

William Soden c. 1745 – 1827: transcript of his will

Transcript of his will, written 7 April 1826, proved at Oxford 16 December 1827

Introduction

This version of William Soden's will is available from the *Find My Past* website. The original document is held by Oxfordshire History Centre: Oxfordshire wills and probate record 274/2/6.

An abbreviated version of this will is available on the website of the Bartons History Group: Its source is not stated on the website and has not been established.

The will is written as a single block of text with no punctuation and a somewhat erratic use of capital letters. In the transcript below each sentence is presented as a paragraph.

Summary

William's wife Mary Soden was made sole executor. After Mary Soden's death three properties were to be given to two sons and a daughter of William Soden. The property occupied by John Haynes would go to James Soden; an unoccupied property would go to William Soden; the property occupied by Richard Rymill would go to Ann Bassett. A legacy of £5 was to be paid to another daughter, Sarah Coles, within six months of William Soden's death. Except for those legacies the estate was left entirely to Mary Soden and her heirs, although what this comprised is not described.

Commentary

The sons and daughters mentioned in the will were children of William Soden's first marriage to Elizabeth Smith (c. 1751 – 89). The couple had ten children, and the four mentioned in the will may have been those living when the will was made. These were: Sarah (born 1771), Ann (born 1774), James (born 1775), and William (probably the third child of that name, born 1785). Their legacies must have represented a small part of the estate, for the small-holding or nursery garden apparently owned by William Soden eventually went to John Soden (1796 – 1879), the only son of his second marriage to Mary Summerton (c. 1759 – 1832).

Transcript

Soden William of Middle Barton

This is the last Will and Testament of me William Soden of Middle Barton in the County of Oxford Yeoman

I give devise direct limit and appoint unto my Dear Wife Mary Soden All that messuage or tenement with the outbuildings yard Garden and Appurtenances thereto adjoining and belonging situate and being in Middle Barton aforesaid now in the occupation of John Haynes

To hold the same unto my said Wife Mary Soden and her assigns for and during the term of her natural life and from and immediately after the decease of my said Wife I give devise direct and limit the said Messuage or Tenement with the outbuildings Yard Garden and Appurtenances unto my son James Soden

To hold the same unto my said Son James Soden his heirs and assigns for ever

I give devise direct limit and appoint unto my said Wife Mary All that Messuage or Tenement with the Outbuildings [Yard Garden *interpolated*] and Appurtenances to the same belonging situate and being in Middle Barton aforesaid and now unoccupied

To hold the same unto my said Wife Mary Soden and her assigns for and during the term of her natural life and from and immediately after the decease of my said Wife I give devise direct and limit the said last mentioned Messuage or Tenement with the outbuildings Yard Garden and Appurtenances to the same belonging unto to my son William Soden

[*Interpolated*: To hold the same unto my said Son William Soden] his Heirs and Assigns for ever

I give devise direct limit and appoint unto my said Wife Mary All that Messuage or Tenement with the outbuildings Yard Garden and Appurtenances to the same belonging situate and being in Middle Barton aforesaid and now in the occupation of Richard Rymill

To hold the same unto my said Wife Mary Soden and her assigns for and during the term of her natural life

And from and immediately after the decease of my said Wife I give devise direct and limit the said Messuage or Tenement with the outbuildings yard Garden and appurtenances to the same belonging unto my Daughter Ann Bassett

To hold the same unto my said Daughter Ann Bassett her heirs and assigns for ever

I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Sarah Coles the Legacy or Sum of Five pounds which I do hereby direct may be paid within six months next after my decease by my Executrix hereinafter named by and out of my personal estate

And as to all the rest and residue of my real estate whatsoever and wheresoever the same may be I give devise direct limit and appoint every part thereof unto my said Wife Mary Soden

To hold the same unto my said Wife her heirs and assigns for ever

And as to for and concerning all and every my Household Goods and a [sic] Furniture Plate Linen China Debts Moneys and Securities for Money Stock in Trade Business and generally all the rest and residue of my personal Estate and effects whatsoever and wheresoever and after and subject to the payment of the Legacy of five pounds beforementioned unto my Daughter Sarah Coles and the payment of my just debts funeral and testamentary expenses I give and bequeath the same and every of them and every part thereof unto my said Wife Mary Soden to and for her own use and benefit absolutely

And I do hereby nominate constitute and appoint my said Wife Mary Sole Executrix of this my Will and hereby revoking and making void all other Wills by me made

I declare this to be my last Will and Testament

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this seventh day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty six

[Signed] Wm Soden [*with a drawing of the imprint of his seal*] – Signed sealed published and declared by the said William Soden the testator as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who in his presence and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as witnesses thereto the interlineation between the eighth and ninth lines from the bottom of the first sheet being first made and observed

[Signed] Thos Gould - John Young – Wm East.

This Will was proved at Oxford on the *sixteenth day of December in the year of our Lord 1827 Before William Thorp Clerk Master of Arts Surrogate of the Reverend George Turner Clerk Master of Arts Official Principal of the Reverend the Archdeacon of Oxford lawfully constituted by the Oath of Mary Soden Widow the relict and sole Executrix therein named to whom Admon was granted being first sworn duly to administer

**above the word 'sixteenth' there is a later scrawl perhaps inserted by a researcher which may read 'seventh - Act on Wills'*

Charles Parry, January 2020