Will of John Rampley 25 February 1585 (proved[[1]](#footnote-1) 21 March 1585)

SRO Reference: IC500/2/39

Book: J545/19

Date: 1585

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T. Iohis Rampley senior de Walsham

in the Wyllowes

///In the name of god Amen,/// the xxvti[[2]](#footnote-2) daye of

Februarye, in the yeere of our lord god 1585 and in the

yeere and reigne of our sou*er*aygne Ladye Elizabeth by

the grace of god, Queene of England, Fraucen and

Ireland, defender of the faythe etc. the xxvijth I Iohn

Rampley the Elder of Walsham in the Wyllowes w*i*t*h*in the

Countye of Suff*olk*, beinge of good mind, and in good and

p*er*fect remembranc, thankes be geven to god, doe ordayne

and make this my p*rese*nte testament, concerninge herin my

Last wyll, in mann*er* and forme followinge that ys to say

First I commend my sowle into the handes of Almightye

god, my onlye savior and redeem*er*, and my body to be buryed

in the Churchyard of Walsham Aforesayd, And I geve and

bequeath to Iohn my sonne, my tenement th*a*t I nowe

dwell in[[3]](#footnote-3) situate and being in Vpstreete[[4]](#footnote-4) in Walsham

Aforesayd, w*i*t*h* the Appurt*en*unces and all my landes medowes

fedinges

[new page]

Feedinges, and pastures, boeth free and bond, to him, and to

his heyres for eu*er*, onlye except the p*ar*lor and the Chamber

over the Butterye, w*hi*c*h* I wyll that Katherin my wyf

shall have, duringe her Naturall lyf w*i*t*h* free egresse and

regresse into and from the same, aswellfor her selfe, as

alsoe for any of her freindes at her or ther pleasures, and

after the decease of Katherin my wyff, I wyll they

shall remayne wholy to Iohn my sonne, as ys aforesayd

And I wyll she shall have yeerlye, during her Naturall

lyf, one hundred of one bend[[5]](#footnote-5) woode, accordinge to the Custom

of the C*o*untrye, tobe layd into the yard, at the Cast and

Charges, of Iohn my sonne, or hys Assignes, and A Conve-

nient place to sett yt in, Item I wyll that Iohn my sonne

shall paye, or cause to be payd, vnto Katherin my wyf

or to her Assignes, fyve poundes[[6]](#footnote-6) of lawfull Englishe mony

yeerly during her naturall lyf, at two vsuall tymes in the

yeere, that is to say, at the feastes of thann*un*ciac*i*on of the

blessed vyrgin Marye, and St Michaell tharchangell

by equall and even p*or*tions, to be payd at the Mantion

House, that I now dwell in, and I wyll, that Katherin

my wyf shall have half the fruite, growinge in and

vppon the p*re*misses yerely, duringe her Naturall lyf

Item I geve and bequeath to Symon my sonne, to his

Heyres, and Assignes, threeskore poundes[[7]](#footnote-7) of lawfull

Englishe money, to be payd to him, by the handes of Iohn

my sonne, his heyeres ad Assignes in mann*er* and

forme followinge, th*a*t is to saye fortye shyllinges yeerlye

during the Naturall lyfe of Katherin my wyf And

After the decease of Katherin my wyf six poundes[[8]](#footnote-8)

yeerlye, vntyll the some of threeskore poundes be fully

satisfied, contented and payd, And If Iohn my sonne

doeth not obs*er*ve, fulfyll and paye, all my legacyes and

gyftes, before bequeathed and me*n*tioned, in this my wyll

Then I wyll that Symond my sonne shall have my

tenement, And all my landes aforesayd, to him and to

his heyres foreu*er*, paying to Iohn my sonne as Symo*n*

my sonne

[new page]

