

## Wills from Essex

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### **John Board als Bard; yeoman; Great Chesterford; 1739: D/ACR 15/145**

In the name of God amen. I John Board of Great Chesterford in the county of Essex yeoman being of good health and of sound and perfect mind and memory praised be almighty God for the same but not knowing how soon the time of my dissolution may come do make this my last will and testament in manner and form as followeth. First and principally I commend my soul into the hands of Jesus Christ my blessed Lord and Saviour in sure hope through his meritorious death and passion to have a joyful resurrection and my body to the earth decently to be buried by my executrix hereafter named. As to my real estate and all my personal estate which God Almighty of his mercy and goodness hath lent me in this vale of misery I thus give and dispose of. First I give and bequeath unto Ann Bard my beloved wife for and during the term of her natural life all that my copyhold messuage or tenement wherein I now dwell with the barn yard stable outhouses orchard close or croft containing three roods more or less thereunto adjoining with all their appurtenances situate in the High Street, and also all my copyhold arable lands lying in the bounds of Great Chesterford containing together one acre and a half more or less with their appurtenances, and also my half acre of freehold land lying in the bounds of Great Chesterford and also all that my cottage or tenement with the appurtenances wherein now dwelleth Matthias Cooper situate in the High Street in Great Chesterford. And from and after the decease of Ann Bard my beloved wife, then I do give devise and bequeath my beforesaid messuage or tenement wherein I now dwell with the barn yard stable outhouses orchard close or croft containing three roods more or less thereunto adjoining with all their appurtenances situate in the High Street in Great Chesterford to my son Robert Bard and to his heirs and assigns for ever, and also all my copyhold arable lands lying in the parish fields and bounds of Great Chesterford containing by estimation one acre and a half more or less unto my son Robert Bard and to his heirs and assigns for ever. Also all that my half acre of freehold land lying in the bounds of Great Chesterford unto my son Robert Bard and to his heirs and assigns for ever. And from and after the decease of Ann Bard my beloved wife, then I do give, bequeath or devise my copyhold cottage or tenement with their appurtenances wherein now dwells Matthias Cooper situate in the High Street of Great Chesterford unto my daughter Sarah the wife of Francis Killingbeck and to her heirs and assigns for ever. Also I do give and bequeath unto my son Robert Bard three score pounds of goods and lawful money of Great Britain to be paid him by my executrix when he shall attain to his age of one and twenty years. Also it is my will and desire that Ann Bard my beloved wife or her executor shall pay or give unto my daughter Sarah the now wife of Francis Killingbeck ten pounds of lawful money of Great Britain to be laid out for her children that shall attain to their age of one and twenty years and if she have no child that shall attain to the age of one and twenty years then I do give the said 10 pounds to my

daughter Sarah the now wife of Francis Killingbeck to her own disposing. Also I do give unto Ann Bard my wife the use of all my household goods for the term of her natural life and after her death it is my will and desire she shall give them between my son Robert Bard and my daughter Sarah the wife of Francis Killingbeck. And there shall be no ... or intent. And if it shall happen that my son Robert Bard and my daughter the now wife of Francis Killinbeck shall depart this life either of them before my wife Ann Bard my wife, and shall leave a child or children behind them that then it is my will and desire that such child or children shall have that part of my household goods that either their father or their mother should have had. And also I do give unto Ann Bard my beloved wife all my ready money, all my book debts, all my bills, notes, bonds and mortgages and all the rest of my goods and chattels whatsoever to pay my debts, legacies and funeral charges. Also I do nominate, appoint, constitute and ordain Ann Bard my beloved wife my sole executrix to this my last will and testament not doubting but that she will all things faithfully perform. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal on the fourteenth day of March in the year of our Lord 1739.

John Bard his mark, signed sealed published declared by the testator to be his last will in the presence of us Thomas Rule his mark, Elizabeth Priest her mark, Geo Westropp.

