

Appendix IX

Some wills of the Balls of Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Northamptonshire

Will of the Rev.d Robert Ball of Eastington 1613

Will of Nicholas Ball of London, fishmonger 1638

Will of Lawrence Ball of Northampton, mercer 1642

Consistory Court of Gloucester

*Gloucestershire Archives ref. GDR Wills 1613/209 Ball**Transcript of register copy*

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN the ffifte day of July in the yeare of
o.^r lord god / 1613 I Robert Ball of Eftington in the County of
Gloucs minifter of gods word beeing admonifhed by my age and /
infirmities to settle before mine eyes the vncertaine approach
of death doe therefore make & declare my laft will and /
testament in mann[er] & forme followeing ffirft I praife god
moft high w.^{ch} hath before all worlds elected me vnto /
saluacon in Jefus Chrift & hath in his appointed time
inftified & sanctified me by his inconceauable grace / &
filled me w.th manifold benefitts all my daies carrieing me
regardfully vpon the wings of his prouidence wherefore / I
chearefully yeald vpp my soule into his hands & peaceably putt
of my fraile & corruptible body stedfaftly hoping / to receaue
it againe w.th mortalitie & glory att the laft day & my will is
that it shallbe buried in the churchyard / at Eftington if I
die there then for my worldly goods I difpofe them in mann[er]
& forme followeing ffirft I giue and / bequeath vnto the poore
of Eftington 40^s to be beftowed on them according to the
difcretion of mine Executo.^r **It[e]m** I / giue & bequeath vnto
Daniell Ball my sonne two hundred powns & a siluer beaker to

be paid vnto him at the age / of one & twenty yeares **It[e]m** I
giue & bequeath vnto Ann Ball my daughter the sume of 40^{li} to
be paid vnto her / at the age of one & twenty yeares or day of
her marriage w.^{ch} of them shall firft happen And if the said
Anne / Ball shall not marry nor betroth herfelfe vnto any man
w.thout the confent of mine Executo.^r & Ou[er]feers or the /
greateft p[ar]te of them then liuing then I giue vnto her
threefcroe pownds more and a siluer cupp w.th a Couer, and of /
my howfhold stufte I giue her so much as shall surmount vnto
the valewe of tenn pownds as it shall be prized / in mine
Inuentary or tenn pownds in money w.^{ch} she shall think beft of
in her owne choife So that I giue / vnto her in all one
hundred pownds one siluer Cupp w.th a Couer & tenn pownds
valewe of my howfhold stuff / or tenn pownds in money **It[e]m**
I giue & bequeath vnto Elizabeth Ball my daughter the sume of
fforty pounds / to be paied vnto her at the age of one and
twenty yeares or day of her marriage w.^{ch} of them shall firft /
happen And if the said Elizabeth Ball shall not marry nor
betroth her felfe vnto any man w.thout the / confent of myne
Executo.^r and overfeers or the greateft p[ar]te of them then
living then I giue vnto her threefcroe / pounds more for her
better aduancement in marriage and a silver bowle vnguilted
and alfo to the / value of Tenn pounds in my howfehould stufte
as it shalbe praied in myne Inuentary or soe much / that is
to say Tenn pounds in money w.^{ch} of them shalbe to her beft
likeinge Soe that I giue vnto her in all / one hundred poundes

