

**Richard Bayley; Swaffham Bulbeck; 1705: VC 36:391**

William Bayly. Swaffham Bulbeck, yeoman

To grandchild Cornelius Benstead 12 acres 3 roods arable land in Swaffham Prior fields

To grandchild Richard Benstead my house that Edward Greene lives in with commons and appurtenances on condition that he pay my granddaughter Mary Benstead £15. To grandson Richard Benstead the bedstead, table, form and ... cupboard and a hutch that is in Edward Greene's house

To grandchild John Benstead £10

To grandchild Robert Benstead £10

To grandchild William Benstead £10

To grandchild Thomas Ames £5

To grandchild Mary Benstead £20, my bed that I lie on and all things belonging, and 4 pewter platters.

To my daughter Mary Ames 20/-

To grandchild Cornelius Benstead the rest and residue of estate, sole executor

To grandchild John Benstead a further £5

Witnesses: William Newman, Mary Greene, Edward Greene

**Robert Beavis; Miller; Burrough Green; 1770: VC 42:185**

[Further Beavis wills on Suffolk page.]

On reverse 1770 Reg Beaveis Rob<sup>t</sup> of Burrow Green his will 17 May

I Robert Beaveis of Borough Green in the County of Cambridge Miller do make this my last Will and Testament in the manner following (that is to say) first I give devise and bequeath all that my freehold messuage or tenement wherein I now dwell in Burrough Green aforesaid with the outhouses orchard and appurtenances thereunto belonging and all the household goods and furniture therein and that shall be therein at the time of my decease, all my ready moneys and security and securities for money excepted, unto and to the use of my nephew Joseph Beaveis son of my late brother Joseph Beaveis his heirs and assigns for ever. Also I give devise and bequeath all that peace or parcel of land containing by estimation one Rood be the same more or less lying and being in Burrough Green aforesaid in a certain place there called Mill More and also the Windmill thereupon erected and built and now standing with all the stones gears implements... and appurtenances thereunto belonging and pertaining unto my said nephew Joseph Beaveis his heirs and assigns for ever. Also I give and devise all that my copyhold close of pasture ground called Cattshill Close otherwise Cattlehill Close lying and being in Burrough Green aforesaid in containing by estimation four acres be the same more or less late in the estate of Daniel Rawling unto and to the use of my said nephew Joseph Beaveis his heirs and assigns for ever; also I give and devise all that tenement or cottage with the orchard and appurtenances thereunto belonging situate and being in Borough Green aforesaid formally in the occupation of one of Christopher Ranew and late the estate of John Jarvis, clerk, deceased, and now in my own occupation and to the use of my nephew Joseph Newman son of my sister Mary Newman his heirs and assigns for ever; also I give to my said sister Mary Newman the sum of £10; also I give and bequeath to my servant Walter Jennings the sum of £20, also I give to Matthew Jennings of Kirtling in the County of Cambridge Yeoman the sum of £20 to be paid him by my executor hereinafter named within six months next after my decease, and also I give to Jane Jennings of Borough Green aforesaid spinster the sum of £20 to be paid her by my said executor within six months next after my decease, and also I give to Ellen Jennings the wife of Edward Jennings of Borough Green aforesaid husbandmen the sum of £10 to be paid by my said executor within six months next after my decease, also I give to my godson Robert Ling son of Jacob Ling of Hundon in the County of Suffolk farmer the sum of five pounds to be paid him by my said executor when he obtained his age of 18 years, also I do hereby authorise and empower order

and direct my executors hearing before named his executors or administrators with all convenient speed after my decease to sell and dispose of all my messuages or tenements and lands and hereditaments and estate situate lying and being in Sawston in the said County of Cambridge for the best price that can be got for the same and the money arising by the sale thereof together with all the rest and residue of my personal estate and effects of every nature and sort not herein otherwise disposed of after payment thereof out of all my just debts the expenses of my funeral the probate of this my will and the several money legacies as hereinbefore mentioned I give unto my said nephew Joseph Beaveis , my niece Mary Beaveis my said nephew Joseph Newman, my nephew Samuel Newman my said sister Mary Newman and my niece Alice Newman to be equally divided between them by my said executor share and share alike and their respective shares thereof to be paid to them respectively and Wednesday severally attain the age of one 20 years and I do hereby declare that all and every the purchasers of my said estate at Sawston hearing directed by me to be sold as aforesaid Julie paying his or their purchase money for the same to my said executors or administrators shall not be liable or accountable for the mis-application or non-application of such purchase money and I do hereby nominate and appoint the said Walter Jennings sole executor of this my will and hereby revoking and making void all other Wills by me heretofore made do declare this to be my last will and Testament and do commit the tuition of my said nephew Joseph Beaveis for and during such time as he shall remain under the age of one and 20 years to my said executors to be... and management and I do hereby direct and point that my said executor his executors or administrators shall in the meantime and until my said nephew Joseph Beaveis attains his age of one 20 years manage the estate hereinbefore devised to him and take the rents and profits thereof and apply the same to and for the sole use and benefit of my said nephew Joseph Beaveis and I do further declare that it shall and may be lawful to and for my said executor his executors and administrators in the first place buy and out of my said estates to recompense himself or themselves all such costs charges and expenses as to say or any of them shall incur expend or be put into in or about the trust hereby in him and them reposed or in the execution or defence thereof in or about any matter cause of thing relating to this my will and in witness whereof I the said Robert Beavis have to this my last will and Testament contained in this sheet of paper set my hand and seal the fourth day of May in the fourth year of the reign of his Majesty King George the third and in the year of our Lord 1770.

