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Arthur Ahmuty (1750-1797)

Summary of Will dated 24 December 1796 proved 29 December 1797 Arthur Ahmuty of Russell Place in the parish of St Pancras in the County of Middlesex after payment of all just debts and charges left the residue of his fortune for the sole use of his dearly and well beloved wife Margaret Sophia Ahmuty. He appointed James Masterton esq of the Island of Madeira and Robert Adamson esq of the City of London the executors and as a token of great esteem and regard each were left £50 to invest in a ring or whatever else might be agreeable to them. The Will was signed by Arthur Ahmuty on the 24 December 1796 at New Lodge near Berkhamstead witnessed by x and John Moore. It was proved at London on the 29 December 1797 before the Worshipful Charles Coote, Doctor of Laws and Surrogate of the Rt Hon Sir William Wynne also Doctor of Laws Master Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury and lawfully constituted by the oath of Robert Adamson esq one of the executors to whom administration was granted with power reserved to James Masterton the other executor named in the said Will when he shall apply for the same.

Arthur Ahmuty 1750-1797

Arthur Ahmuty a brother of Thomas Ahmuty married Margaret Sophia Shaw by licence dated 15 February 1781 at St George the Martyr, Queen Square, London witnessed by Thomas Ahmuty.

He was a wine merchant and at Funchal, Madeira on 27 June 1782 when the writer William Hickey visited him and 'other gentlemen of the Island' including Mr Murdoch and Charles Murray the British Consul the occasion described by William Hickey in his Memoirs published between 1913 and 1925.

John Kingston on behalf of Messrs Ahmuty & Company of Madeira signed an Agreement dated 1 December 1785 with the East India Company for 180 pipes of Madeira wine at £27 per pipe to be shipped to India for the Bengal market.

In 1787 the firm of Ahmuty Masterton & Co was formed when Arthur Ahmuty and James Masterton entered into a three year partnership. John (sic) Masterton married Anna the daughter of James Murdoch of Madeira and the firm of Murdoch, Masterton & Co was formed in 1800 for a period of five years.

He lived at 3 Russell Place, London when his blue cloth coat valued at ten shillings was stolen on 3 March 1795 for which Stephen Barnett and Joseph George were brought to trial for simple grand larceny at the Old Bailey on 16 April 1795.

He died 21 December 1797 aged 47 years as published in the Gentlemens Magazine and in his Will dated 24 December 1796 named James Masterton of the Island of Madeira and Robert Adamson of the City of London the executors.

His widow Margaret Sophia Ahmuty registered on 3 February 1800 an Indenture assigned to John Kingston and Joseph Crump for lease of premises in the parish of St Marylebone; the merchant firm of Kingston, Crump & Adamson of 6 New Broad Street, London was listed by Kents Directory in 1794.

Ahmuty Connections

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Agreement Ahmuty & Co and the EICO 1785

It is agreed this first day of December one thousand seven hundred and eighty five Between John Kingston of London merchant for and on behalf of Messrs Ahmuty and Company of the Island of Madeira merchants of the one part and The United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies of the other part as follows that is to say the said John Kingston agrees that the said Messrs Ahmuty and Company shall sell and deliver to the said United Company at the Island of Madeira to be carried from thence to India one hundred and eighty pipes of the best Madeira Wine (being wine ordered near two years ago for the Bengal market and now in a perfect sound and good state) at and for the price of twenty seven pounds per pipe each pipe to contain one hundred and fifteen gallons of wine and the said pipes to be made of the best Hamburg staves and to be properly ironbound and the said wine to be shipped and delivered on ship board to such of the said United Company's outward bound ships to India in the present season as they shall order to proceed to and touch at Madeira for the same and such shipping is to be at the proper costs and charges of the said Messrs Ahmuty and Company and no demand whatsoever to be made on the said United Company in respect of Shipping Charges or otherwise howsoever beyond the said price of seven pounds per pipe And further that the wine ordered for each ship shall be loaded and put on board such ship within eight working days next after such ships arrival at Madeira or in default thereof the said Messrs Ahmuty and Company shall pay damages to the said United Company at and after the rate of twenty pounds per day for every day such ship shall be detained for any part of such wine over and beyond the said eight working days And the said United Company do hereby agree that the said United Company shall purchase and take the said one hundred and eighty pipes of Madeira wine to be shipped as aforesaid on board some or one of their Outward bound ships for India which are to sail in the present season and shall pay for the same by Bills of Exchange to be drawn on the Court of Directors of the said Company at thirty days sight such Bills to be drawn as the said wine shall be shipped in each ship And it is hereby agreed between the said parties that in case upon the arrival of the said wine or any part thereof in India the said United Company's President and Council at the Residency for which the same shall be intended shall be of opinion that the said wine shall not be of such good quality as hereinbefore is mentioned and particularly of as sound and good quality as the Madeira wine usually sent to India by the said United Company it shall and may be lawful for them within two months after the ships arrival to refuse and reject the said wine and in that case the same shall forthwith afterwards be sold by Public Auction for the account of the said Messrs Ahmuty and Company and in case the same after deducting freight and all charges shall not produce in nett money the rate of twenty seven

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pounds per pipe computing the current Rupee of Bengal at exchange of twenty pence and the currency of any other settlement in the same proportion then the said Messrs Ahmuty & Company shall pay to the said United Company in England within thirty days after demand made on the said John Kingston his executors or administrators what the nett produce thereof shall be deficient of twenty seven pounds per pipe computing the exchange as aforesaid but in case the same shall produce in nett money after such deductions as aforesaid more than twenty seven pounds per pipe computing the exchange as aforesaid such profit shall be accounted for and paid by the said United Company in England to the said Messrs Ahmuty & Company within thirty days after demand on the Court of Directors of the said Company and in case of the said wine being disapproved of in India the leakage in the voyage shall be borne by the said Messrs Ahmuty and Company And for the true performance of the Agreements aforesaid the said John Kingston doth hereby bind himself to the said United Company in the sum of five thousand pounds and the said United Company do bind themselves to the said John Kingston in the like sum of five thousand pounds by these presents.

In Witness whereof Thomas Morton Esquire by order of the Court of Directors of the said Company and the said John Kingston have hereunto interchangeably set their hands and Seals the day and year first above written sealed and delivered being first duly stamped in the presence of x