

## CHELtenham AREA WILLS 1591 – 1603

### 1592/14

In the name of God, Amen. The 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1591 and in the 34<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of our lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, defender of the faith etc I Allen Giest of Swindon in the county of Gloucester, husbandman, sick in body but of good and perfect remembrance, praised be God, do make this my will and testament in manner and form following. First I commend my soul unto the mercy of God, hoping and assuredly believing to be saved by the only death and passion of my lord and saviour Jesus Christ and by no other means. My body I commend unto the earth and to be buried in the usual place of burial of my predecessors within the churchyard of Swindon aforesaid. Item my goods, my debts first paid, I will to be divided into three parts and my wife to have two parts and my children the third part thereof. Item I ordain my wife my executor.

Given and bequeathed the day and year above written in the presence of us: John Merrill, William Clyfford and William Winter

Script by me John Hitchins als Deacons

The debts of Allen Giest

First I owe to Thomas White	£4	6s	8d
To Thomas Grenes		40s	
To Christopher Toms	£3	6s	
To Nicholas Church	£4	5s	
To Elizabeth Gallie		40s	
To Giles Hawlinge		20s	
To Edmund Giest junior	£3	6s	
To Mr George Badger		22s	
To Thomas Clarke		4s	6d
To William Tickle			18d
To John Hickes		13s	
To John Hulles		33s	4d
To Thomas Grenes a quarter of barley			
Sum	£23	18s	

Probate: 7 June 1592

### 1593/199

*NB The original will is now missing*

In the name of God, Amen. The 10<sup>th</sup> November 1593 and in the 35<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of our lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, defender of the faith etc, I Nicholas Adwicke of Leckhampton in the county of Gloucester, servant to William Norwood of Leckhampton aforesaid, esquire, calling to mind with the just Job that man born of a woman has but a short time to live and is full of ?, he springs up and is cast down like a flower and never continues in one state and also ascertained that all men shall die and that no man knows the hour of his own death and ? in myself through the bitter afflictions and passions of my corruptible flesh which I receive as a most comfortable token of the love and mercy of my saviour and redeemer Jesus Christ knowing that while he loves him he chastens, that my days can not be prolonged upon earth. All which considered, for the better establishing and addressing of all such temporal goods wherewith it has pleased Almighty God to bless me in this transitory world, hoping that my mind and conscience being freed and quitted from the troubles and cares and affairs of the same, may only attend things necessary to the state of my salvation, do ordain, constitute and make in good and perfect memory this my last will and testament in manner and form following. That is to say, first I commend my soul into the hands of

Almighty God my maker and redeemer who has created, redeemed and sanctified me and (as I hope) through the blood and mercies of his dear son Jesus Christ adopted me to the unspeakable joys of his celestial kingdom, casting all my sins and offences into the bosom and blood of that immaculate lamb, firmly trusting that, though they were as red as the scarlet, yet through his most precious blood and passion they shall all be made as white as the driven snow and my body I commit to the earth whereof it was first made, to be buried at the discretion of my executor whether in the church or churchyard of Leckhampton aforesaid. And as concerning my lands, tenements, goods, chattels and hereditaments I do by this my said will and testament order, give and dispose and distribute the same in manner and form following. That is to say, I give, demise and grant unto Nicholas Adwicke, son of Thomas Adwicke, and to his heirs and assigns for ever, without any manner of condition, limitation or use, all those my lands, tenements and hereditaments lying, set and being in Stoke Orchard in the said county of Gloucester and also all and singular rents, reversions, issues, profits and commodities of the same, which said lands, tenements, hereditaments I late had and purchased of Brian Stapleton, gentleman, and now are in the tenure, holding and occupation of Alice Pynnocke, widow, or of her assign or assigns by virtue of a lease, demise or grant thereof to Richard Pynnocke, husband of the said Alice Pynnocke, and to the said Alice Pynnocke, made by the said Brian for certain years yet enduring. Also I give and grant, devise and assign unto the said Nicholas Adwicke, his executors and assigns, all my right, title, estate, interest and term which I have, or of right ought to have, of, in and unto all that one messuage or tenement with the appurtenances in Egmanton in the county of Nottingham and of, in and unto all and singular lands, tenements and hereditaments, woods, profits, commodities and emoluments to the said messuage or tenement belonging or in any wise appertaining, which said messuage or tenement and other the demised and assigned premises I late had and obtained of the said William Norwoode by a certain lease, demise or grant for term of the natural lives of me, the said Nicholas Adwicke, Thomas Adwicke and of the said Nicholas Adwicke last above mentioned and now are in the tenure and occupation of Thomas Adwicke my brother or of his assign or assigns. Also I give and bequeath to Richard Norwoodde, William Norwoodde, Henry Norwoodde, Ralph Norwoodde, Maurice Norwoodde and Elizabeth Norwoodde, the sons and daughter of the said William Norwoodde, three pounds of current money of England, viz. ten shillings apiece to be paid and delivered within one week next after my decease. Also I give and bequeath unto Thomas Adwicke, brother to the said Nicholas Adwicke, and Elizabeth and Agnes Adwicke, sisters of the said Nicholas and Thomas, forty pounds of current money of England, that is to say, twenty pounds to the said Thomas and ten pounds apiece to the said Elizabeth and Agnes, to be paid in manner and form following, viz. first to the said Thomas yearly ten pounds until his said twenty shall be fully satisfied and paid and after the said Thomas so contented and paid, or the time appointed for the payment thereof expired, then to the said Elizabeth ten pounds within one whole year next after satisfaction so made to the said Thomas as aforesaid or within next whole year after the time appointed for the payment of the same. And after the said Elizabeth so paid as aforesaid or the time for payment thereof expired, then to the said Agnes her ten pounds, being the last part of the said forty pounds, within one whole year next following payment made to the said Elizabeth or the time limited for the same. The first payment thereof to commence and to be made within one whole year next after the day of my decease, which said sum of forty pounds so severally to be paid as above mentioned. I appoint and ordain that the said Nicholas Adwicke shall in manner and form above specified content, satisfy and pay to the parties thereunto nominated in consideration of the lands, tenements and hereditaments so to him given, devised, assigned and granted as aforesaid. Also I give and bequeath unto Thomas Adwicke my brother all and singular sum and sums of money, debts, duties and demands which he, the said Thomas, owes me and of the same sum and

