

WILLS.

## WILLS

Miss Browton writes in Vol 3 & 4 of her diary:

Much can be learnt about the possessions and houses of the testators.

- 1486 The earliest Walberswick will is that of JOHN WULWARD of 'Walblyswyk', made on Nov 6. He commended his soul into the hands of Almighty God, B.V.M, St.Andrew Apostle and All Saints; his body to be buried in St.Andrew's Church. He gave to the high altar 'for all oblations promised and owing 3s.4d.' Also for the adornment of the Church 8 marcs with which to buy an ornament at the discretion of his Executors. To Agnes, one of his two daughters, he left one farmhouse and 40s to sustain her. Probate was granted at Southwold on Ap.2.1487. This will is in the British Museum.

The following wills are at Somerset House:

- 1512 ROBERT POTY gave to the "High aulter" XXs. Towards the church 'Rofe' in Walberswick for the building thereof XX marks. After sale of his 'shyppers', "I give towards the making of the Chaunsell VI£.XIIIs.IIIId." [Both roof and chancel had been completed before this date.] To his wife he gave his ship "The Margaret", with haulf my tymber that lieth at the old church, XX marcs in money & half my nettes". Tenements and lands held both by deed and copy to his wife as long as she remained unmarried; if she married she was to move to another tenement over the way called Wrights. Nicolas Poty's son was to have the ship Mary. The cok ship, Catherine, was to be sold and ½ his timber at the old church with her; and if Robert Asshwell will bye her, he to have his XXs with the price that any man will give for her". His ship John and his doggerbote were to be sold. Among his bequests are a maser bound with silver and gylte, plate and a flat table which stands in the hall. [A maser was a drinking bowl made of maple. Tables were usually of the trestle type and leant against the wall not in use. A standing table betokens the house of a well to do man.]
- 1517 Jan 26. ARNOLD MANFELDE. To be buried in parish Church of Walberswick by the sepulchre of Agnes, his late wife. To the building of the chancel £10. "A secular priest to sing for me in the said Church the term of IIII years immediately after my decease to pray for my soul and the souls that I am bound to pray for." His executors were to dispose of the residue of his property in deeds of charity for his soul as they intend to answer before God.
- 1525 July 21. WATER BURGHWARDE to be buried in the Church. He left to the Blessed Trinity in our mother Church of Norwich 7d: to Walberswick Church £20; for an 'awter' cloth £7. If his ship Jamys, out at her adventure, returns, his Executors are to sell her and "buy as much land as shall have an alms doon for me perpetually 13d a weke to 13 poor folk where it shall be thought most need."

1538 Oct 22. ROBERT PEGOTT, merchant to be buried in the churchyard "next tholly water stopp in Walbertiswecke". To his wife, Margaret, he gave his household stuffe "save only the things that I reserve and except". To his daughter, Katherine, the bed in the new parlour, and the bedstead, hanging, and the best covering, and £20. 3 silver pottes with a covering, 6 silver spoons, a silver salt with covering. To son Robert the great silver pott with a covering, a silver salt the least with a covering, a goblet of silver and 6 spoons of silver, a feather bed in the old parlour with bedstead and covering next the best and £20.

"To Robt. Burward, my gowne furred with fox; to Wm Tekett my gowne furred with black lamb; to Wm. Harran, my gowne lined with chamblett [fabric of wool and cotton with wavy surface], to Ronbt. Carter, my gowne furred with fytehers [fytthers? - polecat]; to John Gardiner, my doublet of damask.

Christopher Pearson was to have 20s. and a house that was his father's; Jully & Joyce were to have the house that was mother Birde's. All his other houses were to be sold except one that Margaret Fountain dwelleth in.

The Barbara with all the salt she brings home to be sold, and the Jane with all his Hlewis[?] and herring and spyrling nets, his horses, mares and carts, all wood and timber in the close and at Hynton. The house at "Leistoft" bought of Robert Hood to be sold. John Lambert was to have the boat Jennett "with 2 orys & a scope." Wm. Harran was to buy part of the ship Mary & John.

