

Extracts from Wills,

PRESERVED

IN THE MUNIMENT ROOM AT STOWE BARDOLPH.

COMMUNICATED BY

THE REV. GEORGE HENRY DASHWOOD, F.A.S.

In a Letter

TO DAWSON TURNER, ESQ., V.P.

MY DEAR SIR,

The interesting extracts from Norfolk Wills given in our first volume induced me to look over a number of Wills preserved among the muniments at Stowe; and I have now the pleasure of sending some Extracts from them for the inspection of the Committee, and with the hope that they may deem them worthy of being printed.

Our able secretary, Mr. Harrod, has so judiciously prefaced his similar Extracts as to leave little to be said on the present occasion; since, in their general features, the Wills here transcribed accord with those already printed: nevertheless they differ in some respects, and many expressions in them do not occur in Mr. Harrod's series.

To the genealogist, Wills are of the utmost service, and the source of the most authentic information; the statements of our county historians, and even of the "Heralds' Visitations," not being always to be depended upon. With this view, therefore, the mention of relatives in many cases has been noted. The Wills are generally accompanied by their

probates; but in some instances they are only office-copies. They appear to have come into the possession of the Hare family with the title-deeds of various purchased lands.

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

G. H. DASHWOOD.

Ralph de Ketlistone. A.D. 1321.

Corpus meum ad sepeliendum inter fratres prædicatores Lennæ. Item, lego summo altari ecclesiæ Sanctæ Margaretæ Lennæ pro decimis meis oblitis xxxs. Item, fabricæ ejusdem ecclesiæ ijs. Item, Carnario* ejusdem ecclesiæ ijs. Item, lego fabricæ ecclesiæ Sancti Nicholai Lennæ ijs. Item, fabricæ ecclesiæ Sancti Jacobi Lennæ ijs., &c.

Makes bequests to the Friars Preachers, Minors, Carmelites, and Augustines of Lynn . . . to the Hospital of St. Mary Magdalen at Lynn. To the fabric of the church and the poor of Ketlistone.

Mentions his brother John, and his (John's) children by his first wife. His own sisters Amicia, Beatrix, Matilda, and Cecilia, . . . Geoffry, son of John de Ketlistone and Margaret his sister, to whom he gives xxs. and one silver cup with a foot, &c. . . Item, lego ad expensum die sepulturæ meæ l^s. Item, lego ad ij annuales celebrandas pro anima mea in villa Lennæ, secundum ordinacionem executorum meorum, uti melius viderint expedire, vj^{li}. Item, lego Thomæ filio meo iiij libras. Item, Agneti de Westacre iij^{li} et cameram meam integram cum j pecia argenti.

Thomas and Agnes, residuary legatees; Thomas to be under the care of his executors till of age.

* Carnarium, Cemeterium.

Executors: Thomas de Melchebourne, Geoffry de Mumby,
and Agnes de Westacre.

Datum apud Lennam Episcopi Anno Domini m^occc^o
vicesimo primo.

[The Ketlistones were wealthy burgesses of Lynn. Ralf de Ketlistone held the Manor of Burnham Hall, in Fincham and Stradset; Agnes, his widow, had a life-interest in it, and, in the 20th Edw. III., granted the same unto John, son of Adam de Fincham. By Indenture dated 22 Edw. III. John de Fincham grants and demises the said manor to Agnes and Thomas de Ketlistone for the term of their lives; and, soon after, it was altogether in John de Fincham.]

Gilbert Haultoft. A.D. 1457.