sums of money, debts, duties and demands I the said Nicholas do freely forgive, remise and release to the said Thomas, his executors and administrators for ever by these presents. And moreover where heretofore has been divers and sundry reckonings, accounts, sum and sums of money accountable betwixt me and Ralph Randall of Leckhampton aforesaid and where also the said Ralph has in his hands, custody and possession the sum of twenty pounds I do by this my said will and testament acknowledge and confess the said Ralph Randall to have yielded and made a full and clear account and reckoning of all and every the sum and sums of money aforesaid except the said twenty pounds only, all and singular which said reckonings, accounts, sum and sums of money aforesaid, the said sum of twenty pounds only excepted, I do by these presents acknowledge, discharged and paid and the said Ralph, his executors and administrators to be exonerated, acquitted and discharged for ever. Item I give and bequeath unto Margaret Free my worst pair of sheets and my worst coverlet. All the rest of my goods moveable and unmoveable, my debts paid and my funeral expenses discharged, I give and bequeath unto the said Nicholas Adwicke whom I make my sole executor of this my last will and testament, ordaining and appointing the said Ralph Randall and Simon Spire supervisors of the same, hoping that they, according to the trust in them reposed, will to their best endeavour see the same performed accordingly.

Witnesses: Ralph Randall and Nicholas Bassette

Probate: 21 November 1593

#### **1595/29**

In the name of God, Amen. The 13<sup>th</sup> May 1591 I Edmund Weale als Pomfrey of the parish of Leckhampton, husbandman, being sick and weak in body but yet of good & perfect remembrance, thanks be given unto Almighty God, do make this my last will & testament in manner & form following. First & principally I commit & bequeath my soul to Jesus Christ my only saviour, trusting through the merits of his death & passion to obtain pardon for my sins and after this life the fruition of his heavenly kingdom. And my body when life shall give it over I will to be buried in the churchyard of Leckhampton aforesaid. Item I give & bequeath unto John Weale als Pomfrey my son a yearling calf, my colt, a broach, twelve bushels of barley and ten sheep. Item I give unto Alice Weale als Pomfrey my daughter 12 bushels of barley, my brass pot & ten sheep. Item I give my father my best cloak. Also whereas I owe my brother Walter money my will is he shall be paid with my beans which are in the house. Item all the rest of my goods moveable & unmoveable I give & bequeath unto Alice Weale my wife whom I make my sole executrix of this my last will, paying my debts & funeral expenses.

Witnesses hereunto are those whose names be subscribed: Randolph Geynes, clerk, George Carpenter & John Weale als Pomfrey with others

Probate: 21 June 1595

#### **1595/57**

In the name of God, Amen. The 19<sup>th</sup> October 1595 I John Weale als Pomfrey of the parish of Leckhampton, husbandman, being sick and weak in body but yet in good and perfect remembrance, thanks be given unto Almighty God, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I commit and bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God, trusting through a steadfast and lively faith in the merits of Jesus Christ my saviour to obtain pardon for all my sins and offences. And my body when life shall give it over I will the same to be buried in the churchyard of Leckhampton aforesaid. Item I give unto the two children of Edmund Weale als Pomfrey my son, deceased, that is to John and Alice, forty shillings to be equally

divided between them which I promised to Henry Perce to their use in lieu of certain wood left by their father to be paid to them either at the hour of my death or at the day of their marriage at my choice. Item all the rest of my goods moveable and unmoveable I give and bequeath unto Walter Weale als Pomfrey my son whom I make my whole executor, paying my debts and funeral expenses. And for my overseers I appoint Thomas Weale als Pomfrey my brother and Hugh Griffin. Witnesses hereunto are Randolph Gynes, George Carpenter and Edward Hare  
Probate: 15 November 1595

