

Ashwell Christmas, shepherd: will made and proved 1824.

OHC MSS Wills Pec. 17.6. (transcribed in Stoke Mandeville Wills and Inventories, 1552-1853, ed. Lewington, H. Buckinghamshire Records Society, 38, 2019)

This is the last will and testament of me Ashwell Christmas of Stoke Mandeville in the county of Bucks, shepherd as follows. First I give divers unto my sister Tabitha Fleet, the wife of James Fleet of Stoke Mandeville aforesaid carpenter all that my messuage or tenement wherein I now dwell and also all those my several closes pieces or parcels of meadow land or pasture ground situate and being in the parish of Stoke Mandeville aforesaid containing by estimation fourteen acres (be the same more or less) now in the occupation of the said James Fleet and all other my messuages lands tenements and hereditaments situate within the said county of Bucks with their respective rights members and appurtenances thereunto belonging To hold unto my said sister Tabitha Fleet and her assigns for and during the time of her natural life and provided her husband the said James Fleet should survive her then I give and devise the same hereditaments and premises unto the same James Fleet To hold to him and his assigns for and during the term of his natural life And from and immediately after the decease of the survivor of them then aid hereditaments and premises unto Joseph Lucas and his brother Edward Munday Lucas both of Rowsham in the parish of Wingrave in the said county of Bucks To hold unto them their heirs and assigns forever as tenants in common and not as joint tenants. Also I give and bequeath unto my said sister Tabitha Fleet the sum of 10 pounds of lawful British money and also my household goods, bed linen and wearing apparel to be paid and delivered to her as soon as conveniently may be after my decease. Also I give and devise unto Thomas Hoar of Stoke Mandeville aforesaid labourer one annuity or yearly rent charge of five pounds of like lawful money to be paid to him quarterly and during the term of his natural life by my executors hereinafter. Also I give and bequeath unto the said Joseph Lucas and Edward Munday Lucas all the rest and residue of my money and securities for money rights credits and other personal estate whatsoever and wheresoever subject to the payment of my just debts and the said annuity and legacy and my funeral and testamentary expenses to be equally divided between them share and share alike And lastly I hereby make constitute and appoint the said Joseph Lucas and Edward Munday Lucas joint executors of this my last will and testament And I hereby revoke and make void all former wills whatsoever by me made and published and declare this only to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof I the said Ashwell Christmas the testator to this my last will and testament containing two sheets of paper have to the first sheet thereof set my hand and to this second and last my hand and seal the twenty sixth day August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty four. The mark of Ashwell Christmas Signed sealed declared by the within named Ashwell Christmas as and testament in the presence of us who subscribed our names in the presence of the testator and of each other - Thomas Gurney - William Bull - Edwin Bull.

Glossary:

Assign/assigne - someone appointed to act for another person, or whom property is legally transferred to.

Executor - Someone who organises everything according to the wishes expressed in the will.

Divers - variously, more than one thing

Messuage - house with outbuildings

Tenements - land or buildings held by a tenant (lives/works on the land but doesn't own it)

Appurtenances - accessories

Hereditaments - something which can be inherited

wearing apparel - clothing

Testator - person making the will

Joan Golde, widow, will made 1559, proved 1560; inventory exhibited 1560

(CBS D/A/Wf 57289; D/A/We 13/9 transcribed in Stoke Mandeville Wills and Inventories, 1552-1853, ed. Lewington, H. Buckinghamshire Records Society, 38, 2019)

In the name of God amen the yeare of our lord God 1559 I Jhon of Stoke wydow the 26th day of November being sick in body and of perfit mynd and memorye thanks be to God make this at wyll and testament in maner and forme folowinge. First I bequeath my soule to almyghtie God and my body to be buryed in the church yard of Stoke Manfeld in the dyosis off Lincoln.

