

Here follows a copy of the will of our last English ancestor, Francis Wakeman, of Bewdley.

Extracted from the principal registry of the Probate, Divorce and Admiralty Division of the High Court of Justice.

IN THE PREROGATIVE COURT OF CANTERBURY.

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN, I, Francis Wakeman, of Bewdley, of the parish of Ribsford and dioce of Hereford Cowp, being sicke in bodye but of sound and pfect memorie, thanks be unto God, therefore doe make this my last will and testament (the xixth day of August, Ano Dni 1626, and in the second year of the raigne of our Sovereigne Lord, Charles, of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, King Defender of the Faith), in maner and forme following,

Impr. I comend my soule into the hands of the Lord Jesus by whose death and meritts I beleeve the remission of all my sinns and the enjoying of everlasting happiness in the Kingdome of Heaven, and my bodye to be interred in Christian buriall in hope of a ioyfull resurrection (by the vertue of Christ's resurrection) to life eternall.

Itm, I give vnto my sonne Samuell my best brasse pott, excepting one and tenn pounds of lawfull English money, to be delivered and paid to him by my executor when he shall accomplish the age of fower and twentie yeares and if he dye before the said tyme the, my will is that the tenn pounds shall be equallie divided among all the rest of my children then livinge.

Itm. I give my sonne Joseph my best brasse potte and twenty-two pounds of lawfull English money to be paid to him by my executor whn he shall accomplish the age of twentie on yeares, and if he die before the said tyme, then my will is that the xxii £ shall be equallie divided amongst all my childrn then livinge.

Itm, I give and bequeath to my daughter Priscilla fortie-two pounds to be paid unto her by my executor at two several tymes (viz.) the on halfe of it wthn six moneths after my decease, and the other halfe att the end of the yeare after my decease.

It give to my daughter, Anne Wakeman, my biggest brass pann, a paire of fiaxon sheetes, on towell, on pillow, beere two pewter dishes, half of a dozen of napkins, and fortie-fower pounds of lawful English money to be paid unto her whn she shall accomplish the age of sixteen yeares, concerning which legacie of fortie-fower pounds, my will is that twentie pounds thereof, being now in the hands of my sonne-in-law, William Davies, of Gloucester, Cowp, shall remayne with him till my daughter Anne accomplish the age of sixteene yeares, prvided that the said William Davies enter into bond and give sufficient securitie to my executor for the paying in of the said xx £ whn my daughter Anne comes to the age of sixteene yeares, and if my executor be careles of the taking securitie for the payment of it thn he to paie it att the time appointed to my said daughter Anne, and for the other xxiiii £, pt of the fower and fortie pounds, my will is that it remayne in the hands of my executor till my daughter Anne accomplish the age of sixteene years, and my will also is that my executor shall paie yeerelie to my daughter Martha or her husband, William Davies, the sume of xxs towarde the mayntenance of my daughter Anne, soe long as she shall continue with them and noe longer; and if it happen that my said daughter Anne doe not continue wth them till she come to the age of sixteene yeares thn my will is that the xxs shall be paid yeerelie towards her mayntenance where she is abydinge, and further, my will is that if my said daughter Anne dye before she accomplish the age of sixteene yeares, that then the twentie pounds in William Davies' hands shall remaine the on halfe to his wife Martha and the other to his daughter, Sarah, and the twentie-four pounds which is in the hands of my

executor to be equallie divided amongst all the rest of my childe then living, except my daughter, Martha Davies.

It, I give and bequeath to my daughter, Hester, my best brasse pott, the best candlesticke, a paire of flaxon sheetes, on pillow beere, half a dozen of napkins, two pewter dishes, on tablecloth of flaxon, and fortie-fower pounds of lawful English money, to be paid to her wⁿ she shall accomplish the age of sixteene yeares. And my will is that my sonne, John Wakeman, shall have the tuition of my said daughter till she come to the age of xvi^{teen} yeares, and if she dye before that tyme, my will is that my sonne John shall have xx £ of her legacy, and the rest of her legacy, given to her by this, my will as aforesaid, shall be equallie divided amongst all the rest of my childe then living, except my sonne John.

It, I give to Sarah, my daughter, wiffe to Richard Hubball, fower pounds, and I give alsoe to Richard Hubball, her sonne, xxs, wch summe of five pounds is alreadye in the hands of my sonne-in-law, Richard Hubball

It, I give to Martha, my daughter, wiffe to William Davies, ten powndes, and I give to Sarah, her daughter, xxs wch eleven pounds is alreadye in the hands of the said William Davies, my sonne in-law, *It*, I give to Mary, the daughter of John Wowen wch he had by my daughter, Mary, three powndes, and to John, his sonne, wch he had alsoe by my said daughter Marye, three powndes more of lawful English money to be delivered unto the said John Wowen their father att the six months' end after my decease, to be employed presentlie by him in some lawfull manner for their use and benefitt till Marye, the daughter, accomplish the age of sixteene yeares, and till John, the sonne, accomplish the age of xxi yeares, and thn to be paid vnto thm by their father or his assignes w^h such lawfull pfitt or benefit that may be made thereof, and if eyther of the said childrn should dye before the tyme specified, that thn the survivor to have the other's portion wth such benefitt as is made thereby; and my will also is, that my executor shall have the oversight of these legacies for the good of the said children,

It, I give to John Phinley of the Wyer Hill xs

It, I give to my brother, John Wakeman, three pounds, to be paid wthin two yeares after my decease by such sume or sumes yerelie as my executor shall thinke fitt.

It, I give twenty shillings to be employed for the benefitt of the pore of Bewdley forever att the discretion of the Baylieffe and Justice of the said towne for the tyme being, and of my overseers during their lives.

It, I give to my Sonne John, all my working tooles and the remaynder of the yeares in the lease of my now dwelling house.

It, the remaynder of my household stufte unbequeathed I give to my sonne John and my daughter Priscilla, to be equally divided betweene them.

It, all the rest of my goods unbequeathed wth all cattles and chattels whatsoev, bills, bonds, debtes, &c, I give unto my sonne, John Wakeman, and of this, my last will and testament, make him my full and sole executor, and I intreate M. Hammons, Minister and Rector of Ribbesford, M. Hopkins of Bewdley, and John Wowen, my son-in-law, to be overseers of this, my last will and testament, and for their paines I give each of them ten shillings.

Francis Wakeman x his marke

Wyttnesses hereunto William Hopkins John Wowen

Proved, 7th November, 1626. I Certify that this Copy has been examined with the Original Will deposited in this Registry and that it is a true copy therof.

J.R. HARVEN, Registrar.

Proved, 7th November, 1626, Fos. 17, O. B.

HK: 123 Hele.

Source: Wakeman, Robert P. *Wakeman Genealogy 1630–1899* (Meriden, Conn.: Journal Publishing Co., 1900), pp. 30–33