

**Gilbert Wither of Dummer, yeoman 1599**

**Ref: Hants. RO 1599B/50**

**In the name of God Amen** the nine and twentieth day of May one thousand five hundred four score and nineteen I Gilbert Wither of Dummer in the county of Southampton yeoman being sick in body but in perfect memory, thanks be to God, do ordain and make this presents to be my last will and testament in manner and form following. **First** I bequeath and commend my soul unto Almighty God my Maker, Creator, Defender and Redeemer beseeching His most mighty majesty to forgive my manifold sins and offences by whose precious death and resurrection I hope to be saved, and my body to be buried in the body of the parish church of Church Oakley before the seat belonging unto the farmhouse of Rastowlles. **And I** give unto the said church six shillings eight pence. **Item** I give and bequeath unto the cathedral church of Winchester six pence and to the parish church of Dummer five shillings. **Item** I will and bequeath unto the poor people of Dummer six shillings and eight pence and to the poor people in Church Oakley three shillings and four pence and to the poor in Lawrence Wotten (*Wotton St Lawrence*) three shillings four pence to be paid by my executors hereafter named in and upon my burial day.

**Item** I give and bequeath unto my daughter Avelyne one hundred pounds of good and lawful English money to be paid in manner and form following, that is to say in the first day of May which shall be in the year of Our Lord God one thousand and six hundred, one fifty pounds of good and lawful English money and the other fifty pounds to be paid unto her in the first day of May which shall be in the year of Our Lord God one thousand six hundred and one of like money. **Item** I give and bequeath unto my daughter Johan one hundred pounds of like money to be paid in manner and form following, that is to say one fifty pounds in the first day of May which shall be in the year of Our Lord God one thousand six hundred and five. **Item** I give and bequeath unto my son William one hundred pounds of like money to be paid in manner and form following, that is to say one fifty pounds in the first of May one thousand six hundred and six and the other fifty pounds in the first of May one thousand six hundred and seven. **Item** I give and bequeath unto my daughter Agnes one hundred pounds to be paid in manner and form following, that is to say on the first day of May one thousand six hundred and eight one fifty pounds and the other fifty pounds to be paid on the first day of May one thousand six hundred and nine. **Item** I give and bequeath unto my daughter Elizabeth one hundred pounds of good and lawful English money to be paid in manner and form following, that is to say one fifty pounds on the first day of May which shall be in the year of Our Lord God one thousand six hundred and ten and the other fifty pounds to be paid on the first day of May one thousand six hundred and eleven. **And if** it shall happen that any of my said children shall decease before they come to receive their portions that then I will that every of their portions so deceased shall be equally divided amongst the rest of my children.

**Item** I give and bequeath unto my son George all my lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances lying and being in the parishes and tithings of Church Oakley, East Oakley and Lawrence Wootton and to the heirs males of his body lawfully to be begotten and for lack of heirs males of my son George unto my son Reignold and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten. **And for** lack of heirs males of my son Reignold unto my son Henrye to the heirs males of his body

lawfully begotten, and for lack of heirs males of my son Henrye unto my son William and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten together with all manner of deeds, evidences, court rolls, scripts and scrolls belonging unto the said lands and tenements with their appurtenances or to any part or parcel thereof.

