

Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills, 1384-1858, PROB 11/293/4.

Abstract of the Will of Elisha Birch of the Parish of Goudhurst in the County of Kent, Cutler, written 2 Feb 1658/9, proved 1 Jun 1659.

Releases his son-in-law William Okell from a debt he owes him as well as from a debt he owes to his son James Birch. Gives to William his best coat, his best doublet, and his best britches.

Gives and bequeaths 40 shillings to his daughter Mary the wife of the said William Okell, as well as a cushion and three milk truggs.

Gives and bequeaths £30 to his daughter Jane, as well as the joined bedstead now standing in the chamber over the sheath house, one flockbed, one flockbolster, a feather bolster, a blanket, a pair of coarse sheets, a joined table and its frame standing in the same chamber, a joined stool and a joined box usually standing in the chamber over the hall, a pillow, three milk truggs, a linen trendle, two pewter platters, a canvas hanging in the milk house, a cushion, and a legged pot.

Gives and bequeaths £30 to his daughter Mercy, to be paid to her when she reaches the age of 21 years. He also gives to her the joined bedstead standing in the chamber over the hall, three milk truggs, a blanket, a pair of sheets, a cushion, a cast-iron pot, and the joined chest standing against the apple chamber.

Gives and bequeaths 40 shillings to his wife Anne.

Gives and bequeaths to his son Elisha a flockbed and a flockbolster, a blanket, a pair of sheets, two pieces of pewter, the pair of great bellows standing in the workshop, an anvil and an anvil block, the coal trough standing in the little shop, and other items.

Gives and bequeaths to his son Thomas the spindle standing in the sheath house.

Wills that his wife will live in his new mansion house where he now dwells for half a year after his decease.

All the rest and residue of his goods, chattels, debts and credits he gives to his son James Birch whom he makes sole executor of his last will and testament.

Codicil

Reaffirms an Indenture dated 4 Sep 1649 wherein he settled upon his son Thomas Birch and his heirs a messuage or tenement formerly inhabited by Thomas Postelthwaite, along with a barn, a garden, and an orchard, originally purchased from Thomas Lake of Goudhurst, gent.

Wills and devises to his son James Birch his house and cottage and an orchard and two pieces of land of about three acres in Goudhurst formerly in the tenure of the

said Thomas Postelthwaite and being the residue of those lands purchased from the said Thomas Lake, gent., from the time of his decease until his youngest son Elisha shall reach the age of twenty-one years... [several lines difficult to read due to ink smudging]

Makes bequests to his granchildren Mary Okell, Joane and James Birch children of his son Thomas.

Gives and bequeaths to his son James Birch a moiety or half-part of his mansion house, barn, shops, outhouses, garden, orchard and about 50 acres of land in Goudhurst....

Witnesses: Richard Portriffe, Jeremy Hinkle, John Strater Snr.