

William Irvine's Last Will and Testament

The following documents were provided to *Telling the Truth* in 2013 containing the Last Will and Testament of William Irvine, the founder of the movement which later split into the Two-by-Two, Cooneyite and Message sects. Irvine died in March 1947 and his Will was executed during the chaotic days when Britain was hurriedly withdrawing from its Mandate of Palestine. The first (below) is the cover letter from the archivist which accompanied the documents provided by the British court.



HM Courts
& Tribunals
Service

Postal Searches and Copies
Leeds Probate Registry
York House
York Place
Leeds
LS1 2BA

www.theprobateservice.gov.uk

Our ref: Irvine - 07/06/2013

Your ref:

Date: 14/06/2013

In the estate of William Irvine

Dear Sir/Madam

Please find enclosed copies of the document(s) you have requested. Please note that if the individual died intestate there is no will. The copy grant will usually only be sealed if you are the executor or administrator and you specifically requested a sealed copy, copies for family history research or for creditors are **not** normally formally sealed.

You may have made your request at a different registry from Leeds but you should note that the majority of copies are now posted out centrally through the Postal Searches and Copies Department.

Only the name, address and date of death can be used in determining whether a record is held. As a result, there may be instances when the documents located do not exactly match the information supplied. It is, therefore, your responsibility to verify that the document relates to the correct person.

If you have any queries relating to the enclosed document(s) or the service provided by the Postal Searches and Copies Department please contact us in writing at the above address

If you wish to make any further searches please note the search fee is £6 for a search. Each extra copy of the same document ordered at the same time will attract an additional fee of £1.00. The fee covers a 4-year search starting from the year in which the death occurred (or the year from which you ask us to start searching). Longer searches are charged at the rate of £4.00 per 4-year period, so that an 8-year search will cost £10.00, and a 12-year search £14.00. Cheques should also be made payable to 'H.M. Courts and Tribunals Service'.

Yours sincerely,

Probate Officer

2: William Irvine's Last Will and Testament

This document records registration of the Will and appointment of Barclays Bank as the administrator of provisions of the Will on behalf of Theodore Krikorian (the executor). The value of the funds granted for Krikorian's use in England was £1410.5.11 (it is not known whether this includes amounts bequeathed outside of England, though apparently it may not, as "Great Britain" was crossed-out and "England" was written instead), until the probate was finalized.

To estimate the 2013 value of amounts in British Pounds, multiply by 32. For a quick approximation of amounts in 2013 U.S. Dollars, multiply by 48.

In His Majesty's High Court of Justice.	
The Principal Probate Registry.	
BE IT KNOWN that	William Irvine of Jerusalem in Palestine formerly of Ayr in Scotland
who died	on the 9 th day of March 1927 at Jerusalem aforesaid Dominick in Palestine made and duly executed his last Will and Testament and therein named Theodore Krikorian sole executor
who now resides out of England.	
AND BE IT FURTHER KNOWN that at the date hereunder written Letters of Administration with the Will (a copy whereof is hereunto annexed) of all the Estate which by law devolves to and vests in the personal representative of the deceased were granted by His Majesty's High Court of Justice at the Principal Probate Registry thereof to Barclays Bank Dominion Colonial and Overseas of 54 Lombard Street in the City of London	
the lawful Attorney of the said Theodore Krikorian for his use and benefit until he shall apply for and obtain Probate of the said Will.	
<small>And it is hereby certified that an Affidavit for Inland Revenue has been delivered wherein it is shown that the gross value of the said Estate in Great Britain England exclusive of what the said deceased may have been possessed of or entitled to as a trustee and that the net value of the personal estate amounts to £1410.5.11.</small> <small>And it is further certified that it appears by a Receipt signed by an Inland Revenue Officer for the said Affidavit that the account of Estate Duty and interest on such Duty has been paid.</small>	
Dated the	25 th day of March 1928.
Registrar.	
Admon. Will. Limited.	Extracted by R. H. Behrend 17. Surrey Street Strand London W.C.2.

This document records the registration of the Will by the Probate court in Jerusalem and the confirmation of Theodore Krikorian as the executor.

REGISTRATION - JERUSALEM
FEE RECEIVED
Date.....
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
J E R U S A L E M .

Probate Case No. 51/47.

Before: The A/REGISTRAR.

IN THE MATTER OF: The Will of WILLIAM IRVINE
DECEASED.

ORDER.

Be it known that on the 21st day of April, in the year 1947, the last Will dated 27th January, 1947, a copy of which is attached hereto, of WILLIAM IRVINE, deceased, who died in Jerusalem, on the 9th day of March, 1947, was proved and registered in the District Court, Jerusalem, and that administration of all singular the movable property and mulk immovable property and miri immovable property of the said deceased in Palestine was granted by the aforesaid Court to Mr. THEODORE KRIKORIAN, the executor named in the said Will, the said Theodore Krikorian having been first sworn well and faithfully to administer the same by paying the just debts of the deceased and the legacies contained in the said Will so far as he is thereunto bound by Law, and to exhibit a true and perfect inventory of all and singular the said property and to render a just and true account whenever required by Law to do so.

