

## Dr. Griffin Higgs, 1589-1659

By P. S. MORRISH

HIGGS was born in the parish of South Stoke in Oxfordshire and was baptized in the parish church there on 28 October 1589.<sup>1</sup> Once the property of Eynsham Abbey (hence the alternative name of the parish, Stoke Abbots), the manor and living belonged in 1589 to Christ Church, Oxford. The Higgs were an established yeoman family in the area. Griffin's mother was Sarah Paine, daughter of a family of similar status from Caversham near Reading. But Griffin took his Christian name from his paternal grandmother's family, who were Bartons from Weobley in the Herefordshire Marches. Griffin Barton was Griffin's great-grandfather.<sup>2</sup> The only effigy of Higgs is the bust on his monument in the chancel of South Stoke parish church (PL. III). Anthony Wood recorded that Higgs was short in stature,<sup>3</sup> but an entry in Higgs's diary for 20 March 1638 noted that the measurement for the 'divine's gown', which he had ordered, was 4 feet and 10 inches, excluding the seams and collar.<sup>4</sup> This might suggest an almost average height. To this description might be added his square face and bulbous nose, features clearly indicated by the bust.

Higgs had at least two brothers and two sisters who survived childhood. His elder brother was called Barton, and the younger Nicholas. Barton married and had a large family who benefited from their uncle's will. Higgs's two sisters, Mary and Magdalen, both married local men, a Jemmett and a Wilder respectively.

Of Higgs's youth little is known. He went to Reading School and from there came up to St. John's College, Oxford, as a commoner in the Michaelmas term of 1606.<sup>5</sup> He was not matriculated, however, until 4 July 1609. In 1606 St. John's College buildings comprised little more than the present front quadrangle, the newest building being the detached library block to

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<sup>1</sup> South Stoke parish register, f. 10v. Years have been given in new style. The biography of Higgs in the *Dictionary of National Biography* is largely taken from Wood's *Athenae Oxonienses*, and is not entirely satisfactory, as will appear below. The present author is indebted to the Rev. R. E. Price, vicar of South Stoke and Dr. J. R. L. Highfield, librarian of Merton College, for help and encouragement. Any errors remain the author's responsibility.

<sup>2</sup> A. Wood & R. Rawlinson, *Parochial collections*, (O.R.S. xi, 1929), 274.

<sup>3</sup> A. Wood, *Athenae Oxonienses*, ed. P. Bliss (London, 1817), III, 481.

<sup>4</sup> Diary 1637, f. 11r. Two of Higgs's diaries are in the Bodleian Library and two in Merton College Library. The author hopes to edit them and to produce a catalogue of Higgs's library.

<sup>5</sup> W. C. Costin, *St. John's College* (Oxford, 1958), 59.

the south-east. The library itself had recently received several notable benefactions.<sup>6</sup> There had been, on average, before Higgs came up, about fifty members resident at any time and at the end of the 16th century only about twenty-one of these would have been undergraduates.<sup>7</sup> Higgs would not have been entirely out of his milieu. One of the fellows, William Laud, later Archbishop of Canterbury, was also a former pupil of Reading School; and probably as many as a third of the undergraduates were of plebeian origin like Higgs.<sup>8</sup>

The College régime was rigorous, if diligently followed.<sup>9</sup> In 1609 whilst Higgs was an undergraduate, the College sought to improve its teaching by requiring every undergraduate to dispute three logic questions, unaided, against three B.A.s, but this may have been a not unwelcome task for Higgs because (if Wood is to be believed) he was a keen disputant. The students' spiritual life was taken care of by daily recital of morning and evening prayer and, according to a College Order of 1602, by four general celebrations of Holy Communion annually. Higgs's tutor was Richard Tillesley, who was elected College Librarian in 1608.<sup>10</sup> It is doubtful whether the University regulations were followed to the very letter,<sup>11</sup> but there was a formidable list of scholastic texts to master (Linacre being the only concession to the new learning), and according to the *Nova Statuta* of 1565, the candidate for the B.A. had to dispute and to respond both twice.

Some activities which Higgs followed as an undergraduate may be noted. Two are known. Most colleges at this time enjoyed amateur theatricals, especially in the Christmas vacation, when due to indifferent communications many students remained up at Oxford. A record survives of the entertainments at St. John's during the Christmas vacation of 1607-08.<sup>12</sup> Higgs subscribed five shillings towards the expenses, and his tutor gave ten. It was once believed that Higgs was responsible for the account of these revels, preserved in the same volume as the texts of the plays; but their editors have disproved this. Higgs's other activity was the composition of Latin verse, and he wrote a life of the founder of the College. It is preserved in the same volume as the account of the revels.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>6</sup> N. Ker, 'Oxford College libraries in the sixteenth century', *Bodl. Library Record* (1959), vi, 511-15.

<sup>7</sup> Costin, *St. John's College*, 5-6.

<sup>8</sup> cf. *Ibid.*, 57-8.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, 16-17, 66.

<sup>10</sup> Wood & Rawlinson, *Par. coll.* 274. Tillesley gave the college four medieval MSS.: St. John's MSS. (Coxe), 31, 56, 93 and 134.

<sup>11</sup> M. H. Curtis, *Oxford and Cambridge in transition* (Oxford, 1959), 97.

<sup>12</sup> *The Christmas Prince* (Malone Society reprint, 1922), F. S. Boas & W. W. Greg, eds.

<sup>13</sup> St. John's College MS. LI, ff. 1-25.

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Higgs took his B.A. on 28 June 1610.<sup>14</sup> Only three other St. John's men seem to have graduated with Higgs. None of these achieved any fame. The next step for Higgs was to seek a fellowship to support further study towards his master's degree. From St. John's he turned to Merton College where he was elected a probationer fellow on 1 August 1611,<sup>15</sup> and an actual bachelor fellow a year later, on 10 October 1612.<sup>16</sup> He was not the only fellow of Merton to have taken his first degree elsewhere. Of the twenty-three fellows who elected him, only five had been undergraduates at Merton. None, however, was a graduate of St. John's. Higgs satisfactorily completed the course and took his M.A. in June 1615.<sup>17</sup> He had already been appointed a College praelector in Greek,<sup>18</sup> and on 9 July 1617, he followed up his M.A. with 'variations', three theses defended in the College—a philological one, a philosophical one and third on ancient history.<sup>19</sup> In December 1620 the College awarded him its Bickley Exhibition, worth £4 annually.<sup>20</sup> Meanwhile Higgs spent some time on further Latin versification. His first published piece was in 1622 in a volume upon the death of Warden Savile. Another was published in *Carolus Redux* in 1623, and he contributed two more to occasional volumes in 1625.<sup>21</sup>

After he had become a Master in 1615, Higgs was soon taking his turn in the various College offices. In 1616 he was elected third Bursar for the ensuing year.<sup>22</sup> Annual turns as a dean or a bursar followed. He was Principal of the Postmasters (the College's scholars) in 1622 and in 1624.<sup>23</sup> Simultaneously with his first tenure of that office, he was also one of the Proctors, his colleague being Stewart of All Souls,<sup>24</sup> and a speech which Higgs made to the University, probably in that capacity, exists in two recensions.<sup>25</sup> In the summer of 1623 Higgs accompanied the new Warden of Merton, Sir Nathaniel Brent, on the annual inspection of College properties. They went north, to Durham and Northumberland, visiting Stillington, Seaton Carew, Embleton and Ponteland.<sup>26</sup> Gradually Higgs's turn for a College living drew near. On 9 March 1625 the College, learning of the death of their incumbent at Gam-

<sup>14</sup> *Reg. Univ. Oxon.* vol. II (1571-1622), pt. iii, ed. A. Clark (Oxf. Hist. Soc. XII), 296.

<sup>15</sup> *Merton College Register 1567-1731*, 239.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, 243.

