

Robert Litchford

Extract from 'A history of the ancient chapel of Blackley in Manchester'

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Will

By his Will dated June 28th, 1710, Robert Litchford of Blackley in the county of Lancaster, gentleman, considering his own mortality, makes the following disposition of all his estates, real and personal: — Whereas, on the 11th of February, 1705, he had surrendered into the hands of the lord and lady of the manor of Alkrington all that edifice or building standing in Clough Fold, within the said manor, heretofore purchased by him from one James Townend, to the use of certain trustees, upon certain trusts and limitations as in this, his will, should be declared and appointed; he now declares that the true intent of the surrender was, and is, and shall be, that the said trustees, and their assigns, shall be forever seised of the said edifice for the use and benefit of such Protestant dissenters, called Anabaptists or Independents, within the Forest of Bossendale and the parts adjacent, as shall there from time to time assemble for religious worship, when the same shall be made fit and commodious for a chapel or meeting-place, and to no other use, intent, or purpose whatever. He gives, moreover, £150 to the said trustees, or their assigns, to be raised out of his personal estate and paid within eighteen months of his decease be laid out with all convenient speed in lands the rent or profit of which (except the yearly sum of forty shillings) shall go to the minister parson or teacher of the said congregation the said forty shillings to be distributed amongst poor Anabaptists residing near Clough Fold. Should however, the toleration now allowed by law to Protestant dissenters be removed, or should the Protestant dissenters, called Anabaptists or Independents, forbear to assemble at the said chapel for religious worship six weeks in any year, then the chapel and the aforesaid sum of £150 to go to his nephew, Litchford Flitcroft, second son of Michael Flitcroft of Manchester, merchant, his heirs and assigns, for ever. And whereas, by another surrender bearing date February 11th, 1705, he had surrendered all his copyhold lands called Stubbins, within the manor of Tottington, to the use of Robert Perdval of Bamford, yeoman, in trust, to such uses and purposes as should be declared in and by his (testator's) last will, he declares that the said Robert Percival shall be seised of the same to the use of the said Litchford Flitcroft, his heirs and assigns, for ever. And as to his messuages and lands situate and being in Blackley aforesaid, (except Cooper's tenement,) and all his houses, shops, hereditaments, &c., situate in Hundersfield within the market town of Rochdale, called Litchford Square, and all his freehold messuages, cottages, &c., situate in a certain street in Rochdale called Blackwater-within-Spotland, and all that messuage or tenement at or near Bagshaw in the county of Derby, and all his title and interest in a tenement in Failsworth in the county of Lancaster, in the possession of Richard Tonge, gentleman, he gives all to Litchford Flitcroft, his heirs and assigns, for ever, charged with the following

legacies — to Elizabeth Flitcroft, daughter of the said Michael Flitcroft, £50 ; to his cousin, Sarah Ound, his sister Bridget's daughter, the clear yearly sum of £6. His leasehold messuages, tenements, coal-mines, lands, &c., in the towns, villages, or parishes of Ashton-under-Lyne and Blackley, which he holds by lease from the Earl of Warrington and Peter Legh, esquire he gives to Litchford Flitcroft his heirs and assigns for ever. And as to his messuage called Cooper's tenement situate in Blackley he gives it to Litchford Flitcroft, his heirs, &c., nevertheless chargeable with an annuity or yearly rent of £5 clear of all deductions, payable at Martinmas, yearly, to Henry Dickenson of Blackley, gentleman, Thomas Jackson of Blackley, chapman, John Buerdsell, the elder, of Blackley, yeoman, and John Buerdsell, the younger, of Blackley, yeoman, and their heirs, on trust and confidence that they, the same trustees and the survivor of them, them and his heirs shall, for ever hereafter, employ and bestow the said yearly sum of £5 for the use and benefit of such a schoolmaster, inhabiting and teaching at Blackley aforesaid, as by his (testator's) trustees, and the survivor or survivors of them, them and his heirs, shall from time to time be elected and chosen. And it is his (testator's) will and mind that the trustees last-mentioned, and the survivor or survivors of them, them and his heirs, when and so often as there shall happen to be but two of them living, or sooner if they think fit, shall have full power and authority to nominate and elect so many other persons, inhabiting within Blackley aforesaid, for trustees concerning the premises, (whereof the said Litchford Flitcroft and his heirs, or the occupants of his (testator's) capital messuage in Blackley aforesaid, where he (testator) now lives, shall always be elected for one,) and to do and execute all and every such acts and things for the establishing and good management of the said trust as they, the said trustees, shall think fit. And concerning his messuage and tenement in Birtle in the county of Lancaster, lately purchased, and all his water com mill, and kiln, called Shuttleworth Mill, in Bury parish, he gives and devises the same to the aforesaid Bobert Percival for his life, and after his decease to Litchford Flitcroft, his heirs and assigns, for ever. And as to his personal estate, and goods, and money — He gives to his brother, William Litchford's two daughters, Elizabeth and Anne, the sum of £600 equally betwixt them, over and above the £200 he owes them by a bond in the name of his brother, Abel Litchford. To his cousins Bumes, now living in the town or county of Derby, £20, to be divided and distributed amongst them by his executors in such manner as they shall think fit. To his cousins, Abel, Elizabeth, and Rebecca Flitcroft, son and daughters of the before-named Michael Flitcroft, he gives £150 equally amongst them, the same to be put out to interest by his executors, and put to them, with the increase, when and as they attain the age of twenty-one or are married, whichever shall first happen. To the said Robert Percival, twenty shillings, for a mourning hatband and gloves, or ring, together with all his wearing apparel. To his friend, Mr. John Starkey of Rochdale, £10. To Mr. Thomas Anderson of Manchester, £20. To the afore-named Thomas Jackson, his best cow. To Mr. Richard Ashworth of Rossendale, to preach his funeral sermon at Clough Fold aforesaid, two guineas. To the aforesaid John Starkey, Thomas Anderson, and Richard Ashworth, he gives the further sum of twenty shillings each, to buy them mourning hatbands and gloves, or rings, at their election. To all his servants living with him at the time of his decease, twenty shillings each. To little Simon Proctor, twenty shillings. All the residue of his personal estate he gives to

his brother William's two daughters aforesaid, Elizabeth and Anne, and to the said Michael Flitcroft's children, Michael, Abel, Elizabeth, and Rebecca, equally amongst them six. He names as his executors Robert Percival and Thomas Anderson. By a codicil, dated December 26th, 1710, he charges Litchford Flitcroft to pay to his sister Elizabeth £100, in lieu of £50; and associates John Starkey with the two executors named in the will.