

## WILLS OF THE SADLER FAMILY

Diplomatic transcripts of the wills of (1) John Sadler Senior (1556); (2) John Sadler his oldest son (1557), (3) Dorothy Sadler his widow (1579); (4) the probate of John Sadler his younger son, the owner of the partbooks (1592); and (5) the will of his youngest son Richard (1605).

**1. NRO NCC will register Beeles, f. 366. Will of John Sadler [Senior], Grocer of Norwich, Norfolk, written on 23 July 1556, probate 17 Aug. 1556 (Norwich) and 4 Nov. 1558 (London GB-Lna PROB 11/41/245). [NB A record of the burial of John Sadler [Sr] has not been located.]**

In the name of god Amen the xxij daye of the moneth  
of Julye in the yere of our lord god a CCCCC fyftie and  
Six I John Sadler thelder of Norwich Grocer beinge  
of holle and perfight mynde & good remembraunce  
lawdid be god at Norwiche aforesayd ordeyn make &  
declare this my testament and last will in mannor  
and forme following Fyrst I bequeathe my Sowle  
to almightie god my maker and Redemer and my  
bodye to be buried in the Sanctuary of Such place  
wher it shall please god that I shall departe oute of  
this worlde and I bequeathe to the hiegh alter of the  
<verso>

Churche of Sainct George of Colgate in Norwich for my  
tythes necligentlie forgotten twentie shillinges Item, I  
bequeathe to the rep[er]ac[i]on of the Same churche xxs It[e]m  
I bequeathe to euery of the lazar hous[es] aboute Norwich  
gates xxd It[e]m I bequeathe and giue to John Sadler my  
oldest sonne one hundreth markes sterling to be payd to  
hym in thre yeres next ensuenge after my deceas  
by euen porc[i]ons It[e]m I will and bequeathe to Dorathe my  
wyff my meses [i.e. mesuages] with the edifienges gardens & thappertina=  
=nnces called Singers and Myles sett and lyeng in ~~  
Norwiche in the parishe of Sainct George of Colgate  
aforesayd whiche I dwell in and occupie the day of ma=  
=king hereof during the terme of hir widowhode nexte  
ensuing after my deceas and I will that after the same

terme of hir widowhode John Sadler the younger my  
Sonne shall haue the sayd mes[uage] with the edifienges  
gardens and appertinances to haue and to holde to the  
Same John Sadler the younger my sonne his heires  
and assignes foreuer vppon condic[i]on that the same  
John shall paye or cause to be payd to Richard sadler  
my sonne twentie poundes sterling within two yeres -  
next ensueng after the sayd John Sadeler the younger  
my Sonne shall enter into the sayd mes[uage] The ~  
Resydew of all my goodes and catalles with the debtes  
to me owing whatsoever they be and wher soeuer  
they may be found I holly giue and bequeathe to y<sup>e</sup>  
sayd Dorathe my wyff John Sadler my yonger  
Sonne and Richard Sadeler beforenamed to be  
equally deuyded betwen them and with the Same  
goodes and catalles so deuyded to doe ther willes & plesures  
as with ther own proper goodes & catalles foreuer wch  
Dorathe John Sadeler my yonger sonne & Richard  
Sadeler I ordeyn name and make executors of this  
my sayd testament & last will to bring my bodye ~  
honestly to the erth and to pay my debtes and to see  
this my testament & last will p[er]formed Theis being  
witnesses Henrye Bakon Henrye Attemere & Roger  
Mundes<sup>1</sup>

Probatum dated 17 August 1556

**2. NRO NCC will register Jerves, f. 84v MF 52. Will of John Sadler of St Clement's, written on 20 Nov. 1557, probate 17 May 1558.**

Johannis Sadler

In the name of god amen The xx<sup>tie</sup> daie  
of Nouember in the yere of our lorde god A thowsande fiue  
hundrethe fiftie and Seaven I Iohn Sadler thelder of  
the perishe of saincte Clement of Fybrig in Norw<sup>ch</sup>  
grocer beinge of holle mynde and perfighte Remembrans

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<sup>1</sup> Norwich Consistory Court inventories 1584: Robt Mundes, Wait, leaves four black books in his will to his fellow Waits, and virginals and Trumpet.

