

LAST THINGS CONSIDERED BY ROBERT JOHNSON, ARCHDEACON OF LEICESTER, 1625

Dave Postles

Robert Johnson, rector of North Luffenham, and from 1591 archdeacon of Leicester, accumulated an extraordinary estate, through marriages and investments. In the months before his death in July 1625 he was occupied in – even preoccupied by – making arrangements for the distribution of this wealth. Confronted by competing demands of family and augmenting his educational establishments, as well as making customary provision for the local poor, between April and July he not only composed his will but instructed three codicils. The contexts of those decisions are worked through here.

For most early-modern people, ordering one's affairs at the end of life was relatively uncomplicated: the personal estate was modest, custom directed the transfer of customary tenures such as copyhold, and the rules of inheritance governed the succession to free tenure.¹ For the social elite, nonetheless, these final arrangements remained complicated, although the influence of Calvinism had transformed the parameters. Collective intercession became unnecessary as Predestinarianism replaced uncertainty of redemption. The impetus for commemoration remained strong, however: 'posthumous fame' and 'the quest for immortality' which counterbalanced the transcendental with the immanent, heavenly seat with a continuous place on earth.² Although good works were no longer requisite for salvation, the impulse to ensure constant commemoration of social role and position after death exercised the mind, during life, but especially at its end.³ The emphasis was perhaps less now on the late-medieval lineage, but on the individual.⁴ The compunction now was to endow educational institutions rather than purely religious ones. The two could not, of course, be differentiated, since education and religion were still inexorably intertwined.⁵ In the case of Johnson, a cleric, moreover, his motive for educational endowments was to improve the clergy. Nor was endowment of educational institutions entirely novel, for their establishment featured strongly in the later middle ages. The process was

¹ Except in times of acute crisis: Keith Wrightson, *Ralph Taylor's Summer: A Scrivener, his City and the Plague* (New Haven, 2011), pp. 87–97. In general, Ralph Houlbrooke, *Death, Religion and the Family in England 1480–1750* (Oxford, 1998), pp. 81–146.

² Keith Thomas, *The Ends of Life: Roads to Fulfilment in Early Modern England* (Oxford, 2009), pp. 235–62.

³ Ilana Krausman Ben-Amos, 'The charitable gift', in Ben-Amos, *The Culture of Giving: Informal Support and Gift-Exchange in Early Modern England* (Cambridge, 2008), pp. 113–42.

⁴ Clare Gittings, *Death, Burial and the Individual in Early Modern England* (London, 1984), although the distinction should be nuanced.

⁵ John Seed, "'Secular' and 'religious': historical perspectives", *Social History* 39 (2014), pp. 3–13.

accelerated during the later sixteenth century, however, especially the foundation of grammar schools.⁶

Such is the context in which Robert Johnson devoted his time in the last months of his life to put his affairs in order.⁷ As much as religious and secular affairs can be distinguished, the intention here is to elucidate the protracted nature of Johnson's ordering of his final affairs and the consequent complications for a person of his status, with particular attention to its local as well as its wider context. The appendix contains a full transcription of the will and codicils of Johnson made in the last months of his life.

Robert Johnson was interred at North Luffenham on 24 July 1625, the day after his death.⁸ His final wife, Margaret (née Wheeler), whom he had married on 14 May 1599, died in 1616.⁹ Johnson's only son, Abraham, was baptised in 1577 and survived his father.¹⁰ The familial constraints seem superficially to be fairly straightforward.

In fact, Johnson amended his will three times through three codicils. Having produced his will on 2 April, Johnson issued codicils on 16 June, 10 July and 14 July. There was an intermission of a couple of months between the will and the first codicil, but the codicils appeared in swift succession – three within a month. In his will, Johnson's intention was to distribute bounties widely through legacies. Three constituencies were involved: satisfaction for his family (and friends); benefactions to the local poor; and residual provisions for the *personnel* of his educational foundations.

