

A Transcription of the Last Will and Testament of

Thomas Brigges

Dated 17th December 1558

Prepared by members of Deddington and District History Society
June 2009

Thomas Briggs of Dedyngton

In the name of God Amen. I Thomas Bryggs dwelling in Dedyngton, citizen and woolman in London, make this my last will and testament in the year of our lord God 1558. First I bequeath my soul to almighty God and my body to be buried in the church yard of Dedyngton. I give to the high altar half a strick of barley and to the rood light half a strick of barley. I make my wife Katherine Briggs and my son Thomas Briggs my executors, and that my wife shall occupy this house with all the profits thereto belonging, and if she marry or keep herself widow 'til my son Thomas Briggs be of xix years of age, then my son Thomas to have half the crop and half of all things movable and unmovable about the house. And if my wife marry she shall avoid forth of the house, leaving[?] my son Thomas half the crop and half of all things about the house. And if she keep herself widow my wife to occupy half with my son Thomas Bryggs of all kind of things about the house from the time that the said Thomas Bryggs be of xix years of age, as long as my wife Katherine Briggs keep herself widow. I give to my daughter {Margaret, interlineated} vi chilver [i.e. ewe] sheep and a quarter of barley, and that my wife shall breed her a heifer or else [20 shillings?] to be paid when the said Margaret is xvii years of age. I give to my daughter Mary Bryggs vi chilver sheep and a quarter of barley, and that my wife shall breed her a heifer or else xx shillings to be paid to the said Mary Bryggs when she is xvii years of age. I give to my daughter Alice Briggs vi chilver sheep and a quarter of barley and one of the little feather beds with a bolster, a pillow, and a coverlet that be in my house in London. My daughter Alice shall choose which of them she will take, and a brass pot with two short feet and one long for that was mine, and ii pewter platters and ii pewter dishes and ii saucers, ii candle sticks, all to be paid at the day of her marriage. I give to Anne Lewter iii sheep, a quarter of barley. I give to Ellen Luter iii sheep, a quarter of barley, to be paid to Anne and Ellen at xvii years of age. And if any of them depart forth of this world, that which that child should have had shall remain amongst the other children, every one to have as much as another of that child's goods so that their goods shall remain one amongst the others. Also I give to my son Antony a gown. And I do appoint Thomas Swyfte to be the supervisor of this my last will and testament. I give my prentise [i.e. apprentice] Richard Peter a year's service. Whereas he was bound to serve me for the term of viii years, he shall serve but vii. So that he do my wife diligent service my wife shall make him free when he hath served vii years. Also I will that xx pence in bread shall be divided amongst the poor folks in the town at the day of my burial.

Will proved in the Archdeaconry Court of Oxford 17 December 1558.

Some points of interest:

- Unusually, the will has no day or month, only a year.
- The almost random spelling of names.
- Thomas Briggs was a woolman and Citizen of London, with a house there as well as in Deddington. We are therefore given an insight into Deddington's trading links at this time.
- Thomas was a farmer as well as a merchant.
- His bequest to the rood screen tells us that the screen across the chancel was still in place. He made no bequests to side altars, which might imply that they had by then been removed (probably during the reign of King Edward VI).

