

In another deed, two days after the first, Mary Cheetham appears to release Richard Hartley from future commitments. This is witnessed as well by **James Sowtham** [Southam], buried 6 March 1696/7, a Neithrop yeoman whose will was proved in PCC. An addition was made to this deed, by Richard Hartley, dated 12 December 1693, after Mary Cheetham's death. In this he appears to be transferring any obligation he owed Mrs Cheetham to Edward Phillips of Shrewsbury, clothier. This is witnessed by Anth. Newlove and "Ro. Walters". **Robert Walters**¹² was the third signatory of the AOL; at his burial on 11 September 1702 he was described as "Gent.", and his will was proved in PCC.

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Mary Cheetham, widow, who bought the house in 1689 and lived there, though sadly for less than a year, is the person in these deeds who provokes most interest. Her will, dated 3 April 1690, when she was in "indifferent health", and proved in PCC that July, is amongst the documents. A mis-numbered deed, *[Mr Pateshall's Purchase Deed 10 May 1698]* also provides information.

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At the time of her will Mrs Cheetham had two children, Mary and John. She left the house, "where she did dwell", "lately purchased of Richard Hartley" and all other properties in Banbury (alas unspecified) in trust for them.

The trustees were to be **Edward Draper** of Sibson, Leics., clerke, and her brother-in-law **John Smith** of Ladbroke, Warws. (just north of Banbury), also clerke, with instructions to sell off the property "with all convenient speed" on behalf of the two children. Household stuff was to go to Mary, and when 21 she was to pay her brother ten pounds for this.

Mrs Cheetham's sister **Elizabeth Pettipher** was named as sole executrix and guardian of the children. She was to receive 50s. annually to be paid out of interest on £700 "put forth in the name of my uncle **William Wagstaffe**, £650 whereof remains in the hands of my brother **Edward Pettipher** and £50 in the hands of my said brother[-in-law] John Smith". Arrangements were to be made for her son John to be bound apprentice. Witnesses were Marie Lamprey, Marie Grimes and William Price. Lamprey might have been a maidservant, but the other two are not local. This suggests that the invalid Mrs Cheetham had already left Banbury, accounting for the absence of a burial entry in the parish register.

It is frustrating that the Banbury parish registers also have no record of Mary Cheetham's marriage, the baptism of her children or of her late

¹² No connection with Thomas Walters of Chipping Norton is known.