#### **1595/66**

In the name of God, Amen. The 26<sup>th</sup> July in the 37<sup>th</sup> year of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, Queen of England, France and Ireland etc, I James Jones als Tucker of Prestbury in the county of Gloucester, husbandman, sick in body but of perfect memory, I give God thanks, do make my last will and testament in manner following. First I commit my soul to Almighty God my creator and my saviour Jesus Christ and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Prestbury aforesaid. And all my worldly goods I give and bequeath in manner and form as follows. Item I give to the poor men's box 12d. Item I give to my son William Jones 20s. Item I give to my son Thomas Jones two sheep. Item to Richard Jones two sheep. Item to Joan the wife of William Ballinger two sheep. Item I give to Thomas and William, the children of William Ballinger, two sheep. Item I give to my son Thomas my great pan after that my wife shall have used the same during her life. Item I give to my son Robert all my lofts, my tallets, garners and my cistern. Item I give to Alice my wife 20 sheep and the rest of my sheep I give to my son Robert. Item I give and bequeath my house with the lease and all the interest I have thereto with housing, buildings, orchards, arable lands and meadow pastures during my years and estate that I have thereof unto Alice my wife and Robert my son equally betwixt them during the time my wife keeps herself in widowhood and unmarried & if she marry she shall have ten pounds and her bed with all the furniture for her portion to be paid her by my son Robert. And if my son Robert shall happen to marry it shall be provided by this my will that he shall not bring his wife to inhabit in my house with his mother except his mother's goodwill first obtained. All the rest of my goods moveable and unmoveable unbequeathed I give to my wife and my son Robert equally betwixt them, my funerals discharged. And my wife Alice and my son Robert shall be my true and lawful executors as they will answer at the day of judgement.  
Witnesses to this will: William Ballinger, Richard Benfield, Richard Coppocke  
Probate: 20 September 1595

#### **1596/25**

In the name of God, Amen. I Edward Parker of Prestbury in the county of Gloucester, yeoman, being of good and perfect memory, praised be God, do make my testament wherein is contained my last will the 11<sup>th</sup> November in the 36<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth in manner and form as follows. First I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God and my body to the earth. Item I give to my uncle William Yearnton of Cleeve all my iron stuff as wedges, bills, hatchets and all the rest of my iron whatsoever. Item I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth my presupposed daughter, my house during the years I have to come of it and all such goods and household stuff which I have lying and being in Prestbury and three sheep to be delivered unto her when she does come to the age of 18 years or else at the day of her marriage. And if it happen my daughter Elizabeth to decease before she does accomplish the age of 18 years and being unmarried then it is my will that her part and portion of goods due unto her by this will shall remain and come to Alice Turnar my mother being the longer liver. And if it happen that they both decease and the said goods not

otherwise bestowed by my mother that then the goods shall remain and come to my cousin Sara Sheene's children by equal portions. Item I give and bequeath unto Thomas Parker, the son of Thomas Parker dwelling in Lambeth all such goods and debts which are owing and due unto me in Portsmouth, Sussex and Newhaven. Item I give and bequeath unto Samuel Parker, the brother of the foresaid Thomas Parker my cousin, my rapier and dagger. Item I give and bequeath unto Thomas Turner my father-in-law one suit of apparel which I do commonly wear. Item I give and bequeath unto Richard Yearnton the elder one pair of green stockings and one stall of bees. Item I give and bequeath unto my mother Alice Turner my cloak. Item I give and bequeath unto Thomas Turner aforesaid my best doublet. Item I do make and ordain my uncle William Yaernton aforesaid my sole executor of this my last will and testament and I do ordain Kennard Dalabere overseer to this my last will.

