

Will of John Meye 1618 (TNA, PROB 11/131/118)

Summary

Testator: John Meye of South Lynn, Norfolk, esquire
 Executrix: wife Cordell Meye
 Date: 24 September 1617, proved 4 February 1618
 Witnesses: Lancelot Stevenson vicar of Islington Johannes Grant Jervase Wharton Matt. Clarke

Codicil witnesses: Steven Meye James Sedgwicke

Will:

- well beloved wife Cordell Meye all property for life, then to son Stephen
- wife £200 to provide dear mother Anne Meye £20 per year
- daughter fortunat Frances Meye £100, £200 due from cousin Frances Allen, lands in Wisbech in lieu of £50 her grandmother Hutton gave her
- daughter Mary Meye £100
- daughter Margery Meye house in Kings Lynn, £50 from her grandmother Hutton
- daughter Cordell Meye house & land in Shouldham in lieu of money from her grandmother Hutton, £5 yearly until Edward Grimstone dies leaving her a bond for £120
- daughters Deborah Meye, Grace Meye, Sara Meye & Theodora Meye £100 each when 22
- youngest children Mary Meye, Deborah Meye, Grace Meye, Sara Meye, & Theodora Meye £200 divided equally amongst them
- son Henry Meye £30
- son John Meye £50
- daughter Fawcett and daughter Sedgwick £5 apiece
- mother £5 and to mother Hutton a ring
- loving sons in law rings
- Mr Stevenson £10 he owes
- cousin Clarke and his wife each a ring
- gracious daughter fortunat Frances Meye 3 cows or £10 and 20 ewes or £10
- rest to wife Cordell
- Mr Jo. Clarks wife, Mr Grant, Mistress Grant, Mr Fawcett each a ring
- sisters either of them a ring

Text (modern spelling)

In the name of God amen

1. The 24th day of September anno domini 1617 I John Meye of South Lynn in the County of Norfolk esquire being of good and perfect health thanks be given to God, do ordain and make this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following Revoking hereby all former and other wills made by me
2. First I commend my soul into the hands of God that gave it me trusting assuredly to be saved through the merits of Christ Jesus my Saviour which died for me And for my body I commend it to the earth from whence it was taken faithfully believing that at the last day it shall be united again with my soul and made partaker therewith in unspeakable glory through the mighty operation of God the father and the infinite mercies of Christ Jesus my Saviour
3. And for my body I desire it may be interred at South Lynn church

4. Now for my worldly estate which with it hath pleased God to bless me
5. Item First I give to the poor 20s to be distributed in dole at my burial
6. Item I give to the poor of the parish of South Lynn 20s
7. Item I give unto my well beloved wife Cordell Meye all my houses and grounds in Kings Lynn and South Lynn aforesaid and all my houses and all my lands in Mersland late George Stedmans with their appurtenances lying and being in Mersland late George Stedmans and likewise all my land bought of Mrs Payne widow with their appurtenances lying and being in Mersland late George Stedmans and all the lands I bought of William Russell lying in Mersland with their appurtenances and all my two closes lying in Stoke or elsewhere in Norfolk commonly called Romer Yeardes with their appurtenances to have and to hold all and singular the said messuages houses lands and pasture and other premises aforesaid whatsoever with their appurtenances unto the said Cordell my wife and her assigns during her natural life and after her decease I do give and bequeath all the same premises unto Stephen Meye my son and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten and for want of such issue I give all the same premises to John Meye my son and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten and for want of such issue I give all the said premises with their appurtenances to Henry Meye my son and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten and for want of such heirs to my daughters and their heirs for ever Provided always and my will is that my wife shall out of these lands and tenements give my said son Stephen Meye sixteen pounds per annum during her natural life to maintain him at school and Cambridge provided also and my will and meaning is that my said son Stephen or such of my sons or their heirs which shall happen to inherit the said lands and other the fore bequeathed premises shall pay to such of my children as shall be unmarried at their ages of one and twenty years or within one year after the death of Cordell my wife the sum of two hundred pounds
8. I give unto my said wife half of my household stuff and plate which my wife shall elect herself of the best
9. Item I give unto my said wife the sum of £200 more out of which I would and I will that Anne Meye my dear mother be paid £20 per annum during her life
10. Also I give my said wife six milk cows and two of my best horses or geldings which are not hereafter bequeathed she to take choice of them if I have so many if there be fewer cows I will she have them all
11. Item I give to my daughter fortunat Frances Meye one £100 which I will her brother John shall use for her till she be married or will call out of his hands
12. Item I give her £200 due by my cousin Frances Allen
13. Also whereas there was an assignment of a lease made unto me from Martin Pyerst gent of certain lands in Wisbech late Thomas Lowres for certain years to come I give & bequeath the same unto my daughter Frances Meye and to her only use and behoof for ever in full satisfaction of her portion and the fifty pounds her grandmother Hutton gave her more I give unto her my bay colt called Robin
14. Item I give to my Mary Meye my daughter one hundred pounds which I will John shall use for her till she marry or be two and twenty years of age in part of her portion

