

The Will of William Watson (1773-1847)
dated 13th October 1847

Transcription of a copy held by The Norfolk Records
Office ref: PRDC 1/2/12. Folio 294. MF479.

This is the last Will and testament of me William Watson of Martham in the County of Norfolk, farmer. First, I nominate, constitute and appoint my brother John Watson of Martham aforesaid and my son George Watson and my daughter Susannah Watson Executors and Executrix of this my will. Also I give and devise¹ all that my marsh or piece of meadow ground laying in Martham aforesaid now in my own occupation with the appurtenances subject nevertheless to and charged with the payment thereout of the sum of forty pounds sterling to my daughter Susannah within six calendar months after my deceased to such persons for such estate and generally in such manner as my eldest son William by any deed or deeds or by his last will shall appoint And in default of such appointment I devise¹ the same such and to the absolute right of my said son William his heirs and assigns forever. Also I give and devise¹ all the south-west end of the tenement or cottage in Martham aforesaid in which I now reside adjoining the barn with the buildings at the southwest end. Also a half part of the dairy with the frontage land to the same part of my said cottage with appurtenances to such persons and for such estates and generally in such manner as my second son George by any deed or deeds or by his last will shall appoint and in default of such appointment I devise¹ the same unto and to the absolute life of my said son George his heirs and assigns forever and also I give and devise¹ the kitchen in the north west end of the tenement or cottage in Martham aforesaid in which I now reside with the work and one other half part of the dairy. Also the land laying on the north east side of the same and the frontage land thereof with the appurtenances to such premises and for such estates and generally in such manner as my daughter Mary whether she shall be covert⁽²⁾ or sole and notwithstanding coverture⁽³⁾ by any deed or deeds or by her last will shall appoint, and in default of such appointment I devise¹ the same unto and to the absolute right of my said daughter Mary her heirs and assigns forever. Also, I give and devise⁽¹⁾ all that my piece or parcel of copyhold land or ground laying in Martham aforesaid in my own occupation opposite my tenement or cottage over the road adjoining the same containing one acre or thereabouts unto and the sole and absolute use and benefit of my said son George his heirs and assigns subject nevertheless to and charged together with the aforesaid south west end of my aforesaid cottage and buildings herewith before devised to him with the payment thereof of the sum of thirty pounds sterling to my said daughter Mary within six calendar months after my deceased. Also I give and bequest all my household furniture and implements of household unto my said two daughters Susanna and Mary equally to and for their own absolute life and benefit. Also, I give and bequeath all my live and dead farming stock and crops of corn and grain and hay and all other real and ? estate of whatever nature or kind with ana io the sole and absolute use and benefit of my said sons and daughters equally subject nevertheless to the payment of all my first debts funeral and testamentary expenses. And I constitute my said brother John Watson the sole arbitrator between my aforesaid devisees⁽⁴⁾ as to the boundaries of these respective parts hereby devised to them whose decision shall be binding and final and I give my aforesaid daughters Susanna and Mary respectively the powers of recovering by distress their respective legacies

of forty pounds and thirty pounds upon my aforesaid real estate charged with the payments thereof respectively in like manner with rent recovery on common ?
And I hereby revoke all other testamentary writings in witness whereof I have hereunder set my hand this 13th day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven.

William Watson

by Thomas Corbould(5)

Signed by Thomas Corbould of Martham in the County of Norfolk, Clerk, as the last will and testament of the Testator in his presence and by his direction in the presence of us present at the same time who at his request in his presence and the presence of each other have subscribed our names as witnesses:
Thomas Proctor — farmer, Martham
William Starkings — labourer, Martham

1 (devise) = leave to someone by the terms of a will.

2 (covert) = a wife being under the cover or protection of her husband.

3 (coverture) = the legal status of a married woman,

considered to be under her husband's protection and authority.

4 (devisees) = persons to whom real estate is left by the terms of a will.

5. Rev. Thomas Corbould (1796-1869) was the Clerk and Curate of St Mary the Virgin from 1836 to 1850.