Proved the 17<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year of our Lord 1743 before the Reverend John Crane, clerk, as the surrogate. By the oath of Ann Bard widow and relict of the deceased and sole executrix. To whom administration was granted, she being first sworn duly to administer.

**John Fordham; clockmaker; Great Coggeshall; 1784: D/ACWb 54 (Admon)**

Elizabeth Fordham of the parish of Great Coggeshall in the co. of Essex widow, John Fordham of Great Coggeshall aforesaid Ironmonger and William Potter the younger of Great Coggeshall aforesaid Gentleman [are held bound etc] 10.11.1784...

Elizabeth Fordham bound to administer estate

Sealed in presence of J Duddell and signed by Elizabeth + Fordham, John Fordham, W<sup>m</sup> Potter Jun<sup>r</sup>

The 10<sup>th</sup> day of November 1784

On which day appeared personally Elizabeth Fordham and alleged that John Fordham late of the parish of Great Coggeshall in the county of Essex departed this life in July last intestate without any will by him made, that she is the lawful widow and relict of the said deceased Wherefore she prayed letters of administration of all and singular the goods chattels and credits of the said deceased to be granted and committed to her on giving good and sufficient security for the same.

Let administration pass as prayed the said Elizabeth Fordham the lawful widow and relict of the said deceased having been first sworn duly to administer and that the whole of the deceased's goods chattels and credits do not to the best of her knowledge and belief amount to the sum of three hundred pounds.

Before me, J Duddell Surrogate.

**Edward Meade; Thaxted: 1648**

In the name of God amen, the first day of March in the year of the reign of our sovereign lord Charles by the grace of God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland king, defender of the faith the four and twentieth, I Edward Meade of Thaxted in the county of Essex, Gent, being sick in body but of good and perfect remembrance, thanks be given to almighty God therefore, do make and ordain this my present last

will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say first and principally I do give and commend my soul into the hands of the everliving blessed, holy and glorious Trinity the father, the son and the holy ghost, hoping that through the death and passion of Jesus Christ my saviour and redeemer my sins are blotted out and clearly forgiven, and as for my body I do commit and commend the same to the earth from whence it was first framed, hoping and verily believing that at the last and general day of judgement it shall rise again and come to judgement with all flesh, the same to be buried in decenmanner by my executor hereafter named according to Christianity. Item I give and bequeath unto the poor people of Thaxted aforesaid the sum of five pounds of good and lawful money of England to be paid into the hands of John Humfrey of Mill End and Samuel Salmon by my said executor within one year next after my decease to be distributed and paid by them the said John and Samuel unto and amongst the most (-) and neediest poor people in Thaxted aforesaid as to them shall seem fit and convenient. Item I give and bequeath unto Thomas Meade my son and to his heirs and assigns forever all those my messuages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments whatsoever both freehold and copyhold with all and singular their appurtenances situate, lying and being in Thaxted aforesaid and Wimbish in the said county of Essex or elsewhere within the realm of England. Item I give and bequeath unto John Meade my brother the sum of four pounds a year of good and lawful money of England to be paid and laid out quarterly and every quarte or and during the term of the natural life of the said John my said brother by my said executor unto and for the apparel for the said John and unto and for such other necessary things as the same John shall have need of as my said executor and the supervisors of this my will hereafter named shall think fit, necessary and convenient unto and for him. Item I give and bequeath unto John Pledgheard my servant for the advancement of his wages, having been my servant for a long time, the sum of twenty pounds of good and lawful money of England to be paid unto him or to his assigns by my said executor in three years next after my decease, that is to say twenty nobles a year. Item I give and bequeath unto Edward Collin my godson the sum of ten shillings of good and lawful money of England to buy him a ring. Item I give and bequeath unto Henry Wale my godson the like sum of ten shillings of like money to buy him a ring. Item I give and bequeath unto Thomas Holland my servant the sum of twenty shillings of good and lawful money of England to be paid unto him by my said executor within one year next after my decease. Item I give and bequeath unto Robert Ward my servant the sum of twenty shillings of good and lawful money of England to be paid unto him by my said executor within one year next after my decease. Item I give and bequeath unto Abiah Pimock my servant the sum of twenty shillings a year of like money to be paid unto him yearly and every year for and during the term of his natural life by my said executor. Item I give and bequeath unto Thomas Meade my kinsman which I now keep the sum of five pounds of good and lawful money of England to place him and bind him out an apprentice to be paid at such time by my said executor when the said Thomas shall be bound and fitting to be an apprentice. Item I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth Strutton my servant the sum of twenty shillings of good and lawful money of England to be paid unto her by my said executor within one year next after my decease. Item I give and bequeath unto Grace Marshall my servant the sum of thirteen shillings and four pence of good and lawful money of England to be paid unto her by my said executor likewise within one year next after my decease. Item I give and bequeath unto Thomas Trappe the son of George Trappe the sum of forty shillings of good and lawful money of England to be paid unto him by my said executor at such time when he shall be put out and bound an apprentice. Item I give unto the said