one silver bowle vngilted and Tenn pounds in value out of my
houfhold stufte or / Tenn pounds in money **Item** I give and
bequeath vnto Judeth Ball my daughter the some of fforty
pounds / to be paied vnto her at the age of one and twenty
yeares or the day of her marriage w.^{ch} of them shall firft /
happen And if the said Judeth shall not marry nor betroth her
felfe vnto any man w.thout the confent of mine / Executo.^r and
overfeers or the greateft p[ar]te of them then livinge Then I
give vnto her Threefcore pounds more / and a double silver
salte and Tenn poundes in value of myne howfehold stufte as it
shalbe valued in myne / Inventory or tenn pounds in money as
shee shall think beft in her choice Provided that if any of my
said / daughters Anna Elizabeth or Judeth shall dye before the
day of her marriage or the age of one and Twentye / yeares
that then the said porcon of my daughter soe dyinge shall
equally be devided betweene my other two / daughters that
shall then survive provided alfo further by this my will and
teftament that if any of my saide / daughters shall marry or
betrothe her felfe vnto any man w.thout the confent of myne
Executo.^r & overfeers / or the greateft p[ar]te of them then
livinge that then the porcon w.^{ch} I haue given vnto her for her
advancement / in marriage shalbe forfeited and devided betwixt
my other two daughters **Item** I give and bequeath vnto / John
Ball my sonne all my bookes except only thofe that are in
Englifhe **It[e]m** I give vnto the said John Ball / my beft
fetherbedd and my beft greene Rugge and three paire of sheetes

befides that beddinge w.^{ch} he hath already in Oxford **It[e]m** I
give and bequeath vnto Nathaniell Ball my sonne five pounds
and vnto his sonne / Danyell Ball I give and bequeath forty
shillinges and my will is that it shalbe delivered vnto his
father for the vfe / of the said Daniell **Item** I give vnto my
beloved wife all that wood w.^{ch} I bought of Richard Cambridge
of the p[ar]ifhe / of Witchefter lyinge and beinge w.th in the
said p[ar]ifhe of Witchefter **It[e]m** I give vnto her the
sixteene ponde / w.^{ch} shee hath in her hands of myne And my
will is that all the goods w.^{ch} shee had before my marriage
vnto her / and all that doth growe and accrewe out of the said
goods and chattles vnto her since that tyme shall remayne vnto
her / as her owne as if shee had not marryed And further my
will is that if any controu[er]fye shall arise concerninge /
any of o.^r goods that it shalbe ended by my welbeloved brothers
in lawe Danyell ffowler & John Browninge / gentlemen **It[e]m**
my will is that the hundred and fitye pounds w.^{ch} my wife nowe
hath in her hands of myne shall / soe remayne in her hands for
two full yeares space after my deceafe vpon good security
given vnto myne Executo.^r / All the reft of my goods my debtes
and funeralls beinge difcharged I give & bequeath vnto Samuell
Ball my sonne / whome I make and confititute sole & full
executo.^r of this my laft will and teflament And my lovinge
Coffin / Nathaniell Stephens Esq.^r my beloved brethren in lawe
Daniell ffowler and henry ffowler and my Cofin Edward /

Stephens gentlemen I appoint to be overfeers of this my will &
teftament

This I declare and acknowledge to be / my laft will &
teftament vnder my hand subfcribed in the p[re]fence of Toby
Sandford Walter Sweeper John Whyte / Robert Welsteede
Edmund Grayle & William Lawrence

Attestation of original will

Robert Ball L.S.

In the p[re]fence of:

Toby Sandforde Robert Welsteide

Walter Sweeper Edmde Graile

Jam White William Laurence

Grant of Probate 16th February 1613 (1614 new style)

While the original will and the register copy both survive,
the latter is the more legible of the two. The text in the
register copy conforms with the text of the original will
although there are considerable discrepancies in spelling.

SUMMARY OF WILL

Testator: Rev.d Robert Ball, rector of Eastington

Date of will: 5th July 1613

Grant of probate: 16th February 1613 (1614 new style)

Court: Consistory Court of Gloucester

Depository: Gloucestershire Archives, ref. GDR Wills
1613/209 Ball

Executor: Samuel Ball, second son

Overseers: Nathaniel Stephens Esq., cousin
Daniel Fowler, brother-in-law
Henry Fowler, brother-in-law
Edward Stephens, cousin
(gentlemen)

Witnesses: Toby Sandford
Walter Sweeper
John [or James] White
Robert Welsteed
Edmund Grayle
William Laurence

