

Richard Branche/Braunche of Eastnor, husbandman, 1597

Ref. Herefs RO 9/3/72

In the name of God Amen the 28th day of March in the year of our Lord God 1597 and in the 39th year of the reign of Our sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God Queen of England France and Ireland, defender of the faith etc. I, Richard Braunche, of Eastnor in the County of Hereford, husbandman, being sick in body but of perfect memory thanks be to God, revoking all former wills, legacies and bequests, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following: **First** and above all things I give and bequeath my soul to Almighty God my maker and redeemer by whose precious death and blood shedding I trust to be saved and my body to be buried in Christian burial. **Item** I give and bequeath to the poor people that do inhabit and dwell within the parish of Eastnor the sum of 2s to be divided amongst them by my executor after my decease. **Item** I give and bequeath unto Leonard my second son the sum of £4 and one three-year old heifer and 4 bushels of muncorn, to be paid and delivered unto him by my executor before the feast of St Michael the archangel next coming. **Item** I give and bequeath unto John my third son £4 in money, one heifer of three-years-old and 4 bushels of muncorn to be paid and delivered to him by my executor before the feast of St Michael the archangel next coming, and the one half of all the tack of teem to be delivered unto him presently after the decease of Margaret, my wife. **Item** my will is that my executor shall pay unto Thomas my eldest son the sum of £6 13s 4d which I do owe unto him, to be paid at the feast of St Michael the archangel next coming, according to my promise therein heretofore made, and also I give and bequeath unto the said Thomas my son my young black cow and 4 bushels of muncorn to be paid and delivered unto him by my Executor: the cow within one month next after my decease and the 4 bushels of muncorn before the feast of St Michael the archangel next coming. And further I give and bequeath unto the same Thomas the one half of the tack of teem to be delivered unto him after the decease of Margaret my wife. **Item** I give and bequeath unto Joan my eldest daughter £4 13s 4d to be paid by my executor within two years next after my decease. **Item** I give and bequeath unto Alice my youngest daughter the sum of £7 to be paid by my executor at the feast of St John the Baptist which shall be in the year of Our Lord God 1598. And if the same Alice shall happen to decease before the said feast of St John the Baptist then my will is that that [sic] the £7 to her bequeathed shall be equally divided amongst all the rest of my other children. **All the rest and residue** of my goods, cattle and chattels, after my debts and legacies paid my funeral performed, I give and bequeath unto Margaret my wife, whom I make my sole and only executor, to have and to hold the same unto her so long as she shall keep herself sole and unmarried. And if it shall happen that she shall be at any time hereafter disposed to marry, then my will is that she the said Margaret shall before her said marriage give security unto all my children that all such goods that she shall have in her custody use or possession according to the Inventory thereof made after my decease shall wholly remain, descend and come, and be equally divided amongst my said children after the decease of her the said Margaret my wife, as my trust is reposed in her And if she shall remain and continue unmarried during her life, then my will is that at her decease the same goods, chattels and cattle shall be distributed and divided among my said children by equal portions.

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In witness whereof to this my last will and testament I put my hand the day and year which written in the presence of the undersigned viz. James Parry, Richard Gatley, John Skynner, Thomas Whiler, Richard Underwood, John Hill.

Probate 27 April 1597

Note: Richard Branche was buried on 30 March 1597 [Herefs RO B093/1]