

The last will and testament of William Shepparde 1574

In the name of God Amen XVIII day of December in the yere of our lord God 1574 XVII yere of the raine of our Sovereigne Ladye Elizabeth by the grace of God Quene of England, France and Ireland Defender of the faith I, William Shepparde, of Pirton in the countie of Hartforde yeoman beinge sicke in bodye but of good and perfit remembrance thanckes be geven unto Allmighte God do constitute ordeyne and make this my last will and testament in manner and forme following

First I bequeath my soule to allmightye and all the hollye companye of heaven and my bodye to be buried in the churchyard of Shitlington

Item I geve unto the mother Churche of Lincoln 2d

Item I do geve and bequethe unto Susan Sheppard my daughter to the heyres and assignes of the sayd Susan three score pounds of current mony of England to be payd unto the sayd Susan when she shall accomlishe the age of XVIII yeres or at the day of her marriage if she shall fortune to marrye before she come to the sayd age of XVIII yeres and if it shall please God that the sayd Susan my daughter shall depart this present life before she marrye or shall accomlishe the said age of XVIII yeres then I will that the sayd three score pounds shall be payd unto the heyre and assignes of the sayd Susan Wilkin one half yere next after the decease of the sayd Susan.

Item I doe give to Agnes my wyf all my lands bothe free and coppye which I have within the parishes of Shitlington and Pirton or elsewhere within the countyes of Bedford and Hartford to have and hold under the sayd Agnes for and duringe the terme of her naturall lyf and after the decease of the sayd Agnes I will that all the sayd lands withall and singular there appertaining shall hollye remayne unto Susan Shepparde my daughter and to the heyres of her bodye lawfullye begotton and for lake of heys of her bodye lawfullye begotton to remayne unto the right heyres of me the sayd William Shepparde forever.

Item I doe give unto Katherin Ayre my sister £6 13s of current moneys of England to be payd unto her husband Thomas Ayre or to his assignes within six months next after my decease

Item I do give to William Ayre my godsonne one cowe to be well worth 15 shillings to be delivered unto Thomas Ayre his father to the use of the sayd William within one moneth next after my decease

Item I doe give to William Barbar Harrye Barbar Francis Barbar my wyfes children to everye one of them a cowe

Item I doe give to the pore people of Shitlington 6 shillings 8 pence to be distributed by the discretion of the church wardens and curate of the said towne at my buryall

Item I doe give to the pore people of Pirton 5 shillings to be distributed in like maner at my buryall

Item I doe give to everyone of godchildren 12 pence a pece to be payd unto them within three monethes next after my decease

The residue of all my goods moveable and not moveable my debts and legacies payd and my funerall expenses discharged I give and bequeath to Agnis my wyf who I do make my whole and onely executrix to the intent if she shall so this my last will and testament and truly performed fulfilled in all things according to my true meaning and furthermore I will that the sayd Agnis my wyf the executors and assignes of the said Agnis shall within three monethes next after my decease enter into bonds with good Suertyes or other wise shall put in Sus ----- unto Thomas parat my father in law his executors and assignes as shall be reasonablye devised by the sayd Thomas his executors and assignes or his or there for of

And paying of the three score pounds before by me bequeathed to Susan my daughter according to the true meaning of this my last will and testament and for the goods and orderlye bringinge up of my sayd daughter in the hour and feare of God and if the sayd Agnis her executors and assignes or any of them shall refuse to doe the same then I will that the sayd Agnis her executors and assignes nor any of them shall receive or take in benefite or comoditie by this my last will and testament any gift or bequest herein contained to the contrarye or any wise notwithstandinge

In wtiness whereof to these I have sette my hande and seale
these beinge witnesses Thomas Pate Thomas Ashton Thomas Samu Thomas patte
junior Thomas Ayre Mathew Carter

4th February 1574 at Baldock Probate