

Castle Acre

'The Past is All Around Us'

Questions about Wills and Inventories

Wills and Inventories provide insights into the lives of ordinary people: their family and social networks, their religious convictions and piety, their wealth, their personal and domestic possessions, their livestock and the tools of their trade.

Answering these questions will help you discover more about the lives and deaths of people who lived in Castle Acre in the past.

You will need to look at the document 'Transcripts of Wills'.

Bequests and Requests	How many Wills	Dates of Wills
Bequests involving prayers for the soul of the deceased		
Bequests for the souls of family members		
Bequests for masses for the dead		
Bequests to chantries or chantry chapels for a priest to say prayers.		
Bequests to monasteries or friaries.		
Bequests to clergy, the church, or private individuals, requesting prayers.		
Bequests for candles or 'lights' to burn in memory.		
Bequests for repairs to a church.		
Request for place of burial		

Will of Thomas Chandler of Castle Acre – 1516

What was

- the rood loft' in the church ?
- Our Lady's perke' ?
- A 'tabernacle' ?

Will of William Faxwell of Castle Acre 1519/20

Joan Faxwell widow of the late William Faxwell of Castle Acre – 1522

Whereabouts in Castle Acre did they live ?

Will of William Fuller of Castle Acre – 1523.

William Fuller's will has clues as to what his occupation might have been.
What do you think it was?

Will of Richard Candich of Castle Acre – 1524

Who had sold land to Richard Candich ?

What might Richard Candich's occupation have been ?

Will of Henry Scottyng of Castle Acre 1525

List the names of the lands and fields, streets and houses named in Henry Scottyng's Will.

Are any of the names still in use or recognisable but with a different spelling ?

Will of John Scotting of Castle Acre 1560

What has he inherited from Henry Scotting?

Will of John Scotting of Castle Acre 1571

What relation was this John Scotting to Henry Scotting ?

Will of John Wilch,Warrener 1599

What did a warrener do ?

'Nettes' how do these link to his job as a warrener ?

What other occupations are listed ?

What is 'apparel' ?

Inventory of William Bennitt yeoman of Castle Acre – 1638

What was a 'yeoman' ?

Which rooms in William Bennitt's house had fireplaces?

What crops did William Bennitt grow?

Some of the items listed are used in our houses today, but can you find out what these were:

- A frame table
- A looking glass
- A warming pan
- A truckle bedstead
- An ale stool
- A skillet
- A porringer.

Will of Catherine Ball widow of Castle Acre – 1779

What do you think Catherine Ball's occupation was and what evidence is there ?

Who is the person who has 'full control and is able to buy and sell' and is this unusual ?

How many times had Catherine Ball's daughter been married?

What evidence is there that Catherine Bell kept all her possessions, whatever condition they were in ?