

In the Name of the Holy Trinity. Amen!

I, Sibrandus Gerlacianus from Grimersum, announce, after deep thought while my lengthy and critical illness, that man (as witnessed by writings and prophets) is only earth, dust and ashes. The live of man is like a flower of the grasslands and fields, and afterwards nothing else to expect than death and the blessed resurrection by Jesus Christ, our only saviour who blesses to eternal life.

Expecting this in my illness, yet in a good and rational state of mind, my last will and testament in the rightful and best form it may, can or shall persist consistently, knowingly done and executed, by the virtue of this.

First, I order you, after the separation of my soul from my body (alike the merit, suffering, death and resurrection of our blessed Jesus Christ that have been commanded by the almighty father) to bury it honourably.

Thereafter, about the regulation and arrangement of my properties, I instruct, set and order my legitimate heirs, BENE IMEN, my blessed mother's half-sister's son, to my belongings. But when the same Bene Imen were to die, SYDE, the older brother, shall be heir.

My beloved brother JACOBUS GERLACHIUS shall inherit, have, keep and enjoy in his pleasure properties small and large, as I have inherited them from my father, my library and as well as armour, guns, clothing, jewels, silver und silver plates, as well as two silver drinking cups and what else from my personal belongings.

Thirdly, I assign Eggen Harmens five hundred Embdener Gulden, whereby three hundred come from Abbe Behrents and two hundred Gulden from my brother.

Fourthly, I give and bequest the poor of Christ especially in Wirdum a hundred Embden Gulden, the poor in Grimersum fifty Gulden and also in Embden the homeless beggars who obtain help by the Gasthaus church will receive fifty Gulden, all as written above to be paid in Embden currency, while calculated ten sheep are equivalent worth one Gulden.

At last I order, set and will, knowingly in the virtue of this, from my father's lineage of my blessed parents one or two students who fancy to study and are suitable shall and will obtain to study of the following bequests and properties. These bequests and properties I give eternally and hereditarily for the duty of their upkeep and subsistence from the following lands' earnings, income and interest, namely:

- (1) eleven Grasen land near Wirdum, that Wills Bojen takes use of now,
- (2) three and a half Grasen land, that Haytet Benen uses by the way of lease,
- (3) twelve Grasen land that is part of the blessed father's home, which is the inheritance of the mother,
- (4) nine Grasen land near Visquard, in avail of Egbert Staal,
- (5) another nine Grasen land near Visquard, used by Ayße Appen,
- (6) three Grasen land near Visquard, that are now used by Styke Onnen,
- (7) another nine Grasen land that lies outside of the blessed father's home, and is part of the 18 Grasen land that my brother and I inherited together.

The aforesaid heir BENE IMEN or his substitute shall from the house, lands and home that lie in Wirdum, yearly on Saint Michael's Day¹ pay to the aforesaid students alimentation, 50

¹ a former traditional bank holiday, on which rent, lease and interest payments were made

inferior Thaler, while every Thaler worth 15 sheep. Whereby one wants to buy the obligation to pay 50 Thaler yearly and free the homestead, the purchase shall be done with one thousand inferior Thaler (every Thaler is worth 15 sheep) that then shall be invested in certain profits from various branches. Those 50 Thaler shall be given each and every year, as with the besaid lands yearly to one or two persons for their study.

If no student from father's or mother's lineage is found, it shall be given to another person that desires it to support his studies.

In the event that none of the aforementioned fatherly or motherly lineage or any qualified other person neither exists nor wants to study, then I want and order that all benefits shall be invested and the benefits ought to increase, as long as a suitable person shall be found that fancies to study. Both previously mentioned lineage have access at all times and the heir shall be the first, who uses the previously mentioned scholarship for his studies. After finishing studies, another or two others may receive the scholarship. It is, my earnest, plea and command, that my beloved brother Jacobus and Frederich Benen implement the aforesaid foundation and distribute the returns, as well as they will overlook and protect the foundation. After their death though two others from the fatherly or motherly lineage should always as curator or executor at all times select the succeeding scholarship holders and concerning this my last will, to enforce and seriously guard the students' upkeep arrangement.

All this, as written above, is my last will, testament, final disposition and opinion which should hold permanently und unbreakable by the inheritors named above, their substitutes and heirs.

And in the event though that my last will which I solemnly and in front of attestors come into effect I expect from the above mentioned heir or his substitute to advocate with the help of all religious and profane rights, even this county's commendable bylaws and customs used for less formal testaments.

To certify the legitimacy I have as testator, this, my testament and last will signed and sealed. Also the witnesses requested to come all signed and sealed this document.

Done in the city of Embden in the house of the honourable mayor LUPPE SICKEN on the 22nd day and month January sixteen hundred years after the beneficial birth of our saviour and redeemer Jesus Christ.

I, Sibrandus Gerlachius, acknowledge this as my testament and last will.

This I have asked by the testator signed with my own hand and sealed with my signet,

Stephanus Bacherus Mag. doctor.

Wolter von Dincklage, solemnly asked as witness to sign this document.

Habbo Fewen, witness by own hand.

Jan van Swoll, witness.

Ell. Cuelmann, as witness requested.

I, Christian zum Baxtart, testify this act where witnesses came together at the same time for the intended purpose.

On the outer edge of the parchment a string runs nicely from A to B from one hole to the other to protect the document.