

This transcript was kindly provided by Jonathan Hodrien in November 2023. It was compiled by Jonathan Hodrien, Helen Shirley and Diana Hughes. It reveals a fascinating picture of the connections between well-to-do families in Walpole and surrounding parishes in the early 17th century. It also contains hints of a local Puritan presence in Walpole some 12 years before the first written reference to a non-conformist congregation here – in particular that his daughters should only receive their inheritances if they do not marry ‘papists’.

Simon Weeks

Will of Edward Hodierne 1637 – transcript

In the name of God Amen, I Edward Hodierne of Walpole in the County of Suffolk, gent, being in good and perfect memory and health of body, God be thanked for it, do hereby make and ordain this to be my last will and testament, revoking all former wills. And is as followeth.

And first and principally I bequeath my soul to Almighty God my creator and unto Jesus Christ my only Saviour together with the Holy Ghost my comforter. And for my body I bequeath that unto the earth from whence it came there to be buried decently and Christianly without any frivolous charges as usually in these vane (?) times is, used and done.

And for my worldly estate of lands and goods after the sum of fourscore pounds which is due unto my brother Thomas Barker of Sibton in the said County of Suffolk esquire to be paid by my executor out of the revenues of all my lands in Walpole and Sibton aforesaid and for which the said Thomas Barker stand prized of and in certain of my lands in Walpole aforesaid called Collyers with the south picles thereunto next adjoining and the same lands again to be settled upon the right heir of my lands and tenements in Walpole aforesaid void of all incumbrance and dower of the said Thomas Barker his wife.

Then I will and bequeath unto my son my son John all the said lands and tenements in Walpole aforesaid and the heirs males of his bodie lawfully to be begotten.

And for want of such issue male of the said John I will and bequeath the same lands and tenements in Walpole aforesaid unto William my son and his heirs males.

And for want of such issue males of the said William, I will and bequeath the said lands in Walpole aforesaid unto the heirs males of my two sons Edward and Edmond.

And for want of such issue males of the said Edward and Edmond then I will and bequeath all the said lands and tenements in Walpole aforesaid unto the right heirs of me the said Edmund (the father) for ever.

And I will and bequeath all my lands and tenements in Sibton, both free and copyhold unto Thomas my son aforesaid. And the heirs males of his bodie lawfully to be begotten. And for want of such issue males of the said Thomas my son I will and bequeath all my said land and tenements in Sibton aforesaid unto the right heirs of me the said father forever.

Yet so as my debts be first paid as aforesaid and shall be permitted and suffered in probate, way for horse and carte for those of the occupiers of my said lands and tenements in Walpose to pass through the said lands in Sibton over then between the tenement called Popes Headland and the tenement late Arnold Durketts unto Sibton Green near thereunto adjoining

Item I will and bequeath unto my said three sons Edward, William and Edmond, the sum of one hundred marks apiece to be paid them at their severall ages of fower and twenty yeares. And if any of them happen to die before their portion (bequeathed) be paid, then I will and my mind is that the survivor if it happen the said William to be survivor then he alone to have the deceased for his part, if the other that survive William then the deceased part to be equally shared amongst them and both my daughters Mary and Anne all together.

And I will and bequeath unto the said Marie my daughter over and above the three score pounds that Marian Barker her grandmother have bequeathed unto her which should have beene given longe since unto me of right, and more also that was promised me with her mother my wife so that therefore I will unto the said Mary my daughter the sum of fortie pounds to be paid her by my heir or executor within six months next after her marriage. And so that her husband be not a papist and for also as she shall be married unto one that first without fraude, serve unto my said heire or executor by good lands or old astatute to be acknowledged for two hundred marks with the defezance

thereunto leadinge to make unto the said Mary a joynture of ten pounds by the yeare during her natural life or else she to be left at the death of her husband worth one hundred pounds in goods and chattels or else to be paid unto her the said Mary by my heir or executor during her natural life yearly the sum of five marks and no other portion besides by my said heir or executor always to be paid to her taking a sufficient discharge for so much money as shall be paid and received by her or her lawfull Assignes.

Item I will and bequeath unto Anne my said daughter the sum of one hundred pounds which I will shall be paid for by my heir or executor within six months next after her marriage so that she the said Anne do not marry a papist. And also (so that) she do match such a man that shall first, without fraud, serve by good lands or otherwise acknowledge unto my said heir or executor a statute of two hundred pounds with the defezance thereunto leadinge to make for her the said Anne for and during her natural life a jointure of good estate in land yearly to be well worth ten pounds to be taken by the year or else the said Anne is to be left her by such a husband as she shall marry well worth in goods and chattels in value fully to be one hundred pounds. Or else I will shall be paid unto her the said Ann during her natural life yearely by my said heir or executer, the sum of ten pounds and until then to pay her yearly four pounds for her maintenance and then no other person to be paid her besides always their takinge a sufficient discharge for so much of such money as shall be paid and received by her or her lawfull assignes,

And further I will and my mind is that if the true payment of all my legacies aforesaid shall happen to be neglected and refused to be paid as aforesaid unto any of my said sons and daughters, then I will, and my mind is that he or she that thereby shall find themselves justly agreed for and through want of their said legacies beinge so unpaid then notwithstandinge anything herein before expressed and set down it shall be lawfull for any of my said sons and daughters after six months next ensuing after demands of their said several legacies bequeathed first made unto my said heir or executor then he or she so grieved to enter into and do distraine upon any of my said lands aforesaid. And the distress for thereon taken to deteyne and hold until their whole legacy together with the average thereof be fully satisfied and paid unto him and her as aforesaid.

