A Will to Value
Hope Elizabeth May (Extra Credit pre-Thanksgiving talk on 11/27/24 for PHL 118 students)

Legacy. You were asked to think about yours through the Tombstone Question.
And as we have been talking about "the rules" set by the Constitution, you should know that there are rules that assist you with your legacy. Estate Law (the law of wills and trusts), allows you to control the way that you exit from the stage of life. Upon exit, you can decide where your "stuff" goes. Indeed, you can decide to direct all of your stuff to the promotion of a value or a "cause"(such as "helping single mothers attend college"). Your name can be "forever" tied to a value. Lots of people have done this, you may not be aware of it though. I call this "playing in the field of value."

Exhibit A: The Will of Alfred Nobel

Alfred Nobel
10/21/1833 – 12/10/1896
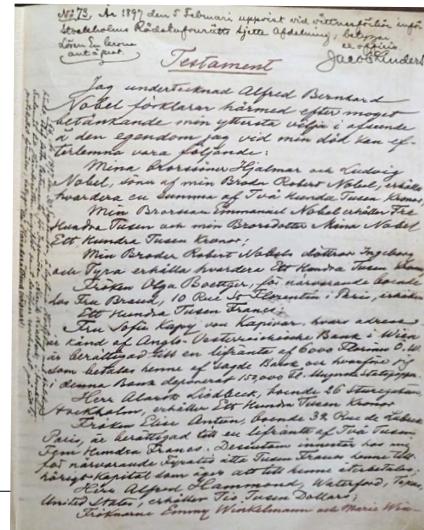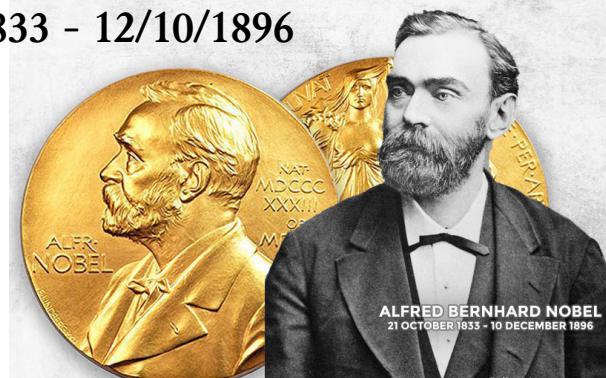
"All of my remaining realisable assets are to be disbursed as follows:

the capital, converted to safe securities by my executors, is to constitute a fund, the interest on which is to be distributed annually as prizes to those who, during the preceding year, have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind.
The interest is to be divided into five equal parts and distributed as follows:
1) one part to the person who made the most important discovery or invention in the field of physics;
2) one part to the person who made the most important chemical discovery or improvement;
3) one part to the person who made the most important discovery within the domain of physiology or medicine;
4) one part to the person who, in the field of literature produced the most outstanding work in an idealistic direction;
5) and one part to the person who has done the most or best to advance fellowship among nations, the abolition or reduction of standing armies, and the establishment and promotion of peace congresses."

Some relevant philosophy:

"To be alive means to be possessed by an urge toward self-display which answers the fact of one's own appearingness. Living things make their appearance like actors on a stage set for them."

"It is precisely this self-display, quite prominent already in the higher forms of animal life, that reaches its climax in the human species."

"Self-presentation is distinguished from self-display by the active and conscious choice of the image shown. Only self-display is capable of hypocrisy and pretense.

(All quotes from Hannah Arendt, *Life of the Mind* (1978) (p. 30, p. 36)

Hannah Arendt
(1906-1975)

Relevant b/c: _____

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Exhibit B: The Will of Catherine Pine

Nurse Catherine Pine (1864-1941) ran the nursing home at 9 Pembridge Gardens, Notting Hill, and it was here that many suffragettes were taken and cared for after hunger striking.