Certified true copy S. EPSTEIN
A/REGISTRAR.
116
Clerk
10-11-47 District Court Jerusalem

This Will specifies the distribution of £2,200 (equivalent to £70,400 in 2013 £). This would have been worth approximately \$10,000 in 1947 US\$ (equivalent to \$105,600 in 2013 US\$). The average U.S. house sold in 1947 cost \$13,000 and the average annual salary was \$3,500 (in 1947 US\$). Some of the named beneficiaries still exist and others would have shut down or moved shortly thereafter upon the liquidation of the British Mandate of Palestine the next year. As Irvine was already extremely ill at the time the Will was set down, the bequests likely are based upon his liquid cash in Pounds and may not factor in other securities, currencies, accounts, etc. in his possession at the time of his death.

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

I, WILLIAM IRVINE, born in Kilsyth, Scotland on the 7th day of January 1863, a resident of Jerusalem, Palestine, being of sound mind and knowledge hereby revoke all former Wills and testamentary dispositions made by me, and by this my last Will devise and bequeath all my movable and immovable property and my real and personal estate whatsoever and wheresoever situated, as follows:- (1) The sum of LP. 200.- (Two hundred Palestine Pounds) to NELLIE CLELAND, my sister, wife of David Cleland, residing in Kirkintilloch, Scotland, or to her heirs, or legal personal representatives. (2) The sum of LP. 200.- (Two hundred Palestine Pounds) to JENNIE CLELAND, my other sister, wife of Peter Cleland, residing in Kilsyth, Scotland, or to her heirs, or legal personal representatives. (3) The sum of LP. 500.- (Five hundred Palestine Pounds) to the Radium Institute of the Hadassah University Hospital for a bed to be endowed in the name of WILLIAM IRVINE, Kilsyth, Scotland. (4) The sum of LP. 150.- (One Hundred and Fifty Palestine Pounds) to St. John's Ophthalmic Hospital, Jerusalem. (5) The sum of LP. 100.- (One hundred Palestine Pounds) to the Hospital Francais St. Louis (French Hospital), Jerusalem. (6) The sum of LP. 100.- (One hundred Palestine Pounds) to Dr. A. Ticho, proprietor of a private Ophthalmic Hospital, Jerusalem, for the treatment and comforts to the poor who attend his hospital. (7) The sum of LP. 50.- (Fifty Palestine Pounds) to the Jewish Institute for the Blind, Jerusalem. (8) The sum of LP. 50.- (Fifty Palestine Pounds) to The People's Dispensary for Sick Animals of the poor, at Birket-El-Sultan, Jerusalem. (9) The sum of LP. 500.- (Five hundred Palestine Pounds), to my friend Mr. THOMAS COUSSEN, Greed Colony, Jerusalem. (10) The sum of LP. 100.- (One hundred Palestine Pounds) to Dr. T. MINASSIAN, Jerusalem. (11) The sum of LP. 100.- (One hundred Palestine Pounds) to the Staff (excluding the management) of the Almasie Hotel, Jerusalem. (12) The sum of LP. 50.- (Fifty Palestine Pounds) in equal shares, to the two proprietors of the Almasie Hotel, Jerusalem. (13) Clothes and all other chattles in my room to be collected and given away to the poor and needy as decided by my executor and Mr. Thomas Coussin. (14) The residue of my estate to be distributed to institutions for the poor and needy in Jerusalem as decided by my executor and Mr. Thomas Coussin. (15) All funeral arrangements and last sacred rites to be arranged by my beloved friend Mr. Thomas Coussin, who will see to all matters in this respect and charge the expenses incurred to the estate. (16) I appoint Mr. THEODORE KRIKORIAN, of Upper Baga, Jerusalem (now Senior Paymaster Police) to be the sole executor of this my last will, the said executor to sell, call in and convert all my movable, real and personal estate whatsoever and wheresoever situated into money to be distributed according to the provisions and bequests hereinbefore contained. I fix hereby the sum of LP. 100.- (One hundred Palestine Pounds) to be paid to my said executor. IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand this 27th day of January, One Thousand Nine Hundred & Forty - Seven. (Sgd.) William Irvine. On 100 mils Revenue Stamp. Signed by the above testator as his last Will in the joint presence of himself and us, who at his request and in such joint presence have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses. (Sgd.) B. Geichman Residing at B. Geichman, Jerusalem. (Sgd.) J. Brandwein Residing at J. Brandwein, Jerusalem. 27-1-1947.