In the first category, he provided for a legacy of £100 to his son, Abraham, and £20 to Abraham's wife. To seven of his grandchildren, he bequeathed to each £20, 10 ewes with their lambs, a cow with its calf, a sow and its farrow, a mare, a foal, and a bedstead with its feather bed. The intention was, however, to bar these beneficiaries from any further claim upon his estate, to which end specific provisions were incorporated at the end of the will. Whilst he appointed Abraham one of the two overseers, he invoked as one of his two executors his grandchild, Isaac. Johnson's objective was, then, to satisfy the obligations to his family, but to limit them; to place some trust in his son, but more in his grandson. His esteem for

⁶ The proposition about grammar schools was first advanced by Joan Simon, *Education and Society in Tudor England* (Cambridge, 1966). Incorporating the universities and Inns of Court, the thesis was elevated by Laurence Stone, 'The educational revolution in England, 1560–1640', *Past and Present* 28 (1964), pp. 41–80. It has since been moderated somewhat. For overviews, see Helen M. Jewell, *Education in Early Modern England* (Basingstoke, 1998); R. A. Houston, *Literacy in Early Modern Europe: Culture and Education 1500–1800* (Harlow, 1988); David Cressy, *Literacy and the Social Order: Reading and Writing in Tudor and Stuart England* (Cambridge, 1980).

⁷ Johnson's career is effectively summarised by C. S. Knighton, 'Johnson, Robert (1540/41–1625)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford, 2004): online edn, January 2008 <<http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/14913>>, accessed 4 May 2014. See C. R. Bingham, *Our Founder: Some Account of Archdeacon Johnson* (Oakham, 1884); I have transcribed directly from the original will which is The National Archives Prob/11/147, fos 234r–236r.

⁸ *The Registers of North Luffenham in the County of Rutland, 1572–1812*, ed. by the Reverend Philip Gretton, B.D. (London: the Parish Register Society, 1896) [but the baptisms and marriages extend back to 1565], p. 64.

⁹ *Registers of North Luffenham*, pp. 48, 63.

¹⁰ *Registers of North Luffenham*, p. 2.

his grandson perhaps derived from Isaac's marriage to Arbella, daughter of Thomas, earl of Lincoln; on their marriage in 1623, Johnson had settled on them the manor of Clipsham, which Abraham's family inhabited. (In 1630, Isaac ventured to the Bay colony with Winthrop, where he died in the same year, the wealthiest in the colony.)¹¹ Various small tokens were to be delivered by the executors of the will to his wider kinship and friends as symbolic gestures.

In the second category, Johnson acquitted his obligations to local society and for the local perpetuation of his memory through bequests to the local poor and indigent. Four poor women were commissioned at £4 each to care for the poor in Johnson's re-founded hospital. For the stock of his parish, he donated £5. Another £5 he committed for the marriage of poor maids. He provided for the apprenticeship of 20 poor boys with £20. Through a legacy to the rectory of his parish, he made allowance for a livery of barley to the poor.

In the final category, Johnson made further marginal provision for the personnel of his educational foundations and small benefactions for new projects. Johnson had (re-)established the schools at Oakham and Uppingham with a hospital for two dozen poor people in 1584, which received Letters Patent in 1587. By his will, he made legacies to 60 of his poor scholars and an allowance to the governors of the schools. Substantial salaries were provided for the head schoolmasters (each £24 p.a.) and ushers (each £12 p.a.) of these institutions.¹² These additions to his (re-)endowments were not insubstantial, but incremental. Addressing his *alma mater*, he assigned an annuity of £200 (issuing out of lands in Lincolnshire) to sustain five Divinity scholarships at each of Sidney Sussex, St John's and Emmanuel Colleges and Clare Hall, the students to be selected for four-year terms by the heads and four senior fellows in each institution.

