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**Document 16: Records of the Prerogative Court of
Canterbury: Letters of Administration with will
annexed for Agnes Langmead, dated 9 November
1642**

(Catalogue reference: PROB 11/282 quire 525)

Contents

About this document	1
Image	2
Transcript	4

About this document

This document is the registered probate copy of the will of Agnes Langmead, a widow from East Alvington in Devon, dated 9 November 1642. (Catalogue reference: PROB 11/282 quire 525)

The will ends with a grant of letters of administration, rather than a probate clause. Grants of administration were made on wills when probate could not be granted to the executor(s). This might occur if a person died intestate, or if the named executors were unavailable. The next-of-kin, a friend or even a creditor could apply to the probate court for the administration of the estate of the deceased. The applicant had to swear to pay all funeral expenses and debts, and submit an inventory of the estate. Such grants are written at the end of the will, which is registered in the usual way.

In this case, Agnes' chosen executors died before they could execute the will, and letters of administration were granted to her son, Nicholas Langmead.

Please note:

- The document is written in a cursive mixed hand.
- The use of several versions of the lower case 's' particularly of the beginning of a word.

Transcript

1. In the name of God Amen
2. The nynth Day of November One thousand six hundred Fortie Two I Agnes
3. Langmead of East Alvington in the Countie of Devon Widdowe being in
4. good health and of perfect memorie (God be praised doe make this my
5. last Will and Testament in manner and forme following (that is to say)
6. First I Commend my Soule into the hands of Almighty God my Maker
7. hoping assuredly through thonly merritts of Jesus Christ my Saviour
8. to be made pertaker of life everlasting And I Commend my bodie to the
9. Earth whereof it is made Item I give to the poore of the parish aforesaid
10. thirtie shillings to be distributed amongst them by the discretion of mine
11. Executors hereunder named Item I give unto my Sonne Nicholas Lang-
12. mead my Bible Item I give to his daughter my Grandchild Mary Langmead
13. Fiftie pounds and my black Trunck Item I give to my Grandchild Agnes
14. Langmead tenn pounds and to my Grandchildren Robert Langmead and Nicholas
15. Langmead five pounds a peece All which severall summes before given to my before -
16. - named Grandchildren my will is shall be paid out of the summe of one hundred
17. pounds due unto mee from my said sonn Nicholas Langmead and within one
18. moneth next after myne Executors shall receive the same or soe much thereof
19. as will satisfy the said severall sum[m]es and not before and I doe hereby Charge
20. my Executors to be as Carefull as they may for the recovering of the said summe
21. from my said sonne that the before mentioned Legacies may be the better paid
22. according to my minde herein before declared and whereas my said summe besides
23. the forementioned summe of one hundred pounds parcell of a Certaine year-
24. - ly payable unto me out of certaine his Lands in Halwell and may owe more unto
25. mee att the time of my death my will is that myne Executors shall require noe
26. part thereof from him nor from anie other that shall hold anie part of his Estate
27. out of which my said rent is payable unto mee but I doe freely remitt unto him all
28. such arrearages of my said rent as shall be then due unto mee Item I give unto my
29. two daughters Mary Port & Honour Downing equallie all my wearing apparrell
30. and five pounds a peece Item I give to my Grandchild Honour Downing Fifteene
31. pounds & to my Grandchildren Mary Downing and Nicholas Downing Five pounds
32. a peece Item I give more to my foresaid Grandchild Honour Downing my redd
33. box on which her name is sett And all the rest of my goods and Chattells not before
34. given or bequeathed I give and bequeath to my two sonns in Lawe Baldwin Port &
35. Nicholas Downing whome I make my sole & Whole Executors In Witnesse whereof I
36. have hereunto sett my hand and seale the day & yeare first above written Agnes Langmead
37. Witnesses hereunto Hu[mphrey?] Osbourne Jun[jo]r Gregory Dottin Katherine Dotin
38. The second Day of the Moneth of September in the yeare
39. of our Lord God One Thousand Six hundred Fiftie and Eight L[ette]rs of Ad[ministra]c[i]on
40. issued forth to Nicholas Langmead the naturall and lawfull sonne of Agnes Langmead
41. late of East Alvington in the County of Devon deceased to administer the goods
42. Chattells and debts of the said according to the tenor and effect of the said decea[se]ds
43. Will Baldwin Port and Nicholas Downing the Executors departed this life
44. before they had taken upon them the execution of the said Will he being first
45. legally sworne by vertue of a Commission truly and faythfully to administer etc.