

Bedfordshire Archives Service, Reference: ABP/W1606-1607/87. The following is a transcript of the Will of Robert Dyllingham of Nether Dean, Bedfordshire, dated 7 April 1607 and proved 15 May 1607.

**In the Name of god Amen** - the seventh day of Aprill in the yeare of our lord god one thousand six hundrethe and seven · I Robert Dyllingham<sup>1</sup> of neither Deane in the Countie of Bedford, beyinge weake in bodie, but of good and perfect memorye (god be praised) doe make and ordaine this my last will and testament in man<sup>ne</sup>re and forme followinge: that ys to say, **first** I co<sup>m</sup>mend my soule unto almightie god my maker and Redeemer . and my bodie, to be buryed in the churchyard of Deane **It<sup>e</sup>m** I geve and bequeathe unto my welbeloved wiffe Agnis Dyllingham,<sup>2</sup> all my house hold stuffe wythin the Doores what soe ever. **It<sup>e</sup>m** I geve and bequeathe unto my Eldest sonne Humphrey Dyllingham<sup>3</sup> and to the heires of his bodye lawfullye begotten, all my lands, tenements, hereditaments with all and singular their appurtenances in the parishe of Deane . and in the parishe of melchburne,<sup>4</sup> And yf he Die and leve no issue <sup>^then</sup> after his decease, I geve all the said land tenements hereditaments with the appurtenances unto my Sonne Christofer,<sup>5</sup> and to his heires forever. **It<sup>e</sup>m** I geve and bequeathe unto my Eldest Sonne Humphrey Dyllingham Tenn pounds, of good and lawfull monye of England to be payd unto hym within one yeare after my decease. **It<sup>e</sup>m** I geve and bequeathe unto my Sonne Thomas Dyllingham,<sup>6</sup> thirtye pounds of good and lawfull monye of England, in man<sup>ne</sup>r following that ys to say, Tenn pounds within one yeare after my decease, And the other twe<sup>n</sup>ty pounds I say 20<sup>li</sup> that tyme twelve months **It<sup>e</sup>m** I geve and unto John Dyllingham<sup>7</sup> the sonne of Andrew Dyllingham,<sup>8</sup> one cow bullock or heckfor<sup>9</sup> of twoe yeares old, to be delyvered unto Andrew Dyllingham my Sonne, to the use and benefytt of his sonne John Dyllingham. **It<sup>e</sup>m** I geve and bequeathe unto the po(ore *damaged*) people of the parishe of Deane ten shillings to be devyded amonge the ~~poorest~~ poorest sort by the good Discretion of

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<sup>1</sup> Robert Dyllingham or Dillingham, the testator, was the son of John Dillingham of Over Dean, yeoman, and his wife, Joan. He married Agnes Warde at Dean, Bedfordshire, on 8 October 1571. Their children were Humphrey, baptised at Dean on 17 October 1572; Thomas baptised at Dean on 15 May 1575 and buried there on 28 May 1575; Andrew baptised at Dean on 21 April 1576; Christopher baptised at Dean on 8 July 1579; Thomas baptised at Dean on 1 March 1583-4; and Mary baptised at Dean on 11 June 1586 and buried there on 8 May 1596. Robert is mentioned in his father's will in 1540, and his mother's will in 1557. He was buried at All Hallows, Dean, Bedfordshire, on 17 April 1607.

<sup>2</sup> Agnis or Agnes Dyllingham or Dillingham née Warde, the testator's wife.

<sup>3</sup> Humphrey or Humphrey Dyllingham or Dillingham, the testator's eldest son was baptised at Dean, Bedfordshire on 17 October 1572.

<sup>4</sup> Melchbourne, situated about 2km southeast of Upper Dean, Bedfordshire.

<sup>5</sup> Christofer or Christopher Dyllingham or Dillingham, the testator's third surviving son. He was baptised at Dean, Bedfordshire on 8 July 1579. He married Alice Curtis, daughter of Richard Curtis, husbandman of Over Dean, in 1634. Bedfordshire Archives Service Ref: PA63, Post-nuptial Settlement, 6 Feb 1633-4, for the marriage of Christopher Dillingham, yeoman of Over Dean, to Alice Curtis, daughter of Richard Curtis of Over Dean, husbandman. They had a daughter Anne, and sons John and Thomas. Christopher Dillingham died testate in 1646; his will, Bedfordshire Archives Service, Ref: ABP/W1651-2/48, Will of Christopher Dillingham of Nether Dean, yeoman, dated 2 May 1646 and proved 14 June 1651. He was buried at All Hallows, Dean, on 3 May 1646.

<sup>6</sup> Thomas Dyllingham or Dillingham, the testator's fourth surviving son. He was baptised at Dean, Bedfordshire on 1 March 1583-4.

<sup>7</sup> John Dyllingham or Dillingham, the testator's grandson, son of Andrew Dyllingham or Dillingham.

<sup>8</sup> Andrew Dyllingham or Dillingham, the testator's second surviving son. He was baptised at Dean, Bedfordshire on 21 April 1576. He married and had issue, a son John

<sup>9</sup> Heckfor – heifer.

my executours and overseers of this my last wyll and testament **It<sup>e</sup>m** I geve and bequeathe all the rest & Resydew of my goods not bequeathed unto my wyffe Agnis Dyllingham and to my sonne Christofer Dyllingham whom I doe make my full and ioint executours of this my last wyll and testament they paying my Debts and legacies & p<sup>e</sup>rforminge all things according to the true meaninge hereof and of the execution of the same, I make and ordayne my brother Humpfrey Dyllingham and Will<sup>ia</sup>m Marshall Supervisors & overseers. And for their paynes I bequeathe unto ether of them five shillings. And I utterly Revoke and adnull all and everye other former testaments, wils, legacies, bequests executours overseers, by me in anye wise before this tyme named willed and bequeathed. **In witnesse** whereof I have sett my hand and seale unto this my present last will and testament, the day and year first above written  
In the presence of these witnesses  
John Smythe<sup>10</sup> of Hargrave clerke  
W<sup>m</sup> Marshall & Thomas Greene

this bullock was geven	
& bequeathed before then	m <sup>e</sup> . I doe geve unto my sonne Andrew Dyllingham
sealinge thereof	one cow or milch bullock to be delivered unto hym
	<del>before one year after</del> within one yeare after my decease

Transcribed by John Taplin MA  
20 March 2022,  
Durban, South Africa

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<sup>10</sup> John Smythe or Smith, rector of Hargrave, Northamptonshire, from July 1577 until June 1610, when he resigned. CCEd.