: 300 -

*Witness my self and seal Francis BEST (LS)
Item as follow in the annex*

St. Helier in Jersey as annexed the 13.th of Septemb.^r 1742 as follows.

Item I give and bequeath of Dito sum of tree p^r. Cent to my Godson Francis GODFREY of Southampton Street in Covent Garden one hundred pound. } £: 100 -

Item of the Dito three p^r. Cent as mentioned above and on the other side I give and bequeath to my GodDaughter fany HVE of Newport Street two hundred pound } £: 200 -

Item I give and bequeath of the Dito three p^r. Cent as mentioned above to my GodDaughter _____ BARBER Daughter to Quarter M^r. BARBER now of Horse Blew the sum of one hundred pound } £: 100 -

Item I give and bequeath of Dito three p^r. Cent to M^r. W^m. CHISHOLME of Newport Street my Executor of this my last Will jointly with my beloved Nephew Frederick Paul BEST and M^r. Simeon BEJSE and M^r. ~~Stephan GARDES Broker~~, all mentioned in this Will and Testament. I give and bequeath to the said M^r. W^m. CHISHOLME one hundred and twenty five pound } _____

Item I give and bequeath of Dito three p^r. Cent one hundred and twenty five pound to M^r. Stephan GARDES Broker of Sissill Court my Executor of this last Will and Testament jointly with all. Beloved Nephew Frederick Paul BEST and Mr. Simeon BEJSE and M^r. W^m. CHISHOLM all mentioned in this will and Testament which gentleman are all desired to see this last Will of mine fairly Executed } £: 125 -

Nota Bene.

it is my Will that if any person die before me to whom I bequeath any Legacy, the same falls and devolve to my Nephew Frederick Paul BEST who I make the whole Heir of the same in Witness my self and Seal

Francis Best
Francis BEST, (LS)

Codicil.

Jersey Septemb.^r the 13.th 1742.

I Francis BEST L^t. Govener etc. do make my beloved Nephew Frederick Paul BEST now here with me my Sole and only Heir and Executor for what Goods, Money, and Bills which I shall or may have by me at my deceased if I die how in Jersey: And out of the said Goods, Money and Bills he the said Frederick Paul BEST is to defray and pay the Charges of my Burial and Debts if any of which at this time I do declare my self clear Witness my Hand.

f. Best
f. BEST.

(Source: Extracted from the Registry of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, see on Internet www.english-origins.com, Bank of England Will Extracts; StA Speyer F 20 No. 64, Curatel Invoice ERB No. 17).

On the 16th of January 1753, Francis BEST died in his lodgings in the parish of St. James Westminster in London. Nicholas JAMES and Jane SAWYER found the deceased and informed the surrogate Arthur COLLIER as follows:

