

## Some Thomas Ellwood Documents including his Will

### I

**T**HE will of Thomas Ellwood's great-grandfather, Walter Gray of Crowell.

In the *History of the Life of Thomas Ellwood*, Wyeth's Edition, p. 2, we read :

“What my Father possessed (which was a pretty Estate in Lands, and more as I have heard in Monies) he received, as he had done his Name *Walter*, from his Grandfather *Walter Gray*, whose Daughter and only Child was his Mother.”

Walter Gray's Will is preserved in the Oxford Consistory Court, Series II, Vol. IX, f. 66.

“In the name of God Amen. The Sixth day of February in the yere of our Lord God, one thousand six hundred thirtie and eight. I Walter Gray of Crowell, Co. Oxon, clerke . . . advisedlie thinkeinge on my dissolution and mortallite . . . I am subiect notwithstandinge I am nowe sicke in bodie yet of perfect mynde & memorie thanks be given to god for the better prepareinge myselfe to meete my Saviour doe institute this my last will and testament in manner & forme following First I comend my soule unto Almighty God that gave it me assureinge (my?) selfe I shalbe presented blamelesse before [Him ?] onely by the merritts of the bloudie death and passion of Jesus Christ my Saviour. *Et tanto securioribi habito quanto potentior est ad Salvantu* and I will that my bodie be decently buried in the Chancell of Crowell aforesaid. Nowe touchinge my lands and worldlie possessions wherewith God hath blessed and enriched me I dispose of them as followeth.”

First I give and bequeath to Walter Ellwood sonne of Walter Ellwood & Elizabeth his nowe wife the sume of twoe hundred pounds of lawful monie of England the which sume I wille shalbe pad by the said Walter Ellwood the father his executors or asseynees out of the rente & yerelie reveueus of a certaine messuage lands and tenements in the precincts of Stoakenchurch Co Oxon nowe in the tenure & occupation of Henry Bigges under the yerely rent of fyve & twentie pounds by lease thereby reserved & graunted by me the same legasie & porcon of twoe hundred pounds to be paid when the said Walter Ellwood the sonne shall fullie accomplishe the age of twentie one yeres.

Item. I give and bequeath to Elizabeth Ellwood the daughter of the said Walter Ellwood the father the like sume of twoe

hundreds pounds . . . One of the same hundred pounds to be paid her at the full age of seventene yeres or daye of her marriage first happeninge & the other hundred pounds to be paid within fyve yeres . . . nexte ensueinge the payement & daye aforementioned for the first 100 pounds.

To Mary Ellwood "one other daughter of the said Walter Ellwood the father the like sume of twoe hundred Pounds" . . . at 17 years or daye of Marriage first happening £100 & the other £100 "within fyve yeres . . . next ensueinge the payment or daye mentioned for payment of her first hundred pounds".

To Walter Ellwood sonne of Walter Ellwood "one hundred markes of lawfull monie of England" when 21 years of age.

To Elizabeth Ellwood the daughter aforesaid "100 marks to be paid at age 16 or daye of marriage," same bequest to dau. Mary aforesaid. And if it happen any of the foresaid children to decease before their several ages or tymes herein before menconed for the severall payments of the said severall sumes or porcons, then my will and meaninge is that his or her porcon sum and sumes of him or her deceased shall remayne and be paid to the survivour and survivours by equal and [word illegible] porcons.

To said Elizabeth Ellwood the daughter "my best bedsted with the vallence curteynes rods & orros [=arras] & my best fether bed & boulster & my covered [i.e. quilt] & one chest with the lynnens therein being in the chamber over the parlour".

"Item I give & bequeath to the foresaid Mary Ellwood my 2nd best fether bed beinge in the chambere where heretofore I usually laye & one coffer with the lynnens in the same".

To said Elizabeth & Mary the daughters of Walter Ellwood "Pewter & brass to be equally divided betweene them," to Elizabeth one silver salt and to Mary "halfe dozen of silver spoones".

To Elizabeth Ellwood the *wife* of said Walter Ellwood "one silver bowle".

To Richard Graye sonne of my brother Hugh Graye £10 "to be ymployed towarde the furnishinge him to be made Master of Arts and not otherwise".

To Joane Graye daughter of my brother William Graye £4.

Here follow various minor legacies.

To "Walter Ellwood my daughters sonne & to his heires for ever all my messuage lands tenements & hereditaments whatsoever with their rights members & appartments lyeinge scituate or beinge in Crowell aforesaid or within the precincts thereof to have & to hold the same to him the same Walter Ellwood his heires & assignes for ever".

To same Walter Ellwood the "Adwowsion of Rectorie and parsonage of Crowell aforesaid and my right of presentacon & patronage of the Rector of the Church of Crowell aforesaid."

To the same Walter Ellwood "all my messuage & Cottage, tenements & lands woods woodgrounds & hereditaments whatsoever with their appurtenances scituate being within the precincts of Stoakenchurch in Co Oxon".

All rest of goods "cattells & chattells"—not given, "I give to said Walter Ellwood him I make & ordeyne my sole executor".

Probate granted 21 May 1641.

The will was made the year before Thomas Ellwood's birth. He was therefore placed at a great disadvantage in comparison with his elder brother and sisters, being wholly dependent on his father, while they had money and household goods coming to them at their majority.

Considering that Walter Gray left £10 only to one of his Gray nephews "towards the furnishing him to be made Master of Arts", and that he left a substantial legacy to Thomas's elder brother Walter, the withdrawal of Thomas Ellwood from the grammar school at Thame in order to maintain his brother at the University, could only have been the result of gross extravagance on the part of his father. It is interesting to find Walter Gray showing the interest in learning which reappeared in his great-grandson.