**Item** I give and bequeath unto my son George four horses with harness fit for plough and cart and four kine, two bullocks of two years of age and one plough with the implements meet for four horses to draw with all, that is to say irons, wheels, sole, chains and other necessities as aforesaid. **Item** I give and bequeath also unto my son George the sum of ten quarters of good and merchantable wheat, ten quarters of good and dry barley, two quarters of oats, fifty wether sheep and fifty ewe sheep. **Provided** always that my said son George his heirs males, my son Reignold and his heirs males or such other as shall enjoy the said lands by virtue of this presents shall enter in and upon the capital messuage or farm of Rastowles with the several lands and tenements with the appurtenances now in the tenure or occupation of Henry Bignold, Nicholas Winckworth, John Soper the elder, John Soper the younger and certain parcels of lands late in the tenure of Nicholas Woodrow or his assigns together with one copse called Rastowles Copse now in the tenure or occupation of me the said Gilbert at the Feast of St Michael the Archangel next ensuing the full age of my son George together with the corn and cattle and other the premises above bequeathed unto my said son George yielding and paying therefore yearly unto my well beloved wife during her natural life the sum of ten pounds of good and lawful English money at two usual terms or feasts of payment, that is to say at the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St Michael the Archangel by even portions, provided also that my said son George, his heirs males, my son Reignold, his heirs males, shall not enter in and upon the lands and tenements now in the tenure or occupation of me the said Gilbert, namely Bullbushes Copse, Bullbushes Peecke and barn, Nockdowne Copse, Nockdowne Closes, Cuminger Copse sheep house closes with the piddle called Sheep House Barton, Allins fields nor Pease Craft until the full end and term of twelve years from the Feast of St Michael the Archangel next ensuing the date hereof.

**Item** I give to every of my godchildren four pence. **Item** I give unto every of my servants that shall be dwelling in my house at the time of my decease six pence. **Item** I give and bequeath unto Florentyne Eyles five shillings. **Item** I give and bequeath unto my brother Thomas Wither one forty shillings. **Item** I give and bequeath unto my brother Reignold one five shillings. **Item** I give unto Johan Brickelton one bushel of wheat. **Item** I give and bequeath unto Edward Waite one bushel of wheat. **Item** I will that my executors do provide a stone of marble of a foot square or thereabouts graved with the day and year of my decease and burial within three months next after my decease to lay over my burial place. **Item** my debts and legacies being paid, my funeral being discharged and finished, the residue of my goods and chattels unbequeathed I give and bequeath unto my well beloved wife and my son Henry whom I do ordain and make my full and whole executors of this my last will and testament. **Item** I will also that my said executors shall have the profits and commodities of all my lands and tenements with their appurtenances for and towards the payments of the legacies aforesaid from the time of my decease until the Feast of St Michael the Archangel next after my said son George shall accomplish the age of one and twenty years. **And if** he happen to decease before he accomplish the said age then until such other persons as by virtue of these presents

shall and ought to have the said lands shall be of the age of one and twenty years. **And also** that my will is that my said executors shall have the profits and commodities of all such lands and tenements as are now in the tenure or occupation of me the said Gilbert namely Bullbushes Copse, Bullbushes Peecke and the barn, Nockdowne Copse, Nockdowne Closes, Cuminger Copse, Sheep House Closes with the piddle called Sheep House Barton, Allins Fields and Pease Croft from the Feast of St Michael the Archangel next after my said son George shall accomplish the age of one and twenty years unto the full end and term of six years then next following fully to be complete and ended so that they make no waste of the underwoods with no manner of cattle. **Provided** also that my said executors or their assigns shall not cut down any timber trees or flitterns standing or growing in and upon any of the copses or rows before granted unto them during the several terms above mentioned except for house boot, plough boot and cart boot to be spent in and upon the premises and that at the end of the said several terms that they yield and leave the said tenement and other the premises sufficiently repaired, fenced and hedged and discharge all duties yearly payable out of any of the said lands during the several terms. **Provided** that because neither of my said children will accomplish the age of one and twenty years when they shall or ought to receive their several legacies at the days and times above mentioned, therefore my will and desire is that my overseers or one of them shall receive all such sum and sums of money as shall be due and payable unto any of them and the same to employ to some reasonable use until such time as either of my said children shall accomplish the age of one and twenty years or shall happen to marry for and towards their maintenance and bringing up. **Provided** always that if it shall happen that my said wife shall live and accomplish the full term of years yet to come of and in one lease made by one William Dummer of the City of London gent., deceased of the site of the Manor of Dummer with the lands thereunto belonging for the full term of forty and five years, that then my will is that my said son George or such other as shall enjoy the said lands by virtue of these presents shall yield and provide a sufficient chamber at Oakley aforesaid and wood to burn in the same, and yielding and paying yearly unto my said wife or her assigns the sum of three pounds six shillings and eight pence over and besides the ten pounds before mentioned by these presents in full satisfaction of her dower or thirds. **And I** do desire my cousin John Wither of Manydown and my cousin Walter Madgwicke to be my overseers and I give to each of them thirteen shillings four pence. **Provided** always and my full intent and will is that my said wife shall within in three months next after my decease enter into sufficient and reasonable bond in a competent sum of money to my said overseers or the survivor of them for the true performance of this my last will and testament touching my legacies to my said children. **And if** my said wife shall refuse so to become bound then I will my wife shall not be any executrix of this my last will and testament but shall have her chamber at Dummer aforesaid at the appointment of my overseers and thirteen pounds six shillings and eight pence yearly during the term of six years from the Feast of St Michael the Archangel next ensuing the date hereof to be paid by my overseers out of the profits and commodities of my lands and tenements at Oakley in full satisfaction of her dower or thirds during the said term of six years. **Item** I will also that after the end of the said six years that my son George or such other as shall by virtue of these presents enjoy the said lands shall provide a sufficient chamber for my said wife at Oakley aforesaid and wood to burn in the same and yield and pay three pounds six shillings and eight pence over and above the said ten pounds before mentioned to be paid unto her out of my said lands