The three codicils then revised and amended the provisions for his educational establishments. The first codicil addressed the institutions in Rutland. The preamble professed that he has 'made noe provision for my twoe Free Grammar schoole [sic] and Hospitalls in Okeham and Uppingham'. The meaning here is that he had not endowed further the institutions rather than the personnel. He accordingly confirmed to the two schools and hospitals lands and revenues in Oakham and Uppingham. The second codicil permitted his executors a year and a half to complete these arrangements.

The final codicil, composed just over a week before his death, refined the management of the annuity of £200. By the amendment, £100 was directed to the support of four scholarships in each of the four institutions, with preference for those educated at his two schools in Rutland. The remaining £100 was now diverted to his seven grandchildren, on the condition that Abraham bar himself from any benefit. Should Abraham default on this understanding, Isaac would be the sole beneficiary.

Johnson's dilemma consisted of reconciling familial expectations and his educational objectives. The former was compounded by his three marriages,

¹¹ *Dictionary of National Biography* (London, 1885–1900), s.v. Johnson, Isaac.

¹² For comparative school salaries, see David Cressy, 'A drudgery of schoolmasters: the teaching profession in Elizabethan and Stuart England', in *The Professions in Early Modern England*, ed. Wilfred Prest (London, 1987), pp. 145–7.

through the first two of which he had acquired some of his wealth and which, through investments, he immensely expanded. His son, Abraham, was conceived by his second wife, who died in 1598. A third marriage inserted some distance.

One final point is worth mentioning: Johnson's will and codicils were attested by neighbours. Although from 'core' families (Winge, Fesant, Dafte), these neighbours were not from the parish elite.¹³ These kinships were 'core' only in the sense that they ramified in the parish. In fact, they did not extend back a hundred years, for none existed in the parish in the 1524–5 lay subsidy. These kinship groups had arrived towards the middle of the sixteenth century.¹⁴ Their presence may have reflected religious sensitivity, refracted in the Old Testament forenames prevalent in the parish, such as Zachary, Daniel, Samuel, Abraham and others.¹⁵

The will and codicils of Robert Johnson, rector of North Luffenham and archdeacon of Leicester, April–July 1625
The National Archives (formerly the Public Record Office), London, Prob/11/147, fos 234r–236r (Crown Copyright, by permission of The National Archives)

T[estamentum] Roberti Johnson¹⁶

In the name of God Amen: The second daye of Aprill in the Yeare of oure Lorde God accordinge to the computacion of the Church of England one thowsand six hundred twenty and five I *Robert Johnson* of Northe Luffenham within the County of Rutland and diocesse of Peterboroughe aged and infirme in body but stronge in mynde and perfect in remembrance doe willingly and with a free harte render and giue againe into the handes of my Lorde God and Creator my Spiritt which he of his Fatherly goodnes gave unto me when he firste fashioned me in my Mothers Wombe makinge me a liveinge and reasonable Creature Nothinge doubtinge but that for his infinite mercies sake throughe the precious blood of his dearlie beloved sonne Jhesus Christe oure only Savioure & Redeemer he will receive my Soule into his glorie and place it in the Company of his heavenly Angells & blessed Sainctes And as concerninge my body even with a good will & a free harte I giue it over Commendinge to Earthe whereof it came Nothinge doubtinge but accordinge to the article of my Faithe at the greate daye of the generall Resurreccion when wee shall appeare before

¹³ For the significance of 'core' or 'focal' families, see *Societies, Cultures and Kinship, 1580–1850: Cultural Provinces and English Local History*, ed. and introduced by Charles Phythian-Adams (London, 1993), passim; these families must be distinguished from 'the middling sort', most recently elucidated by Henry R. French, *The Middle Sort of People in Provincial England 1600–1750* (Oxford, 2007). The former were genealogically extensive and longevous, the latter the most affluent and local office-holders.