Imprimis I bequeath to my dowghters and to William my sonne all in my rament. In witnes wherof to this my laste wyll John Parname Edmund Blucke and other

The Inventory of Joane Golde

Imprimis a froke	5s
Item a kyrtle	5s
Item 2 petycootes	5s
Item her lynen	3s

In witnes herof William Browne John Parnom John Thorpe

Glossary:

Imprimis - firstly

Rament (rainment) - clothing

Dyosis - Diocese, The church divided England up into areas controlled by different bishops. In 1559 Stoke Mandeville came under the bishop of Lincoln, though now it is under the bishop of Oxford.

s - shilling, equivalent to £11.60 today. In 1560 5s was 8 days wages for the average worker.

Froke - dress

Kyrtle - dress worn by women over a petticoat (petycoote)

Lynen - collective term for anything made out of linen cloth, including underwear and bedsheets

Ann Harris, widow: will made 1756, proved 1758, OHC MSS Wills Pec. 13.1

I Ann Harris of Stoke Mandeville in the county of Bucks widow do make will and testament as follows. First I will that my body shall be buried at the discretion \and charge/ of my executor hereafter named. Note I give and bequeath all that my acre of meadow ground in the Lot meadow in the parish of Stoke Mandeville aforesaid to my brother Roger his heirs for ever Note I give all my household goods to the children of my neice Elizabeth Horton to be equally divided among them. I give my gold ring to the abovenamed Elizabeth Horton I give my wearing apparel to my sister Elizabeth Christmas. I give my silver watch to my nephew William Christmas and I do make my said brother Roger executor of this my last will and testament In witness whereof I have hereunto put my hand and seal this 21st day of June one thousand seven hundred and fifty six

- Ann Harris her marks -

Signed sealed and declared by the abovenamed Ann Harris to be her last will and testament in the presence of us who in her presence did attest the same

- The marks of Elizabeth West - Thomas Aldridge & Benjamin Goodspeed

Glossary

Acre - piece of land measuring c.4000m²

Lot meadow - A meadow owned by several people and divided into sections, assigned annually by a raffle

Executor - Someone who organises everything according to the wishes expressed in the will.

Mark/marks - usually a cross, used instead of a signature where the person could not write their own name.

Wearing apparel - clothing

John Ledgingham, labourer: with inventory exhibited 1618 OHC MSS Wills Pec. 45/1/17

Inn the name of God amen I John Ledgingham of Stoke Mandevill in the countie of Buckes laborer, being sicke of body but in perfect memorye God be thanked for it, do make this my last will and testament in manner and forme following. That is to say firste I bequeath my soule to allmightie God my onely saviour and redemer with home I trust to dwell & my body to the church yeard at Stokemandevill aforesaid. Item I give to Francis my sonne five poundes & tenn shillings which Thomas Whitchurch oweth me. which five poundes tenn shillings I would have be put forth to my sonne Francis his use and to be paid him when he cometh to the age of seaventeene years with the increase of it. Item all the reste of my goods cattell and chattells whatsoever I give to Sibbill my wife whom I make my full and whole executor to see my debts and leggisses paid, my will performed and my sonne Francis brought upp. In witness hereof I have here unto putt my hand and seale the 27th daye of October in the raigne of our soveraigne lord Kinge Jeames and lord God 1618 the marke of John Ledgingham

Sigillatu in presentia de William Plastowe, the marke of Francis Gardner

A inventorye of of the goods of John Ledgingham disceased vewed and praised by John Browne of Stokemandevill in the countie of Bucks yeoman & William Plastowe of the same towne in the countie aforesaid yeoman the third daye of November *Anno Domini* 1618

Imprimis his reparrell & his cloake at	26s, 6d
Item towe cowes & one bullocke at	5 li
Item five sheepe at	16s, 8d
Item towe hoggs & tow piggs at	26s, 8d