16th January 1753

On which day Appeared personally Nicholas JAMES of the parish of St. James Westminster in the County of Middlesex Gentleman and Jane SAWYER, Wife of John SAWYER of the same parish Cabinet Maker and being sworn on the holy Evangelists to depose the truth made oath that very well know and were acquainted with Francis BEST late Lieutenant Governor of the Island of Jersey but in the said parish of Saint James Westminster in the said County of Middlesex Esquire deceased, the said Nicholas JAMES for about four years and the said Jane SAWYER for about year next before and to the time of his death which happened on Friday the twelfth day of the Month of January Instant at his Lodgings at the House of the said Jane SAWYER in the said parish of St. James Westminster. And the Deponent Nicholas JAMES for himself further make the oath that the Deponent did on Friday the said twelfth day of January instant go to visit the said deceased Francis BEST at his said Lodgings he the deponent being very intimate with him and he the deponent then and there found the said deceased in a languishing condition and totally senseless and in about on hour afterwards he the said deceased departed this life in the presence of him the Dep.^t and of one Simeon BEJSE and others, and soon afterwards both these Deponents together with the said Simeon BEJSE made a search for a Will of the said deceased and in a Hair trunk which was in the closet adjoining or contiguous to his Bed Chamber and among papers of consequence he the Deponent Nicholas JAMES found the paper writing hereinto annext purporting to be the last Will and Testament of the said deceased beginning thus "Septembr. the 13.th day 1742. In the Name of God Amen St. Helier on Jersey Septembr. the thirteen one thousand seven hundred and fourty two I francis BEST Lieutenant Governour of his Majesty's Island of Jersey" whereupon he the said Nicholas JAMES read the same over Audibly and distinctly to the said Simeon BEJSE and the said Jane SAWYER and others all of whom did then see and observe the obliterations appearing therein to wit of the words "and Mr. Stephen GARDES Broker in Sisill Court" in the last line of the first side or page thereof of the words "and Mr. Stephen GARDES in the last line of the second page thereof of the words" Mr. Stephen GARDES Broker of Sisill Court in the thirteenth and fourteenth Lines and the words "Item I give and bequeath of Ditto tree per Cent one hundred and twenty five pound to Mr. Stephen GARDES Broker of Sisill Court my Exeutor of this my last Will and Testament jointly with my" in the sixteenth seventeenth and eighteenth lines of the third side or page thereof and also the several interlineations therein And both these deponents having now again viewed and carefully perused the said Will hereunto annext as a forces did they do verily and in their consciences believe the same to be now in the same plight order and condition in every respect with regard to the several obliterations and interlineations appearing therein as it was when found after the said deceased death as aforesaid. Nicholas JAMES und Jane SAWYER
The same day the said Nicholas JAMES and Jane SAWYER were duly sworn to the truth of the promises Before me Arthur COLLIER Surrogate.
present Mark HOLMAN Junior Notary publick,

(Source: Extracted from the Registry of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury – www.englishorigins.com)

The same day, Stephen GARDES, one of the executors, swore before the surrogate Arthur COLLIER that the will and testament found in the hair trunk was true:

16th January 1753.

On which day appeared personally Stephen GARDES of Rathbone place in the parish of St. Mary' le bone in the County of Middlesex, Gentleman and Isaac REYNOUS of the same place Gentleman and being sworn an the Holy Evangelists to depose the truth made oath that they very well knew and were acquainted with Francis BEST late Lieutenant Governour of the Island of Jersey but in the said parish of Saint James Westminster in the said County of Middlesex Esquire deceased, for several years before and to the time of his death which happened on or about the twelfth day of the Month of January instant and with his manner and Character of Handwriting and Subscription having often soon him write and subscribe his name to Writings and both these Deponents having now carefully viewed and perused the paper writing hereunto annext purporting to be the last Will and Testament of the said deceased beginning thus "Septemb.^r the 13th. day 1742. In the Name of God Amen St. Helier on Jersey Septemb.^r the thirteen one thousand seven hundred and fourty two I francis BEST Lieutenant Governour of his Majesty's Island of Jersey" and ending thus "who I make the whole Heir of the same In Witness my self and seal" and thus subscribed "francis BEST" and having now also viewed and perused the codicil or addition thereto wrote at the foot or bottom of the third side or page of the said Will beginning thus "Codicil Jersey Septembr. the 13.th 1742 I francis BEST Lt. Governer etc." and ending thus "I do declare my self clear Witness my hand" and thus subscribed "f. BEST" they Deponents do verily and in their consciences believe the said Will beginning and ending also as aforesaid and also the said codicil beginning and ending also as aforesaid and the name f. BEST wrote at the foot totally wrote dated and subscribed by and with the proper hand of the said Francis BEST deceased. S. GARDES, Isaac REYNOUS.

The same day the said Stephen GARDES and Isaac REYNOUS were duly sworn to the truth of the promises Before me Arth.^r COLLIER Surrog.^{te}
present Benj.ⁿ SOCKYER Notary Publick,

(source: Extracted from the Registry of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury– www.englishorigins.com)

The Prerogative Court of Canterbury confirmed that Simeon BESSE and William CHISHOLME were also executors of Francis BEST's will and testament:

This Will was proved at London with a Codicil the sixteenth day of January in the Year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty three before the Worshipful Arthur COLLIER Doctor of Laws and surrogate to the Right Honourable Sir George Lee KNIGHT also Doctor of Laws, Master Keeper or Commissary of the prerogative Court of Canterbury lawfully constituted by the Oath so Simeon BESSE and William CHISHOLME the surviving Executors named in the said Will to whom Administration was granted of all and singular the Goods Chattels and Credits of the said deceased being first sworn duly to administer. / ...

(source: Extracted from the Registry of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury – www.englishorigins.com)

In the Registry of the Bank of England Will Extracts from the 15th of February 1753 it was confirmed that Frederick Paul BEST the sole heir of Francis Best had died after 1742. The following memorandum No. 32 mentioned the other heirs and their inheritance:

<i>London Anno 1753</i>		fo. 32 Memorand. ^m : That Major Francis BEST Lieut. Gov. of Jersey late of the parish of St. James: Westminster Dyed
<p>possessed of Six Thousand Three Hundred pounds 3 P Cent annuitif Stock Anno 1726 and by his last Will & Testament Dated 13. Septem.^r 1742 (with a Codicil annexed Dated D: J. he his Nephew Frederick Paul BEST, Simeon BEHSE near St. Anns Church Peruke Maker & William CHISHOLME of Newport Street to be his Joint Executors. But Frederick Paul BEST one of the Execu.^r is since Dyed. – And in his said Will are the words following viz^t:</p> <p>“Item of the Four Thousand & Four Hundred pounds which I have now in the Bank and subscribed in my Name in the Fund called Three per Cent</p> <p>“I give & Bequeath (out of the said Sum) to my beloved Nephew Otto Frederick BEHSE or to his Heir, that is if I should survive him</p> <p>“he is at present in Hornbach a la Conté des [d]eus Pont il est Chatelin et Maistre drapier I give & Bequeath to the said Otto Frederick BEHSE Three Thousand & Four Hundred pound out of the before said Sum L 3400 — Item I give & Bequeath to Francis BEHSE my Godson Three Hundred Pound of the above Ditto Sum of the L 4400 pound which I have in the Fund of the said Tree p Cent if in case the said Francis BEHSE survive me and if he does it not, it shall fall to his Father Simeon BEHSE Peruke Maker Living near St. Anns Church if he survives me and I make the said Simeon BEHSE one of the Executors of the my last Will & Testament Jointly to my Nephew Frederick Paul BEHSE & Mr. William CHISHOLME all mentioned in this Testament L 300 – Item I give & Bequeath of Ditto Sum of Tree per Cent to my Godson Francis GODFREY of Southampton Street in Covent Garden [...]</p>		
L 3400		To be Transf. to his Nephew Otto Friedrich BESSE
300		To his Godson Francis BEHSE, but at his decease to his Father Simeon BEHSE Peruke Maker near St. Anns Church
since Deced 100		To his Godson Francis GODFREY of Southampton Street Covent Garden
since married 200		To his God Daug. ^r Frances Hue of Newport Str.
Thomas VIELLSOF newport St. Corner		
100		To ----- BARBER Daughter to Quarter Master BARBER, Horse Blew
<u>125</u>		To William CHISHOLME of Newport Street one of his Executors
4225		
2075		The Resid. ^m at the disposal of the Executors above ment und in mean Time they may Receive the Dividend, Viz. l Mes. ^r Simeon BESSE & William CHISHOLME Surviving Executors
The Probate dated at Doctor COMMENS 16 th January 1753		
Registered 15 th February 1753		
N.º 1396	P. PAQUE	

(Source: Registry of the Bank of England Will Extracts – www.englishorigins.com)