Will of Alice Rampley 3 March 1581 (proved[[1]](#footnote-1) 25 October 1585)

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Date: 1585

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T. Alice Ramply vid. De Walsham

le Willowes

///In the name of god Amen/// the third

day of m*ar*ch in the yere of our Lord, a thowsand five

hundred eightye one, and in the xxiiij[[2]](#footnote-2) yeare of the Reighne

of our sou*er*aigne ladye <Eliz> Queene Elizabeth etc. I Alce

Rampley of Walshame le wyllowes, in the Countye of

Suff*olk* and dioces of Norw*ic*h wydowe, beinge of good mind

and p*er*fect reme*m*braunce, thankes be geve*n* to thalmightye god.

Inprimis before all thinges, as yt ys meete for a fyne Chris-

tian, doe ordayne <this> and make, this my p*rese*nte testame*n*t

contayninge therein my last wyll. Revokinge all other my

wylles heretofor made, first I bequeath my soule in the handes

of Almightye god, my maker and redem*er*, trustinge to be

saued, trustinge to be saued,[[3]](#footnote-3) by the merrites of hys most <most>

p*re*cious death and passion, and my bodye to be buryed in the

Churchyard of Walsham, aforsayd, Item whereas my sonne

Richard, is indebted vnto me the some of xxli[[4]](#footnote-4) that is to saye

xli w*hi*ch I lent hy*m* and xli for Rent of my land w*hi*ch he useth, and

now occupiethe, for and in Considerac*i*on, th*a*t yf the sayd Richard

hys Executors, or Assignes, shall truly Co*n*tent and paye or

cavse to be Contented, and payd, to Elizabeth Cartlon my

daughter, hi<s>r[[5]](#footnote-5) executors or Assignes, the some of xxli th*a*t

ys to say <in> vli[[6]](#footnote-6) w*i*t*h*in one yeare, p*rese*ntly after my decease, <to thuse>

and soo

<of and gard>

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Forth vli yearly, vntyll the sayde some of xxli be truly

contented and payd, And also, xli[[7]](#footnote-7) <po> of like lawfull

Englishe money, vnto my sonne Raynold, hys executors

or Assignes w*i*t*h*in one yeare p*rese*ntly after my decease

to thuse of Margaret Rampley Daughter to my son*ne*

Raynold, her executors, or assignes <w*i*t*h*in one yeere>

<p*rese*ntly,> for w*i*t*h* Considerac*i*ons aforsayd, I geve and

bequeath vnto my sayd sonne Richard, my land called

or knowne by the name of Taylers and Trundlewades

lying and being in Walsham aforsayd, to haue and

to hold, to him the sayd Richard, his heyres And Assignes

for eu*er*, vppon the Considerac*i*ons, to be obs*er*ved and ful-

filled, as ys aforsayd, And yf the sayd Richard Ra*m*pley

his executors a*n*d Administrators, shall make any de-

fault, of the payme*n*tes or any p*ar*t therof, at any of the

tymes lymited, in w*hi*c*h* the sayd somes ought to be payd

That then I wyll geve, and bequeath, my sayd landes

Taylors and trundlewoodes, vnto my sayd sonne Ray-

nold, to haue and to holde, the sayd Closs, to hy*m*, hys heyres

Administrators and Assignes for eu*er*, doinge and pay-

inge, vnto my sayd Daughter Carlto*n*, in mann*er* and

forme as the sayd Richard should or ought to haue paid

Item for the Considerac*i*on of the landes geve*n* to sayd

sonne Richard, as Aforsayd. I wyll and bequeath

th*a*t the same Richard, hys heyres, Executors, Administra-

tors, or Assignes shall paye, or cavse to be payd, vnto the

Chyldre*n* of the sayd Richard, namely Alce the eldest

Agnis, Ales the youngest, Richard, and Elizabeth, to

eyther of the*m* xls[[8]](#footnote-8), of lawfull Englishe money, p*ro*vided

alwayes, th*a*t yf the sayd Alce, Agnes, Alce, Richard and

Elizabeth shall happe*n* to dep*ar*te ther naturall lyf

or lives, before suche tyme, as eyther he or she, shall

receyve ther p*ar*t, or p*or*tion. that then I wyll, eache p*ar*te or

or[[9]](#footnote-9) p*or*tion of hym or her soe deceased, shall equalye be

devided, amonge them, that shall s*ur*vyve, by eve*n*, and

equal p*or*c*i*ons

[new page]

Equal p*or*c*i*ons. Item I geve, and bequeath vnto Richard

Ra*m*pley, my godson[[10]](#footnote-10), my fetherbedd, w*i*t*h* a bolster and two pillowes

w*hi*ch lyeth in place, and a Cou*er*inge of Dornix w*hi*ch I lately

bought to hym, hys heyres and Assignes for eu*er*, to be

deliu*er*ed to hym the sayd Richard Immediatelye, after my

decease Item whereas my daughter Carlto*n* borrowed of

me xxli I wyll and bequeath the same xxli vnto the sayd

Elizabeth, her Executors, and Assignes, for eu*er*, Item I geve

and bequeath vnto Elizabeth, my sayd daughter, my fether-

bedd, and bolster, th*a*t I now lye one, w*i*t*h* two pyllowes, and one

of the best Cou*er*inges vnbequeathed w*i*t*h* the wyll at the sayd Eliza

beth, her choyse, duringe her naturall lyf, and after her de-

cease, I geve and bequeath the same bedd, bolster, pyllowes

and Cou*er*inge, before named, to *Chryst*pofer Carlto*n*, my godson

to hym, hys executors. And Assignes for eu*er*, Item I geve

and bequeath vnto Chrystopher Carlto*n*, my said godson

fortye shyllinges of lawfull Englishe money, to be payd to

hym, hys executors or Assignes, w*i*t*h*in one yeare next after[[11]](#footnote-11)