thanks be god make/and declare this my testament and  
last will in manner and forme Followinge that ys to  
saye Firste I Com[m]ende my sowle vnto Almightye god the  
Father and to my saviour Jehus [sic] Christe and all th[a]t hollie  
Companie of heave and my bodie to be buried within y<sup>e</sup>  
Churche yarde of saincte Clemens in Norw<sup>ch</sup> aforesayde  
and I giue towarde the Rep[a]rac[i]on of the same Churche  
xxs and I giue to the highe alter of the sayed Churche  
of saincte Clement for my tithes negligentlie forgotten  
xs and I will that there shalbe bestowed amonges the  
poore people in breade meate and drinke by the discre[a]c[i]on  
of my executours the som[m]e of xls It[e]m I giue and  
bequeathe to Robert Sadeler my sonne fiftie poundes  
to be payde to be payde [sic] to hym at his age of xx<sup>tie</sup> yeres  
or elles at the daye of hes maryage It[e]m I giue and  
bequeathe to Katheryne Sadeler my daughter  
Fiftie poundes to be payde to hir at hir age of xx<sup>tie</sup>  
yeres or elles at the day of hir Mariage and yf my  
wief shall fortune to be with Childe or Conceyved  
with the same Then I giue and bequeathe to the  
same Childe Fitie pound[es] to be payde to the same  
Childe at his or her age of xx<sup>tie</sup> yeres or elles at the  
daie of his or hir Mariage and yf anye of my sayde  
<fol. 85>

Childern shall fortune to departe this worlde before  
the tyme appoynted for the payment of there sayed  
legacyes Then I will that the parte or porc[i]on of hym  
hir or them that so shall fortune to departe shalbe  
equallye distributed amonges the Resydewe of my  
sayde Childern [sic] then lyvinge and where I have ane  
Estate in fee simple of and in all that Mease and Ten[emen]te[s]  
woththere appurtyn[a]nce[s] whiche be in the handes and  
occupienge of lohn Mase in the sayde perishe of saincte  
Clement by waye of morgage for the payment of  
Certeyn Som[m]es of monye of the graunte and  
Feoffement of the same lohn Mase my mynde and  
will ys that yf the monye be not payde accordinge  
to Couen[en]tes then I giue and surrender all my righte

and title whiche I nowe haue or then of right oughte  
to have of and in the sayed Mease and tenement[s] w<sup>th</sup>  
there appurtymince[s] to Elizabethhe my wief and to her  
heires for euer willinge and Charginge her to vse the same  
Concerninge the sayde Iohn Mase accordinge to all good  
Consciens It[e]m I giue to my mother Morant **xs To my  
mother Sadeler xs It[e]m to Iohn Sadeler and Richarde  
my brotherine to either of them xs** and I giue to my  
Aunte Sadeler of Caleys xs It[e]m I giue to my brother  
Goslyn and Anne his wief xls and I giue to my ~  
Sister Byrde A peace of golde of xs It[e]m I giue to Robert  
Gibson my servante prentice xls so that he be well  
Ruled by my wief and serue ought his tyme and to  
Andrew Braye my apprentice xxs so that he be like  
Rewled by my sayde wief The Residewe of all my  
goodes and Cattelles with the debtes to me owinge I  
giue and bequeathe the same hollye to Elizabethhe my  
wief and I Constitute ordeyn and make the sayed ~  
Elizabethhe my wief my sole executrice of this my ~  
Testament and last will Charginge her truste to  
<fol. 85v>

Performe the same and to paye my debtes as she will  
Aunswere before god and I make Robert Goslyn my  
brotherinlaw superuysor of this my testament to  
helpe and stande by my sayde wief Item I giue to  
Thomas Iohsonne my apprentice xxs so that he be  
well Ruled by my wief It[e]m I giue to the hospitall of  
sayncte Giles in Norwiche Called goddes howse xls  
Thies beinge witness[es] Roger Corkson Clerke Thom[a]s  
Cully and me Lawrence Wodde by me Iohn sonne.

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Probatum dated 17 May 1558

**3. NRO NCC will register Flack, f. 559. Will of Dorothy Sadler, written on 30 July 1579,  
probate 19 Nov. 1590.**

In the name of god amen. the xxv daye  
of Julie in the yeare of our lord god one Thousande

fyve hundreth seaventie and nyne and in the  
one and twentie yeare of the reigne of o<sup>r</sup> souvrigne  
ladye Elizabeth the Quenes Maiestie that nowe  
is &c: I Dorathie Sadler of Norw<sup>ch</sup> wedowe beinge  
hoale of mynde and of good and p[er]fect remembran[c]e  
lawded be god doe make this my Testament and  
last will in this order and forme followinge First  
and forasmuche as I knowe that I am naturallie  
borne to die and that the lorde god in respect of  
synne and wickednes hath and dothe ponyshe his  
people w<sup>th</sup> sodayne sicknes and greavous diseases  
even to the death and because I am now aged  
and

