

Will of Thomas Belchamber of Cliddesden, yeoman, 1600

Ref: TNA PROB 11/96/39

In the name of God Amen the eighth day of November in the year of our Lord God one thousand five hundred ninety six, I Thomas Belchamber of the parish of Cliddesden in the county of Southampton yeoman, being sick of body but of good and perfect memory, thanks be to God do make and ordain 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 Saviour and Redeemer by whose most precious death and resurrection I hope to be saved, and my body when it shall please God to take me to be buried in the parish church of Cliddesden aforesaid. **And as** concerning my temporal goods and chattels, lands tenements and hereditaments my will, mind and intent is as follows. **First** I bequeath unto the Trinity Church in Winchester four pence. **Item** I give unto the poor people of Cliddesden ten shillings to be distributed amongst them at the time of my burial. **Item** I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth Evans my daughter my best gown. **Item** I give and bequeath unto Thomas Evans, John Evans, Agnes Evans, Mary Evans and Robert Evans the children of John Evans and to every one of them one bushel of wheat or two bushels of barley. **Item** I give and bequeath unto Thomas Bateman and John Bateman and to each of them, one bushel of wheat or two bushels of barley. **Item** I give unto Ellyn the daughter of Wylliam Byddle one bushel of wheat or two bushels of barley. **Item** I give to every one of the children of my son John Belchamber one bushel of wheat or two bushels of barley to be paid and delivered within one year next after my decease. **Item** I give to Clement Belchamber my son fifteen pounds out of the debt which John Lane owes by bond which Walter Bateman has to my use.

Item I will, and my mind is, that William my son shall have and enjoy all my lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever lying and being on the north part of the lane in the parish of Ellisfield in the said county of Southampton for the term and space of twenty years next after my decease to the intent and purpose that the said William shall of the rents and profits coming and arising of the same premises give and pay unto the said Clement my son fifty pounds over and besides the other gift to him before mentioned. **And to** Elizabeth Evans twenty pounds; to Ursula Bateman twenty pounds and to John Biddle twenty pounds and that ratably yearly as the same may be had and raised out of the same premises after the rate of five pounds ten shillings by the year and not otherwise unless it be the pleasure of the said William. **And if** it shall happen any of my said daughters to die before they shall be fully satisfied the said several sums of twenty pounds, that then so much of her or their portion so dying as shall then be unpaid at her or their deaths shall be paid to her or their children in such manner and form as she or they should have had the same. **And if** it happen my said son Clement to die without any children before he be fully paid the said sums of money I will that so much of his said portion as shall be unpaid at his death shall be paid and divided amongst my said three daughters and their children portion and portion alike.

Item I will that the rest of my goods and chattels and the surplussing of the profits of the said lands in Ellisfield before mentioned, my debts being paid, legacies and funeral expenses performed shall remain and be to the only use and behoof of the said William my son whom I make my full and whole executor of this my last will and

testament. **Item** I will and bequeath unto John my son and Joane his wife for term of their lives the reversion of my said lands in Ellisfield and the present estate of all other my lands, tenements, rents and inheritances whatsoever so lying and being in Cliddesden, Basingstoke, Upton, Water End, Ellisfield and elsewhere. **And from** and after the decease of the said John and Joane his wife I freely give and bequeath all and singular the said my lands, tenements, rents, reversions and inheritances and every part and parcel thereof unto Thomas Belchamber the eldest son of the said John and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten and to be begotten. **And for** default of such issue the remainder thereof to William Belchamber one other of the sons of the said John and to the heirs males of the said William lawfully begotten and to be begotten. **And for** default of such issue the remainder thereof unto Richard Belchamber one other of the sons of the said John and to the heirs males of his body of the said Richard lawfully begotten and to be begotten. **And for** the default of such issue then all the same my lands, tenements, rents and hereditaments with all their appurtenances shall remain and be unto the said William my son and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten and to be begotten. **And for** default of such issue the remainder thereof unto the said Clement my son and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten or to be begotten. **And for** default of such issue and when all such heirs males shall be deceased and spent the remainder of all and singular my said lands, tenements, rents and hereditaments with their appurtenances shall remain and be unto the right heirs of me the aforesaid Thomas Belchamber forever.

