

Robert Higgins of Eastnor, 1678

Ref: Herefs. RO 60/2/22

In the name of God Amen, the 6th day of July in the year of our Lord God 1678, and in the [30th] year of the reign of King Charles II, I Robert Higgins of Eastnor in the county of Hereford, being in health of body and of good and perfect memory (for which I render unto Almighty God all possible praise and thanks) well knowing the uncertainty of man's life and to the intent to settle and dispose of what it hath pleased the Lord of his goodness to lend unto me in this world, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following. And albeit continual vexations of my unnatural brothers falling out in unquiet and troublesome times together with the feigned friendship of sometime friends and open malice and covetousness of many of my neighbours hath altogether obstructed any improvement of mine estate, yet what the Lord hath left me I do dispose in manner and form following. **First** I give and bequeath my soul into the hands of my creator, beseeching him for Christ Jesus' sake my most blessed Lord and Saviour to pardon and remit all my offences that I have through the whole course of my life committed against him. And as for my body, I commit it to the earth whereof it was made, and to be buried in the parish church of Ledbury in or near unto the grave of my dear father, in sure and certain hope of resurrection unto eternal life not doubting but that the Lord in his good time will free that poor parish of Eastnor from the lying lips and deceitful tongue of that proud and perjured priest that the present incumbent there, and that his place may be supplied by a man of care and conscience and of an exemplary life and conversation, that the people may make a conscience of their ways, and extend the bowels of charity one unto another. **Item** I give and bequeath unto Joan Higgins my beloved and loving wife all my goods cattle and chattels whatsoever as kine, oxen, horses, young beasts, sheep, swine, together with all and all manner of household stuff as beds, blankets, sheets, coverlets with all things thereunto belonging. And also all manner of corn and grain and hay which shall happen to be in any barn or house of mine at the time of my decease, and also all such corn as shall be then growing upon the ground, together with all wains, ploughs and other implements of husbanding whatsoever, and likewise all bedsteads, stools, forms, chairs, presses, trunks, table boards, pipes, hogsheads and all other vessels, with all other moveable things whatsoever, to be disposed of as she shall think fit to those of her children that shall endeavour best to please her. **Item** I give and bequeath all my books to be divided betwixt my son Thomas Higgins and Elizabeth Higgins my daughter and my son Robert, as they shall be mentioned in a paper hereunto annexed, and according to the will of my said wife whom I make sole executrix of this my last will and testament. **Item** I do constitute and appoint my well beloved friend Mr. John Gilding of Huppen [Hope End?] in the parish of Colwall to be overseer of this my last will and testament, not doubting but he will advise and assist my said executrix, and I do give unto him [Andrew] Willet *Synopsis Papismi* and the works of the two Dr. Whites bound up together in one volume. **And** I do hereby revoke all former or other wills. In witness whereof I have hereunto put my hand and seal the day and year above written.

Memorandum that this was declared to be the last will and testament of the above named Robert Higgins and subscribed and sealed by him [words crossed out] at the time of declaring thereof in the presence of William Lawrence, Francis Smith.

Memorandum that upon the fifth day of August AD 1678 the testator within named did seal this will and declared the same to be his last will and testament in the presence of John Gilding, Elizabeth Higgins, Francis Smith.

Memorandum that albeit the Lord hath been pleased to endow my three older daughters with plentiful estates, yet I have thought it fit to add this paper by way of codicil to my will and do bequeath unto my daughter Ann Hanbury the sum of 5s. and to my daughter Morley the like sum of 5s., and to my daughter Grinsill the like sum of 5s. And to my son Simon Higgins the like sum of 5s. . In witness whereof I have hereunto put my hand and seal the 5th day of August in the year of our Lord 1678.

This codicil was signed and sealed the day and the year abovesaid by the testator in the presence of Elizabeth Higgins, Francis Smith, John Gilding.

Probate: 27 March 1679

A true and perfect inventory of all and singular the goods, cattle, chattels, rights and credits of Robert Higgins, deceased, whilst he lived of Eastnor in the county and diocese of Hereford, gentleman, taken and indifferently appraised by us whose names are hereunto subscribed the 19th day of August in the 30th year of the reign of King Charles II, AD 1678

Imprimis His wearing apparel, money in his purse and books, £5

Item Five featherbeds, one flock bed and seven bedsteads with the appurtenances, £8

Item Six table boards and five old carpets, £16

Item Eight old chairs and a couch and three stools, £10

Item A clock, £5

Item Four old trunks, two old chests, and linen of all sorts, £10

Item One press with a cupboard, hogsheds, pipes and other wooden ware in and about the house, not before appraised, £2 10s.

Item Brass and pewter, one jack and other ironware within the house, £3

Item Earthenware, 1s.

Item Tack of team and utensils of husbandry, £3

Item Boards and vessel timber, £1 10s.

Item Cheese, butter, meat, drink and provisions in the house, £1

Item Four old cows, four small beasts and a bull, £12

Item Five calves, a colt and one old horse, £3

Item Poultry [pullen] of all sorts, 5s.

Item Corn and hay in the barn at Hillend and elsewhere, £9

Item Swine or pigs, £1 10s.

Item Four oxen and two bullocks, £14

Item Fifty sheep, £4

Sum £69 12s.

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John Pritchard, Francis Manning, John Gilding

Note: Robert Higgins, gentleman, was buried in August 1678 in Ledbury [Herefs. RO BO92/3]

Note also the ledger stone in Ledbury church:

HERE LIETH THE BODY OF THOMAS HIGGINS OF EASTNOR GENT: WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
ye XVth DAY OF NO ANNO DNI 1637 in the 68th yeare of his Age haveing been a Clarke in
the King's Remembrancers office in the Exchequer for the space of 46 yeares

Here also lieth ye Body of Robert Higgins late of the Woollpitts Gent He died August
ye 15th 1721 Aged 66 Years

and Also Here lieth the Body of Mary the Wife of William Meek of the Woolpitts (and
Relict of the above mentioned Robert Higgins Gent) She departed this life the 2nd Day of
February 1765 Aged 86 Years