<sup>17</sup> *Reg. Univ. Oxon.* II/iii, 296.

<sup>18</sup> *Mert. Coll. Reg.*, 246.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, 259.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, 267.

<sup>21</sup> F. Madan, *Oxford books* (Oxford, 1912), items 498, 510, 529 and 531.

<sup>22</sup> *Mert. Coll. Reg.*, 257.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, 282, 288.

<sup>24</sup> *Reg. Univ. Oxon.* II/ii, 405.

<sup>25</sup> Bodl. MS. 8565d, f. 42ff, MS. Rawl. D 1070, f. 13ff.

<sup>26</sup> *Mert. Coll. Reg.*, 285.

lingay in Cambridgeshire, offered the living to Higgs, who accepted.<sup>27</sup> He did not vacate his fellowship at once, but stayed on for a year during which he was the first Dean and accompanied the Sub-Warden to London to negotiate business concerning 'The Stonehouse', a College property in Knight rider Street.<sup>28</sup> Part of the property belonged to the Royal College of Physicians, who had vacated it for more commodious premises and let it to a sub-tenant.<sup>29</sup> At the end of that academic year, Higgs vacated his fellowship and left Merton for Gamlingay.

He did not leave empty-handed. On 13 August 1626 the College resolved to lease him the rectory of Diddington in Huntingdonshire.<sup>30</sup> The lease itself was not made out until 8 February 1627, and the actual lessees, presumably acting as Higgs's assigns, were William Simonson, William Adkins and John Wilder.<sup>31</sup> Whilst in the Netherlands Higgs often wrote to these three, presumably in connection with the property. The lease was renewed on 20 January 1650.<sup>32</sup>

Higgs's incumbency at Gamlingay is almost a blank. He presumably settled down to the work of a country parson. It is reasonably certain that he did reside there, unlike some of his predecessors,<sup>33</sup> for his diary many years later contained a note of his sending keys to Mr. Crockford to open a desk there to discover what papers he had left behind in it.<sup>34</sup> It may also be assumed that whilst at Gamlingay, Higgs maintained some acquaintance with Laud, who by 1628 had become Bishop of London, and a person of great influence. Higgs resigned Gamlingay on or before 14 March 1630, when the vacancy caused by his resignation was reported to the College.<sup>35</sup> He acquired his next English living by being collated to Cliffe-at-Hoo by Archbishop Abbot. This stage in Higgs's career has been subject to some confusion because there are two places in Kent with the word 'Cliffe' in their names. One is Cliffe-at-Hoo, about five miles north of Strood amidst the Thames-side marshes below Gravesend. The other is West Cliffe, alias St. Margaret-at-Cliffe, perched on the chalk cliffs next to Dover Castle. Hasted, in his survey of Kent, placed Higgs at West Cliffe.<sup>36</sup> In this he was uncritically following Wood, and the *Dictionary of National Biography* follows Hasted. However,

<sup>27</sup> Ibid., 290.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid., 293.

<sup>29</sup> G. N. Clark, *History of the Royal College of Physicians* (Oxford, 1964), I, 186.

<sup>30</sup> *Mert. Coll. Reg.* 296.

<sup>31</sup> Merton College, *Lease book 1627-1663*, 16.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid., 572.

<sup>33</sup> cf. *V.C.H. Cambridgeshire* (O.U.P., 1948), II, 177.

<sup>34</sup> *Diary 1637*, f. 28r.

<sup>35</sup> *Mert. Coll. Reg.* 303.

<sup>36</sup> E. Hasted, *Kent* (Canterbury, 1799), IV, 32.

Higgs was collated to Cliffe-at-Hoo, a living in the gift of the archbishops of Canterbury, on 15 February 1630.<sup>37</sup> This was a valuable living, especially because it was a peculiar exempt from archidiaconal jurisdiction, the incumbent holding his own court in matrimonial and testamentary causes. Very probably Higgs never resided at Cliffe, but it is possible that he visited it in June 1630 when he waited a few days at Gravesend for a fair wind to sail to the Netherlands.<sup>38</sup> Higgs's curate at Cliffe was John Robinson, who was there in 1630<sup>39</sup> and still in August 1638.<sup>40</sup> Having returned to England from the Netherlands in 1638 to become Dean of Lichfield, Higgs did not relinquish Cliffe, but kept it until sequestered on or before 7 August 1644.

Whilst Robinson was caring for Higgs's flock at Cliffe, their rector was chaplain to Elizabeth, 'Winter' Queen of Bohemia and daughter of James I, then a refugee with her family in straightened circumstances in the Netherlands. This is perhaps the most interesting period in Higgs's life and it is fortunate that four holograph diaries survive to illustrate it. Even so, much remains open to conjecture.

Exactly how and when Higgs was appointed Elizabeth's chaplain is problematical. In April 1620 her chaplain was Michael Jermyn,<sup>41</sup> who had probably succeeded Dr. Alexander Chapman. How long Jermyn stayed with her is not known for certain. He took his D.D. at Leyden in 1624, but was probably back in England in 1626 or soon after, for in that year he obtained two English livings, one in Sussex and the other in London.<sup>42</sup> However, in April 1622, the Countess of Bedford and Dudley Carleton had been trying to get Mr. Preston to go out as her chaplain.<sup>43</sup> This perhaps fell through for a month later the Countess had written to Carleton that if the Queen liked her present chaplain she had better keep him, for it was difficult to get clergy to go overseas, because once away from England it was hard for them to obtain further preferment.<sup>44</sup> If Jermyn stayed with the Queen until about 1626, then Higgs was probably his successor. It is very likely that Laud was responsible for putting his name forward. The appointment was settled by the spring of 1627, for the Privy Council issued Higgs a passport to the Netherlands on 18 May.<sup>45</sup>

Although refugees living on hope and credit, the Queen's family must

<sup>37</sup> S. Robertson, 'Rectors of Cliffe-at-Hoo', *Arch. Cant.* xv (1883), 244.

<sup>38</sup> Diary 1630, f. 10r.

<sup>39</sup> Robertson, 'Rectors', 244.

<sup>40</sup> Diary 1638, f. 22r.

<sup>41</sup> *Acts of the Privy Council*, 1619-1621, 179.

<sup>42</sup> J. & J. A. Venn, *Alumni Cantabrigienses . . . to 1751* (Cambridge, 1922), s.v. Jermyn.

<sup>43</sup> *Cal. S.P. Dom.* cxxix, 372.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.*, cxxx, 392.

<sup>45</sup> *Acts of the Privy Council*, 1627, 286.

have been a lively charge for Higgs. Elizabeth herself had her father's intelligence, but none of his gaucherie. She was gay and generous, and devoted to her children. Higgs recorded in his diary the birth of Princess Sophia in October 1630, and that the Queen was churched afterwards in her chamber on 23 November.<sup>46</sup> Perhaps Higgs performed that ceremony. He did not refer explicitly to Sophia's christening, though the entry under 7 January 1630-31 referred to it.<sup>47</sup> There is one clue how Higgs undertook his pastoral duties. His successor, Dr. Johnson, was accused of Arminianism, and writing to Laud to clear himself, admitted that he did not share Higgs's views on predestination but that he did not discuss such profound matters in his sermons, which like Higgs's, were always meditations.<sup>48</sup>