Ego, Gilbertus Haultoft de Outwell, sanæ, &c. . . et
corpus meum ad sepeliendum infra sacrum locum, ubi Deo
placuerit. Item, volo quod Margareta, uxor mea, habeat,
durante vita, omnia maneria, terras, tenementa, &c., quæ
habeo, &c., in villa de Outwell, Upwell, Elme, Wisebeche,
Leverington et Emneth, tam in comitatu Cant: quam in com.
Norf: si ipsa sola sine marito manserit, &c. . . ita quod
ipsa honeste custodiret Aliciam et Alienoram, filias meas, et
ipsas maritaverit, et invenerit unum capellanum idoneum,
annuatim, per x^m annos proxime sequentes mortem meam,
ad celebrandum divina in ecclesia sancti Clementis in Outwell
pro anima mea, et animabus Roberti Hakebeche militis, et
Johannis Mitron, et omnium benefactorum meorum. . . .
Volo quod Alicia, filia mea, habeat post mortem dictæ
Margaretæ, uxoris meæ, manerium de Budbech, Vernonns et
Cristofts, &c. (failing issue) remaneant Alienoræ filia, &c.
Et si omnes filiarum mearum prædictarum sine hæredibus de
corporibus suis obierint, tunc prædicta maneria, &c. . . .
remaneant Elizabethæ, uxori Thomæ Bennet de Pinchebecke,
et hæredibus, &c. . . Item, volo quod Margareta, filia

mea, uxor Thomæ Kervill, habeat, &c., manerium de Richmond et omnia, &c. . . (in a special case) Executores debent cum dictis proficiis invenire annuatim, durantibus 8^o. annis, unum capellanum idoneum decima in ecclesia parochiali de Outwell celebrare pro anima mea et pro animabus Roberti Hakebeche militis, Johannis Mitron, et omnium benefactorum meorum; ac annuatim custodire diem anniversarium obitus mei in ecclesia parochiali prædicta, distribuendo annuatim dicto die x^s in exequiis, missis, atque pauperibus ibidem existentibus. . . Item, lego quadraginta marcas ad reparationem Ecclesiæ de Emneth pro anima Roberti Hakebeche militis; et lego pro anima ejusdem Roberti cuilibet capellano generali ordinum fratrum Mendicantium de Lynne, scilicet, fratribus predicatorum et minorum quinque marcas, eidem per Testamentum dicti Roberti legatas, cum litera fraternitatis inde penes me remanente apud Wellis. Item, volo quod executores mei faciant de novo the roof of Christofer Chapple in Outwell [*sic*], et exaltent muros ejusdem Capellæ melius quam nunc est, &c. Item, ordino, &c., executores meos, scilicet W^m Haultoft senior, W^m Breewode de Ely, W^m Clay Rector Ecclesiæ de Outwell, et Cristofer Halon de eadem; ac rogo Rogerum Bucke de London, esse Supervisorem, &c.

[Proved in the House of the Friars Carmelites of Aylesford, 7 Oct. A.D. 1458.]

Gilbert Haultoft, second Baron of the Exchequer, died seized of the manors of Budbech in Outwell, Christophers in Upwell, Vernons in Elme, Lovells in Emneth, and Richmond in Wisbech and Leverington. Of his three daughters and coheirs, Margaret married Thomas Kervill, Esq.; Alicia, Thomas Derham, Esq. (by whom she had a daughter, Elizabeth, married to John Fincham, Esq.); and Alianor, Walpole, Esq.]

Eleanor Wells, of Shuldham. A.D. 1459.

Be it remembrid yat y^{is} is y^e last wille of Elynnoor Wellys, of Shuldham. Yat her lond in y^e townys of Stratesette and

Crympilsam be 3owyn and sewyrly confermyd to y^e howse and cowent of Seynt Kateryns of Blakebergh, undyr the forme yat folowyth. Yat is for to sey, that all y^e tyme of y^e life of y^e forseyde Elynoor, alle y^e profite of y^e seyde londys sal remayne to y^e use and disposisyon of y^e seyde Elynoor. And aftyr her disses yane y^e seyde londs w^t alle y^e profits to remayne to Ales Welles, nowne of Blakebergh forseyde, and to y^e cowent of y^e same place : yat is for to sey, halff to y^e seyde Ales, and halff to y^e cowent duryng^o y^e lyfe of y^e seyde Ales. And aftyr her disses to remayne holy to y^e cowent. Mor^o ov^o yⁱs is y^e wille, y^t yf y^e pⁱoress or any of her successors, or any y^t hav^o rewle in y^e same house wol alyon y^e seyde londs to ony odyr ewse but onely to y^e cowent forseyde for ther clothyng and oy^o thyns nedefull to ther propyr use, yane sche woll y^t y^e seyde londs ben sold be the executour and tourneys of y^e seyde Elynoor, and y^e mony ther of comyng be 3owyn among freyers to sing^o and p^ay for y^e sowle of y^e seyde Elynoor and her good doerys.