Bequests:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Poor of Eastington | 40s. |
| Daniel Ball (youngest son) | £200 when attains 21 and a silver beaker |
| Ann Ball (eldest daughter) | £40 when attains 21 or marries. Additionally, if she does not marry, £60, a silver cup with a cover and household goods worth £10 (or £10 in money) |
| Elizabeth Ball (second daughter) | £40 when attains 21 or marries. Additionally, if she does not marry, £60, an ungilted silver bowl and household goods worth £10 (or £10 in money) |
| Judith Ball (youngest daughter) | £40 when attains 21 or marries. Additionally, if she does not marry, £60, a double silver salt |

| | |
|---|---|
| | and household goods worth £10 (or £10 in money) |
| John Ball (third son) | all father's books (except those in English), best feather bed, best green rug, 3 pairs of sheets and bedding at Oxford lodgings |
| Nathaniel Ball (eldest son) | £5 |
| Daniel Ball (grandson) | 40s. (to be paid to his father, Nathaniel) |
| 'beloved wife' (second wife, Ursula Clutterbuck) | a wood purchased from Richard Cambridge in the parish of Witchester |
| | £16 belonging to testator in wife's hands |
| | Goods contributed by wife at time of marriage. (Any dispute to be determined by testator's brothers-in-law, Daniel Fowler and John Browning, gentlemen) |
| | £150 belonging to testator in wife's hands for two years against good security |
| Samuel Ball (second son) | residue of estate |

Inventory: Not extant

Prerogative Court of Canterbury

The National Archives, ref. PROB 11/177/Lee Quire nos. 52-114/364, image ref. 562/467

I BEQUEATH MY BODY to y.^e earth And my Soule into the hande of
Jesus Chrift my Redeemer I bequeath to Alce Coles to her and
her boie fifteene poundes I give to John Ball my brother
fifteene poundes To John Ball the sonne of John Ball Ten pound
To Marie my sister fifteene poundes To Nicholas Ball sonne of
John Ball five pound out of my p[er]fonall estate I make my
wife Ellen Ball my hole Executrix this 23.th of August 1638
Nich: Ball Wittnefses M.^r Woodfall Henry Allen Edward
Saywell James Bartram & others

Grant of Probate 29th August 1638

SUMMARY OF WILL

Testator: Nicholas Ball

Date of will: 23rd August 1638

Date of probate: 29th August 1638

Court: Prerogative Court of Canterbury

Depository: The National Archives, ref. PROB
11/177/Lee Quire nos. 52-114/364,
image ref. 562/467

Executrix: Ellen Ball, wife

Witnesses: Mr Woodfall
Henry Allen
Edward Saywell
James Bartram

Bequests:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Alice Coles and son | £15 |
| John Ball (brother) | £15 |
| John Ball (son of brother) | £10 |
| Marie (sister) | £15 |
| Nicholas Ball (son of brother) | £5 |

Inventory: Not extant

Royalist Prerogative Court of Canterbury in Oxford

The National Archives, ref. PROB 10/641/102

In the name of God amen the xxth daye of Aug: in the eighteenth
yeare of the reigne of / of Sou[er]eigne Lord Charles by the
grace of God of England Scotland ffraunce and Ireland kinge /
defender of the ffaith &c Annoq[ue] Dni. 1642: I Lawrence
Ball of the towne of Northampton in the countie of Northton
Mercer being in good and p[er]fecte memorie and finding in my
bodie some / alteration and weakeneffe: And haveing before
myne eyes my yeares and confideringe the / ffrailltie of
Mankinde and for the settleing of peace and concord in my
familye which I doe heartile / wifh Doe make and ordeine this
my laft will and teftament hereby revoking and difannulling /
all former wills and teftaments by mee heretofore made in
manner and forme followinge (viz.^t) / ffirft and principally
above all with all humilitie and in moft ernest manner I
recommend my soule / into the hands and protecion of the
Allmightie and ever bleffed Trinitie the ffather Sonne and /
holy Ghoft three p[er]fons and one Eternall and everlafting
God: Truftinge onely thorough the / merrits and mediation of
Jefus Chrifte the second p[er]fon in the holy Trinitie my
alone saviour / to have remiffion of my synnes and everlafting
life after this mortall life ended: As for my spirit I comend
/ to God that gave it soe my bodie I comitt to the Earth from