After all these legacies and debts had been paid, the residue was to be given to the poor of Walberswick "on the Friday before Christmas 50s. and on Good Friday 50s. so longe till it shall be given out every yere by the discretion of mine Executors."

1539 16 April WM. ROOKE to be buried in the Church and "there a clene marbell stone to lye on me". He gave to the high altar XIIId; unto edyfing of the haven VIII; to reparation of the church XXs; to the mending of the way's to the Church from my house XIIs.

"Margery, my wife, is to have the tenement I bought of Margett Ylderton with my ferme that I bought of Blake, to give and to sell saving that Margett Ylderton is to have her dwelling there." "If my wife have a man child, my Executor Robt. Carter is to put it to learning to wryte and rede." His sister Pernell was to have the tenement bought of Thos. Arnold and an acre of land in the field.

John Thurston the elder of Dunwich was to have £3, his best gown and best 'dowblett'. Wm. Thurston, son of John Thurston his kinsman, was to have a manfare of XII score with rope, 2 spurlyng nets and XXs. in money. To Wm. Clayson, his wife's father he left his 2nd gown, to his brother in law "a worsted doublett and a chamlett cote", to partner Gardener "a chamlett jakett" to Robert Carter a cloke. Partner Gardener was to have  $\frac{1}{2}$  of  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the Mathew for £37.

Alexander Richardson was to enter into the house in which he dwelt after his decease.

"If my shyppe come home well from Island, I give £5 more to the reparation of the haven and to the reparation of the highway of The Street of Walberswick £5. To his wife he gave 10 comb malt, 6 comb wheat and a cow of the best. To his brother in law a "somer gowne lined afore with saye" [serge or silk?] To Wm Richardson 2 silver spoons.

- 1542 ROBERT BURWARDE, mariner, to be buried in the churchyard left of the "high auter" 3s.4d. His wife, Kateryn, was to have all his boats and tackle, lands and "cattal". Robert Pygott, his brother in law's son to have £80 at full age. His son Richard was to have ¼ of the Kateryn by a bargain made before she went to Iceland.
- 1547 Jan 27 GREGORY BLOCKE Katerine, his wife, was to have his house and its contents and his nets. To the poor for 4 years 1000 byllets were to be given at Christmas and The Annunciation.
- 1571 July 24 WILLIAM MARTEN, abs. Cawston 'potecarie'. To be buried in church next unto his father Wm. Marten, abs. Cawston. His potecarie wares, groceries and all other wares in his shop to be sold and Mr. Wm. Pennington, grocer, of London to be paid. His son Nicholas was to have his stock and "adventure to the North seas".
- 1572 ALEXANDER RICHARDSON, mariner, wished to buried in the Church. His wife, Anne, to have his ship, Marye Fortune and his crares [crases?] Mary Anne and Mary James. His second son, Alexander to have his ship the William. To Robert, his elder son, he left the house called Mother Elderton's with the south fen and a house called Conyolds.  
His wife was to have the house called Alexander Richardson's with the north close and 2 acres of land on the Mill Hill.  
The house in Walberswick called Popes, held by the Copy of the Court Roll of Sir Owen Hopton of his manor of Blythburgh, was to be kept up by the townsmen as an almshouse. Robert was to have the little cupboard in the shop and Margaret his daughter the half trundlebed in the 'soller' [attic].
- 1578 Oct. 6 RICHARD ADAMS, abs. Miller, mariner left his silver whistle to Robert Richardson.
- 1601 Aug 21 JOHN COXE, mariner, left 10s. to the poor at his burial, 40s, to George Pickering of Westminster, 'my kinsman' to Helen Bell, wife of John Bell of Smithfield £20 and other bequests. "My late Barke called The Gyfte of God which I have bargain sold unto John Smith of Halesworth, merchant, if she shall not return safe, all legacies are not to be paid."
- 1603 Feb 20th MICHAEL NICHOLSON, mariner, one of the company of the ship called The Ascension of London now bound of voyage to the East Indies, left all of his possessions to Wm. Avene of the precincts of St.Katherine-next-the-Tower, London, yeoman. [He did not reach the East Indies, for his will was proved on June 24th 1603.]
- 1611 Jan 25 WILLIAM ROYDEN, Mariner, does not appear to have left anything to his wife, Elizabeth. To his son, William, he left his tenement with yards, gardens, long close and pightle; all the tenement occupied by Mary Hartley, widow. William was to have his crayer, 10 tons, called Mary Royden with the cocke boat. To his son, John, he left two pieces or arable land in The Field of Walberswick, one called Five rood acre and half an acre lying near land called Hoystes. Each of his three daughters, Elizabeth wife of Bennet Hearing of Yarmouth, Margery Bond, and Mary Hartley was to

