

The Last Will and Testament of Thomas Barber of Witcham, Cambridgeshire

Dated April 1705

In the name of God Amen. I Thomas Barber of Witcham, within the Isle of Ely in County of Cambridge, carpenter, being in good health and memory, thanks be given to almighty God for the same yet to mind life, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I give, bequeath my soul unto the hands of almighty God and make hoping through ye merits of my blessed saviour Jesus Christ to received free pardon and forgiveness of all my sins and body from the earth from whence it came to be at his discretion hereafter named as for such worldly goods as God of his infinite hath been pleased to endure me with all. I give and bequeath unto Wenham Barber, my son and his heirs forever, all that my 5 acres of fenn ground be the same more or less lyeing and being in a drain fenn belonging to Witcham aforesaid called The Dams Heads. Provided he and his heirs admit my daughter, Winifred ye now wife of Paul Gawthorne and her heirs peaceably and quietly to have hold and enjoy all such fenn grounds as I shall by this my last will and testament give but if he or they any ways disturb and molest her or her heirs. Then I give the aforesaid 5 acres hereby before given to my said son Wenham Barber unto Winifred Gawthorne my said daughter and her heirs forever. I give and bequeath unto my said daughter Winifred ye now wife of Paul Gawthorne, to her heirs forever. All that my 3 acres, 1 rood, 13 poles of fenny or marsh ground lying and being in a drain fenn belonging to Witcham aforesaid called ye Wash, she paying unto John Hall of Wentworth all such monies as if same is mortgaged. I give unto my son John Barber to his heirs forever, all that my messuage and tenement with the appertunances wherein I now live situate lying and being in Witcham aforesaid and all that my 2 acres of fenn ground more or less lying and being in a drain fenn belonging to Witcham called ye Cow Crofts. All my goods, chattels, household stuffe and implements of household whatsoever. I give and bequeath unto my son John Barber whom I make sole executor of this my last will and testament, he paying all my debts except such as shall be mortgaged and bringing my body decently to the ground.

In witness whereof I have set my hand and seal, 4th April in the 4th year of our most gracious sovereign lady Anne, by the grace of God, England, Scotland, France and Ireland, queen defender or ye faith A.D. 1705.

Thomas Barber [x]

Signed, sealed and published and declared to be his last will and testament of ye said Thomas Barber in the presence of;

Elisa Peacock
Elizabeth Crouch [x]
G. Peacock.

Will proved: 6th May 1706

Will ref: VC36:212