Higgs did not neglect his studies whilst in the Netherlands. A year or so after his arrival he began to read for a Leyden D.D., as his predecessor had done. Amongst Anthony Wood's collection in the Bodleian Library there is a broadsheet containing the Leyden lecture list for the winter of 1629.<sup>49</sup> Wood could have had no personal interest in this, and since he acquired two of Higgs's diaries, there is a strong suspicion that this lecture list may have been his also. Whether or not Higgs's, it does show what lectures he might have attended, if any. Rivetus was lecturing in the morning on *Exodus*, followed an hour later by Polyander on the *New Testament*. In the afternoon Thysius expounded *Job* and Constantius L'Empereur lectured on *Daniel* and some rabbinical commentaries on it. More certainly, Higgs did have a copy of Meursius's *Athenae Batavae*,<sup>50</sup> an illustrated handbook to the town and university. Higgs did not formally become a member of the University of Leyden until 6 February 1630, the day before his theses were presented.<sup>51</sup> This was similar to his delayed matriculation at Oxford, and was not uncommon at the time. His theses were somewhat conventional, affirming his churchmanship rather than expanding the frontiers of knowledge. He offered four. Two he denied: 'An Pontifex Romanus sit summus iudex in controversiis fidei?' and 'An peccatum aliquod sit veniale?' And two theses he affirmed: 'An voluntas sit mere passiva in primo actu conversionis?' and 'An sola fides justificet?' The formal statement of his theses, and the text of his dissertations on them were duly printed by Elzevir, the University Printer.<sup>52</sup> There is a curious misprint on the title-page of the former, Higgs's name being

<sup>46</sup> Diary 1630, f. 15r.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid., f. 16r.

<sup>48</sup> *Cal. S.P. Dom.* CCCXVII. 35, 41-2.

<sup>49</sup> *Ordo lectionum hiemalium in Academia Bat. Leydensi anno 1629.*

<sup>50</sup> This copy is now in Merton College Library: 23b20.

<sup>51</sup> *Album studiosorum Academiae Lugduno Batavae* (The Hague, 1875), col. 224.

<sup>52</sup> Copies in Merton College Library: 75f1/xiv and 75f1/xiii.



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printed as 'Hiqq's' (PL. IV). This may have been a simple compositor's error, or it might have been a Dutchman's attempt to spell a foreign name dictated to him. The mistake is corrected on the title-page of the latter. Having taken his D.D. at Leyden, Higgs supplicated for incorporation as an Oxford D.D. This seems to have been done with immodest haste. His Leyden degree was granted on 12 February 1630, and he supplicated at Oxford on 27 February.<sup>53</sup> Higgs did not cut himself off from academic life after having taken his degree at Leyden. He seems to have developed a friendship with Rivetus, one of the four professors of theology at Leyden. In July 1630 Rivetus arranged for Higgs to have a French scholar from La Rochelle.<sup>54</sup> The boy (so Higgs described him) arrived at Higgs's lodging at The Hague on 29 September 1630.<sup>55</sup> Nothing more is heard of him in the extant diaries, however. In 1632 Higgs noted his ordering books for Rivetus from Andrew Crooke in London.<sup>56</sup> As well as Rivetus, another of Higgs's acquaintances was probably Daniel Heinsius, the university librarian at Leyden.<sup>57</sup>

Ordering books from England for Rivetus was no imposition. Higgs devoted some time to purchasing books for himself whilst in the Netherlands. Some of his purchases are noted in his diaries; but also, amongst the Higgs Collection in Merton College Library, there are two miscellany volumes almost entirely filled with Elzevir sale catalogues.<sup>58</sup> Many of these catalogues are annotated with crosses and other marks, and some also have the prices paid for items, entered against them in what appears to be Higgs's hand. That these catalogues represent his book buying activities is further supported by the evidence that there are identical copies to those marked and priced, in the Higgs Collection at Merton. Perhaps the most interesting of the catalogues is that of 28 November 1633, in which Higgs noted his purchases on the verso of the title-page. They were: Meursius *Glossarium*, Chesnecopherus *Exegesis historica regni Sueciae*, Molinaeus *Tractatus de eo quod interest*, Meursius *De funere et puerperio*, and Reusner *Isagoge historica*. The cost was eight florins and ten stivers; and of these works only the third and fourth failed to reach Merton College library under the terms of Higgs's will. Similarly five of the seven items marked and priced in Elzevir's catalogue of 12 April 1633 are in the Higgs collection in Merton. Altogether, out of 51 items priced (including a

<sup>53</sup> *Reg. Univ. Oxon.* II/III, 296.

<sup>54</sup> Diary 1630, f. 11r.

<sup>55</sup> *Ibid.*, f. 13r.

<sup>56</sup> Diary 1632, f. 14v. On Crooke, see p. 124, below. The books included STC 6301, STC 5975 and STC 45.

<sup>57</sup> cf. *Cal. S.P. Dom.* CCCCXVII, 41-2.

<sup>58</sup> Merton College Library: 25a15 and 66g7.

few whose prices have been almost totally cropped by a subsequent binder), 15 are represented in the Higgs Collection at Merton.

Whilst in the Netherlands, Higgs was a busy letter writer, though almost all of his letters have vanished. His diary noted frequent letters to his brothers and nephews in Oxfordshire, and to his curate at Cliffe. He also wrote occasionally to Sir John Jacob,<sup>59</sup> whom he probably had taught at Merton and to whom he later lent a substantial sum. His most interesting correspondent was Andrew Crooke, who was probably Higgs's agent in London. By profession Crooke was a publisher and bookseller, with an establishment at the Green Dragon in St. Paul's Churchyard from 1630 until 1674, when he died.<sup>60</sup> Apart from dealing in dramatic literature Crooke was sufficiently discriminating to publish both Hobbes' *Leviathan* and Browne's *Religio Medici*. Crooke supplied Higgs with the books which Rivetus wanted, forwarded Higgs's letters to addressees in England,<sup>61</sup> and attended to his orders for cloth and clothes.<sup>62</sup>

The four extant diaries record comparatively few personal details. Higgs lived at either The Hague or Rhenen, depending at which place the Queen's court happened to be. Rhenen, where Elector Frederick had built a country villa, was pleasantly situated on rising ground on the right bank of the Neder Rijn, about fourteen miles down-stream from Arnhem. This ground, over which the Queen enjoyed hunting,<sup>63</sup> was well drained and sandy glacial soil. Shortly after Higgs had left the Netherlands, John Evelyn visited the place and his youthful, but already critical, eye was agreeably impressed.<sup>64</sup> Rhenen must have been more healthy in summer than The Hague. In 1630 Higgs returned to Rhenen from England at the end of June, and on 9 July went to The Hague where a month later he fell sick and began a diet of water gruel.<sup>65</sup> He returned to Rhenen on 14 August, but continued his diet, which by 1 September had cost him 45 stivers.<sup>66</sup> Very probably the time of year and light diet indicate some gastric disorder. Higgs was vague as to exactly where he lived in either place, but when he returned to The Hague later that summer, he seems to have lodged with Sir John Ashburnham, whose

<sup>59</sup> Jacob graduated from Merton in 1617 and was later one of the farmers of the London customs; M.P. for Harwich 1640 and for Rye 1640 (Long Parliament); died in 1666.

<sup>60</sup> E. Arber, *Transcript of the Stationers' Company Register*, (London, 1816), III, 686; H. R. Plomer, *Dictionary of booksellers 1641-1667* (London, 1907), 56-7.

<sup>61</sup> Diary 1630, f. 11r.; 1632, f. 8r.; 1637, f. 28r.

<sup>62</sup> Diary 1637, f. 11r.; and 1638, f. 15r.

<sup>63</sup> M. A. E. Green, *Elizabeth, Electress Palatine*, ed. Lomas (London, 1909), 264.

<sup>64</sup> J. Evelyn, *Diary*, ed. De Beer (Oxford, 1955), I, 34-5.

<sup>65</sup> Diary 1630, f. 12r.

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*, f., 13r.



