

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 11 August 1499 and proved 16 July 1500, of John Newport of Rushden, Hertfordshire.

### ***FAMILY BACKGROUND***

For the Essex and Hertfordshire branch of the Newport family, see the Newport pedigree in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex*, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), Vol. XIII, p. 460 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=JyjuAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA460>

See also the pedigree of Newport of Furneux Pelham, Hertfordshire, in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Hertfordshire*, (London: Harleian Society, 1886), Vol. XXII, p. 79 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=gqwKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA79>

The testator appears to be the earliest known member of the Newport family in Rushden.

### ***MARRIAGE***

The testator was survived by his wife, Joan, but appears to have had no issue. In the will below he entails his lands successively on (his nephews?) Thomas, John and George Newport, the sons of Robert Newport of Sandon.

LM: Test{amentu}m Ioh{ann}is Newportt

In the name of God, Amen. The eleventh day of the month of August in the year of the Lord the thousand 499<sup>th</sup>, I, John Newport of Rushden in the diocese of Lincoln, of good and perfect memory, God be praised, make my testament & my last will in this manner:

First I commend my soul to Almighty God & to the glorious Blessed Mary the Virgin and all his saints, and my body to be buried in the churchyard of the parish church of Rushden;

Item, I bequeath to the high altar of the same parish church for tithes forgotten 12d;

Item, I bequeath to an honest priest to celebrate a trental of Masses where my executors shall appoint to be done for my soul 10s;

Item, I bequeath to the maintenance of the torches(?) to the said church belonging 6s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to the reparation of the bells of the same church 6s 8d;

Item, item [sic] I bequeath to the reparation of the great bell belonging to the church of Sandon one quarter of malt;

Item, I bequeath to the use of the church of Rokking [=Throcking?] 20s;

Item, I bequeath to the use of the church of Wallington a half quarter of malt;

Item, I bequeath to the church of Clothall a half quarter of malt;

Item, I bequeath to the reparations of the King's highway leading from the church green towards the vicarage of Rushden 6 quarters of malt;

Item, I bequeath to every of my godsons and god-daughters one sheep;

Item, I bequeath to Joan, my wife, all my grain, viz., wheat, barley, peas, beans & pasturage(?) now growing upon the lands freely forever;

Item, I bequeath to William Brown, my servant, one cow and 4 sheep;

Item, I will that Joan, my wife, have and hold to herself & her assigns my messuage situated in the town of Rushden with all lands & tenements, meadows, pastures, rents & services with other commodities & their appurtenances lying [ ] in the town and fields of Rushden for term of her life according to the tenor of the same deed of feoffment thereof made to the same Joan;

And after her decease I will that the foresaid messuage with all lands & tenements, meadows, pastures, rents & services & other the premises as is abovesaid remain to Thomas Newport, son of Robert Newport of Sandon, to hold the foresaid messuage with other the premises as is abovesaid and their appurtenances to the forenamed Thomas Newport and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten on condition that he, the foresaid Thomas Newport, pay to every of the sons and daughters of the said Robert Newport, viz., John Newport, George, Margaret & Agnes, 20s;

And if it should happen the forenamed Thomas Newport to die without heirs of his body lawfully begotten, then I will that the foresaid messuage with other the premises and their appurtenances as is abovesaid remain to John Newport aforenamed, to hold the foresaid messuage with other the premises and their appurtenances as is abovesaid to the forenamed John Newport & the heirs of his body lawfully begotten forever, on condition that the foresaid John Newport pay to the forenamed George, Margaret and Agnes, viz., to every of them 20s;

If they be not paid, and for default of heirs of his body lawfully begotten, the remainder thereof to the forenamed George Newport & the heirs of his body lawfully begotten forever, paying to the same Margaret & Agnes, his sisters, viz., to each of them 20s;

If they be not paid, and if it happen the forenamed George to be a priest, then I will that the foresaid George not have the foresaid messuage with the lands and tenements and other the premises as is aforesaid, but they wholly to be sold [s. and pl.] and the moneys thereof arising to be disposed by my executors or by their assigns in this manner following, viz.:

I will that 20s thereof be given towards the reparation of the bells of the said church of Rushden and the torches(?) of the same;

Item, I bequeath to some priest of the said moneys thereof arising to celebrate divine services in the church of Rushden for the space of one half year for my soul and the souls of my ancestors & friends;

The residue thereof I will to be disposed among the poor & in other pious & charitable works for the good of the souls aforesaid, to be done according to the discretion of my executors;

And moreover I will that if the foresaid Joan, my wife, have indigence or necessity(?) to levy(?) some parcel of the foresaid lands, I will that she sell the same parcel thereof as pleaseth her at her pleasure to be done;

Item, I bequeath to the church of Cadecoth [=Cottered?] one(?) quarter of malt;

The true residue of all my goods and chattels not bequeathed, except my debts which are owed to me, I give & bequeath to the forenamed Joan, my wife, freely forever;

Which debts I place in the disposition of my executors that they dispose the foresaid debts wholly in charitable works & in pious uses & also to pay my debts which I owe for the weal of the souls above-named;

Which my executors of my present testament & my last will I constitute the foresaid Joan, my wife, & Robert Newport of Sandon on [+their?] faithful promises to execute;

These being witnesses: William Bayster(?), clerk, and vicar of Rushden.

