

The will of James ap Jankyng 1529

Transcribed to the best of our ability by Heather Culpin and Peter Bowers, Aug 2021

See also the article we have written about him explaining his role as a Yeoman of the Guard.

In dei nomine amen. The yere of our Lord god a thousand fyve hundred twenty and nyne I James ap Jankyng of full mynde and p[er]fi[c]te remembrance make my testament and last wille in this maner folowing.

First I Bequeth my soule to almighty god for our Blessed Lady saint mary and to all the holy company of hevyn my Body to Be Buried in Crist church in London before the ymage of our lady of petie¹
Item I wille that the formr orders of freres² Bring my Body to the Church and they to be rewarded after the discretion of myne executours.

Item I geve and bequeath all suche goodes that I have at Stondlok³ (except my rayment) to my wife, and my bedde all shets, tabull clothes and towells that is at Sanford Peverell in Devonshire, and also half a doseyn of silver spones that be in my coffer amongst my writinge att the said Sanford. Soe that she be there at the Awdy⁴ tyme to make and leve⁵ and compte⁶ for the Kings money and to take a discharge therof of not all thinges afore rehersed that is at the said Sanford I doo give to a litill wenche that was gevyn me named Thomasyn.

Item I doo give and bequeth to the said Thomasyn foure kyne w[ith] their calves also all the whete and malt that I have at the said Sanford and thre acres of Barly that lyth on the grounde also vii pannys xi platters a basyn and an ewer of pewter foure potingers⁷ foure candelsticks a new brasyn pott, and that to be solde and kept after the counsell of Docto[ur] morgan and maister John Hoper for the use and profitt of the said Thomasyn to whom also I give xxx s⁸ that John Skynner doth owe me also I give and bequeth to Doctour Morgan foure mar[k]s⁹ of money of the whiche he hath alrede xxv1 s viiii d the other xxvi s viiii d he shall receyve of william Frevan of wrythtam onther¹⁰ to take the said xxvi s viiii d out of such goodes as is in his handes also I give to the said maister Docto[ur] a furre of foxurs that is with Rauf Skynner in Southwark, also my great Ryng and foure paire of Revett¹¹ harnesse complete

Item I give to Mathew Philip my Best Bonett with Broch and ageletts¹² of gold

¹ pity

² friars

³ Standlake in Oxfordshire

⁴ Meaning audit?

⁵ Leave in the sense of to give up

⁶ Count, account for

⁷ A small dish, often with a handle, for soup or porridge

⁸ 30 shillings

⁹ Marks were equivalent to 2 angels (although there was no such coin as a mark)

¹⁰ We are not sure what this should be!

¹¹ Meaning rivet, as in riveted armour?

¹² An aglet is a metal sheath on the end of a shoelace or cord

Item I give to my ser[va]nt Richard my litill curtall¹³ horse

Item I give to Will[ia]m Morgan my great curtall horse and vi s viii d¹⁴

Item I give to David Morgan my green Cote with agetts upon the same and my dublet of fustian w[ith] velvett poynetts¹⁵

Item I give to Water Hargest my counterset Tynsy(Ile)n¹⁶ Cote and a dublett of velvet w[ith] fore sleeves and plagard¹⁷ of cloth of gold.

Item I give to David Nasshe my fox furred gown my Jaket of frese¹⁸ and vi s viii d

Item I give to Mathew Philip a syngle gown of russet¹⁹

Item I give my woosted gown furred w[ith] Conye²⁰ that is at Sanford to John Hoper, and for his paynes taken for me xxv s.

Item I give to Saunder Caks xs to bye him a cote and a Roon[cey]²¹ horse that is in his keeping.

Item I give to John ap Rs²² my Jaket of Saten and velvet.

Item I give to Henry Vyncent my dublet of lether w[ith] sleeves and plagard of russet velvet, and my executours to deliver to the said Vyncent as moder²³ for him vi s viii d and he to tarry w[ith] my wife untill she goo to Devonshire, and toward the performyng of the promisses Doctour Morgan hath in his keping wh[ich] she and he shall receyve of maister Everard of the Chekes due at our lady day last iv l xii s iii d Also the said Docto[ur] Morgan shall receyve of maister Will[ia]m of the Juell house iv l v s also of maister Bastard for my quarters rent xxxiii s also of David ap Rs at Bartolomewtyde comyng iv l vi s viii d

Item I will that

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myn executours shall paye to [christ]ofer Lustyn of Abyngton fyve m[arks] or there bowts that I doo owe him for ware

Item to Copland merchaunt of London for a pere of tawny chamlet²⁴ and ii yards of russett saten.