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house he later left for new lodgings.<sup>67</sup> In May 1632 Higgs noted his moving once again to yet another lodging in The Hague.<sup>68</sup> It is not entirely clear whether Higgs had any servants. In October 1630 he dismissed his Dutch 'man'.<sup>69</sup> He certainly had somebody to do his laundry, for he paid her 20 florins for six months' work on 4 October 1632.<sup>70</sup>

Higgs was not the only English clergyman in the Netherlands. When at The Hague, the Winter Queen sometimes attended service at the English church there, conducted by Bamfort, when she had no private service.<sup>71</sup> Higgs mentioned him once in his diary.<sup>72</sup> There was also an increasing number of other English clergy who had left England in disagreement with the Laudian régime. They were strong in Rotterdam and Delft, but were far from harmoniously disposed amongst themselves, Davenport and Paget being particularly at loggerheads. Higgs collected several of the pamphlets which these controversies produced. One which he obtained is now apparently the unique copy, Richards's *Crown of a Christian martyr*, published at Delft in 1634.<sup>73</sup> Higgs was not entirely uncommitted, and he sent Sir William Boswell intelligence about Davenport's views on infant baptism.<sup>74</sup>

The Winter Queen was poor and had little means of rewarding her servants. Higgs received several gifts from her and her family,<sup>75</sup> but her best means of rewarding her chaplain was to use her Court influence in England to get him preferment. This support and Higgs's own acquaintance with Laud sufficed. On 21 May 1631 Higgs was collated to the Precentorship of St. David's, and was installed about two months later.<sup>76</sup> There seems to have been some difficulty over revenues, and in August that year Laud wrote to the Queen that he would endeavour to help to sort things out.<sup>77</sup> This, presumably, was done satisfactorily for the Queen later thanked Laud for the kindness which he had shown to Higgs.<sup>78</sup> A precentorship in a distant Welsh cathedral might be a useful source of revenue, but it did not carry much status. In 1638 the Queen was again active in his behalf. In April Higgs

<sup>67</sup> Ibid., f. 14r.

<sup>68</sup> Diary 1632, f. 12r.

<sup>69</sup> Diary 1630, f. 14r.

<sup>70</sup> Diary 1632, f. 20r.

<sup>71</sup> B.M., Add. MS. 6394, f. 204r.; cf. Green, *Elizabeth*, 355-6.

<sup>72</sup> Diary 1630, f. 12r. It is probably to him rather than to Higgs that William Brereton referred: *Travels*, in *Chetham Soc.* 1. (1844), 28.

<sup>73</sup> Omitted from *Short-title Catalogue*. The author is indebted to Mr. Paul Morgan for help on this point. Copy in Merton College Library: 75f1/v.

<sup>74</sup> B.M., Add. MS. 6394, f. 193r.

<sup>75</sup> See Higgs's will, below.

<sup>76</sup> J. Le Neve, *Fasti*, ed. Hardy (London, 1854), 1. 316.

<sup>77</sup> *Cal. S.P. Dom.* cxcviii. 136; cf. W. Laud, *Works* (Oxford, 1850), vii. 40-1.

<sup>78</sup> *Cal. S.P. Dom.* cciv. 196.

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noted that she had written to Laud, a letter which, surely, he would only have known about had he been privy to its contents, or at least known its purpose.<sup>79</sup> Later that year he noted other letters, including three of his own to various friends, 'concerning St. David's and Lichfield'.<sup>80</sup> All these were certainly preparing the ground for his next preferment; and on 22 October, Charles I recommended to the Chapter at Lichfield that they elect Higgs as their new dean.<sup>81</sup> This was done, and about a year later Laud remarked in a letter to Rowe, Ambassador at The Hague, that Higgs had got the deanery at the request of the Winter Queen.<sup>82</sup>

Few records survive of the activities of the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield during Higgs's deanery. Practically all the records perished in the Civil War.<sup>83</sup> Higgs probably returned to England in the early autumn of 1638, and his diary for that year ends abruptly, for no obvious reason, on 20 September, presumably whilst he was still at The Hague. He probably returned briefly early the following year for the Privy Council issued him another passport to go back and collect his books.<sup>84</sup>

Dean Higgs must have been a person of some note in a small country town like Lichfield. The bishop, Wright, was also an Oxford man and like Higgs had been a poetaster in his youth, but since then his career and accomplishments had developed in some contrast to the Dean's. According to Wood, Wright was more concerned with the conversion of episcopal property to his own use, than with that of sinners. Wright had none of the scholarly or cosmopolitan experience of Higgs; but the Dean should not be allowed to appear too innocent by contrast, for he held on to both Cliffe and his precentorship. The Deanery in Higgs's time may be reconstructed by inference from his will and library. His Dutch oil paintings, his silver watch,<sup>85</sup> his silver tankard and the Bible presented to him by the Queen (and finely tooled and gilded on both boards with her personal arms) were probably there for the visitor to see. But justifiable though such reconstructions can be, they hardly replace evidence from contemporary documents. These are largely lacking; but it is known that Higgs complained to Laud about the statutes which Bishop Wright had imposed upon the Chapter at his last visitation.<sup>86</sup> This is scanty evidence, but the impression from Higgs's management of his own property suggests that he might have been an able and business-like dean.

<sup>79</sup> Diary 1638, f. 13r.

<sup>80</sup> Ibid., ff. 15v. and 17r.

<sup>81</sup> *Cal. S.P. Dom.* cccc. 65.

<sup>82</sup> Ibid., ccccxxx. 9.

<sup>83</sup> cf. J. C. Cox, *Catalogue of muniments* (Wm. Salt Soc. 1886), vi/2.

<sup>84</sup> *Cal. S.P. Dom.* ccccx. 356.

<sup>85</sup> Purchased in The Hague in August, 1630; Diary 1630, f. 12r.

<sup>86</sup> Laud, *Works*, vii. 413.

Higgs had hardly spent two years in the deanery when the 'King's Peace' came to an end. Higgs must have wondered which side to take. He was bound to the Royal family by gratitude and patriotism; to Laud by ties of College sentiment, by canon law and again by gratitude for advancement. But Higgs also had himself to consider. He was a man of property. Although unmarried, he had brothers and nephews to remember. Higgs may have counselled commitment; Griffin, circumspection. Charles I raised his standard at Nottingham on 22 August 1642. In the following spring Lichfield was subject to two sieges, of which Higgs wrote a florid Latin account.<sup>87</sup> Although he did not state it explicitly, he was probably an eye-witness of both sieges. He referred to Prince Rupert's relieving force as 'nostri', but this was a literary conceit to indicate the writer's sympathy. What is, perhaps, the significant clause occurs a few sentences further on. Again writing of Prince Rupert, Higgs concluded '. . . in pristinam nos vindiciis asserit libertatem'. Here the pronoun 'nos' may indicate those in the Close including Higgs whom Rupert's troops set free when they defeated the Parliamentary garrison. Furthermore, the detail with which Higgs described the earlier sacking of the cathedral by the Parliamentary troops (detail omitted by both Rushworth and Clarendon) has a ring of authenticity about it. Sometime after this Higgs moved to Oxfordshire and he was in Oxford when it surrendered to Fairfax in June 1646.<sup>88</sup>

During the war, Higgs became involved in the Harvey affair. The Warden of Merton, Brent, had joined the Parliamentary cause and Charles I decided that the office was therefore vacant, and instructed the College to elect his physician, William Harvey, to the position. Such a command, with the Court in Oxford, could not be ignored. Nevertheless one fellow, John French, nominated Higgs as a rival candidate.<sup>89</sup> The royal nominee was elected. The choice of Higgs as a rival had some subtlety behind it for his was a candidature which could not really offend Charles because of Higgs's close connection with the Court; yet at the same time it was a gesture of collegiate independence.

Until the outbreak of the war, Higgs remained incumbent at Cliffe. In August 1644 the Parliamentary Committee for Plundered Ministers received a petition from Richard Hardres and others, that the claims of John Banks to the living be accepted. The churchwardens of Cliffe also sent a letter, suggesting that Banks be allowed to preach there as the living was

<sup>87</sup> Published in *English Historical Review*, xxxv (1920), 249-51.