Item his corne in the barne & his haye at	33s, 4d
Item the wheate growing uppon the ground being one rode at	5s
Item one bedd & bedsteed, 4 blanketts & 2 coverlidds at	40s
Item 9 paire of sheetes and one table cloth at	47s
Item 8 table napkins at	2s, 8d
Item one old cheste and three cofers at	5s
Item the chese in the howse at	5s
Item the cobbard at	10s
Item one pewter, one brasse pott & one pann and 5 cittles & one skillatt & 2 candlestickes at	33s, 3d
Item one old table & a fourme, a chaire & old stooles at	4s
Item a spit, a paire of andions, a drippin pann, a gridiron a paire of toongs, a paire of bellis & one hangger at	3s
Item the yearne & the wooll at	10s
Item the old poudring troffe, one civer, 3 barrells, one tub, two buckatts & 4 booles, one chearne & three cheese fats at	10s
Item a flascott & a bascott	8d
Item a drinkeing pott, dishes, spoones & trenchers	18d
Item his working tooles at	2s, 2d
Item the old howse that stands uppon hovell postes	16s
Item the boordes, the wood & the old lumber at	16s
Item the henns, capons, chickens & one cock & 2 geese	10s
Item a rider & a ceife at	4d
Item five poundes & tenn shillings which Thomas Whitchurch oweth him	5 li, 10s
Item the bees at	10s

Summa 27 li, 5s, 4d

Glossary

Sigillatu in presentia de - sealed in the presence of

Reparrell - clothing (apparel)

Cattell - livestock

Chattells - Moveable possessions

Leggisses - gifts of money

Executor - Someone who organises everything according to the wishes expressed in the will.

Raigne - reign

Rode - a measurement of land equivalent to a quarter of an acre

Coverlidd - coverlet (lightweight bed sheet which lies between the person and blanket)

Chese - cheese

Cobbard - cupboard

Cittle - kettle

Skillatt - shallow metal pan

Fourme - bench

Spit - revolving bar to cook meat on

Andion/Girdiron - bars around the fire to dry clothes

Bellis - bellows (blow air onto a fire to build it up)

Hanger - hook over the fire for cooking

Poudring troffe - a trough for salting meat

Civer - a shallow wooden tub

Chearne - churn for making butter

Cheese fatt - wooden mould for making cheese

Booles - bowls

Flascott/Bascott - basket

Hovell postes - wooden or stone posts which held up a barn or shed to keep out rats

Capon - male chicken raised for meat

Rider/Ceife - sieves for separating wheat

Summa - total amount

s - shilling, equivalent to £6.50 today. In 1620 1s was 1 days wage for the average worker.

d - pence, equivalent to 55p today.

li - pound, equivalent to £130 today.

Sibbill Ledgingham, widow: will made and proved 1619; OHC MSS Wills Pec. 45/1/18

Inn the name of God Amen. I Sibbill Ledgingham of Stooke Mandevill in the countie of Bucks widdowe being sicke of body but in perfect memorve God be thanked for it do make this my last will and testament in manner and fourme followinge: that is to saye Firste I bequeath my soule to allmightie God my only saviour and redemer with home I truste to dwell \and my body to the church yeard of Stoke Mandevill aforesaid/ Item I give to Francis my sonne all my goods cattell and chattells whatsoever to be paid him by my executor when he cometh to the age of 21 yeares yf he so long do live but yf the said Francis my sonne do happen to dye before he cometh to the age of one & twentie yeares then my will and meaninge is that all the aforesaid goods cattell and chattells whatsoever then remayninge shall be equally divided amongste my brothers and sister: that is to say Francis Gardener, William Gardner and Jane Chilton by even and equall portions or to the heires of them then livevinge acording to his or her fathers or mothers parte diceased being equally divided. Item I make Francis Gardner my full and and whole executor to see my debts and leggis paid and my sonne Francis brought upp. Item I do apointe and intreate my frend William Plastowe to be my overseer: In witness hereof I have hereunto put my hand and seale the 24th day of Maye Anno Domini 1619 & in the sixteenth year of the raigne of Kinge Jeames.

signum Sibbill Ledgingham

Sealed in the presence of [signed] William Plastowe, Henry Hoare

OHC MSS Wills Pec. 45/1/18 Inv

An inventorey of the goods of Sibbill Ledgingham, diceased, taken, vewed and praised on the 27th of September 1619 by those whose names are under written:

