

THOMAS ALICOCK fuller—Summary of Will 1493 & Info

[*Thomas Alicock, fuller and Thomas Seckford, gentleman, were the two owners of the Dragon Hall site*, c.1488, after Robert Broun who was the first owner after the death of Robert Toppes in 1467. It is not known how the site and buildings were divided but it is thought that Alicock used the riverside site for his fulling trade*]

Norwich Consistory Court 209 Wolman. **Will of Thomas Alicok citizen, fuller.** Dated 27 February 1493, proved 11 March 1494.

His body to be buried in St John Berstrete
To the high altar of the same for tithes forgotten 6s 8d
10 marks to buy a cope for the same

A secular priest to sing in the same for a year for his and his friends' souls.
4 honest men to be in the said church at 8 of the clock every Friday to her the mass for his soul. Each of these 4 men to have 1d each week and a gown made of cloth price 6d the yard at the end of the year 'and each of them ashir price 8d'.

A priest to sing and pray for the soul of Cecily his wife etc for a year after her death and 4 men to be paid for attending as above.

Cecily his wife to have the place that he dwells in in St John de Berstrete for ever. To Sir Herr Alicok *his* son 10 marks in money as it may be borne by his goods and 6 silver spoons.

To Cecily his wife his best mazer and 12 silver spoons of the best and a silver piece.

4 mazers and a piece of silver, xi silver spoons and a silver salt to be sold in performance of his will.

To Cecily all other movables within his place.

Grunde in Heylesdon to be sold in performance of his will. If Robert Longe buys it he is to have it 6s 8d within the price. .

His tenement in the parish of St Michael of Berstrete with his garden in the parish of St Peter of Permouthergate and his house by the king's river in the parish of St Julian* with his part of the place late William Gyles in the parish of St Mary Lytell to be sold in performance of will.

To repair of Hemlyngton church bs ad.

To repair of Acle church bs 8d.

To repair of Colney church 6s ad.

To every household in the parishes of St John and All Saints that will take alms 2d.

Residue to executors for the good of his soul. Executors to be: Cecily his wife, Herry Alicok clerk, William Swetman clerk and John Attemere.

To William Ntman and John Attemere 26s 8d each for their labour.

To repair of Postwyk church 8s

To repair of Heyleston church 6s 8d.

Not to dispose of his garden above the sum of 20s without the consent of at least 2 executors.

Extract from *Medieval People* by May Wallace (1992)

Thomas Alicok was a fuller who lived in the parish of 'St. John of Berstrete' (see note 1 on p.17) and who owned property in Conesford – Calvesyard in the parish of St. Clement and part of Myddaye's, which we now know as Dragon Hall in St. Julian parish.

Thomas Alicok was admitted as a freeman of the city of Norwich in 1449 as a fuller. There is no mention of his apprenticeship but when John Hardyman was admitted as a freeman in 1463, he is described as a fuller, apprenticed to Thomas Alicok.

He became constable for Ber Street in 1459, and again in 1463. He was councillor for Ber Street in the ward of Conesford from 1467 until 1489, but never seems to have attained higher office.

He had a tenter ground in the parish of St. John where the cloth was stretched out to dry. There is no means of telling whether he used the property there for his fulling process or whether this was carried on in one of his other properties.

He died in 1493. He made one will on 27 February 1493, proved in the Norwich Consistory Court on 11 March. The second will (or testament) dealing only with his properties and proved three years later is as follows:

Testament of Thomas Alicok, late citizen of Norwich, Fuller, legally proved in the full court of the city of Norwich on the 5th day of the month of October in the 12th year of the reign of King Henry the Seventh, by Henry Alicok and William Swetman, clerk, before John Rede, mayor, John Fraunceys and John Petwode, sherriffs of the said city in these words.

“ Item I wull that Cecily, my wyff, have alle the place that I dwell in the parysshe of St. John de Berstrete with alle the tenements ther belongyng to the seid place to have and to hoold to her heires and assignes for evermore. Item I wull that my tenement in the parysse of St. Michael of Berstrete in Norwich with my garden in the parysse of St. Peter of Permounergate in Norwich and my house by the King's Ryver in the parysse of St. Julyan in Norwich with my part of the place late William Gyles in Norwich in parysse of St. Mary Lytell be sold be myn executors and the mony therof comyng disposed in performauce of this my testament and in other dedys of mercy”.

This testament is endorsed by the hand of Andrew Pawe, clerk.

This second document was found with the enrolled deeds of the city and is dated some three years after the original will. Perhaps there was some dispute over property. The original will gives details of his bequests. He wished to be buried in the church of St. John and left ten marks to the church to buy a cope. He wished four honest men to be in the said church 'at eight of the clock every Friday' to hear the mass said for his soul by a secular priest. Each of the four men was to have 1d. each week and a gown made of cloth price 6d. per yard at the end of the year. He wished a priest to say mass and pray for the soul of his wife Cecily for a year after her death, and four men were to be paid for attending this, as they were after his own death.

Cecily was to have the tenement in which they dwelt in the parish of St. John for ever. To his son, Sir Herry Alicok, he left ten marks in money and six silver spoons. This son was obviously in holy orders.

Thomas owned a lot of silver, for he left to his wife 'twelve silver spoons of the best, my best maser and a silver piece'. (A maser was a bowl usually made of maple wood.) Four masers, a piece of silver, eleven silver spoons and a silver salt were to be sold in performance of his will. He bequeathed to his wife all his other moveables within his house.

His ground in Hellesdon was to be sold, and Robert Longe was to have preferential treatment in buying it. He left various bequests to churches in the county and 'to every household in the parishes of St John and of All Saints that will take alms 2d.'

His executors were his wife, Cecily, Herry Alicok, clerk, William Swetman, clerk, and John Attmere. He made one further request – that they should not dispose of his garden above the sum of 20s. without the consent of at least two of his executors.