

Transcription of the Will of **Edith Helyar of Butleigh**

In the name of God Amen. I **Edith Helyar of Butleigh** - in the County of Somerset, widow, being, thanks be to Almighty God, in good and competent health and strength of body and mind and of good and perfect memory but meditating dayly on my mortality and the uncertainty of my time and abode here in this transitory life not knowing when or how it shall or may please the Almighty God to visit me and call me hence doe therefore in this my time of health make and ordaine my last Will and Testament in manner following;

Ffirst and principally I commend my soule unto God my Creator and Redeemer who gave it, praying unto him for the pardon and forgiveness of all my sins for the sake and sufferings and through the infinite meritts and mediation of my blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ my body I committ to the earth from whence it was taken to be buried in the parish Church of Butleigh as neare to the body of **Richard Helyar** gent. my late husband as may conveniently be in hopes of a joyfull resurrection at the last day and that my soule and body shall then be reuinted and enjoy everlasting salvation and happiness in the Kingdome of Heaven.

And for the setling and disposing of such worldly goods and estate as God hath beene pleased of his goodness and mercy to bestow upon me I doe give bequeath and dispose of the same in manner following;

Ffirst I give unto the parish Church of **Baltonsburrough** in the County of Somerset aforesaid being the parish where I was borne six shillings and eight pence lawfull money of England to be paid in one moneth after my decease. And I give to the poore of the parish of **Baltonsburrough** forty shillings like money to be distributed amongst them by and at the discretion of my Executor hereunder named with the advice and direction of my kinsman **Mr. James Rush** of the same parish in one moneth next after my decease.

Also I give unto the poore of the parish of **Butleigh** ten pounds of lawfull money of England to be distributed amongst them in one moneth after my decease whereof those who shall at that time have releife by and from the Overseers of the poore of the same parish shall have twelve pence apeice and the residue shall be distributed unto and amongst such other poore people of the said parish as my executor hereunder named and **William Hopkins** and **Anne** his wife my servants shall thinke fitt. [Cod. in margin: Also I give unto the p'ish Church of **Butleigh** aforesaid six shillings and eight pence like money to be paid in one month after my decease]

Also I give unto **Mrs Christian Fyves** my late husband's heire ten pounds to buy her mourning cloathes and twenty shillings to buy her a mourning ring and ten pounds to buy her a peice of plate to keepe in memory of me the said eleaven pounds for the mourning to be paid unto her forthwith after my decease. And the other ten pounds in one moneth then after. And I give unto the said **Mrs Christian Fyves** two gold rings stoned which were the rings of the above named **Mr. Richard Helyar** my late husband. Also I give unto **Mr. Richard Fyves** her brother twenty shillings to buy him a mourning ring and gloves to weare in memory of me. Also I give unto my kinsman the aforesaid **Mr. James Rush** of **Baltonsburrough** ffifty pounds lawfull money of England to be paid in one yeare after my decease. And to his five daughters **Anne** or **Agnes Sarah Joane Honour** and **Mary** ten pounds apeice to be paid to them at their respective ages of one and twenty years or dayes of marriage which shall be first happen respectively. And if either of his said daughters shall dye before she or they attaine the said age or be marryed then the legacie and legacies of her and them soe dying to be paid unto and distributed amongst the survivors ffor which severall summes of ten pounds I order and appoint my executors to pay unto the said ffive daughters of my said cozen **Rush** lawfull interest until their legacies shall be paid to them respectively. Also I give unto my kinswoman **Mrs Edyth Conyers** the widow of **Mr. Ralph Conyers** late of **Wells** one hundred pounds whereof ffifty pounds to be paid in three moneths. The other ffifty pounds in twelve moneths after my decease. And I give unto **Martha** her daughter my wedding ring. Also I give to my kinsman **Mr. Samuel Rush** ffive pounds and to **Alice Hulett** my kinswoman the wife of **William Hulett** of **Yeovell** ffive pounds. And to my kinsman **Andrew Everton** the older and **James Everton** the older, his brother ffive pounds apeice. And I give to my kinswoman **Mrs Anne Read** (?) of **Wells** ffive pounds and to my cozen **John Vivian** of **Yeovell** ffive pounds. And to my cozen **Agnes Slade** ffive pounds, And to my servant **Thomas Strode** fower pounds, And to my servant **Humphry Verring** three pounds, and to **Richard Grant** forty shillings. All the said last mentioned legacies to be paid in one yeare after my decease. Also I give unto **Mr. Richard Helyar** the youngest son of **William Helyar** Esq late of Coker, my husbands brother, the seale which was my husbands with his coate of arms engraven thereon [*see memorial in Butleigh Church*]. Also I give unto my cozen **Anne Martin** the wife of **Thomas Martin** my godson ten pounds to be paid at his age of one and twenty yeares. And I appoint my executor to pay interest for it yearely until he attains that age. Also I give to my kinsman **Mr. James Wills** the older of **Yeovell** seaven pounds to buy him a silver tankard to keepe in remembrance of me. Also I give to my kinsman **Mr. Thomas Rush** the older of **Wells** an annuity of fforty shillings a yeare issuing out of my lands and estate to be paid unto him yearely during his life at the ffeasts of the birth of our Lord God the anniversary of the blessed Virgin Mary the Nativity of St. John the Baptist and St. Michael the Archangell by equal portions. Also I give to my servants **William Hopkins** and **Anne** his now wife my close of pasture ground called **Worthy** lying in **Butleigh** aforesaid containing fowre acres or thereabouts. To hold the same unto the said **William** and **Anne** and the survivor of them for soe many yeares as shall expire and run out in their life times and the life of either of them longest liveing And after their two deceases to come back againe and be enjoyed with my now dwelling house And I give unto the said **William Hopkins** my cyder-press usually called the **Pound** which is at **Staverton** in the County of Devon and one hundred of raw milke cheese. And I give unto the said **Anne** the now wife of the said **William Hopkins** all my weareing apparell linnen and woollen and the bedd nedstead curtaines a paire of fine canvas sheets marked with R.S. and B and all the furniture of and belonging to the said bedd now being in my chamber

