Will of Richard Rampley 1 March 1584 (proved[[1]](#footnote-1) 27 December 1585)

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Book: J545/19

Date: 1585

Page: 363

Inventm. extenditon. summa

T. Richard Rampley de Walsham defunc.

///In the name of God Amen/// the first day of

March in the yeere of our lord god 1584 and in the <yeer>

xxvijth[[2]](#footnote-2) yeere of the rayne of our sou*er*aigne Ladye Elizabeth

by the grace of god Queene of England, Fraunce and Ireland

defender of the faythe etc. I Richard Rampley thelder[[3]](#footnote-3) of

Walsham in the Countye of Suff*olk*, yeoman[[4]](#footnote-4), beinge whole of

minde, and of good p*er*fect remembraunc, thankes be to god for the

same, doe make and Ordayne this my Last wyll and

testament in forme followinge. That ys to say, First I

Commend my soule into the mercyes of Almightye god

and my bodye to the yearth from whence yt came, therto

to remayne in full hope of A ioyfull resurrection to

Eu*er*lastinge Lyf, purchased by the merrites death and

Passion of Iesus Chryst, wherby I Assuredly trust to be

saved, and by noe other meanes. And I geve to the poore

people of Walsham, aforesayd forty shyllinges[[5]](#footnote-5) of Lawfull

money of England, to be distributed among them by the

Discretion of myne Executor ymediatlye After my decease

And as touchinge[[6]](#footnote-6) the disposition of my stuff of howshold

 Cattell

[new page]

Cattle, and Moveable goodes, together w*i*t*h* the ward of hepp[[7]](#footnote-7)

and Marriage of Mary Sparke[[8]](#footnote-8), w*hi*c*h* I have by l*ette*res

patentes or otherwyse from o*u*r sayd sou*er*aigne Ladye

and xxs[[9]](#footnote-9) yeerlye duringe her minoritye. I geve the

wholye to Ioahn my welbeloued wyf. And moreover

for the better mayntenaunc of my Chyldre*n* in ther

Education, my wyll and mynd ys that my sayd wyf

and her Assignes shall have, and Inioye all my mea-

suage[[10]](#footnote-10) Ten*emen*te[[11]](#footnote-11) and howses at Estend in Walsham aforsayd

As well those wherin I now dwell, as also that ten*emen*t

wherin the wyddowe Byrd inhabiteth w*i*t*h* the yardes

Orchardes, and Pickell[[12]](#footnote-12) to the same ten*emen*te belonginge

and other Appurt*en*ances to them, and eyther of the*m* belo*n*ging

together w*i*t*h* the Landes, Pastures, and groundes called the

Holme groundes, to my sayd cheif howse belonginge

that ys to say, one close of pasture called Dowseas whalple[[13]](#footnote-13)

Croft, one peice of ground ther holden, by Copye of Court

Roll of the mann*or* of Walsham Church howse, Also one

Pightell[[14]](#footnote-14), called Iackes Yard, holden by lyke coppye of the

mannor of Walsham. Item five acres of free ground

w*i*t*h*in the same Holme ground, Also three Acres of me*a*dowe

being freehold and other three Acres of meadowe, holden

by Coppye of the Mannor of Walsham, sometymes Carteres

w*i*t*h* the Yardes Gardens Orchyardes, and other thappurt*enu*nces

<ther>to the p*re*misses belonginge, and two closes w*hi*c*h* I purchased

if Iohn Robhoode thelder. Item one close called townsend

and one Close called the greene close, w*i*t*h* one Meadow call*e*d

Buttishald[[15]](#footnote-15) Meadow, and one Arable Close Called

Rovers w*i*t*h* thappurt*en*unces. To have and to hold the sayd

Messuage Ten*emen*tes howses landes Meadowes, pastures and

groundes, to the sayd Ioahne my wyf and her Assignes

for and duringe the terme of her Naturall lyf in true

recompenc, and full satisfacc*i*on of hys right interest and

title of Dowre[[16]](#footnote-16) w*hi*ch she maie or ought to have in anye

Landes, ten*emen*tes, or hereditamentes[[17]](#footnote-17) whereof I stand sole seased[[18]](#footnote-18)

In fee simple, or fee tayle[[19]](#footnote-19), at the tyme of my decease

 discharging

[new page]