My sonne shold haue had, and fulfillinge my wyll as Iohn

my sonne shold haue done, Item I geve, and bequeath to

Symond my sonne, tenn poundes[[9]](#footnote-9), of lawfull Englishe

money, to be payd to him, by the handes of myne Executores

Immediately after my decease, Item I geve and bequeath

to Iohn my sonne, and to Katherin my wyf, and to eu*er*ye

of them five poundes of lawfull Englishe money, to be

payd to themby the handes of myne Executors Im*m*ediatlye

After my decease, Provided alwayes, my mind and

Intent ys, that yf Katherin my wyff, doe make anye

clayme, and tytle into the Dowrye or thirdes[[10]](#footnote-10) of any of my

Landes or tenement Aforesayd, and into the third or dowrye

of one Medowe, w*hi*ch I sold to my Cosen Raynold Ramply[[11]](#footnote-11)

then I wyll that all the legacyes and <gyfestes> gyftes w*hi*c*h* I

heue geven to her before, in this my wyll, to be vtterly

vnto her voyd, and of none Effect. Anye thinge in this

my wyll to the Contratye notwithstandinge Item I wyll

that Iohn my sonne shall not enter into my tenement

and lande aforesayd, vntill the Michelmas next after my

decease. And I wyll that Katherin my wyf, shall take

all the Issues, and p*ro*fittes of my tenement, and landes aforesayd

And Also of corne and Cattle, and all other thinges as I my

self doe now Occupye, vntyll suche, tyme, as Iohn my

sonne, shall happen to enter into the p*re*misses, discharging

Lord and kinge, and makinge neyther stryfe norwaste

Item I geve to Iohn my sonne, my Carte ploughe, and

Tumbrell[[12]](#footnote-12) and all the furniture th*a*t vnto them doe belong

The resydew of all my moveable goodes of what degree

kind or name soeu*er* they be, onlye exceptinge my

wyfes Lynninge[[13]](#footnote-13) and Apparell, w*hi*c*h* I wyll she shall have

at her discretion, I wyll they shalbe equallye devided

at the Michaelmas after my decease, betwene Katerin

my wyf, and Iohn and Symon my sonnes by equall

and even p*or*tions, And to the executor*es* of thys my p*rese*nt

testament and last wyll, I doe Ordayne and make my

Cosen Richard Rampley[[14]](#footnote-14), and my Cosen Raynold Rampley

mine

[new page]

Myne Executores and I geve to eyther of them for ther

paynes tenn shillinges[[15]](#footnote-15) over and esydes all charges for the

Probate of my wyll, w*hi*ch I wyll shalbe deducted out of

my Moveables, these to wyttnes Thomas Bridges

Wyll*ia*m Beffewe, and Wyll*ia*m Hayws, and Wyll*ia*m

Weather thelder. Also I does surrender, my teneme*n*t and

Landes aboue wrytten, into the handes of the Lord, by the

handes of Will*ia*m Weather, in the p*rese*nce of Richard Cooke

And Thomas Brydges to the vse of my wyll.

///Proatum/// fuit[[16]](#footnote-16) hoe pns testamentum apud Burya

Sci Edmund Coram Mro Iohe Deye L. Doctor Comiss

et Sffli etc. xxjmo die Menss Martij Anno Dm inxta

curum etc. 1585 Iuramate Raginald Rampley Exec

etc. atro exec vminse Carmes ingresse

Exhibitn est Iuva. ad sum

lxxijli vijs vd[[17]](#footnote-17)

**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.”)
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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. 25th [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Called “The Quilett” [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Now Crownland Road [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. This is a type of wood defect: the pulling together of one side of the board [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. About £900 in 2002 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. £60 (about 11000 in 2002) [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. About £1100 in 2002 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. About £1800 in 2002 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. This seems to be a standard term, but I couldn’t find a definition of it. Maybe it means nothing more than simply thirds! [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Actually his first cousin, once removed. Will also available at Rampley.net [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. A two-wheeled cart, especially a farmer's cart that can be tilted to dump a load [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Linen [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Actually his first cousin, once removed [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. About £90 in 2002 [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. If you can read Latin, you can probably tell that I can’t! Translations welcome. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. £26 7s 5d [↑](#footnote-ref-17)