

Will of William Willington of Barcheston, Co Warwick, merchant of the staple;
written 28 March 1555, proved 15 November 1559 PROB 11/42B/642

1. I desire to be buried in the chapel within the church of Barston [Barcheston] or elsewhere yt shall please God I shall depart this worlde within Christian buryall, and whereytt shall please Almightye God I shalbe buried I gyve unto the Church there unto the mayntenance of those ymplements where moost neede is £3.

2. To the parson of Barston for tithes forgotten if any be 20s.

3 To the Church of Barcheston a payre of vestments, price £7

4. To the mending of Shepston bridge and to the mending of the causeway to Willetts dore £7 to be done by the oversight of four of the most honest men within the town of Shepston.

5 To the poor people of Shepston £3; to the poor people of Tredington, Dorscote Blackwell, Armescote and Newbold £3; to the poor of Brayles £4; of Todnam 20s; of Burmington, Wollamyngton & Tidmington 20s; of Honington & Cheriton 10s; of Tysoe 20s; of Whatcote, Jelycote, Oxhill & Stretton 26s 8d; of Ilminton 13s 4d' of Hawford 5s; of Woldforde 1s 4d.

6. To an hundred poor maides to their marriage which shall be of honest name and fame one hundred marks to be paid by my executors.

7 To my sister Alice Bysshope £5 to buy her a gown. To the children Agnes Boosbye had by John Bosbye 10 marks between them; to the children of Alice Bolters 10 marks between them; of Dorothy Knightley if she have any alive, 5 marks; of Anne Blamorde 10 marks between them; of Margaret Hawton, 10 marks between them, all the above to have their portions at the age of 18 years and if they die before, to be divided between their brothers and sisters.

To the children of Nicholas Toley, first to my godson £4 and to the other children £5 between them; to the children of Alice Hodgkins 10 marks between them; to William Freeman that dwelt with me 10 marks; to his brother John Freeman's children £5 between them; to his sister's children that dwelt at Quinton £4 between them; to Robert Hopper's children, except Thomas and Margery Hopper whose portions are already paid, £10; to Thomas Warrand's children £10, except Richard Warren who is already paid; to his second wife's children to be divided evenly between them £1; to Mawde Ricars children £10 between them; to my cousin William Barne's children £10 between them; to William Hopper's children £10; to Thomas Bysshope's children £10 between them; to Anne Warde's children 10 marks; to children of John Bysshop deceased 10 marks between them; to my godson William Bysshop son of John the younger, £5; to Elizabeth Brok's children £5 between them.

8. I bequeath to my cousin William Barnes all my lands and tenements in Brailes and Chelmscote and to his heirs for ever, he paying yearly to the poor people of Brailes 33s 4d and to the poor of Shipston 33s 4d, to the poor of Tyso 40s seven days before

Easter and Christmas as by my funeral deeds thereof made to William Barnes may appear.

9. All my lands and tenements in Chipping Norton Co Oxford, to William son of Thomas Willington and to William Hopper my godson, to them, their issue, part of which I have bought of Richard Lee als Tyrewood of the city of Coventry, mercer; and the rest of the said lands, viz 1 messuage and two yardlands and appurtenances now in the tenure of William Medd; Also I bequeath to the residue of the said Thomas Willington's children (the said William my godson excepted) the sum of three score pounds to be equally divided at their marriage or at the age of 18.

9. To Thomas Bradwey's sister's children that Richard Smythe of Campden married 10 marks; to John Sullaway £4; to Rauf Page £4; to John Bate 40s; to Profett my servant 20s; to Robert Kington 13s 4d; to John Rose 5 marks; to all my other servants in my house, men and women, not before remembered in this my will to every one of them 20s clearly beside their wage.

10. To Robert More's children of Ditchford, my servant, £5 to the youngest sort that hath most need to be evenly divided amongst them by their father's counsel indifferently; to William Moore's children of Wyncote 40s between them; to every one of my godchildren not yet remembered 10s; to the mending of the highway in Ditchford Lane 'where most need is' £13 6s 8d; to Budde my servant at Weston 10s; to the children of Robert George of Brailes, except his eldest son, £20, to be paid to them at their marriage or when 18 years old.

