

**The Will of Anthony Blaggrave the Younger,  
of Bulmershe Court, Sonning, in the  
County of Berks, 1653,**

**T**HE following is a copy of the original will of Anthony Blaggrave the Younger, of Bulmershe Court, in the County of Berks.

“ In the name of the Holy and Blessed Trinity the Father the Sonne and the Holy Ghost Three p’sons and one God I Anthonie Blaggrave the younger of Bulmarsh within the Parish of Sonninge in the County of Berks Gent being at this p’sent of perfect memorie, though weake in body, I thank my God for both, and knowinge it is appointed for all the posteritie of Adam once to dye And feeling my Disease rather to increase and growe more strong upon mee then to lessen or abate, whereby I shall say I have no pleasure in this world As well to be prepared against the day of departure hence That in the time of my sicknesse being freed from all cares and cogitations of the transitorie things of this life my soule may bee lifted upp to a blessed meditation of that sweete rest and those ever enduring ioyes of those that in a better life enjoye the presense of God at Whose right hand are pleasures for evermore As also to prevent all occasions of strife and contention after my death, that so going hence in peace I may also leave peace behinde mee I doe adviseadlie make and ordaine this my last will and testament in manner and forme following :

FIRST I commend my soule and spiritt into the hands of my Creator who gave it firmly and steadfastly beleeving to bee saved by the mercies and merritts of my only and all sufficient Saviour, Jesus Christ. My body I yeild in obedience to Gods ordinance unto the earth from whence it was taken and unto which it must be returned to be buried in the vault in the Chauncell of the Church of Sonninge aforesaid in decent and Christian buryall there to rest in my bed of the graue untill the last trumpe shall blowe and the dead shall arise from their

sleepe at which time I assuredly hope to have my soule joyned againe unto this body clothed with immortality, And to see Jesus Christ my Saviour and Redeemer with these eyes and none other, and to be partaker of that blessing, of come ye blessed of my ffather inherite that Kingdome that was p'pared for you before the beginninge of the world. And as for those transitorie blessings which God hath bestowed upon mee in this life I dispose of them as followeth.

FIRST I will and devise all that my Mannor and ffarme of Shorthampton with all the rights members and appurtenances in Chalbury (Charlbury) in the Countie of Oxon and elsewhere in the said County of Oxon with all that hath been therewith or any part thereof usually occupyed and enjoyed, As also those two severall tenements situate and being in the Towne of Readdinge in the County of Berks lately in the tenure or occupation of Isaac Cray and Mrs. ffruin widd(ow) to be sold by my executors or the survivors or survivor of them with all convenient speed for the payment of my debts, All the rest and residue of my Mannors messuages mills lands tenements and hereditaments whatsoever with all and singular their and every appurtenance I give and devise to my sonne and heire apparent and to the heire males of his body lawfully to bee begotten, And for default of such heires males as aforesaid to my brother George Blagrove and the heires males of his body lawfully to bee begotten, And for default of such heires males as aforesaid to my brother John Blagrove and the heires males of his body lawfully to bee begotten, And for want of heires males to bee begotten of the bodies of my sonne, my brother George, and my brother John or one of them, the remainder to my owne right heires for ever. .

ITEM. I give to each of my daughters Rebecca and Dorothy ffifteene hundred pounds a yeere to be raised and levied out of all the Mannors, messuages, mills, lands, tenements and hereditaments hereby given to my sonne and the heires males of his body and to be paid when my sonne shall or might attain to the age of one and twenty yeeres. And if either of my said daughters dye before their said portions and legacies hereby given are

payable, then my will and meaning is that the survivor of them shall have five hundred pounds more out of the ffifteene hundred pounds which should have been paid to my daughter soe dyinge. And that the residue thereof shall bee received and detayned by and in the hands of my Executors and the survivors or survivor of them for and towards the performance of the trust by mee in them reposed by my deed and act executed in my life time to my said Executors. And if both my said Daughters happen to die before the said time of payment of their said portions and legacies, then the said portions and legacies given to my said daughters to be disposed of by my said Executors and Trustees the survivors and survivor of them in p'formance of the trust aforesaid. AND my will and meaning is that if my said daughters or either of them shall happen to live till the time of payment of their said portion that the same shall bee paid or secured to be paid according as it is and may happen to be given by this my will and testament before my sonne or either of my said brothers receive or take any profite or enjoy any of the premisses.

