

Richard Cocks of Castle Ditch in Eastnor, esquire, 1623

Ref: TNA, PROB 11/143

In the name of God Amen. I Richard Cocks of Castle Ditch in the parish of Eastnor and county of Hereford esquire, being sick in body but of good and perfect remembrance, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say: **First** I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God from whom I received the same, and my body to be buried in the north aisle of the chancel of the parish church of Eastnor aforesaid, in such place there as to my executrix and overseers shall be thought meet, and as soon as conveniently it may be after my decease. **Item** I give and devise unto Judith, my well beloved wife, all that my mansion and capital messuage in Eastnor in the said county of Hereford commonly called Castle Ditch, with all and every the appurtenances and hereditaments to the same belonging, and all and singular other my manors and messuages, lands, tenements, watermills, rents, reversions, services, and hereditaments whatsoever with all and singular their and every of their appurtenances, situate, lying and being within the parish of Eastnor aforesaid; to have and to hold the same unto her the said Judith and her assigns for and during the term of her natural life for and in the name of her jointure and in recompense of her dower. All which I have formally settled or intended to have settled upon her for her benefit, use and behoof by act or acts executed. **The remainder** thereof, after her decease, together with all and singular my manors and messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever with all and singular their appurtenances situate, lying and being in the several parishes of Ledbury and Colwall in the said county of Hereford or in either of them, I give and devise unto Thomas Cocks, Charles Cocks, James Cocks and John Cocks, brothers of me the said Richard Cocks, and to their heirs and assigns, to this intent and purpose: that my said brethren shall within 7 years next after my decease convey and assure as well the said remainder of all and singular the messuages, lands and premises before mentioned situate, lying and being in the said parish of Eastnor, and also all and singular the said messuages, lands and premises before named situate, lying and being in the said several parishes of Ledbury and Colwall with all and singular their and every of their appurtenances and hereditaments unto such one of the sons of me the said Richard Cocks and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, with like remainders to such other of my sons and the heirs males of their several bodies lawfully begotten, and with the last remainder to my right heirs, as to them the said Thomas Cocks, Charles Cocks, James Cocks and John Cocks, or the major part of them or of the survivors of them, to and with the approbation and consent of the said Judith my wife and not otherwise (if she be then living) shall be thought meet. **And** in the meantime of such conveyance my will is that my said brethren and the survivors and survivor of them shall take the profit of all and singular the said premises (excepting of the messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments limited to my said wife during her estate only for and toward the maintenance and bringing up of my children, payment of my debts and raising of portions for the preferment of such other of my children as the said Judith my wife and the said brethren or the major part of them, or the survivors of them shall think fit). **Item** I give and devise unto the said Thomas, Charles, James and John my said brethren and to their heirs and assigns all and singular my messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances situate, lying and being in the parishes or townships of Winnall and Allensmore and Druxton [presumably Thruxton] in the county of Hereford or in either of them, and all and singular my messuages,

lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances situate, lying and being in Arlington the parish of Bibury in the county of Gloucester, and all that my house in Mayden Lane [now part of Cannon Street], London. And all other my messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments in the said county of Gloucester and within the City of London whereof I am seized of an estate in fee simple, to have and to hold all and singular the said last recited messuages, lands and premises with all and singular their and every of their appurtenances unto the said Thomas, Charles, James and John, their heirs and assigns for ever. To this intent, that they my said brethren or some of them shall as soon as conveniently they may without loss sell and convey away all and singular the said lands, tenements, houses and premises last mentioned to be situate and lying in Winnall, Allensmore, Drupton, Arlington, Bibury or elsewhere in the said county of Gloucester and within the City of London. And my will is that the money arising by reason of the sale thereof together with the profit in the meantime to be taken by my said brethren be wholly employed towards the payments of such debts as I shall owe at the time of my decease, and the remainder and overplus of the said money (if any be) to be and remain to and for the benefit and preferment of such of my children as my said wife and brethren or the major part of them then living shall think meet. **Item** I give and devise unto the said Thomas Cocks, Charles Cocks, James Cocks and John Cocks my brethren and to their heirs and assigns all and singular my manor, messuages, lands, tenements, tithes and hereditaments whatsoever with their appurtenances situate, lying and being in the parish of Burghill in the county of Hereford, to this intent and purpose nevertheless that they the said Thomas, Charles, James and John or the survivors of them shall within 7 years next after my decease convey and assure the same to one other of the said sons of me the said Richard to whom the other lands aforementioned and intended to be entailed shall not be conveyed, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten with like remainders to such other of my sons and their heirs males of their several bodies with the last remainder to my right heirs as to my said brothers or the major part of them living, to and with the approbation and consent of the said Judith my wife and not otherwise if she be then living shall be thought meet. And my will and mind is that the rents and profits thereof in the meantime of the said conveyance to be made shall go and be employed towards the bringing up of my children, payment of my debts and raising of portions as aforesaid. **Item** I give and bequeath unto Judith my well beloved wife such and so much of my goods, plate, cattle and household stuff in and about my mansion house at Eastnor aforesaid as shall (at indifferent rates to be appraised) amount unto the full value of £200, the said goods, plate, cattle and household stuff to be such as she shall choose and best like of. **All the rest** of my goods, cattle, chattels, debts, household stuff, implements of household and plate unbequeathed, my debts and legacies paid, my funeral expenses performed, I give and bequeath unto Judith my said wife whom I make my sole executrix of this my last will and testament. **And** I do nominate and appoint the said Thomas, Charles, James and John overseers to see this my last will and testament performed as I trust them, and I give unto each of them for their pains to be taken herein £10. **In witness** whereof to this my present will consisting of two sheets of paper under one seal I have put my seal, and to each page thereof subscribe my name. Dated the 29th day of November in the 21st year of the reign of our sovereign King James of England, France and Ireland, and of Scotland the 57th, AD 1623. Richard Cocks. Read, published, signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of Thomas Barnesley, Robert Pecock, William Siar, John Webley.

Proved 2 March 1623/4

Note: There is a gap in the burial registers of Eastnor from April 1617 until January 1626 (Herefs. RO BO93/1).

His memorial is in the church at Eastnor:

Black tablet surrounded by grey marble-flecked MA, IS/S, M.

Homo Calamitatis fabvla, et infoelicitatis [...?] / Here lieth bvried [buried] ye body of RICHARD COCKS of / Castleditch [sic] in ye Covnty [county] of Hereford Esqr / Alderman of London, Ivstice [justice] of ye Peace & / Qvorvm, & sometimes High Sheriffe [sic] of ye Co: / vnty [county] of Hereford, hee [sic] married IVDITH [Judith] : one of / ye da:rs [daughters] & coheire of IOHN {John} ELLIOTT [sic] Esqr: by whom / hee [sic] had issve [issue] 8 sonnes [sic] & 6 Da:rs (All w:ch [sic] except 2 / sonnes & 3 da:rs yt [sic] died) were liveing [living] at his de: / cease, viz: THOMAS COCKS Esqr : RICHARD, IOHN, / ROBERT, HENRY & CHARLES. ELIZABETH, IVDITH / & DOROTHY. Hee died ye 7th of Decemb: 1623 wch [which?] / said Richard was ye 3d [sic] sonne [sic] of THOMAS COCKS / of Bvshopps [Bishops?] Cleve [sic] in ye Covnty of Glover [Gloucester] Esqr / Yt [that?] married ELIZABETH da:r [daughter] of ROGER HOLLAND / of Dalton in Lankh~ [Lancashire?] Esqr of whom ye said / Thomas begott [sic] X sonnes & 6 dars: all of ym [them?] / (except 3 dars yt died) men & woemen [women] / at ye death of their aged father ; / Ano. Dni~ 1623.