11. My lands in Eggington to Robert George of Brailes which I purchased of his father John George in tail male (except his oldest son).

12. To the mending of Hawford [Halford] bridge £10 by oversight of the parishioners there.

Business interests

13. My lands in Calice to George Bradwey, brother of William Bradwey, and his issue being a woolhouse and two fishers house in the parish of Our Lady near the wall there, the evidences being in my counting house in London in a box upon the shelf.

Bequests to family

14. To my cousin William Barnes the years and term remaining of my lease of Wyncote pastures and my sheep there and all the lease I shall fortune to have at the time of my death within the same pasture,

15. To my cousins Robert Middlemore, Richard Middlemore priest, Godith Bulstrode, Elenor Agarde, Winifred Standley and Alice Barnes, £20 each.

16. All my plate, after my wife's decease, to my seven daughters – that is to say Margery Cave, Godith Fielding, Elizabeth Boughton, Mary Sheldon, Margaret Grevill, Anne Mountford and Katherine Throckmorton 'the same plate to be truly wayed' and the distributed evenly amongst them. They are also to have 7 of my best featherbeds with their hangings, bolsters, pillows, beer sheets, blankets and coverings even as they be now used. Except only the best bed with the hangings and all the best stuff thereunto belonging which I give to my well-beloved wife.

17. My wife to have all the household stuff that was here at our marriage, in any place, and all my sheep at Chelmscote and all the catell of manner of sorts being at Studley with all the household and other stuff there. And I bequeath unto my said wife 600 marks ready money and all other my household and household stuff not otherwise before expressed with my whole stock of sheep beasts and all manner of other cattle and corn being in and about the manor of Barcheston and all the other premises I give and bequeath unto my said well-beloved wife the same to remain to her during her life and after her decease to remain to my cousin William Barnes.

18. I bequeath my manor of Barcheston with all lands etc there tofore, after the decease of me and my wife to my cousin William Barnes in tail male with all such stock of sheep and cattle as shall there be grazing upon the said premises, he paying my daughter Anne Mountford £20 per year, which yearly rent I will shall be bestowed by the counsel of mine executors to be stored for the recovery of his inheritance, her husband Francis Mountford not to interfere therewith; it shall be lawful for her to distrain upon Barcheston if the rent fall in arrears. But if there is insufficient capital in Barcheston to pay this then Anne is to have the manor.

19. The manor of Cotborowe Hall with appurtenances in Tanworth, co Warwick and my lands their at Northurst and Stodley, which I bought together with Ralph Sheldon of Sir John Norrys kt and also the lands I bought of the King as appears by letters patent lately belonging to the chantries in Toneworth (?Tanworth) and Lapworth, to my daughter Anne Mountford and her issue, Francis her husband not to meddle, in default to my right heirs for ever; the rest of my daughters and their husbands after my decease to release the same to her; and her heirs male apparent shall receive £20 per year out of the same.

20. The manor or lordship of Ditchford Frarye with the perpetual donation and patronage of the parsonage there, with all the stock of sheep and beasts and stud of mares, geldings and colts then remaining there, to my cousin William Barnes in tail male; in default of such issue to my daughters Godith Fielding and Elizabeth Boughton and their issue, with contingent remainders, in default, of any issue to my right heirs; he paying my said daughters £30 per year each. If no heirs, the manor to come to Godith Fielding and Elizabeth Boughton.

21. The parsonage of Tyso with the perpetual advowson and patronage of the vicarage there and tithes etc and my lands in Tyso bought of one John Bachelor of Honington and of William Garrage, haberdasher, of London to my wife Anne for life, with remainder to my cousin William Barnes and his issue, he paying my daughters Godith Fielding and Elizabeth Boughton and their issue £20.