<fol. 559v>

and well stricken in yeares and therefore subiect to die  
the soner doe therefore principallie before all thinges  
Com[m]ende my sowle into the mercifull handes of  
god the Father god the sonne and god the holye  
ghost, three p[er]sons and one onlie true god trusting  
most assuredlye that I by and throughe the death  
and passion of my lorde and onlie saviour Jesus  
Christ shalbe saved and at the latter daye haue  
and possesse a ioyfull resurreccion and my bodie  
I com[m]ytt to the earth from whence it came and  
I will it to be buried in the Churche of the p[ar]ishe  
of Saynt George of Colgate w<sup>th</sup>in the Cittie of  
Norw<sup>ch</sup> / Item I gyve and bequeath towardes the  
Rep[ar]acons of the same Churche twentie shillinges  
Item I will that a stocke of fower poundes of  
lawfull money of England shall continuallye  
and for evver remayne and be in the p[ar]ishe  
Chist of St George aforesaide to the benefitt  
of thee poore yonge begynners and poore p[er]sons  
dwellers in the said p[ar]ishe in this order following  
That the Churchwardens of the saide p[ar]ishe shall  
allwayes and from tyme to tyme vppon good and  
sufficient pawne or pledge shall lende the said  
iiij<sup>s</sup> by xx<sup>s</sup> a ~~yeare~~ man and not aboute for &

duringe the space of halfe a yeare without any  
recompence or allowance for the same to any  
poore p[er]son or yonger begynner that vppon  
sufficient

<fol. 560>

sufficient pawne as is aforesaide, will require or demande  
to haue the same dwellinge in the p[ar]ishe aforesaide It[e]m  
I gyve and bequeath vnto sixe poore women that .  
shall accompany my bodye to the funerall to be – .  
Chosen of the porest sorte by the discreation of my  
Executor to everye one of them a new fres gowne  
of xx<sup>d</sup> the yarde redy made to their backes It[e]m  
I gyve and will have delt to and amonges the  
poor people at my buriall daye in penny doole  
and halfe penny bread Fyve poundes Item I gyve  
to everye poore lazar howse aboute the gates of  
^the Cittie

of Norw<sup>ch</sup> xij<sup>d</sup> Item I gyve and bequeathe vnto the  
prisoners of the Castle of Norw<sup>ch</sup> Twentie shillinges  
to be bestowed in meate bread and drincke & gyven  
to them at fower severall tymes w<sup>th</sup>in one yeare  
next after my decease at the discreation of my  
Executor alsoe I gyve and bequeathe vnto  
the prisoners of the guildhall in Norw<sup>ch</sup> two shillinges  
to be gyven them in meate bread and drincke at  
the discreation of my Executor, I tem I gyve &  
bequeathe vnto my Nephew<sup>2</sup> and godson John  
Sadler the sonne of Richard Sadler my sonne  
towards his exhibition and fyndige to learinge [*sic*]  
Tewntie [*sic*] poundes of good and lawfull money of  
Englande to be paide vnto hym in manner & forme  
followinge that is to saie w<sup>th</sup>in one whole yeare  
next after my decease fyve poundes and so from thence  
forthe yearlie fyve poundes vntill the saide xx<sup>£</sup> be  
fully contented~~ted~~ and paide; Item I gyve to Thom[a]s  
Sadler

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<sup>2</sup> NB According to the OED, one archaic meaning of 'nephew' is 'grandson':  
<https://www.oed.com/view/Entry/126113?redirectedFrom=nephew#eid>

<fol. 560v>

Sadler his brother Twentie poundes of lawfull money of Englande to be paide vnto hym at his age of twentie & thee [*sic*] yeares likewise I gyve and bequeathe vnto Francis Sadler and Nicholas Sadler the sones of the saide Richard Sadler to eyther of them twentie poundes of good and lawfull money of Englande to be paide to them and eyther of them at their severall ages of Twentie and three yeares And yf it shall happen the saide John Thomas Fraunces and Nicholas the sonnes of the saide Richard my sonne or any of them before their saide severall legacies shalbe due vnto them as is aforesaide to depart this worlde, Then I will that the legacye, part & portion of hym or them soe departed shall be equallie paid and devided to and amonges the residewe of the brethern lyvinge at suche dayes and tymes and in suche manner and forme as the legacye p[ar]te and portion of hym or them soe departed should haue had and enjoyed the same yf case he or thaie had lyved. Item I gyve and bequeathe vnto Anne Sadler xpian[n] [i.e. Christian] Sadler Elizabeth and Martha Sadler the dawghters of the saide Richard Sadler my sonne to every one of them Tenn poundes of lawfull money of England to be paide to them and everye one of them at their severall ages of one and twentie yeares or at their severall dayes of mariage which of them to any of them shall happen first; And yf it fortune the  
said