Wretyn at Schold^m y^e Sext day of the month of Feverer, the yere of owre Lord, a thowsand fowre hūdryd and fifty and nyne.

[The will is indented, with small seal appended, bearing certain letters ; apparently the letter T, and above it the letters *i. h. c.*]

John Hare, of Poringland Magna. A.D. 1460.

Ego, Johannes Haar de Poringland Magna, &c. Condo testamentum meum, &c. . . . Corpusque meum ad sepe- liendum in ecclesia parochiali de Poringland prædicta, juxta tumulum Margeriæ uxoris meæ, &c. . . . Executores ordino facio et constituo Robertum Haar clericum, Rectorem ecclesiæ parochialis de Kirkebican, Nicholaum Haar filios meos, &c.

[This John Haar was ancestor of the family of Hare, of Stowe Bardolf ; and also, I am strongly inclined to believe, from papers found in the Muniment Room at Stowe, of the Listowell family.]

✓ *Nicholas Geyton, of Fyncham. A.D. 1477.*

. . . Ego, Nicholas Geyton, &c. . . Condo testamentum meum, &c. . . Corpusque meum ad sepeliendum in medio ecclesiæ Sancti Martini de Fyncham. . . Item, lego summo altari ibidem ijs. . . emendacioni sive reparacioni ejusdem vjs. viij*d.* . . ecclesiæ cathedrali Sanctæ Trinitatis Norwici v*d.* . . emendacioni ecclesiæ Sanctæ Mariæ Magdalena de Wigenhale ijs. iiij*d.* . . Katerinæ et Agnetæ, filiis meis, utrique earum, v. Marcas, &c. . . Elizabethæ, filiæ meæ xxs. . .

Residuum vero bonorum, &c. . . Thomæ, filio meo, quem constituo executorem meum ad debita mea solvenda, legata mea perimplenda, necnon omnia alia pro anima mea et animabus omnium benefactorum meorum facienda, prout ipsi videbitur melius Deo placere et animæ meæ prodesse.

Hæc est ultima voluntas mei, præfati Nicholai Geyton, &c. Volo quod Thomas filius meus habeat totum Manerium meum, vocatum Littlewelle halle [in Fincham] cum, &c. volo quod idem Thomas habeat unam vaccam Katerina filia mea habeat unam ollam eneam continentem per estimationem duos gallones. . . Agnes filia mea habeat unam parvam ollam eneam continentem per estimationem unum gallonem. . . Item, volo quod omnia vasa mea de peutre equaliter dividantur inter præfatos Thomam, Katerinam, et Agnetam.

. . . Eadem Agnes habeat unam juvenecam rubeam; Katerina habeat unum blodium * *bedcloth de sey* † [sic] unum bodex et duo lintheanima. Item, volo quod prædicta Agnes habeat unum coopertorium rubrum cum albis trayfullis ‡

* Blood Red.

† A kind of serge, a cloth principally or entirely of wool.

‡ Trayfullis, pro trifoliis? Treffa *trifolium* (Ducange) *τριφυλλον*, trifolium; Powdered with white trefoil.

unum bodex § et duo lintheanima. Item, volo quod eadem Agnes habeat unum pelvem || de peutre.

Item, &c. unam cistam pictam. . . . Item, volo quod prædictus Thomas filius meus habeat omnia alia necessaria et utensilia hospicii mei.

[Proved at Downham before the official of the Archdeacon of Norfolk, Dec. 12, 1478.

Official seal appended: under a canopy St. Michael smiting the dragon; below, a monk in the act of prayer. Legend nearly defaced.]

Michael Haar, of Ditchingham. A.D. 1487.

I, Michael Haar, of Dechinghã, &c. . . . make my will and testam^{nt} in this wise, &c. . . . My body to be buried in the church of o^r Lady in Dechinghã. Iſ. I bequeth to the high Au^t for my tythes forgotten vjs. viij^d. Iſ. for breking y^e groūd for my grave xxs. Iſ. for y^e repa^{ci}õ & sostenta^{ci}õ of y^e same church xiiij m^{rc}. Iſ. to Mawte my wiff my Ten^t. in Dechingham wth all the app^utenances till W^m Haar my sone be xviiij, &c.

