

The Will of Richard Baldwin
1503 – 1565

(Robert Ward's 13th great-grandfather)

Richard Baldwin was a yeoman, who made his will January 1552/3, in the 6th of Edward IV. In the body of the will his name is spelled Bawldwyn and Baldwin. Following is an abstract of his Will:

To be buried in the churchyard of Aston Clinton. To daughter Alis 20 marks when married; to daughter Agnes ce 12 when 19; to daughters Cicely and Lettice each ce 10 when 19; to son John farm at Dungrove in Parish of Chesham when 23, but if he die before that to son Henry; to son Richard, my tenements in Chloesbury and lands belonging thereto when 23; to wife Ellen and son Henry the rents of his said lands and houses towards bringing up of Richard's children; to Hugh Gawldin, his brother's son, ce6-13-4.

He gave small bequests to his godchildren, servants, etc., to his son Henry ten silver spoons and a maser (a bowl or goblet of wood). The rest of his personal estate to his wife Ellen and son Henry equally, who are his executors. He makes the overseers of his will his brothers, John Baldwin and John Apuke [brother-in-law].

The will was proved in the court of the Archdeaconry of Bucks County, February 21, 1552/53, by the executors named. The original will of his widow is among the records of that court, but the date of probate is missing. The date is in the 8th year of Queen Elizabeth, 1565/6. The month is torn off, but it is the 24th day. She may have been the sister of John Apuke, named by her husband as his brother-in-law. The name is now Pooke. In dividing her household goods among her daughters, she speaks of shetes, pillow beres, a lattyne basin, a chafying dish of Lattyne (a metal resembling brass), 2 posnets (pots or skillets), on chafer (saucepan). Son Henry was overseer of her will.

In another extract from Richard Baldwin's will, he wills that son Henry shall have the lease of my farm in his custody, without any lett or interruption of Ellyn, my wiffe. I will that Ellyn, my wiffe, and Henry, my son, shall have the occupation of my farm jointly together during her liffe, kepying her sellfe sole, and if it so fortune that Ellyn, my wiffe, do marie than I will that she hall avoyd and depart from occupaton of my said farm before the day of her said marriage and then to have half the corn, cattle, and other household stuff. Richard and Ellen Baldwin had 7 children.