

90 Woodcote Avenue,
Kenilworth. Warwick. CV8 1BE
November 19th 1986

Dear Paul / John / Peter / Mary

With John's and Peter's goodwill, I am venturing to make a few comments on John's "round robin" on Cleveny Cottage, dated Nov. 5th 1986.

I have a vivid recollection, on the occasion of our family gathering at Witchampton in 1958 to celebrate John and Muriel's silver wedding anniversary, of the four of us (Mary was still in Hong Kong), meeting round a spotlessly scrubbed kitchen table in the kitchen nearest the hall, for John to explain to us, on his own initiative, the bequest made to him by Hugh Wansey Bayly. I think all three of us, Paul, Peter and I, went away with the idea that John was a kind of agent for a family bequest.

On our returning home, we had letters (or at least I did) from John trying to explain the matter further. I recall replying very shortly, to say that unless we had the actual relevant wording of Hugh's Will, there was no point in further discussion! By return post (or thereabouts!) John sent me a copy of the actual extract which he had received from Edith Wansey Bayly, the sole executor. (Apparently he never received the whole Will). Here it is:-

EXTRACT from. the will of Hugh Wansey Bayly, dated the fifth DAY OF January, one thousand nine hundred and fifty six.

"Clause 3. After the death of my said wife Edith Marian I give and bequeath all that said Cleveny Cottage and adjoining outbuildings and other the property furniture and effects bequeathed to her for life Unto and to the Reverend John Wansey of Amotherby Vicarage Malton Yorkshire absolutely".

On receiving this, I wrote to John with copies to Paul and Peter, expressing my relief that any misunderstanding was now cleared up in my mind, the property being completely and "absolutely" left to John on Edith's decease.

Hugh had a "pipe dream" that there should always be a Wansey living in Cleveny Cottage. (Another "pipe dream" was for me to become Rector of East with North and West Barsham! He offered to make this possible, in 1943, if I would leave Flixton. Perhaps he had previously invited Paul, John and Peter?).

In a letter from Edith, the sole executor, to John dated 31st July 1967, which John has kindly sent me, she comments that this wish of Hugh's, which was expressed in a further part of his Will ("without [Page 2] creating any trust"), is governed by the phrase "as long as possible".

The sale of the cottage before her death, arranged after legal consultation and clearance, made it impossible for this wish to be fulfilled.

Strangely enough, the purchaser was Hugh's own daughter, Betty Grubb, who has left it in her will to her son, (Hugh's grandson). John tells me of a letter from Betty, dated May 1978, in which she mentions this, and adds, "which I cannot help feeling would have given my father some pleasure". So, his "pipe dream" has in a way been fulfilled! He has swapped descendants of his great grandfather's brother Henry for his very, own grandson (not born at the time of his death):

So, what about the bequest made "absolutely" to John, which has turned into cash, and thence into the house Muriel and he have purchased? When the cottage was sold, the

“expressed wish” which was attached to it obviously became meaningless, and any peripheral interest any of us might have had has disappeared! However, it seems that John and Muriel have also had a “pipe dream” - inspired, I suppose, by a whiff of smoke from Hugh's! This pipe dream is that John's brothers and sister should eventually share in his good fortune, and, as John says in his letter to us of Nov. 11th, “when this house in Chichester is eventually' sold... the £30,000 of Cleveny money should be divided between the Wanseys (other than himself)”. “Working on this basis”, he continues, “When Joe was buying his new house we ‘advanced his interest’ by sending him, in instalments, his £7,500. Similarly, when Alaric died and Mary was left not at all well off, we were glad to arrange a Bank standing order, which in several years’ time will mean that she, too, will have received £7,500”. **

I am sure Mary will join with me in expressing our deep appreciation of actions on his part which are leaving him overdrawn on a “pipe dream settlement” which itself was quite uncalled for, and generous in the extreme.

I hope I may end by saying on behalf of all four of us,
“Thank you, John and Muriel, very much indeed!”.

From

Joe

** Each of us has already received £1,000 from John