

Thomas Brooke of Eastnor, singleman, 1616

Ref: Herefs. RO 23/2/8

**In the name of God** Amen the 25<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year of Our Lord God 1616 and in the year of the reign of our sovereign Lord James by the grace of God of England France and Ireland the 14<sup>th</sup> and of Scotland the nine and fortieth, king, defender of the faith etc. I, Thomas Brooke of the parish of Eastnor in the county of Hereford 'sengleman' [singleman] being sick in body but whole of mind and perfect in remembrance, thanks be to God, do make and ordain this my present testament containing herein my last will in manner and form following. **First** and principally above all other things I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God my maker and redeemer, trusting through the merits, death and passion of my saviour Jesus Christ, who died for me and all mankind, to be saved and to be one of his elect and chosen companions in his glorious and everlasting kingdom of heaven. And as for my body, to be buried at the will and discretion of my executors, if the will of God be so, in Christian burial. **And** as for my worldly goods which the Lord hath lent me, I do dispose of them as followeth. **Item** first I give and bequeath to the poor people in the Church house of Eastnor 6s., whereof there is owing unto me by the Goodwife Mayfield 2s. and the Goodwife Harris doth owe me 12d. my mind and will is to give them that debt which they do owe unto me; and I do also give unto the Goodwife Stone, the Goodwife Skydmore and Joan Harris 12d. apiece. **Item** I give unto some four other of the godliest poor people where my executors and my master shall think most fit the sum of 6s. **Item** I do give and bequeath unto by brothers Charles, John and Richard Brooke 20s. apiece, to be paid within half a year after my decease; and my will is that if either of the three do happen to die in the meantime, that then he or they that shall be so living to have the whole amongst they that shall be living. **Item** I give and bequeath unto my sister Anne and my brother and George [sic] the sum of £7 to be equally divided between they three; and if it shall happen that either of them three shall decease this life and die before me, that then they that shall be so living shall share the whole equally divided between them, and to be paid within one year after my decease. **Item** I give and bequeath unto the said Anne, Roger and George my sheep that now I have, to be equally divided between them. **Item** I give and bequeath unto my brother Roger my best hat and best breeches. **Item** I give and bequeath unto John Surmone 4s. which he doth owe me and my black jerkin. **Item** I give and bequeath unto the two maids in the house: Anne Bache 3s. 4d. and unto Elizabeth Wheeler 3s. 4d. more. **Item** I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth, my brother William's wife, my customary land which I lately purchased in the manor of Barton Colwall, unto the said Elizabeth and to the heirs of the said Elizabeth according to the custom of the said manor. **Item** I give and bequeath unto my brother William Brooke my leather breeches. Also my will and meaning is that my brother William Brooke shall pay or cause to be paid unto Margaret his daughter and my god daughter the sum of £6 when her shall accomplish or come unto the age of ten years, and in the meantime my desire is that my brother William shall seal and deliver a bond obligatory of £12 for the payment of £6 unto my executors unto the use of Margaret aforesaid. And the rest of my goods unbequeathed, my funeral expenses done and discharged, I do give and bequeath unto my brother Roger, whom I do make ordain and appoint to be my sole executor of this my last will and testament in manner and form aforesaid.  
[No witnesses]

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Probate 20 April 1616

Note: Thomas Brookes, servant, was buried on 29 March 1616 [Herefs. RO BO93/1]