

Henry Bray of Bosbury, 1661

Henry Bray of Bosbury, yeoman, 1661

Ref: Herefs. RO 58/1/76

In the name of God Amen. I Henry Bray of Bosbury in the county of Hereford, yeoman, being weak in body but of a sound judgement and memory for which I return thanks to almighty God and knowing that the flesh is mortal and must return unto its first substance the dust, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner following. **First** I give and bequeath my soul unto almighty God my Maker and Creator hoping and assuredly believing in and through the meritorious death and passion of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ that the same shall have a joyful resurrection and enjoy the bliss of life everlasting, and for my body I commend unto the earth whereof the same was formed, there to receive decent interment in such place and in such manner as my Executrix and overseers hereafter named shall appoint. And for my worldly goods the which God of his goodness hath lent me I dispose thereof in manner following. **First** I therefore give and devise unto the poor of the parish of Bosbury aforesaid the sum of four pounds of current English money the one moiety thereof to be distributed amongst the poor of the said parish by the officer of the said parish to the most indigent persons there the next Lords day after my decease, and the other moiety to be employed for a stock of the said poor of the parish in such manner as my overseers hereafter named shall think fit and the same within six months next following my decease to be paid. **Item** I give unto the poor of the parish of Coddington in the aforesaid county the sum of 20s. to be divided amongst the most indigent persons there in such manner as my cousin ?Osborne and Francis Brook shall see good, and the same to be paid within three months next following my decease, and my will is that no other dole be given to the poor of either parish at the time of my funeral. **Item** I will and hereby do give devise and bequeath unto Henry 'Broye' my son and heir all my freehold lands whatsoever with the appurtenances lying and being in the said parish of Bosbury and county aforesaid to have and to hold to him and his heirs and assigns for ever. Provided always that he the said Henry Bray shall for and during the life of Catherine my wife pay unto William Bray and Catherine Bray my daughter the sum of eight pounds being the yearly worth and value of the same land equally to be divided between them, and if either of them shall depart this life before the said Catherine my wife (and their mother) the said moiety of the same (that due to the party surviving) to be and remain unto my son Richard Bray for and during the life of the said Catherine my wife. **Item** I give and bequeath unto the said Henry Bray my son two corn wains with the appurtenances, two dung wains, carrs, drays, ploughs, harrows, yokes and teams now belonging to the team and all other my implements of husbandry and tack thereunto belonging and the back of the chamber and hogsheads in the cider house in my dwelling hereof provided always he the said Henry shall satisfy and pay unto his brother and sister Richard Bray and Joan Bray, or to the survivor of them, that is to say to the said Richard at the time of 21 years (if he be living) the sum of £10 and to the said Joan at or suddenly after her marriage the like sum of £10 and they the said Richard and Joan after 3 years from my decease to receive interest forthwith and if either of them in mean time depart this life then his or her part so dying at the time before limited shall remain to the survivor **Item** I will and hereby do declare that Catherine my wife shall have and take all such interest and benefit as by certain articles of agreement heretofore had and executed by and between me the said Henry Bray on the one part the said Henry Bray my son on the second part and James Collis on the third part bearing date the first of November 1639 in order to her livelihood and substance by way of jointure and dowry provided and intended thereby in case she the said Catherine should happen to survive me the said Henry Bray and in order to[.... ?articles] I will that the same be rightly and duly performed on both parts of the said Henry my son and her the said Catherine my wife and intended executrix in relation to such other articles therein contained as hither unto or hereby are not settled and devised, and as touching the rents ^{and profit}s in the said articles res... to be paid in such manner as

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they and Henry Bray the elder shall limit and appoint in writing I do hereby declare and appoint that the said Catherine my wife shall receive the issues and profits of the customary lands and messuages called the Down End being the sum by the said articles agreed to be £20 per annum subject to taxations and payments in order hereunto during the life of her the said Catherine to the end she may the better subsist [illegible in crease] and was for the advancement of her said children. **Item** I give unto my said son William Bray one hundred pounds to be paid unto him at such time as he the said William shall have served his apprenticeship and be a Freeman. **Item** I give unto my daughter Catherine Bray the sum of one hundred pounds to be paid unto her within three months next following my decease. **Item** I also give unto my said son Richard Bray one hundred pounds to be paid unto him at the age of 21 years. **Item** I give unto the said Joan Bray my daughter the like sum of one hundred pounds to be paid unto her at or suddenly after the day of her marriage with interest in the mean time the same for the same ^{or at the age of 21 the year of which shall first happen} provided that my said daughters Catherine and Joan shall marry and dispose of themselves in wedlock not without the consent judgement and good liking of my said executrix and my son Henry wherein if they shall fail then I will and bequeath to either of them but £30 apiece of the foresaid £100 apiece formerly bequeathed, and I will and I do hereby appoint that if any of my sons and daughters before named (excepting my eldest son) shall depart this life before his or her legacy shall so become due then that legacy of him her or them so dying shall be and remain to the survivor or survivors surviving equally to be divided amongst them. **Item** I do make and them both appoint my beloved wife Catherine to be sole executrix of my last will and testament unto whom I give and devise all my goods cattels and chattels movable and unmovable of what kind or nature soever the same be and which are not herein and hereby formerly bequeathed and give further unto my grandchild Anne ?Browne daughter of John ?Browne as a remembrance of my love the sum of five pounds to be paid to her father for her use within one year next following my decease, and I do appoint my well beloved friends William Cook ?clerk, Thomas Bridges John ?Dermott and Anthony Turner gent to be overseers of this my last will and testament and I will and hereby do further declare that if any difference or vexation shall arise or happen between any of the legatees in this my last will mentioned or between my said executrix and my said son Henry Bray in order to the said articles of agreement [...] before mentioned or any other thing or matter arising for or by reason of any my personal and real estate, or any other matter or thing whatsoever, that such my legatees and also my said wife and the said Henry my son shall stand in order to all or any such [.....] and difference to the judgement and [se....] of them my said overseers under the penalty or forfeiture of the losing of the one moiety of any such legacy or bequest so given and bequeathed unto them, or any other advantage that he her or they shall or may take or receive by virtue and force of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I the said Henry Bray have hereunto set my hand and seal and declared and published this to be last will and testament containing five sheets of paper and all the several interlinations and other the erasures in the said several sheets of paper were so interlined and erased at and before the executors and declaration of these presents, the which is the 23th day of February 1660 [1661 NS] In the year of the reign of Charles [...] the twelfth

Henry Bray

Signed sealed and published

in presence of

?Wm Allen

John Browne

Probate : 9th August 1661 to Henry Bray of Bosbury and Katherine Bray widow