Yf y^e said W^m die wthout issue of his body, lawfully begott, then I will y^t Johanne my daughter shall have and enjoye the saide Ten^t, &c. . . . [Failing issue of both William and Johanne, the tenement, &c. to be sold by the executors] and the money there of comyng to be disposed by them in messis, singing, and in almes deeds to y^e most plesure of Almighty God, helth and salvation of my soule and all my friends soules.

Iſ. I will y^t y^e waie be made frõ my place unto y^e stile callyd Sardill on myn owen pp costis.

[Brother of Nicholas, (whose will, dated 1492, follows) mentioned in the will of John Haar. His great grand-daughter

§ Bodex qu. Bodice, or a mistake for lodix, a sheet or blanket.

|| Pelvis, mensura aridorum. Pelves, flaggons, covered pitchers for wine. (*Testamenta Vetusta.*)

Etheldreda, eventual heiress of this branch, married Thomas Hobart of Plumstead, whence descended the Earls of Buckinghamshire.]

John Knappe, of Shouldham. A.D. 1488.

My body to be buried in the cemetry of the Church of Saint Margaret the Virgin,* of Shouldham. . . I give to the high altar of the said church, for tythes and oblations forgotten, xij*d.* . . for the repair of the said church vjs. viij*d.*

I will that Juliana my wife have my capital messuage in which I dwell, with all lands, &c. . . (remainder) to John my son and his heirs, on condition that he pay to his brothers Hugh and Thomas, to each of them, five pounds of money of England, &c.

[Proved at Stow before the official of the Archdeacon of Norfolk, June 10, A.D. 1488.]

Nicholas Hare, of Homersfield. A.D. 1492.

. . . Corpusque meum sepeliendum in cimeterio ecclesie beate Mariae virginis de Homersfeld.

Item, do et lego summo altari ecclesie parochialis de Homersfeld prædicta pro decimis oblitis vjs. viij*d.* Item, do et lego summo altari ecclesie parochialis Sancti Georgii de Sundercrofte pro decimis oblitis xx*d.* Item, do et lego fabricæ et reparationi ejusdem ecclesie de Sundercrofte iij*s.* iiij*d.* et iiij modios brasii et duos modios frumenti. Similar bequests to the following churches: St. Peter, St. Mary of Flixton, St. Margaret, St. Nicholas, St. Michael, All Saints,

* The site of St. Margaret's, which in Blomefield's time was unknown, has lately been discovered in lowering a hill in a field adjoining the present church. The foundations of the west end and north side were nearly perfect. The remains of very many bodies from the south side have been removed and buried in the churchyard of All Saints.

and St. James, all in South Elmham, and also to the churches of Poringland Magna, Ditchingham, and Kirbycane.

Item, do et lego cuilibet curatorum divina celebrantium in omnibus prædictis ecclesiis, et omnibus capellanis celebrantibus divina in dictis ecclesiis, quatuor denarios ad celebrandum et dicendum in die tricennali pro anima mea et pro animabus omnium pro quibus orare teneor.

To Nicholas Blythe, my grandson, son of William Blythe, of Norwich, vjs. viij*d.* or one cow.*

To Margaret my wife, and Katharine my daughter, a share of my household goods, except unico le fetherbed quod quidem do et lego Margaretæ uxori meæ ad terminum vitæ suæ, post cujus mortem volo quod prædictus le fetherbed remaneat penes Johannem Hare ad usum suum proprium. Item, do et lego Katherinæ filiæ meæ unam ollam aeneam, unicam le shetill, † et unicam patulam. Item, do et lego Margaretæ uxori meæ duas ollas aeneas et duas le shetills et duas patulas, &c. . . omnia vasa et discos de le pewter et latyn, ‡ &c.

To Margerie Carion, my granddaughter, Margaret Blythe, and Agnes Boroughe, my daughters. Item, do et lego picturæ summi altaris et tabernaculi beatæ Mariæ Virginis in ecclesia de Homersfeld quinque libras.