whence it is to bee decentlie / buried at the difcretion of my
executrix in the Chancell of the Church of All Saints in /
the said towne of Northampton as neare the Corpfe of my late
ffather Lawrence Ball as / convenientlie may bee Stedfaftly
believeing that I shall rife againe at that great day of / of
the generall refurrection and that my bodie and soule shalbee
revnited and inherite / eternall life and felicitie with all
the Saints & Electe Children of God: And for my / worldly
goods and subftance wherew.thall the lord of his mercie hath
endued and bleffed mee I difpofe / the same as ffolloweth
(viz.^t)

Imprimis I devife give and bequeath vnto my ffoure daughters
Elizabeth Martha / Katherine and Dorothy (my Children by
Elizabeth my nowe wife) All that parte of my / houfe wherein I
doe nowe dwell w.^{ch} I bought and purchafed of S.^r John Lambe
knighte/ the ffifhtall beinge on the South part thereof And
alfoe I devife give and / bequeath vnto my said ffoure
daughters all that other parte of my nowe dwellinge / houfe
next the Conduit Hall which I bought and purchafed of the
Corporacon of / Northampton Alfoe I give and bequeath vnto my
said daughters Elizabeth / Martha Katherine and Dorothe: And
to Mary my daughter by my firfte / wife and to Sarah my
daughter by my second wife: All that meffuage or / Tenement
Orchard Gardin Mault kilne houfes stables barnes edifices and
/ buildings with all and everie their appurtenances given mee

in and by the laft will and Teftament of Lawrence Ball my late deare father deceafed nowe / in the tenure and occupacon of ~~my mother in lawe Margarett Ball widowe~~ Martin Tomkins my Tenante or of / ~~her~~ his affignee or affigns, to bee folde as soone as may bee after xxxx the death / of Elizabeth my nowe wife and the money to bee equallie devided amongft them / but my said daughters Marye and Sarah to have noe p[ar]te or share in my nowe / dwelling houfe: given vnto my other ffoure daughters as aforefaid

Item I give and bequeath vnto my daughter Marie Ball the sume of one hundred pounds of good and / lawfull money of England to bee paid vnto her within twoe moneths next after her day of marreage / or within three moneths next after the deceafe of Elizabeth my nowe wife which shall first happen: And if my said daughter / Marie shall happen to dye before her said porcon or legacie shall become due and payable my will and meaneing / is that the same shalbee equallie divided amongft all my daughters which shalbee then liueing: Alfoe if my / said daughter doe die before the sale of the saide houfe and malte kilne & appurtenances having noe iffue of her / bodie lawfully begotten then her share or part to bee divided amongft all or soe many of my said daughters / as shalbee then livinge: And if it shall happen that my said daughter Marye shalbee difpofed to live apart / from her mother then my will is that shee shall have for her maintenance yearelye the sume

of [eight] pounds / of good and lawfull money of England to
bee paid her quarterlye by my Executrix by even and equall
porcons / vntill the said hundred pounce legacie shall become
due and payable Alfoe I giue and bequeath more / vnto my said
daughter Marye Ball the sume of ffourtie markes of good and
lawfull money of England / to bee paid vnto her within three
moneths next after my deceafe if shee shalbee then liueing

Item I giue and bequeath vnto my daughter Elizabeth Cowper the
wife of Edward Cowper the sume of Tenne / pounds of good and
lawfull money of England to bee paid within three moneths next
after the deceafe of Elizabeth / my nowe wife if my said
daughter bee then liueing

