

Gilbert James of Eastnor, gentleman, 1681

Ref: PROB 11/371 and PROB 4/4881

In the name of God Amen. The 29th day of October in the 33rd year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord Charles the second, by the grace of God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland king, defender of the faith, AD 1681, I Gilbert James of Eastnor in the county of Hereford, gentleman, being aged and weak in body but in good and perfect memory, thanks be given to God therefore, do make, ordain, publish and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following. Revoking and by these presents annulling all former will or wills heretofore by me made, either by word or writing, and this only to be taken for my last will and testament and none other. **And first** and principally I do commend my soul unto Almighty God my maker, assuredly trusting through the merits and mercies of Christ Jesus my saviour to receive remission and full pardon of all my sins, and my body to be buried in such place, decency and order as shall seem most meet to my executors hereafter named. **And** as for the worldly estate it hath pleased God of his great goodness to bestow upon me, I freely and willingly leave it unto the world again in manner and form following (viz): **I do give** and bequeath unto Nicholas James, William James and Elizabeth James, being my eldest children, and to each and either of them, 1s. to be paid within one month next after my decease. **Item** I do give and bequeath unto James James my son all the estate, right, tithe and interest I have in the farm called Lowshurst by virtue of a lease to me granted thereof, and all the residue of the term of years in the said lease mentioned and unexpired. **And also** I do give unto the said James James all my wains, ploughs and tack of team whatsoever, he the said James James paying unto Anne my wife the sum of 20s. yearly by four quarterly payments during the term of her natural life. And if he shall refuse or neglect to make payment thereof, then I do give and bequeath the reversion of the lands and farm after neglect of payment as aforesaid unto the said Anne my wife during the residue of the term therein to come and unexpired. **Item** I do give and bequeath unto Francis James my son the sum of £15 of lawful money of England and my black mare. **Item** I do give and bequeath unto John James my son the sum of £5. **Item** I do give and bequeath unto Phillip James my son the sum of £20 of lawful money of England. **Item** I do give and bequeath unto Patience James my daughter the sum of £30 of like lawful money. **Item** I do give and bequeath unto Merrill James my daughter the sum of £15 of like lawful money. **Item** I do give and bequeath unto Mary Philpotts, my daughter, the like sum of £15. **Item** I do give and bequeath unto Elizabeth my youngest daughter the like sum of £15. **Item** I do give and bequeath unto Margaret my daughter the sum of £20 of like lawful money. **Item** I do give and bequeath unto Anne my daughter the sum of £20 of like lawful money. **Item** I do give and bequeath unto Elizabeth James my granddaughter the sum of £5 of like lawful money. **Item** I do give and bequeath unto my loving sister Joan Jones the sum of £5 of like lawful money. All which said legacies and sums of money herein before given or bequeathed by me, my will and meaning is shall be paid out of my money at interest and out of my stock of cattle and corn within one year next after my decease. And if it shall happen that there shall be any delay or loss of money at interest or of my cattle, or stock of corn, so that the same upon the true, just and full apprising thereof shall not arise or amount unto the full sum of money herein before by me given and bequeathed, then my will and meaning is that every and each of my children shall abate out of their legacies, to them bequeathed proportionably according to the sums to them given so much as therein shall be lost, wasted

or decayed. And further my will and meaning is that whatsoever my money or stock of cattle and corn shall upon the full just and true apprizement thereof amount or arise over and above the several legacies here before given, my will and meaning [is] shall be divided proportionably between my said children according to the legacies to them given and bequeathed. **And** further my will and meaning is that if the said James James my son shall die or depart this life without issue of his body surviving, then I do give the said lease between the said Francis and Philip my two sons, and the profits thereof to be divided between them. **And** further my will is that any of my children shall have such of my goods or cattle towards the legacies to them bequeathed as they shall not think apprized to the full value thereof. **And** I do hereby order my funeral expenses and probate of my will to be first paid out of my money. **And** I do hereby make, nominate and declare James James, Francis James and Phillip James my full and sole executors of this my said last will and testament. **In witness** whereof I have hereto put my hand and seal the day and year above written, Gilbert James. Signed, published and declared in the presence of Benjamin Browne, Richard Merricke, William Browne

Memorandum that before the publishing or sealing hereof I the said Gilbert James do give and bequeath unto Patience my daughter my best bed with the bedstead and furniture thereunto belonging and my best brass pot and my best kettle. All other my household goods, I do give the use of them unto Anne my wife during her life, and after her decease I give the said goods to be equally divided between all my said younger daughters. Benjamin Browne, Richard Merricke, William Browne

Probate 17 November 1682.

