

CIRENCESTER WILLS 1571-1580

1571/13

In the name of God, Amen. In the 28th March and in the 13th year of the reign of our sovereign lady Queen Elizabeth, by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland Queen, defender of the faith etc I Alice Aman of Cirencester in the county of Gloucester, widow, being sick of body but, God be thanked, of good and perfect remembrance, do make and ordain my last will and testament in manner and form as follows. First I commit my soul to the pleasure of Almighty God and my body to the earth. Item I give to Barbara my daughter my great pot and my great pan with all the rest of my goods, cattle and chattels moveable and unmoveable whom I make and ordain my whole executrix. My debts and funerals discharged my overseer to be Thomas Slye, my brother-in-law, whom I put in trust to govern my child until she come to age. Also I will that he shall let and set my house in Cirencester unto the most profit of my child until she come to full age. All these my goods to be delivered to my child at the age of 20 years old.

Witnesses: John Gyde, John Loveday of Painswick

Probate: 25 June 1571

1571/18

In the name of God, Amen. The 15th January 1571 I Alice Adye of Cirencester in the diocese of Gloucester, widow, being weak in body but whole in mind & memory, thanked be God, do institute, ordain & make this my last will & testament in manner and form following. First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God the Father, to Jesus Christ my only saviour and to the Holy Ghost the comforter etc and my body to be buried in Christian burial. Item I give & bequeath to William Adye, my late husband's son, one brass pan of twelve gallons, one table cloth, two chargers and one broach. Item I give & bequeath to Alice, the daughter of Andrew Philpes, one flock bed, one bolster, one pair of blankets, one pair of sheets, one covering, one brass pan the value of four gallons, one towel, one platter, one pottinger, one saucer, one tin basin, one pint pot of pewter and one joined stool. Item I give & bequeath to Alice Mase one cauldron of four gallons, one sheet, one platter, one pottinger, one saucer, one tin basin, one pint pot of pewter & one joined stool. Item I give & bequeath to Alice Hall, the daughter of Robert Hall, my best bed with all his appurtenances belonging to it, with sheets, blankets, coverlets & hangings and curtains, my spruce coffer, my great chest, my pair of andirons that stand in my chamber, one brass pan of twelve gallons, one brass pot of four gallons, my great broach, one dripping pan, one table cloth and also my cupboard in the hall with basin, ewer and flower pots as he stands, the two platters, one pottinger, one saucer and my best carpet. Item I give & bequeath to Joyce, the daughter of Robert Hall, one brass pan of a dozen gallons, one cauldron of two gallons, one chaffing dish, one towel of white work and another towel of silk work, two platters, one pottinger, one saucer and my second carpet. Item I give & bequeath to Joan Mase my sister my second cassock, one red petticoat, one smock, one kerchief, one partlet and one apron. Item I give & bequeath to Annis Loveday one frieze cassock, one smock and one kerchief. Item I give & bequeath to Barbara Partridge my goddaughter one brass pan of twelve gallons and three shillings and four pence in money. Item I give & bequeath to Alice Coxswell my best coverlet of arras work and three shillings and four pence in money. Item I give & bequeath to Thomas Stevins, the son of Richard Steins of Stratton, one brass pot of five gallons, one charger and twelve pence in money. Item I give & bequeath to Barbara Farington one charger, one towel and twelve pence in money. Item I give & bequeath to be distributed amongst the poor forty shillings minding by God's grace to

dis...arge it by my life. Item I give & bequeath to all my other godchildren twelve pence apiece. Item I give and bequeath all my plate to Richard Stevens of Stratton to be delivered to him after my decease. All the residue of my goods, chattels and cattle not given nor bequeathed, my debts, legacies & funeral being discharged and paid, I give and bequeath to Robert Hall and Maud his wife which Robert and Maud I do make & ordain full and whole executors of this my last will & testament to dispose it amongst the rest of his children not named nor spoken of before in this my last will & testament. Given the day and year above written.

These persons bearing witness: William Partrydge esquire, John Coxswell, clothier, and Thomas Farington, tucker

Probate: 26 February 1571

1571/27

In the name of God, Amen. The 22nd January 1571 I Elizabeth Perker of Cirencester in the diocese of Gloucester, widow, sick in body but perfect & whole of mind and memory, God be thanked, do make this my last will & testament in manner & form following. First I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God and my body to be buried in the parish church of Cirencester at my seat's end. Item I give my greatest pan to be sold for the most and to be given to the poor people of this late dissolved abbey of Cirencester where I now dwell. Item I give & bequeath my second pan to the Goodwife Birt of Fairford. Item I give & bequeath to Robert Gishop's wife my best coverlet & my best sheet. Item I give & bequeath to Richard Parker my best bed. Item I give to Richard Parker's wife my scarlet red kirtle. Item I give & bequeath to Henry Parker my third pan. Item to Thomas Parker my fourth pan and to his wife one of my best kerchiefs. Item I give to every one of my tenants a kerchief. Item I give & bequeath to Mr John George my best charger & my best candlestick. Item I give & bequeath to Mr Pennington my second candlestick & a charger. Item I give & bequeath to Thomas Deyton my spice mortar. Item I give to Richard Parker's son the eldest one of my little pots & the other to his eldest daughter. Item I give & bequeath to William Burdge of Winson my second brass pot for certain debts as a recompense. Item I give to Margery Doppinge the second bed that I do now lie on. Item I give & bequeath Agnes Aparke a good platter & a pair of sheets. Item I will that every one to have their pledges again freely. Item I do forgive John Hayes all the £5 4s that he owes me saving 20s to bring me in earth to be made ready against my dirge. Item I give the best bed that I now lie upon to Joan Manfilde. Item i give to Granger my best white petticoat. Item I give my 2 scarlet caps & 1 kerchief to the Goodwife Monsord, the widow. Item I five my andirons to Roger Fishpoole. Item I give to Joan Chandler one of the great candlesticks & a pair of pothooks. Item I give to Richard Loodlaw's wife one fire pick. Item I give to the Goodwife Gilbert 2 pair of pothooks & my frying pan. Item I give to Richard William's wife my black kirtle. Item I give to Joan Borrowe an old kirtle. Item I give to Whitlaw's maid a candlestick & a platter. Item I give the residue of my apparel to the poor of the abbey & also all my broken sheets. The residue of all my goods not given nor bequeathed I give to my husband's son Henry Parker whom I make my executor of this my last will & testament. Item I make Thomas Whitlawe, Thomas Parker, Mr Alsworth, once minister, & Richard Parker my overseers & witness to the same.

Probate: 27 February 1571

1571/38

In the name of God, Amen. The 10th January 1564 I Ellen Chanderler of Cirencester in the diocese of Gloucester, widow, sick in body but whole of mind & memory, thanks be to God, do institute, ordain & make this my last will & testament in manner & form following. First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God the Father, to Jesus Christ

my only saviour & redeemer & to the Holy Ghost the comforter etc & my body to be buried in the parish churchyard of Cirencester aforesaid. Debts due to me, first delivered upon a holding to John Honngerford of Guiting four pounds eighteen shillings. Item Taler of Colesborne has 13 sheep at hire price of every sheep three shillings. Item I give & bequeath to the parish church of Cirencester 2d. Item I give & bequeath to Agnes Mown for my daughter one brass pan. The residue of my goods not given nor bequeathed, my legacies & funeral discharged, I give & bequeath to Thomas Whytlaw my son whom I do institute, ordain & make my sole executor to dispose it as he shall see good to the pleasure of God.

Witness hereunto: John Penyngton, John Partridge, William Bent with others

Probate: 11 December 1571

1571/180

In the name of God, Amen. The 26th October 1570 and in the 12th year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland Queen, defender of the faith etc I Richard Bannester of the town of Cirencester, glover, being sick of body but of perfect mind & remembrances, thanks be to the Almighty God & saviour, make this my last will & testament in manner & form following. First I bequeath my soul to the Almighty Lord & Saviour & my body to the Christian burial of Cirencester's church in the chapel called Trinity chapel, there to remain to God's pleasure. Item I give to my eldest daughter Alice the best bed of mine of feather under me at this my will's making and also a bolster, a pair of blankets, a pair of sheets & a coverlet & a pillow, also one brass pot at my wife's discretion for the goodness of it and also one of the biggest wort pans, the best of them. Also I give her 8 platters of pewter, also 2 cauldrons. Item I give to my youngest daughter Catherine one feather bed, a bolster of feathers & a pillow of down, one coverlet, a pair of blankets & a pair of sheets being at the Spital Gate with my father-in-law to be had. Also I give her 8 platters & 2 cauldrons & also to either of them 2 candlesticks apiece. All the rest of my goods not given nor bequeathed moveable I give & bequeath unto Elizabeth my wife whom I make & appoint to by this my will my whole executor, to accomplish my debts & to see my body brought in earth. Also I appoint & make my overseers to this my will & last testament my father-in-law Richard Johnsones & Giles Sellman.