To Thomas Hare, my son, Bachelor of Laws. . . To Margeria, my daughter. . . William Hare, my brother.

* From this, as well as various other instances, the price of a cow in the fifteenth century seems to have averaged about six shillings.

† This word I do not remember to have met with elsewhere. From the prefixed *le*, as in the above instance of *le fetherbed*, I take it to be an English term, for the corresponding Latin of which the writer was at a loss. It is probably derived from the Latin *scutella*, *patina in modum cavitatis scuti*, and may be a kind of saucer.

‡ Latyn, latten, or laton, a mixed metal resembling brass, hard and durable, and formerly used for engraved plates of sepulchral memorials. But the word was also used for the plates of iron covered with tin, now commonly called tin, of which mugs, &c. are made, and in this sense is here to be taken.

Thomas Foston, of Garboysthorp. A.D. 1493.

To be beryd in the Chyrche of owyr Lady of Garboysthorp.
 Item, I bequeth to the hey auter of the same chyrche vjs. viij*d*.
 Item, I bequeth to the said chyrche xij libr for to bye a holle
 sowte of vestments with alle, by the advyse of myn executors,
 ther for to serve to the honor of God and ower blyssid lady
 and alle the holy company of Hevyn every festfull day in the
 yer as long as it may in devyr (*endure*). . . Item. I woll
 that the Image of owyr lady in the seyde cherche of Thorp be
 newe gylted, &c. . . to the repacyon of the wallys of the
 seyde cherche yerde xls. . . to the making of the newe
 vestryhowse vjs. viij*d*. . . to the gylde of our lady of
 Garboysthorp vjs. viij*d*. . . to the mendyng of the gylde
 of Sent John ther vjs. viij*d*. . . to the mendyng of the
 gylde of Oim Scōz ther vjs. viij*d*.

To the cherche of Sent Margyt in Schuldham xiijs. iiij*d*.
 . . . to the cherche of Thorpeland iijs. iiij*d*.

Item, I woll pryncipaly befor alle other thyngs that my
 debts be payed and myn injuries and wrongys devly pvyd
 (*duly proved*) be restoreyd, yeve (*if*) ony ther be. . . I
 wol that Ser John Grosse syng for my sowle in the cherche of
 Garboysthorp . . . to the Parish Clerke of Thorp for the
 dirige ij*d*. . . to the Renggarrys (*ringers*) iiij*d*. for brede
 and ale, &c.

[Proved at Norwich, 14th July, 1495.]

William Haar, of Kirkebicane. A.D. 1499.

My body to be buried in the church of All Saints of
 Kirkebicane, near the altar of St. John the Baptist, on the
 south part of the same altar. . . To the said altar for
 tythes forgotten 6s. 8*d*. For the repair of the said church
 13s. 4*d*., of which 12 shillings to be expent in reed. . . To
 the church of Gillingham 4 bushells of malt and 4 bushells of

wheat, . . . similar bequests to the churches of Geldeston, Hales, and several others.

I will that five masses of the five wounds of Christ be celebrated after my death, in the church of Kirkebicane, for the health of my soul, and of the souls of my friends and benefactors, and of all the faithful defunct.

I give to John Penchebek clerk vjs. viij*l*. “ad dicend*ũ*. Missam ad Sta^{co}em voc. Scala Celi in Civitate Romana pro anima mea.” . . . I will to have a fit Priest to sing in the church of Kirkebicane aforesaid, before the altar of St. John aforesaid for the space of six years next following my death, for my soul and the souls of all for whom I am bound to pray; he to have for his stipend each year viij marks.

To Johanne my wife, all my household goods, till Thomas and John my sons reach the age of xxij years.

To Thomas my son, all my messuages, lands, tenements, and rents in Beccles and Endgate in the hundred of Wangford.

To John my son, all my messuages, lands, and tenements in Gillingham, Windall, Winderton, Hales, and Geldeston.

To Johanne my wife, all my messuages, lands, &c., in Kirkebicane and Elingham for the term of her life.

Directs that messuages in Northhales, co. Suff., a close in Homersfield, and land in Stockton, be sold by his executors for the performance of his last will.

