

An 18th century wood-worker's inventory

Some time ago I found the following inventory which throws some light on an early 18th century wood-worker's possessions. It is written on vellum and is in Barnet Archives Department, Hertfordshire.

AN INVENTORY of all singular the good chattells and credits of RICHARD Mills late of parish of Hadley in the county of Middx deceased.

Taken valued as appraised the nineteenth day of January Anio Domini one thousand seven hundred and four according to the computation used in England by William Halford and William Withall as followeth, viz.

In the Inner room above stairs.

In primis a chest to say woolens in Three chairs and two stools and a Table a half headed bedstead cord mats and coverlid.

In the Middle Chamber

Item one corded bedstead with curtains and valence two rugs one flock Bed one bolster two andirons and two dogs three chairs and two stooles and one side cupboard.

In the best Chamber

Item one corded bedstead and set of curtains and valence one feather Bed and bolster two rugs three chairs and two stooles one square table And chest of draws.

In the Kitchen

Item eight pewter dishes thirteen pewter plates one pewter chamberpot and tankard and Salt one copper drinking pot three large brass kettles twenty six pounds of pott mettall being – two pots and two small skillets one brass warming pan one large oval table and desk four leather chairs a pull up Jack with a weight two spits with a dripping pan two andirons with two pairs of dogs one fire shovel one gridiron one box iron with heaters Three pairs of Tongs a Dresser and three skillets one cupboard

one bacon rack a screen and spice Box and two joint stooles a pair of pot hangers and warming Irons one brass Ladle one skimmer one little brass kettle a parcell of Brewing vessells and Drink Vessells an old Musket and earthenware and some tin things one Deal table one chair table and Lumber.

Item a lease of three messuages or tenements wherein there is fortynine years yet to run valued at...

Item: One hundred eighty seven foot of Oak timber one hundred thirty three foot of Elm timber small stuff & two ladders a wheel barrow and two old carts twelve round nails [or rails] an odd parcell of Beach quarters Sixty Deals or the like, twelve half inch Elm boards thirty gateshats a parcell of short stuffe twenty four clefts thirty oak spokes a parcel of oak quarter stuff a parcel of Heart & Saplaths a parcel of firewood

£ S

XXXVII: XVII:

In the yard a parcel of firewood in a stack with other wood.
 In a field a mare and two colts and the hay in the barn
 One hundred and fifty foot of Elm Boards ten half inch Elm Boards all the working tools that are in the shop and a timber Jack and grinding stone and part of an iron chain with Iron and lead and a Lave for turning and benches.

Item there remains of the ready money left in the house at the time of the deceased's death after payment of the Funeral Expences and other

Incidental charges thereupon

£ S d

VIII XV V

Item Debts owed to the said deceased at the time of his death

£ S d

LXXXVI III -

Debts Owing by the said deceased at the time of his Death to Severall Persons

£ S d

XXVIII V VI

The timber Richard Mills stored in his workshop with grindstone, lathe and benches means he worked in wood, and was possibly a country furniture maker. The parish of Hadley borders Enfield Chase with its extensive woodland, and is in close proximity to the Great North Road, so he had wood available as well as passing trade. I have tried to find out more about Richard Hills. He donated a bell to the peal at St Mary the Virgin, Monken Hadley. He was also an overseer for one year. Therefore he was a man of standing in the parish. I have tried to trace the will, with no success. Maybe an RFS member will be able to tell me more about him, or what they think he would be making with these items.