Suffragette Mary Richardson (1882-1961) reports on the care provided by Nurse Pine:

After ten weeks of forcible feeding I was released, little better than a breathing corpse. I was taken to the nursing home—our own nursing home—in Pembridge Gardens which was run by two heroic nursing sisters, Sister Pine of Barts and her friend, Sister Townsend [sic]. In a double sense these women were heroic: they took us in when others refused us, and they knew that by doing so they would certainly lose the support of their wealthier patients.Here it was that with others I was brought up out of the abyss of depression into which I had fallen. (Richardson 1953 ,85)
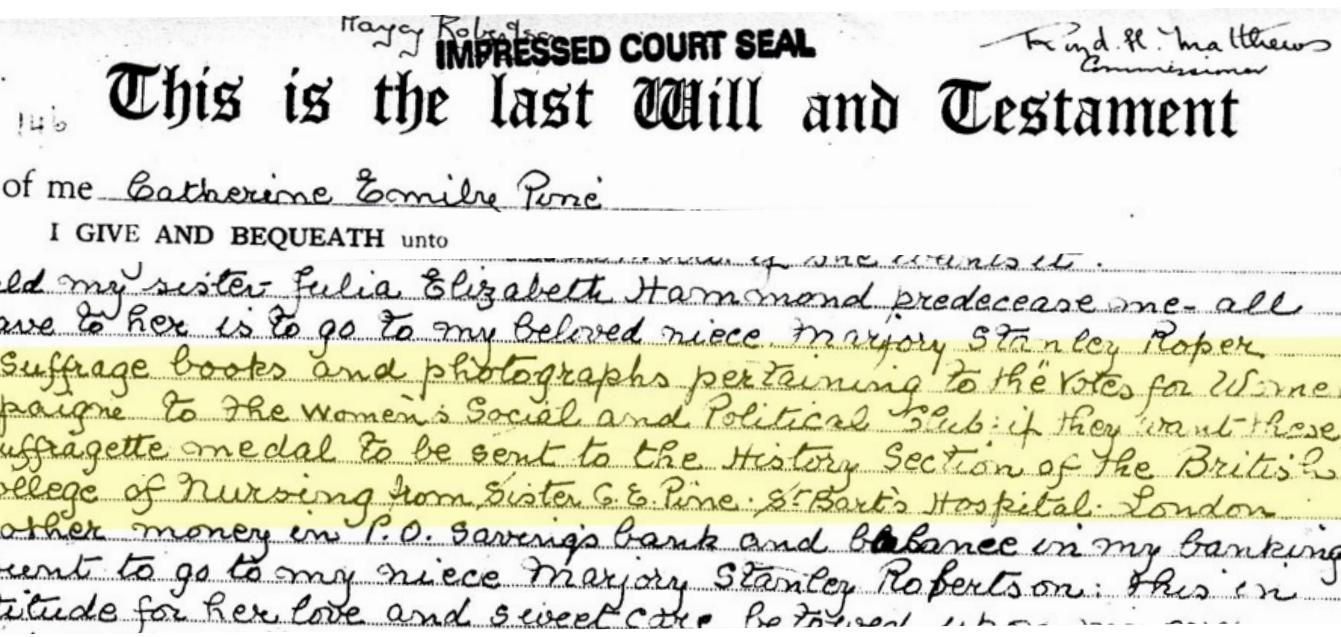
Although the medal was delivered to the "*History Section of the British College of Nursing*" as directed, Nurse Pine's "suffragette medal" went missing as discovered in 2016 by UK historian Elizabeth Crawford (google "Suffrage Stories: The Mystery of Nurse Pine's Medal" to learn more)

Suffrage Stories: The Mystery of Nurse Pine's Medal

While undertaking some research for a talk I gave a couple of weeks ago at the Royal College of Nursing I encountered an intriguing mystery. What happened to Nurse Pine's 'suffragette medal'.

see also:

nursepinemedal.com

Some relevant bits & philosophy: