

New Light on Jane Austen's Great-Grandmother: A Complete Transcript of Elizabeth Weller's *Memorandum* and Account Book and Seven Newly Found Letters: Appendix 7

By **Azar Hussain**

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Appendix 7

Transcript of the Will of John Austen IV (d. 1704)

In the name of God, Amen.

The thirtieth day of June in the yeare of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and four. I John Austen the younger of Broadford in this parish of Horsmondon and country of Kent Gent being weak in body but of sound perfect and disposing mind memory and understanding praised be God for the same I doe make and ordaine this my last Will and Testament in manner and forme following that is to say ffirst I commend my body to the Earth to be decently but privately interred in the parish church of Horsmondon aforesaid near my pew doore at the discretion of Elizabeth my loveing wife and of my Executors herein afternamed Item I give and bequeath unto my brothers in law Mr Stephen Stringer and Mr John Holman their Executors and assigns all and every my goods chattels cattle and personall estate whatsoever upon trust and confidence that they do and shall

with all convenient speed sell the same and with the moneys existing thereby pay and discharge all my debts and ffunerall expenses. And the residue and overplus thereof I give and bequeath unto my said loveing wife her executors and assigns for ever And my will and mind is that my dwelling house and the lands thereunto belonging shall be rented out by my Executors and the rents issues and profitts thereof and of all my other lands and tenements whatsoever I give beqeauth and devise for and to the maintenance and education of my six sonnes and one daughter And my will and mind further is that my said loveing wife shall have the education and bringing up of my said children so long as she continues my Widdow and not longer And that she doe and shall yearly about Midsummer account with my said Executors hereafter named for all the rents and profitts of all my lands and tenements whatsoever and wheresoever and shall then yearely pay to them the overplus money remaining in her hands for the benefit of my said seaven children towards the putting them out apprentices or otherwise at their severall ages of one and twenty years. Item I give and bequeath unto my said brothers in law Mr Stephen Stringer and Mr John Holman whom I make executors of this my will twenty shillings apiece yearely at Midsummer for their care and paines in managing my estate for the benefit of my children and in case my said wife shall marry again before my eldest sonn that shall be then liveing shall be of the age of one and twenty yeares then my will and mind is And I doe hereby desire my said executors soon after such marriage to take upon them the care of educating and bringing up of my said children and to receive the rents and profitts of all my said lands and tenements. And then in such case I give and bequeath unto my said executors the yearly sume of five pounds apiece for such their greater care and trouble in the premises untill such time as my said eldest Sonn shall attaine his age of one and twenty yeares. In witness whereof to this my will contained in one sheet of paper I the said John Austen the testator have hereunto set my hand and seale the day and yeare first above written

John Austen Jun sealed, signed & published and declared to be the last Will and Testament of the above said John Austen the younger the testator in the presence of Mary Bowyer Thomas Monk, Thos Martin