

Richard Underwood of Eastnor, yeoman, 1647

Ref: TNA, PROB11/208

In the name of God Amen. I Richard Underwood of Eastnor in the county of Hereford, yeoman, being in good and perfect memory and remembrance (thanks be to Almighty God) do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following, renouncing all former and wills and testaments. **And first** and principally I commend my soul into the most merciful hands of Almighty God my creator, and of his only son my sweet saviour and redeemer Christ Jesus, most assuredly trusting and believing that all my sins are clearly forgiven and pardoned by his only merits, death, passion, resurrection and glorious ascension, and after this sinful life ended I shall be made partaker of life everlasting with the blessed saints in the kingdom of heaven. And I commit my sinful body to the earth where it was made and formed, and decently to be buried in Christian burial. And as for my worldly estate wherewith it has pleased God to bless me, I do dispose of it as followeth. **Imprimis** I give and bequeath to my sister Catherine 40s. **Item** I give and bequeath to my two nieces Anne and Alice, to either of them, 40s. **Item** I give and bequeath to my niece Elizabeth Turner, widow, 40s. **Item** I give and bequeath to Frances and Joyce the daughters of my niece Margery Smith, to either of them, 20s. **Item** I give and bequeath to my kinsman Thomas Underwood £5. **Item** I give unto Joan Underwood, mother of the said Thomas Underwood, £3. **Item** I give and bequeath unto my kinswoman Jane Dent of Longdon, widow, 40s. **Item** I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth the wife of John Young, my kinswoman, 20s. And I do forgive and remit unto the said John Young £4 of money which he oweth me. **Item** I give unto Anne Parsons, the daughter of John Parsons late of Eastnor aforesaid, 40s. **Provided** always and my will and meaning is, that I do order and appoint that all of the said legacies, gifts and bequests before mentioned shall be paid by my executrix hereafter named within the space of three years next after my decease or as soon as she may lawfully recover and pay the same out of my goods and debts. **Item** I do give and remit and forgive unto Hugh Parsons my kinsman the sum of £20 of lawful money, part of the debt that he oweth unto me; provided always and my will and meaning is, that if he shall neglect or refuse to pay unto me or my executrix the rest and residue of the said debt and sums of money which he justly oweth me within the space of three whole years next coming after the date of this my last will and testament that then this my gift, remission and forgiveness of the said sum of £20 as aforesaid shall be void and of no effect. **All the rest** of my goods, cattle, chattels, credits and debts due unto me whatsoever, my legacies paid and discharged, I wholly give and bequeath to Eleanor Haywood alias Jennyns, my sister, who I do hereby make and ordain my full and sole executrix of this my last will and testament, not doubting but that with care and good conscience she will perform the same. **In witness** whereof I have hereunto put my hand and seal the 26th day of August in the 23rd year of the reign of our sovereign lord Charles, by the grace of God king of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, AD 1647. Richard Underwood his mark.
Signed, sealed and published in the presence of John Webley, Thomas Danford, Edmond Knottsford, Hugh Parsons

Probate 9 May 1649

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Note: There is a gap in the Eastnor burial registers April 1641 -July 1666. An Anne Underwood, wife of Richard Underwood had been buried on 22 October 1634. The baptism of Richard does not appear in the Eastnor registers, but his sisters Katherine (30 November 1572) and Elenor (9 September 1576) do; they were the children of Edward Underwood. Richard Underwood was one of the churchwardens in 1604. (Herefs. RO BO93/1)