Witness at the making hereof of this following: Patrick Thomas, William Bannester & also I William Wells, curate of the town of Cirencester aforesaid with others

Probate: 7 October 1571

1572/168

23 September 1572

In the name of God, Amen. I Thomas Whitlowe of the town of Cirencester in the shire of Gloucester, shoemaker, sick of body but of good and perfect memory, God be thanked, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I give and bequeath my soul to Almighty God and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Cirencester. Item I give my daughter Emmett a flock bed and all that belongs to it and a great brass pot. Item I give Thomas Hopkins my best leather doublet and my worst leather jerkin. Item I give Richard Parker my second coat. Item I give my brother John Momforde my best coat. Item I give Edmund Cottrell my best jerkin and a pair of hose & after 10s a year for the time he has and shall serve of his three years and a canvas shirt and shoes as long as he shall serve in his three years. Item I give my child in my wife's belly if it be a boy a gold ring and a pot and a pan. If it be a wench it shall have only a pot and a pan and Emmett my daughter shall have the ring. Item I give Annis Momforde my sister my frieze gown. Item I give Robert

Costine my best new stockings. Item I give John Momforde my best breeches. Item I give Richard Parker my second stockings. Item I give all the rest of my goods unbequeathed whatsoever unto my wife Joan whom I make my whole executrix to see all paid and my body honestly brought in earth. Item I make John Hytchman, my father-in-law, and John Chandler, my brother-in-law, and Mr Abworth overseers of this my last will and testament.

In witness whereof I have set my mark in the presence of John Momford, Thomas Hopkins, Thomas Deyton, Richard Wyllims and others

Probate: 4 November 1572

1572/225

12th August 1571

(*torn*) I William Saunders of Cirencester in (*torn*) being sick of body but sound (*torn*) perfect of memory, God be thanked, do (*torn*) last will and testament in manner (*torn*) following. First I bequeath my (*torn*) to Almighty God and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Cirencester. Item I give to Edie (*torn*) eldest daughter 40s in money, 2 platters, 2 pottingers, and a saucer to be paid at the day of her marriage. Item I give to Barbara my youngest daughter 40s in money, 2 platters, 2 pottingers, 1 saucer to be paid at the day of her marriage. If it chance either of them to die before the day of marriage the whole I will to be given to the other. Item the rest of all my goods I give and bequeath. Item I give to John M (*illegible*) Wyse's son a flock bed to be paid at the day of his marriage. Item the rest of all my goods moveable and unmoveable to Agnes my wife I give and bequeath whom I make my executrix to discharge my debts and bring my body honestly in earth. Item I desire Mr Richard Jonson my father-in-law, Mr Richard Heyden, William Eldryge, George Cawgerlye to be my overseers for the fulfilling of this my last will and testament.

1573/132

In the name of God, Amen. The 8th February 1573 I Marian Solas of Cirencester in the diocese of Gloucester, widow, being sick in body but whole of mind & remembrance, thanked be God, do institute, ordain and make this my last will & testament. First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God the Father, to Jesus Christ my only Saviour & to the Holy Ghost the Comforter & to all the heavenly company and my body to be buried in the parish church in the south aisle nigh unto my husband. Item I give and bequeath to Robert my son one great brass pot & a wort pan, 2 silver spoons, 2 platters, 2 saucers, a candlestick, a bed & a bedstead furnished worth 40s or else 40s for it, one weigh of barley & in money 20s. Also I will to be paid unto the said Robert for cattle that was sold of his which I had the money £5. Item I give & bequeath to Thomas my son one brass pot called the Sundays pot & a wort pan, 2 silver spoons, 2 platters, two saucers, a candlestick, a bed with a bedstead furnished worth forty shillings or 40s in money for it, one weigh of barley & in money 20s. Item I give & bequeath unto Joan my daughter my great brass pot, my least brass pan, 2 silver spoons, 4 platters, 2 saucers, 2 candlesticks, a bed with a bedstead furnished worth 40s or else 40s in money for it, one weigh of barley & in money forty shillings. Item I bequeath to Margaret Webbe my daughter one brass pot & a pan, 2 silver spoons, one platter, one pottinger, a white sheet with a hook seam in the middle, one weigh of barley & half a tod of wool and also half a weigh of barley to her 2 children. Item I give & bequeath to Anthony Luckyns, Henry Luckyns & Margery Luckyns my cousins each of them a sheep. Item I give to Marian Tomson & Marian Smyth als Netherton, my goddaughters, each of them a sheep. Item I give to Marian Myller & James Porter's son each of them 12d apiece. Item I give & bequeath to be distributed amongst the poor people at the day of my burial in bread 40s. The residue of my goods, my debts, legacies & funeral discharged, I give & bequeath to Richard my son

whom I institute, ordain & make my full & sole executor to dispose it as he shall think best with the oversight of my beloved in Christ Roger Soarga. & Thomas Faryngton & I give to either of them for their painstaking therein to see this my last will & testament fulfilled.

Witness hereunto: Roger Soargayn, Hugh Cloys, Thomas Brickett, John Webbe, Thomas Faryngton with others

Probate: 11 April 1573

1573/185

In the name of God, Amen. The 16th December 1573 I Thomas Marshall of Cirencester in the diocese of Gloucester, priest, being somewhat diseased but whole of mind & remembrance, thanked be God, do institute, ordain & make this my last will & testament in manner and form following. First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, our heavenly father, to Jesus Christ, my only saviour and redeemer, & to the Holy Ghost, the comforter and my body to be buried in Christian burial. Item I give to be distributed among the poor people at the day of my burial forty shillings in bread. Item I give & bequeath to Mr Christopher Georg a silver goblet with a cover to him already being in his custody. Item I give and bequeath to my brother's daughter, now the wife of one Thomas Pytt of Coventry, my best summer gown and in money 40s. Item I give and bequeath to Thomas Marshall, my brother's son, the commodity of an obligation which I have of his father's & also the deeds of the house I have now in keeping. Also more I give & bequeath to the said Thomas, my brother's son, my featherbed, a bolster, a pillow & a pillow bere, one pair of sheets, one pair of blankets & my best coverlet and in money 20s all which said legacy I will to remain with my executor or overseer until such time as the said Thomas come to lawful age except his mother can put in good bond for the sure deliverance of the same to my executor & overseer. Item I give & bequeath to Thomas Saunders, my sister's son, my long gown faced with lamb, my bedstead of carved work with a tester of red & green & curtains to the same & in money 10s & to his daughter a diaper napkin. Item I give & bequeath to Richard Saunders my cousin 3s 4d & to his wife a napkin & to each of his daughters a handkerchief & also I do forgive all the money that he sold my colt for which was 40s & more. Item I give & bequeath to my cousin William Saunders 10s. Item I give & bequeath to my sister's daughter, one Birsell's wife of Warwick, my other summer gown, half my best surplice, one pair of silver tache hooks & in money 10s. Item I give & bequeath to my sister's daughter Dorothy Snugth the other half of my best surplice, one pair of silver tache hooks & in money 20s & to each of daughters a handkerchief. Item I give & bequeath to my sister's daughter Elizabeth Elis my surplice, one pair of silver tache hooks, my best brooch & in money 10s. Item I give & bequeath to Anne Birch my keeper one flock bed, a pair of blankets which she uses to lie in & a coverlet of Arras work, a piece of red cloth for a petticoat which is now in the house, a brass pot that was bought of Anne Hedges. Item I give to Thomas Stanton of London, my godson, one little mazer and a silver spoon with a maiden head at the end. Item I give & bequeath to Felix Marshall my godson a chaffing dish of latten with a fair foot & a great fire pick of iron with a hand at the end which be in the custody of Thomas Marshall of Poulton, gentleman, his father, already & in money 2s. Item I give and bequeath to Thomas Stanton my godson, the son of John Stanton of Cirencester, one silver spoon & in money 2s 6d. Item I give and bequeath to Thomas Willis my godson the debt that his father John Willis does owe me which is 22s or else the gages which lies for the same to be employed to the behalf of the said Thomas when he shall come to some years of discretion. Item I give to Mr Horton of Rendcomb my best cap & to the vicar of Preston another cap & my velvet purse. Item I give to John Stanton all my glasses of waters. Item I give to John Buxtter my rug gown. Item I give to Edith Clarke my least brass pot. Item I give to Thomas Faryngton all my books & a chair. Item I give to the 6 alms folk of the said