Signed sealed delivered published and declared  
by the above named Robert Beaveis as and for his  
last will and Testament in the presence of us who  
in his presence and at his request have subscribed  
our names as witnesses thereof the interlineations  
being first... therein

W Elsdon  
James Price  
Marion Braham

Robert Beaveis

**Cornelius Benstead;** yeoman; Bottisham Load; **1661: VC 35:257**

19<sup>th</sup> June 1696, Cornelius Bensted of Bottisham Load,

To son Cornelius Bensted the freehold messuage or tenement where I now live with appurtenances and the parcel of common belonging to it as soon as he is 21. Also 10 acres of land in Loadmore, provided that my son Cornelius[sic] pay my son Cornelius [sic – suspect this should be William] when he reaches 21 years and also he shall pay to my daughter Mary Bensted £20 when she reaches 21 years. If Cornelius fails to pay, the other two can take their money out of the rents and profits of the ground until fully paid.

To son John Bensted freehold house, common withal and appurtenances, late belonging to William Limberd, when he reaches 21 years. To son John, copyhold house and parcel of common late belonging to Andrew Sewell.

To son Robert Bensted copyhold house and parcel of common which was late John Bensted's To wife Mary all my houses, lands, leases, commons until my sons are 21.

Rest of goods and chattels to wife Mary, sole executrix.

Witnessed: Richard Bayley, William Amies, William Newman

**Elizabeth Benstead; Fulbourn; 1728: WR12:149 Archdeaconry of Ely**

In the name of God amen I Elizabeth Benstead of Fulbourn in the county of Cambridge being sick in body but of sound and disposing mind (praised be God for the same) do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say Imprimis I bequeath my soul unto the hands of Almighty God hoping through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ I shall receive full and free pardon of all my sins and be made partaker of everlasting life and happiness in the world to come. My body I commit to the earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my executors hereinafter named and as to my world goods which it hath pleased God to bless me with I give and dispose thereof as followeth. Viz I give and devise unto my brother John Benstead five shillings of lawful money of Great Britain. Item I give unto my brother William Benstead one shilling of like lawful money. Item I give and devise unto my cousins William Sparrow and Richard Sparrow to each of them ten shillings and sixpence of lawful money. Item I give and devise unto my cousins Richard Benstead and Robert Benstead sons of Robert Benstead (deceased) the sum of ten shillings and sixpence to be parted betwixt them two. Item I give and devise unto my cousin Thomas Dewse y<sup>e</sup> son of Edward Dewse the sum of five shillings and sixpence all which sums my will and mind is, shall be paid by my executors within one month next after my decease And I do hereby make ordain constitute and appoint my loving sister Sarah Sparrow sole executrix of this my last will and testament unto whom I give all my substance in money and goods she paying as aboves<sup>d</sup> Lastly I do hereby declare this to be my last will and testament revoking all former wills by me at any time heretofore made in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty-sixth day of October Anno Domini one thousand seven hundred and twenty seven.

Signed sealed published and declared by this said Elizabeth Benstead as and for her last will and testament in the presence of us who likewise in her presence and at her request have subscribed our names as witnesses

Elizabeth X Benstead

Susan X Dowse

Eliz X Ashby

Her mark

Will<sup>m</sup> Hancock jnr

On reverse:

10: Jan 1729

Sarah Sparrow nome Executrix ...jurat fuit

Goods (not exceeding?) £20

**John Benstead; tailor; Bottisham; 1661: VC 29:148**

13<sup>th</sup> October 1661, John Benstead tailor,

To wife Sarah £30 to be paid by Philip Nure of Gasely in Suffolk gent, being the remainder over and above the £50 I have received from the said Philip Nure in part of my house and land made over by me to the said Philip Nure. Also all my goods and chattels to wife Sarah.