<sup>88</sup> *Journals of the House of Commons* (1803), v. 310.

<sup>89</sup> *Mert. Coll. Reg.* 356.

void.<sup>90</sup> It must be assumed that Robinson had already left. However, even if allowed to preach there, Banks did not last long, for about a year later Samuel Annesley, a Puritan divine, was enjoying the living.<sup>91</sup>

Despite these vicissitudes, Higgs was still a man of substance. On 22 September 1646 he begged to compound on the Oxford Articles.<sup>92</sup> In December he was fined accordingly at one-tenth, the fine amounting to £480.<sup>93</sup> His official residence still being Lichfield, his compounding under Oxford may have caused some difficulty, but later in December this was accepted even though in the previous summer it had been ordered that moneys due from him were to be paid to the Lichfield garrison.<sup>94</sup> The Parliamentary bureaucracy moved slowly and it was not until April 1647 that it ordered that Higgs's books and goods at Lichfield, valued at £78, should be restored to him.<sup>95</sup> What had happened to his books is obscure. They were not all lost during the two sieges, though whether this was due to good fortune or to their having been moved to safety, is not known. Higgs did pay Biddulph £20 in December 1646 to reimburse him for spending so much on redeeming four trunks of books and clothes at Lichfield and keeping them in safe custody at Elmhurst a few miles away.<sup>96</sup> Perhaps Biddulph had rescued them from uncouth custody, possibly with bribery, though Higgs was not allowed officially to regain possession until the following spring. Higgs next arranged with Simon Fowler of Stafford for him to keep them safely for the time being. The receipt which Higgs had from Fowler, for two chests of books and forty-eight loose items (enumerated with authors and titles) and dated 8 October 1647, has survived.<sup>97</sup>

Meanwhile, in September 1647, the Commons had ratified Higgs's fine and had noted in its minute that Higgs had real estate for four lives, worth £71 annually, and personal estate valued at £3,940.<sup>98</sup> Although sequestered from his ecclesiastical preferments, Higgs managed to hold on to his estate, chattels and books. He was still in possession of Diddington at the end of the war, and the lease was renewed on 20 January 1650, on the same terms as previously.<sup>99</sup> He had also taken a copyhold at South Stoke from Christ Church. Their 17th-century estate records are defective and no record

<sup>90</sup> Hist. MSS. Comm. *Sixth Report* (1877), 141.

<sup>91</sup> A. G. Matthews, *Calamy revised* (Oxford, 1934), 13.

<sup>92</sup> *Cal. Proc. Committee for Compounding* (1890), p. 1501.

<sup>93</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>94</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>95</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>96</sup> Merton College archives, E.2.29.

<sup>97</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>98</sup> *Journals of the House of Commons* (1803), v. 310.

<sup>99</sup> Merton College, *Lease book 1627-1663*, 572.

survives of Higgs's first taking this property, known as 'Brills'. But the copyhold was surrendered and regranted at a court baron held on 8 June 1647. The property was described as a messuage, two virgates and two acres of meadow.<sup>100</sup> Higgs was still in possession at his death and very probably 'Brills' was his home after he had been sequestered from Lichfield. He also mentioned in his will his holding another copyhold, but no record survives there of this.

In 1647 Higgs's personal estate had been reckoned at nearly £4,000. There is some evidence of what Higgs did with this fortune. On or about 26 June 1649 he lent over £1,300 to Sir John Jacob.<sup>101</sup> This loan was secured in three bonds, two in Griffin Higgs's name and one, the largest, in Nicholas Higgs's. In September 1653 Nicholas executed a document to certify that his name had been used in this third bond merely as a convenience, the money actually being Griffin's. The reason for this was not explained. Such arrangements were sometimes made so that the third party could enjoy the interest, but since a later probate document deals with the accumulated interest, this cannot have been the explanation. Perhaps in view of political uncertainties, Griffin was trying to cover his tracks, for it is certain that he had plans for the ultimate disposal of this capital. Indeed, in July 1649, presumably with Griffin's agreement, Nicholas assigned £618 worth of Jacob's bond to Merton College, though Griffin did not finally assign the whole debt to the College until March 1653. In this latter assignment Griffin disposed of £1,500. The whole was given to Merton with the instruction that the College was to pay one-third of it to St. John's College. Merton was further instructed to use its two-thirds on the purchase of land in socage tenure, to the annual value of £50. The revenue arising from this land was to be applied as follows: £15 annually for the Postmasters of the College, £20 for a Divinity Lecturer in the College, £10 for a College Library Keeper and £5 for a College Preacher. In an undated probate document,<sup>102</sup> signed by Higgs's nephew, Griffith, the state of Jacob's debt was fully set out. The principal was £1,340 and the accumulated interest from 26 June 1649 to 26 January 1662 was reckoned at £1,005. This, with another smaller sum, gave a total of £2,545. Higgs's estate was probably finally disposed of by early in 1665, and a receipt for their share was sent by St. John's College to Merton on 21 February that year. Apart from Higgs's loan to Jacob, there is a hint of another transaction, for in May 1650 the Committee for Com-

<sup>100</sup> Christ Church, Manorial Records, Oxfordshire, 3.c.3.37.

<sup>101</sup> The following is based on various documents in Merton College archives E.2.29 and Ch. Ch. MSS. Estates 80/277.

<sup>102</sup> It has an endorsement dated 26 January 1661 (O.S.), the date to which the interest was calculated.

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pounding received a report that Alderman Avery of London had £3,600 in his possession which belonged to Higgs.<sup>103</sup> Avery was ordered to appear before the Committee, and he told them in July that he no longer had the money and produced Higgs's acquittance to prove his point.<sup>104</sup> This was probably another loan. Avery may have been a trusted acquaintance, for in his will Higgs instructed his executors to seek Avery's advice on the purchase of a gold cup to be given to the Winter Queen as a mark of Higgs's esteem.

Higgs probably spent his closing years at South Stoke, unmolested by Parliamentary Commissioners. He was a man of property and substance. As well as assigning Jacob's bonds to Merton, he was able to found and endow a free school at South Stoke,<sup>105</sup> to leave a charity for the poor of the parish, and to distribute valuable personal effects amongst his kin. Higgs suffered much less than his fellow deans.<sup>106</sup> He was never imprisoned nor was obliged to flee the country. Although he compounded at a much higher sum than many other deans, he was not reduced to poverty. Retired peacefully to South Stoke and dying worth several thousands of pounds, he was not typical. There are perhaps three reasons why he suffered so little. He was not excessively Laudian and he was wise enough, perhaps, not to antagonize Puritans deliberately, his experience in the Netherlands teaching him some discretion perhaps. Secondly, Warden Brent may have spoken up for him. Lastly, Parliament had no quarrel with the Winter Queen, and to victimize one of her former chaplains might not have been thought wise. Higgs probably visited Merton occasionally in these last years, and he expressed a wish to be buried either in Merton or at South Stoke. He made his will in the summer of 1659, when he was approaching seventy years of age. He died some time after his seventieth birthday and was buried in the chancel of South Stoke parish church on 19 December 1659.<sup>107</sup>

What sort of a man was Higgs? His churchmanship can be established. There are his theses at Leyden, and the point that his sermons were often meditations. He was no Arminian, as may be confirmed from Johnson's letter to Laud. More help comes from a passage in Laud's trial.<sup>108</sup> Prynne accused Laud of preferring only those who were 'for Ceremonies, Popery and Arminianism'. Laud denied this and to substantiate his point referred to Bishop Hall, Dr. Potter, Dr. Cook, Dr. Westfield, Dr. Fell and Dr. Higgs.