22. If I die without issue I bequeath to my daughter Margery Cave and her issue by Thomas Holte lawfully begotten my lands etc in the towns, villages and fields of Aston next Birmingham & Witton, Melton Mowbray co Leics, Hansworth co Staffs late belonging to the dissolved chantry of Aston and the priory or free chapel of Birmingham with the lands thereto belonging and the lordship or manor of the same in the lordships of Dudeston with lands in the lordship of Nechele and Salteley in the parish of Aston sometime belonging to the late dissolved Guild of Derytene co. Warwick which I bought of Thomas Hawkins als Fyssher, in default of such issue to

her issue by Ambrose Cave; all my lands etc in the towns and parishes of Harbourne, Haleshowen, Norfield and Smythwicke co Worcs, Salop and Stafford to my said daughter Margery Cave and her issue by Sir Ambrose Cave, in default to her issue by Thomas Holte, her late husband, in default to my right heirs; my other daughters and their husbands to release and assure the same to her; her heir male apparent, at his age 21, to have £20 per year out of the same.

23. All my lands and tenements in Wolford co Glos which I bought of the King by letters patent appearing to my daughter Margaret Grevill and her issue; her heir male apparent, at his age 21, to have £20 per year out of the same.

24. All my lands and tenements in Welsbourne and Newbold Pacey to my godson William Grevill; if he die without issue then to the younger son or sons of my said daughter Grevill, paying to my old servant Robert Moore of Ditchford 40s per year during his life which I will to him out of the premises as by his patent appeareth.

25. I bequeath the manor or lordship of Combe Baskerville which my son Sheldon late bought of Sir James Baskerville (*sic*) Kt towards which purchase he had £800 of me and was content to release all such lands as I had before appointed unto his heirs by my will as appeareth by indentures between us, the lands to revert, remain and come unto the heirs of my daughter Mary Sheldon or at least so much of the land as shall clearly amount to £40 above all reprises and charges. The same I will shall be known to her heirs as my gift and the heir to have £20 in two portions (Michaelmas and f. BVM) at his age 21.

26. If I die without male issue my lands in Hawford, Wollamington, Burmington and Honington Co Warwick; and in Bodicote, Aderbury and Balscote, Co Oxon; and in Tredington, Newbold and Tidmington co Worcs; and in Tidnam and Newington co Glos with the stock of sheep going on the same ground in co Glos. to Anthony Throckmorton and my daughter Catherine his wife and their issue; in default of such issue to her issue by William Catesby, in default to my right heirs, my other daughters and their husbands to release and secure the same to her; and her heir male apparent by Throckmorton to have £20 per year out of the same.

23. To the said Anthony and Catherine Throckmorton my manor or lordship of Grene in the parish of Alvechurch which I lately bought of Edward Boughton and Stephen Agarde Esqs and my lands in King's Norton co Worcs. To hold to them and the issue of her by William Catesby, son of Sir Richard Catesby Kt, paying yearly to Nicholas Kington, Humfrey Warner, Thomas Perkyns, John Carter, William Totill 26s 8d each and to Roger Benson 20s which I give to my said servants for their lives. In default of such issue to her issue by Throckmorton, son of Sir George Throckmorton, Kt., in default to my issue then to my right heirs.

24. I give to my six daughters' children (Katherine Throckmorton excepted) not remembered £40 on marriage.

Arrangements for execution and disputes

25. If any of my sons in law go about to break any part of my will 'with good plain deliberation' or not be contented then he forfeits the same, to be divided between the rest.

Arrangements specified that 'if it should happen that discord should arise between any of the testators' daughters and their husbands or that the husbands of any of them do not use order and keep his wife my daughter like as a gentleman ought to be used ordered and kept', or if any of them should happen to live apart from one another for space of twenty weeks, the bequest is void. The same bequest and legacy is in that case willed to Sir Robert Broke, Kt, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas at Westminster, Sir Robert Throckmorton, Kt, Robert Middlemore esq. and William Barnes for the life of any such daughter so that she hath the issues of the property (who is misused) and that she shall have the property within two months of her husband's death. Or these four above named to apportion the estate to the children of the daughter who dies first.

But if it is the daughter who disagrees then the four above-named shall divide the inheritance to the children equally, but the daughter ceases to have anything.

The four above-named to have £10 apiece for their pains.

Cave, Grevill, Fielding, Sheldon and Barnes to be executors and to have £20 each.

I revoke and annul all and every former will or testament and this is my last will and testament. If I have wronged any who thinks I should make recompense he is to appeal to my executors. If any owes me but cannot pay without harm to his wife and children he is to ask help of my executors who may cancel the debt or lengthen the days for payment.