decease, Item I geve and bequeathe, vnto Richard Carlto*n*

my husband[[12]](#footnote-12) and godson xls to be payd vnto hym etc. w*i*t*h*in one

yeere, after my decease, Item I geve to Mary Bertt, Eliza-

beth Hayward, my daughter Elizabeth Carlto*n* her chyldre*n*

to eyther of the*m* twayne, twentye shyllinges of lawfull

Englishe money, to be payd to the*m* ther executores, or

Assignes, w*i*t*h*in one yeere, next Insuinge my decease, Item

I wyll and bequeath vnto Mary Carlto*n*, Amye Carlto*n*,

Iohn Carlto*n*, Thomas Carlto*n* Frauncis Carlto*n*, Ann

Carlto*n* Lorndens[[13]](#footnote-13) Carlto*n*, eyther of the*m* xxs[[14]](#footnote-14) of lawfull

Englishe money, to be payd to the*m*, and eu*er*y[[15]](#footnote-15) of the*m*, whe*n* they

shall accomplishe ther ages of xxiti[[16]](#footnote-16) yeeres, or at hys or

her Mariage day, w*hi*c*h* shall first happe*n*, and yf yt shall

Chance, th*a*t any of them aforenamed, th*a*t is to say, Mary

Amye, Iohn, Thomas, Fraunces, Ann or Lvrndens

to dep*ar*t ther

[new page]

To depart ther naturall lyfe, or lyfes, before he or she

shall receyve, hys or her p*or*c*i*on Aforesayd That then

he or she th*a*t s*ur*viveth, <share and> shall have and Injoy

hys or her p*ar*t, and p*or*cion that soe deceaseth, Item I geve

and bequeath, vnto Ales Rampley theldest daughter of

Richard Rampley, my sonne, two milch Cowes to be deliu*er*-

ed vnto the sayd Alce the Michalmas followinge after my

decease, Item I geve and bequeath, vnto Elizabeth

Eliot daughter of <so> my sonne Raynold xxli of lawfull

Englishe money, to be payd vnto the sayd Elizabeth, her

Executors and Assignes, w*i*t*h*in one yeere, next after my decease

Item I geve and bequeath vnto M*ar*garet Rampley, daugh-

ter of my sonne Reynold, xxli of lawfull Englishe money

to be payd to the same M*ar*garet her Executors or Assignes

at her daye of Marriage, or when she shall accomplishe

her ful age of <one> xxjti yeeres, w*hi*c*h* shall first happe*n*

Item I geve and bequeath vnto Edmund Dey late s*er*vant

vnto Raynold Rampley my sonn*e* xxs to be payde to the sayd

Edmunde hys executores, or Assignes, w*i*t*h*in one yeare next

after my decease. Item I geve and bequeath, vnto eu*er*y one

of my god Chyldre*n*, vjd[[17]](#footnote-17) to be payd them p*rese*ntly, after my

decease, Item I wyll and bequeath that all the poore people

of Walsham, aforsayd shall have meat[[18]](#footnote-18) and drincke yf yt

may be p*ro*vided, or otherwyse at any other tyme at the

descrecio*n* of my Executor, whome I constitute, Ordayne

and make Raynold Ramply, my sonne, payinge and

discharging, these my sayd legacyes aforenamed, accor-

dinge, to the true meaninge of thys my last wyll and

testament, The resydew of all my goodes, debtes, Catteles[[19]](#footnote-19)

movable, or Immoveable, of what kind or natur, soeu*er*

I geve and bequeath them wholy to Raynold Rampley

my sayd sonne, and executor befor me*n*t*i*o*n*ed, to bringe my

bodye to the earthe to godes m*er*cye and pleasure, And Nicho-

las Reynard or Thetford, in the Countye of Norff*olk* and

Suff*olk* I desyring

[new page]

Suff*olk*, I desyring to be my sup*er*visor, of thys my p*rese*nte

Testament, and last wyll In Considerac*i*on of whose paines

I geve xxs. Those wytnes, Richard Eliot the younger

Wyll*ia*m Ryst Katherine Tylurd M*ar*garet Rampley

cn. Alijs

///Probatum/// apud[[20]](#footnote-20) Buria*m* Sci. Edm*und*i cor*am* mro.

Iohe Dey, legu*m* doctore, Commissario et off*icia*li. Archinatus

Sud*burie* Norwic*en* Diocess, ltimof. deputatus etc. xxv° die

me*ns*s Octobris A*nn*o D*o*m*in*i 1585 Inventario. exhibit-

cum com*m*issa fuit ad°. bonor. etc. <Alice Rampley> Reynold

<Ray> Rampley rebicto, et Exec. in dto. testo. nowit. in forma

Iuris Iurat etc. salvo Inre Cumisenas. /etc./

**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///
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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. 24th [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Scribe duplicated this text [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. £20 (about £3500 in 2002) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. A clumsy correction from his to her [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. £5 (about £900 in 2002) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. £10 (about £1800 in 2002) [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. 40 shillings (about £350 in 2002) [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Another scribe error, writing “or” twice [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Not our current definition of “godson”; here it I think it means grandson [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. “my” missing from text here [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. I assume she means he works her land [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. I can’t work this name out (even though it’s written twice) [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. 20 shillings (about £180 in 2002) [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. “one” missing from text here [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. 21 (one and twenty) [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. 6 pence (about £4.50 in 2002) [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. food [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Presumably chattels, rather than cattle [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. If you can read Latin, you can probably tell that I can’t! Translations welcome. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)