<fol. 561r>

saide Anne xpian[n] Elizabeth or Martha Sadler or any of them to depart this worlde before their saide severall legacyes shalbe dne vnto them as is aboue saide them I will that the legacye p[ar]te and portion of her or them so departed shalbe equallye paide and devided to and amonge the

rest of the saide dawghters then lyvinge at  
suche tymes and dayes and in suche order and  
forme as thaie or any of them if thaye had  
lyved shoulde have had and inioyed the same  
Item I gyve and bequeathe vnto William Skevyn  
to Alice Mene his sister and to Blithe & Dorothe  
Skevyn likewise sisters to the saide william to  
every one of them xx<sup>s</sup> to be paide to them and  
everye one of them w<sup>th</sup>in one yeaere next after  
my decease, Item I remytt and clerelie forgyve  
John Sadler my sonne all suche dettes duties  
reckonynges and som[m]jes of money as by any waies  
or meanes shalbe due or owinge vnto me at the  
daye of my decease, Also I gyve and bequeathe  
vnto every one of my godchildren ij<sup>s</sup> Item I will  
and my full mynde is that all my mesuages,  
landes Tenementes and hereditamentes w<sup>th</sup>  
all and singuler their apurtenn[an]ces scituate  
lyeng and beinge w<sup>th</sup>in the Cittie of Norw<sup>ch</sup> or  
the liberties of the same shalbe soulede by  
Richard Sadler my Executor in suche sorte  
as shalbe thought good by his discreation and  
the

<fol. 561v>

the money of them or any of them com[m]yngre receyved  
or growinge to be and remayne for and towardes  
the payment of my dettes and the payinge and  
fullfillinge of the legacyes conteyned and ~  
expressed w<sup>th</sup>in this my Testament and last  
will The residewe of all my goodes money plate  
implementes Chattells and stuffe of howshoulde  
whatsoever before or hereafter not gyven or  
bequeathed my dettes paide and this my Testa  
ment and last will trulie p[er]formed I gyve them  
and everye of them vnto the saide Richard  
Sadler my sonne whome I ordayne and make  
executor of this my Testament and last will  
Alsoe I ordaine and appoynt my lovinge frinde



Thomas Pettus Citezen and Alderman of Norw<sup>ch</sup>  
to be Sup[er]visor of this my Testament and last  
will to comfort aide and assist my saide Execut  
w<sup>th</sup> his advice and Councell, and I gyve hym,  
for his paynes therin to be taken an Angell to  
make hym a ringe w<sup>th</sup> all Furthermore I gyve  
and bequeathe vnto my sonne John Sadler  
fortye poundes of good and lawfull money of  
englande to be paide vnto hym in manner & forme  
followinge that is to saie w<sup>th</sup>in one hoale yere  
next after my decease tenne pound[es] and w<sup>th</sup>in  
one hoale yeare then next followinge other tenn  
poundes and so from thenceforth yearely then  
successively

<fol. 562>

successivelie followinge tenn pound[es] vntill the  
saide fourty poundes be fullie contented &  
paide In witnes whereof to this my p[re]sent  
Testament and last will written in fyve  
shetes of paper whereof this is the last  
I have put my marke and Seale youen  
the daye and yeare first abovewritten  
Finallye I gyve and bequeathe vnto my  
sister Margarett Bettes wedowe my goulde  
ringe w<sup>th</sup> the dyamont These witnesses  
william Pickering          Wyll Thomas  
Byrde Scr [i.e. ?Scrivener]

Probatum dated 19 Nov. 1590, naming Richard Sadler executor.

**4. NRO NCC administration act book 1589-1605, f. 87. Probate for John Sadler the Younger, grocer of Norwich, 1592.**

[in margin:] Sadler / Johannis

[explains that John Sadler died intestate and without issue – hence his natural brother Richard Sadler is commissioned as executor of his estate]

Duodecimo Die mensis p[re]dict[ae] [i.e. May]

p[er] Vicariu[m] in Spir[itu]alibus generalem au[ten]d[i]c[u]m  
admi[ni]strac[i]o bonorum Johan[n]is Sadler nup[er] dum ~  
vixit de Civitate Norwici defuncti ab intestato deceden[tis]  
Com[m]issa fuit Rich[ard]o Sadler fratri naturali et [u]ltimo  
dicti defuncti de bene et fidel[ite]r admi[ni]strandum ead[em] in forma  
iuris iurati

**5. Lna PROB 11/106/79. Will of Richard Sadler, Grocer and Alderman of Norwich, written on 20 February 1604/05, probate 2 Aug. 1605.**

