

Summary of the

Will of Edward Betts Hopper, Gentleman of Dover, Kent

Edward Betts Hopper of Dover, Kent, Gentleman, late of Sittingbourne

Burial to be in the parish of Tunstall near Sittingbourne if dies in England, near late wife.

1st devises property upper end of Sittingbourne now in occupation of Thomas Ashtell to sister Abigail Farley, Widow for term of life - after decease to nephew Edward Catchpool, Compositor of London, should he pre-decease then to Thomas Pilcher, lance dealer of London.

Bequests to Abigail Farley £50, & all household furniture except otherwise bequeathed.

Executors to invest £1500 in 3½% government stock on trust to pay dividends to Abigail Farley during term of life after her decease to share equally between nephew Edward Catchpool and Harriet his sister if living, or if deceased equally divided between their surviving issue payable at age of 25.

Should Edward Catchpool die before testator without issue then the revenue from ½ of the £1500 to go to Edward Catchpool's widow for term of life, and after her death to be equally divided between the surviving children of Thomas Pilcher and Harriet his Wife.

Another sum of £1700 to be invested and dividends to be paid to Louisa daughter of highly esteemed friend Nathaniel Kettle of Elham, Kent, Gentleman, for term of life, after her decease to be divided equally between nephew Edward Catchpool and Harriet as with previous investment - those investments of minors to be used toward education and maintenance.

Bequest to Louisa Kettle £100 payable within 3 months, and such furniture and pictures as belong to testator and are in his present lodgings at Dover, and as many books as she may select to furnish the bookcase, and such drawings and prints as she may choose, and his small portable desk with contents, including smallest watch & appendages, and best ring,

and six silver tea spoons and 2 silver table spoons, and four time musical box, and his miniature in frame.

Property at lower end of Sittingbourne now in the occupation of William Kemonger to Thomas Pilcher.

To Sarah Ann, daughter of [Thomas] Williams Bookseller of Dover £10 as gratitude for her kind attentions when he was once ill.

Remainder of plate and all linen to Sister Abigail Farley, nephew Edward Catchpool and niece Harriet Pilcher to be divided amongst them as they may agree.

To highly respected friend Thomas Turner, Sadler of Sittingbourne, £19.

All rest and residue equally divided between nephew Edward Catchpool and Thomas Pilcher.

Thomas Turner, Edward Catchpool, and Thomas Pilcher declared executors.

Will dated 31 January 1839 witnessed J. Boyton and C. A. Dam.

27 August 1841 John Boyton appeared to confirm that he witnessed the will, states that Edward Betts Hopper formerly of Sittingbourne and afterwards of Dover, but late of New Zealand.

Will proved London 21st September 1841.

NOTES:

1. People referred to:

Edward Betts Hopper, b1799 in Dover he was raised in a Quaker household. He was baptised in Sittingbourne in 1826 in order to join the Anglican church so that his marriage to his second wife, Mary Dyne would be recognised. Edward was a director of the New Zealand Company and travelled there on board the 'Oriental' arriving in January 1840. In September that same year he was killed in an accident on the Hutt River near Wellington.

Abigail Farley (nee Hopper), born in Sittingbourne in 1781 she married Thomas Farley in Dover in 1803. She was aged 59 when Edward was killed.

Edward Catchpool, born Folkestone, Kent in 1805 into a Quaker family. He was the son of William Catchpool and Sarah Hopper, EBH's sister, and therefore he was EBH's nephew. At the time of EBH's death Edward was aged 35.

Thomas Pilcher, born in Ashford in Kent in 1801. He married Harriet Catchpool (sister of Edward and therefore neice of EBH) in Hanover Square, London in 1831. He was 39 years old when EBH died.

Harriet Pilcher (nee Catchpool), born Folkestone, Kent in 1806 to William Catchpool and Sarah Hopper (EBH's sister) and therefore EBH's neice. She was aged 34 when EBH died.

Louisa Kettle 'daughter of highly esteemed friend Nathaniel Kettle of Elham, Kent, Gentleman' was born 12 Dec 1815 in Sandwich, Kent and baptised there in the Presbyterian Church on 20 Jan 1816. Her parents were Nathaniel and Elizabeth Kettle. She would have been around 25 when EBH was killed.

Sarah Ann Williams was born 26 Jan 1810 to Thomas and Elizabeth Williams and was baptised a month later at the Zion Chapel in Last Lane, Dover. Pigots Directory of 1840 lists Thomas Williams as a Bookbinder, Bookseller and Stationery with premises at 145 Snargate Street, Dover. Sarah was 30 when EBH died.

Thomas Turner is listed in the 1839 edition of Pigot's Directory of Kent as a Sadler.