Item to George Hampton xl s that I was Bounde for for David ap Rs if he will of his conscience take it and if there be not of that money sufficient to content my mynde and will as I have afore rehersed I leve in Doctour Morgans hands a Bason and an Ewer of silver perll gilt and a Standing Cupp²⁵ newe gilt and a chast²⁶ pott of silver perll gilt. If nede be he to sell the said plate to fulfill this my last mynde

¹³ Curtal meaning with a docked tail

¹⁴ The value of an angel, a gold coin which was valued at 6 s 8 d at the time

¹⁵ A wrist cuff

¹⁶ Tinsel was a fabric interwoven with gold or silver thread

¹⁷ A placard was a stomacher or a kind of waistcoat

¹⁸ Frise was woollen plain woven cloth with a raised nap on one side

¹⁹ Russet was a coarse woollen cloth, usually brown or grey

²⁰ rabbit

²¹ A rouncey horse was an everyday riding horse

²² Probably Rice or Rees but is spelt Rs

²³ Possibly moderation in the sense of off-setting his expenses

²⁴ Chamlet or camlet was fabric made of camel or goat hair and silk, or a garment made from it

²⁵ A standing cup was a tall decorative cup with a cover

²⁶ Chased, meaning engraved

and wille. if not the said plate to remain to my wife.

Item I will the said Doctour Morgan and my wife be myn executours and to fulfil this my mynde and wille and the said Doctour Morgan to be recompenste and allowed in every thyng for his charges in thus fulfilling my mynde and wille.

Item I give to my wife my gold ryng with the rubye stone.

Item I give to the Church of Stanloke in recompense of tithes forgotten vi s viii d

Item to the p[ar]ishe Chruch of Sanford Peverell vi s viii d

Item to the high awter²⁷ of Saint Andrews church in London vi s viii d

Item I give to David Nasshe my sworde my buckeler²⁸ and my dublet of satten and velvet

Item to Elys of Stondlak my Jaket of velvet and cloth

Item to my S[er]vant Richard my dagger and single gabardyn²⁹ that is here to make him a fresse cote and my executours to be good unto him until he may gett him a maister

Item I give to my cusyn Morys Wogan my Denmark knyfe and my holbert³⁰ that is at Standlok And also I will that maister John Hoper and Saunder Caks shal hand owt my yewes³¹ in the porcion of tithe that I have at Holberton³² And if John warren wille suffer them to compt the said tithe peasably I will that myn executours shuld release unto him vi s viii d of the money that I shuld receyve of him at Mighelmas witnesse hereof for Vyncent Wharton preest Thomas Cosyn of the signe of the Bell ageynst the gray freres in London David Nasshe Pers Mutton³³ John Holand³⁴ and other men

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascripti defuncti Coram prefatis Commissariis in salia Cath Inn Pauli London xxi Die mensis Junii Anno D(omini) Millimo quingentessimo xxix Jurament(o) executorum in h(uius)mo(di) test(ement)o no(min)ati Ac approbatum et insinuatum et com(m)issa fuit admi(ni)stracio anote prefatorum ... patrum om(nium) et singulorum Bonor(um) Jur(iu)m et creditorum di(cti) defuncti prefats executoribus de bene fidel(ite)r admi(ni)strando ac de pleno et fideli in(ventario) Seconde die post festum diarum prox(ime) future(o) exhibendo necnon de pleno et vero compoto reddendo Ad sc(ripta) dei Emigelia Jurato

This is our attempt at a translation of the Latin above:

The above-written will of the deceased was proved before the aforesaid Commissary in ... Cath(...) Inn [Saint] Paul, London the 31st day of the month of June in the year of the Lord One thousand five hundred and twenty nine by the oath of the executor named in the will and approved and favoured and was committed administration aforesaid ... all and singular the goods rights and credits of the said deceased to the aforesaid executors well and faithfully to administer and to make a full and faithful inventory to exhibit the second day after feast of ... next coming and indeed to render a plain

²⁷ altar

²⁸ A buckler was a small round shield

²⁹ Gabardine was a type of worsted wool made waterproof by using lanolin on it before weaving

³⁰ Halberd – a two handed pole weapon

³¹ Possibly to settle his tythes using his furs as payment

³² Probably Halberton, a few miles from Sampford Peverell.

³³ Piers Motton was a yeoman who took over James' role as regulator in Cardigan

³⁴ John Holland was a yeoman who was also keeper of a property in Denbigh, North Wales

and true account