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The Will begins with the name of the person making the Will, (testator for men, testatrix for Women) It also stated the Parish where she lived.

First beneficiary Description of First beneficiary which is usually the Husband /Wife or next of Kin.

I Jane Austen of the parish of Chawton do by this my last will and Testament give and bequeath to my dear sister Cassandra Elizabeth every thing of which I may be possessed or which may hereafter be due to me subject to the payment of my funeral Expence and to a Legacy of £50 to my Brother Edward and £50 to my Sister Mary which I request may be paid as soon as convenient and I appoint my said dear Sister the Executrix of this my last will and Testament Jane Austen April 27, 1817

Jane Austen

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Final Beneficiaries This would cover servants and friends and the will would often specify their relationship to the testator or testatrix

Chief beneficiaries This was usually members of the immediate family

Appeared Personally John Grove Palmer of Chappell Street Ruford Square in the County of Middlesex Esq. and Harriet and Abel Palmer of the same place Spinster and maid oath as follows and first the said John Grove Palmer for himself saith that he knows and was well acquainted with Jane Austen late of the parish of Chawton in the County of Southampton Spinster deceased for several years before and down to the time of her death and that he hath seen her wills and hath also seen several Letters purporting to be of her handwriting and subscription and that said Harriet Abel Palmer for himself saith that she knew and was well acquainted with the said deceased for several years before and down to the time of her death and with her manner and Character of handwriting and subscription having seen her wills and also wills and subscribed her name and both these deponents further say that having carefully viewed and inspected the paper writing her wills and subscription purporting to be and contain the last will and Testament of the said deceased beginning thus "I Jane Austen of the parish of Chawton" ending thus "and I appoint my said dear Sister the Executrix of this my last will and Testament April 27, 1817 and thus subscribed" Jane Austen they these deponents say they do verily and in their Conscience believe the whole body words and contents of the said will beginning ending and subscription of the said Jane Austen deceased and of no other person or persons J. G. Palmer / Harriet Abel Palmer / On the 10 September 1817 the said John Grove Palmer and Harriet Abel Palmer were duly sworn to the truth of this affidavit before me Thos. Engham Esq. J. P. p. a. Watson &c. p. 1

Executor or Executrix The will would name a person or persons responsible for carrying out the wished given in the will.

Date of Will The Will was signed by the testatrix, the date here is 27th April 1817, often the names of witnesses would be given

Proved at London 10 Sept 1817 before the worshipfull Richard Engham Esquire Doctor of Laws and Surrogate by the oath of Cassandra Elizabeth Austen Spinster the Sister and sole Executrix to whom admission was granted she having been first sworn duly to administer.

Probate Clause The Will has to be proven in Law otherwise it is not valid. This section is where you will find the probate date, in this case 10th September 1817, this section also includes where the will was proved.