

The Will of Thomas Tylden of the parish of Wye in the County of Kent, 14 March 1616-17. To the poor of Wye 20s. 5 pounds to be distributed among the poor ministers. I make my son Joseph Tilden my executor and give him all that debt due me from James Thetcher of Willingdon in the County of Sussex. My wife Alyce shall have the use of all my household stuff and moveable goods during her life, with liberty to dispose of them to all or any of my children during her life and at her death to dispose of them that remain to such of my children as shall be living and not elsewhere. To my son Thomas Tylden 5 pounds.

My will concerning the disposition of all my lands, tenements and hereditaments in the Counties of Sussex and Kent or elsewhere within the Realm of England is as follows: "First my will & meaning is that Nathaniell my sonne his heyres & Assignes shall for ever holde and enjoye o peece of fresh marshe land lyinge in the parish of East Gyldeford in the Countye of Sussex called by the name of Cowelees contayneinge by estymation xxx acres accordinge to one deede of feafment thereof by me made to the use of the said Nathaniell Itm I doe will giue and bequeath to the said Nathaniell my sonne & to his heyres forever one peece of fresh mersh land with the appurtenances called or knowne by the name of the Gyve acres lyinge & beinge in the aforesaid Parish of East Gyldeford together with a sufficeint carrying way to carrye driue goe to & for him his heyres & Assignes through one peece of land called the upper peece of the lesser Spanyards lyinge in Gyldefford aforesaid." To my sons Joseph and Hopestill Tilden their heirs and assigns forever the aforesaid piece of land called the upper piece of the lesser Spanyards containing twenty acres. To sone Freegift Tilden and his heirs forever, if he live to the age of one and twenty years, a piece of fresh mersh land in East Gyldeford containing fifteen acres known by the name of the nether piece of the lesser Spanyards and abutting upon Cowe lees aforesaid toward the south, with right of way to said land through the land called the upper piece of the lesser Spanyards bequeathed to son Nathaniel. If Freegift die before the age of one and twenty years, reversion to sons Nathaniel and Hopestill and their heirs forever. During the minority of Freegift 10 pounds a year to be paid to wife Alice toward her jointure of 20 pounds made by me to her during her life, the other 10 pounds of the said 20 pounds to be paid out of the lands bequeathed to sons Joseph and Hopestill. To son Freegift at the age of one and twenty years my messuage with the barn and other buildings, orchard, garden and seven pieces of land containing seventeen acres now in the occupation of the widow Gylbert, lying in the parish of Cranbrook upon the den of Omenden. If he die before said age, reversion to son Joseph and his heirs. Wife Alyce to receive the profits of all Freegift's land during his minority and use them to see him brought up to learning, and if she die, son Joseph to receive them for that purpose, allowing to Freegift sufficient maintenance and yielding an account to him when he accomplishes his age of one and twenty years. {signed} Thomas Tilden. Witnesses: Suretonhie Nicholes, Robert Hall, and Willyam Avsten. Proved 20 June 1617 by Joseph Tilden, son and executor named in the will. (The will was contested 23 September 1617, the widow Alice Tilden and sons Nathniel Tilden of Tenterden, Hopestill Tilden of the town of Sandwich, and Thomas Tilden and Freegift Tilden of Wye bringing suit against the Executor Joseph Tilden. 27 March 1618 sentence was given for the confirmation of the will, the judgement being that the testator was sane at the time the will was made. (Consistory Court of Canterbury, Original will, bundle for 1617.) (English Origins of New England Families, published by NEGHS)