Thomas my said son, his executors and assigns all and singular my goods, chattels, household stuff, hogs, beasts, corn and cattle whatsoever for the performing of this my last will and testament, which said Thomas I do make and appoint to be sole executor of this my last will and I do earnestly entreat and desire Mr Thomas Wale my brother in law and Mr Edmund Plome to be supervisors of this my last will and to have a care and see the same performed in every point and I do give to either of them for their pains and care therein the sum of fifty shillings of good and lawful money of England to buy them a ring, revoking all former wills by me at any time heretofore made and do pronounce this only to be my last will. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, given the day and year first above written.

**James Peacock; yeoman; Dagenham; 1793; SoG**

To daughter Sarah Partridge one third of my freehold messuage with garden and appurtenances in Dagenham and in the use of my leasehold messuage. Land, tenements, goods, chattels, cattle, money, securities etc. and after her decease to the children of daughters Elizabeth Potter deceased and Mary Shurgall the same, to be held as tenants in common.

To daughter Mary Shurgall another third. After her death, this third to go to her children.

To John Sarah and Rebecca Potter, children of my daughter Elizabeth Potter, the final third.

Appoints son-in-law William Potter and John Coombe labourer of Dagenham to be executors

Signed with the mark of James Peacock on (.%.1793

Witnesses: Jonah Beckwith Romford, Essex, John Warren his clerk, Dorothy Cloake

**John Pledger:Thaxted; 1657: Thaxted notes and wills – SoG ES/L37**

To brother William Pledger ...

To Abraham, eldest son of brother William - 30/-

To Abraham, brother Abraham's second son – 30/-

To George, brother Abraham's third son – 30/-

To Elizabeth, brother Abraham's dau – 30/-

**John Pledghead the elder, 1549: Thaxted notes and wills – SoG ES/L37**

**Willam Potter; farmer; Dagenham; 1807: SoG**

Nominates friends John Hanson of Dagenham, farmer, and John Cannon, farmer, of Romford executors.

Executors to sell the several farms lands and premises in his occupation, all live and dead farm stock and implements of husbandry.

One half of the product of this sale with one half of stock in funds debts due and owing on mortgage to his three children, Sarah Potter, William Potter and Rebecca wife of Nathaniel Jones. As follows:

To Sarah and William £100 each, as Rebecca has already received £100 at the time of her marriage, and then the rest divided equally between them

One half to wife Susannah for life and then to his three children by Susannah, namely Susannah, William and James.

£200 to be advanced to these three children during their mother's life, provided they give sufficient security, and pay interest to Susanna half-yearly.

Signed by William Potter on 21.1.1807

Witnesses: ?Washy Stery Romford, Matthew Lofty clerk

**Joseph Smith the elder; Thaxted; 1688: Thaxted notes and wills – SoG ES/L37**

12.6.1688

Abraham Pledger 40/-. (Abstract only)