

Henry VIII., 1539. This was confirmed and the school endowed 27 Elizabeth 1585.

Palmer Smythies was admitted to the Freedom of Colchester on 9 December 1728. (Red Parchment Book (or Oath Book) of Colchester, p. 229 of the printed version.)

The inscription over the family vault at Mile End in which he is buried is as follows: "Here lie the remains of Palmer Smythies who was 56 years Rector of this Church and whose faithful discharge of every duty to his Parish, his Family, and his Friends will long endear him to their memory. He died Decr. 25, 1776, aged 85."

After the death in 1746 of Thomas Smythies who had bought the living of Alpheton from the Martin family in 1743 (see A 18, above), the Patronage of Alpheton came to Palmer Smythies (Anne the widow of Thomas Smythies may have held the right of presentation jointly with Palmer Smythies till her death) and in 1774 he left it by his will to Francis Smythies his youngest son and executor. The White House estate in Winesham was left to him by his grandfather William Smythies (see A 10, above) and at his death he left it to his sons William, Humphrey, and George and his daughter Anne, "equally to be divided between them," an arrangement which, judging from the will, does not seem to have met with the approval of his eldest son William (see below). A bill of costs to Mr. Palmer Smythies, dated 15 November 1731, for "taking and entering ye absolute surrendr from M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Smythies to M<sup>r</sup> Palmer Smythies" of "Cardons Hall in Winesham" shews that Palmer Smythies acquired this property from his brother at that date.

The will of Palmer Smythies, dated 6 July 1774, contains the following:—

"I give . . . all that Messuage, Tenement, and farm called the White House and the Barns, Stables, Buildings, Lands and Appurtenances thereto belonging lying in the parish of Winesham or elsewhere in the county of Suffolk . . . unto my sons William, Humphry, and George and my daughter Anne and their heirs and assigns for ever, equally to be divided between them as Tenants in common, moreover I do order and direct that the small piece of Copyhold land in Winesham aforesaid, which I purchased of my late Brother Thomas and also the House, Barn and Stable with the appurtenances in Mile End parish now or heretofore called the Oak be sold by my Executors . . . and that the money arising from such sale shall be divided between my said sons William, Humphry, and George and my said daughter Anne" (here follow recommendations to George to buy an annuity, etc., and then a provision that if) "William shall disturb my said other children in their possession or enjoyment of the said Winesham Estate or shall refuse to join in the sale of the other estates hereby directed to be sold, then I revoke all the covenants and appointments of this my will in his Favour and give, limit and appoint his share to my said other children Humphry, George and Anne and their heirs for ever equally. Item, I give and devise the advowson and Right of presentation of the Living of Alpheton in the county of Suffolk with the appurtenances unto my son Francis Smythies and his heirs for ever upon condition that the next time it shall become vacant he or his heirs shall present my said son Humphry thereto if he shall be then living, and the next time it shall become vacant that he or his heirs shall present my son John thereto if he shall be then living, and the next time it shall become vacant that he or his heirs shall present my Son-in-Law Thomas Twining thereto if he shall be then living." (Humphrey and John were appointed; Thomas Twining died during Humphrey's incumbency.) After leaving his plate and linen to his wife and £100 and an annuity to his daughter Susan, he continues, "residue of my personal estate after payment of my debts and funeral charges . . . I give to my wife and three younger children John, Francis, and Elizabeth, equally to be divided between them, and I appoint my said wife and son Francis to be executor of this my Will. Signed and sealed 6<sup>th</sup> day of July 1774. P. Smythies. Signed by the said Palmer Smythies in the presence of John Blyth, John Gibson, Ben. Johnson." Proved in P.C.C. 28 January 1777 by Francis Smythies the son. (42, Collier.)