

The following Will was obtained from the National Archives (PROB 11/118/394) on the 1st of Feb 2014. And belongs to Henry Negus, it is dated from 19th Jun 1611. With it being proved on the 2nd of November 1611

I have chosen to convert the language used at the time into something more akin to that we would see today.

The proving of the will was written in Latin so what appears here is a translation.

In the name of God Amen, I Henry Negus of Covington in the County of Hunts Blacksmith Being sick in body yet sound in mind and memory (the Lord be thanked) do now make my last will and testament in manner and form following

first, I bequeath my soul to God my maker hoping by the death of Jesus Christ to have pardon of all my sins and my body to be buried in the Church yard of Covington aforesaid

My worldly goods I give them as follows

First, I give unto Henry Negus my eldest son all my freehold land after the decease of his Mother Alice my wife provided that she keeps herself widowed but if she be married then the said Henry my Son shall have it at the age of one and twentieth years

Item I give and bequeath to the said Henry five pounds in money.

Item I give and bequeath unto John Negus my second son four pounds of money,

Item I give to Robert Negus my third Son four pounds of money

Item I give and bequeath unto George Negus my fourth son four pounds in money

All these sums to be paid to all my said Sons at the age of one and twentieth years

Item I give unto Elizabeth my daughter twenty nobles of money (**English gold coin minted from the 14th to the 15th century**) and two pair of flaxen sheets and a pair of harden sheets to be paid her at the age of one and twentieth years of her age or the day of marriage which comes first

Item I give to my said son Henry Negus my bed stead I lie in my great brass pan and my cupboard

Item my will is that if my eldest son dies before he come to the age of one and twentieth years that my next son shall have all things bequeathed unto him and so from the one to the other till it come to my daughters

If all my sons die before they come to the age of one and twentieth years then my land and all things before bequeathed to my sons shall be equally divided amongst my 2 daughters

Item I give to the poor of the town of Covington a peck of barley a piece
(approximately 12 pounds)

All the rest of my goods and chattels household stuff quick or dead of what kind or quality soever it be yet unbequeathed my debts and legacies paid and my body decently buried I give and bequeath unto Alice my wife whom I make sole executrix of this my last will and testament

In witness whereof I have hereto set my hand and seal the nineteenth day of June
One thousand six hundredth and eleven

Signum Henrici Negus testator,

These witness being present

Richard Martin Signum
Roberti Negus, Signum
Georgii Bassingham

The above-written testament was proved at London before the venerable man Sir John Bennet, knight, doctor of laws, Master, Keeper, or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, lawfully constituted, on the second day of the month of November in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and eleven, by the oath of Alice Negus, relict of the said deceased and executrix named in this testament; to whom was committed the administration of all and singular the goods, rights, and credits of the said deceased, sworn upon the Holy Gospels of God to well and faithfully administer the same, by virtue of a Commission issued in that regard.

