

Richard Coke of Eastnor, 1680

Ref: TNA, PROB 11/370

In the name of God Amen, I Richard Coke of the parish of Eastnor in the county of Hereford, clerk, being in health and perfect memory (thanks be to almighty God) yet being aged and knowing the certainty of death and the uncertainty of the time do therefore make and declare my last will and testament indented in manner and form following. **And first** I give and commend my soul to almighty God my creator redeemer and comforter, and my both to the earth from whence it came, to be buried in Christian and decent manner in the chancel of the parish church of Eastnor or in the chancel of any other parish church where God shall call for me (if leave may be obtained if not where my executrix hereafter named shall think fit) in hope by my hearty repentance of all my sins and through the merits death and passion of my merciful saviour Jesus Christ to have a joyful resurrection.

And for my wordly estate that my gracious God hath lent me, I give, devise and bequeath the same as followeth: **First** I give devise and bequeath to Mary my wife all that manor or site of the manor, capital messuage or mansion house commonly called or known by the name of the Whitehouse, situate lying and being in the parish of Suckley in the county of Worcester, together with all houses, edifices, buildings, barns, stables, gardens, orchards, backside, lands, tenements, meadows, leasowes, pastures, woods and underwoods, ways, waters, commons, profits and commodities to the same belonging, with their and every of their appurtenances, which I lately bought and purchased to me my executors administrators and assigns of and from one Anne Fellowes and Robert Wyld or one of them for the term of one thousand years or for some other long term of years therein to come and unexpired. To have and to hold the said manor or site of the manor, capital messuage and mansion house, and all and singular other the premises with the appurtenances unto the said Mary and her assigns for and during so many years of the said term as she the said Mary shall happen to live. And from and after the decease of the said Mary then I give, devise and bequeath the same with all and singular the appurtenances unto Heigham Coke my son and his executors, administrators and assigns for all the rest and residue of the said term of years which shall be then to come and unexpired.

Item I give and devise the use and occupation of my plate, jewels, household stuff and goods of my house to Mary my said wife during the term of her natural life, and from and after her decease I give and devise the same to Heigham Coke my son, his executors administrators and assigns.

Item I give and bequeath all and singular other my goods, cattle, chattels, stock, ready money, rights and credits whatsoever to the said Mary Coke my loving wife, her executors, administrators and assigns. **And** I do hereby nominate and appoint her the said Mary to be sole executrix of this my last will and testament. And I do hereby revoke and disannul all wills by me formerly made. In witness whereof I have hereto set my hand and seal the 29th day of March in the 32nd year of the reign of our sovereign Lord Charles II of England etc. king defender of the faith etc. AD 1680.

Richard Coke.

Signed, sealed published and declared in the presence of Ro[bert] Aylewey, William Stone, Charles Aylewey

Whereas I Richard Coke of Eastnor in the county of Hereford being possessed of a lease of the tithes and tenths of Little Hereford in the county of Hereford and Ashford Carbonell in the county of Salop for the term of the natural lives of Mary Coke, Heigham Coke and Humphrey Mourton of Eastnor aforesaid, and being desirous that the said Mary Coke my wife should enjoy the benefit of the said lease during the term of her natural life, if she the said Mary Coke shall keep herself sole and unmarried, as by the said indenture of lease relation being thereunto had, it more largely appeareth. **Now** my will and desire is and I do hereby also give and bequeath and dispose the said tithes and lease with all the issues profits and advantages thereunto belonging or appertaining unto the said Mary Coke my wife for the term of her natural life only and from and after the decease or intermarriage of the said Mary, which shall first happen, for the remainder of the term to come and unexpired I give bequeath and dispose the same unto Heigham Coke my son his executors, administrators and assigns according to the true intent and meaning of the said lease **And** I do also give and bequeath the sum of £5 of lawful money of England to place out five poor children apprentices that were born in the parish of Eastnor in the county of Hereford, according as my wife and Thomas Cocks of Eastnor aforesaid esquire shall appoint. In witness whereof I have made this to be a codicil and to be annexed and part of my last will and testament the 22nd day of February AD 1681 [1682]. Richard Coke.

Sealed and read and declared and published in the presence of Thomas Cocks, William Coke, Richardson [sic], Edward Higgins

Probate 9 May 1682

Note: There is a gap in the burial registers for Eastnor from June 1678 to April 1734. In the register of baptisms is the following entry, referring to christenings during the Interregnum, entered retrospectively: 'Baptised since the coming of Richard Coke the 1st of March 1645'.

Richard Coke was the eldest son of George, bishop of Hereford (d. 1646). He was also prebendary of Bullinghope and Chancellor of the diocese of Hereford. His wife Mary was the daughter of John Kayse, co. Gloucester. (Burke, *A Genealogical and Herladic History of the Commoners of Great Britain*, vol. 4, 'Coke of Trusley, co. Derbyshire', p. 273).