From tyme, Duringe her sayd lyf. To the Lord and

Lordes of the fee and fees therof, the rentes, suytes[[20]](#footnote-20), and s*er*vices

to be dewe, and parable[[21]](#footnote-21) for the same, And kepinge lykwyse the

sayd Measuage and howses in sufficie*n*t, and resonable rep*ar*ac*i*ons

And After the decease of my sayd wyf, I wyll that the sayd

Closes w*hi*c*h* I purchased of the sayd Iohn Robhood, and the sayd Close

Called Townsend, shall remayne to Ritchard my sonne

And to hys heyres foreu*er*, and After the decease of my sayd

wyff, I wyll lykewyse, that the sayd measuage howses, landes

Meadowes and pastures, Aswell free, as bond befor devised

to my sayd wyf for <eu*er*> terme of her lyf, shall wholey re-

mayne to my sonne Ritchard Rampley, and hys heyres for

eu*er*, Item I geve to the same Richard my sonne All that

my pasture, and ground, in Walsham aforsayd, Called, or known

by the name of Taylores. To haue and to hold the same

w*i*t*h* thappurt*en*unces ymediatlye, from and After my decease

To the sayd Ritchard my sonne, and to hys heyres for euer.

Vppon thys Condition notw*i*thstandinge followinge

That ys to saye, That my sayd sonne shall p*er*mitte and

suffer, my sayd wyf, and her Assignes To have p*er*ceyve

Take, and Carrye awaye yeerlye, duringe her Naturall

Lyf in the sayd close called Taylors, to hy*m* lastlye before

geven, the wood for hys[[22]](#footnote-22) fewell of all suche trees ther, as

have beene heretofor stowed, lopped, or Cropped, to be bre*n*te[[23]](#footnote-23)

or spent vppon the harthes at her ma*n*sion howse or place

of Aboad, for her owne vse, w*i*t*h*out the Lawfull lett or

Contracc*i*on of <hys> the sayd Richard, hys heyres or Assignes

w*i*t*h* free Ingresse, egress and access, w*i*t*h* men horses and Cartes

into, throughe, and vppon the sayd Close, and eu*er*y or any

p*ar*t therof, at all convenie*n*t<es> tymes, and seasons, aswell for

the Carriage of he*r* sayd wood and fewell, as also for the

Carriage of her Haye and wood from the other groundes

before to her lymeted Provided alwayes, and yt is my

wyll and Intent That yf the sayd Richard my sonne

hys heyres, or Assignes shall refuse this to doe, or doe not

 accomplish

[new page]

Accomplishe thys my wyll, in sufferinge my sayd

wyf, and her Assignes to take and Inioye the sayd

wood and fewell, and in Carriage of the sayd Hay and

wood, as ys Aforsayd. That then the sayd Ioane

my wyf, and her Assignes shall or maye Imeadiatly

from, and after suche deniall, or not Accomplishinge

as ys Aforsayd into the sayd close called Taylors, and

to have p*er*ceive and take the yeerlye p*ro*fittes and

commodityes therof Duringe her lyf. And I geve to

Thomas my sonne All that my Measuage

and Ten*emen*te howses, buyldinges, yardes Orchyardes

And Gardines In Walsham[[24]](#footnote-24) Aforsayd, w*hi*ch I p*ur*chased

of Raphe Stokes, w*i*t*h* all the landes meadowes pastures

and groundes Thervnto now belonginge. That is to

weete[[25]](#footnote-25) Aswell those boeth free, and band[[26]](#footnote-26) w*hi*c*h* I bought of the

sayd Raphe <and also one close called Trundlewood, <and>

and other close counted by estimation vj[[27]](#footnote-27) Acres sometyme

Lewes> As also <th> those w*hi*c*h* I had lawfull conveyance

from Iohn Robhood the yonger, w*i*t*h* thappurt*en*unces <to haue>

counted by estimation vj Acres somety*m*e ewes. To

have, and to hold the sayd Measuage, Ten*emen*te, howses, buildinges

yardes, Orchardes, gardeynes Landes Meadowes pastures

and groundes w*i*t*h* the Appurt*en*unces, To the sayd Thomas

my sonne, and hys heyres ymediatlye from and after

suche tyme, as he shall or maye Accomplishe, hys full

age of twentye and one yeeres And moreover I wyll

and devyse to my sayd wyf the sayd messuage howses

landes and groundes last before Assigned to my sonne

Thomas, To hold to her, and her Assignes from the

daye of my decease, vntyll suche tyme as my sonne Tho*mas*

shall or may Accomplishe hys full age of xxj yeeres

So that my sayd wyf, w*i*t*h*in two monthes next Insuing

my decease doe stand and become bounde w*i*t*h* one suffic*i*e*n*t

suertye[[28]](#footnote-28) w*i*th her, by foure seu*er*all obligat*i*ons, to eu*er*y

of my fower Daughters, that ys to saye Alice the

 wyff of

[new page]