To son Richard Benstead 12<sup>d</sup>

To son William Benstead all my best wearing apparel and £5 provided he take and keep my youngest daughter Alice Benstead until she is 21.

To eldest daughter Bridget Benstead 12<sup>d</sup>

To second daughter Elizabeth Benstead 12<sup>d</sup>

To third daughter Margaret Benstead 12<sup>d</sup>

To younger daughter Alice 12<sup>d</sup>

Wife Sarah executrix

Witnessed: John Broadcabe, Richard Wiston, John Holmbeam

**John Benstead; yeoman; Bottisham Load; 1684: VC 34:20**

John Benstead yeoman

To daughter Fuaday Benstead 3 acres leasehold arable land in the Sewall fields of Bottisham and £10

To daughter Alice Ames one free house in Bottisham Load with the ... and commons for life and after to her daughters Mabel and Alice Ames. This in lieu of the £20 I promised daughter Alice upon marriage.

Rest of estate to son Cornelius Benstead, sole executor.

Dated 6.4.1683

Witnessed: John Curtis, Ellen Curtis, John Banyard

Proved 25.10.1684

**John Benstead; farmer; Wilbraham; 1731: VC 39:298**

John Benstead farmer, 4<sup>th</sup> February 1731

To wife Elizabeth all goods, chattels, stock in husbandry etc.

Wife Elizabeth executrix

Witnesses: Ann Green, John Kinn

**Richard Benstead; Bottisham; carpenter; 1627: VC 26:501**

Memorandum that upon Monday being the xvii<sup>th</sup> day of November Anno Dmi 1627 Richard Benstead of Bottisham in the county of Cambridge carpenter being sick in body and upon his death bed yet being of perfect memory did make and declare his last will and testament in manner and form following That is to say he did give and bequeath to John Benstead his son and to Marie the wife of John Gibbons his daughter xii<sup>d</sup> and all the rest of his goods whatsoever he did give and bequeath unto Marie his wife whom he did make and ordain sole executrix of his said will And being moved to remember the rest of his children he answered that he would leave them to the discretion of his said wife. There being witnesses Robert Cooke and Robert Bridge Probate was made of the nuncupative will of Robert Benstead late of Bottisham deceased at .... 5<sup>th</sup> day of January...1627...

**Richard Benstead: Fulbourn; 1710: Archdeaconry of Ely**

In the name of God amen I Richard Benstead well in mind but sick and weak in body do make this my last will and testament revoking all others. I bequeath my soul to God who gave me it and my body to the ground.

Imprimis: I give to my son Rob<sup>t</sup> Benstead this house wherein I now live with all the barns, stables, outhouses, lanes, orchard and all other appurtenances thereto belonging: with the proviso that he pay or cause to be paid to my Wife Joan Benstead the sum of twenty shillings per annum as long as she shall live.

Item I give unto my son Robert my grey colt.

Item I give unto my daughter Elizabeth Benstead the sum of fifteen pounds to be paid to her by my executors at y<sup>e</sup> end of two years after my decease. Item I give unto my sd daughter Eliz: Benstead one feather bed, two pillows, one bolster, one pair of sheets and all the blankets and coverlets belonging to y<sup>t</sup> bed wherein she now lyes. Item one hutch y<sup>t</sup> stands at ye foot of ye same bed.

It: one long table three stools to y<sup>e</sup> sd Elizabeth: my daughter.

It: one little barrel to y<sup>e</sup> same daughter.

Item I give to my wife Joan Benstead y<sup>e</sup> bed wherein she lyes with a pair of sheets two pillows and one bolster with all the blankets and coverlets thereto belonging. Item I give unto her y<sup>e</sup> brass pot and the second brass kettle for her life and after her decease I order her to give 'em to my son Robert Benstead.

It: I give unto my wife one little barrel, I leave to my wife one load of straw to be laid in every year for her use by my executor and likewise of carriage of one load of firing by my executor.

Item I give to my son Robert Benstead one flock bed and bedstead with one pillow, one bolster, one sheet and two blankets. Item one cupboard and one chest to my son Rob<sup>t</sup>.

Item I leave unto my wife Joan Benstead two bushels of wheat and two bushels of rye to be paid her by my executor for y<sup>e</sup> first year only after my decease. Item I give my wife six pounds of bacon.

Item I give to my son W<sup>m</sup> Benstead one shilling and to his four children a crown apiece to be paid 'em by my executor when they are ten years old.

