Will of William Rample 31 January 1602 (proved[[1]](#footnote-1) 21 November 1603)

SRO Reference: IC500/2/45

Book: J545/23

Date: 1603

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///In the name of God amen///

the last day of Ianuary In the yeare of our lord god

one Thousand six hundred and two And in the fiue and

forteth yeare of the rainge of our soverainge lady Elizabeth[[2]](#footnote-2)

by the grace of god Queene of England France and Ireland defender

of the faith etc ///I William Rample/// of Vpper Ricking-

hall[[3]](#footnote-3) in the county of Suff*olk* husbandman being of good and p*er*fect me-

mory thankes be vnto all mightie god doe ordaine and make this my p*re*-

sent Testament and last will in this manner and forme followinge

First I bequeath and comend my sowle into the handes of all mightie

god my creator and reedemer, and my bodie to the earth in True

and certaine hope of resurrection to eternall life thorough Iesus

Christ our only lord and saviour Item I geve and bequeath vnto

Alice my wife all that my tenement and messuage[[4]](#footnote-4) wherein I

dwell with the yard and backside thereto belonging conteyning by

estimation three Roodes[[5]](#footnote-5) of ground being copy hold holden on the manor

of Fitz Iohn in Rickinghall aforesaid, To haue and to hould all my

said Tenement with the yard and backside thereto belonging with

all and singular thappurt*ena*nces vnto the said Alice my wife and her

Assignes during all the Terme of her naturall life keping my

howses in good and sufficient reparations And after the death of

the said Alice my wife, I geve and bequeath all my said copy hold

Tenem*en*t with all and singular Thappurt*ena*nces vnto my said sonnne Willi

am Rample To haue and to hould vnto the said William my sonne

his heires and Assignes for ever by copie of court rolle according

to the custome of the said manour vpon this condition followinge

that is that the said William his heires Executors or Assignes

doe pay

[new page]

doe pay or cause to be paide vnto his two sisters Dorathie and[[6]](#footnote-6) Anne

to ech of them fowre poundes[[7]](#footnote-7) in manner and forme followinge that is

at Michaelmas one wholle yeare next after the death of the said

Alice my wife to Dorathie my daughter Twenty shillinges[[8]](#footnote-8) And vpon

Michaelmas day next after that to An my daughter Twenty shillinges

And so forth yearly vpon the said day called Micha*elma*s day Twenty shillinges

a yeare to the oldest first and the next yeare after to the other vntill

the said som*m*e of fowre poundes to ech of them be fullie satisfied, And the said

money to be allwaies paide at or in my said Tenement wherein I

dwell Prouided allwaies that if the said William Rample ... ... ... his

heires Executors or Assignes shall refuse to pay this said ... ... or to

eyther of them their said severall legacies of Fowre poundes a peece

Then I will that my said daughters their heires or Assignes shall haue

authoritie By vertue of this my last will and Testament to enter into

my said Tenement and ground thereto belonginge, And shall leaue

the same and take the farme thereof yearely arisinge and pay themselues

their said Legacies of Fowre povndes to ech of them Prouided alsoe

that if eyther of my said daughters shall depart this world without

yssue of their bodie lawfullie begotten and before their said legacie

be due vnto them, Then I will that their said guifte shall die alsoe

Item I will that if the said William my sonne shall depart this world

before Alice my wife and without yssue of his bodie lawfullie begotten

Then I will that my said Tenement with the ground thereto belonging

shall remaine to my said daughters their heires and Assignes, And

they to enter into yt after the death of the said Alice my wife

Item I giue and bequeath vnto the said Alice my wife all my goodes

moueables, housholdstuffe, brasse, and pewter of what kind soever they

be to her and to her heires for ever Item I doe constitute and ap-

poynt the said Alice my wife to be my soole Executrix of this my

last will and Testament ///In wytnesse/// hereof I haue set my

hand and seale to this my last will In the p*re*sence of Robert Dowe

clarke Robert Dowe the Younger Thomas Shepard and others

///Memorandum/// that the surrender of my copy hold Tenem*ents* with the yard

and backside thereto belonging was geven into the handes of Robert Dowe

the Younger copy hold Tenem*en*t of the manor of Fitz Iohn In the p*re*sence

of Thomas Shepard alsoe copy holder of the said manour for the vse of

this my last will and Testament witnesse alsoe Ro*bert* Dowe clarke

///Probatu*m*/// fuit[[9]](#footnote-9) hui*usm*od*i* Testamen*tum* apud Buria*m*

Sn. Edmvndi coram vendi. Viro mayco. Roberto Nene-

come coguin cecore Camissa et offis. mfra. Archmat*us*

Sudburie Aime Doputat xxi° die menss Nouembris

Anno D*om*in*i* 1603 Ee comissa fuit adg banop. etc

Executrini in dco. Testamente nominet in dobila

inut forma iurat (saluo uiro cumsinges)

Ain of I n°2

Fin

**Transcription Conventions**

* semi-diplomatic transcription
* lineation and indentation retained
* raised letters lowered, contractions expanded, and supplied letters italicized
* ampersand silently replaced by “and” (or by “et” in “etc.”)
* text in italic hand given in ///xxx///
* deleted text given in <xxx>
1. Probate: in order to “prove” a will, and thereby establish legally its validity, the executors named in it would appear in court and exhibit the will. They would then enter into a bond concerning the administration of the goods contained within the will. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Elizabeth I: crowned 15 January 1559, died 24 April 1603, so 31 January 1502 should have been the 44th year [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Rickinghall Superior: Walsham-le-Willows 3 miles; Sapiston 7 miles; Bury St Edmunds 13 miles [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. A house with its land and outbuildings [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. A measure of land equal to 1/4 acre, or 40 square rods (0.10 hectare). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. The words “Dorathie and”, as well as all other text on this page highlighted in grey, are partially to completely obscured by show-through from the other side of the sheet [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. About £500 in 2002 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. About £150 in 2002 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. If you can read Latin, you can probably tell that I can’t! Translations welcome. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)