¹⁴ *Tudor Rutland: The County Community Under Henry VIII*, ed. Julian Cornwall (Rutland Record Series 1, 1980), p. 88; *Registers of North Luffenham*, pp. 58–64 (burials). None of the families were churchwardens. The Dafte kinship in particular expanded from 1573, but almost disappeared after 1636.

¹⁵ *Registers of North Luffenham*: baptisms from 1572. The other names comprise Ezekial, Isaac, Nathaniel, Obediah, Joshua, Benjamin, Solomon, Rebecca, Hester. There are few hortatory names such as Repent and Obedience. See Scott Smith-Bannister, *Names and Naming Patterns in England 1538–1700* (Oxford, 1997), pp. 164–82.

¹⁶ In the right margin.

the Judgement Seate of Christe I shall receive the same againe by the mighty power of God where-with he is able to subdue all thinges to himself not a corruptible mortall weake & vyle body as it is nowe but an incorruptible <mor>¹⁷ immortall stronge and perfect body in all poyntes And as concer-ninge my worldly goodes and estate which the Lorde hathe lent me I dispose thereof in manner & forme followinge Inprimis to my sonne Abraham Johnson I give and bequeathe one Hundred pounds Item to his wief that nowe is I give Twenty poundes Item to fower Poore women to looke to the Poore Hospitall people I give Fower poundes per annum Item to Threescore of my Poore Schollers I giue Twelve pence a peece to buye them Paper Item to buye Bybles with the Psalmes in meeter for Poore Religious menn I give Tenn pouondes Item to the Inhabitance of Crowland towards the trayninge up their Poore Children in Learninge I give Thirtye poundes & my Chronicle of Ingulfus Item to the Poore of Woodson Standgrounde & Fassett I give Five poundes Item to the Poore of Northe Luffenham for a perpetuall Stocke I give Five poundes Item towards the marriage of Twenty poore Maydes †[I give x^s. a peece]¹⁸ Item towards the placeinge of Twenty Poore boyes to be Apprentices I give Twenty shillings a peece Item to buye poore Prisoners Hillinges & Coverlettes I give Three poundes six shillings eighte pence Item to the Governours of my Schooles in Rutland and thereaboutes I give Twenty shillings a peece Item I will that my executors doe not exceed above Twenty poundes in charges at my Funerall Item I give Five poundes to be bestowed in Gloves amongst my honest Frenedes Item to eache of my Supervisors I giue Twenty shillings a peece Item to my Cosyn Nathaniell Lacye, Clement Tookye, and to their wiefes I giue Tenn shillings a peece Item to eache of my Brothers Children I give Five marckes Item I give to younge Seaton which is nowe at Cambridge there a Student Twenty shillings Item to Mistris Rastell, Mistris Banister, Goodwife Bosden, Mistris Fassett and younge Edwarde Overton I give Twenty shillings a peece Item to Richard Barker I give Fourtie shillings Item to his daughter Susan I give twoe Ewes and twoe Lambes Item to his nowe wief I confirme unto her her Annuytie at Winge And I further giue her a Coverlett for a Bedd & Tenn poundes in monye Item to Richard Butcher my servaunte I give and bequeathe Tenn poundes in monye Item to younge John Dafte I give Twenty shillings Item to everye one of the rest of my servauntes which nowe dwell with me I give to eache of them an Eawe & a Lambe Item I give the Barne which I bowghte of Hammon with the Grounde adioyninge to the same to the Parson of Northe Luffenham foreuer for the tyme beinge condicionallye That he shall therfore for ever yearelie giue & bestowe at the Feaste of St Thomas the Apostle twelve peckes of good and sweete Barlye amongste Poore of the sayd Towne Provided alwayes that yf he fayle therein in manner and forme as aforesayd that then the Supervisors for the Poore of the same Towne shall take the sayd Barne & peece of Grounde into their owne possession and houlde the same to the use of the sayd Poore payeing to them therfore Twelve peckes of Barlye as aforesayd Item to Mistris Tookye I give a peece of goulde of Twenty & twoe shillings Item to my Cosyn Lorrington and his wief I

¹⁷ Cancelled.