Wyff of Wyll*ia*m Linge, Agnes the wyfe of Tho*mas* Wyllison

Elizabeth <the> Rampley, and Anne Rampley for the payment

to every one of them, of suche Legacyes, and seu*er*all somes of money

and in suche mann*er* and forme, as hereafter in this last wyll

And testament, shalbe sett Downe, and me*n*tioned, w*i*t*h* sayd

Obligat*i*ons I wyll shalbe befor the Insealing of them, soone

And Allowed, by my loving brother[[29]](#footnote-29) Wyll*ia*m Stokes of

Wyverston[[30]](#footnote-30) and two of them w*hi*c*h* shall app*ur*tayne to my two yongest

daughters, to be and remayne in the keepinge of the sayd Wyll*ia*m

to ther seu*er*all vses. And yf my sayd wyf shall refuse to

stand bounde with sufficie*n*t suertye, as yt Aforsayd, for the

payinge, and Awnswering of my sayd daughters, or any

of them the sayd somes as is before mentioned, Then I wyll

that my sonne Richard shall have p*er*ceyve, and take thissues

and p*ro*fittes of the sayd Measuage, howses, landes, and groundes

last before Assigned to my sonne Thomas, vntyll the sayd

Thomas shall Accomplishe hys sayd age of xxj yeeres

And w*i*t*h* the same yssues, and p*ro*fittes, to Aunswere and paye

to my sayd foure Daughters the legacyes and somes of

Money befor me*n*tioned, and that then my wyff, shall not

In any wyse intermeddle or take any p*ro*ffites of the sayd

Measuage, howses, Landes, and groundes last befor recyted

or Any of them, Item I <geve> bequeathe vnto the sayd Alic

Linge my daughter, Fyftye poundes[[31]](#footnote-31) of Lawfull money

of England, to be payd vnto her w*i*t*h*in three yeeres next

Insuinge my decease. Item I geve, and bequeath to the sayd

Agnes Wyllison my daughter twentye poundes[[32]](#footnote-32) of like monye

To be payd to her w*i*t*h*in fower yeeres next Insuing my decease

Item I <geve> bequeath to Eliz*abeth* my daughter fowreskore

poundes[[33]](#footnote-33) of lyke money to be payd to her, as yt shall or may

Aryse, and be levied of the sayd Issues and p*ro*ffites to be take*n*

By my sayd wyff, or sone Richard, next After the sayd

Legacyes, shalbe payd to my sayd daughters Alic and

Agnes, According to my true meaninge hetoin[[34]](#footnote-34) befor speci-

fied, Also I bequeath to Ann Rampley, my daughter

one hundred poundes[[35]](#footnote-35) of like lawfull money, to be payd

 vnto her

[new page]

Vnto her by my sayd wyff or sonne Richard

w*i*t*h*in xiij[[36]](#footnote-36) yeeres, next Insuing my decease. And yf either

