

## **Will of Henry Gardiner of Great Bromley, yeoman, 1728**

In the name of God amen I Henry Gardiner of Great Bromley in the County of Essex yeoman being weake in body but of sound & disposing mind and understanding blessed be God for the same do make my Last will & testament as followes. My soul I commend to God & my body to decent Christian buryall at the discretion of my Executor herein after named.

And as to such worldly estate as it hath pleased God in his mercy to bestow upon me I dispose thereof as followes:

I give & bequeath to my sonn **Henry Gardiner** the sume of £150 to be paid him by my Executor within one yeare next after my decease.

Item: I give & bequeath to **John Gardiner & Mary Gardiner** children of my said sonn **Henry Gardiner** the sume of fourscore pounds a peice to be paid them at their respective ages of one & twenty yeares and that the said sums of fourscore pounds a piece be paid to my said sonn Henry by my Executor for their use within one year next after my decease.

Item: I give & bequeath to **John Gardiner** sonn of my daughter **Anne Crooks** the sume of £150 of Lawful British money to be paid him at his age of one & twenty years. But in Case he dyes before his said age of one & twenty yeares I give the same to be equally divided between all my Grand children who shall be living at the time of my decease. And my will is & I do hereby ord that my Executor do bring up and educate the said **John Gardiner** till he becomes shiftable & able to maintayne himself without being allowed any thing for so doing.

Item: I give & bequeath to **William Crooks** sonn of my said daughter **Anne** the sum of £45 to be paid into the hands of my said sonn **Henry** within one year next after my decease for the use of the said **William** & to be paid to him at his age of one & twenty years. And in Case he dyes before, my will is that the same be paid to his sister **Lidia** at her age of one & twenty yeares. And my will is that my sonn **Henry** do in the meane time bring up & educate the said **William** till he becomes shiftable without being allowed any thing for the same save the interest of his said Legacy.

Item: I give & bequeath to my said daughter **Anne Crooks** the sume of £41 to be paid her by my Executor at her maryage in Case she marryes with the consent & approbation of my Executor & my said sonn **Henry**. But in Case she does not marry, my will is that my Executor, In case he & my son **Henry** think she has occasion, Do pay her the said sume of £41 by monthly or weekly payments not exceeding the rate or sume of two shillings & six pence a week.

Item: I give & bequeath to **Lidia Crooks** daughter of my said daughter **Anne** the sume of £45 to be paid to her at her age of one & twenty yeares and that my Executor pay interest for the same to my said daughter towards her maintenance. But in Case she dyes before she attayne her said age my will is that the same be paid to her brother **William Crooks** at his age of one & twenty yeares.

And all the rest and residue of my personall estate whatsoever & wheresoever together wth my Lease of the farme & Lands I now hold after full payments of all my just debts, my funerall charges, the Legacies abovementioned, the pbate of this my will & other charges incident hereunto, I give & bequeath to my sonn **John Gardiner** whom I nominate & appoint to be my sole Executor Revoakeing all former wills, I declare this to be my last.

In witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand & seale this 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr 1728.

The mark of x Henry Gardiner.

29 May 1728: proved.

Note: there are several other documents relating to this will as the fair copy (which this is transcribed from) has no witnesses. John Eldred of Colchester, Henry's attorney, who says he had known Henry "upwards of thirty years", swore that Henry's two sons and also William Dunningham, witnessed the will. William Dunningham swears in a similar document the same thing.

Note: in the rough copy of this will, Anne Crook's son John is referred to just as "John" without a surname. By appearing in the fair copy of the will with the surname Gardiner, it suggests he was born before Anne's marriage to William Crooks in 1723.

Note: I have added full stops and commas in some place to make this easier to read.

ERO ref: D/ACW 26/7/33