Witnesses: John Restell and John Beale

Probate: 16 September 1596

### 1597/120

In the name of God, Amen. I Joan Geste of Swindon in the diocese of Gloucester, widow, though weak & sick in body yet, thanks be unto God, of good & perfect memory, do make & ordain this my last will & testament in the 7<sup>th</sup> August 1596 in manner & form following. That is to say, first & principally I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God my creator, steadfastly trusting to be saved eternally by the merits and death of Christ Jesus my alone saviour & redeemer & by no other means & for my body I commit it to the earth from whence it was taken to be buried in the churchyard of Swindon. And trusting to the disposing of such worldly goods as God has blessed me withal, first I give & bequeath unto the poor people of Swindon 3s 4d. Item I give & bequeath unto Edward my youngest son my best bed, the best bolster, a pair of sheets, a canvas, the bedstead, the second best brass pot, the best candlestick, the best pewter platter, the best pewter saucer, the best coffer in the chamber where I do lie, one barrel of 4 or 5 gallons & £3 of good & lawful money of England to be paid unto the said Edward by my executor within the term of 3 years next after my decease if the said Edward so long shall live. Item I give & bequeath unto my son Edmund the younger £4 of good & lawful money of England to be paid unto him by my executor within four years next after my decease. Item I give & bequeath unto my son William the best brass cauldron, one of the best pewter platters, two pewter pottingers, one barrel of 4 gallons & £4 of lawful money of England to be paid by my executor within 2 years after my decease. Item I give & bequeath unto Edmund my eldest son my cistern & table board in the hall to have & enjoy the same during his natural life & after his decease the said cistern & board to remain to my son William. Item I give & bequeath unto my son Edmund, my eldest son, my best brass pot & quern mill to have & enjoy the same during his natural life & after his death to remain to my son William. And if it shall happen that my son Edmund do outlive William that then any such standers to remain & be to the said Edmund & his assigns for ever. Item I give & bequeath unto Grace Symones, daughter of John Symones, 12d. Item I give & bequeath unto Anne Hammans my goddaughter 12d. Item to Elizabeth Clyfford my goddaughter I give & bequeath 12d. Item I give & bequeath unto Thomas Keene my godson 12d. Item I give & bequeath unto Joan Wytherly, daughter of Richard Wetherlye, 12d to be paid unto every of them within six months after my decease. Item I give & bequeath unto every of my other 3 sons a bedstead. Item my will is that all the rest of my goods moveable & unmoveable, my debts & legacies being paid, I give & bequeath to my son Edmund, my eldest son, whom I make my whole executor of this my last will and testament. Debts which I do owe. Item to Christopher Tomes of Down Hatherley the sum of three pounds. Item to Giles Bingley £4. Item to John Symons of Swindon £4. Item to Elizabeth Galley 33s. Item to Mr William Bagger, son of George Bagger of Prestbury,

20s. Item to Thomas Clyfford 19s. Item to Edmund Geste my second son 40s. Item to Richard Houlder my brother 40s. Item to John Balinge 7s if he holds not the now pasturing which he now occupies for the full term of two years. Item more to Richard Houlder forty shillings if he holds not the flack piece for the term of one whole year. Item I do ordain & appoint to be my overseers of this my last will and testament John Merrell & William Mallard and Richard Houlder my brother of the same Swindon & diocese aforesaid, trusting in God that they will see it duly performed according to the intent & true meaning of the same. And for their painstaking I give unto either of them 20d apiece.

Wynesses to this will: John Merrell, Richard Houlder, William Mallard, Richard Lane  
Probate: 14 November 1597

### **1597/185**

In the name of God, Amen. The 7<sup>th</sup> June I Robert Clerke of Prestbury in the county of Gloucester, husbandman, sick in body but of perfect memory, I give God praise, do make my last will and testament in manner following. First I commit my soul to God my creator and our redeemer Christ Jesus and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Prestbury aforesaid and I give to the poor of the said parish 6s 8d. All the rest of my goods, cattle and chattels moveable and unmoveable whereof God has made me steward in this world, my debts first paid and my funerals discharged, I give to Margery my wife and Elizabeth my daughter in which bequest thus I would be understood; that my said wife shall have and enjoy all that I have, lands and goods moveable and unmoveable whatsoever during her natural life and after her decease that all my lands & goods moveable and unmoveable shall descend and appertain to Elizabeth my daughter. And of this my last will and testament I make Margery my wife my true and lawful executrix to see my debts paid, my funerals discharged and this my last will performed as she will answer at the Judgement Day. As touching the debts which I owe, first whereas Thomas Hodges is bound with me jointly and severally in a great sum of money to Thomas Tuffeley als Waterman, my father-in-law, for the performance of his annuity, it is my will that my executrix shall have him harmless, both him, his executors and administrators. Item I owe to Edward Higgenson of Prestbury, husbandman, £3 6s 8d. Item I owe to William Clerke of Whittington, my brother, £8 for which he has no speciality. Item I owe my brother Thomas Clerke £4. Item Thomas Darke of Apperley owes me £3.

Witnesses to this will: John Turbott and Richard Coppocke  
Probate: 30 August 1597

### **1598/190**

In the name of God, Amen. The 5<sup>th</sup> February 1597 I William Smithe als Fisher of Prestbury in the county of Gloucester, smith, sick in body but of perfect memory, I praise God, do make my last will and testament in manner following. First I commit my soul to Almighty God and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Prestbury aforesaid. And all my worldly goods I give as follows. All my free land lying in the Watershot field in Prestbury I give and bequeath to my three wenches Alice, Joan and Mary to be divided by equal portions, to have & hold to them for ever from the time of my wife's death or from the time of her marriage until which time she shall hold the said land to the breeding up of my children. Item I give my house with the burgage thereto belonging to my wife Elizabeth during her natural life and afterwards to my son Robert for ever. Item I give to Robert my son the bedstead wherein I lie after the decease of his mother, a cupboard, a cistern, a malt mill & a table board. All the rest of my goods moveable, my debts paid & my funeral expenses discharged, I give to Elizabeth my wife whom I make my sole executrix to see my funeral discharged & my debts paid as she will answer at the Day of Judgement.

