

International College,
Smyrna, Turkey,
March 8, 1929.

- Mrs. Ellen Perkins Webber,
106 Barrie Street, Kingston, Ont., Canada,
✓ Mrs. Rose H. MacLachlan,
106 Barrie Street, Kingston, Ont., Canada,
✓ Mrs. Edith Ashe,
65 Birdhurst Rise, South Croydon, Surrey, England,
Francis Blackler, Esq.,
Breslin Griffith Carpet Co., Athens, Greece.

Dear Friends:-

Advices from the Rev. R.P. Ashe, inform me that Miss Ida H. Blackler, your sister, died on February 25th near London from the result of an accident which befell her some weeks before.

I have in my possession, in duplicate signed and witnessed copies, a document purporting to be the last will and testament of the abovementioned Ida Hooper Blackler, deceased, dated at Budjah, near Smyrna on 19th March, 1924. This will was drawn up at the request of Miss Ida Blackler, and its existence has been known, I believe, to all the members of her immediate family.

However, under date of 19th March 1928, objection was made to me by one of the members of the family to my having been named as sole executor in this will, and the suggestion made that a new will should be made, with other executors. To this I replied under date of April 11th 1928 that I was quite eager to have new wills drawn up, adding "I shall be happy to be relieved of responsibility which was assumed only because other male relatives seemed too busy to assist, and which, it is now clear, is not appreciated".

I write now to ask each of you to advise me whether you are in possession of, or have knowledge of any wills bearing later date than that which was drawn up five years ago. If so, please advise me at once, in which case all responsibility which I have under the former will, will, on probate of the new will, disappear. If, however, you believe the will in my possession to be the actual last will and testament of Ida H. Blackler, deceased, will you kindly advise me to that effect, noting at the same time, any objections you may have to my acting as executor, or any suggestions you may wish to make. I understand that all the estate of the late Miss Blackler are in the form of bearer bonds, in the care of the Westminster Bank Ltd., Old Street Branch, 98 City Road, London E.C. 1, and I am requesting the Manager, Mr. Littell, to nominate the solicitors of that Bank to handle the legal formalities if these fall under British law; otherwise I shall seek competent American legal assistance if the will is to be probated in the United States.

Very respectfully yours,

Cass Arthur Reed
Cass Arthur Reed.

COPY OF LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT
IDA HOOPER BLACKLER

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL PRESENTS:

That I, Ida Hooper Blackler, spinster, an American citizen residing at Boudjah, near Smyrna, Turkey, being in my right mind, do make and publish this, my last Will and Testament, thereby revoking all similar documents of earlier date:

FIRST: I direct that all my just bills and last illness and funeral expenses be paid.

SECOND: I give, devise and bequeath, the sum of five hundred dollars, to be used as an expression of my sense of Christian stewardship, for some religious, charitable, or benevolent object or society under American control, the particular object or society to be determined by my executor.

THIRD: I give, devise and bequeath, all the rest and residue of my estate, real and personal, wheresoever located and of whatsoever nature, in equal shares, share and share alike, to my sisters Ellen Perkins Webber, Rose H. MacLachlan, Edith Ashe, and to my brother Francis Blackler, my other sister Mary Blackler, being already provided for amply in my judgment.

FOURTH: I appoint Cass Arthur Reed, husband of my niece Rosalind M. Reed, as executor of this my last will and testament, to serve without bonds.

In witness whereof, I have affixed my signature in the presence of the undersigned witnesses at Budjah, near Smyrna, Turkey, this 19th day of March, in the year of our Lord One Thousand, Nine Hundred and Twenty Four.

Signed

IDA H. BLACKLER.

We, the undersigned, at the request of Ida Hooper Blackler, being personally known to us, have this day witnessed her signature, in testimony whereof we have, in each others presence, signed this document at Boudjah, near Smyrna, this 19th day of March, 1924.

Signed: Grace Joly,
Archie H. Macfarlane.

Copied at Smyrna,
March 1929.

Copies sent to the beneficiaries named above,
March 8, 1929.

Smyrna, March 8, 1929.

F. Littell, Esq., Manager,
Westminster Bank, Ltd.,
Old Street Branch,
98 City Road,
London, E.C. 1.

Dear Sir:-

Recalling one or two occasions when I called on you in London, and our correspondence regarding certain interests of the Misses Blackler, I write to advise you of the death on February 25th, of Miss Ida Hooper Blackler.

I hold in my hands the original of a document purporting to be the last will and testament of the late Ida Hooper Blackler, a copy of which is enclosed. In 1928 one of Miss Blackler's close relatives suggested that a new will be drawn up, to which I replied that I had no possible objection to this, as it would relieve me of the responsibility placed on me as prospective executor in the will of March 19th, 1924. I have never been advised whether such a will was ever drawn up, but if so, as her banker, you might be in possession of the same.

In virtue of the fact that I hold such a will, it is my duty, lacking evidence of a later will, to take steps to have this probated. I am sending copies of this will to the beneficiaries named, asking them to inform me at once if they have knowledge of or are in possession of any later will. If such a will is probated, my responsibility, of course, ends. If not, I must proceed to have the will I hold probated.

Since you have long been Miss Blackler's banker, it would seem most appropriate that I should ask the Westminster Bank to ask its solicitor to handle the legal formalities involved. My local legal adviser, Eric Whittall Esq., advises this also. I am inclined to think that since Miss Blackler was an American citizen, and all her estate was in personal property, it will have to be administered under the American, and not under the British law. If this can be done in London, well; if not, it would probably not be necessary to have a British firm of solicitors, but the matter should be referred to an American firm. I shall be glad, in either case, to have your suggestions.

Very respectfully yours,

Cass Arthur Reed.