Item I giue and bequeath vnto my daughter Martha Ball the sume
of two hundred pounds of good and / lawfull money of England
to bee paid vnto her at her day of marriage or within three
moneths nexte / after the same

Item I giue and bequeath vnto my daughter Katherine Ball the
sume of one hundred and ffiftie pounds / of good and lawfull
money of England to bee paid vnto my said daughter Katherine
at her day of marriage / or within three moneths next after
the same: And if either of my said daughters or both of them
shall / happen to dye before their said Legacies shalbee due
and payable then my will and meaneing is that the / porcons or

legacies of my said daughters Martha and Katherine shalbee
equallie divided amongft the rest / of my daughters by
Elizabeth my nowe wife that shalbee then livinge or the
survivo.^r of them

Item I giue and bequeath vnto my grand children Thomas
Cowper and Edward Cowper tenne / pounds apeece of good and
lawfull money of England to bee paid vnto them within six
moneths next after the / deceafe of Elizabeth my nowe wyfe and
if either or both of my said Grandchildren shall happen to dye
before / their legacie or legacies shalbecome due; then my
will is that the surviving children of the said Edward Cowper
/ my sonne in lawe begotten and to bee begotten on the bodie
of my daughter Elizabeth his nowe wife shall /have the same
equally devided amongfte them;

Item I giue and bequeath vnto my daughter Sarah Poole (if shee
bee living at my deceafe the sume of / ffortie shillings to
bee paid vnto her within two moneths next after my deceafe:
And to her sonne / Lawrence Poole the sume of tenne pounds of
good and lawfull money of England to bee paid vnto him at the
/ of one and twentie yeares

Item I doe give and bequeath vnto my sifter Elizabeth Hunter:
& to her daughters Marie Crowch and Margrett / Weftley the
sume of twentie shillings apeece to bee paid within six
moneths next after my deceafe;

Item I devife give and bequeath vnto my daughter ~~daughter~~
Dorothie Rogers All that one Orchard which I / bought and

purchafed of M.^r Crowe: nowe in the tenure and occupacon of
John Cox: scituate and being / neare the Caftell hills in the
said towne of Northampton; next vnto a clofe of Samuell Moores
deceafed / late of the towne of Northampton mercer;

Item I give and bequeath vnto Joane Moncke my late
Maidefervant fortie shillings to bee paid her within six /
moneths next after my deceafe if shee shalbee then living:

Item I give vnto the poore people of this towne of Northampton
the sume of ffowre pounds to bee diftributed where / moft need
is at the difcretion of my Executrix :

Provided neverthelefse and my true intent and meaneing is that
if there shall happen any loffe or / diminution in my eftate
after my deceafe and before the legacies aforefaid are due and
payable; then and in such / cafe my will is that my daughters
and all other Legatees shall beare and abate out of the
seu[er]all legac[ies] / a proportionable rate of the said
Loffe or diminution with My Executrix hereafter named: whome I
doe / charge as shee will anfwere it before God that there bee
noe fraude or collufion but juft and faire dealinge / in all
refpects in this beehalfe : And I alfoe in like manner charge
and comande my daughters yet vnmarried / that none of them doe
bestowe themfelves in marriage without the confent and advife

of their mother and thoverfeers / of this my laft will and
testament hereafter named

All and everie other my goods and Chattells lands and
tenements vnbequeathed & vndevised ready moneye / debtes
Jewells plate houfholdftuffe implements and vtenfills of
houfhold I devife give and bequeath vnto / Elizabeth my
welbeloved wife whom I doe nomynate conftitute make appointe
and ordaine sole Executrix / of this my laft will and
teftament; Defireinge her to bee carefull of my Children and
hers and above all / to bring the[m] forward in religious
duties; I alfoe charge my children to bee obedient to her and
to hearken / to & [regard] her [advife]; and to love one
another ; And I doubte not but soe doeinge God will take both
mother / & Children into his gracious protec[t]ion & soe
provide for them all that they shall want noe good thinge And
/ I defire & ernestly require my said Executrix that at her
deceafe shee shall bestowe the remainder of my eftate amongfte
/ her owne Children;

