

Will and codicil of John Belchamber of Cliddesden, 1546

Ref: Hants. RO 1546B/016

Translated from Latin:

In the name of God Amen 22nd day of January AD 1541 and in the thirty-third year of the reign of King Henry VIII, by the grace of God, King of England, France, lord of Ireland and on earth supreme head of the Church in England and also Defender of the Faith. I John Belchamber of Cliddesden in the diocese of Winchester make my testament in the manner following. **Imprimis** I give my soul to the omnipotent God the Father and his only begotten Son and also the Holy Spirit who are indivisible [...] and my Creator and faithful Saviour of God and men, Jesus Christ the Son of God who sits at the right hand of God the Father and intercedes for all believers [who will be saved by Him], I make my will and testament [I prohibit that.... happens to my body]. **My will** is that my body shall be buried where my family wish to dispose of it. **I commend** Matilda my wife, William and Thomas my sons, Agnes, Margery, Alice, Anna, Elizabeth, Joan and Amye my daughters into the hands of God the Father Almighty and also into the hands of Jesus Christ, Redeemer and Saviour by the Holy Spirit brought together so that they may be made worthy to receive divine help which God has promised to us and to our souls. **As to** my worldly goods which God has allowed me to be in possession of, to Magdalen, my wife, I give and bequeath £40 and within the said £40 my will is that she has goods, vessels, utensils and chattels that recently were in the possession of Thomas Spencer, her late husband, as a parcel of the aforesaid £40. **I give** and bequeath to Thomas my son £30. **Item** I give and bequeath to Margerie my daughter £3. **Item** I give and bequeath to Anne my daughter 20 marks. **Item** I give and bequeath to Elizabeth my daughter 20 marks. **Item** I give and bequeath to Joan my daughter £10. **Item** I give and bequeath to Anne my daughter 20 marks. **I give** and bequeath to Alice my daughter, recently wife to John Palmys £6 13s.4d. **Item** I give and bequeath to Agnes Walker, wife of my son Robert Walker £5. **Then** my will is that the aforesaid Magdalen, my wife, Thomas, my son, Margerie, my daughter, and Anna aforesaid shall pay my debts from my goods remaining and if anything shall be lacking my will is that John Bye, my feoffee (trustee or vassal who holds land in trust from his lord), of and in three tenements in which John Greene, the aforesaid Robert Walker and John Hart of Basingstoke now live, and of and in one annual rent of 21s. which John Stocker holds in the town and hundred of Basingstoke and in the annual rent of 14s.6d arising from the tenement and lands that recently belonged to Thomas Normanton, now dead in Basingstoke aforesaid. **All to** be given up if needed to pay my debts and the profits of all lands remaining will be paid to the residual legatees successively, in the order in which they were named in this testament. **My will** is that the indenture of my small tenement in which William Crosse lives shall be sold by my executors to pay the aforesaid legacies. **Item** my will is that John Bye, William Looker, Nicholas Jakes, my feoffees of and in all my lands and tenements in Cliddesden and [Sher]wood in the hundred of Basingstoke and in all my arable lands lying and being in the woods and fields of the town of Basingstoke aforesaid and also of and in three crofts lying and being at Sturte in Upton once called [Pepperwhites] wood shall forfeit after my death to the use of my wife, Matilda, for the term of her life and that after her death an indenture will be made for my son, Thomas to inherit the lands etc. **And my will** is further that my feoffes will cause to be made an indenture to Thomas Belchamber my son aforesaid his heirs and

assigns of and in the lands and tenements assigned to the aforesaid Magdalen and after her death will pay to Thomas annually 20s at the feast of the Nativity of Christ. **Matilda** is the executrix of this will and I have put my writing and seal on it
John Belchamber.

The following is in English:

Witness that John Belchamber of Cliddesden in the county of Southampton admitted and confessed the 10th day of July in the 36th year of the reign of our sovereign lord King Henry the VIII this to be his last will and testament. Sir Thomas Lodge, parson of Cliddesden, John Bye, William Belchamber, Thomas Belchamber, William Hayman, Maud Belchamber, his wife, Elizabeth Bye, Agnes Walker, Margery Prince/Price, Amye Belchamber, Joan Belchamber, Alice Palmes and Joan Turner

Probate granted 5th May 1546 to the executrix named in this testament.

The codicil added and made unto the last will and testament of John Belchamber deceased late of the parish of Cliddesden in the county of Southampton declared and spoken by his own mouth in perfect mind and memory the 7th day of the month of August the year of our Lord God 1545 in the presence of the witnesses hereafter named.

Item after the said John Belchamber testator aforesaid had heard his testament and last will read to him by Sir Thomas Lodge parson of Cliddesden in whose parish he at the time of his death inhabited and died did declare and will to his former testament as hereafter said. **That is** to say, the said testator did give and bequeath of all his lands and tenements called Pennys in the parish of Cliddesden with all and singular there appertaining as it was mentioned in his said former testament to him, they read to Mawde Belchamber his wife during her life. **And after** her decease to Thomas Belchamber his son and to his heirs forever yielding and paying to William Belchamber his elder son and to his heirs forever the some of 40s by the yere at the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord God (here that over the other side come in here).

Witness unto this codicil and declaration and addition unto the testament and last will of the said testator Sir Thomas Lodge parson of Cliddesden aforesaid, John Bye, William Hayman, Alice Pawings, Elizabeth Bye, Margery Payne and many others.