<sup>103</sup> *Cal. Proc. Committee for Compounding* (1890), pp. 2305-6.

<sup>104</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 2306.

<sup>105</sup> Merton College archives, E.2.29.

<sup>106</sup> cf. J. Walker, *Sufferings* (London, 1714), *passim*.

<sup>107</sup> South Stoke parish register, f. 34v.

<sup>108</sup> T. B. Howell, *State trials* (London, 1816), iv. 518.



Apart from his churchmanship, little shows. Perhaps his very self-effacement is significant. In his diaries he infrequently used the singular personal pronoun. His approach was factual and objective. He was probably shrewd in business matters. He was closely attached to his relatives at South Stoke and at least once attempted to mediate in a family quarrel.<sup>109</sup> He might well be summarized in his own words. Writing to Sir William Boswell about the English independents in the Netherlands, Higgs observed of the Dutch ministers that they '... doe mislike our Non-conformists, and would more Easilie entertaine Conformable men of Learning, and good life and moderation.'<sup>110</sup> This, one may believe, was an observation from experience; and consciously or not, a self-portrait. A fellow Mertonian, whom Higgs may have taught, was John Earle, the essayist, whose portrait of the 'Grave Divine' might in some particulars describe Higgs: 'He has sounded both religions, and anchored in the best, and is protestant out of judgement, not faction... His discourse is substance, not all rhetoric.'<sup>111</sup>

The text of Higgs's will, which follows, has been transcribed from the attested copy in Merton College archives.<sup>112</sup> It is on two parchment sheets, written on the rectos in a neat and regular hand which presents no great difficulty. It is not the holograph original, which a passage in this transcript might superficially imply. A few editorial conventions have been adopted. The punctuation and capitalization have been modernized and paragraphs have been introduced. The spelling and few abbreviations have been retained as in the original. A few notes on some aspects of the matter of the will might be apposite. Most of the place- and personal names should cause no difficulty. Exlade and Woodcote were two hamlets in the east of the parish of South Stoke, on the top of the Chiltern Hills—hence Higgs's use of the phrases 'above' and 'below the Hill'. The chapel 'above the Hill' was at Woodcote. The bequest of five pounds to the parish church was spent on a silver chalice and paten, duly engraved to record their origin, and still in use. The charity, also, is still distributed.<sup>113</sup> The bequest of his books and maps to Merton College raises a number of problems which it is hoped to discuss elsewhere, but one may reasonably conclude that most of his books and maps did eventually reach the College, where they remain to this day. Higgs's literary papers seem to have vanished. The four extant diaries may have gone to his literary executors, but two came into Anthony Wood's

<sup>109</sup> Bodl., MS. Rawl. C 421, ff. 54-5.

<sup>110</sup> B.M., Add. MS. 6394, f. 193r.

<sup>111</sup> J. Earle, *Microcosmography* (London, 1628), Ch. III.

<sup>112</sup> Merton Colleges archives E.2.3. Another copy is in the archives of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury: T.M. Blagg, *Index of wills... P.C.C. 1657-1660* (Index Library, London, 1936), 301.

<sup>113</sup> Ex. inf. the Rev. R. E. Price, Vicar of South Stoke.

possession and thence to the Bodleian Library. The fate of Higgs's pictures has yet to be discovered. The executors did set up a monument in the chancel of South Stoke parish church, and it bears a fulsome Latin inscription which Wood believed was mainly Higgs's own composition.<sup>114</sup> The date of the codicil is earlier than that of the will, and this suggests that the text of the codicil was taken (a little carelessly) from a previous document. Its source was probably one of several documents executed in the spring of 1653 when Higgs assigned Jacob's bonds to Merton College. It is significant that the witnesses of the codicil also witnessed that assignment. There is, however, no explicit indication that Higgs ever made an earlier will than this one.

#### THE WILL OF DR. GRIFFIN HIGGS

f.1 In the name of God, amen, the two and twentieth day of August in the yeare of our Lord God according to the computation of the Church of England, one thousand six hundred, fifty and nine, I, Griffith Higgs the elder, of South Stoke in the county of Oxon, Doctor in Divinity and sometimes Deane of the cathedrall church at Litchfield in the county of Stafford, knowing well the certainty of death and the uncertainty of the houre thereof, and having at this present (thankes be given unto God for it) perfect health of body and the right use of my senses, memory and understanding, do intend at this time to dispose of that worldly estate wherewith God hath blessed me and to sett my temporall as well as my spirituall house in order. And for that purpose I doe at this present make this my last will and testament in manner and forme following.

ffirst I doe bequeath my soul to Almighty God who gave it, with full persuasion and assurance of salvation by the pretious death and passion and by the merits of Jesus Christ, the only begotten son of God, my only and ever blessed Saviour and Redeemer; and my body to be committed to the earth from whence it came, with Christian buryall, if it shall so please God, in expectation of a glorious resurrection.

Item: I doe give and bequeath to the parish church of South Stoke, where I was borne, in the county of Oxon, the some of five pounds; and to the poor of the said parish of South Stoke the some of five pounds yearly for ever, and for that purpose I doe require my Exer. or Executors hereafter named that within one yere after my decease he or they shall lay out one hundred pounds to purchase ffree land of socage tenure and of five pounds yerely value at least and charge that land with the payment of this ffive pounds yearly for ever, towards the maintenance of the poor of the parish of South Stoke aforesaid. Concerning the yerely distribucon of this money, my will is that it shall be disposed of to such persons and in such manner as I have or shall sett downe

<sup>114</sup> Text in Wood & Rawlinson, *Parochial coll.* 274. On its authorship, cf. Wood, *Athenae Oxon.* III. 481.

in a Codicill under my hand and seale or other writing to be annexed to this my last will and testament.

Item: I doe give and bequeath to the Warden and Scholars of the House or Colledge of Schollars of Merton in the University of Oxon, all my printed bookes and all my mapps wheresoever they, that is either books or mapps, be at Litchfield, Elm Hurst, Stafford, London, Cliffe, South Stoke or elsewhere, together with all those bookes which are in the hands of Mr. Richard Harrison, lately Minister of Tettenhall near Wolverhampton in the county of Stafford, of what language, flaculty, profession or kind soever, for the use of their Colledge Library, desiring them (if in their wisdome they shall think fitting) to exchange such bookes as they have already for others and to retaine all such as they had not before, either in that kind or that volume and edition. Particularly I doe give and bequeath unto them for the use of their said Library, a flaire English Bible in folio, guilded and richly enamelled, with large blew silk strings and gold fringes which was given me by her Ma<sup>tie</sup> my gracious M<sup>rs</sup> the Queene of Bohemia. And in case these bookes of mine which at this present are kept in a library in Stafford towne (which are the farr greatest part of all my library) or any other of my bookes which are dispersed in other places, shall at any time hereafter by the sollicitations of the said Warden and Schollars, or by any other meanes possible, be recovered, I doe likewise give and bequeath all of them to thouse of the Colledge Library in Merton Colledge aforesaid.

Item: I doe require my Executor or Executors herein after named to deliver up all my written sermons, paper bookes, note bookes, letters, orations, disputations, suppositōns and all kinds of writings belonging either to divinity or to humanity or to any other kind of learning whatsoever they bee (excepting those papers or writings which doe in any wise belong to my temporall estate) into the hands of those four ffrriends, viz<sup>t</sup> Doctor Richard Bayly, sometimes Deane of Salisbury and President of St. John Baptist Colledge in Oxford, Doctor Gillingham, sometimes Prebend of Windsor, Doctor John Oliver, sometimes President of Magdalen Colledge in Oxford, and Doctor Edward Reynolds, now minister of St. Lawrence Jewry Church in London, whom I doe earnestly desire to peruse them and then to dispose of them privately or publickly, according to their discretions.