- have £5: Mary was to have 'the long table and frame in the parlour where I now dwell.'
- 1626 Dec 17 HENRY BROWNE, mariner, left his messuages houses etc. in equal parts to his two sons Henry and Thomas. His wife, Anne, was to have all his household goods and £30 in lieu of her dowry. Son John was to have 1/3 of barke Annie Francis and £10. Son Thomas inherited the best bedstead in the parlour with featherbed etc. Uncle Henry Balles of Wissett was left £5 and £20 to bring up Henry and Thomas; also after sale and payment of debts, the residue for the bringing up of Abraham and Susan and an unborn child.
- 1638 Oct 31 JOHN ARNOLD, merchant, left to his daughter, Margaret, two tenements in 'Larstofe' with lands, orchards and gardens; also £20 to be paid at or in the south porch of the parish Church of Walberswick by Anne his wife.
- 1653 May 31. ABRAHAM GOLD of Walberswick, ill in St.Catherine's near the Tower of London, spoke his will and left all to his wife and children. [His will was proved on June 15th 1653]
- 1632 Oct 12 WILLIAM RAYDON, mariner, left to his wife, Ann, his lands, houses, orchards, gardens etc. until his son 'Lucke' [Luke] is 21, also during his natural life, "the west end of my house from the chimney to the shopp, that is to say one paller [parlour] one paler chamber over the paller, one little bedchamber and one buttery with free passage to the well for water for her use; two featherbeds, two bedsteads one in the little paler, one in the little chamber with the furniture thereto belonging; one cupboard in the little paller with all the furniture as they now stand." She was also to have 1/6 of the ship Resolution belonging to "Alborrow, at 21 Lucke was to have all his houses etc, also 2/3 part of bark The William and Lucke, John, his second son, was to have 2/3 of bark William and John, also 1/4 and 1/2 of Barque The Providence; also 1/8 of the shipp The Ann of 'Alborrow'. To William his youngest son, he left 1/4 of the shipp now being built by Goodman Crisp in Walberswick and £80 at the age of 20. To Robert Chettelburrow 'my kinsman' he left 1/2 of his herring nets, also 1/3 of spurling nets, also Turk nets and one mane of lines. To Timothie Raydon a drawe net and one mane of lines. The poor of Walberswick were to have 20/- and Rose Chettelburrow 40/- at 21. His father in law, Henry Richardson, was appointed Executor and the will was sealed and delivered.
- This is the only one of these wills that was sealed; Raydon was evidently a man of good position in the town.
- 1572 RICHARD BROWNE, yeoman, left gifts to servants and girls, also Richard, son of John Fearmes, and to John Paternoster and his wife. He gave £6.13.4 for the repairing of the Rey and his house called "Judgs" with a pyghtle for an almshouse.
- 1609 WILLIAM PAYE "I bequeath my soule to Jesus Christ, my Savyoure and Redeemer, my body to the earth, my synnes to the devill. Memorandum. I William Paye, servant to Mrs Crippis of Walberswick, merchant, give to Mrs. Crippis 25s, to Henry Richardson, Master of the ship 25s, to sister Margaret 25s. to sister Johane 25s, to