hospital of St John's 6d apiece & to every household within the said house or court 2d apiece. Item I give & bequeath to Thomas Williams, parson of Coates, & master of the said hospital of St John's in Cirencester conditionally that he deal gently with my executor, paying him such dues that he owes me without vexation or trouble, these implements following, that is to say, one folding board in the hall, a form & a bench serving to the same & a chair there standing. Item I give & bequeath to Alice Houghton a frock cloth of black frieze of 12d or 14d the yard and a good sheet. The residue of all my goods, my legacies & funerals discharged, I give and bequeath to James Saunders my cousin whom I institute, ordain & make my sole executor of this my last will and testament with the oversight of my beloved in Christ John Stanton. In witness whereof I have confirmed the same with my own hand in the presence of these men: John Stanton, John Webley, Thomas Faryngton
Probate: 9 February 1573

1574/48

In the name of God, Amen. Harry Hopkins of Cirencester in the diocese of Gloucester, baker, his last will & testament made 10th August 1574 & in the 16th year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth etc, before William Jener, Thomas Bradley & Richard Davis in manner & form following. First I give & bequeath my soul to Almighty God my maker & redeemer etc. First I give to Thomas Hopkins my brother all such debts & duties which he owes me & also I give him my best coat, my best jerkin, my best hose, my best shirt, my best doublet, my best cape. Item I give to my eldest son John Hopkins 20s, to his wife 20s & to every of his children 20s. Item I give to Thomas Hopkins my youngest son £6 13s 4d. I give unto Joan Chapman my late servant 5s. Item I give to Thomas Ferreby 20s, to his wife 20s & to every one of his children 20s. The rest of all my goods & chattels not given & bequeathed I give & bequeath unto Alice my wife and Henry my son whom I do make my whole executors
No witnesses named
Probate: 29 September 1574

1574/57

In the name of God, Amen. The 14th September 1574 & in the 16th of Queen Elizabeth etc I John Apennington of Cirencester in the diocese of Gloucester, shoemaker, being sick in body but whole of mind & remembrance, thanked be God, do institute, ordain & make this my last will & testament in manner & form following, First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God our heavenly father, to Jesus Christ my only saviour & redeemer, to the Holy Ghost the comforter & my body to be buried in Christian burial. Item I give & bequeath to John Apennington, my son's son, all my land, that is to say, one house in Gosditch now in the tenure of John Skynner of Merson, another at the High Cross in Cirencester aforesaid, now in the tenure of William Hunt & another little house in Castle Street, now in the tenure of one Agnes Dawbye, to him & to his heirs for ever after the decease of me & my wife and my wife to have the use & commodity thereof during her natural life to wear the finding of the said John. Also if it shall please God to call the said John Apennington before the said land shall come to him or if he shall die without issue of his body lawfully begotten then my will is that Richard, the father of the said John, shall have the rent & the profit unto him during his natural life at my overseers hands & they to have the use & setting of the 2 houses, one at the High Cross & the other in Castle Street & after the death of my son Richard the said two houses to remain to the next of kin. And the other house in Gosditch, if it happen as before said, I give to Christopher Chaperleyn & to his heirs of his body lawfully begotten and for lack of such issue to the next of kin. Also I give & bequeath to the said John Apennington, my son's son, in money ten pounds of good & lawful money now remaining in the hands of Robert

Hancox which I would have to be set out to the better preferment of the said John by the discretion of my overseers until he come to the age of twenty four years, one goblet of silver, one salt of silver with a cover, one dozen of silver spoons and also 2 beds with all manner furniture to them belonging, the one a flock bed, the other a featherbed, a doyle pillow & a pillow bere to him belonging, all which I will to remain in my wife's hands during her life. And furthermore for the furniture of the parlour where I use now to lie in fully & wholly I give to the said John Apennington, my son's son, after the decease of me & my wife as aforesaid and also the said boy to be kept to school at the finding of my wife or Richard Constable or Catherine his wife until he be of the age of 12 years old and afterwards to be set to that thing that he thought best & most mete to go unto at the discretion of my overseers & that is either to learning or to some convenient occupation until he shall come to the age of 24 years at which time he shall have the benefit of all things bequeathed unto him & not before. Item I give & bequeath unto Richard my son, father of the said John, one apparel of the best that I have throughout as shift, doublet, hose, jacket, gown and cap. Item I give & bequeath to Richard Constable & Catherine his wife my press in his shop with lock & key, two of the least broaches and a brazen laver. Item I give & bequeath to Agnes Aparke in money 10s & upon her good behaviour part of a bed. Item I give & bequeath to be distributed amongst the poor at the day of my burial in bread 20s. Item I give & bequeath to Thomas Faryngton my second worsted jacket. Item I give to Elizabeth Swift in money 5s. Item I give to Elizabeth Heymeade in money 5s. Furthermore I desire & earnestly request my beloved in Christ Christopher George, gentleman, to be the good supervisor of my supervisors or overseers and I bequeath unto him one ring of gold and also I do make my beloved in Christ John Webley, Thomas Heymead, William Aprice and William Gurney the supervisors of this my last will & testament for the behalf of the said little boy & his preferment as my [heir] as God shall give them grace because he is greatly to be governed & I give them for their pains taken therein 5s apiece. Also my will is that all such lands and goods as I have and bequeathed to John Apennington, my son's son, shall remain with my wife and be in her hands & custody as long as she shall keep her sole and unmarried, putting in good sufficient sureties for answering the same according to the meaning of this my last will in such sort as my overseers shall seem best and not to go dwell with her son Richard. But and she be disposed to marry or to go and dwell with her son or anywhere else without the consent of my supervisors my will & mind is also that all such things before rehearsed, given & bequeathed to the said boy that these my supervisors or overseers shall take all such things into their own hands for the behalf of the said child. And also whereas I have given the furniture of the parlour where I use now to lie wholly to the said John Apenyngton my will & mind is that Richard Constable shall have the said parlour with all stuff & furniture now being in the same because it is necessary for him beside any other man at a reasonable price appraised by honest men and the money thereof to be set out for the behalf & the better bringing up of the said John Apennington until such time as he shall be able by some ordinary means to provide for himself. Item my will & mind is that if any doubt or questions shall rise between any parties mentioned in this my last will & testament after my departure that then the same to be ordered by my said overseers & the said parties shall stand to the same order. Item I give & bequeath to William Hurd my leather jerkin, to Christopher Hurd at The Swan a shirt. The residue of my goods not given nor bequeathed, my legacies & funeral discharged, I give & bequeath to Emmett my wife whom I do institute, ordain & make my sole executrix.

By me John Apenynton (*signature*)

Signed: William Price (*mark*), John Webley (*signature*), William Gurney (*signature*)

Probate: 11 February 1574

1574/75

In the name of God, Amen. The 26th March 1574 & in the 16th year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland Queen, defender of the faith etc I John Chaperlen of the town of Cirencester within the county of Gloucester, yeoman, sick of body but whole of mind & of very good & perfect remembrance, all praises therefore be given unto God, do make this my last will & testament in manner & form following. First I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God my creator & redeemer & my body to be buried in the churchyard of St John Baptist in Cirencester aforesaid. Item I give & bequeath unto Joan my wife & Edward Poole her son two featherbeds with all things thereunto belonging, the one to be of the better sort & the other to be of the worser. Item I give & bequeath unto the said Joan my wife & Edward her son one flock bed of the middling sort with all things thereunto belonging. Item I give & bequeath unto the said Joan my wife & Edward her son three pairs of sheets whereof two pair of them to be had of the middle sort of sheets within my house & the other one pair to be had of the best sort. Item I give & bequeath unto the said Joan my wife & Edward her son two brass pots, the one of the middle sort & the other of the lesser, two brass pans, the one likewise of the middle sort & the other of the lesser & one great cauldron with a hanging & one posnet with a little handle. Item I give & bequeath unto the said Joan my wife & Edward her son some six pieces of pewter vessels whereof 2 of them to be saucers & the other 4 pieces to be had of a greater sort. Item I give & bequeath unto the said Joan my wife & Edward her son 2 brass candlesticks of the worser sort, one table cloth & half a dozen of table napkins of the middle sort of table cloths & napkins. Item I give & bequeath unto the said Joan my wife & Edward her son twenty nobles of money. Item I will & nevertheless my full intent & meaning that all manner the goods whatsoever above specified shall only remain & be unto the use of the foresaid Joan my wife during all the term of her life & after her decease to remain wholly unto the foresaid Edward her son without any manner diminishing. Item I will that the foresaid Joan my wife shall have half my dwelling house with half the court garden & backside at the reasonable ordering of my overseers during her widowhood, paying yearly half the rent of my said house & doing also like reparations and that nevertheless in any wise I will & also my full meaning is that Edward Chaperlen my well-beloved son shall continually have the better sway there & use, controlling rather over my said wife than my said wife to use any at all over him, my said son Edward. And be it known unto all men that shall read or see this my will, marvelling why I have not given my said wife more substance than is expressed within this my same will, the cause is with great reason well weighed & I would she held herself content therewith for that she has twenty marks by the year during her life out of the lands of Edward Poole esquire which in her right I now have, about which twenty marks by the year the suit thereof was to my great hindrance & the undoing of all my children. Howbeit I will hereby that after my burial the writings & evidence that do concern the foresaid twenty marks by the year shall upon sight thereof deliver it unto my said wife as her right. Item I give & bequeath unto Anne my daughter the sum of forty shillings of money. Item I give & bequeath unto Jane my daughter the like sum of forty shillings of money. Item I give and bequeath unto John Uprichards my black gown furred with lamb & faced with cony, my bustian* doublet, a jerkin of worsted furred & a new pair of hose. Item I give & bequeath unto Joan Uprichards my daughter a kirtle of cloth overbodied with chamblet, a piece of red cloth containing three yards & a pair of canvas sheets of the middle sort. Item I give & bequeath unto John Constable my godchild 6s 8d of money. Item I give & bequeath unto Leonard Harryngton the flock bed & bedstead together with all manner things thereunto in which he does now lie within my house & 6s 8d of money. Item I give & bequeath unto Christopher my son my black coat, a good canvas shirt, a good doublet, a good pair of hose & ten pounds of money to be paid him when my said son Christopher shall accomplish &

be of the full age of twenty eight years & further therein to be considered at the discretion of my said son Edward Chaperlein, his brother. Item I further give & bequeath all my lands, tenements & hereditaments whatsoever with the appurtenances which I have within the realm of England & Wales wholly unto my said son Edward Chaperlen whom I do ordain & make my only son & heir & after his decease unto the heirs of his body lawfully begotten & for default of such issue unto Christopher Chaperlein aforesaid my son & to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten & for default of such issue unto Jane Somerland my daughter & to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten & for default of such issue unto the right heirs of me, the foresaid John Chaperlein, the testator. Item I give & bequeath all my goods & chattels unbequeathed moveable & unmoveable, my debts paid & legacies & bequests herein contained fully answered & discharged, unto the foresaid Edward Chaperlein my son whom I do also make & ordain my only executor of this my last will & testament. And for the better performance of my good meaning herein I do constitute & appoint my dearly beloved friends Edward Poole, esquire, & William Aldwoth, gentleman, to be overseers of this my last will & testament & for their painstaking in this behalf I give unto my overseers 6s 8d in money.

In witness whereof to this my last will & testament I have set my seal & set my mark the day & year above written & in the presence of me John Cawley, Edward Poole, William Aldworthe

That the writings specified within this will concerning the annuity of the 20 marks to be paid out of the lands, tenements & hereditaments of Edward Pole, gentleman, were delivered to Joan Chaperlin the first of April 1574 being the day of the burial of John Chaperlayne her husband in the presence of these underwritten:

(signed by) Edward Pole, William Aldworthe, overseers, Richard Constable, Edward Polle, John Longe's mark

Probate: 22 April 1574

**bustian = cotton material*

1575/2

Memorandum that I Alice Longe give Ann Longe my daughter all my goods moveable & unmoveable, things excepted as shall be named here following. First I give unto Margaret Bery my undermost flock bed, the white coverlet on the truckle bed & one pair of sheets, one 3 ells, the other 3 ells, the little pot, a charger, one great platter, an old pottinger, 2 saucers, one great, the other little. Item I give to Joan Smithe my daughter my black frock, one smock, an apron & a kerchief. Item I give unto Margaret Bery a cassock cloth of cheap russet, my best petticoat or petticoat cloth as her aunt Ann Longe shall think it mete, one smock, an apron & kerchief. Item I give unto Alice Baggot one apron, all the rest to remain to my daughter Ann Longe as is above named. Item that Ann Longe shall receive of John Baggot at the Feast of John Baptist next £6 8s 4d. Of that to be paid to my daughter Joan Smithe 20s & to Margaret Bery 20s & to my daughter Ann Longe £4, unto the poor 10 groats. The rest to pay my rent & debts as my daughter Ann does know. Item that the said Ann Longe shall receive of John Baggot at the Feast of John the Baptist come 12 month £6 13s 4d. Of that I give unto my son Thomas Baggot 40s, unto my son Robert Baggot 20s, unto my son Richard Baggot 20s, unto my daughter Ann Longe 40s, unto my daughter Joan Smithe 13s 4d, of that her son Richard Smithe to have 6s 8d. The rent that Christopher Rogers do owe unto Alice Longe £6 & 10d, that to be divided between Robert Baggot and William Smithe 2 equal portions that to be divided between them both, William Smithe to part out of his money unto his son Simon 6s 8d & unto his son William 6s 8d. The debt that William Smithe of Oxcey [Oakley?] do owe me I forgive it him. This deed of gift made the 23rd March in the 16th year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God Queen of England, France

and Ireland Queen, defender and delivered in presence of these witnesses: Thomas Bradford, James Garelike, William Whitinge, Thomas Baggotte
Probate re Alice Longe late of Cirencester: 23 July 1575

1575/124

In the name of God, Amen. The 6th September 1574 I Roger Michill of Cirencester in the diocese of Gloucester, labourer, being sick of body but whole of mind, thanked be God, do institute, ordain & make this my last will & testament in manner and form following. First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God the Father etc and my body to be buried in Christian burial. Item I give & bequeath to Alice Wygon, my sister's daughter & my goddaughter, to be paid her at the day of her marriage 13s 4d. Item I give to Margery Rundell 4d. Item also to Roger Turke 4d. Item I will that Alice my wife shall pay unto John Michell my brother 20s that was due to him by my brother Sir Thomas Michell's will & testament if he comes & demands it and also 20s that was borrowed bringing the speciality of the said Sir Thomas's hand. Item I give & bequeath to Alice my wife my now dwelling house with all manner of appurtenances thereto belonging as garden or backside. And also I do make her my full & sole executrix. In witness whereof I have set to my mark in the presence of these persons following: William Aldworth, minister, Thomas Faryngton, James Unnyng, John Wotton

Probate: 4 May 1575

1575/186

In the name of God, Amen. The 29th April 1575 I William Weste of Cirencester in the diocese of Gloucester, yeoman, being sick of body but nevertheless whole of mind & of good remembrance, laud & praise be given to Almighty God, do make my testament concerning herein my last will in manner & form following. That is to say first I commend my soul to Almighty God my maker & redeemer & my body to the earth. Item I give & bequeath to Elizabeth Styche my daughter a chest to be delivered to her when my wife shall think good. Item I give & bequeath to my cousin Margaret Steche, daughter to Thomas Steche, a standing bedstead to be delivered to her at the day of her marriage by my wife or by her assigns and she so long live. And if she die before she do marry the same bedstead I give to my wife. The residue of all my goods not given nor bequeathed, my debts paid, my funeral expenses performed, I freely give to Margaret Weast my wife whom I do make my whole executor of this my last will & testament. And my will & desire is to have & so this my will in all points to be fulfilled & done Robert Weast my son & Robert Chandler my overseers.