15. Item whereas I have a house in Kings Lynn mortgaged unto me by Thomas Pflory for certain monies lent unto him my will is that if the money be repaid my daughter Margery Meye shall have the same and if it shall happen the money be unpaid at the day and time appointed so that for want of payment thereof the house become forfeited my will is that the said Margery Meye my daughter shall have and enjoy the said house to her and her heirs for ever for and in lieu of her portion
16. Item I give unto her fifty pounds more in full satisfaction of fifty pounds given her by her grandmother Hutton in full satisfaction of all her portion
17. Item whereas I sold a house & land in Shouldham for certain sums of money yet unpaid for which the said house is bound in w[?]entry I give and bequeath all the same money yet unpaid and all my right and title in the said house if the said money be unpaid unto my daughter Cordell Meye for and in lieu of certain money given unto her by her grandmother Hutton
18. Also I give unto the said Cordell six score pounds due unto me after the death of Edmund Grimstone gent as appears by certain bonds the which bonds I assign over unto her for her only use and behoof and give her full power and authority to sue and implead the same for her portion and her only use for ever
19. Item I will that Cordell my daughter have paid her by my executor five pounds yearly by equal portions until the six score pounds be due and a year after to begin at Michaelmas or Our Lady Day which shall first happen after my death
20. Item I give unto Deborah Meye Grace Meye Sara Meye Theodora Meye one hundred pounds apiece out of such goods as I shall leave for their maintenance and part of their portion to be employed for their use by my executor during their minority and to be paid at their ages of two and twenty years or be married
21. And whereas I have in the former part of my will appointed two hundred pounds to my children to be paid them that be unmarried by such of my heirs as shall inherit my lands my will and true meaning is that the said £200 be equally divided to these my children That is to say to Mary Meye Deborah Meye Grace Meye Sara Meye and Theodora Meye my youngest children and I will if any of my children die before their portions be due I will that the other of my daughters that be unmarried shall have their portions equally divided amongst them as well these latter named of my children as the other
22. Item I give unto my son Henry Meye thirty pounds in full satisfaction of his portion having given him a double portion before and the Lord bless him
23. Item I give my good son John fifty pounds in full satisfaction of his portion
24. Item I give unto my daughter Fawcett and daughter Sedgwick five pounds apiece in full satisfaction of their portions
25. Item I give unto my mother five pounds and unto my mother Hutton a ring of forty shillings
26. To my loving sons in law rings of ten shillings apiece
27. I give Mr Stevenson the ten pounds he owes me by bill

28. and to my cousin Clarke and his wife either a ring of ten shillings
29. lastly not having fully given my self content for my gracious daughter fortunat Frances Meye I give unto her three cows or ten pounds and twenty ewes or ten pounds as my executor shall appoint
30. And lastly I ordain and make my dear and loving wife Cordell Meye sole executrix of this my last will and testament desiring her to bring up my children and give them convenient maintenance until their marriage or time when they shall receive their portions
31. and I do give unto my said wife all other my houses lands and tenements leases or goods and chattels whatsoever by reason of any mortgage forfeiture or otherwise mine and all other my goods chattels plate ready money and implements of household whatsoever heretofore not bequeathed to her and her heirs executors and assigns for ever for and toward the discharge payment and performance of these legacies heretofore given by this my will and of all other my debts
32. Also I give to Mr Jo. Clarks wife a ring to Mr Grant and Mistress Grant and Mr Fawcett to either of them a ring at my wife's discretion
33. And lastly to my sisters either of them a ring at my wife's discretion
34. In witness whereof to every leaf of this my present will I have set my hand and seal and published the same as my last will and testament the first of October Anno Domini 1617 John Meye witnesses ~~Lancelott Stevenson vicar of Islington Johannes Grant Garrufe Wharton Mat. Clark~~

A Codicil to be annexed to the will of John Meye of Kings Lynn Esquire

That whereas by his last will and testament in writing he has settles the inheritance of all his lands and tenements in Kings Lynn after the decease of his wife in Steven Meye his youngest son yet now his mind and will is that those two tenements newly built with the orchard thereunto adjoining shall after the decease of his said wife remain to so many of his daughters as shall then be unmarried during the time they shall keep themselves unmarried and after they all be married then the Inheritance to remain to the said Steven and his heirs. John Meye

Witnesses Mat. Clark Steven Meye James Sedgwick

The last will & testament of Mr John Meye of South Lynn Witnesses hereof Lancelot Stevenson vicar of Islington Johannes Grant Jervase Wharton Matt Clarke

Probatum 4 February 1617 Cordelia Meye widow and Executrix