[=The above-written testament was proved at Lambeth on the sixteenth day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundredth.]

LM: Test{amentu}m Ioh{ann}is Newportt

1 In dei n{o}m{i}ne Amen vndecimo die mensis Augusti Anno domini Mill{esi}mo CCCCLxxxixno Ego Iohannes Newport de Ryssh

2 den Lincoln dioc{esis} bone et sane memorie Laudet{ur} deus Condo testamentum meu{m} & Vltima{m} mea{m} voluntat{em} in hunc modum

3 p{ri}mo comendo a{n}i{m}am meam deo om{n}ipotenti & gloriose b{ea}te marie v{ir}gini et om{n}ib{us} sanct{is} suis Corpus q{ue} meum in Cimit{er}io

4 eccl{es}ie p{ar}ochialis de Russhden sepeliend{i} It{e}m lego sum{m}o Altari eiusdem eccl{es}ie p{ar}ochiali pro decimis oblit{is} xijd It{e}m lego honesto

5 p{re}sbit{er}o ad celebrand{um} vnum Trentalu{m} missarum Vbi executores mei Assignau{er}int faciend{i} p{ro} a{n}i{m}a mea xs It{e}m lego ad

6 sustentac{i}onem torcheorum d{ic}t{e} eccl{es}ie p{er}tinen{tium} vjs viijd It{e}m lego ad Rep{ar}ac{i}o{n}em campanar{um} eiusdem eccl{es}ie vjs viijd It{e}m

7 It{e}m [sic] lego ad Rep{ar}ac{i}o{n}em magne Campane p{er}tinen{tis} eccl{es}ie de Sanden Vnu{m} quart{er}ium brasij It{e}m lego ad vsum eccl{es}ie

8 de Rokkyng xxs It{e}m lego ad vsum eccl{es}ie de Wallington dimidiu{m} quart{erium} brasij It{e}m lego eccl{es}ie de Clothall Dimid{i}um

9 quart{er}ij brasij It{e}m lego ad Rep{ar}ac{i}o{n}em Vie Regis ducent{is} de le Chirch grene v{er}sus vicariam De Russhden vj(?) quart{eria} brasij

10 It{e}m lego cuili{be}t filiolorum et filiolarum meorum Vnu{m} Ouem It{e}m lego Iohanne vx{or}i mee om{n}ia grana mea viz frume{n}tum

11 ordium pisas fabas & graminae(?) modo sup{er} terr{as} crescenc{i}um lib{er}e imp{er}petuu{m} It{e}m lego Will{el}mo Broun s{er}uienti meo Vna{m} vacca{m}

12 et iiijor oues It{e}m volo q{uo}d Iohanna vxor mea habeat et teneat sibi & assign{atis} suis messuag{i}um meum situat{um} in villa de Russhden

13 cum om{n}ib{us} terris & ten{emen}t{is} pascuis pasturis Reddit{ibus} & s{er}uicijs cum alijs com{m}oditat{ibus} & suis p{er}tin{entijs} Iacen{tibus} Dunsun(?) in villa et campis

14 De Russhden ad t{er}minu{m} vite sue secundum tenorem eiusdem carte feoffamenti inde eidem Iohanne fact{e} Et post eius

15 decessum volo q{uo}d p{re}d{i}c{tu}m messuagium cu{m} om{n}ib{us} terris & ten{emen}t{is} pascuis pasturis reddit{ibus} & s{er}uicijs & alijs p{re}missis vt sup{ra}dict{um}

16 est Remaneant Thome Newport filio Rob{er}ti Newport de Sandon tenend{um} p{re}d{i}c{tu}m messuag{ium} cum alijs p{re}missis vt sup{ra}

17 Dict{um} est et suis p{er}tinen{t}ijs p{re}fato Thome Newport et hered{ibus} de corp{or}e suo l{egi}time p{ro}creat{is} Ita q{uo}d ip{s}e p{re}dict{us} Thomas Newport soluet