Item to my daughter Sarah Sparrow one shilling. Item to her son Wm Sparrow a crown to be paid by my executor when he is ten years old.

Item to my daughter Ann Dewse one shilling. Item to her son Thomas Dewse a crown to be paid him by my executor when he is ten years old.

Item I make my oldest son John Benstead the sole executor of all my goods chattels household stuff and everything else that I have not disposed off in testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of April 1709.

Richard  $\propto$  Benstead

In the presence of  
John Seymour  
Edward Dowse

**Richard Benstead; miller; Dullingham; 1782/1788: VC 45:68**

In the name of God amen, I Richard Benstead the elder of Dullingham in the county of Cambridge miller although labouring at present under some indisposition of body yet being of sound and disposing mind and memory and understanding (through the mercy of God) but considering the uncertainty of life Do make and ordain publish and declare this to be my last will and testament in manner and form following (that is to say) First and principally I commend my soul into the hands of God Almighty my creator, and my body I desire to be buried at the discretion of my executrix and executor hereinafter named. And as for such temporal estate as Almighty God in his great goodness and mercy hath been pleased to bless me with I give devise and dispose thereof as follows. Imprimis I give and devise unto my well-beloved wife Ann Benstead one annuity or yearly rent or sum of ten pounds of lawful money of Great Britain for the term of her natural life clear of ll deductions whatsoever for parliament taxes or other to be issuing and paid out of my freehold windmill situate standing and being in the parish of

Stetchworth in the said county of Cambridge, and out of the piece of ground on which the said windmill is built, at the two most usual feast days in the year (that is to say) the fifth day of April called Old Lady Day and the tenth day of October called Old Michaelmas Day by even and equal portions. The first payment thereof to begin and be made on the first of the said feast days which shall happen next after my decease. And my mind and will is that the said windmill shall stand charged with the payment of the said annuity or rent charge or yearly sum of ten pounds unto Ann my wife as aforesaid And that it shall be lawful for the said Ann my wife and her assigns from and after default shall happen to be made of or in payment of the said sum of ten pounds

or any part thereof by the space of twenty one days next after either of the said feast days on which the same ought to be aid as aforesaid into the said windmill and ground or any part thereof to enter, and the same to hold and the rents and profits thereof, to receive and take to her own proper use and uses until, the said sum or sums so remaining in arrears and unpaid shall be fully paid and satisfied with her and their reasonable costs and charges which she or they shall or may be put unto, for or by reason of recovering of the same as aforesaid. Also I give and bequeath all my household stuff, Linnen, Goods, Chattels and Effects of every sort kind and nature whatsoever or wheresoever unto my said wife Ann Benstead for her own use and benefit subject to the payment of my just debts funeral expences and I charge the same with and for payment thereof Item I do hereby give devise and bequeath unto my son John Benstead my copyhold windmill standing and being in the parish of Dullingham in the said county of Cambridge with the stones and all going gueres [sic] implements utensils and appurtenances to the same belonging, also the piece of ground upon which the said windmill is erected To hold to him and his assigns for and during the term of his natural life Subject nevertheless and I do hereby charge and make chargeable the said windmill with all the appurtenances thereto belonging standing in the parish of Dullingham aforesaid so devised to my said son John Benstead for life with the payment of the said annuity or yearly sum or rent charge of ten pounds during the term of her natural life by two even and equal half yearly payments and in the manner before directed. He the said John Benstead keeping and maintaining all and singular the said copyhold premises in good and substantial repair and from and after the decease of the said John Benstead my said son Then I give devise and bequeath the said windmill standing and being in the parish of Dullingham aforesaid with the stones the going geures [sic] implements and utensils whatsoever to the said windmill and the said piece of ground upon which the said windmill is built with their and every of their appurtenances unto and to the use of my youngest son James Benstead his heirs and assigns for ever Subject to the payment of this last mentioned annuity or yearly rent or sum of ten pounds unto my said wife Ann for and during her life and in the said manner as before directed. Also I give and bequeath unto my said son John Benstead the sum of thirty pounds of lawful money, and to be to him paid within twelve calendar months after my decease Item I further give and devise my freehold windmill standing and being in the parish of Stetchworth aforesaid in the said county of Cambridge with a round-house underneath the said windmill as also the piece of ground on which the same windmill is built , together with the stones and all the going gueres, implements utensils and appurtenances belonging unto my said son John Benstead and his assigns for and during the term of his natural life only He my said son John Benstead keeping the said windmill and all and singular the premises with the appurtenances belonging and every part and parcel thereof, in and by withal, and all manner of needful and necessary reparation Subject nevertheless and I hereby charge and make chargeable as aforesaid the said windmill last mentioned with the payment of one annuity or yearly rent charge of ten pounds unto my said wife Ann for and during the term of her natural life. Item I give and devise all my said freehold windmill standing and being in the parish of Stetchworth aforesaid in the said county of Cambridge with a round-house underneath the same as also a piece of ground upon which the same windmill is built , together with the stones and all manner of going geures, implements utensils and appurtenances whatsoever thereto belonging and also