In the name of God Amen the xxth  
daie of Februarye in the yeare of our Lord one thousand six hundred and fower I  
Richard Sadler Cittizen and Alderman of Norwich beinge of good perfecte memorye  
thankes be giuen to god Doe make and declare my last Will and testament in manner  
and from followinge viz I bequeath my Soule vnto Almightye god desieringe  
him of his mercie to haue the fruition of eternall life And my bodye I bequeath  
to the earth And as concerninge my howses growndes and tenementes in the  
Cittie of Norwich I will and Deuse all that Tenement with thappurtinances scituate  
lyinge and beinge in the parrishe of Saincte George of Colgete late John Reeve lyinge  
betweene the tenement of William Thirton on the East parte And my Tenement late  
Raphe Elingham on the West parte And abbutteth vppon the Tenement of Fraunces  
Smalpeete towarde the South and vppon the streete of highewaie towarde the North  
vnto Nicholas Sadler my Sonne and Katherin my wiffe and their heires for euer  
Prouided allwaies and vppon Condison and my minde and Will is that yf Fraunces my  
oldest sonne his heires or Assignes within tenne daies next after the Feast of Saincte  
Michael tharchangell next Cumminge after the date herof shall Nerly acquite exon[er]at  
and discharge and, in the meane tyme shall sufficiently saue harmeles my saide sonne  
Nicholas his heires executores and Administratores And allsoe the saide Katheran my Wiffe  
her Executores and Administratores of for and vppon twoe seuerall writinges obligatory  
wherin the saide Nicholas together with one John Meve of London Marchaunt Taylor  
stand bound with the saide Fraunces vnto one Cuthbert Thirsby in eyther of them in a  
Certen penulty ether of them havinge a Condison indorsed or anexed for the payment  
of an hundreth poundes apeece And Allsoe yf the saide Fraunces his Executores or  
Assignes  
within one month next after that he shalbe thervnto required by the saide Nicholas  
or my saide Wiffe or eyther of them after my decease shall graunt assigne and sett ouer  
vnto my saide sonne Nicholas and Katheran my wiffe or to such other p[er]son or  
p[er]sonnes as

they shall thervnto name and appoint All the interest right estate and terme of  
yeares

<verso>

yeares to come which he hadd of me of and in a tenement and garden in the saide parrishe  
of

Sainte George of Colgate lyinge betweene the ground or garden of the Deane and Chapter  
of the Cathedrall Church of the holely and indiuisible Trinitye of Norwich of the  
foundac[i]on

of kinge Edward the sixte on the South parte and the message of me the saide Richard  
on the North parte and Abutteth vppon the Queenes highe waye towarde the east and  
vppon a waye leadinge from Saincte Georges Church vnto the Riuer towarde the West  
yf any such request shalbe made within one yeare next after my death And also yf the  
saide Fraunces within one yeare next after my deceasse shall acquitt my Executors of and  
for all such legacies as ar due or growinge vnto him by force or vertue of the testament  
of Dorithie Sadler widdowe my late mother and in the meane tyme shall not sue my  
saide Executors or any of them for the saide legacies or any of them that then my saide  
deuse and bequest of the saide tenement first above menconed bounded and limited as  
aforesaide made to my saide sonne Nicholas and Katheran my saide wiffe and their  
heires shalbe vtterly void and frustrate to all intentes, And then I will that yt shalbe  
lawfull vnto the saide Fraunces my sonne and heire Apparant and his heires to enter  
into the saide tenement with thappurt[e]n[a]nces and to haue and to hould the same to  
him and his heires for euer my deuse therof in this my last Will and testament  
to the Contrary in any Wise notwithstandinge And as concerninge all the rest of  
my tenements grounds in the Cittie of Norwich I doe will and deuse them vnto  
my saide sonne Nicholas and Katheran my saide wiffe and their heires for euer Item  
I doe giue and bequeath vnto my daughter Martha Warde one hundred poundes to  
be paid in manner and forme followinge viz! within one yeare next after my decease  
twentye poundes and soe thensfurth yearly twentie poundes untill the hundred poundes  
be paid. Item I doe will and giue vnto Katheran my Wiffe all my plate and lynnens  
Naperye The residue of all my goodes and Chattelles Whatsoever before not bequeathed  
I giue them vnto my Executors payinge my debtes whome I doe ordaine and make  
Katheran my saide wiffe and Nicholas my saide son Chargeinge them to doe  
vprightly and to agree well together and to bringe my bodye decently to the earth  
In Witnes Whereof I haue hervnto sett my sealle by me Richard Sadler.  
Witnesses Edward Quarles Richard Lusher Edmund Hast.