

my dearelye beloved frend John Robynson clerke a suffereigne or x<sup>1</sup> of gold humblye besekynge hym and all other my neighbo<sup>rs</sup> kinsfolks and frende to pray for me Item I give &c. my librarye and all my bokes wrytyngē escriptē munimētē in my studie and closet w<sup>th</sup> my deske and standish and all that is therein to my sonne John Vaudraye willynge and requyrynge hym apon my blessinge to apply his learninge w<sup>th</sup> all diligence and that he do not reade any my bokes nor others beyinge of the word of God and scripture but w<sup>th</sup> meke and humble hert and like desire and praire by hym to be made daylye to gyve him grace of right understandynge of the same and the true Catholick and Christian faith w<sup>thout</sup> anye arrogancye or myunderstandinge thereof And I do constitute &c. Ales my wife durynge her widdowhoode onlye my sonne Jhon V. my sonne Riċ V. and my verye lovyngē frend Jhon Robynson clerke my true and lawfull executo<sup>rs</sup> willynge and instantlye desiryngē and prayinge theym to se this my last will fullye and trulye pformed And if it shall hap any of my fornamed executo<sup>rs</sup> to repugne or do contrarye to this my last will and testam<sup>t</sup> that then he or she so doyinge not to have anye auctoritie of in or by this my last will nor in any wise to be taken as my executo<sup>rs</sup> and also the same so contrarie doynge to be utterlye voyde and of no effect In witnesse whereof hereunto I have set my seale and subscribed my name the day and yeare first afore written vij<sup>t</sup> the twelft of ffebruary 1567 [1567-8].

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### THE WILL OF ROBERT HOLT OF STUBLEY ESQ.<sup>1</sup>

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**I**N the name &c. the xij<sup>th</sup> daye of Novembre 1556 I Robert Holt of Stubley in the countie of Lanċ esquier sycke &c. My bodye

<sup>1</sup> No date of probate. Robert Holt of Stubley Esq. son of Richard Holt, by Alice,

to be buried in the chauncell w<sup>thin</sup> the church of Rachdale nere where my uncle lyethe To my s<sup>on</sup> Richard Holt Henry Holt Edmund Mylne Thom<sup>as</sup> Gerelde Ale<sup>x</sup> Brydge Rog<sup>er</sup> Holt Thom<sup>as</sup> Browne and Elize Coop viij<sup>li</sup> that is to wete to ev<sup>ery</sup> of theym xx<sup>s</sup> To James Holt ij coot<sup>e</sup> To John Holt one coote If I wyll that all my harnes shall remayne here at Stubley to y<sup>e</sup> use of my heires males for ev<sup>er</sup> If that all suche dett<sup>e</sup> as my uncle Robert Holt dyd owe wheche be as yet unpaid shalbe payed by my executors (excepte suche dett<sup>e</sup> as cā be dyscharged by acquytanc<sup>e</sup> or ell<sup>e</sup> by sufficient wyttenes or confession) If where I have lately enfeffed Robert Barton esquier and others of an in the thrydde pte of all my maners of Stubley Chesh<sup>m</sup> and Naden and in the thrydde pte of all the meases land<sup>e</sup> &c. in Stubley Chesh<sup>m</sup> Naden Honersfelde Spotlande Bury Myddleton Butterworthe and Castelton in the said countie to y<sup>e</sup> use of me y<sup>e</sup> said Robert Holt and theyres males of my bodye lawfully begoten and for defaulte to y<sup>e</sup> use of Cicilie my wyiff Richard Jones clerk pson of Bury Rauff Barton Henry Sayvell and Arthure Assheton gentyl<sup>m</sup> for terme of their lyves to thentent that they shall paye all suche somes of money as sallyt<sup>e</sup> [falleth ?] to be payd concernynge one maryage to be hade betwyx John sone and heyre apparent of Thom<sup>as</sup> Grenehalghe esquier and Alice my dought<sup>er</sup> excepte lxxv<sup>li</sup> xiiij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup> pcell of the saide maryage good<sup>e</sup> whiche is nowe payed And to paye (if I dye w<sup>thout</sup> issue male of my bodye lawfully begoten) eight hundrethe markes as in a dede beyryng date y<sup>e</sup> jx<sup>th</sup> daye of this instante Novembre more playnly apperith I wyll that all the sayde

daughter of Sir John Saville of Newhall in the county of York Knt. inherited the estate on the death of his uncle Robert Holt Esq. (see his will, p. 14.) — *Suffield MSS.* and *Visitation* 1567. He married (covenants dated 2nd June, 34 Henry VIII.) Cecily, daughter of Andrew Barton of Smithills Esq. His post mortem inquisition was taken 3 and 4 Philip and Mary, in which Robert, son of William Holt, is found his cousin and heir, and of the age of fifty years. The last named Robert was father of Charles Holt, the future husband of Mary, one of the daughters of the testator.