¹⁸ Added in the right margin.

give to eache of them Twoe & twenty shillings Item to Sir John Lambe and Master Amye I giue to eache of them Twoe & twentye shill[inges] condicionallye/ [fo. 234v] condicionallie that they shall at all tymes use their best endeavoures & advice towards my Executors concerninge the Probate of this my last Will and Testament Item to John Caue of Deepinge I give Fourtye shillings. Item I giue to eache of my twoe Hospitalles for a perpetuall Stock Tenn poundes Item to the oulde Hospitall I further give Fourtye shillings Item I will that eache of my Head schoolemasters have Twenty & fower poundes per annum payde unto them and eache of the Usshers Twelve pounds per annum Item I giue to suche which nowe teache at my charge in Stamford Ketton & Southe Luffenham Tenn shillings a peece. Item I give further towards the teachinge of Poore children Five poundes to be ymployed by the discreacion of my Executors Item I give to <the>¹⁹ <twoe>²⁰ poore weomen to teache Poore children to knytte Jersye Tenn shillings a peece Item I give to Master John Butler of Okham Five marckes per annum for his paynes in gatheringe up the Revennewes of the Schooles & Hospitalles. Item I giue to eache of my Graundchildren which my sonne Abraham Johnson hathe by his nowe wief (namelye) Samuell, Ezechiell, Daniell, Elizabeth James Nathaniell, and Frauncis, to eache one of these (as my Father did to me) I giue unto them twenty poundes a peece And further I giue and bequeathe to eache one of them the sayd Children Tenn Eawes, & Tenn Lambes, a Cowe, and a Calfe, a Sowe, and six Pigges, a Mare, and a Foale with a Bedstead and a Featherbed, with all thereto belonginge. Item I will that the Annuytie which I have bowghte of Master William Harrington yssuyinge oute of his Landes within Tofte, Lounde, and Manthorpe in the Countye of Lincoln' (videlicet) Twoe hundred poundes per annum foreuer shalbe ymployed to good uses (namelie) to certaine Studentes in Sydney Colledge, St Johnns Emanuell, and Clare Hall, To Five Studentes in eache one of them foreuer The sayd Studentes to be chosen by the Master and fower of the senior Fellowes in eache one of the sayd Colledges everie fower Yeares and soe to be elected from fower Yeare to fower Yeares forever. And I will that all the sayd Studentes shalbe only suche which studdy Divinitie diligent Hearers of Sermons and skilfull in the Hebrewew, Greeke, and Lattyn toungues. That soe they maye serve God in Church, and Commonwealth. Item for the better securinge of my Executors from all Suites, debates, and quarrelles, which maye after my decease be broughte againste them by him my sayd sonne Abraham Johnson my Will is That neither he the sayd Abraham Johnson nor his sayd wief that nowe is nor any of his sayd seaven Children shall have or receive any parte or parcell of any of the Legacies, gnyftes, Grauntes or Bequeathes aforesayd by these presentes to them or to any of them given graunted or bequeathed untill suche tyme as he my sayd Sonne Abraham Johnson shall seale and deliuer a sufficient general Acquittauns Release or discharge, in Wrichtinge under his hand & sealle to the use of my Executors in full discharge and release of all debtes, dues, dueties, promises, pretences of promises, articles, Contractes, Grauntes, or agreamentes, Whatsoeuer made heretofore betwixte me and him or to his use or pretended to be made betwixte me and him or to or for his

¹⁹ Cancelled.