appertaining Unto my eldest son Richard Benstead and his assigns from and immediately after the decease of my said son John Benstead as aforesaid for and during the term of my son Richard's natural life and from and immediately after his decease Then and in such case I give and devise the said freehold windmill standing and being in the parish of Stetchworth in the county of Cambridge aforesaid with a round-house built underneath the same as likewise a piece of ground upon which the same windmill and roundhouse are erected, And the mill stones and all and all manner of going gueres, implements utensils and appurtenances whatsoever thereto belonging and appertaining Unto and to the use of my grandson John Benstead and of his heirs and assigns for ever. Item I give and bequeath unto my son Richard Benstead the sum of one hundred pounds of lawful money to be likewise paid within twelve calendar months next after my decease. Item I give and bequeath unto my daughter Ann Benstead the sum of one hundred and ten pounds of lawful money to be paid her within twelve calendar months next after my decease. Item I give and bequeath unto my said son James Benstead the sum of forty pounds of like lawful money to be paid within twelve calendar months next after my decease. Item I give and bequeath unto my daughter Mary Benstead the sum of one hundred and ten pounds of like lawful money to be paid within twelve calendar months after my decease. And my will is and I do hereby expressly declare, that if any incertable [sic] loss or losses shall or do happen and be in my personal estate and moneys due to me on bonds notes simple contracts or otherwise howsoever (not otherwise herein before given and disposed of) so as to render the same insufficient to discharge and pay the said several and respective legacies or sums of money, so as aforesaid given and bequeathed unto and amongst my said children making the whole sum of four hundred and twenty pounds That then in such case the several and respective legatees or their representatives shall do and bear the losses in proportion to their several and respective legacies proportionable part of such loss or losses and each of them respectively shall make an abatement in their respective legacies accordingly And I do hereby declare will and direct that my executrix and executor shall and may by and out of the premises respectively deduct and reimburse themselves all such loss costs charges and expenses as they or either of them shall sustain and be put unto by reason or means of the execution of this my said will And I do hereby will and appoint that my executrix and executor shall not be answerable for any part of my estate either real or personal but such as come to their respective hands And my further will is and I hereby charge and subject my aforesaid windmill situate standing and being in the parish of Stetchworth aforesaid with and to the payment of the further legacies or sums of money hereafter by me so given to four of my children (after the decease of my said wife Ann) That is to say I give and bequeath unto two of my sons Viz Richard and James the sums of twenty pounds apiece And unto my three daughters (namely) Sarah Faircliff, Ann Benstead and Mary Benstead the like sum of twenty pounds apiece of like lawful money And my will is, that if either of my said two daughters Ann Benstead and Mary Benstead shall happen to die without child or children before her or their legacy or legacies shall by force of this my will become due and payable Then in such case I will and direct that the legacy of legacies or sum and sums of money of her or them so dying as aforesaid shall go to and be paid my said two sons Richard and James And to my said daughter Sarah Faircliffe and to be equally divided between them share and pair alike or wholly to the survivor of them And lastly I do hereby nominate constitute and appoint my said wife Ann and my said son Richard Benstead joint executors of this my last will and testament hereby revoking disannulling and making void all former and other wills by any time made In witness whereof I the said Richard Benstead the testator have to this my said last will and testament contained on four sheets of paper affixed together at the top to the three last sheets have set and put my hand and seal the first day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty two.

Richeard Benstead

Signed sealed published and declared by the said Richard Benstead  
(the word devisee [sic] on the third sheet, and at the ninth line being first

interlined) the testator as and for his last will and testament in the presence who at his request in his presence and in the presence of each other have hereto subscribed our names as witnesses.