Dorothy 25s, to brother Edward 20s. and among the men of the ship 12s. [One of his witnesses was Edward Tuttawaye]

- 1644 March 14. JOHN FAIRCLIFFE, yeoman, left to Elizabeth Barwicke, his daughter, the tenement in which he dwelt, after death of his wife Alice. To Elizabeth Barwicke, his grandchild, he left a tenement at the Church in Walberswick and a pightle thereunto belonging. His Grandson Thomas Barwicke, at 21 was to have 1/32 part of a new ship Great Basse of Walberswick.
- 1630 Feb 1 THOMAS KENNETT, shipwright left everything to his wife Mary, but Rose, daughter of John Chettelborough was to have £5 when she was 21.
- 1639 July 14 JOHN EARNE left to his wife, Susan,, £100 and all moveables in his house; to brother Robert £10, to Thomas, son of Thomas Earne, £10, to John, son of John Newman of Walpole £10, to Thomas Earne of Walpole "one carte, one plowe, one cloake". To Daniell, son of Philip Earne £12, to Dorotheie, wife of Thomas Grimston, 20/-, to Bridgett, daughter of Thomas Allen, £5 at the age of 19. A ¼ part of the crayer Arne was to be sold "I wish twoe stoones and spindeall and a horse to be sould to pay debts." All corn standing on ground was to be sold. Daniell Earne was to have his "best suite" and Robert Earne another suite.
- 1645 May 31. HENRY RICHARDSON of "Walberswick, mariner, left to his son, Richard, all his houses and lands in Walberswick (one tenement, yards and pightle called Jorduns excepted) "I will that my cow be delivered to my son, Richard, to be improved as God shall bless her by the said Richard for the benefit and good of my grandchild, Henry Richardson." All his shipping and other property was to be equally divided between his son, Richard, and his son in law George Nunn.
- 1652 May 12. JOHN CHAPMAN of Walberswick 'bere brewer'. His brewing things he left to his wife, Elizabeth, and his son William, when he was 21; at which age he was also to have £50. He mentioned property that he had at Fritton, 'Mourning Thorpe' Shelton and Long Stratton in Norfolk. After his wife's death his son was to pay £50 to his daughter Bothia and £50 to his daughter Elizabeth, at the Church porch of Walberswick. To his daughter Rose, wife of John Burford, he left £300 at the age of 21, his daughter Elizabeth was to have £100 paid to her at the Church porch at the rate of £6 yearly on the feast of St. Michael and The Annunciation of Our Lady Mary the Virgin. Elizabeth, Debora and Rebecca, daughter of his wife by her former marriage, were to have £50 each at the age of 21.

John Chapman was the public spirited man who worked hard to regain the 1400 acres of common that had been appropriated by the Lord of the Manor, Sir Robert Brooke. Chapman was not the first brewer here for in 1448 Hugh Williamson, beer brewer, gave a fine to the Lord, 16/8 per annum to brew beer within the demesne of the Lord in Walberswick so that no other man except Hugh his servant or attorney may brew beer within the said limits.

In 1466 howe berebrewer paid 12d rent for the town land; and in 1470 Margery howe was paid 7 nobylls (£3.10.0) for beer.

In 1470 'Everarde Berbrwer' paid 16d. rent for land.

I John CRISP, of the parish of Walberswick, Master Mariner, being of perfect mind and memory, thanks be given unto God: therefore calling into mind the mortality of my body, knowing that it is appointed unto all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last will and testament, that is to say, principally and first of all, I give and recommend my soul into the hands of Almighty God that gave it, and my body I recommend to the earth to be buried in decent Christian burial, at the discretion of my executors. And as touching such worldly estate where with it hath pleased God to bless me in this life I give, demise, and dispose of the same in the following manner and form:

First I give and bequeathe to Mary my dear beloved Wife whom I constitute make and ordain my sole executrix of this my last Will and Testament, all and Singular my Leasehold Lands, Messuages and Tenements, situate in the parish of Walberswick in the County of Suffolk, by her freely to be possessed and enjoyed during her natural life, together with all my house hold goods and movable effects.