²⁰ Superscript.

use from the begynnyng of the Worlde to the daye of my decease And if he my sayd Sonne Abraham Johnson shall after my decease trouble, vexe, molest, sue, or ympleade, or cause to be troubled, vexed sued or ympleaded my executor or executors or shall refuse to sealle & deliver suche generall acquittance discharge or Release (as aforesayd) Then my Will is that then neither he the sayd Abraham Johnson nor his sayd wief nor any of his sayd seaven Children shall have or receive any benefitt at all by the aforesayd Guiftes or Bequeathes Only then I give unto him the sayd Abraham Johnson for a Childes parte Fourtye shillinges and to his sayd wief Twenty shillinges And to eache one of his sayd seaven Children Tenn shillinges a peece, and noe more (any thinge, guifte, graunte or bequeathe heretofore given, graunted, or bequeathed on any Wise by these presentes notwithstandinge Item I will that all & singuler my Landes, Tenementes, and Hereditamentes in Glenfeild in the County of Leicester with the appurtenaunces shalbe sould by my Executors after my decease towards the payment of my debtes and Legacies. Item I doe by these presentes constitute and appoynte my loveinge Brother Doctor Chatterton of Cambridge and my sonne Abraham Johnson overseers of this my last Will and Testament And I doe by these presentes make, ordeyne, constitute, and appoynte for my Executors of this my last will/ [fo. 235r] last Will and Testament my loveinge Graundchilde Isaack Johnson and my trustye and welbelove Freind John Butler of Okeham gent' And I giue to the sayd John Butler Five markes per annum for Five yeares next after my decease in regarde he the sayd John Butler shall not clayme have or challenge by vertue of this executorshippe any further Righte tittle or interest to his proper use in any parte or parcell of my Landes goodes or chattells or in any parte of my estate whatsoever Item I doe revoke annihilate and make voyde all former wills and Testamentes whatsoever (excepte these presentes) And only this I doe ratifie establishe & confirme And suche Codicills as I shall or maye hereafter happen to annexe to the same In wittnes whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seale ‡<Robert Johnson Signed & sealed in the presence of us John Dafte William Fesant Zacharie Fesant Vincent Winge>²¹ Be it knowne to all menn by these presentes that whereas I Robert Johnson of <Northe>²² Luffenham in the County of Rutland Clerke have made my last will and Testament in wrytinge bearinge date the second daye of Aprill 1625 Nowe for asmuche as in my sayd last Will and Testament I have made noe provision for my twoe Free Grammar schoole²³ and Hospitalls in Okeham and Uppingham in the sayd Countye of Rutland by establishinge & setlinge all and singuler those Messuadges Landes Tenementes and Hereditamentes with all and singuler theire and everye of theire appurtenaunces scituate and beinge in the sayd Townes of Okham and Uppingham which I latelye bowghte and purchased of seuerall persons to me my heirs and assignes foreuer as by the Deedes of sale thereof more particulerlye appeareth Nowe knowe yee that I the sayd Robert Johnson for divers good causes & consideracions me thereunto movinge have foreuer given graunted & bequeathed & by these presentes doe foreuer give graunte and bequeathe infeoffe and confirme all and singuler these Messuages Landes Tenementes &

²¹ In the right margin.

²² Superscript.

²³ MS sic.