Item I doe choofe no[m]i[n]ate and appoint overfeers of this
my laft will and Teftament my loving sonnes M.^r / Daniell
Rogers and M.^r Edward Cowper : giving them power yf they shall
happen to bee both / living at my said wives deceafe to sell
all my land before menconed to bee solde at and to the best
value and the price / thereof to pay vnto my Children
accordinge to the tenor and true meaneing of this my laft will

and / Teftament: And my defire is that my said sonne Edward
Cowper may buye the houfe wherein I nowe / dwell giveing
afmuch for the same as anye other would doe bona fide : And
for a token of my love / and respects to my said overfeers doe
giue to either of them twentie shillings to by ech of them a
ringe /

In witneffe of the truth of all the p[re]miffes I have to
everie leafe hereof sett my hand and seale the / day and yeare
firft above written

Sealed signed and publifhed }
in the p[re]fence of }

Henrie Sillefby

William Prefton and

William Barrowe; [sen.^r]

Lawrence Ball L.S.

Grant of Probate 30th April 1644

SUMMARY OF WILL

Testator: Lawrence Ball of Northampton, mercer

Date of will: 20th August 1642

Date of probate: 30th April 1644

Court: Royalist Prerogative Court of Canterbury
in Oxford

Depository: The National Archives, ref. PROB
10/641/102

Executrix: Elizabeth Ball (third wife)

Overseers: Daniel Rogers, son-in-law
Edward Cowper, son-in-law

Witnesses: Henry Sillesby
William Preston
William Barrowe senior

Interment: In Chancel of All Saints' Church,
Northampton near late father, Lawrence
Ball

Bequests:

| | |
|--|---|
| Elizabeth Cowper, Martha (unmarried), Katherine (unmarried), and Dorothy Rogers (children by third wife) | Testator's present dwelling house in Northampton next to the Conduit Hall |
| 4 daughters by third wife, Mary (daughter by first wife) and Sarah Poole (daughter by second wife) | house, malt kiln, stables, orchard etc. left to testator in father's will (currently let to Martin Tomkins and previously to testator's mother-in-law, Margaret Ball, widow), to be sold (and proceeds shared equally between the 6 daughters on death of third wife) |
| Mary Ball (daughter by first wife) | 40 marks (13s. 4d. x 40 = £26 13s. 4d.) £100 payable 2 months after marriage or 3 months after death of stepmother (with gift over to |

| | |
|---|---|
| | surviving daughters if Mary dies before legacy becomes payable) |
| | £8 per annum maintenance if Mary decides to live apart from stepmother (until £100 legacy becomes payable) |
| Elizabeth Cowper (daughter), wife of Edward Cowper | £10 payable 3 months after death of mother |
| Martha Ball (daughter) | £200 payable within 3 months of marriage (with gift over to surviving daughters by third wife if Martha dies without marrying) |
| Katherine Ball (daughter) | £150 payable within 3 months of marriage (with gift over to surviving daughters by third wife if Katherine dies without marrying) |
| Thomas Cowper and Edward Cowper (grandchildren) | £10 each, payable within 6 months after death of third wife |
| Sarah Poole (daughter by second wife) | 40s., payable within 2 months of decease |
| Lawrence Poole (son) | £10 when he attains 21 |
| Elizabeth Hunter (sister) and her daughters Marie Crouch and Margaret Westley | 20s. each, payable within 6 months of decease |
| Dorothy Rogers (daughter) | Orchard near Castell hills in Northampton next to close of Samuel Moores, mercer, deceased, purchased of Mr Crowe and let to John Cox |
| Joan Moncke (sometime maidservant) | 40s. within 6 months of decease |
| Poor of Northampton | £4 |
| Elizabeth Ball (third wife) | residue of estate |
| 2 overseers | 20s. each to buy a ring |

Inventory: Not extant