Also at the Death of Mary my beloved Wife, it is my Will, that she be decently buried in a Christian manner at the discretion of my Executor.

Also I give and bequeathe to my beloved son William Crisp, mariner, whom I constitute make and ordain my executor, at the decease of Mary my beloved Wife, after all Funeral and other expenses are paid, full possession and free enjoyment of all the said Leasehold Lands, Messuages and Tenements aforesaid, together with all my household goods and movable effects as his sole property by Paying unto my beloved Sons Isaac Crisp and James Crisp and to my daughter Mary Crisp - the Sum of Fifteen Pounds each lawful money of Great Britain.

Also should it please Almighty God that my Son William Crisp, Dies before Mary my beloved Wife, my Will is, that at the decease of her / my wife / after all Funeral and other expenses are paid, that the said Leasehold, Lands, Messuages, and Tenements, together with all my household goods and movable effects be disposed of my Executors hereafter mentioned in the best and most profitable manner possible, and all and every profit arising therefrom be equally divided by my Executor or Executors, among those of my beloved Children aforesaid mentioned, that are then living.-

Also I do constitute make and ordain in addition to Mary my Wife, and William my Son, for my executor, Mr. James Maggs, Schoolmaster, of Southwold in the County of Suffolk, of this my last Will and Testament -

And I do hereby utterly disallow, revoke and dis.....? all and every other former testaments, wills, legacies, bequests, and executors, by me in any ways beforenamed, willed and bequeathed; ratifying and confirming this, and no other, to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof I herewith set my hand and seal the day and year above written, signed, sealed, published,

pronounced and declared

John Crisp

his  
mark X

by the said John Crisp, as his last Will and Testament in the presence of us Subscribers  
James Boyce James Lincoln Elizabeth Maggs

The executrix within mentioned was duly sworn at Southwold the ? day of March 1835  
before ? John Robinson Turngate ?

This Will was was proved at Southwold in the County and Archdeaconry of Suffolk on the 24th day of March 1835 before the Reverend John Robinson - Surrogate only appointed of the Worshipful Henry Berness, Clerk Bachelor of Law Commissary in and throughout the said archdeaconry lawfully constituted and was approved ? etc. and of all singular the Goods, etc. of within named John Crisp his Testator deceased was duly granted to Mary Crisp his widow and Relict the Executrix within named (power being first reserved for the Executor to act etc.) she being duly sworn etc.

Saving etc.

Effects under £ 200

Testator died 24th Sept. 1834

Ref.: IC/AAI/255/20

7 sheets.

Ipswich Record Office.

PEOPLE

JAMES MAGGS (from a letter to Rev R.W.M. Lewis from Mrs. Critten, The Manor House, Southwold.)

The following account of his life is in his own writing in his diary:

"James, son of Thos. and Ann Maggs. Born Feb 9th 1797 at ye "Blue Anchor" Public House, Walberswick. 1804 put to school to a Mr. Tuthill Wenhaston. 1811 was articled to Mr. Tuthill as Usher for 3 years. 1814 went as Clerk or Transcriber to Mr. Jermyrn of Southwold who was compiling an "English Gradus" and a "Dictionary of Epithets". 1816 took a Teachers Situation in the Grammar School, Dedham. Afterwards to St.Margaret's Hospital, Green Coat School, Westminster. 1817 opened a school in Walberswick. 1818 opened school in Southwold to 1841. Conducted Sunday School in Southwold from 1822-1840. 1818 married Elizabeth only daughter of Thos. and Ann Roberts of Wangford by whom he had 5 sons and 7 daughters. 1822 opened Grocers Shop in Southwold. 1833 declined the shop. 1823 elected Coroner for the Boroughg. He was also Auctioneer and Rate Collector and an antiquary collecting local curiosities and records. Was Assistant Overseer for 43 years. Died March 3 1890 aged 93 His father died early in life but his mother lived to be 96.

(Miss Browton's Diary - Vol 3 & 4)