Hereditamentes with all and singuler theire and euerye of their appurtenances situate and beinge in the sayd Townes of Okham and Uppingham aforesayd unto the Governours of those my sayd Free Grammar Schooles and Hospitalls and their successors To have and to houlde all and singuler the foresayd premisses to them the sayd Governours and their successors foreuer accordinge to suche uses intentes and purposes as all other those Impropracions which I latelie purchased of the late Queene Elizabeth of famous memorie to and for the perpetuall mayntenaunce of those my twoe Free Grammar Schooles & Hospitalls in Okham and Uppingham aforesayd as by her Graces Lettres Patentes bearinge date at Westminster the []²⁴ in the []²⁵ yeare of hir Majesties Raigne more particularlye appeareth and to noe other use intent or purpose whatsoever Exceptinge and surprised oute of this presente Graunte for and duringe the Terme hereafter by these presentes expressed and for and under the Rentes hereafter by and in these presentes declared unto Roger Hubbard of Okham aforesayd baker her²⁶ heires executors administrators or assignes all suche yeardes or Backsydes with all Howses Hovells Edifices and Buyldinges there uppon with all and singuler theire and euerye of their appurtenances with free ingresse egressse & regresse to and from the sayd premisses which are nowe in the tenure and occupacion of him the sayd Roger Hubbard his assignee or assignes and parcell of the Land by these presentes give²⁷ graunted infeoffed bequeathed and confirmed as aforesayd To have and to houlde the sayd yeard or Backsyde Houses, Hovelles, Edifices and Buyldinges with all and singuler theire and everye of their appurtenances <for>²⁸ (as the same are nowe in the use or occupacion of him the sayd Roger Hubbard & neere adioyninge to the nowe dwellinge howse of him the sayd Roger Hubbart in Okham aforesayd) unto him the sayd Roger Hubbard his heires executors administrators or assignes for & duringe the full ende and terme of Twenty and one Yeare from the daye of the date hereof next ensuinge and fullye to be compleate & ended He the sayd Roger Hubbart his heires executors administrators or assignes payenge therfore yearlie and everie yeare duringe the Terme of One and twenty yeare aforesayd unto the Common Receivour for the tyme beinge appoynted for the receipte of the Revenewes of the sayd twoe Free Grammar schooles & <O>²⁹ Hospitall in Okeham and Uppingham aforesayd and to the use of the Poore menn of the Hospitall of Christe in Okham aforesayd the full and iuist Somme of Five shillings of lawfull Englishe mony at twoe usuall Feastes or tymes in the yeare (That is to saye) at the Feaste of St Michaell the Archangell and the Annunciacion of the blessed Virgin St Marye by even and equall portions The firste payment thereof to begynne at the Feaste of St Michaell the Archangell next comynge after my decease In wittnes whereof I have to this presente Codicill sett subscribed my name/ [fo. 235v] name and sett my seale the sixteenth daye of June 1625 *Robert Johnson* Signed sealed and published in the presence of us Allen Boydin John Daft the

²⁴ MS blank.

²⁵ MS blank.

²⁶ MS sic.

²⁷ MS sic.

²⁸ Cancelled.

²⁹ Cancelled.

younger³⁰ *Be it knowne* unto all menn by these presentes that whereas I Robert Johnson of Northe Luffenham in the County of Rutland Clerke &c have made my last Will and Testament in Wrytinge bearinge date the second daye of Aprill in the Yeaere of our Lorde God 1625 And whereas by my sayd last Will and Testament I have given graunted and bequeathed divers and sundrye Legacies to divers and sundrye persons as in and by the sayd Will more particulerlye appeareth and have not therein expressed and sett downe in what tyme after my decease the sayd Legacies shalbe payde by my Executors Nowe knowe yee that my will is That my Executors shall have one whole yeaere and sixe monethes tyme to be fully compleate and ended after my decease for the payenge and satisfienge of all and singuler the sayd Legacies in my sayd Will given graunted and bequeathed And that this Codicill <and>³¹ or schedule and all other Codicills <and>³² or³³ Schedules heretofore subscribed with my hand and sealed with my seale shalbe adiudged and taken to be parcell of my last Will and to be of force by the Righte of a Codicill or by any other Righte in the best manner that may be And as concerninge all other things in my sayd last Will mencioned (other then suche as by the seuerall Codicills or Schedules to the same affixed are otherwise disposed of) I doe by this present Codicill confirme and ratifie the sayd last Will and Testament In wittnes whereof to this present Codicill I have subscribed my name and sett my seale the Tenthe daye of Julye 1625 *Robert Johnson* Signed sealed and published in the presence of us Thomas White Jeremie Whittaker³⁴ *Be it knowne unto all menn by these presents* that whereas I Robert Johnson of North Luffenham in the County of Rutland Clerke &c have made my last Will and Testament in wrightinge bearinge date the second daye of Aprill 1625 And whereas by the sayd Will I have given all that perpetuall Annuytye of Twoe hundred poundes per annum which I latelye bowghte of William Harrington of Witham in the County of Lincoln' Esquier yssuyng oute of the Landes in Witham Taufft Lound and Manthorp <Bridge>³⁵ in the sayd County of Lincoln to Five Studentes to be chosen oute of Fower Colledges in Cambridge (namelye) oute of Sydney Colledge, St Johnns Colledge, Emanuell Colledge, and Clare Hall', The sayd Election or choyce to be made by the Master & fower of the senior Fellowes of eache of the sayd Colledges everye fowerth yeaere and soe from fower yeaere to fower yeaeres to be elected foreuer as in and by the fowrthe page of my sayd last Will and Testament it more at large appeareth Nowe knowe yee that for divers good causes and consideracions me thereunto movinge I have somewhat altered my Will in that poynte and doe by these presentes declare & publishe my Will nowe to be in manner and forme followinge (That is to saye) my will is That one Hundred poundes of the sayd Annuytye of Twoe hundred poundes shalbe forever distributed and equallye divided from fower yeaere to fower yeaere foreuer <unto fower>³⁶ unto fower

