

Nicholas Smith of Newnham, clerk, 1617

Ref: TNA PROB 11/130/591

In the name of God Amen I Nicholas Smith of Newnham in the county of Southampton clerk, in my best health well knowing the mortality of all flesh, am now by this my present visitation being graciously put in mind by my heavenly Father of the frailty and uncertainty of this life with full resolution and willingness of mind to leave this present world when it shall please God to call me, do now in my perfect memory publish this to be my last will and testament in manner and form following. **And first** and above all things the merits and passion of Christ my redeemer to have all my sins forgiven me, and to be partaker of life everlasting, and my body I commit to the earth whereof it was made. **And as** concerning the disposing of these earthly blessings whereof it has pleased God of his goodness to lend me a temporal property my mind is as follows. **First** I give unto Ann my loving wife all my grounds known by the name of Roode Lands for term of her natural life. **And I** will that my said wife shall have the use and occupation of the new end of the house in Hook now in the occupation of Edward Smithe and of the orchard, garden and backside there, and of the barn belonging to that end of the house and of the grounds known by the name of Eastlands for the many years as she shall live. **And I** will that the best bedstead I have and one truckle bedstead and the cupboard in my hall and my great chest shall be placed in the said house not to be removed during the time I have in the said house, and that my wife shall have the use of them during her life. **And I** will that after the decease of my said wife the said grounds called Roode Lands shall remain to Thomas Atkinson his executors and administrators for the term of four score and nineteen years without impeachment of waste during all the said term. **Item** I give unto the said Thomas Atkinson certain grounds known by the name of East [mades] and [widhorne] for all such time and number of years as I have in the same. **Item** I will that after the death of my said wife the said new end of the house the said orchard, garden, barn and backside shall remain unto the said Thomas Atkinson his executors and administrators for all such time and number of years as I have in the same. **Item** I will that after the decease of my wife, Jeffrye Lancaster his executors and administrators shall have the said grounds known by the name of Eastlandes and the old house in Hook for all such term and number of years as I have in the same. **Item** I give unto Jane Smith my kinswoman forty pounds to be paid within six months after my decease. **Item** I give unto Christopher [Ayra] my kinsman forty pounds to be paid in four years next after my decease by ten pounds a year. **Item** I give unto my cousin Dorothy Atkinson forty shillings a year during her life to be paid unto her every Michaelmas day. **Item** I will that forty pounds be equally divided amongst all the children of the said Dorothie Atkinson (excepting Thomas Atkinson), and the same to be paid within one year next after my decease. **Item** I give unto my cousin Richard Smithe forty pounds to be paid within a year after my decease. **Item** I give unto the poor people of Clifton in Westmorland five pounds to be paid within a year next after my decease and to be distributed as the parson and church wardens of the said parish for the time being and my cousin Richard Smith shall think fitting. **And my** mind is that Mr Thomas Wiber of Clifton aforesaid gent., who owes me five pounds shall pay this five pounds unto the said parson and church wardens. **Item** I will that my executors shall at the day of my burial distribute 20s amongst the poor of Newnham and 20s amongst the poor of Mapledurwell. **Item** I give unto Andrew Waterson ten pounds to be paid within a year after my decease. **And unto** Jane Parkin's daughter unto my brother John ten pounds to be paid within

a year after my decease. **And I** make executors of this my last will and testament my wife Ann, Edward Smithe, Thomas Atkinson and Jane Smithe to see the same truly performed. **And I** desire my good friends Richarde Tilney and Richarde Hooker to be my overseers and to aid my executors in seeing this my will performed, and for their pains I give unto the said Richard Tilney forty shillings and unto the said Richard Hooker 20s. **And in** witness hereof I have hereunto set my hand given the fifth day of November in the fifteenth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord James by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland, Scotland. Nicolas Smithe clerk.
Signed and published as the last will and testament of Nicolas Smith in the presence of Richard Tilney, Daniell Seagrave's mark, William Upton, Goodise Smiths mark.

Probate granted 21 November 1617 to Ann, the widow. Edward Smith executor and in the presence of Thomas Atkinson and Jane Smith.