called the Litle Chamber and one holland sheet with foure branches wrought with black silke one at each corner my middle brass pott my bellmettle skillett two of my biggest pewter dishes with narrow brims and all my decayed pewter and decayed linnen and the forme in my Hall made of oake and a deske box with a lock and key to it and my little rose still that stands upon leggs and one flich of bacon. Also I give to all the rest of my covenant servants not before herein named that shall be liveing in house with me at my decease [evite six -in margin] twenty shillings apeice And I doe give and order that my executor shall pay for mourning for the said **William Hopkins** and his said now wife. And I doe give order and appoint that the said **William Hopkins** and his now wife shall have liberty to live in my now dwelling house halfe a yeare after my decease And that my other servants liveing with me at my decease shall have liberty to live and remaine in the said house a quarter of a yeare after my decease and shall all have competent meate and drinke there at the costs of my executor An I give all my lands unto **John Helyar** gent of **Chard** my late husbands nephew To hold the same unto him his heires and assignes for ever And all the rest and residue of my goods chattells and estate not herein before given I doe devise give and bequeath unto the said **John Helyar** whom I doe make and appoint sole executor of this my Will. In testimony whereof I the above named **Edith Helyar** have hereunto sett my hands and seale this **two and twentyeth day of June** in the yeare of our Lord God **One thousand six hundred ninety-nine**. The marke and seale of **Edith Helyar**. Signed sealed and declared by the said **Edith Helyar** to be her last Will and Testament in the presence of us **John Stocker, John Hawkes, Thomas Avery**.

- the documents ends in latin 'Probatum' stating that Probate took place on **10 Dec 1700**.

Note: **Edith** was baptized on 14th April 1619 in Baltonsborough, the daughter of **Richard Billing** 'the Younger' and his wife **Susan Rushe** (hence the Rush kinsmen above). Her father was recorded as churchwarden in Baltonsborough in 1628 but it isn't known what happened to him thereafter. He had married Susan Rushe in Baltonsborough on May 22nd 1617. **Richard**, called Richard 'the younger', was baptized November 8, 1584 and was the son of **Roger Billing**, who himself was the second son of **William Billing** of Middleton Malzpor (d. 1557) and his wife **Joan**.

Together with his brother **Richard, Roger** inherited lands in Baltonsborough, where he was buried December 16, 1596. According to a document in New York Public Library 'from a parchment document containing the names of the principal landholders in the parish, preserved in the great chest in the church, it appears that he was possessed of considerable real estate there, which by his will dated December 14, 1596, and proved on the twentieth of April of the following year, he bequeathed to his two sons Richard the elder and Richard the younger, to be equally divided by his brother, Richard Billing of East Lydford, and other persons whom he names. By his first wife Katherine, who was buried at Baltonsborough, February 12, 1566/7, he had: Richard, called in his father's will Richard the elder; Elizabeth baptized January 8, 1561/2 buried October 1, 1587; John, baptized January 8, 1564, buried May 31, 1573. By his second wife was **Edith Colburn**, whom he married at Baltonsborough, December 5, 1573 (she was buried there July 4, 1605) they had; Agnes, baptized November 7, 1574; Christopher baptized December 25, 1575, buried March, 1589/90; Agatha, baptized October 18, 1578; Mary, baptized December 18, 1581 and Richard 'the younger'.