³⁰ Virgule to indicate the end of the first codicil.

³¹ Cancelled.

³² Cancelled.

³³ Superscript.

³⁴ Virgule indicating the end of the codicil.

³⁵ Cancelled.

³⁶ Cancelled.

Studentes in eache of one³⁷ of the sayd Colledges in the whole amongste sixtene to be chosen by the Master and fower of the senior Fellowes of eache one of the sayd Colledges And at everye fower yeares end newe to be elected in their Rowme for the space of one whole Yeaere at the leaste last past before their admission into the sayd Colledges beene educated in either of my twoe <free>³⁸ Grammar schooles of Okham & Uppingham in the sayd County of Rutland that are good Schollers of honest conversation and stande in neede of maytenaunce that they shalbe preferred to the sayd exhibicion rather then any others And my will is that the other Hundred poundes of the sayd Annuytye of Twoe hundred poundes per annum for ever shalbe equallye devided foreuer amongste the seaven Children which my my³⁹ sonne Abraham Johnson hathe by Elizabeth his nowe wief (namelye) Samuell, Ezechiell, Daniell, Elizabeth, James Nathaniell and Frauncys and to their heires and assignes foreuer And if any of the sayd seaven Children shall happen to dye before suche tyme as they have any heire of his or hir body lawfully begotten Then my will is that the parte of him or her soe dyenge shalbe equally devided forever amongste the survivors or or their heires And if they all happen to dye withoute heires of their bodies lawfullye begotten Then my will is the same Somme of One hundred poundes per annum shall bee and remayne to the use of my nexte heire male foreuer Provided allwayes that my sayd sonn Abraham Johnson shall seale and deliuer suche generall Release or discharge to my Executors as in the sayd fourth Page of my sayd Will is expressed and declared before suche tyme as any of the sayd seaven/ [fo. 236r] seaven Children shall have <or>⁴⁰ receive any parte or porcion of the sayd somme of One hundred pounds And in defaulte of suche Release or discharge the sayd somme of one hundred poundes per annum thus given amongste the sayd seaven Children to be and remayne foreuer to the use of Isaack Johnson my Graundchilde his heires and assignes In wittnes whereof I haue to this presente Codicill subscribed my name and sette my seale the fowerteenth daye of Julye 1625 Signed sealed and published in the presence of us *Jonathan Tongue* John Clarke Jeremie Whittaker Richard Butcher Anne Touque *Robert Johnson*

The will and three codicils were proved on 21 November 1625.

³⁷ MS sic.

³⁸ Superscript.

³⁹ MS sic.

⁴⁰ Superscript.