

Last Will and Testament of
John Henry Thomas – December 18, 1920

This is the last will and testament of me John Henry Thomas of Malamah House, Little East Street, Freetown in the Colony of Sierra Leone, member of the Legislative Council of the Colony aforesaid merchant, I hereby revoke all former wills and testamentary information made by me and I appoint the **Reverend John Brown Nicols** of Regent Road in Freetown, aforesaid Minister of Religion **Emmanuel Augustine Campbell Noah** of East Street in Freetown, aforesaid merchant, my son **Claudius Josephus Rollings Thomas** of Little East Street aforesaid and **Annie Victoria Asgill** of Kissy Street, Freetown aforesaid trader (hereinafter called my Trustees) to be the Executor and Trustees of this my will and I appoint the said **Emmanuel Augustine Campbell Noah** and the said **Annie Victoria Asgill** to be the guardians of my natural children, **Herbert Henry Thomas, Maud Regina Thomas, John Horace Thomas and Ethel Matilda Thomas** during their reflective minorities in respect of all bequests and devices made herein to them respectively.

I direct that immediately after my death, my Trustees shall secure all my personal property of whatsoever kind and the keys of my safes, shops, stores, and any other place in which such property may be left shall be in the custody of the Executors named herein, and my Trustees shall ensure to be read this my will at Malamah House aforesaid immediately after my burial.

I further direct that my Trustees shall within one month after my death, sell and convert into money by public auction and all my personal property and effects noted herein specifically bequeathed including all goods, merchandise and stock and shall call in and collect all debts due and owing to me and all my received money wheresoever kept or invested shall with and out of the money produced by such sale and conversion and with and out of the monies call in and collected, pay my funeral and testamentary expenses and just debts and erect over my grave a suitable and substantial marble monument bearing a suitable inscription at a reasonable cost; and shall also erect a suitable marble tablet in Holy Trinity Church, Kissy Road at a reasonable cost; and shall also pay out of the moneys all bequests made herein consisting of money not otherwise specifically provided for herein.

I give and bequeath the following beneficiaries namely:-

1. To the said **Claudius Josephus Rollings Thomas**, the sum of two hundred pounds sterling.
2. To my grandson **Lawrence Christopher John Cyril Nicols**, the sum of one hundred pounds sterling.
3. To each of my natural sons the said **Herbert Henry Thomas** and **John Horace Thomas** the sum of four hundred pounds sterling.
4. To each of my natural daughters the said **Maud Regina Thomas** and **Ethel Matilda Thomas** the sum of two hundred pounds sterling.
5. To my grand-daughter **Sarah Smith nee' Thomas**, the natural daughter of my late son **Lionel Gustavus Thomas** deceased, the sum of one hundred pounds sterling.
6. To my natural daughter **Bernice Clarke**, the wife of **Jabez Clarke** of Leah Street in Freetown aforesaid the sum of fifty pounds sterling.
7. To the said **Annie Victoria Asgill**, the sum of fifty pounds sterling.
8. To **Iris Elfrida Williams**, the wife of **Gladstone Williams**, the sum of thirty pounds sterling.
9. To my Trustees upon trust for each of the children of my late brother, **Henry Charles Rainsbury**, deceased begotten by his widow, **Jeanette Isabella Rainsbury** of Goderich Street in Freetown aforesaid the sum of twenty pounds sterling.
10. To **Mabel Wright** of Kissy Street aforesaid the wife of **Lionel Wright**, the sum of forty pounds sterling.
11. To the Central Fund of the **Sierra Leone Native Pastorate Church**, the sum of fifty pounds sterling.
12. To each of my Trustees for their trouble in acting as such Executors and Trustees, the sum of fifteen pounds sterling.

I give and bequeath the following of the personal property namely:-

1. To the said **Herbert Henry Thomas**, one of my large gold chain and one watch.
2. To the said **John Horace Thomas**, one of my large gold chain and one watch.
3. To my grandson, **John Emmanuel Malamah-Thomas**, son of the said **Claudius Josephus Rollings Thomas**, my small gold chain.
4. To the said **Claudius Josephus Rollings Thomas**, all my plates, linen, glassware, books, and furniture in Malamah House aforesaid.

5. To the said **Herbert Henry Thomas**, all my furniture consisting of one bedroom and one drawing room in my house at Little East Street aforesaid now occupied by the said **Claudius Josephus Rollings Thomas** to be used by the said **Herbert Henry Thomas** during his life tenancy of the said house and after his death the said furniture to be used and enjoyed by the successive owners of the said house.
6. I give and devise all that my lot me evage and hereditaments situate in Little East Street aforesaid known as "Malamah House" in which I reside for my Trustees upon trust for the respective natural lives of my grandsons, **John Malamah-Thomas, Claudius Victor Buxton Thomas, Christian Jellicoe Rollings Thomas**, the natural and lawful sons of the said **Claudius Josephus Rollings Thomas** and after the death of the last surviving
7. I devise the same onto and to the use of my grand-daughters **Edith Jane Christiana Thomas** and **Laura Regina Christiana Thomas** the natural and lawful daughters of the said **Claudius Josephus Rollings Thomas**, their heirs and assigned forever as tenants in common.
8. I give and devise all that my lot messuage and hereditaments situate in Little East Street aforesaid and numbered 50 in the Register and Plan of Town Lots of land for Freetown aforesaid purchased by me from the late **Mr. George Lawrence Luke**, deceased in which the said **Claudius Josephus Rollings Thomas** now resides onto my Trustees upon trust for the said **Herbert Henry Thomas**, for the term of his natural life and after his death I devise the same to the said **John Horace Thomas** for the term of his natural life and after his death and the death of the said **Herbert Henry Thomas**; in the event of the said **John Horace Thomas** dying before the said **Herbert Henry Thomas**, I devise the same to the children of the said **Herbert Henry Thomas** and the said **John Horace Thomas** absolutely as tenants in common.
9. I give and devise all that lot of land with the buildings thereon situate in Goderich Street aforesaid purchased by me from the late **Mr. Thomas J Carew**, deceased unto my Trustees upon trust for my granddaughter the said Sarah Thomas for the term of her natural life and after her death to the said **Lawrence Christopher John Cyril Nicols** absolutely.
10. I give and devise all my premises and shops numbered 50 and 50a for municipal purposes which I bought from the executors of the will of the late **Mr Priddy**, deceased situate in Little East Street to the said **Herbert Henry Thomas** and **John Horace Thomas** absolutely.

11. I give and devise and bequeath all the rest and residue of my real and personal estate of whatsoever kind and wheresoever situate to the said **Claudius Josephus Rollings Thomas, Herbert Henry Thomas and John Horace Thomas** in equal shares.

I hereby declare that all bequests and devices herein made are to be held and enjoyed by any female as her sole and separate property from the control debts and engagements of any husband free.

In witness whereof I have set my hand to this my last will and testament, the **18th day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand, nine hundred and twenty.**

Signed by **J.H. Thomas**

Signed and acknowledged by the above-named John Henry Thomas as his last will and testament in the presence of us present at the same time who in his presence and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses.

Paul J. Browne – Lecturer and mathematical master of the Grammar School

W. L. Degraft Rosenior – Goldsmith

N0: 6/3317/1922 – This instrument was proved by the testimony of **William Charles Degraft Rosenior** within named to be the act and.....