

Will of Benjamin Woodroffe, rector of Cliddesden and Farleigh Wallop, 1770

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I Benjamin Woodroffe one of the prebendarys of the Cathedral Church of Winchester and rector of the two rectories of Upper Wallop and Cliddesden in the County of Southampton after the devoutest thanksgiving to the Almighty and all beneficent supreme being for his manifold blessings especially his providential protection of that life he had given from the malicious practices of such as by a subsequently manifested subornation attempted its destruction most firmly entertained a belief of the abundantly evinced divine authenticity of his all gracious Gospel dispensation most humbly avowed hope of affirming its all mercifully offered salvation thro' the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ the heavenly instituted redeemer and reuniter of penitent sinners to the divine clemency and cheerful resignation of my soul to the disposal of an all benevolent creator mindful of the precarious instability of this life and finding my self in a sound state of mind make and ordain this to be my last will and testament respectively to such worldly estate wherewith God's good providence has endowed me and which whenever it shall please him to take me from this world, I shall leave behind me **In the first place** I give devise and bequeath to Mrs Mary Metham neice of my late wife Clare Anna bearing originally the surname of Cavendish and by a former marriage with Colonel Sydney that of Sydney at the time of our intermarriage my freehold land estate of the capital messuage or farm of Diltens lying at Methwold in the County of Norfolk, for the term of her natural life thereby meaning and intending only to entitle her to the reception of the yearly rents and emoluments therefrom during her life arising and to empower her herself to hold or lease out the same to Edmund Carney the present or any other tenant or tenants for the term of her natural life, or any shorter term but not dispunishably for waste as I hereby restrain her from cutting down any trees thereon growing, save only for necessary repairs, of the said messuage or outhouses thereto appertaining And as the say'd Mrs Mary Metham was by a father of the popish religion unhappily educated in and continuous still of the same, I make the above said testamentary devise and bequest of my capital messuage or farm of Diltens aforesaid after the nature of an annuity for life only under and subject to the following provisional conditions restrictions and limitations that if at any time after my decease the said Mrs Mary Meatham shall

associate herself with any nunnery or religious house beyond seas founded and provided for the reception of popish religiouses, then it is my will this my testamentary bequest of my aforesaid capital messuage or farm of Diltens shall from the day of her entrance into such popish nunnery or religious house become thereby absolutely vacated terminated cancelled and extinguished, and the reversional succession thereto immediately **devolve and go** to the Honourable Henry Wallop second grandson of the late Earl of Portsmouth and second son of the late Honourable John Wallop commonly called Lord Lymington, to which said Honourable Henry Wallop I immediately after the death of the before named Mrs Mary Meatham, or her forfeiture of the hereby granted term of her natural life in my said land estate at Methwold aforesaid by her entrance and becoming an associate of any nunnery or popish religious house beyond seas give devise and bequeath and on him and his issue make entail my beforenamed capital messuage or farm of Diltens at Methwold in the County of Norfolk which whenever coming to the said Henry Wallop or his issue I hereby charge and burden with the payment of four hundred pounds to the Honourable Bennet Wallop, if the said Bennet Wallop shall persist in and pursue such worthwhile profession as he is now appracticed to, reserving to my self the power of revoking this said legacy of four hundred pounds to the said Bennet Wallop by any codicil to this my will, if I shall however see a reasonable cause so to do and upon the death of the said Henry Wallop and failure of his issue male I **further give** devise and bequeath my aforesaid capital messuage or farm of Diltens at Methwold to the said Bennet Wallop and his heirs male and on failure of his issue male I give devise and bequeath entail to the Honourable Barton Wallop and his issue male, And on failure of his issue male I **further devise** it entail to John Earl of Portsmouth and his issue male, and in failure thereof I **lastly give** and devise my aforesaid capital messuage or farm of Diltens at Methwold to my own heir or heirs at law (who are descendants of Philip Harcourt Esq younger brother to the late Lord Chancellor Harcourt, who intermarried with Elizabeth the only issue of Timothy Woodroffe elder brother of this testators father Dr Benjamin Woodroffe) and having thus in grateful acknowledgement of the many favours during a fifty years not only relational but most confidential friendship on myself by the late Earl of Portsmouth conferred, devised the inheritor of my real estate in land reversionally after the expiration of my