some shalbe taken of y<sup>e</sup> said thrydde part of my sayde manors lande &c. If I wylle and assigne to Charles Holt if he marye my dought<sup>r</sup> Mary or to his brother aft<sup>r</sup> his deceasse if he marye my said dought<sup>r</sup> w<sup>thin</sup> tymes lymytted my lease and interest of and in one mease and teñte called Starrying lying in the towne of Honersfelde<sup>1</sup> nowe in my occupacōn duryng the yeres yet to expyre in the same And if the said Charles or his brother aft<sup>r</sup> his deceasse w<sup>thin</sup> the said tymes wyll not marye my said dought<sup>r</sup> then I assigne my said fermeholde to Cicilie my wyiff as long as she kepith her unmarried And if she marye then to the p<sup>r</sup>fermēt of my sayd daughters unmarried To my said wyiff all other my leases bargaynes and tackes in the p<sup>r</sup>ishes of Rachedale and Bury duryng the yeres of the same yett to spende if she kepe her sole and unmarried and if she marye then to y<sup>e</sup> p<sup>r</sup>fermēt of my saide daughters unmarried (except suche closes and beaste gates as Arthure Assheton<sup>2</sup> nowe haith w<sup>thin</sup> the vicaredge of Rachedale the wheche I gyve to y<sup>e</sup> said Arthure duryng the yeres of the same yet to spende payng for the same yerely accordyng as he doith nowe) If where as I have surrendred all my copie holde lande in Totyghton to y<sup>e</sup> p<sup>r</sup>formaunce of my last wylle the said Cicilie my wyiff shall have all the same so long as she shall kepe her sole and unmarried towardes y<sup>e</sup> educa<sup>r</sup>ōn and bryngyng up of my chyl dren and if she marye then to y<sup>e</sup> use of my saide daughters at the discre<sup>r</sup>ōn of my saide executors duryng the space of xxj yeres excepte one teñte called Holcome Heye pcell of the p<sup>r</sup>miss<sup>e</sup> which I wyll that George Werberton y<sup>e</sup> young<sup>r</sup> shalbe suffred from yere to yere to occupie aft<sup>r</sup> the deceasse of Elene late wyiff of X<sup>p</sup>ofer Holt duryng the terme of xxj yeres paynge therfore the fermes accustomed to the said Cicilie The residue of my good<sup>e</sup> aft<sup>r</sup> my dett<sup>e</sup> &c. [paid] I gyve to y<sup>e</sup> said Cicilie Richard Rauff Henry and Arthure to y<sup>e</sup> use

<sup>1</sup> Hundersfield, one of the four large townships composing the ancient parish of Rochdale.

<sup>2</sup> Of Clegg Hall, an attorney-at-law and a wealthy man.

of all my saide iiij daughters nowe not lykened to be maryed whiche saide Cicilie &c. I make my executors And for that y<sup>t</sup> they shall have no pte ne porcion of my saide goodē I gyve unto evy one of theyme fyve markes and to have their costē made if they be put to any trowble Ifm that yf it fortune M<sup>r</sup> Thomās Grenehalghe<sup>1</sup> to dye (his sone John beyng w<sup>th</sup>in age) that then my saide executors shall have y<sup>e</sup> custodye of y<sup>e</sup> bodye and landē of the said John G. as gardens<sup>2</sup> in socage to y<sup>e</sup> use of y<sup>e</sup> said John G. If that my saide executors shall have in lyke case y<sup>e</sup> custodye of the bodye and landē of John sōne and heire apparent of Thomās Belfelde<sup>3</sup> (if the said Thomās dye his said sōne beyng w<sup>th</sup>in age) to y<sup>e</sup> use of y<sup>e</sup> said John R. I make supvysors of this my last wylle Robert Barton esquier and Thomās Grenehalghe esquier These wyttenes Charles Radclyff gent. S<sup>r</sup> John Dygle Robert Bucley Withm Deurden.

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### THE WILL OF THOMAS LEGH OF HIGH LEGH ESQ.<sup>4</sup>

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**I**N the name &c. 29<sup>th</sup> of October 31 of Elizabeth 1589 I Thomas Leghe of High Leghe in the countie of Chester esquire beinge somewhat sycke in bodye &c. my bodye to be buryed in Christian buriall where yt shall please God to appoynt To the children of my

<sup>1</sup> Of Brandlesholme Hall, parish of Bury.

<sup>2</sup> Guardians.

<sup>3</sup> Of Cleggswode, in the parish of Rochdale.

<sup>4</sup> Proved 21st January 1589-90. Thomas, son of Robert Legh of East Hall in High Legh by Alice, daughter of Hugh Starkey of Oulton Esq., married Isabel, daughter of George Trafford and sister and heiress of Ralph Trafford Esq. of Garrett Hall, Manchester (see her brother William Trafford's will, p. 61), and was ancestor of George Cornwall Legh Esq. of High Legh, M.P. for the northern division of Cheshire.