

The following Will was obtained from the National Archives (PROB 11/280/335) on the 28th of July 2021. And belongs to John Nottingham, it is dated from 16th May 1655. With it being proved on the 26th Aug 1658

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

In the name of God Amen

The sixteenth day of May In the year of our lord god 1655 I John Nottingham of Keyston in the County of Huntingdon blacksmith being of perfect health & memory the lord god be praised do make & ordain this my present testament containing my last will in manner & form following that is to say, first I bequeath my soul into the hands of almighty god my creator assuredly & faithfully believing through the blood shedding & only merits of Jesus Christ my Redeemer & mediator to be made partaker of his heavenly kingdom and my body to be buried in the Churchyard of Keyston aforesaid not doubting but at the general resurrection I shall receive the same again Immortal life unto the glorious body of my Savior Jesus Christ

And as concerning my temporal goods I return God of his free goods given of late but my will is to give & bequeath unto Elizabeth my now wife the house wherein I now dwell, for & during her natural life & these goods hereafter mentioned during her life which was left me by Joane my former wife 1 Cupboard 1 bed 1 table 1 forme (**a long, simple wooden bench**), 2 chairs, 1 red coffer (**a strongbox**), 1 Bed cloth 1 Warming pan 1 brass pot the biggest brass kettle, 2 pewter platters 1 salting trough (**long shallow container for preserving large cuts by packing them in salt**), but after her decease or if she happen to marry or remove from the aforesaid house then my will is that these goods aforesaid shall be given to Elener & Joane the daughters of Richard Alvins my son in law (the longer liver options) to be equally Divided between them and if it shall please god they shall both depart this world before my wife then my will is that the younger sons of Richard Alvins shall have & enjoy the said goods before mentioned to his use & behoof (**advantage, benefit, or profit**) so and how to be paid found to be performed reasonable after my decease

ITEM I give my house to Henry Nottingham my eldest brothers son upon condition that he shall pay unto my kinsman William Nottingham my brother deceased fifty shillings & to the younger son of Richard Alvins fifty shillings to be paid one month after the decease of my said wife

Item as for the rest of my goods unbequeathed my debts being paid, my funeral expenses discharged my body decently brought to the ground I give & bequeath unto Elizabeth my now wife who I do make her sole executrix of this my Will & Testament Dated the day & year above written.

John Nottingham his mark

Witness my hand & seal in the presence of

Richard Bancks

James Bancks

This Will was proved at London before the Judges for probate of wills and granting administrations lawfully authorized the six and twentieth day of August in the year of our lord god according to the computation of the Church of England one thousand six hundred fifty and eight. By the oath of Elizabeth Nottingham, the relict and sole executrix named in the said will to whom Administration of all the goods and chattels of the said deceased was committed she being first sworn by commission truly to administer the same.

Crabonly Kingdome and my body to be buried in the church of the said
aforesaid not doubtinge but at the generall resurrection of all men in
the same againe immortall like unto his glorious body of my deare husband
Christe and as concerning my temporall goodes to witte god of his free good-
nes hath bequeathed unto my first and only sonne Richard unto Elizabeth my now wife
his sonne so long as he should live for the duringe his naturall life and his goodes
after his decease duringe his life we have left unto by his will my for-
mer wife 1. Anne 1. boy 1. table 1. forme 1. chaire 1. red cloth 1. 1. black cloth 1.
warminng xau 1. brass pott his big goss brass pottell 2. nowler platters 1.
salting trouge but after his decease or if he should have to marry or remoue
from the aforesaid house then my will is that these goodes aforesaid shall be
given to Elouise the daughter of Richard old Sir my sonne in
law (who the longer liue of him) to be equally divided betwixt her and
if it shall please god they shall both depart this world before my wife then
my will is that if younger sonne of Richard old Sir shall cause the joy of
said goodes before mentioned to his wife the bequeathment how to the said
sonne to be performed presently after my decease. The M. Agins my sonne
to Henry Nothingham my oldest brother sonne. I praye God that he shall
paye but my squireman William Nothingham my brother. deceased sister. Will-
linge who of younger sonne of Richard old Sir sister. Willinge to be paid
one moutie after the decease of my said wife the rest of my goodes be-
bequeathed my dearest sonne paid my squireman and squire deposed of my body
decently brought to the ground if you bequeath unto Elizabeth my now
wife who of doo make full executrix of this my will & Testament Dated the
daie & years aboves writen. W. John Nothingham his mark & W.
With this my hand & Seale in the presence of W. Richard Bancks
W. James Bancks.

This will was wroude at London before the Judges
for probate of wills and granting of oldministration lawfully authorized
the first and twentieth day of August in the year of our lord god anordinge
to the Conmutation of the Curres of England one thousand five hundred
fiftye and eight the firste day of Elizabeth Nothing came to the point and the
execution named in the said will to the same oldministration of the said goods
and the said of the said deceased was committed and he being first sworn
by Commission to the oldminister the same.