Debts owing

I owe my sister Margaret Fisher £8

I owe to Mary Walter als Christopher £3 6s 8d

Debts that are owing to the said William Fisher

Edward the servant of William Ballinger owes me 5s

Thomas Lambert owes me 2s

Witnesses to this will: Robert Hanes, Thomas Fisher & Richard Coppocke

Probate: 3 March 1598

### **1599/53**

in the name of God, Amen. The 6<sup>th</sup> May 1598 I Jane Finche of the parish of Leckhampton, widow, being sick in body but of good and perfect remembrance, praise be given to Almighty God, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First and principally I commit and bequeath my soul to Jesus Christ my saviour, trusting through the virtue of his death and most precious blood to obtain pardon and mercy for my sins and in the world to come everlasting life. And my body when life shall give it over I will to be buried in the church or churchyard of Leckhampton aforesaid. Item I give towards the reparation of the parish church of the said Leckhampton six shillings and eight pence. Item I give and bequeath to Marie Edwards, my goddaughter, Katherine Atkynes, Elizabeth More and Margaret Crompe, sisters to the said Marie, twenty shillings apiece. Item I give and bequeath to Giles Atkines and Thomas his brother a yearling apiece and two sheep apiece. Item I give to Susan Atkines, the daughter of Richard Atkines of Upton, my goddaughter, a yearling. Item I give to Mary Atkynes, sister to the said Susan, one cow. Item I give unto Alice Ladde my sister forty shillings. Item I give unto Richard Tanty my brother forty shillings. Item I give to John Tantie my kinsman twenty shillings. Item I give to Alice Genninges of Hempsted my sister six shillings and eight pence. Item I give to Thomas More, the son of Thomas More of Elbridge, one cow. Item I give to Joan Hoore, the wife of John Hoore, my kinswoman, ten shillings and a bushel of wheat to be delivered unto her after harvest next following. Item I give to Jane Gines my goddaughter ten shillings. Item I give to every one of my servants twelve pence apiece. Item I give to Jane Holder, my servant and goddaughter, a yearling. Item I give to every one of my godchildren twelve pence apiece and to my cousin Joan Hoore, widow, I give half a bushel of corn. Item all the rest of my goods & chattels moveable & unmoveable I freely give & bequeath to Walter Cooke, my son-in-law, and to Mary his wife, my daughter, the which Walter and Mary I make wholly the executors of this my last will, paying my debts and funeral expenses. Witnesses hereunto are: Randolph Gynes, parson there, and William Bellinger  
Probate: 4 May 1599

### **1600/76**

In the name of God, Amen. The 10<sup>th</sup> December 1597 I Joan Filtoe als Whiller of the parish of Leckhampton, widow, sick & weak in body but yet of good & perfect remembrance, praised be God, do make this my testament & last will in manner & form following. First I commend my soul to Almighty God, my only creator, helper & redeemer and my body when life shall give it over I will to be buried in the churchyard of Leckhampton. Item I give towards the reparation of the church of Leckhampton 2s. Item I give & bequeath unto Frances my daughter £5 of lawful English money and one cow over and above her own stock. And my will is that after my decease my said daughter Frances shall, if she will, remain & abide with my son Ralph of whom, during her abode with him, she shall be found meat, drink, lodging & all kind of apparel in convenient & decent manner. And in consideration thereof she shall for the most part do the business of the said Ralph and also my will is that, during her abode

