

Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills, 1384-1858, PROB 11/177/154

The Will of William Bishe of the Parish of Worth in the County of Sussex, Gentleman, written 17 Apr 1638, proved 29 May 1638.

(Paraphrased for easier reading, the names of family members are underlined.)

In the name of God Amen I William Bishe of Fennplace in the parrish of Worth in the Countie of Sussex gentleman being diseased of bodie but of perfect and understanding doe declare this to be my last will and testament knoweing how fraile mans life is that passeth awaye as a shadowe like to a brittle glasse soone broken and vanisheth away etc...

Uppon consideration that my very loveing wife Joane Bishe hath given upp her right of fyftie pounds I annually made to her by ioynture at our marriage I doe give and bequeath unto her my said wife the full some of fower hundred pounds of lawfull money of England well and truly to be payed within twelve moneths next after my decease. To the furtherance of which I give and bequeath to my said wife all sorts of my moveables whatsoever the hundred pounds in my sonne in lawe Thomas Sharrowe his hands and all plate and other goods to be found in the House Orchard and Barne beste Corne and Herbage and saleable fish as are in my Pondes at the tyme of my decease according as they shalbe appraised by sworne Appraisers at the tyme of my death towards the satisfying of the said fower hundred pounds and whatsomever some shalbe wanting for the full accomplishment of the foresaid some of fower hundred pounds that then it shalbe payed in truly and faithfully when the aforesaid limitted tyme by my sonne and heire Roger Bishe his Guardian in case he be taken for a word or rate? by herself whome I fully and really constitute and appoint to be my sole and lawfull executrix by sale of the Parrat landes conteyning about thirteene acres the Yards? land conteyning about eighteene acres the way feild conteyning six acres and the new built Watermill in Grinsted parrish and herein by this my last will and Testament doe give her full power and authority to demand uppon the foresayd premisses to sue implead or whatsomever for the recovering of her full right and accomplishing of my true intent and meaneing herein. And whereas there is three hundred poundes putt out in feoffees in trust handes to her use I doe in this my Last will and by theis present acknowledge and confesse that I have noe right or tytle unto it; but that it is soley and wholly her owne. Further my will is that my said wife Joane Bishe shall continue and remaine in my new dwelling house of Fenn place in Worth in the Countie of Sussex the full space of twelve months after my decease without molestacion or vexacion any wayes whatsoever.

Item. I give and bequeath to my Daughter Margaret Bishe the full some of three hundred pounds of lawfull money of England to be payed her within twelve months next after my decease by my sonne Roger his Guardian in case I dye in his minority and soe he become a Warde?

Item. I give and bequeath to my Daughter Sarah Byshe the full some of two hundred and fyftie pounds at said tyme and by the aforesaid parties.

Item. I give and bequeath to my Daughter Ursula Bishe the full some of two hundred pounds on the Condicions as aforesaid.

Item. I give and bequeath to my Daughter Katherine Bishe two hundred pounds on the aforesaid termes and condicions.

Item. I give and bequeath to my sonne Anthony Bishe two hundred poundes in case my brother Richard Bishe dye leaveing and heir; when not that the said Richard Die without yssue Then my will and pleasure is that the parcell of lande given him by my father John Bishe deceased shall fall and come to my aforesaid sonne Anthony and not unto my eldest; and that then noe moneys at all to given him.

Item. I give and bequeath to my young sonne John Bishe the full some of two hundred pounds within the aforesaid tyme to be payed and delivered to my loveing Wife Joane for his maintenance till such tyme as he shall come to age according to my true intent and meaneing herein. And in case he the said John Bishe attayne not to the age of twentie one yeares that then shee render the said some to the said Roger Bishe I meane onely the principall to be soe restored.

And whereas my lands saleable will not amount to soe great a value as the legacies and porcions by me given my moveables all in generall haveing and doe give solely and wholly to my wife Joane Bishe my will is that shee the said Joane her porcion shalbe first compleate and fully satisfied before that my aforesayd Children shalbe able to demand any some of money given them by this my will.

And afterwards for the full performance of their each particular porcions I doe charge my Heire my sonne Roger Bishe uppon my blissing and as he shall answeare it at the daye of iudgment to advance by all possible meanes to the full accomplishing of the premisses aforesayd, he being to enter uppon an estate sufficient to enable thereto.

Further I doe intreat my very loveing frends Sir John Smith of Crabbit in Worth aforesayd Mr William Crowther and my sonne in lawe Thomas Sharowe of London Marchante to be my overseers Desireing them to doe me the favour as to oversee and see every thing in this my last will and testament fully and truly to be performed and affected and my fower daughters to be in some comely and orderly manner placed and preferred? And to each of those my overseers I give and bequeath twentie shillings to buy them each a deaths head Ringe For the manner of my funerall. I shalbe and doe comitt wholly to my wife Joane Bishe and the Charge my will is shalbe deducted out of my estate onely I desire I maye be layed neere my Grandfather and father in the Churchyard. Further that my wife doth or shall lyve in the aforesayd dwelling house of Fenn place My will is that my Children shall continue and abide with her and att her removall to be placed according to the appointment of my overseers.

This is my present desire last will and Testament etc... Signed and sealed by mee etc... this seaventeenth daye of Aprill one thowsand six hundred thirtie eight.

(Signed)

Witnesses: James Bishe, Mary Bishe, Sarah Bishe, Tho: Sharowe

William Bishe (Byshe, Bysse) married, as his first wife, Margaret James about 1617 and by whom he had six children (all named in his Will):

1. Margaret Bysse, chr. 3 Sep 1618, Worth, Sussex, England
2. Sarah Bysse, chr. 28 Feb 1620, Worth, Sussex, England
3. Ursula Bysse, chr. 21 Apr 1621, Worth, Sussex, England. Married Richard Thompson in Nov 1658 in Northumberland Virginia.
4. Roger Bysse, chr. 7 Jun 1622, Worth, Sussex, England. Married Hellen Parr in Jan 1662.
5. Anthony Bysse, chr. 20 Jul 1623, Worth, Sussex, England
6. Katherine Bysse, chr. 9 Nov 1624, Worth, Sussex, England

Margaret was buried on 8 Dec 1624 in St. Nicholas, Worth, Sussex, England.

William married, as his second wife, Joane, widow of Thomas Sharowe, on 17 May 1627 in St. Antholin Budge Row, London, England. They had one child:

1. John Byshe, chr. 26 Oct 1631, Worth, Sussex, England. Married Martha Hampson about 1658.

The *Surrey Visitation* indicates that Joane was the daughter of Roger Deacon of London. Roger Deacon, citizen and skinner of London, wrote his Will on 11 Oct 1624, in which there is no mention of a daughter Joane. However, Roger's Will provides a clue, in that he names his son-in-law Thomas Sharow, merchant of London, and his wife whom Roger does not name. Joane's husband William Byshe also names as his son-in-law Thomas Sharow, merchant of London. They are obviously not the same Thomas. William's use of the term "son-in-law" does not appear to correspond to Thomas being the husband of one of his daughters. This is clarified by the fact that, in 1612, Thomas Sharowe married Joane Deacon. The Will of Thomas Sharow, merchant of London was proved on 14 Oct 1625 and in it he names among others his son Thomas. Two years later, the register of St. Antholin in Budge Row London records the marriage in May 1627 of William Bissh and Jone Sharrow.

In other words, Joane was not only William Byshe's second wife, but he was her second husband. The Thomas Sharrow named in William's will was Joane's son from her first marriage.

William Bishe was buried on 26 Apr 1638 in St. Nicholas, Worth, Sussex, England.