Thos Watson, R Chapman, Eliz: **D** Chapman

**Richard Benstead; Miller; Dullingham; Admon; 1788: VAC 3:61**

Whereas Richard Benstead the Elder of Dullingham in the county of Cambridge Miller deceased did in and by his last will and testament in writing nominate constitute and appoint his wife Ann Benstead and his son Richard Benstead of Burrough Green in the said county of Cambridge Miller joint executors as in and by the same reference being thereunto had will appear Now know all men by these presents that we the said Ann Benstead and Richard Benstead the son for divers good causes and considerations us thereunto especially moving do and each of us do hereby renounce and utterly disclaim the execution of the said last will and testament and the administration of all and singular the goods chattels and credits of the said Richard Benstead deceased to the end and intent and we do hereby pray and desire that the administration of the goods and chattels and credits of the said Richard Benstead with his will annexed may be granted to John Benstead of Dullingham aforesaid Miller one of the sons of the said Richard Benstead deceased and also a devisee and legatee named in the last will and testament And that this our said proxy of renunciation may take effect We do hereby constitute and appoint any one of the proctors of the Episcopal Consistory Court of Ely to appear before the worshipful William Compton Doctor of Law Judge of the said Episcopal Court or his surrogate and to pray and procure this our proxy of renunciation to be duly admitted enacted and allowed and to do all other acts for us requisite and necessary to be done in the premises according to the due forms of law as fully and amply as we ourselves might or could do if we were personally present hereby allowing notifying and confirming all and whatsoever shall be done for us in our names touching the premises In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hand and seals the fifth day of February in the year of our Lord 1788

Sealed and declared (being first  
duly stamp) In the presence of  
John Cooper Atty at Law  
Cambridge

The mark and seal of  
x  
Ann Benstead  
Rich<sup>d</sup> Benstead

I admit this renunciation  
As far as by law I may  
Rob Masters Surrogate

The sixteenth day of February in the year of our Lord 1788

On which day appeared personally John Benstead of Dullingham in the County of Cambridge Miller and alleged upon oath that Richard Benstead the elder late of Dullingham aforesaid Miller his late father deceased Julie made and published his last will and testament in writing bearing date on or about the first day of February 1782 and thereof constituted and pointed his wife Ann and son Richard Benstead joint executrix and executor who survive the said testator the two absolutely refuse taken upon themselves the burthen of the execution thereof and have renounced and disclaimed all rights and titles thereto under their hands and seals and desired that the same may be committed and granted to him the said John Benstead as one of the sons of the said deceased and also defies the legatee named in the said will. Wherefore the said John Benstead prayed that administration of all and singular the goods chattels and credits of the said Richard Benstead deceased together with his will annexed might be committed and granted to him as one of the sons of the said deceased and also defies the legatee as aforesaid.

John Benstead

The said John Benstead signed the above affidavit and was sworn to the truth thereof at Cambridge in the County of Cambridge the day and year first above written

Before me Rob Masters Surrogate  
Let administration pass  
Rob Masters Surrogate

**William Benstead; Great Wilbraham; 1632: VC 27:291**

Will nuncupative, 3.12.1632  
All goods and chattels to wife Parnell, sole executrix  
Probate 15.12.1632

**Ann Grange; widow; Swaffham Bulbeck; 1635: VC 27:597**

21<sup>st</sup> December 1635; Ann Grange of Swaffham Bulbeck, widow  
To be buried in the church of St Mary Swaffham Bulbeck in the grave of her mother  
To daughter Ann Grange one posted bedstead with furniture belonging, or £5; one press, one long table, 6 joined stool, a box of trenchers, one treble drawing desk given to her by her grandmother, or money in lieu 'as any two honest men shall judge them to be worth'.  
To daughter Elizabeth Rolfe my best gown.  
To daughter Jane Grange my lease of the water mill with two tenements and meadow withal and appurtenances in Swaffham Bulbeck on condition that she give a sufficient discharge in law for a legacy of £100 bequeathed by the late John Grange in his will. To daughter Jane one posted bedstead with furniture, or £5, the drawing table in the parlour and 6 joined stools.  
All pewter and linen to be divided equally between son John and daughters Ann and Jane.  
To William ? Dobide 10/- p.a. to find my sister Susan ?Fookes house room and finding during her life  
To John Rolfe and Thomas Rolfe my grandchildren one ewe and one lamb  
To the poor of Swaffham Prior 20/-  
Son John to invest daughter Ann's legacy while she is unmarried, and pay her £5 p.a.  
Rest of goods etc., to executor, son John Grange  
John Hasell and son-in-law Thomas Rolfe to be supervisors – bequest of a pair of gloves to each of them.  
Witnesses: John Grange, Thomas Rolfe, Robert Master

**John Grange; Swaffham Bulbeck; 1643: Consistory Court of Ely**

To wife Ann, all estate apart from the water mill in Swaffham Bulbeck which goes to sister Jeane Grange for the remainder of the lease.  
Executors: wife Ann, sister Jeane Grange, brothers-in-law Thomas Rolfe and Richard Flanner.  
Written in the presence of Robert Adams and John Grange