devise thereof to Mrs Mary Meatham for her life only in the said noble Earl's grandchildren I proceed to dispose of such personal estate as it has pleased God's providence to bestow upon me after the manner following the whole whereof comprising either in Old South Sea Annuities stock in the Bank of England bonds, plate, books, (such excepted as I may hereafter perhaps give to particular persons) live and dead stock at Wallop (the pigeon house and granary which I bought of my predecessor's executors standing upon stawl stones and other rick swivels there excepted which **I give** to Mrs Barton Wallop if my successor therein) and all other my goods and chattels whatsoever **I hereby give** and bequeath to John Earl of Portsmouth and John Kirkby of Bishops Court in Chancery Lane in trust in order to the distribution thereof into such apportionments and legacies as I am now giving by this my will to direct, or shall by any future thereto added codicil ordain, of that part of which personal estate of mine consisting in seven hundred pounds per South Annuities **I give** and bequeath to Mrs Mary Meatham the two half yearly dividends payable in the [item torn out in the original] interest for the same during the term of her natural life desiring and confiding that my trustees will preserve it subsistent in the same state for the said term, but not restraining or debarring them from with the consent of the said Mrs Mary Meatham changing it to any other, he keeping it subsistent upon any other security which they and she may think better and **I further give** and bequeath to the said Mrs Mary Meatham the sum of two hundred pounds, I likewise give her my large silver salver bearing thereupon the lineage arms engraved, my large case of silver knives forks and spoons and my lesser one of silver bladed dessert knives and spoons, **I give** her the beds bedding and entire furniture of any of my two better bed chambers at Winchester as she shall choose, and the like of any two servants' bed chambers, one moiety or half of my sheeting linen for beds and of my table cloths, napkins and towels, the tables chairs and two of my looking glasses out of the great and lesser parlour or drawing room at Winton, the choice of any two of my eating tables and any other two of my lesser mahogany tables, the lesser mahogany chest of drawers in my study and case of shelves with glass doors in her own bed chamber – as much of my china as she shall please her glimpse what proportion of liquors she shall please to take out of my cellars and if she shall go to housekeeping as much of my kitchen and brew house furniture as she shall want for

that purpose in her own judgement **I give** to the Honourable Mary Lady Herbert of Chirbury as a testimony of the highest respect I always entertained towards her Ladyship the sum of one hundred pounds if her ladyship shall at my death be living, and to the Honourable Charles Wallop the sum of one hundred pounds if he shall survive me, **I give** to the Honourable Henry Wallop one hundred pounds – to the Honourable Barton Wallop one hundred pounds, to the Honourable Bennet Wallop one hundred pounds and to the Honourable Catherine Wallop the sum of one hundred pounds **I give** to each of my servants at Winton an entire suit of mourning and to such of them as shall have lived with me above a year five pounds a piece **I give** to Alexander Cooper my bailiff at (Orig.so) Wallop the sum of five pounds to his wife the sum of five pounds and to Sarah their daughter the sum of five pounds **I give** all my wearing apparel and linen to be divided share and share alike amongst my servants that live with me at Winton **I give** to the poor of the parish of Over Wallop the sum of ten pounds and to the poor of the parish of Cliddesden cum Farley the like sum of ten pounds all the rest of my personal estate **I bequeath** to John Earl of Porstmouth his heirs and executors constituting him and them my residuary legatee or legatees and I appoint and constitute joint executors of this my will and give to the said John Kirkby the sum of one hundred pounds in compensation for the trouble and pains he shall make in execution of the same I desire to be buried as privately as will decency may be at Winton or such other place as I may by any codicil to this my Will appoint attended by my menial servants only to my grave and carried to it by six poor men to each of whom **I give** a guinea, I desire to have a leaden coffin, and I, by this my last will and testament, absolutely revoke and cancel all and any by me before made wills in witness whereof I have herewith set my hand and seal on this 19th day of September in the year of our Lord 1763. *Benjamin Woodroffe* signed sealed and declared to be his last will and testament by the said Benjamin Woodroffe in the presence of us who interchangeably saw each other underwrite their names here to *Rich. Price, Wm. Grinsted, Edward Russell*. **This Will** was proved at London on the 6th September, 1770 and administration granted to the Right Honourable John Earl of Portsmouth and John Kirkby, the executors named in the will.