Item: I doe give and bequeath to the Vice Chancellor and Proctors for the time being and other Overseers of the Publick Library in the University at Oxon, called Bodleys Library, the sume of one hundred pounds to be layd out for the use of the said Library upon buying of divinity bookes, especially some choice bookes of controversiall, casuisticall and criticall learning in divinity, and some of the most learned commentators, cronologers and writers upon difficult places of Scripture. And this is to be done within one yeere after the receipt of the money or else the said summe of one hundred pounds to be repaid back againe to my Executor or Executors hereafter named. Likewise I doe give and bequeath to Merton Colledge and to St. John Baptist College, both in the said University at Oxford, the some of fifty pounds apiece (viz<sup>t</sup> fifty pounds to each of them) to be layd out for the use of their Colledge Libraries respectively upon buying such kind of divinity bookes as are before mentioned for Bodleys Library, according to the proportion of their money. And this is to be done within one yeare after the receipt of the money or else the said

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sones or either of them not employed within the time limited, is to be repayed back againe to my Executor or Executors hereafter named.

Item: I doe require my Executor or Executors, hereafter named, by the assistance and direction of Mr. Samuel Averie, late Alderman of the City of London, to lay out one hundred pounds upon a very fair cup and cover, both of them of solid and massie gold, with the armes of the Queene of Bohemia to be engraven on it; and by the meanes of the said Mr. Alderman Avery, to send and humbly present it to her as a poor testimony and acknowledgment of my thankfullness to her Ma<sup>tie</sup> for her many gracious favours vouchsafed to me.

Alsoe I doe give and bequeath another hundred pounds to be distributed by my Executor or Executors equally amongst twenty poore sequestered Ministers about London, Oxfordshire, Staffordshire, Kent or elsewhere (viz<sup>t</sup>) five pounds to each one of them, who shall all be nominated either by my self in a Codicill to be annexed to this my last will and testament, or by my Executor or Executors, and whom he or they shall request to assist him or them in it.

Item: I doe give and bequeath unto my five godchildren, that is to say Barton Higgs, sonne of my brother Barton Higgs of South Stoke in the county of Oxon, Griffith Higgs, sonne of John Higgs, William Snow, sonne of Mr. William Snow, vicar, Barton Cruchfeild, sonne of Barton Cruchfeild, and Margaret Harvey, daughter of Henry Harvey, all of the said South Stoke, the sume of ten pounds to be equally divided amongst them, that is to say, forty shillings to each one of them; to John Deacon, of the same South Stoke, sometime my servant, five pounds; to Hillary Bristow, Andrew Shingleton, Tobie Greene, John Johnson, francis Cripps, John Ayre, Richard Ruth, Thomas Wilder the Smith, Christopher Middleton, Henry Middleton, Peter Ilsey, Thomas Smith, William Smith, old William Lewinden, sometimes a bargeman, Richard Awberrie, John Wakelyn and Henry Newbery, all of South Stoke, twenty shillings apiece; to Thomas Heaver the elder and Griffith Sellwood, both of Woodcott, twenty shillings apiece; and twenty shillings apiece more to fower poore persons of Woodcotte or Exlade in the parish of South Stoke aforesaid, and such as my brother Barton Higgs or my Executor or Executors, shall think most fitting and shall appointe; and likewise to Alice Browne and Sarah Browne, the daughters of old William Browne, sometimes an inhabitant of South Stoke aforesaid, tenn shillings apiece, wheresoever they doe or shall dwell. Provided alwayes that these legacies shall not debarr any of those poor persons above named from the benefit of my yearly exhibition to the poore of the parish of South Stoke, but that so long as they shall continue inhabitants in the said parish, they may in any yeere bee capable of being nominated unto it, the rules and orders sett downe in the Codicill annexed to this my last will and testament being observed.

Item: I doe give and bequeath to my eldest brother Barton Higgs, my small silver watch with a silver case, made by the watchmaker of The Hague in Holland; to his wife, my sister-in-law, my silver candlesticke with the silver sockett and one small silver trencher salt cellar and the best of my silk grograine gownes; to their eldest sonne, Griffith Higgs, my best cloth cloak line[d] through with velvett; to their second sonne, Barton Higgs, my godsonn, my other cloath cloak lined through with velvet; and to their third sonne, John Higgs, a small silver drinking tunne which was given me by Prince Philipp, one of the sonnes

of the Queene of Bohemia; and to their five daughters, two small English guilt Bibles in octavo, three wrote purses and three small table books, all to be distributed amongst them by the discretion of their mother, and in money one hundred and fifty pounds to be equally divided amongst them, that is to say, to their daughter Elianor, thirty pounds, to their daughter Marie, thirty pounds, to their daughter Sara, thirty pounds, to their daughter Elizabeth, thirty pounds and to their daughter Magdalen, thirty pounds. And likewise, concerning ten pictures which I brought with me from The Hague into England, I have and doe dispose of them amongst my brother Barton Higgs his children in this manner following, that is to say, I doe give and bequeath to his eldest son Griffith Higgs, the pictures of the King and Queene of Bohemia; to his second son Barton Higgs, the picture of the present Prince Elector Palatine; to his third son, John Higgs, the picture of Prince Rupert, if he can procure it from Sr Henry Bagotts sonne who, being Governor of Litchfield, carryed it away with him; to his eldest daughter, Elianor, the pictures of the old Prince of Orange, Henry ffrederick and his Princess, now dowager; to his second daughter, Mary Higgs, the picture of the Queen of Bohemia's eldest daughter f.2r. Princess Elizabeth; to his third daughter day [sic], the picture of the above named old Prince of Orange his eldest sonne; to his fourth daughter, Elizabeth Bankes, the picture of the Queene of Bohemia's eldest sonne Henry Fredericke who was drowned, and to his ffith daughter, Magdalen Twiddy, the picture of the Queene of Bohemia's second daughter, Princesse Loisa.

Item: I doe give and bequeath to my eldest sister, Mary Jemett, of Shiplake in the county of Oxon, widow, a gold ring with a fair diamond in it, in forme of an heart given me by her Ma<sup>tie</sup> the Queene of Bohemia; to my sister-in-law Anne, the late wife of my brother Nicholas Higgs, in the parish of Thacham in the county of Berks, widow, another gold ring with a lesser diamond in it, set up on claws, and one small silver trencher salt cellar; to the wife of my nephew Richard Wilder, of the parish of Goring in the county of Oxon, yeoman, sonne of my sister Magdalen Browne lately deceased, my second silk grograine gowne and one small silver trencher silver salt cellar; and to the wife of my other nephew, William Wilder, of the said parish of Goring in the same county of Oxon, yeoman, being another sonne of the same sister Magdalen Browne, lately deceased, six plaine silver spoones with the letters of my name upon the end of every one of them and one small silver trencher salt cellar. Moreover, in case any person or persons unto whom I have given and bequeathed any legacies either of money or goods in this my last will and testament, shall not rest satisfi'd and contented with it, being payd or tendred according to this my present will, but shall be contentious and raise debates and suites of law against my Executor or Executors or be in any wise troublesome unto them, then my will is that the said person or persons, man or woman, shall be utterly deprived of that legacy and of all other benefits whatsoever which should or might arise unto her or him by vertue of this my last will and testament, any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding, and that the said legacy of money or goods or other benefit shall returne wholly and intirely to my Executor or Executors.

Likewise whereas I have heretofore freely and absolutely given certaine sumes of money to some of my kindred and other friends, and whereas severall

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bonds and other writings concerning those sumes have been legally and before sufficient witnesses, sealed, signed and delivered to them or to their use, my will is and I doe hereby declare that the money mentioned in these bonds and writings, and what money soever else shall be due by vertue of them, shall be payable unto those persons unto whom the bonds and writings are made or unto those to whom I have before the making and sealing this my present last will and testament, assigned and disposed it, and not unto mee. Neither shall it belong to my Executor or Executors.