These being present at making hereof: Robert Channler & Leonard Turner, John Rowbaron, William Fowler, John Androwes, John Walker

Probate: 8 November 1575

1576/110

In the name of God, Amen. The 6th July in the 18th year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland Queen, defender of the faith etc I Thomas Newport of the parish and town of Cirencester and county of Gloucester, saddler, sick of body but of perfect memory thanks be un(*torn*) mighty God do ordain and make this my testament containing my last will in manner and form following. First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God my creator and redeemer, freely (*torn*) ledging and confessing that there is no name given (*torn*) whom I may attain salvation but only the name (*torn*) Jesus and my body to be buried

in Christian (*torn*) Item I give and bequeath to Edmund my son (*torn*) tenement with the appurtenances set, lying and being in a certain street in Cirencester aforesaid called Castle Street sometime in the tenure and occupation of one Wa(*torn*) Parker and at the day of the making hereof in the tenure and occupation of one John Mi(*torn*) to have, occupy and enjoy the said tenement with (*torn*) and singular the appurtenances to the said Edmund and his assigns for and during the whole term of years to me demised as by an indenture made (*torn*) that behalf between Thomas Edmund (*torn*) Cirencester of the one part and me, the (*torn*) Thomas Newport of the said town, saddler, (*torn*) the other part does and may more plainly appear, (*torn*)alding and paying yearly for the premises during (*torn*) natural life Ellen my wife unto the said Ellen or her assigns 17s 4d over and beside all (*torn*) rent due and accustomed to be paid to the before named Thomas Edmundes or his assigns for and in consideration of the said tenement with the appurtenances by the indenture before specified does more plain appear and discharging the said Ellen of all (*torn*) all manner of covenants contained and specified in the (*torn*)indenture, provided always that (*torn*) shall not be lawful for the said Edmund to set (*torn*) alienate or sell the said tenement to obtain part or parcel thereof during any of the years aforesaid without the especial consent of Thomas my son first had and obtained. Item I give & bequeath to the said Edmund my son and his assigns all such right, title and interest as I have or of right ought to have in (*torn*) garden ground lying to the said house which I took (*torn*) Andrew Kettellbye, esquire, and Robert Hill of the said town of Cirencester, blacksmith, as by (*torn*) lease made in that behalf does more plainly appear, to have, occupy and enjoy the said garden plot to the said Edmund and his assigns during the whole term of years in the said lease contained and specified. Item I give more to Edmund my said son 40s current English money to be paid by my executors within one year next after my decease. Item whereas I owe to John my son 30s of current money of England, my will is that my executors or one of them or the heirs, executors, administrators or assigns of them or one of them shall (*torn*) the said 30s three pounds to be paid (*torn*) the said John or his assigns within one year after my decease. Item I give and bequeath to Agnes my daughter which I promised before Giles Selwin of Cirencester and others at her betrothal to her marriage to be paid unto the said Agnes in manner and form following: one half at the day of (*torn*) marriage, the other half at (*torn*) as may be with the most convenient ease of (*torn*) executors. Item whatsoever grant or promises made at the time of her betrothal aforesaid of, in or concerning the rooms of my shop, my very will is that my executors shall perform and ratify the (*torn*). Item I give and bequeath to Katherine my (*torn*)ter £6 of current English money to be paid at or before the day of her marriage. Item I give and bequeath to Hugh my son £6 13s 4d of current English money to be paid unto the said Hugh or his assigns within two years next and immediately after (*torn*) decease. Item I give and bequeath to Philip my son all my title and interest in my other tenement with the appurtenances set, lying and being in (*torn*) Street aforesaid, now in the tenure of (*torn*) Crimer, to have occupy and enjoy the said (*torn*)ment with the (*torn*) the said Philip and his assigns during the whole term aforesaid, paying yearly out of the said tenement to Ellen my wife during her natural life the yearly rent of 22s current English money, provided always that if the said Philip will not serve the executors during the whole term of five years as an apprentice and during all the said (*torn*) unto them true and faithful service that then this my grant shall be of no force but utterly void and (*torn*)custrate, any clause before going to the contrary notwithstanding. Item I give and bequeath to my sister Agnes Newman in token of goodwill an angel or 10s of current English money. Item I give to my brother John (*torn*)wooce my second gown. The residue of my goods and chattels moveable and unmoveable & unbequeathed, my debts and legacies paid and my funerals discharged, I give and bequeath to Ellen my wife and Thomas my son whom I make my whole executors.

These being witnesses: John Ferebie and Thomas Woodland, clerk, the writer hereof

Probate: 5 March 1576

1577/15

In the name of God, Amen. The 1st June 1577 I Andrew Phelpes of Cirencester in the county of Gloucester, weaver, sick of body but of perfect memory, thanks be unto Almighty God, do ordain and make this my testament containing my last will in manner and form following. First I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God through Jesus Christ my only mediator and redeemer and my body to be buried in Christian burial. Item I give to Rachel my daughter my loom with all things thereunto appertaining on this condition that the cost of the said loom remain freely to Katherine my wife and in her occupation or the occupation of her assigns during her natural life and not otherwise. Item I give to the said Rachel a pot, a frying pan, a skillet and a coffer on the condition aforesaid. Item I give to Margaret my daughter my best bed with all things belonging thereunto, the great coffer and my cupboard which I bought of William Spenser provided that the use of all the premises shall also appertain to my said wife during her natural life. The residue of all my goods moveable and unmoveable, my debts paid and funerals discharged, I give and bequeath to Katherine my wife aforesaid whom I make my sole executrix.

These being witnesses: William Phelpes, Robert Phelpes and John Rowbottom

Probate: 20 September 1577

1577/37

In the name of God, Amen. I Henry Manbye being sick in body but in perfect memory, the Lord be thanked, do make this my last will and testament the 4th August and in the 19th year of the reign of our sovereign lady the Queen, in manner and form following. First I bequeath my soul to God and my body to be buried in Christian burial where it pleases my executors to appoint it. Item I ordain Joan my wife executrix and my children jointly together with her whose names are these, Joan Rogers, Elizabeth Whitinge, Thomas Manbye, Henry Manbey, William Manbeye and Richard Manbey, Judith and Annis, all these my children to be half executors with Joan my wife of this my last will & testament, to take my goods & debts and to pay my debts and to bring me honestly on earth.

Richard Wood, John Munby, John Beryman

Note: the text is repeated again underneath in a different hand with some spelling variations. It has been crossed through and ends with the words "John Beryman the writer of the same"

Probate: 20 September 1577 for Henry Manbie of Cirencester

1577/78

In the name of God, Amen. The 9th June 1577 I John Dei of Cirencester in the county of Gloucester, tanner, sick of body but of perfect memory, thanks be unto Almighty God, do ordain and make this my testament containing my last will in manner and form following. First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God through Jesus Christ my only mediator and redeemer and my body to be buried in Christian burial. Item I give Agnes my eldest daughter £10 to be paid at the day of her marriage. Item I give & bequeath Agnes my younger daughter £10 to be paid as above said. Item I give & bequeath to Joan my daughter £10 to be paid in manner and form above said. Item I give & bequeath to Mary my daughter £10 to be paid in manner and form aforesaid. Item I give & bequeath to Elizabeth my daughter £10 to be paid in manner and form before specified. Item I give & bequeath to the child my wife goes withal so as it live £20 provided that if it be a boy he shall have and receive his said legacy at or before

the age of twenty and one years. If it be a maid to be paid at the day of her marriage as is above said. Item my will is that if any of my daughters Agnes, Agnes, Joan, Mary and Elizabeth to depart this life before the time limited in this my testament that their legacies or any of them is due and payable, which shall not be before the day of their marriage, that then the said legacy or legacies of them or any of them so deceased shall be equally divided between the other sisters. Item I give and bequeath to my mother if she shall be living one whole month after my decease 40s. Item I give and bequeath to Thomas Woodland or my minister as he live to see me Christian-like brought to my grave and not otherwise. Item I give to Robert Dei my brother 20s. The residue of all my goods moveable and unmoveable, my debts & legacies paid and funerals discharged, I give and bequeath to Agnes my wife whom I make my only and sole executrix. Item my will is that if my executrix shall happen to be espoused in marriage before the legacies or any of them in this my last will and testament bequeathed be fulfilled and according to the true meaning of this my last will and testament satisfied and discharged, if the said party unto whom my said wife shall so give her consent in marriage shall not one month at the least before the day of the solemnisation of the marriage put in good and sufficient bonds with good and sufficient sureties according to law and the good liking of my overseers, wherein they shall be bound to my overseers as well for the good education of my children as also for the true answering of the said legacies, that then and from thenceforth as well the said children as their legacies shall be and remain in the hands, education and occupying of my said overseers, provided that my said overseers also within one month at the least after the enjoying of the premises shall likewise put in and make a good assurance in law to their next kinsfolk or in their stead to my said executrix for the well using of the said children and also for the well and true payment of their said legacies bequeathed at the day and time specified in my said testament. And I ordain and make my overseers of this my testament Richard Wood, glover, and Thomas Whitinge, butcher, of Cirencester aforesaid and I give and bequeath unto my said overseers for their pains 20s apiece.