18 cuili{be}t filiorum et filiarum p{re}dicti Rob{er}ti Newport viz Iohannis Newport Georgij Margarete & Agnetis xxs Et si contingat

19 p{re}fat{am} Thomam Newport sine hered{es} de corp{or}e suo l{egi}time procreat{i} obi{e}r{it} tunc volo q{uo}d p{re}d{i}c{tu}m messuagiu{m} cum alijs p{re}missis

20 et suis p{er}tinen{t}ijs vt sup{ra}dict{um} est Remaneant Iohanni Newport p{re}no{m}i{n}at{o} tenend{um} p{re}d{i}c{tu}m messuagiu{m} cum alijs p{re}missis & suis p{er}tin{ent}ijs

21 vt sup{ra}dict{um} est p{re}fat{o} Iohanni Newport & hered{ibus} de corp{or}e suo l{egi}time p{ro}creat{is} imp{er}petuu{m} Ita q{uo}d p{re}dict{us} Iohannes Newport solvet p{re}fat{is}

22 Georgio Margarete et Agneti viz cuili{be}t illor{um} xxs si non soluant{ur} Et pro defectu hered{um} de corp{or}e suo l{egi}time p{ro}creator{um}

23 Remaner{e} inde p{re}fat{o} Georgio Newport & hered{ibus} de corp{or}e suo l{egi}time procreat{is} imp{er}petuu{m} soluend{o} eisdem Margarete & Agneti

24 sororibus eius viz cuili{be}t earum xxs si non soluant{ur} Et si contingat p{re}fatum Georgium esse p{re}sbit{er}um tunc volo q{uo}d p{re}d{i}c{t}us Georg

25 gius non h{ab}uit p{re}fat{um} messuagium cum t{er}ris et t{enemen}t{is} et alijs p{re}missis vt sup{ra}dict{um} est Sed vt penitus vendat{ur} siue vendant{ur}

26 et pecunie inde p{ro}venient disponant{ur} p{er} executor{es} meos Vel p{er} eorum assignat{os} in hac forma sequent{er} viz volo q{uo}d xxs

27 inde Donent{ur} ad Rep{ar}ac{i}o{n}em campanarum D{i}c{t}e eccl{es}ie de Russhden et torcheorum eiusdem It{e}m lego cuidam p{re}sbit{er}o de dict{is}

28 pecunijs inde p{ro}venient ad celebrand{um} Diuina s{er}uicia in eccl{es}ia de Russhden p{er} spaci{um} Dimidij vnus a{n}nu{m} p{ro} a{n}i{m}a mea

29 et a{n}i{m}abus p{ar}entium & amicor{um} meor{um} Residuu{m} v{ol}o inde Disponat{ur} int{er} paup{er}es & in alijs pijs & op{er}ibus caritatinis p{ro} salute

30 Animarum p{re}no{m}i{n}atarum s{e}c{un}d{u}m Discrec{i}o{n}em  
 executorum meorum fiend{o} Et insup{er} volo q{uo}d si p{re}dict{a} Iohanna  
 vxor mea h{ab}uit In

31 digenciam et neressitatem [sic] aliquam p{ar}cellam p{re}d{i}c{t}arum terrarum  
 ad leuend{um}(?) Volo tunc q{uo}d Ip{s}a vendat h{uius}mo{di} p{ar}cellam inde

32 vt sibi placuit ad placitu{m} suu{m} sic fiend{i} It{e}m lego eccl{es}ie de Cadecoth  
 vni{u}m(?) quart{er}ium brasij Residuum

33 Vero omnium bonor{um} meorum et Catallorum non Legatorum Exceptis debit{is}  
 meis que michi debent{ur} Do & lego p{re}fat{e}

34 Iohanne vx{or}i mee lib{er}e imp{er}petuum Que quidem debit{a} mea pono in  
 disposic{i}o{n}em Executorum meorum Vt ip{s}i disponant

35 p{re}dicta debita mea penitus in op{er}ib{us} Caritatinis & in pijs vsib{us} & eciam  
 ad soluend{um} Debita mea que debeo pro salute a{n}i{m}arum

36 sup{ra}no{m}i{n}at{arum} Quas quidem executor{es} meos p{rese}ntis mei  
 testamenti & vltime mee voluntat{is} Constituo p{re}d{i}c{t}am Iohannam

37 vx{or}em meam & Rob{er}tum Newport De Sandon ad p{ro}missa fidelit{er}  
 exequend{i} Hijs testib{us} Will{el}mo Bayster(?) Cl{er}ico ac

38 vicario de Russhden

Probatum fuit sup{ra}scriptum testamentum apud Lamethith decimo sexto Die mensis  
 Iulij Anno D{omi}ni Mill{es}imo Quingentesimo