and tenements at Oakley at the two usual terms or feasts of payment in the year, that is to say, at the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St Michael the Archangel by even portions during the natural life of my said wife in full satisfaction of her dower or thirds as aforesaid. **And that** my said son Henrye shall be my sole executor and that during his minority my said overseers and the survivor of them shall have the disposition and administration of my said goods and chattels and the payment of the said legacies with the profits of my lands and be accountable for the same to my son Henry at his full age or to his executors and administrators. **Provided** always that if my said wife shall be towards any marriage with any good husband or honest man that then my will is that my overseers shall register sufficient bond of any such person as she shall happen to marry for the payment and performance of all such legacies as by these presents are mentioned to be paid. **And also** that neither my said wife or any such husband as she shall happen to marry shall do any act of thing that may be prejudicial or hurtful unto the said lease of forty and five years made by the said William Dummer. **And that** after the decease of my said wife that the said lease may come wholly unto my son Henry for and during such years as are then to come of the said lease. **In witness** whereof I have hereunto put my hand and seal in the presence of those persons whose names are under written.

**Memorandum** that before the signing and sealing of these presents that I willed and bequeathed unto my said son George all the timber, boards and lathes in the barn now in the tenure of Nicholas Winckwoorth and all the timber lying and being in and about the barn at Bullbushes except two or three pieces for the necessary uses of my executors, four or five table planks in and about my barn at Dummer, one table plank in the kitchen chamber and one and thirty inch boards of fourteen feet long or there about lying in the outer kitchen at Dummer.

Gilbert Withers

Henry Pincke his mark

John Soper his mark

Gilbart Neall

Probate granted 25 September 1599 to Agnes the relict for Henry the son during his minority.

A true inventory taken of the goods and cattles of Gilbert Wither late of Dummer in the county of Southampton yeoman deceased the 20th of July 1599 in the one and fortieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith etc., by John Wither, Walter Madgwicke, John Page, Cutberd Page, John Aylyfe and John Soper as follows.

	£	s	d
<b>The hall</b>			
<b>Imprimis</b> two tables two forms, one chair, one cupboard, one cradle and one stained cloth	1	0	0
<b>Item</b> one musket one caliver, one bow all furnished	2	0	0
<b>Item</b> eight platters, ten pottingers, twelve saucers, eight porringers, two salts, twelve spoons	1	4	0

