

WHITFIELD Archives, DOVER

Birchington Items

CARD 7

R / U 1063

QUEX WILLS

1573-1709

/ T 115

Will dated **28th Nov 1573** - Henry Crispe

Gave twenty shillings to the Church of Birchington

Twenty shillings to the poore of the village

He left bequests to "every and each one of" his workers on the farm and in the house, both male and female.

/ T 116

Will dated **20th September 1647** – Henry Crispe of Queax of Byrchington

Gave five pounds to the poore of the parish of Byrchington

Five pounds to the poor of the parish of Woodchurch

This is followed by numerous gifts to family and friends, servants and workers on his estates.

He then added a longish codicil in December the same year, in which Nicholas Crispe of Queax is the chief beneficiary. At that time Nicholas was residing at Fordwich. He called the place his "Manor house and Capitall Messuage". He goes on to mention quite a number of other relatives of the next and ensuing generations, including Nicholas Crispe (see next will).

From this time onwards, we seldom find any bequests made directly to the Church itself. This may have been because they gave to the church during their lifetime. This would then avoid any suggestion of "popery"

/ T 117

Will of Sir Nicholas Crispe of Queax in the parish of Birchington in the Isle of Thanett dated **9th November 1655**.

He asked to be buried in Birchington Church "near the tombe of Sr Henry Crispe Knight, my great Grandfather.

He gave ten pounds to the poore of the parish of Birchington.

He gave £2,000 to his daughter Anna.

His wife Dame Thomazine was pregnant when he was writing this will so the next bequest had to be slightly ambiguous.

He gave to his unborn daughter (?) £2,000, but if it should be a son, then he was to receive "all my Manors, Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments" He asked that his father, Henry Crispe of Queax, would see that his will was carried out.

The will was eventually proved on 24th March 1657, just under 2 years later.

CARD 7 (cont.)

R / U 1063

QUEX WILLS

1573-1709

/ T 118

3 documents

Document 1

Will of Henry Crispe of Queakes **20th April 1647**

Gave unto the poore of the village five pounds.

There are 8 pages more of instructions on bequests to various members of his family and staff.

Document 2

Will dated **23rd November 1666**

This will is written entirely in **Latin** – which saves me a lot of time, because I can't read a word of it!!.

Document 3

Will dated **21st October 1667**

Another **Latin** one – fortunately the date is written on the outside in English

/ T 119

Will of Maria Adriana Breton, (nee Crispe) dated **February 1680**.

This is again in **Latin**, but mentions Anna Gertruy Crispe, her sister.

The date is only in Latin and the day was not readable to me.

/ T 120

Will of **Anna Gertruy Crispe** dated **13th February 1707**.

Anna was the fourth and youngest daughter and co-heir of Thomas Crispe of Quex in the parish of Birchington in the Isle of Thanett. She asked to be buried in the "Isle affixed to the parish church of Birchington belonging to Quex".

She lists a number of bequests to her family, including her three sisters, her nephews and nieces and also her cousins, including another cousin Anna (probably the daughter of her Uncle Nicholas Crispe).

There is a second page to this very large document. Within the text of this second section is the clause relating to the setting up of the Crispe Charity School and the fund "to be laid out in wearing Apparell for 5 widows that they might appear looking decent at Feast of the Nativity". The Overseers were to keep a book of accounts and were to display it in the church each year between Nativity and Michaelmas. The gist of this part of the will is to be found on the memorial of Anna Gertruy Crispe on the north wall of Quex Chapel. It even includes payments to the "char" – Ellen Window – who was to keep the chapel and its monuments clean.