These being witnesses: Thomas Woodland, minister, John Smythe, weaver, Thomas Knighte, weaver, with others

Memorandum that for certain considerations he has abated out of the legacies of his daughters ten pounds apiece in the presence of John Smythe, weaver, and Thomas Woodland, clerk, aforesaid

The debts which he owes

First I owe unto Robert Maslin of Pirton for bark £7, part of eleven pounds for 20 loads, the which other £4 is paid already before the day of the making hereof.

Item Miles, Sir Henry Knerot's man has received of me in part payment for 2 loads of bark 6s. If I receive the whole 2 loads then I must make the 6s 20s. If I receive but one load then he must have but 4s more and so is full paid.

Debts due to me

Item Robert Benett owes me for leather	£6 10s
Item William Hunte owes me for leather	£3 13s 4d
Item Edward Perrte owes me for leather	£3
Item John Wotton owes me for leather	15s 6d
Item John Lyme owes me for leather	14s

Probate: 2 July 1577

1577/80

In the name of God, Amen. The 20th August 1575 I John Brodshaw of Cirencester in the diocese of Gloucester, weaver, being sick in body but whole of mind & remembrance, thanked be God, do institute, ordain & make this my last will & testament in manner & form following. First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God etc and my body to be buried in Christian burial.

Debts that I do owe

First to Thomas Edmundes of Cirencester 20s

Item to Giles Selwyn of Cirencester to be paid every week 12d 40s

Item to Thomas Choles of Sharncot [Sezincote?] £4

Item to Mr Whytenton of Notgrove to be paid 20s a year £3

Item I give & bequeath to Alice my daughter 20s. Item I give to Joan the elder of my daughters 20s. Item I give to Joan the younger of my daughters 20s, to be paid to either of them at the day of their marriage. Item I give & bequeath to Catherine my wife during her widow estate (if my lease endure so long) the use & commodity of my chamber where I now lie in & the room next adjoining to the same for her necessities, also a standing bedstead, a flock bed, a bolster, a pillow, a coverlet & the other furniture to the same, one brass pot, one cauldron, a broach and a pair of cobirons, a pair of pothooks & the hanging & other necessities for her needfulness at the discretion of my executor and my overseers and also the lesser part of my garden. The rest of my goods not given, not bequeathed, my debts, legacies & funeral discharged, I give to Thomas Bradshaw my son whom I do make my sole executor with the oversight of my beloved Thomas Edmunds, Giles Selwyn, Thomas Choles.

Witness: John Hearne, Thomas Faryngton with others

Probate: 5 July 1577

1577/139

In the name of God, Amen. The 27th May 1577 I Richard Davies of Cirencester in the diocese of Gloucester, weaver, being somewhat diseased yet in perfect memory, do institute, give and make this my last will and testament in manner & form following. First I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God my maker & redeemer & my body to be buried in Christian burial. Item I give and bequeath to Richard my son in money £6 13s 4d. Item more to him my best coat and my best hose and also two platters, two pottingers, two saucers and two candlesticks and my loom with the furniture. Item I give to Elizabeth Davies, my son's daughter, Robert Davies 5. Item to a sister of the said Elizabeth 20s. Item I give & bequeath to Thomas Pitte my best doublet and in money 40s. Item I give and bequeath to Ralph my boy £3. Item I give to Alice Brinne 13s 4d. Item I give to Laurence Bryne my second coat and my second doublet. Item I give to Elizabeth Bydwell my black gown and in money 40s. Item I give to Jerome Broughton my russet jerkins. Item I give and bequeath to Martha my servant 6s 8d. Item I give to the women of St Lawrence House 2d apiece. Item to the six folk of St John's house apiece 2d. Item to the five men of St Thomas House 2d apiece and the Friday Folk 2d apiece. Also to be distributed amongst the poor at my overseers discretion 20s. Item I give to my mistress Anne George an English crown of 5s. Item I give to either of my overseers apiece 5s that is to say John George, gentleman, and William Vyner. Item I give to Mrs Margaret George 5s. Item I give to every one of my godchildren in money 4d apiece. The rest of my goods not given nor bequeathed, my legacies & funeral discharged, I give to Anne my wife and John my son whom I do make jointly together my executors. And all such things as I have given & bequeathed to be pad & discharged within one half year after my death at the discretion of my overseers.

These being witnesses: William Vyner, Thomas Farrington with others

Debts owing by the said testator

First to Richard Williams 2s 8d

To Richard Constable for making his coat *not given*

Debts owing to the testator

First Henry Cloyse for Faringdon to be paid at Midsummer Eve £12

Robert Arnwade, clerk, vicar of Ashton, to be paid the first day of the next term £3

John Smyth of Cirencester, weaver	10s
John Woodward, smith	15s
Agnes Saunders, widow, for one quarter of malt	17s 4d
More of old debt by the said Agnes	3s 4d
John Herne for 2 quarters of malt	34s 8d
Thomas Bower for one bushel	2s 4d
William Patche for four bushels of malt	8s 8d
John Pitt	18s
Partreige of Northleach for sealing of clothes	25s
Harper of Quenington for sealing of clothes	7s
Probate: 14 June 1577	

1577/151

In the name of God, Amen. The 20th February 1577 I Richard Grene of Cirencester in the diocese of Gloucester, labourer, by the sufferance of God visited in my body by his hand but whole and of perfect memory, make this my last will & testament in manner & form following. That is to say, first I do bequeath my soul into the hands of my most mighty and merciful saviour who I do know will keep it that all the enemies in hell shall not be able to take it out of his hands. My body I bequeath to be buried in the churchyard of Cirencester. Item I bequeath to my son Thomas Grene five pounds in money. I bequeath to my son George in money £5. I bequeath to Alice my daughter in money £5. Item I bequeath to my brother-in-law Richard Forshaw in money 40s. All the rest of my goods unbequeathed I do give to Maud Grene my true & lawful wife & I make & appoint her my full executrix and for my overseers I do ordain & appoint Robert Chandeler & Thomas Hacket, my faithful friends, to see that these things bequeathed be disposed accordingly & my wife to see them recompensed for their pains.

The debts that are owing unto me are as follows:

First Thomas Ferebye of Cirencester does owe me £20 10s by witness which are to name Thomas Choles, farmer, of Shorncombe in the county of Wiltshire, the other William Coulston of Ewen, husbandman, in the county of Wiltshire. Item Thomas Geferyes of Minety in the county of Gloucester does owe me £10 6s 8d & for witness there is to name John Turner of the same town of Minety, labourer. Item Peter Dowye of the Vyes, late of Ashton Keynes, butcher, does owe me 40s. Item Mr Armond, vicar of Ashton Keynes, does owe me 22s as a bill which I have of his hand does show. This between God and my conscience I confess to be true & therefore I have set to my hand & caused these present to be made witness being present.

Richard Yong, curate, Robert Chandeler, Thomas Hackett, Richard Forshawe, John Mylles

Probate: 19 March 1577

1577/156

In the name of God, Amen. In 1577 and in the 20th year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland Queen, defender of then true faith etc witnesses that I Thomas Bradney of Cirencester in the county of Gloucester, weaver, do make this my last will and testament in this form and manner following. First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God through the only merits of Jesus Christ which is the only mediator between God and man, in the which Jesus I acknowledge and do faithfully believe that he has freely paid the ransom fee for my sins without any merits of myself and my body to be buried also in the congregation amongst the faithful. Secondly I bequeath unto Philip my son a broad loom and all appertaining unto him and timber for a narrow loom and all thereunto

appertaining. And all other of my goods not given nor bequeathed I give to Joan my wife who I make my full executor of this my last will and testament. In witness hereof I have set my hand the year above written.