with him, he shall have & use all her legacies, due to her by this will, freely without paying any use for the same. But if she shall not be content to remain with her said brother Ralph then my will is she shall be directed by the advice & counsel of Mr Ralph Gynes, our parson, Thomas Cleevely & my son Thomas or any two of them with whom she shall have her abiding. And further my will is that with whomsoever she shall be dwelling at any time the parties with whom she shall remain shall always have and occupy her said legacies without paying anything for the use thereof and that always at the receiving of her said legacies into their hands they shall make her such sufficient assurance for the repaying of her said legacies at such time as she shall depart from them as shall be thought mete by the said Ralph Gynes, Thomas Cleevely, Ralph my son & Thomas my son or by some two of them when she shall mislike of the place or her said friends perceive that she is not well used. And further my will is that the parties with whomsoever she shall be remaining at her death shall have to their own use twenty nobles of her said legacies and the residue thereof to be divided equally among the rest of my children then living. Item I give & bequeath to my said daughter Frances my best gown and my bed in my chamber with all the furniture as it now stands as heretofore I did promise it her, also three sheets, two candlesticks and one platter besides her own platter. Also my will is that if it shall happen that my said daughter shall wilfully marry with any person without the consent of the said Ralph Gynes, Thomas Cleevely, Thomas Welles my brother, John Hawle my son-in-law & Ralph & Thomas my sons, or some three of them, that then she shall have nothing of her said legacies but that presently after such wilful marriage all the said legacies shall be equally divided amongst the rest of my children. Item I give & bequeath to my son William 30s which he owes me and 10s more and also 6 bushels of wheat & 6 bushels of barley. Item I give unto his son William 30s or else a heifer in good proof at the choice of my executor. And to Margaret his daughter one sheep and to John his son one sheep. Item I give & bequeath to John Hawle my son-in-law & to Jane my daughter, his wife, 6 bushels of wheat & 6 bushels of barley and a sheep apiece to every one of their children and more to Thomas Hawle their son 10s and to Joan Hawle their daughter 10s and a quart pot. Item I give & bequeath to my said daughter Jane Hawle one of my brass pans, one pair of sheets, a cupboard cloth wrought with Spanish work, one towel of the same work, one bearing sheet & two kerchiefs. Item I give & bequeath to my brother Thomas Welles 10s. Item I give and bequeath to Agnes Cugley my kinswoman a bushel of corn and a kerchief. Item I give and bequeath to my son Henry £8 of lawful English money and 20s apiece to his two children & one cow between them. Item I give and bequeath to my son Thomas 8 loads of wood, a cow, 6 bushels of wheat & 6 bushels of barley and to his wife's two children one sheep apiece. Item I give & bequeath to my sister Julian Younge my best red petticoat and a black worsted apron. Item I give to my son William's wife a black frieze gown, a blue apron & one partlet. Item I give to Anne West one bushel of corn and to her son Thomas 2s to be paid him when he comes forth of his apprenticeship. Item I give to John Isocke half a bushel of corn. Item I give to my godchildren John Cleevely, Margaret Pomefrey & Eleanor Willis one sheep apiece. All the rest of my goods moveable & unmoveable, chattels & debts whatsoever I give and bequeath to my son Ralph and him I make & appoint my sole & whole executor of this my last will & testament. And for my overseers I appoint Mr Ralph Gynes our parson, Thomas Cleevely & my son Thomas that by their good means this my said will may in all points be fulfilled according to the true meaning thereof and for their pains therein to be taken I give them 10s apiece. Item I give to my goddaughter Anne Welles one sheet. And further my will is that if any doubt or question shall arise in any part of this my will that the same shall be set down & the controversies ended by the discretion of my overseers or some two of them without any trouble of law.



In witness whereof I have put hereunto my mark with my own hand in the presence of these witnesses whose names are underwritten: William Panton, clerk, John Iverie, Thomas Howne  
Probate: 14 May 1600

#### **1601/61**

In the name of God, Amen. The 26<sup>th</sup> December 1602 (*sic*) and in the 44<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen etc, I Jane Weale of Up Hatherley within the county of the city of Gloucester, widow, being sick in body but whole in mind and of a good and perfect remembrance, laud and praise be given unto Almighty God, do make my last will and testament. First I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God my maker and redeemer and my body to be buried in the parish churchyard of Leckhampton. The goods that God has lent me I do thus dispose. First item I give unto Roger Mayo five pounds. Item I do give unto John Mayo forty shillings. Item I give unto John Waight twenty shillings. Item I give unto John Mayo the elder ten shillings. Item I give and bequeath unto Henry Mayo the elder ten shillings. Item I give unto my daughter Amy Weale alias Pumfry three pounds to be paid at the one & twenty year of the age of John Weale. And if it happen the said John Weale to die within the said years then the said three pounds to remain unto Amy my daughter. And I make my son John Weale sole executor of this my present testament. And if it happen that I the said Jane Weale and John Weale my son to die that then the stock of John Weale and my own stock to remain unto Thomas Mayo and Henry Mayo my brothers and their children. And I make overseers of this my present testament to see the same fully executed and performed John Mayo and Thomas Mayo & John Adene. Named, willed and bequeathed in the presence of us: Richard Norwood, Walter Kooke, William Lekills  
Item I give unto the overseers twelve pence apiece for their painstaking.  
Probate: 24 February 1601

#### **1601/215**

In the name of God, Amen. The 6<sup>th</sup> May 1600 I William Dutson, being of whole and perfect memory, thanks be to God therefore, do make and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God my maker, hoping assuredly through the only merits of Jesus Christ my saviour to be made partaker of life everlasting, and I commend my body to the earth whereof it is made. Item I give and bequeath unto Anne my wife one featherbed, one bolster, one pair of flaxen sheets and one pair of hemp sheets, one pair of blankets and one coverlet. Item I give and devise unto Edward Dutson my son all my right title and interest which I have or ought to have to two tenements with all that belongs thereunto lying in Swindon in the county of Gloucester, late in the tenure and occupation of Thomas Whithorne and Margery his wife and now in the occupation of myself or of my assigns, together with all bonds and writings that any way concern the same. The residue of all my worldly goods whatsoever I give and bequeath unto Edward Dutson my said son, my debts and funeral expenses being discharged, whom I do make and ordain my sole and only executor of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto put my hand and seal even the day and year first above written.  
In the presence of Humphrey Nashe, Thomas Wilkes and John Reeve  
*No Probate*