PROB 4/4881 Inventory of Gilbert James of Eastnor, gent. 16 November 1682

[Two membranes, the second very faded]

A true inventory taken of all the Goods or Cattles and chattels debts and credits of Gilbert James of Eastnor in the county of Hereford gent. taken and indifferently apprised the three and twentieth day of January Anno Domini 1681 by Thomas Higgins gent. William Brown? John Barber and Richard Ricketts and Henry Philpott appraisers

Imprimis the deceedants Apparel and Money in his purse £ 52 ?s ?d

Item *in the Hall and Kitchen* one joined table board and form three chairs one joined stool and other old stools [worn away]

Item Four brass coltours two brass pans two brass pots one iron Pot one s.... one flesh fork one brass warming pan and two brass skillets £12 13s 4d

Item one iron sway one dripping pan three iron andirons cobbirons links and all other fire tools there £0 10s 0d

Item eight pewter dishes one pewter basin one pewter Flagon one pewter Can, Salts, candlesticks, & other small pewter £1 0s 0d

Item *in the parlour* one joined table board and frame one little table board and one joined cupboard one old Chair 13s 4d.

Item one Table Carpet & one Cupboard Cloth	6s 8d
Item one joined Bedstead one Feather Bed one bolster one pillow one pair of Sheets and pillow beares one rug one blanket curtains and Vallance	£3 0s 0d
Item <i>in the Hall Chamber</i> one feather Bed one Bolster and blanket one Coverlid one joined Bedstead Matt and Cords	£2 10s
Item five pair of old sheets three table cloths one dozen and a half of table napkins and other old linens	£1 6s 8d.
Item three Benches one Coffe two tressells, two old Tubbs	4s.
Item two hundred weight of cheese	£1 10s
Item in the parlour chamber two feather beds two bolsters two pillows two Cordlids [sic], two blankets two pair of sheets two Bedsteads Mats and Cords two joined Chests one Coffe	[£5 0s 0d
Item <i>in the buttery</i> six hogsheads of full of Crabb Verges [verjuice]	£6 0s 0d
Item <i>in the Cider houses</i> [sic] two Pipe vessels full of Cider two empty pipe vessels seven hogsheads of Cider and Perry two empty hogsheads and two Barrels & all other Coopery ware	£13 0s 0d
Item two cheeserings and Five Spinning wheels	£1 0s 0d
Item working tools belonging to husbandry and the house of all sorts	£0 6s. 8d?
Item six flitches of Bacon two flitches of Pork and other pieces of Bacon several pieces of Beef and other provisions of meats	£3 14s 0d
Item one parcel of old hops	6s 8d
[Second membrane very faint to read]	
... .. old books	£0 5s 0d
.....the house and goods	£0 3s 0d
Item one W.... and one other pair ault Wall...	£0 10s 0d
Sum of household goods is	£44 16s 0d
.... Bullocks	£37 5s 0d
.... ...	£5 6s 0d
... ..	£22 10s 0d
.... sixty ..	£6 10s 0d
[Item] twenty ...Sheep	£4 0s 0d
Item sixty and weathers	£18 0s 0d
Item d ...	£8 10s 0d
Item one bay mare	£7 0s 0d
Item one ...sa..	£? 3s 0d
Item eight store pigs	£4 4s 0d
Item Bushells of wheat and maslin	£10 10s 0d
Item whe[at] and maslin s..in the house	£6 6s 0s 8d
Item ... bushels of Barley	£2 10s 0d
Item seventy bushels of thrashed and unthrashed	£7 ? ?
Item hay and straw of all sorts of ? Barley and ... straw	£1 6s 8d

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Item ... [wheaten?]Straw	£7 15s 6d
Item Mares of	£28 0s 0d
Item and all other tack of teem whatsoever	£7 0s ?d
Iteming & timber lie.ed and unliewed?	£3 0s 0d
Item one s. ... with the appurteses [appurtenances]	£2 10s 0d
Itemly	£20 0s 0d
Item one d...	£6 0s 0d
Item one farme?	£? ? ?
Item Piggs ...	£? ? ?
[Another five or six tems]	

Exhibited 16 November 1682

Note: There is a gap in the Eastnor burial registers from June 1678 to April 1734, in the baptism registers very few entries 1641-1666, and in the marriages 1639-1651, and again 1652-1667. The baptism of Judith, daughter of Gilbert and Anne James was recorded on 12 November 1652, with the marginal note that they owed 4d. On 23 October 1680 James James married Jane James, and on 19 February 1682 Patience James married John Bridge. (Herefs RO, BO93/1 & 2)