of my sayd daughters Elizabeth or Ann Rampley

shall happen to dep*ar*te out of this lyf before her daye

of Marriage, or receyt of her sayd legacye, then I

wyll that the s*ur*vivor of them shall enioy the p*ar*t and

p*or*tion, of her soe deceasinge Provided alwayes, and

yt ys likewyse my intent and last wyll, that yf my

sayd wyf shall not stand conte*n*ted, w*i*th suche p*ar*tes and

p*or*tions, of my landes, ten*emen*tes, and hereditame*n*tes, as I have

herein to her befor limyted, but shall lawfullye demand

any dowre in any of the measuages, howses, landes

tenim*en*tes, or heredit*a*m*en*tes befor in any wyse, in thys my last

wyll and testam*en*te mentioned, or to any p*er*son or p*er*sones

limited. or shall not paye and discharge the some and

somes of Money the legacyes, and bequestes of my

Mothers last wyll, w*hi*ch are therin me*n*tioned by me

to be payd, Then I revoake all and eu*er*ye gyft

Legacye, and bequest of hir befor given, and wyll that

she shall take noe benifitte of thys my last wyll

And testament, or anye gyfte or bequest therin to her

made Provided also and yt is likewyse my last wyll

and testament, That yf god shall soe p*ro*vide that <I>

the sayd Richard my sonne, shall dep*ar*te this lyff

before hys marriage had. Then I wyll that my sayd

wyf, shall have, and hold, all the sayd landes, ten*emen*tes

and hereditam*en*tes to him befor lymited ymediatlye

After my decease, from the day of suche death

of the sayd Richard my sonne, vntyll the sayd Tho*mas*

my son shall accomplishe hys full age of xxj

yeeres, paying and discharginge suche somes of

money legacyes and bequestes, as I or the landes

or groundes devised vnto me by the last wyll and

testament of Alice Rampley[[37]](#footnote-37) my mother are burd-

ned, or Charged, w*i*t*h* all suche dayes and tymes, and

In suche mann*er*, and forme, as isn the sayd wyll ys

 set downe

[new page]

Sett downe and Conteyned. And furthermore I

bequeathe to the three chyldren of my daughter Alce

Smithe[[38]](#footnote-38), That ys to say Richard Ann and Nicholas

to eu*er*y of them xxs to be payed by my wyff, as they

shall attayne to ther age of xxj yeeres, or at ther day

of Marriage, w*hi*c*h* shall first happen, Also I geve to Richard

Willison, and Elizabeth Wyllison the Chyldre*n* of my

Daughter Agnes Wyllison to eache of the same Chyldre*n*

xxs to be payd to eyther of them, as they shall attayne

to ther <age> full age of xxj yeeres, or at ther dayes of

Marriage, w*hi*c*h* shall first happen. And finallye of thys

my last wyll and testame*n*t, I doe Constitute and Appoi*n*t

the sayd Ioane my wyf, and Richard my sonne, to be

thexecutors and my loving friend Wyll*ia*m Stokes

of Wyverston Sup*er*visor of the same, to whom for hys

paynes to be taken therin I geve xxs over and besyde

hys Charges to be disburshed, about the seu*er*all therof

In wyttnes wherof I have herevnto sett my seale

and subscribed my name the daye and yeere, aboue

wrytten. In the p*rese*nce of vs Tho*mas* Lacye. Tho*mas* Page

genoses[[39]](#footnote-39).

///Probatum/// fuit[[40]](#footnote-40) hoc pns. testametum. apud

Buriam sci. Edmund, coram maglo. Iohe Dey

Legum doctor Comissario et Offi*cia*li Archidecatus

Sudbur*ie* Norwicen Dioc*ess*, rite et sufficenter constitut

etc. 27 die menss Decembr*is* A*nn*o D*omi*n*i* 1585 Inramto.

cuinseness. etc.

 Exei. est Invent.

 T. Lucio Reve de Saxha. magna defunc

 Anno D*o*m*ini* 1585 and In the ij day

 of Ianuarye

 In the noone

**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. 23rd (three-and-twentieth) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. the elder (one of the traits of this scribe is to combine the word “the” with the word following, dropping the e) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. A farmer who cultivates his own land; a small freeholder [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. 40s (about £350 in 2002) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. I’m not sure about this word [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. I don’t know what this word is [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Mary Sparke was 12 years old at Richard’s death. When her father William died he left everything to his wife until Mary was 21 years old [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. 20s (about £200 in 2002) [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Messuage: a house with its land and outbuildings [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Tenement: a parcel of land usually including a dwelling house; term later used for the house itself [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Perhaps pightle – see “Pightell” below [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Walpole [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Pightle: small field or enclosure [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. I’m not sure about this word [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Presumably dowry [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Any kind of property that is capable of being inherited [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. I can’t find a definition of this word, but it’s definitely “seased” [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. I can’t find a definition of this word [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Suits [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Presumably “payable” [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Should be “her”? [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. Perhaps “burnt” [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. Probably now “The Woodlands” on Cranmer Road [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. To wit: to mean [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. Presumably “bond” [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. Six [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. Surety [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. Not sure what “brother” means here. Brother-in-law? Half-brother? Also, cf. Raphe Stokes above. He calls William his “loving friend” below. [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. Wyverstone: 4 miles from Walsham [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. £50 (about £9500 in 2002) [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. £20 (about £3500 in 2002) [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. £80 (about £15000 in 2002) [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. Presumably “heretoin” [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. £100 (about £18500 in 2002) [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. Thirteen [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. Will also available at Rampley.net [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
38. This seems to be a second daughter called Alice, which would confirm what appeared in Richard’s mother Alice’s will. Alternatively, Smithe and Linge are two names for the same person. [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
39. Gents? [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
40. If you can read Latin, you can probably tell that I can’t! Translations welcome. [↑](#footnote-ref-40)