

MEDIEVAL MIGRATION

Some testators tell us that they or relatives were born or baptised some way distant from their present residences. Sometimes we see that these birthplaces have been used as their surnames:

Beatrice Eyre, widow [of William] of London:

And I will that my executors provide and buy from my goods for the parish church of St Thomas at Westhereford in Westwall where I was born and lifted from the holy font of baptism a silver cross or two silver-gilt chalices or a book or a vestment or some other ornament to the price of 20 marks [£13 6s.8d.] ... to be used in St Thomas's church as long as it will last. ...

Robert Colwich, tailor and late alderman of London:

Also I biqueth to the church of Colwich in the countie of Stafford where I was christenned to the perpetuell use of the same church and for a memoriall ... my masboke and my vestymnt for a preest to sing masse in and 40s. in money. ... Also I biqueth to the beldyng of a chapell or somme other hous in the forsaid parrissh of Colwych by the discretion of sir Richard Colwych my brother late prior of the priory of Saint Thomas beside Stafford 10 marks. ...

John Don, senior, mercer of London:

Item I will that in as godely hast as may be aftre my deceesse there be given among pour housholders, chamberholders, bedred peple and them that be veray seke and feble persones ... in the towne of Kydwelly in Walys and in Kidwelly lond where my fader [was] born ... as long as the *summa* will and may endure of £20. ...

Martin Bloundell, fruiterer of London:

Item I bequeth to the chirche werkes of Mepoham [Meopham] in the counte of Kent where my moder and I were borne and cristened 3s.4d. Moreover I wol that Johanne my wife aftre my deceasse have all the issues and profittes commyng of the said londes and tenementes as I have in the parissh of Mepoham aforsaid durynge the nonnage of William Blundell my sonne ...

Thomas Bowes, a keeper of the Exchange, London:

Item I bequeth unto the chirch of saint Cutbertis in Peseholme at York where I was borne 40s. to the chirch werkes. ...

Others have connections with, or relatives living in, distant parts of the country:

Laurence Fyncham, fishmonger of London:

Item I wolle that my saide executours ... beye a peir of honest sensours of silvere to the value of £40 or mor as the caas shall fall and that they give the sensours in my name to the parrish church of saint Martyn of Fyncham in the countie of Norff' ...

Ralph Shaw, Doctor of Divinity, Residentiary of St Paul's, London:

Item I bequeth to my syster Maude dwelling at Manchester 10 marks of lawfull money ... *Item* I bequeth to Edmond Lathum my syster son toward his exhibition to scole 10 marks ... also I bequeth to the parish church of Stokton in Wiltshire which was the first benefice that I had 100s. or a vestment to the same value. ...