[Proved A.D. 1500.]

Nicholas Fyncham. A.D. 1503.

“I, Nicholas Fyncham, Preste, of hole mynd, &c. . . My bodey to be beryed in the vestiary of Sent Martyns chirche in Fyncham. . . to dame Margery my nece, a nune at Blakburgh, vjs. viij*l*. . . I wyll that myn executors pforme & fynyshe up the vestiary that I have begune, as ferforth as my goods wyll extend a cordyng as I have shewyd on to them by

my mouth afore tyme. Itm. I wyll & pray, exorte & desyre all my feoffes wch ben enfeffyd now in my mee^s & xxx acres of lond in Fyncham to my use, that they wyll suffyr myn executors & the chyrche wardens of Sent Martyns chyrche in Fyncham now being yn the seyde office, yerly to take the yssues, p^fetts, & revenues of the seyde mee^s & lond. Also in lyke wyse to suffyr all othir chyrche wardens for the tyme beyng wch shall be chosyn ther to after in tyme comyng, as long as yt may plese God that the world shall indure, to take the seyde yssues & yerly p^fytts, upon this condi^on folowyng, that ys to sey that the seyde chyrche wardens for the tyme beyng w^t thadvyce & assent of suche p^{er}son or p^{er}sonis as shall be ryght heys and inherytours of Fyncham Maⁿ in Fyncham, shall hyer yerly an abyll and a convenient clerk to s^{er}ve & to helpe to do divine servyce yn the same chyrche of Sent Marten in Fyncham, and to pley at the organs, and to teche chyldern, wherby that God's s^{er}vyce may be bett^{er} mayntened & susteyned, and they to gyve hym a marke yerly of the seyde yssues and p^fytts, to be payd at iiij termes yn the yer, that ys to sey at evy quart^{er} xld., and that the seyde marke shall be no p^{er}cell of his hyer that he takyth of the pyshe, &c. The chyrche wardens, &c. shall fynde v. tapyrs of wax in the bason that hangyth aforⁿ our ladye, evy tapyr of half a p^{ou}nd wax unto the sum of vs. by the yer, to be takyn also of the seyde yssues and p^fytts, yerly to breⁿ evy dobyll fest^{er} ij of the seyde v. tapyrs, and evy pryncypall fest^{er} to breⁿ all v. tapyrs, and espescially at the salve in Lent evy daye shall breⁿ all v. tapyrs, &c. . . yf yt happen ony curat for non cūnyg^g of song to wythdrawe the keypyng of devine servyce by note or by ony othyr evyll occasyon, so that the divine s^{er}vyce of God ys not mayntenyd nor sustenyd, but by the seyde curat mynshyd & hurt, &c." then the said mark to be given to the poor yearly on Good Friday, as long as they shall be without an "able and convenient clerk to occupye & excersye as yt is above reheryd."

Executors of thys my testement & last wyll I ordeyn & make mast^r Symeon Fyncham pson of Watlington, John Fyncham of Well,* & Symeon Bachecroft, my neves & cosyn.

Thomas Harpley, of Garbeysthorp. A.D. 1557.

Item, to Richerd Harpley my son, my beste fetherbedde, a great hotche † callyd an arke, my beste ambry, my best brasse pott, my best brasse panne, the best table, y^e best chayer, one hangynge laver of lattynne. Item, I give to Robert Harpley my sonne, a cownter ‡ y^t was sometyme Richard Myddiltone's, a brasse pott next the thirde, &c.

* John Fyncham, of Well, or John, Junior, was the younger brother of John Fyncham, of Fyncham, whose testament, dated 1499, proves this, no less than a deed of John the younger, conveying lands to his eldest brother, John Fyncham.

† Hotche, *Hutche, Hoche*, cista. (*Promptorium Parv.*)

‡ Probably a counting board, or abacus, on which calculations were made with jettons or counters, sometimes called Nuremberg Tokens, of which a great variety are figured in Snelling's "Origin, Nature, and Use of Jettons or Counters." Those of the most common type are sometimes called Abbey Pieces, from being frequently found on the site of monastic buildings, and from having been used by the monks in their reckoning.