

1 **WILL of John Sweyn (senior) 1504 St P.P NCC 455_Popy_**

2

3 In the name of god amen I John Sweyn_the_older_Citezen_& alderman of_Norwiche in my goode
4 & hooll mynde at Norwiche gode be lauded_the_secunde_day of_ye moneth_of_aprill i1504 make
5 my testament & laste will in this wyse

6

7 ffirste I.comend my soule to 1'allmyghty gode our lady seynt mary mother & virgyn saynt peter
8 myn advowey & all holy seynts & my body to be buryed in ye parisshe church of seynt petir
9 p(er)mountergate in Norwiche To wiche high awter for my tithes & offeryngs forgotten I bequethe
10 xvjs viijd

11 Item To Robert lenys xxiijs iiijd & to ye amendyng of ye same chirche I bequethe x mr

12 Item to iche of ye v housshes of lepres by & withouthe Norwiche iijs iiijd

13 Item I wul have an honeste secular prest to syng & prey for my soule the soule of ;Custance late

14 my wyff & all our ffrendes soules at ye uni(ve)site in Cantabrigge by ye span of ij yer & in ye

15 parysshe chirche of seynt petri p(er)mountergat in Norwich by ye spac of v yeres

16 Item I wull yt myn executors dispose for my soule to pore people in ye Cite of Norwiche where

17 they thynke moste nede to ye sume of xxli

18 Item I bequeth to ye reparacon of ye Cathedrall chirche of_ye holy trinite Norwiche vjs viijd

19 Item I wull yt al my plac_in_Norwiche where I dwell with ye appertenants excepte my tenantry

20 Wyche I have geven to Agnes my nece & hir heyres & also all my tenements in ye parisshe of

21 all seynts of ffybriggate in Norwiche with ye app(er)tinants be sold be myn executors & the

22 mony therof comyng dispersed in p(er)formaunce of this my testament laste wil And I require

23 all my ffeffees their to make astate ther of to myn executors cr to such p(er)sones as they

24 shall name whom soev(er) they bey myn executors be required

25 Item I bequethe to hawes ketill my servant xls a cheste & an olde ffetherbede

26 Item I bequethe to William Russell my childe when he comethe to yeres of discretion xls

27 Item I bequethe to Edmunde Acres worstedwever x marke as it may growe of my goddes

28

29 The residue of all my goodes & catalls withe the detts to me owyng I comyte into ye handes &

30 goode disposition of myn executors to pay my detts & p(er)forme this my testament & last will

31

32 I make & ordeyn myn executours John Sweyn the yonger my brother & William heyward & I geve

33 to either of them for ther labor v mracs takyng charge of this my testament

34

35 geven day yer & plac above seid

36

37 Probate 26 April 1504

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39

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41

Extract from **MEDIEVAL PEOPLE OF NORWICH - ARTISTS AND ARTISANS**

by **May Wallace** (Norwich, King Street Publications 1992) re John Sweyn: pp. 40/41

There were two John Sweyns, brothers, who lived in St. Peter Parmentergate parish. It was quite common at this time for brothers to bear the same Christian name (cf John Paston II and John Paston III.)

John Sweyn senior died in 1504, predeceased by his wife Custance. There is no record of his being admitted as a freeman of Norwich but he seems to have been an active member of the Guild of St. George. In 1470 John Sweyn, baker, was pledged to pay to the fraternity twenty shillings to be discharged for ever from feast-making. In May of 1484 he paid 3s.4d. to help repair and rebuild the messuages and tenements of the fraternity. In March 1485 it is recorded that John Sweyn Senior, now Sheriff and Alderman, will substitute for two collectors to collect from each member.

He had been Constable for North Conesford from 1461 until 1465 and again from 1467 until 1469. He first became a councillor for Conesford in 1466 and again from 1472 until 1485 when he was elected sheriff. He finally became an alderman for South Conesford from 1486 until his death in 1504. He owned property in the parish of All Saints Fybriggate (This was incorporated into St. Paul's parish in 1550) in Norwich, as well as other properties in the parish of St. Peter Parmentergate, which he had given to his niece, Agnes. One of these in the latter parish can be traced by an enrolled deed of 1507 in which Agnes is described as the wife of Walter Herryes of Norwich, worstedweaver. She was the daughter of Thomas Sweyn, late of North Burlingham, and had acquired property from John Sweyn senior in 1504.

The rest of his property was to be disposed of by his executors in execution of his will. His executors were his brother John and William Heyward.

He left ten marks to Edmund Acres, worstedweaver, and to his servant, Hawes Ketill, 40s, a chest and a feather bed. To William Russell '*my childe whan he comith to yeres of discretion 40s.*' Other testators in their wills quite openly acknowledge their bastard children and name them as such.

Wills, mostly from Conesford in Norwich, transcribed by members of the King Street Research Group from the early 1980s up to about 2016