#### **1601/216**

In the name of God, Amen. The 4<sup>th</sup> October 1601 I Walter Weale als Pomfrey of Up Hatherley in the county of the city of Gloucester, husbandman, being in good and perfect remembrance, praise be given unto Almighty God, do make this my present testament containing therein my last will in manner and form following. That is to say, first I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God, trusting through the virtue of Christ's blood to obtain remission of all my sins and everlasting life in the world to come and my body when life shall give it over I will to be buried in the parish church or churchyard of Leckhampton. Item I give towards the reparation of the said parish church 6s 8d. Item I give and bequeath unto Amy Weale my daughter twenty pounds of good English money to be paid by my executrix to Walter Cooke and Michael Weale, my overseers, at the feast of Pentecost commonly called Whit Sunday next after my decease and in the meantime until the said feast comes my wife, my executrix, shall pay such a portion or sum of money unto him with whom my daughter shall be placed for her keeping as in reason by the discretion of my overseers shall be thought good. But if she pay the said £20 at any time before the said feast my wife shall presently on the payment thereof shall be discharged from yielding anything for her said keeping and my overseers, when they shall receive the said sum, shall employ and use the same for the best furtherance and profit of my said daughter and the said £20 with the increase thereof to pay unto my said daughter when she shall accomplish the age of sixteen years. And if she happen to die before she come to the said age then I will the said twenty pounds shall remain unto John Weale her brother. Item I give unto the said Amy ten sheep and the said sheep I will to be delivered by my executrix to my overseers the third day of May next ensuing the date hereof and they to deliver the said sheep or the value of them unto my said daughter when she shall come unto the said age of sixteen years. Item I give and bequeath unto John Weale my son the sum of twenty pounds of good English money, the which I will shall be delivered to my overseers by my executrix when he shall come to the age of twelve years. And my overseers from time to time during the said term shall take order as by their discretion shall be thought good that the said sum by my wife, my executrix, may be employed and used for the best furtherance and increase of the said stock, provided nevertheless and it is my will that, if my wife shall marry within the said term of twelve years or my overseers at any time during the said term shall perceive and find my son not to be well used or his stock to be impaired or decayed or for any other reasonable cause, it shall be lawful for my overseers presently upon the same to take the said £20 with the increase thereof into their own hands and also to take order for the placing of my said son, yielding unto him with whom he shall be placed the increase of his said stock for his keeping and so long to continue until he shall be able to get his own living and then to add the increase to his said stock of £20 and the same with his stock to be delivered unto him at twenty and one years of age. And if my son die before he come to the said age then I will the said stock or legacy with the increase thereof shall remain to Amy his sister. And if both my children die before they come to their age abovesaid then their said legacies, being £20 apiece, shall remain to Jane my wife. Item I give unto my said son ten sheep to be delivered by my executrix to my overseers the third day of May next and they to use the same sheep for the profit of my said son and the said sheep or the value of them to be delivered unto him with the increase at 21 years of age if he so long live. Otherwise the same shall remain to his said sister provided always that, if my overseers shall have occasion for the consideration abovesaid to take my said son from his mother and shall find the increase of his said stock too little for his keeping & maintenance, or that they cannot place him without further allowance, then they shall add the increase of his said sheep thereunto and the same to continue until he shall be able to get his own living as is aforesaid and then the increase to be added to the value of the said sheep and the same to be delivered unto him at the said age of twenty and one years. Item all the rest of my goods and chattels moveable and unmoveable I freely give and bequeath unto Jane my wife whom I make my whole

executrix of this my last will so that she perform the same and also pay the legacies above named with my debts and funeral expenses. And for my overseers I appoint the above named Walter Cooke & Michael Weale.

Witnesses hereunto are Ralph Gynes and my said overseers.