**Thomas Graunge; Swaffham Bulbeck; 1592: VC 20:110**

In the name of God amen the 25<sup>th</sup> day of June in the year of our Lord 1592 I Thomas Graunge of Swaffham Bulbeck in the county of Cambridge gent ...sick in body but of good and perfect remembrance thanks be given to Almighty God do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God my saviour and redeemer hoping through the merits of his son Jesus Christ by the shedding of his most precious blood that he hath purged me from my sins after this miserable and ... life ended my soul shall rest and have place with the ... in his eternal kingdom Item I give and bequeath unto Agnes my wife my parsonage at Aldeborough in the county of Suffolk with the appurtenances to have and to hold to her and the heirs assigns during the natural life of John Graunge gentleman

my father if the said Agnes shall so long live and after the decease of the said Agnes if she die before the said John Graunge my father I will that Anne my daughter and her assigns shall have the said parsonage with the appurtenances during the natural life of the said John Graunge my father and if the said Agnes my wife shall happen. .... the said John Graunge my father then my will is that the said Anne my daughter and her assigns shall have the said parsonage with appurtenances during the natural life of the said Agnes my wife and after the decease of the said John Graunge my father and Agnes my wife and the longer liver of them then I will give and devise the said parsonage with the appurtenances to John Graunge, Edward Graunge Martin Graunge Anne Graunge Jane Graunge my brothers and sisters to them and their heirs for ever Item I give and bequeath to the said John Graunge, Edward Graunge Martin Graunge Anne Graunge and Jane Graunge my brothers and sisters to every of them 40<sup>s</sup> to be paid unto them at their several ages of 21 years Item I give and bequeath to the poor inhabitants of Swaffham Bulbeck 40<sup>s</sup> to be paid unto them within one month after my decease Item I give and bequeath unto Robert Page Robert Spalding Dorothy Turner and Alice Lyngwood my servants to every of then 10<sup>s</sup> to be paid to them within six weeks next after my decease Item I give and bequeath to Agnes Rowe widow 6<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup> to be paid to her within six weeks next after my decease Item I give and bequeath to Elizabeth Collisonne wife of Robert Collisonne 6<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup> to be paid to her within six weeks next after my decease Item I give to William Greene my ploughboy 6<sup>s</sup> to be paid within six weeks next after my decease All the rest of my goods and chattels both moveable and unmoveable not before bequeathed I give and bequeath them to Agnes my wife who I do ordain and make my sole executrix of this my last will and testament on condition that before she prove this will and before her Marriage or before that she shall take administration of my goods and .... sufficient sureties to her brother John Roose [think this should be Rolfe] or his executors such as he shall like ... paying of such legacies and sums of money as my uncle Mr Theodor Goodwyn and ... or either of ... lands bonds jointly and severally to the said John Roose to be paid to the use of the children of William Norman late of Swaffham Bulbeck aforesaid yeoman deceased at such days and times as in the said bonds are limited and appointed and according to the intent and true meaning of the last will and testament of the said William Norman so as by the lying in of the said bonds the ... bonds laid in by my said Uncle Goodwyn and by myself or either of us be thereby discharged cancelled and so also s my said executrix shall pay or cause to be paid to Agnes Folkes and Margaret Folkes daughters of John Folkes of Swaffham Bulbeck aforesaid yeoman deceased the sum of three score pounds of lawful English money the first day of November next according to the true meaning of the several obligations therefore made And if the said Agnes my executrix shall refuse to lay in bonds with sureties as aforesaid and refuse to pay the foresaid three score pounds in manner and form aforesaid then my will and meaning is that my cousin Thomas Graunge of Bottisham shall enter and take into his hands and possession so much of my goods and chattels as shall be sufficient to ... the foresaid legacies and sums of money in this my will ... and also to satisfy and pay the legacies due to the children of the foresaid William Norman according and in such manner as in his will is limited and appointed and likewise for the paying and discharge of the foresaid three score pounds to Agnes and Margaret Folkes as aforesaid. And then the said Thomas Graunge my cousin shall enter into bonds with sufficient security or securities to the said John Roose or his executors such as he or they shall like as for the true paying and discharging of the legacies given and bequeathed by the said William Norman to his children according in such manner as in his will is... limited in such sort as the bonds laid in by my Uncle Goodwyn and myself may be discharged and made void and the overplus of my goods I will shall remain and be with Agnes my wife And I do entreat the said Thomas Graunge my cousin to be supervisor of this my last will and testament and to be aiding and assisting to the same performed according to my good meaning and I give him for his pains therein to be employed 40<sup>s</sup> . These being witnesses John Graunge Thomas Graunge John Rolfe Nicholas Rolfe