Item the lease at	10s
Imprimis one cowe one bullocke & one calfe at	5 li

Item iij sheepe and a lambe at	20s
Item viij paire of sheetes at	20s
Item iij blanketts and ij coverlids at	22s
Item the ij beeds pillowes & boulsters at	23s, 4d
Item one civer a wheele a old hoghead & a litle chaire	5s, 6d
Item a beedsteed a table and a frame at	10s
Item the cittles, a pott, a scillett & a prasse pann	21s
Item the pewter and candlestickes	10s
Item the cobbard cheste cofers salt troufe one chaire & the cheese racke at	10s
Item the booles a fourme ij shovles one buckett & the barrels and ye bottles and the boordes at	9s
Item the old howse that stands uppon injer standers	10s
Item the bees at	10s
Item the old wood & old iron at	13s, 4d
Item iij syes a paire of andirons one spitt hangers gridiron and bellill & a old cobbard at	5s, 8d
Item the henns one cock & one chicke at	5s
Item the wool & some old barly ij sakes & a bagge and the reste of all the old lumber at	6s
Item the beanes in the barne at	7s
Item the haye at	9s
Item the wheate at	7s
Item Henry Hoare oweth her	5 li, 10s
Item Daniel Ledgingham oweth her	10s

Summa 22 li, 14s, 10d

[signed] William Plastowe

[mark] William Banckworth

[signed] John Browne

Glossary

Executor - Someone who organises everything according to the wishes expressed in the will.

Overseer - someone legally appointed to supervise the executor

Mark/marks - usually a cross, used instead of a signature where the person could not write their own name.

Cattell - livestock

Chattells - Moveable possessions

Leggisses - gifts of money

Lease - grassland, usually for pasture

Coverlid - coverlet (lightweight bed sheet which lies between the person and blanket)

Beed(steed) - bed

Hoghead - large barrell

Chese - cheese

Cobbard - cupboard

Cittle - kettle

Skillatt - shallow metal pan

Prasse pann - a pan made from brass

Salt troufe - a wooden container for salting meat

Cofer - strongbox for storing money and valuables

Cheese rack - shelf for storing cheese whilst it matures

Cobbard - cupboard

Booles - bowls

Boordes - wooden boards cut for use

Fourme - bench

Andion/Girdiron - bars around the fire to dry clothes

Bellil - bellow (blows air onto a fire to build it up)

Spit - revolving bar to cook meat on

Hanger - hook over the fire for cooking

Lumber - wood

Summa - total amount

s - shilling, equivalent to £6.50 today. In 1620 1s was 1 days wage for the average worker.

d - pence, equivalent to 55p today.

li - pound, equivalent to £130 today.

**Brockas Brudenell, gentleman: nuncupative will made and proved 1621, TNA PROB
11/138/74**

Memorandum that Brockas Brudenel, late of the parish of Stoke Mandevile in the countie of Buckes, gent, deceased, beyng of of perfect mynde and memorye and with an intent to make his last will and testament nuncupative did upon the third daye of Julye Anno Domini one thowsand sixe hundred and twentye one in the presence of divers and sondrie witnesses utter and declare theise wordes folowing or the like in effect: viz'. I give and bequeathe all and singular my goodes chattells and debtes unto my loving wife Elizabeth Brudenell towards the payment of my debtes and funerall chardges (excepting the somme of fyve poundes which I give unto Martha Brudnell my kynneswoman] And I make the sayed Elizabeth Brudenell my wife sole executrix of this my last will and testament: Which wordes or the like in effect he the sayed Brockas Brudenell did utter and declare in the presence of William Sergeant gent, Thomas Latham and others beyng at all and singuler the premisses of verye good and perfect mynde and memorye.

Glossary

Nuncupative - a will which is spoken rather than written

Memorandum - A document containing a legal record

Divers and sondrie - many different (people)

Viz - as follows

Chattells - moveable belongings

Kynneswoman - kinswoman, female relative (perhaps a cousin)

Executrix - Woman appointed to be the executor, who organises everything according to the wishes expressed in the will.