

Summary of the Will of Richard Newman (1620 – 1695)

1. He anticipated taking back control of Thornbury Park estate from Lady Nevill after her death which he had recently purchased from John Cary & Giles Dent. In his Will, he leaves the estate in trust to his executors (i) his barrister son-in-law Sir William Honeywood and (ii) his servant Peter Walter, asking them to sell the property or any part thereof in order to:

- Raise £3000 to give to his granddaughter Anne Newman when she reaches 21 or marries.
- Raise a further £3000 to give to his other granddaughter Barbara Newman when she reaches 21 or marries.

These sums reduce to £500 if either girl marries without their parents' consent.

If his grandson Richard Newman dies without issue, the Preston Deanery estate in Northamptonshire (which had presumably been previously given to grandson Richard Newman) would revert to his sisters Anne and Barbara. (It may mean that in such a case the two girls forfeit the £3000 left to each of them above.)

2. It appears that son-in-law Sir William Honeywood had borrowed £500 from Richard Newman (1620-1695) and owed interest on the loan. Sir William is instructed to pay the interest to his wife Anna Christiana (Richard Newman's daughter). The £500 debt is to be repaid equally to Sir William's children **Anne, Thomasine, Elizabeth, Mary, and Edward Honeywood**.
3. He bequeaths in trust to his executors Sir William Honeywood and Peter Walter his four dwellings in Tufton Street, Westminster, in which he, his son Francis Holles Newman, and another son-in-law Edward Scott have been living (the fourth being occupied by a Mrs Corfe). He instructs them to allow Edward Scott and his wife Frances to live rent-free in one of the dwellings for the duration of their lives, and to sell or lease the other three (and the fourth after Frances's death) and the money raised to go to Frances and her children.
4. It seems that Richard owned a fifth house in Tufton Street where his widowed daughter-in-law Grace Newman had been living for many years. He wished her to remain in the house until her death or remarriage, when it would be made available to her daughter Barbara for a rental of forty shillings (£2) per year.
5. He bequeaths £200 each to his granddaughters Frances, Katherine and Grace Scott to be received when they marry or reach the age of 21. In the meantime, their mother was to receive the interest on the £600. These were the daughters of Richard's second child and oldest daughter Elizabeth, yet they received considerably less than Anne and Barbara, daughters of Richard's second daughter Anne Honeywood. (Why so?) Even more oddly, Elizabeth's unnamed present and future sons by Edward Scott were to receive only £100 each. This oddity may be associated with the Scott children being young, coming from Elizabeth's second marriage.
6. He gives £20 to his grandson John Oxenham (son of his third daughter Frances). More oddly, he gives her two other sons, William and Richard, £100 each to be paid out when they reach the age of 21. Furthermore, if William and Richard were to die before reaching the age of 21, then the £200 was to be divided amongst the children of Edward and Elizabeth Scott, rather than John. Had John blotted his copybook? According to Harold Biggs, John was to drown in the Thames three years later, on 28th Jun 1699, together with his cousin Francis Scott.
7. Richard's sister Jane Cox was to receive an annuity of £26, and given free use of the farm house at Fifehead where, presumably she was living. In a codicil he adds an annuity of £13.
8. £200 bequeathed to granddaughter Elizabeth Warre, the only mention of a child of Elizabeth and her first husband Thomas Warre. Was Elizabeth their only child?

9. He leaves Anne White, daughter of his youngest sister Anne White, an annuity of just £5.
10. He leaves small sums to friends and servants and the poor of Fifehead.
11. But “I Richard Newman Esquire send greeting Beneficiaries? of making? a further provision for my dear daughter [*Elizabeth*] the now wife of Mr Edward Scott more than what **I have already bequeathed unto her by my last Will and Testament already made in writing**”. Presumably Fifehead, Evercreech Park, Cadbury or Sparkford were covered in the main will along with bequests to Francis Hollis Newman
12. Richard had bought £1000-worth of shares in the Bank of England¹ of which he had paid £600. These shares he bequeathed to his grandson Richard Newman

¹ The Bank of England was founded in 1694, the year before Richard made this codicil. It was founded primarily to provide funds for William III's war against France – see <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/about/history>.