Item I will and bequeath unto the poorest, old, lame and blind of Sibton aforesaid the sum of twelve pence apiece until five shillings be paid unto them. And I will that the placing and displacing of all such poor people as shall be from time to time dwelling in my Almshouse in Walberswick in Suffolk aforesaid shall be done by and at the discretion of the owner of my said

message in Walpole aforesaid as usually by our Aunsientry (?) hath beene done whereby such lewde people as the inhabitants of the said town of Walberswick aforesaid hath usually done may be avoided. And that such people as at my decease shall be therein dwelling shall and have paid unto every of them six pence apeece.

And I bequeath unto Lynneh the daughter of Nicholas Hasborough, late of Westleton in Suffolk deceased, or unto her Mother for her the sum of four pounds giving one of their hands a bond of mine for five pounds and odd money which is discharged already and unto William the son of Robert Partich of Haston near Wickham in Suffolk a bond of three pounds due by the said Robert which I will shall be delivered unto the said William with lawfull power in law by letter of Attorney or otherwise so as the said Robert his father will pay unto my executor four pounds due unto me upon four other bills of debt one whereof was sent to him unto Suffolk for the money due upon that bill which was { } by one Jew: Ingram a taylor and no money thereupon received but is still to me due.

Item I will unto (blank) the daughter of my sister Margaret which she had by her husband Robert Vesey late of Aldringham, Aldeburgh, in Suffolk deceased the sum of ten shillings and, unto Edward the son of Robert Skoldinge of Midleton in Suffolk farmer, my godson other ten shillings and unto every of his three children of my unkle William Hodiern late of Chatham, in Kent deceased (which he) had by his late wife. And unto Sara their halfe sister for a ring for her in remembrance of me, the sum of twenty shillings a piece to be paid by my executor or within twelve months next after my decease.

Item I will unto Elizabeth my daughter and unto Mary and Elizabeth her two daughters she had by Thomas Crispe her late husband deceased, the some of six pounds a piece to be paid them by my said executor as they give unto Thomas Poole of Dunwich in Suffolk Ship Carpenter his hiers and assignes a general of all their interest in that house which is in Dunwich aforesaid which the said Elizabeth their Mother sold unto him the said Poole which both I and my son Thomas stand bond for performance thereof or else no money to be paide unto the said Crispe children at all but it to remain in the said Thomas my son his hands till such be done by then as aforesaid.

Item I will unto Ralph Harte and Frances Harvey my two late servants that dwelt with me at Walpole aforesaid the sum of ten shillings apiece to be paid them by my said executor within one year next after my decease.

And I will and my mind is that Thomas my son shall be my sole executor unto this my said last will and testament to do and performe my mynde herein expressed according to the trust I repose in him to perform the same.

Then I will that William my son, surviving the said Thomas as supervisor of this my said last will shall have power as powerfully and strongly as the said Thomas can or would do the same in his lifetime.

And if it so happens that the said Thomas and William both of them to die before either of them can performe the trust I repose in them to be done as aforesaid, then I will Edward my said son shall be supervisor as forseable. And my intent is that the said Thomas and William happening to live and to do my said mind and intent accordingly as afore herein is expressed and set down.

And that finally my will and my mind is that whosoever of the said Thomas, William or Edward my said three sons that happen to live to perform my said mind and intent herein shall presently after my demise enter into all my said lands and tenaments in Walpole and Sibton.

And the said to hold and take the yearly revenues and profits thereof only to perform my said will mynde and intent as before herein is expressed and declared for the payment of my said debts and legacies before that any of the said entailes shall take place. And then the said John and Thomas my sons to have hold and enjoy all the said lands accordingly as before herein, unto either of them is demised and not at all before.

And that I ordaine and appointe Thomas my said son to be solly my executer of this my said last will and testament. And the said William or Edward surviving him to be supervisor also as aforesaid.

And in witness of this to be my said last will, I have here unto subscribed my hand unto every of these three leaves or sheets. And to the last hereof put my seale the nynth day of June in the yeare of our lord god one thousand six hundred six and thirty by me E Hodierne. Sealed, signed, published and declared to be the last will and testament of the said Edward Hodierne with (?????????) but yet written with his own hand and so acknowledged in the presence of the witnesses hereunto subscribed at and before the sealinge hereof John Canham; Hugh Goddard; Gilbert Tresuallen (?); Robert Allen.