ITEM. I give to my said daughters and to each of them for their present maintenance and education Twenty pounds by the yeare to be paid out of the rents, issues and profitts of all the mills, meddowes, messuage or tenement sometyme a dyehowse and late in the occupation of John Pemmerton or his assignes, the brick kiln (?) barne and closes lying together within the Parrish of St. Gyles in Readdyng aforesaid, the waters, ffishings, eyotts, and pooles at the said Mill tailes or elsewhere to the same or every of them belonging or in any wise appertayning, And out of the toll, p'fitts, comodities, and advantages whatsoever to the said Mills belonging or therewith demised, knowne, used, occupied and enjoyed as pte (part) and p'cell thereof to and for the purposes aforesaid until their portions hereby given to each of them shall be paid unto them.

ITEM. I give and bequeath unto my cozen Oliver Blagrove and to my servantes James Libb, John Randall and Ralph Slaughter and to each of them a blacke cloake and desire that my said cozen and servants may beare and carry my body into the church.

ITEM. I give and bequeath unto the said James Libb and John Randall to each of them one yeares wages and to my servant Daniell Goulden for and towards his placing forth the summe of ffive pounds.

ITEM. I give and bequeath unto my maidservants Martha Pinnocke, Anne Long, Margaret Newland and Margaret Ilsley to each of them a blacke gowne and to the said Martha besides her gowne and in respect of her care and p'tience in my sicknesse one yeares wages.

ITEM. I give and bequeath unto the poore of the Parish of Sonning aforesaid the summe of fforty shillings to be distributed by the churchwardens at the Church howse in bread and board and forty shillings more in money to be distributed by the said churchwardens to the said poore on the day of my funeral, the said churchwardens to have particular respect to the poore of the libertie of Woodley. AND all and singular other my goods, chattles, household stuffe, I leave unto my said Executors for and towards the performance of the trust aforesaid. And with this speciall trust notwithstanding that they my said executors and survivors and survivor of them shall and will and suffer Rebecca my now loving wife to have and continue the possession and use of my howsehold stuffe and utensils of howsehold now being in and belonging to my now dwelling howse in Bulmarsh aforesaid for such and soe long time as my said wife shall and doe continue reside and inhabite in the said howse, soe as my said wife shall and doe first give to my said Executors good and sufficient securitie that shee will deliver the said household stuffe and the utensills of household to the said exors and the survivors and survivor of them att and uppon her departure from the said house in as good plight and condition (reasonable usage onely excepted) as the same now are. And it is my will that afterwards the household stuffe and utensils of household shall come bee and remaine unto such person or persons as shall then bee seised of the inheritance of the said Mansion house. And that in the meane time neither my said exors. nor my said wife shall or may remove any of the household stuffe or utensills of household out of the said house.

ITEM. I give and bequeath unto my said wife and children, unto my father, brothers John and George, sister, aunt, and to my sonn's nurse to each of them mourning apparrell. And also I give and bequeath unto Mr. Thomas Yaxly (?) cloth and ribbon for a gowne and to my said servant Samuell Goulden a black suite.

LASTLY I ordeine and institute and appoint my loving friends Anthonie Barker of Sonning aforesaid Esqr., Rich. Knollys of Winchington (Winchendon) in the County of Bucks Esq., and Anthonie Libb of Goring in the County of Oxon. Gentl. my full and sole executors of this my last will and testament. And I doe hereby revoke all former wills and testaments.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and seal the twelfth day of August in the yeare of our Lorde God one thousand six hundred and ffifty-three.

ANTH. BLAGRAVE JUNR. Signed and published and declared in the presence of Tho. Seikes, Josh. Johnson.

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NOTE.—The illustration accompanying this transcription of Anthony Blagrove's will shows the remaining portion of Bulmershe Court—the old Manor House of the Blagraves. In the early part of the 19th century the Court had become ruinous and about two-thirds of it were taken down and the remainder converted into dwellings for cottagers. An endeavour is being made to preserve the part that remains of this interesting 16th century manor house.

The pedigree shows the descent of Anthony Blagrove the Younger.

The Visitations of Berkshire (1664-66) make no mention of the son of Anthony Blagrove referred to in the foregoing will.

ERNEST W. DORMER.



*Old Bulmershe Manor House.*

**Pedigree showing descent of Anthony  
Blagrove the younger, of Bulmarsh  
Court, Sonning.**