Witnesses hereunto: William Spenser, Thomas Deyton

Probate: 20 September 1577

1578/73

In the name of God, Amen. The 14th November in the 20th year of the reign of our most gracious sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith etc, I John Gurney of Cirencester in the county of Gloucester do make this my last will and testament in manner & form following. First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God my maker and to Jesus Christ his son & my saviour and I look to be saved by no other means and my body to be buried in the parish church of Cirencester. Item I give to John my eldest son my land after the decease of my wife and to the heirs natural of his body lawfully begotten and for want of such heirs males to John the younger and for want of such heirs male of his body lawfully begotten to Richard & Henry successively. Item I give to John my youngest son one featherbed and the appurtenances with the bedstead in the far brad chamber and in money 40s to be delivered at the day of his marriage and further to the same John my lease of my dwelling house after the decease of my wife. Item I give to Richard my son the bed and bedstead with the furniture thereunto belonging that I now lie in & in money 40s. Item I give to the poor of Cirencester 40s. All the rest of my goods not given nor bequeathed I give to Alice my wife whom I make my whole executrix to perform this my will and testament and after her decease to be divided between my children and hers at her discretion. Item I make my overseers my brother William Gurney and Mr William Apryce and I give to either of them 3s 4d apiece.

Witnesses to this will & testament and the delivery thereof: John Mortymer, William Pryce, Thomas Monoux

Probate: 10 December 1578

1578/142

Here follows the will of Robert Benet of Cirencester in the county of Gloucester, shoemaker, made 10th July 1578

In the name of God, Amen. I Robert Benet of Cirencester in the county of Gloucester, shoemaker, being sick of body but in mind perfect and of good remembrance, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner & form following. First I bequeath my soul to the sure mercies of God, trusting to be saved by the merits of our saviour Jesus Christ and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Cirencester near unto my wife. Item I give & bequeath to Robert my son £6 13s 4d & the best feather bed with the best coverlet and 2 pairs of the best sheets. Item I commit the said Robert with his stock to my beloved brother-in-law Thomas Ferebye till he come to the age of 21 years. Item I give & bequeath to John my son £6 13s 4d and the best flock bed with a coverlet and 2 pairs of the second sheets. Item I give unto him more one gold ring and the same gold ring to remain to my son Robert if John happen to die. Item I commit the said John with his stock or portion to the custody of my beloved brother-in-law John Ferebye till he come to the age of 21 years & then my brother-in-law to deliver him his stock. Item I give & bequeath to Joan my daughter £6 13s 4d & the second flock bed & the third coverlet with the third 2 pair of sheets, one bearing sheet & ten pillowcases. Item I commit the said Joan with her portion to my beloved brother-in-law George Ferebye till her day of marriage or the age of 21 years but if it happen any of the said children to decease that then their part or parts to remain to the longer livers or liver of the children but if it happen them all to

decease now in this time of God's visitation of the pestilence then I will their portions of 20 nobles apiece being £20 in the whole to remain to these following. First to my mother £4. Item to John my brother other £4, to James my brother forty shillings, to Catherine my sister 40s, to Parnell my sister 40s, to Alice my sister 40s and to Joan my sister 20s. Item I give to James my brother my best cloak. Item to John my brother my second cloak being my black cloak and my best hose & doublet & my leather jerkin. And for that it may please God in this time of visitation to call either all or some of my children therefore my will is that if my son Robert happen to live that my brother-in-law Thomas Ferebye, who must have the custody of the said Robert, be my executor but if it happen the said Robert to die then I will my brother-in-law John Ferebye, who must have the custody of my son John, to be my executor & if it happen the said John my son to die also then I will my brother-in-law George Ferebye, who must have the custody of my daughter Joan, to be my executor. Either of these three unto whom the executorship shall happen I desire to see this my last will & testament in all points performed & kept and my debts to be paid and the other two brothers that happen not to be executors I request to be my overseers & for their painstaking I give each of them 20s. Also I give to my neighbour William Vaynard £6 13s 4d who is witness unto this my last will.

Debts owing by me as follows

First to widow Daye

£5

To my brother Thomas a reckoning in his book

To my brother George a reckoning in his book

John Fereby sworn that Thomas Fereby is dead

Probate: 17 January 1578

1579/11

In the name of God, Amen. The 19th August 1579 in the one and twentieth year of the reign of our most gracious sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, defender of the faith etc, I Alice Gurney, widow, late wife of John Gurney the elder of Cirencester in the county of Gloucester, yeoman, deceased, being weak in body but, thanks be unto God, of perfect mind and memory, do make and ordain this my last will & testament in manner and form following. First I give and bequeath unto the hands of Almighty God my creator my spirit, trusting to be saved through the merits, death and passion of my lord & saviour Jesus Christ & my body to be buried in Christian burial at the pleasure of my overseers. Item I give and bequeath unto John Gurney my eldest son my great woodpile lying before the pigsty, the best bedstead and bed with all the furniture thereto belonging in the parlour, the bedstead and bed with all the furniture thereto belonging he now lies on, the cupboard standing in the hall next the buttery with all the brass and pewter now being upon the same, that is to say 8 platters, 5 pottingers & 3 candlesticks. Item I give and bequeath unto Henry Gurney my son my other bedstead and bed with all the furniture to the same belonging now being in the parlour, the woodpile that stands now upon the staddle over the gutter & not to be diminished, my great brass pot, 4 platters, 4 pottingers, 4 saucers & 2 candlesticks, one pair of good canvas sheets, one pillow, one pillowbere, two table napkins & one table cloth & one coffer standing by the tavern door in my chamber & one wort pan at the discretion of my overseers & in money 20s. Item I give and bequeath unto Margaret Petrus my daughter all the bedding & furniture that is now in her chamber & one bedstead there and I give unto Ambrose her son the pan that I bought of her. Item I give unto Agnes Whyght my daughter the bedstead and bed with all the furniture to the same belonging which I now lie on and three pounds in money to be paid her by my executor within 6 months next after my decease. Item I give to the aid Agnes my best gown, one smock, two of my best kerchiefs, my best apron, my best wort pan. Item I give and bequeath to

Richard Gurney my son £3 in money together with the forty shillings & the household stuff given him by his father in his last will & testament to be paid and delivered him within one whole year after my decease. Item I will that all my plate be delivered unto my overseers to be sold at the best to see my debts paid & if any money thereof happen to remain I will that my executor shall have it towards the payment of my legacies now by me given. My plate is one silver salt partial gilt, one goblet partial gilt, one dozen of apostle spoons with gilt heads now lying in the hands of Robert Archard of Hampton for four pounds. Item I will that John the elder shall have his abode here in my house for his avoidance for such convenient time as shall seem good to my overseers without any vexation of my executor. Item all the rest of my goods & chattels as well moveable as unmoveable now not given nor bequeathed I give and bequeath unto John Gurney the younger my son whom I make my whole & full executor, seeing all legacies & gifts as well in his father's last will & testament as also in this my last will & testament justly & truly discharged & for surety whereof I will that my said executor presently after my decease to enter into bond of one hundred marks to my overseers for the sure performance of this my last will & if my said executor do refuse to enter into such bond I will that my overseers shall appoint which of my children they think good to be my executor entering into bond as aforesaid. Item I will & desire my well-beloved in Christ my brother-in-law William Gurney, William Price & Thomas Monoux to be overseers of this my last will & testament to see everything herein contained performed according to this my last will & I give to every of them for their painstaking 3s 4d.

Probate: 5 January 1579

1579/99

In the name of God, Amen. The 1st August 1578 in the one and twentieth year of the reign of our most gracious sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, defender of the faith etc, I John Morton of Cirencester in the county of Gloucester, blacksmith, being weak in body but, thanks be unto God, of perfect mind and memory, do ordain and make this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I give and yield up into the hands of Almighty God, my creator, my spirit, trusting to be saved through the merits, death and passion of my lord and saviour Jesus Christ and my body to be buried in Christian burial. Item I give and bequeath unto my father my mare and all my apparel. Item all the rest of my goods and chattels as well moveable as unmoveable I give and bequeath unto my wife and to my son John whom I make my full & whole executors, seeing my debts paid and my funeral discharged. And I will that if my wife happen to die in this visitation all my goods shall be equally divided amongst my children. And if all my children die I give and bequeath all my said goods unto Robert Hamlette whom I desire to be supervisor of this my last will to see all things performed according to this my request.