And lest it might appear to some not well digesting the whole meaning of this my present testament and last will that I have somewhat inconsiderately or not upon good respects entailed these my said lands, tenements and hereditaments I have thought good here also to declare the considerations me thereunto moving of which the one is for that I would the same my lands, tenements, rents and hereditaments should as long as might be continue and be amongst the name of the Belchambers of my own blood and issue to the further memorial and remembrance of my own name. **Second** is for that I would none of the entails aforesaid shall alien, bargain, sell, waste, separate or confirm the same or any part thereof, but that every one of them [sunessvelie] as the same shall descend and happen unto him or them of the same my entailees shall honestly, quietly, husbandly and in reasonable frugal and profitable wise during his or their time with thanks towards me for such my gentle remembrance of them, use and take the commodity and profit of the same towards his own so much advantage and yet alter nor hinder my semblable good meaning towards him or them that shall succeed him or them seeing that equally freely and at my own attention I may mean and procure severally the benefit and commodity of every of them as best seems me. **According** to which my devise and disposing of the same my lands and tenements, rents and hereditaments I will and my whole mind is not withstanding whatsoever is before said. **That if** any the said persons before entitled or entailed to my said lands, tenements, rents or hereditaments or their heirs or any of them do at any time hereafter unlawfully vox, disquiet or trouble any other of them for the same my lands, tenements, rents or hereditaments or any part of them or do mortgage, bargain, sell or pledge the same my lands, tenements, hereditaments or any part thereof or his or their interest possibility or title of or in the same in part or in all or in any wise shall attempt or go about to do any act or thing to

alien, discontinue, entangle, encumber or in any wise dispute or waste the same or any part thereof.

Otherwise then I shall leave it unto them to be used or enjoyed or otherwise shall practice, imagine or seek to do any manner of act or thing by anywise or means that the same lands, tenements, rents and hereditaments and every part and parcel thereof cannot or may not come, descend and remain and be in manner and form before in this my will limited, declared and appointed according to the true intent and meaning of this my gift, will and last testament that then immediately and from thenceforth the estate, title and interest of him or them and of his or their heirs so vexing, disquieting or troubling that other person or persons so entailed of any in my said lands, tenements, rents or hereditaments in part or in all or otherwise going about, attempting, practicing or seeking to do any act or thing touching or concerning the alienation, discontinuance, entailing, membering, dismembering or wasting of the same premises in part or in all, shall forthwith be clearly void, discharged, excluded, extinguished and dismissed as touching the said entailing and the conveyance by words aforegoing of the entailing of my said lands, tenements, rents and hereditaments towards him or them shall be of no force, benefit and or advantage towards him or them but that the same my lands, tenements, rents and hereditaments immediately shall remain, descend and come unto such person and persons next entailed unto him or them as effectually to all intents and purposes as if such disorderous person or persons were dead indeed and had never been mentioned or minded of in this my present testament and last will anything aforesaid to the contrary though in any wise notwithstanding. **Leases** for one and twenty years for the most or under whereupon the old ancient rents or the value thereof or more shall be reserved and assured to such person or persons as shall or ought to have had the same estates. **And the** estate or estates that shall hereafter fortune to be made to for the jointure of such as shall fortune to be the wife or wives of any my said entails or of their heirs males for the term of the life or lives of such wife or wives always excepted and [foreprised]. **In witness** whereof to this my present last will and testament I have set my hand and seal the day and year above written in the presence of John Charelton, Thomas Morthante, William Willmar, William Beadle, Walter Bateman, Thomas Belchamber.

Probate granted 6 June 1600 to William Belchamber, son.