

Will of John Rottenbridge Yeoman of Tonbridge

Rochester Consistory Court DRb/PW32

Will made 24th August 1646, probate after 27th August 1646

In the name of god Amen. The four and twentieth day of August in the year of our lord God one thousand six hundred forty and six, I, John Rottenbridge of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, yeoman, being sick in body but, at the making and publishing hereof of sound mind and perfect remembrance (praise be God therefore) considering of men's mortality and that sickness is the forerunner of dissolution, do therefore make and declare this to be my present testament and last will in form following, that is to say, First and principally I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my maker, with an assured confidence and hope of a resurrection to eternal life through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, my most blessed lord and saviour, I commit my body to the earth in such decent manner to be buried and will such distribution in bread to the poor to be then made as mine executrix hereafter in this presently nominated according to her ability and discretion shall think fit to provide and bestow. Item: I devise and bequeath unto Ann Lambert, the daughter of John Lambert, deceased (if she shalbe living) forty shillings. Item: I do give and bequeath unto Francis Chow, my goddaughter, forty shillings. Item: I do give and bequeath unto Elizabeth Rottenbridge, the daughter of my brother Alexander Rottenbridge, twenty shillings. Item: I do give and bequeath unto the said Alexander, my brother, and John Wilkins, my brother-in-law, to either of them five shillings a piece in token of my love toward them. The same several legacies to be paid unto every of them by my said executrix out of my goods and chattels within three years from and after my decease then next ensuing (if my said executrix shalbe then living). Otherwise the same due and payable at the hour of her decease if she shall before that time happen to depart this life. The residue and all other my goods and chattels and cattell of what nature or kind soever ?? be ?? debts and legacies before mentioned, my funeral expenses with the proving of this my will (being first paid and deducted thereout) I do wholly give and bequeath the same unto Ann, my loving wife. And I do make and ordain the said Ann, my wife, to be the full and sole executrix of this my present testament and last will. And I do earnestly desire my very good friend William Denton, gent. and Thomas Low, my loving brother to be the overseers desiring their assistance to my said executrix in the due execution hereof. And over and above their pains herein to be taken, I do give to either of them three shillings six pence to buy them gloves. This is also the last will and testament of me the said John Rottenbridge made and declared the day and year first above written touching the ordering and disposing of all my lands and tenements whatsoever. And whereas I am now possessed of a messuage or tenement with the edifices, closes and strake of land with th'appurtenances, situated and being in the Town of Tonbridge formerly settled by Alexander Rottenbridge, late dear father deceased, in and by his deed of feoffment indented, to myself and of Alexander, my son, deceased, upon which death for that there hath been some question arisen touching such my interest in and to the same messuage and premises which is not yet fully closed and settled. And for that ?? my loving wife to be in years declining and hath been careful in her charges for my advancement, to whom in requital I cannot but express my self some way answerable in what my estate shall or may afford, I do therefore according to such my interest therein (as shall appear) will and devise that the said Ann, my wife, shall have and hold all the said messuage, edifice, close and strake of land with th'appurtenances, during the term of her natural life without making or suffering any strip or waste to be done thereupon. Also my further will and mind is that the said Ann, my wife, shall likewise have and hold all those my five parcels of land called Wellfields containing twelve acres, more or less, with the barn thereupon, lying and being in Tonbridge aforesaid near Lodge Oak in my occupation for and during the like term of her natural life, she, the said Ann, preferring all timber trees thereupon being and also maintaining and

repairing well the barn there. And from and after such her death or decease, I do will, give and devise all the said messuage, edifice, closes, strake of land th'appurtenances and all other my five parcels of land with the barn thereby on standing called Wellfields with th'appurtenances unto Alexander Rottenbridge, the son of the said Alexander, my brother, To hold to the only use and behoof of the said Alexander Rottenbridge, the younger, his heirs and assigns, forever. With and under nevertheless this condition being my further will, intent and meaning, that in consideration of my gift and devise by me made of the said parcels of land called Wellfields, he the said Alexander Rottenbridge, the younger, his heirs and assigns, or some of them shall, shall within three months next after the decease of the said Ann, my wife, well and truly pay unto John Wilkins, the younger, my nephew, the sum of five pounds also unto Alice Wilkins, the sister of the said John, one other sum of five pounds of lawful money. Also shall well and truly pay unto Alice Wilkins, my loving sister, being the wife of the above mentioned John Wilkins, the sum of ten pounds of like lawful money (if she shalbe then living (and if deceased) my will and mind is that the said sum of ten pounds shalbe, by him or them, paid unto the said John Wilkins the younger and Alice Wilkins, his sister, ?? like or to the survivor of them, the whole to ?? paid several sums, I do intend to them, and every of them, as several legacies and to be issuing, due and payable, out of the said lands by me given to him called the Wellfields as aforesaid. And my further will and intent is that if the said several sums of five pounds and ten pounds shall not be paid according to the true intent and meaning of this my will, that then it shalbe lawful to and for them, the said John Wilkins and Alice Wilkins, the mother and daughter, their executors and assigns, or any of them, into the said several parcels of land called Wellfields, to enter and hold, remove and take the rent and profits thereof, or to do any other lawful act by way of distress, until the said several legacies or sums of money be fully received, satisfied and paid. In witness whereof, I, the said John Rottenbridge, have to this my present testament and last will set my hand and seal the day and year first above written. Sealed, delivered, published and declared in the presence of Paul Deane of John Rottenbridge ??? ??? John Gilbert and Richard Chowning the mark X

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

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