Witnesses hereunto: William Patche, John Ryse als Davis

Probate: 29 July 1579

1579/144

In the name of God, Amen. The 1st June 1579 I Robert Carter of Cirencester in the diocese of Gloucester, shepherd, do ordain and make this my last will and testament, being sick of body but yet, praised be God, of good and perfect memory, in manner and form following. That is to say, first I bequeath my soul to Almighty God the Father and to Jesus Christ my saviour & to all the holy company and my body to be buried in Christian burial. First I give and bequeath to Thomas Carter of Aston my kinsman one quarter of malt, my best coat and my best doublet. The residue of my goods and chattels moveable and unmoveable, quick and dead, not given nor bequeathed, I

give unto Joan my wife whom I make my sole executrix to see my funerals and debts discharged at the discretion & oversight of my well-beloved in Christ John Hopkins & Thomas Hawkins of Stratton being overseers of this my will & testament to see all things equally distributed & discharged. Moreover I give & bequeath unto Joan my wife the lease of my house wherein I now dwell next adjoining on the west part where John Syms now dwells. Furthermore my will is that I have 2 heifers, a red & a white, in the hands of Grymer of Siddington, to the use of Joan my wife & also 16 old ewes & 10 lambs which remain in the hands of John Hopkyns. I make my wife executrix also. Also I give & bequeath to Joan my wife whom I have made my executrix 2 heifers which be in the hands of Grinder of Siddington & also 16 old sheep & 11 lambs which remain in the hands of John Hopkyns of Cirencester.

NB The first version is badly written with insertions

Debts which are owing me

First to the widow Iles of Duntisbourne	22s	
To Richard Yeeles	10s	
To Goodman Morren	7s	
To him for the making of a cassock & petticoat		20d
For making of a jerkin & a pair of breeches for the shepherd		12d
the making of 2 coats for Robert		8d
For Elizabeth coats		12d
For Anne's coats making		6d
Richard Yeeles' maid		6d
To William Heynes	3s	4d
To Thomas Ridler	13s	
To Thomas Wever		8d
To Ann Wheller		6d
To Edward Hyll		12d
To John Woodward smith	20s	
To Richard Hewes	6s	8d
To Richard Handye	10s	
To Goodwife Syms my tenant	2s	
Total sum	£6	2s 6d
Debts that I do owe		
To William Greenewaye for carriage of wood & stuff	2s	4d
To John Denton	5s	

Probate: 23 June 1579

1579/145

In the name of God, Amen. The 14th December 1578 in the 21st year of the reign of our most gracious sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, defender of the faith etc, I Roger Edmondes of Cirencester in the diocese of Gloucester, tanner, do ordain and make this my last will and testament in manner and form following. That is to say, first I bequeath my soul into the hands of God my maker & to Jesus Christ his son and my saviour and I look to be saved by no other means and my body to be buried in the parish church of Cirencester aforesaid etc. Item I give and bequeath to Henry Edmondes my eldest son in money the sum of six pounds, thirteen shilling and four pence. Item I give and bequeath to Thomas Edmondes my son in money the sum six pounds, thirteen shilling and four pence. Item I give and bequeath to William Edmondes my son in money the sum of six pounds, thirteen shilling and four pence. Item I give and bequeath to John Edmondes my son in money the sum of six pounds, thirteen shilling and four pence. Item I give and bequeath to Elizabeth Edmondes my daughter in money the sum of six pounds, thirteen shilling and four pence all which several portions I will that it be delivered in

manner and form following. That is to say, my sons to have their portions at 21 years of their age and my daughter to have her portion delivered unto her at the day of her marriage or else at 21 years of her age if she keep herself so long unmarried. Also my will is that if any of my aforesaid children do die before he, she or they be to receive this their legacy that it be divided between the residue of my said children living by equal portions. Item my will is that if my wife do happen to marry before my said children have received their legacies that he whom she marries with shall be bound with sufficient surety unto my father Thomas Edmondes or his assigns for the performance of this my will and testament. Item I give to the poor people of Cirencester in money 20s. The residue of my goods and chattels not given nor bequeathed I give to Elizabeth my wife whom I make my sole executrix to see my debts paid and my funerals discharged. I appoint to be my overseers my father Thomas Edmondes, John Mortymer, clerk and John Hopkins. Witnesses hereunto. By me Roger Edmond
Probate: 23 March 1579

1580/58

In the name of God, Amen. The 20th March 1579 in the two and twentieth year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, defender of the faith etc, I James Gourney of Cirencester within the county of Gloucester, being weak in body but, thanks be unto God, of good and perfect memory, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I give and bequeath into the hands of Almighty God my creator my spirit which he of his fatherly goodness gave me in my first creation, trusting to be saved by the merits, death and passion of my lord and saviour Jesus Christ and my body to be buried in Christian burial. Item I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth my wife the house wherein I now dwell during her natural life and after her decease I give and bequeath the said house with all the appurtenances to the same belonging unto my brother William Gourney and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten for ever. Item I give and bequeath unto my brother Thomas Lewse so much leather in my pits as to discharge five shillings which I owe him. Item all the rest of my said leather I give unto my said wife. Item Richard Willyams owes me for four loads of wood sixteen shillings of lawful money of England which I give and bequeath unto my said wife. Item all the rest of my goods and chattels as well moveable as unmoveable I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth my said wife whom I make my full and whole executrix, seeing my debts paid and my funeral discharged.

James Gurnay (*written in a different hand*)

Witness to this will-making: Nicholas Phillippes & his wife, John Pratte, Thomas Newport and William Webbe
Probate: 7 September 1580

1580/116

In the name of God, Amen. The 8th September 1580 I Margaret Tymbrell of Cirencester in the county of Gloucester, widow, sick in body but I thank my lord Jesus Christ of good and perfect memory, do ordain and make this my last will and testament in manner and form following. That is to say, first I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my heavenly father, to Jesus Christ his only son and my saviour and to the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, & my body to be buried in Christian burial etc. First I give and bequeath to John Mylle, son of John Mylle my son-in-law, forty shillings in money, one bed with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging, my great brass pan, one great candlestick. Item I give and bequeath unto Richard Lucas my son one brass pot to be delivered unto him at the hour of my death. Item I give and bequeath

to Joan Mylle, daughter of the said John Mylle my son-in-law, whom I make my executrix, one brass pan, one cauldron, one bearing sheet & one candlestick, one frying pan, one long table board, one great coffer and all my wearing apparel. And moreover my will is that the children's portions shall be delivered unto them when and what time their father shall see good. And also my will is that if either of the said children do decease before he or she have received his or their part that the one's part so happening shall remain to the other. And I do appoint my well-beloved in Christ Thomas Haggett and Robert Watsonne my overseers of this my last will and testament & I give to either of them 12d apiece for their painstaking herein. Witness hereunto: John Pope and Edward Stryne, John Baker
Probate: 21 September 1580

1580/187

In the name of God, Amen. The 2nd May 1580 I William Wynston of Cirencester in the county of Gloucester, tailor, sick in body but, I thank my Lord God, of good and perfect memory, do ordain and make this my testament containing herein my last will in manner and form as hereafter follows. First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God our heavenly father, trusting by the merits of our saviour Jesus Christ to be associate with God's glory in the kingdom of heaven and my body to be buried in Christian burial. First I give and bequeath to Elizabeth my daughter one flock bed with a bedstead, a bolster, a coverlet, a pair of blankets, a pair of sheets and one coffer, half a dozen of pewter, that is to say 2 platters, 2 pottingers and 2 saucers. Item I give and bequeath to Joan my daughter one flock bed with a bedstead, a bolster, a coverlet, a pair of blankets, a pair of sheets, one coffer and half a dozen of pewter, that is to say 2 platters, 2 pottingers and 2 saucers. Item I give to Margaret my daughter one flock bed with a bedstead, a bolster, a coverlet, a pair of blankets, a pair of sheets, one coffer, half a dozen of pewter, that is to say 2 platters, 2 pottingers and 2 saucers. Item I give and bequeath to my daughter Eleanor in money 20s. The residue of my goods not given nor bequeathed, my debts, legacies and funerals discharged, I give and bequeath to Jane my wife whom I do make my whole executrix to dispose them to the pleasure of God. And I do appoint my well-beloved in Christ William Spencer, John Edson and John Webb to be my overseers of this my last will and testament.
Probate: 21 June 1580

