

Will of Thomas A Berow of Staplehurst 1472/73

PRC/17/2/162b

Written 3 January 1472/73, proved 14 June 1473

[*Translation from Latin:*]

In the name of God Amen. On the third day of January in the year 1472 [3 January 1473 new style], I Thomas A Berow of Staplehurst, sound of mind and of good memory, make my will in this manner. First I bequeath and commend my soul to almighty God, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints of heaven, and my body to be buried in the cemetery of the church of All Saints at Staplehurst aforesaid. Also I bequeath to the high altar of the same church for tithes forgotten 4d. Also to the lights of the Blessed Mary of the same church, 2d. Also to the lights of Saint Christopher there 2d. Also to the lights of Saint Erasmus there 2d. Also I bequeath to each of my godsons and goddaughters 4d. The residue of my goods my debts and legacies paid I give and bequeath to Elise my wife, who I appoint and ordain my executrix, to dispose of for the good of my soul as she sees fit. And finally I appoint Thomas Bowryng overseer of this my will.

[*In English:*]

Thys is the last will of me Thomas A Berow of Stapylherst made the iii^{de} day of January in the yere and Reigne of Kyng Edward iiiii^e of England after the conquest the xiith Fyrst I will that Thomas Bowryng of the foresyd Stepylherst immediatly after my deceasse delyver or do to be delyvered all such londes and Tenements with the appurtenaunces as he late hadde of the gyft and feoffament of me the seid Thomas a Berowe lying and beyng in the paryssh of Frythynden as markys and bowndys thereof bene knowen or els where in the Shyre of Kent unto Elys my wyfe and to hyr assignes terme of lyff of the seyde Elyse Also I will that Thomas Homershire of Hedcrone and John Buckeherst of Frythynded afforesayd feoffeys of Stephyn a Berowe my fader delyver or do to be delyvered all the londes and tenements with the appurtenaunces the which shold descend and fall after the deth of Johanne sumtyme wydow of the sayd Stephyn to me the seyde Thomas a Berowe to John a Berowe and Richard a Berowe my brothryn unto the seyde Elyse and hyr assignes terme of lyff of the same Elys for all the ryght and clayme the which the seyde John and Richard my brothryn shold have in the seyde lands and tenements after the deth of the same Johan and the foresyd Thomas a Berow purchesyd of the seyde John and Richard and to everych of theym therefore trewly payd and content. Also I will that the seyde Elys duryng hyr lyff competently shall repeyre and kepe the Reparacion of all the seyde lands and tenements

And after the discease of the seyde Elys all the seyde londys and tenements with the appurtenaunces to the Eyrys [*heirs*] of me the seyde Thomas a Berowe of my body lawfully begotten to be delyvered term of ther lyff kepyng the Reparacion as is afforesyd The reversion thereof to the heyres of them lawfully begottyn to be delyveryd in Fee sympyll And yf all the heyres of me the seyde Thomas a Berowe of my body lawfully begotten withoute heyres of theyr bodyes lawfully begotten deceasse then I will that all the seyde lands and tenements with the appurtenaunces be solde to the best pryce And the money thereof receyvid to be disposyd and dyvydyd to the Churchys of Stapylherst and Frythynden afforesyd to fowle weyes in the foresyd parysshes and to pouer people where moste nede is by the good discrecion of beforenamyd feoffeys and of other honest men for the helth of the sowlys of me the seyde Thomas and Elyse and for the sowlys of my fadyr and modyr and for all feythfull Christian sawlys.

Will proved 14 June 1473, administration granted to the executrix etc.