

Will of Alexander Rottenbridge Weaver of Tonbridge

Rochester Consistory Court DRb/PW31

Will made 8th May 1644, probate 1645/46

In the name of god Amen. The eighth day of May in the year of our Lord Christ one thousand six hundred and forty four, I, Alexander Rottenbridge the elder of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, weaver, being of reasonable health of body and sound and perfect memory, for which I praise God, yet aged and by reason thereof expecting every hour my change and departure out of this miserable life, do therefore make and ordain this to be my testament and last will in manner and form following: First and principally I bequeath my soul to the gracious acceptance of Almighty God, hoping and assuredly trusting to have the pardon and remission of my sins and eternal salvation by the only merits, death and passion of his beloved son Jesus Christ and my body to the earth in decent manner to be buried. I will, devise and give all that my messuage or tenement wherein I and John Rottenbridge, my son, severally do now dwell, commonly called the Bruehouse, and the barn, oasthouse, edifices and buildings and the closes, garden and orchard with th'appurtenances, situated at the Lower Bridge except one in the Town of Tonbridge aforesaid, unto Alexander Rottenbridge, my son, of Tonbridge aforesaid, butcher, for, by and during the whole term of his natural life. And from and after the death of my said son, I will, devise and give all my said messuage, tenement and premises with th'appurtenances, unto Alexander Rottenbridge, my grandchild, the son of the said Alexander Rottenbridge, my son, his heirs and assigns for ever. notwithstanding my will and mind is, if Alice, my daughter, shall happen to survive and overlive John Wilkins, her now husband, that then an annuity or yearly rent of three pounds per annum of lawful money of England, which I will and give to the said Alice, my daughter, shalbe issuing out of my before mentioned messuage, tenements and premises with th'appurtenances before devised and shalbe annually ?? had and taken thereout by the said Alice, my daughter, during her natural life payable at the feast of the nativity of St. John the Baptist, St. Michael th'archangel, the nativity of our Lord Christ and the annunciation of the blessed virgin Mary, yearly every year, by equal portions, the first payment thereof to be made on that feast of the feasts aforesaid that shall next happen to come and be after the death of the said John Wilkins. And if the said annuity or annual stipend of three pounds shalbe behind and unpaid by the space of fourteen days next after any of the feasts aforesaid whereon the same ought to be paid, then I will it shall and may be lawful for the said Alice, my daughter, and her assigns, to enter into and upon all my said messuage, tenement and premises with th'appurtenances before devised to the said Alexander, my son, for life and afterwards to Alexander, his son and his heirs, and there to distrain and the distress and distresses there taken from thence to bear, lead, drive and carry away and the same to detain and keep until she, the said Alice and her assigns shalbe fully satisfied of the said annuity and all arrearages thereof and her and their charges occasioned about taking and heaving of such distress and distresses. All my householdstuff, debts, goods and chattels of what nature and kind soever, I wholly give and bequeath to Alexander Rottenbridge, my grandchild, the son of the said Alexander, my son. And I make and ordain the said Alexander, my grandchild, the sole executor of this my will. In witness whereof I, the said Alexander Rottenbridge, sen. have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first above written. signed Alexd. Rottenbridge Sealed, published and declared to be the testament and last will of the said Alexander Rottenbridge, sen. in the presence of signed William Morgan, sen., signed William Morgan, jun. and Geo. Hooper
Concordat cum originall } R. Stowell, no. pub. for ??? } Johanum Bath

Transcribed by Jean Fox at West Kent Wills and Families up to 1650

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