**William Rudston; gentleman; Swaffham Bulbeck; 1556: VC 15:140**

O Lord have mercy upon me have mercy upon me God be merciful unto us in thee o Lord have I trusted Let me now be .... The iiij<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord God a m five hundred three score and six and in the eighth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth The year of God ... I William Rudston of Swaffham Bulbeck in the county of Cambridge gent being in good health and perfect remembrance thanks be to God do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following First I most humbly beg before Almighty God to take my soul to his great .... and my body to the earth from whence it came there to rest unto the day of judgment at which time I do believe to rise again and to .... with the faithful the reward prepared fro them Also I give to the vicar of Swaffham Bulbeck aforesaid in recompense for my tithes and obligations by me forgotten or negligently paid xx<sup>s</sup> Also I will and charge my executrix by this my last will that she content and pay all such debts and duties as I owe to any person or persons at the time of my decease the same to be truly paid without delay and also I will and charge my executrix that if any person or persons ... complain unto her of any wrong that I should at any time heretofore have done unto them or to any of them and do make due ?process thereof that then immediately after such ?process had ?restitution with my goods be made by my executrix unto the said parties ?process as shall stand with equity also I will that no pomp or great ... be made or done for me at my burial but only that the poor people there present and especially my poor neighbours may be well relieved by the discretion of my executrix Also I give to the poor inhabitants of Swaffham aforesaid and Bottisham v<sup>li</sup> of lawful money of England to be given them within one year of my decease as by the discretion of my executrix shall be thought most meat. Item I give to the ... worshipful Mr Robert Shut of Grays Inn x<sup>li</sup> of lawful money desiring him in good behalf and as my special trust is in him to comfort and assist my well-beloved wife and dear children left by me in this miserable Subtle and crafty world void of all ?faithful friends except his especial and faithful love extended upon them in giving them his godly faithful and learned council and advice in all such necessary points in law as to him by his great ?discretion shall seem good. Item I give to Dorothy my daughter and heir when she shall accomplish the age of eighteen years three hundred sheep called ewes Item I give to Thomazine my daughter one hundred marks of lawful money when she shall accomplish the age of xx<sup>ti</sup> years or the day of her marriage which of them fortune soonest Item I give to my sister Dorothy Lislye x<sup>li</sup> To my cousin William Adam v<sup>li</sup> To Christopher Finston xxx<sup>li</sup> to Robert Adam xl<sup>s</sup> to Rowland Adam five marks to Elizabeth Ayers five marks to Cicely Burray xl<sup>s</sup> to Thomas Warren my servant xl<sup>s</sup> To Martyn Appleyard my servant xl<sup>s</sup> To Thomas Skott m servant xl<sup>s</sup> all the said gifts and legacies to be paid within teo years next after my decease Item I give to Frances Bolton four marks on the day of her marriage to Elizabeth Stalon v<sup>li</sup> at the day of her marriage To Martha Stallon v<sup>li</sup> at the day of her marriage Item I give to George his boy if my .... The son of Elizabeth Rudston deceased v<sup>li</sup> of lawful money when he shall accomplish the age of xxi<sup>ti</sup> years Item I give to my brother-in-law John Cotton v<sup>li</sup> of lawful money Item I give to the said John xx<sup>ti</sup> combes of seed barleyto be delivered of this crop and xx<sup>ti</sup> of the like barley to be delivered of the next crop Item I give Thomas Cotton my godson one red ?garled bullock which I bought of his father Item I give to my uncle John Rudston one rent charge of vi<sup>li</sup> xiii<sup>s</sup> and iii<sup>d</sup> yearly out of my land and tenements called Mumphers at two usual feasts in the year at the the feast of St Michael the Archangel and the Annunciation of our Lady by even portions and if it fortune the said rent charge of vi<sup>li</sup> xiii<sup>s</sup> and iii<sup>d</sup> to be ... unpaid after any of the said feasts .. and above the .... That then it shall be lawful to the said John and his assigns into the said lands and tenements to enter and distrain ..... The residue of all my moveable goods and cattells not bequeathed I will shall be and remain in the discretion of my executrix towards the performance of this my last will whom I ordain and make Elizabeth my wife my true and faithful executrix of this my last will and testament and charging her truly to perform ... and fulfil all the contents and parts of this my last will according to the true intent and meaning of this my last will as she will answer to the contrary at the day of Judgment.

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