Probate: 11 November 1601

## 1602/9

In the name of God, Amen. The last day of April 1598 in the 43<sup>rd</sup> year of Queen Elizabeth I Alice Randell, the late wife of William Randell of Leckhampton within the county of Gloucester, yeoman, deceased, I being now at the present sick and weak in body but perfect of mind and memory, I praise God for the same, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First and principally I commend my soul unto the merciful hands of the God Almighty, by whose merits, death and passion I trust to be saved and committing my body to be buried in the churchyard of the foresaid Leckhampton amongst other Christians there. Item first I give to the parish church of Leckhampton the sum of 3s 4d. Item I give and bequeath unto Margaret Randell, the wife of John Randell my natural son now of Foxcote in the parish of Withington within the foresaid county of Gloucester, my best gown. Item I give and bequeath unto the eight children of the said John Randell, my natural son as aforesaid, the sum of forty shillings of lawful money of England to be equally divided between them viz. the sum of five shillings every of them and to be paid to every of them by my son Nicholas Randell within or by the space of one whole year next after my decease. Item I give and bequeath unto Edward and Agnes Randell, the son & daughter of William Randell, one other of my natural sons, the sum of 20s of lawful money to every of them and to be paid unto them within or by the space of one whole year next after my decease by my son Nicholas Randell. Item I give and bequeath unto Alice Randell, the daughter of Nicholas Randell my foresaid son, the sum of twenty pounds of lawful money of England and to be paid unto her the said Alice Randell by my foresaid son Nicholas Randell after my decease and when the said Alice shall come and be unto the full age and years of nineteen years if so be that the said Alice Randell, she to be such honest and good behaviour as the said Nicholas her father shall think her to be of no less and at the good judgement of the overseers of this my will and testament. And if it shall happen that the said Alice Randell she to marry without the lawful consent or good will of the said Nicholas Randell her natural father and to be of bad behaviour towards him or in ill using of herself, as God forbid she should, and lawfully found she to be of such fault by my overseers, that then my will is that the said twenty pounds to her so bequeathed to be paid unto her the said Alice Randell when she shall come and be the full age of thirty years. Item all other the rest of my goods moveable and unmoveable unbequeathed I give and bequeath them all unto Nicholas Randell my natural son who I make my whole executor of this my last will and testament, paying and discharging all my debts and discharging my funeral. Item I do ordain and request to be my overseers of this my last will and testament my brother-in-law Henry Whore and William Ballinger of the said Leckhampton in the county aforesaid, husbandmen, trusting that they will see the same my last will and testament duly executed and performed according to my good intent and true meaning of the same and for their painstaking in this behalf I give and bequeath unto every of them 12d of lawful money of England & to be paid unto them at & upon the day of my funeral or burial by my said executor. In witness whereof I the said Alice Randell have unto this my last will and testament subscribed my mark the day and year first above written.

Witnesses hereunto: Henry Whore, William Ballinger, John Ockey and Richard Frenche als Lane, the writer

Probate: 28 (*no month*) 1602

**1602/156**

In the name of God, Amen. I William Pope of Prestbury in the county of Gloucester, yeoman, sick in body but in perfect memory, thanks be given unto Almighty God, the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1599 in the 41<sup>st</sup> year of the reign of our sovereign lady Queen Elizabeth, do make my last will & testament in manner & form following. First I commend my soul unto the Almighty God my maker & redeemer, by whose mercy through Jesus Christ I hope to be saved & to attain to everlasting salvation, yielding him all praise, honour & glory for all his blessings & benefits & worldly goods bestowed upon me. Next my desire is after this mortal life ended that my body be buried in good & convenient manner after the order of Christian burial in the churchyard of Prestbury. And for the disposition of all my worldly goods whereof I am possessed my will & meaning is that after my debts & funeral charges by my executor hereafter named satisfied & paid, the residue shall be equally divided into four equal & indifferent parts, which four parts I do give & distribute in manner & form following. First I give and bequeath unto my now wife the first part of the said four parts to be by her used & enjoyed during her natural life & after her decease her said part to remain unto my three sons, William, Richard and John, equally to be divided amongst them. Item I give unto my said son William the second part of my said goods. Item I give & bequeath unto my said son Richard the third part of the said parts of my said goods. And the fourth & last part of my said goods I do give & bequeath unto my said son John Pope. And for the division of my said goods into the said 4 parts my will & meaning is that my overseers hereafter named shall divide the same and distribute the same according to this my will & true intent. Item I give & bequeath unto Nicholas Pope my son twenty & two pounds of lawful English money to be paid unto him by my executor within two years next after my decease, in consideration whereof I do give & bequeath unto William Pope my son all my free lands & tenements situate & being in Prestbury, to have & to hold to him & his heirs for ever. And if it shall happen my said executor to make default of payment of the said twenty & two pounds unto my said son Nicholas that then it shall & may be lawful to & for my said son Nicholas to enter into all my said free lands & tenements. And my will & meaning is that thereupon my said son Nicholas shall have & enjoy the same to him & his heirs for ever. Any former customary lands & tenements according to the custom of the manor of Prestbury I do give & bequeath the same unto my executor hereafter named. Item I do make, constitute & ordain my said son William Pope my executor of this my last will & testament, requiring him upon my blessing to have care in the due performance thereof. And also I do make, constitute & ordain my very loving friends John Abbingdon, gentleman, Henry Norreis & Robert Hitchcock my overseers of this my last will & testament, earnestly desiring them to regard the the due execution thereof according to my true intent & meaning of which I make no doubt. In witness whereof I have set my hand & seal the same 6<sup>th</sup> October 1599.

In the presence of us: John Abington, Henry Norrys, Robert Hitchcock, William Norreys, William Newman, Harry Greene

Probate: 12 June 1602