It seems very unfair that when Walter Ellwood the younger (Thomas's brother), died (before 1660), his father should not have made over his portion to Thomas, unless, of course, young Walter willed it elsewhere. We read in the *History* (p. 12) that he fell "under the Displeasure of my Father, for refusing to resign his Interest in an Estate which my Father sold". Perhaps the elder Walter was determined to have his younger son firmly under his thumb.

## II

Marriages celebrated at Crowell during the Interregnum by Walter Ellwood as Justice of the Peace. From MS. copy in the possession of the Genealogists' Society.

16th May, 1655. Nicholas Allen and Elizabeth Mortymer.

2nd July, 1655. John Shell and Abigail Stacy.

## III

Will of Thomas Ellwood. P.C.C., Leeds 101.

"I Thos. Ellwood of the hamlett of Coleshill, parish Agmondesham als Amersham, Co. Hertford, Gent., being through the tender mercy and great goodness of my gracious God of a sound disposing mind memory and understanding (for which I return most humble and hearty thanks unto him) and considering with myself the certainty of death and uncertainty of the time thereof" makes his last will and testament.

“ Imprimis that I may cut off all pretences of claims and thereby of contention from any related to me I give the sums of 5s. unto every person related or of kindred to me by consanguinity in the degree of first cousins who within six months next after my death shall come in person to receive it and shall make proof unto my executrix ”.

Cousin Mary Baker “ neice of my dear deceased wife 10 pieces of gold called Guineas ”.

£25 to cousin Mary Odingsells<sup>1</sup> daughter of my cousin John Odingsells late of Rest Park, co. York, gent., dec.

£25 to Cousin Ann Hatwell wife of Benjamin Hatwell of London, gold beater.

£25 to Cousin Alice Cheatham of Hockton, co. York, if alive otherwise to her daughter “ my cousin Mary Heart ”.

“ Such others of the relations of my said wife as she my said cousin Baker shall judge to have most need thereof.”

£30 to the children of my cousin Elizabeth Dean deceased, viz. Brasbridge Dean, Charles Dean, Ellen Dean, all under 21.

To Cousin Mary Baker six chairs and one stool “ Which are now at her house being of needlework wrought by my said dear wife and I desire her to leave them at her death to such of my said wife’s relatives as she shall think most fitt for ”.<sup>2</sup>

To each of my loving friends Daniel Wharley and Mary his wife one peece of gold called a guinea ; to their four sons, viz. Daniel, Isaac, Henry and Edward Wharley “ I give that legacy or summe of £50 which in and by the last will of John Penington dec., their uncle is given unto me and not yet received by me ”.

To my “ young and hopefull friend Isaac Penington, son of my late friend Edward Penington dec., and grandson as well on the the father’s side, unto my dear and honoured friend Isaac Penington as on the mother’s side unto my well beloved and much esteemed friend Samuel Jenings late of west New Jersey in America, dec.,— and all my lands tenements etc., being within the province of Pennsylvania or elsewhere in America.”<sup>3</sup>

To friend Mary Phillips “ who lives with her uncle Daniel Wharley aforesaid my two shares in the Pennsylvania Company which her said uncle Wharley bought for me ”.

“ Unto my namesake Thomas Ellwood, grandson of my good friend Anthony Ellwood of London, £20 ”—under 21.

Loving friends Daniel Wharley aforesaid and William Grimsdall of the parish of Peters Chalfont, co. Bucks, maultster £10 “ to be distributed for the help, relief and benefit of such of my poor friends called Quakers as they shall judge most fitt to receive the same ”.

Loving friends James Smith of Alisbury, salesman and Joseph Steevens of Chipping Wiccomb maultster, both Co. Bucks. £20 to be imployed for “ the putting forth of two or more boys (as they shall see meet) being the children of honest friends called Quakers, apprentices to some such honest trade as they shall judge most suitable and can most easily procure for them ”.

£5 to be distributed within three months of his death " amongst such of my poore neighbours of what religious persuasion soever living within the Hamlett of Coleshill aforesaid ".

Rest of estate after payment of funeral expense (which I would have to be plain, not costly) " I give to my well deserving servant Dorothy White, as a due reward for her long, faithfull carefull and kind service to my dear wife during her life and to myself since ".

Said servant, Dorothy White, sole executrix.

Loving friends James Smith and Joseph Steevens, before named, overseers and a guinea each for their trouble.

He declares it to be his last will and testament, " written with mine own hand and contained in two sheets of paper fastened together at the top with a wreath of twisted parchment and there sealed down with my seal ".

21st August, 11th year Queen Anne, 1712. Witnesses Nehemiah Wilmott, Thomas Purcas, John Gibson.

Probate 15th May, 1713, by Dorothy White, executrix.<sup>4</sup>

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> A Mary Odingsells appears in the Upperside Minute Book, as living at Peter's Chalfont, but was married in 1684 to Peter Prince.

<sup>2</sup> The legacy of the six chairs " being of needlework " shows that the Ellwoods were not the plainest sort of Friends.

<sup>3</sup> There is a note concerning Thomas Ellwood's property in Pennsylvania in the *Journal of the Friends' Historical Society*, Vol. II, p. 31.

<sup>4</sup> A second grant of probate (Leeds 101) is dated 9th April 1715, and records that on application by Abraham Dee, the husband and Administrator of Dorothy Dee, formerly White, now deceased, who when living was the Executrix and Residuary Legatee named in the Will of Thomas Ellwood, late of Coleshill, deceased, administration of the goods unadministered by Dorothy Dee was granted.

The substance of the foregoing documents was kindly transcribed for me by my cousin, Edmund N. Snell.

BEATRICE S. SNELL