Item: I doe ordaine, make, constitute and appoint my three nephews (viz<sup>t</sup>) Griffith Higgs, sonne of my brother Barton Higgs of South Stoake in the county of Oxon, yeoman, George Jemott, of the parish of Shiplacke in the same county of Oxon, yeoman, and Nicholas Higgs, of Henwicke in the parish of Thacham in the county of Berks, yeoman, sonne of my brother Nicholas Higgs of the same parish and county, yeoman, lately deceased, to be my joynt Executors of this my last will and testament. Nevertheless my will and meaning is that the said Nicholas Higgs, his executors, administrators and assignes shall have and enjoy the executor yeers of my two of my two [sic] copyholds within the mannour of South Stoke aforesaid, commonly knowne and called by the name, one of Dancastles, the other of Brills, both now in the occupation of one John Wilder according to the custome of the said mannour wholly and solely unto himself, provided alwayes that he the said Nicholas Higgs, his executors, administrators or assignes shall upon his and their own proper costs and charges satisfy the Lord of the Mannor for the time being for the two heriotts that shall be due unto him out of the said two copyholds.

All the rest of my goods and estate not as yet disposed of either heretofore or in this my present last will and testament, I doe give unto my above named three Executors, Griffith Higgs, George Jemmott and Nicholas Higgs, to be joyntly and equally enjoyed by them. And I doe require them to pay all my debts and to discharge all the legacies given and mentioned in this my last will and testament within the space of one whole yeare after my decease if the money can so soon be gotten in, they not neglecting all possible means to procure it. Likewise I doe require them to see me Christianly and decently buried (if God shall soe permitt) either at Merton Colledge in Oxford, where I was brought up, or in the parish church or chancell at South Stoke, where I was borne, wheresoever it shall please God to bee; to defray all my ffunerall charges and to sett up some tombe or monument for me of about [blank] or [blank] pounds charge, whatsoever the Overseers hereafter named shall think fitt, with such inscriptions as the said Overseers shall either receive from me or compose for me.

Item: I doe nominate and appointe my fower worthy friends above named, that is to say, Doctor Bayley, Doctor Gillingham, Doctor Oliver and Doctor Reynolds, to be the Overseers of this my last will and testament, earnestly desiring them to advise and assist my Executors in all points concerning their Executorship, and streightly requiring my Executors to be guided and ruled by them. And for the care and assistance of the said Overseers, I doe give and bequeath unto them twenty pounds, that is to say, five pounds to every one of them, to be payd presently after my decease, and I doe desire them to accept of it.



DR. GRIFFIN HIGGS, 1589-1659

This I doe acknowledge to be my true last will and testament, written and in some places interlined, all with my owne hand, in wittenesse whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seale the day and yeare above written

Griffith Higgs

Sealed, signed and published in the presence of

Thomas Loader

Benjamyn Stone

The Codicill concerning the distribution of the five pounds given in my last will and testament, yearly to the poore of the parish of South Stoke in the county of Oxon.

Concerning the yearly distribution of five pounds which in my last will and testament I have given to the poore of the parish of South Stoke in the county of Oxon, my will is that it be disposed of in this manner following, viz<sup>t</sup> three pounds every yeere to six poore families in South Stoke towne, or that parte of the parish which is called below the Hill, to be payd halfe yearly: I meane thirty shillings every halfe yeare, that is to say, five shillings apeice to every family upon the first Sabbath day after the five and twentieth day of December, and the other thirty shillings, that is five shillings apeice more, to the same six families upon Easter Day following; and forty shillings every yeare to six poor ffamilies in Woodcott and Exlade, to be payd likewise halfe yearly: I meane twenty shillings every halfe yeare, that is three shillings and fower pence apeice to every ffamilie upon the forenamed dayes; both payments to be discharged in the parish church at South Stoke immediately after the morning prayer and sermon, unlesse the sermon be at Woodcote Chappell upon either of those dayes, for then the six ffamilies below the Hill may receive their money in South Stoke church after morning prayer, and those above the Hill may receive their money at Woodcote in the chappell immediately after the morning prayers and sermon. And all those twelve ffamilies are to be present either in the parish church at South Stoke below the Hill, or in the Chappell above the Hill, after prayers and sermon ended, upon the dayes of payment unlesse the Electors, (viz those who are yearly to nominate the ffamilies) or the major parte of them, doe allow of the cause of their absence. Howsoever one at least of each ffamily and that one, one of the choisest persons, man or woman, shall be there or else the portion belonging to that family for that time shall be forfeited as to them and shall be distributed equally amongst the other five ffamilies either of South Stoke or of Woodcote and Exlade where the absent ffamily resideth.

Secondly, the six ffamilies of both places, both below the Hill and above, shall be changed every yeare. I meane the same six ffamilies shall not receive the allowance two yeares together, neither in South Stoke nor in Woodcott and in Exlade. But every yeare six new ffamilies shall be nominated unto it, provided alwayes that the Electors shall never nominate any of those persons or ffamilies who at that present doe receive any collection from the parish by the Overseers of the Poore.

Thirdly, the persons who are to nominate those ffamilies shall be the Lord of the Mannor or his ffarmer, the Vicar off [sic] the parish, both for the time being, the two Churchwardens, one below, the other above the Hill,

P. S. MORRISH

the two Overseers for the Poore, one likewise below, the other above the Hill, my elder brother Barton Higgs and after him the choicest person and neerest unto him of ffamilie and name in South Stoke Towne, soe long as any of them shall be inhabitants in that place, and my Executor and after him the owner of the land or his assignee for ever.

ffourthly, these eight persons, or the major parte of them, shall every yeere upon Michaelmas Day nominate and appointe the six families in South Stoke Towne and the other six ffamilies in Woodcotte and Exlade who are to receive the above named allowance for that yeere ensueing (viz<sup>t</sup>) uppon the first Sabboath day imediately following after the five and twentieth of December, reckoning from the aforesaid Michaelmas Day, and upon the next Easter Day imediately following after that. And my Executor and after him the owner of the land or his assignee, for ever shall pay the money yearly to the severall ffamilies respectively after prayers and sermons in the places and upon the dayes above appointed, begining the payment at the same time as he doth the other legacies given in my last will and testament, viz<sup>t</sup> one yeere after my decease.

All those promisses I doe acknowledge to be my acte, and in acknowledgement thereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seale the seaventh day of Aprill in the yeare of our Lord God, according to the computation of the Church of England, one thousand six hundred ffity and three

Griffith Higgs

Sealed, signed and delivered in the presence of

Robert Stone

Benjamin Stone

PLATE III



DR. GRIFFIN HIGGS'S EFFIGY FROM HIS MONUMENT IN SOUTH STOKE CHURCH,  
OXON.

PROBLEMAT A  
THEOLOGICA.

2<sup>V</sup> AE,

Favente Deo,

*Ex autoritate Magnifici D. Rectoris,*

D. FRANCONIS BURGERSDICII, Libr.  
Art. Magistri, & in Academia Lugd.-Bat. Philoso-  
phiæ Professoris ordinarii; consensuque Amplif-  
simi Senatus Academici; & Theologiæ  
Facultatis decreto,

*Pro Doctoratus Privilegiis in Theologia consequendis,*

Sine Præside defendet

GRIFFINVS HIGGS, Oxoniensis, Sacræ Theo-  
logiæ Baccalaureus, & Serenissimæ Reginæ  
Bohemiæ à sacris.

*Ad diem 7. Februar. horis locog. solitis.*



LVGDVNI BATAVORVM,  
Ex Officinâ BONAVENTURÆ & ABRAHAM I  
ELZEVIR. Academ. Typograph.  
c1o 1o c xxx.

TITLE PAGE OF HIGGS'S THESIS