<b>Item</b> three candlesticks	0	2	0
<b>The kitchen</b>			
<b>Item</b> four brass pots, five posnets, one chafer three kettles, one pan and a warming pan with two skimmers	2	2	0
<b>Item</b> a furnace and two catherns	2	0	0
<b>Item</b> five broches, two augers, two pot hangers, two pairs of pot hooks, one mortar and a pestle, one dripping pan and a grate	1	0	0
<b>Item</b> the brew vat in the kitchen and all the treen vessels there, that is to say, tubs and ewers, well wheel, well rope, bucket and chain	2	0	0
<b>Item</b> four flitches of bacon	1	0	0
<b>In the outer kitchen</b>			
<b>Item</b> a yoting vat, a cheese press and a silting trow with other necessities in the said house	1	6	8
<b>Item in the buttery</b> one sieve and two hogsheads, six barrels, one firkin, one tunnel and three trivets	1	2	0
<b>In the larder</b>			
<b>Item</b> one stone mortar, a bolting trow, one meal trow, three bushels of wheat meal and three bushels of oat meal with other necessities in the said house	1	0	0
<b>In the garner loft</b>			
<b>Item</b> a screen, a stock card and stock card frame with other necessities in the said loft	0	10	0
<b>Item</b> of wheat in the barn and in the house three quarters	3	0	0
<b>Item</b> of malt four quarters	2	13	4
<b>Item in the wool loft</b> fifty tod of wool	57	10	0
<b>Item</b> in the kitchen loft a bed and bedstead with other necessaries	0	10	0
<b>Item in the stair head</b> one beam and scales, small weights with a saddle	0	5	0
<b>In the middle loft</b>			
<b>Item</b> one table and a frame, a joined form and three joined stools, one coffer, a little sofa, a basket chair and benches	1	0	0
<b>Item</b> one joined bedstead and a truckle bed	1	10	0
<b>Item</b> one feather bed one feather bolster	0	13	4
<b>Item</b> ten pairs of sheets, seven tablecloths, one tester, six napkins, three pairs of pillow beres	3	9	0
<b>Item</b> one coverlet, one rug, two blankets, three carpets, three cushions, curtains to a bed and hangers thereunto	3	0	0

<b>Item</b> all his apparel	5	0	0
<b>Item</b> of cheese within the house	1	10	0
<b>Item in the loft over the parlour</b> three bedsteads and three flock beds with two chests and all other implements	2	10	0
<b>Item in the coploft</b> one bend of leather and other implements	1	0	0
<b>Item in the cellar</b> one barrel and other implements	0	13	4
<b>Item in the parlour</b> one bedstead and a press, two cofferes, one cupboard, one feather bed, one feather bolster, two pillows and one coverlet	2	6	8
<b>Item in the folks' chamber</b> two beds, two bedsteads with their apparel	1	0	0
<b>Item</b> the lease of the farm of Dummer	400	0	0
<b>Item</b> of wheat and vetches four score and two acres	109	6	6
<b>Item</b> of barley three score and sixteen acres	77	10	0
<b>Item</b> of peas eight acres	6	0	0
<b>Item</b> of oats five acres	2	10	0
<b>Item</b> six and twenty kine, bulls and steers	37	6	8
<b>Item</b> ten yearling bullocks	10	0	0
<b>Item</b> nine weaning calves	4	10	0
<b>Item</b> sixteen horse beasts with all the plough harness and cart harness with three pairs of fetter and locks and all the halters	49	10	0
<b>Item</b> three ironbound carts and two long lades and two whip lades and one dung pot, a fan with the cart lades	4	0	0
<b>Item</b> four and twenty hogs and fourteen pigs	10	0	0
<b>Item</b> of wethers and ewes four hundred	120	0	0
<b>Item</b> of lambs 70	10	10	0
<b>Item</b> one cock and nineteen hens and ten ducks	0	10	0
<b>Item</b> three ploughs with irons and chains, strodes, tail, [hapres] two sole trows, two pairs of spindles, wheels and six harrows with iron tines and other implements thereunto belonging	3	0	0
<b>Item</b> two corn lines and three wood ropes	0	10	0
<b>Item</b> of wood and timber in and about the gate	3	0	0
<b>Item</b> of hay fourteen loads	7	0	0
<b>Item</b> one winsheet, ten sacks, one bushel, one half bushel, one peck	0	12	0
Sum total	956	13	8