

Henry Aston of Eastnor, yeoman, 1686

Ref: Herefs. RO 97/1/9

In the name of God Amen the 12th day of August AD 1680, I Henry Aston of Eastnor in the county of Hereford, yeoman, being aged and weak but in good and perfect mind and memory, thanks be given unto God therefore, and calling unto mind the uncertainty of this transitory life, do make and ordain, publish and declare this my last will and testament, revoking and by these presents annulling, all former will or wills by me heretofore made either by word or writing And this only is to [be] taken for my last will and none other And first and principally I do commend my soul unto Almighty God my maker, assuredly trusting through the merits of Christ Jesus to be saved; and my body to be buried in such place decency and order as shall seem most meet to my executrix hereafter mentioned and named. And as for the worldly goods it hath pleased God of his mercy to bestow upon me, I freely leave it unto the world again in manner and form following viz: I do give and bequeath the sum of 5s. to be disposed and given unto the poor of the parish of Eastnor within one week next after my decease. All other my goods, cattle and chattels whatsoever I do freely give and bequeath unto Jane my beloved wife whom I do make my full and sole executrix of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto put my hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Signed published and declared in the presence of: Humphrey Cooper, Richard Loveridge, William Brown

Probate granted 10 February 1686 -1687]

5 February 1686: The ecclesiastical court appoints William Stone, Robert Hathaway, and Thomas Dobbins, clerks, to take Jane Aston's oath that she will administer her late husband's estate:

The form of the oath to be given to the executrix:

You shall swear that the writing hereunto annexed contains the true last will and testament of the within named Henry Aston, deceased, so far as you know or believe, that you will well and truly perform the same by paying his debts and these the legacies by his said will given so far as his goods, cattle and chattels of the said deceased will thereunto extend, and the law charge you and that you will make and exhibit a true and perfect inventory of all and singular the goods cattle and chattels of the said deceased as also a true and just account when you shall be thereunto lawfully required So help you God.

A true and perfect inventory of all the goods chattels and cattle of Henry Aston of Eastnor, lately deceased, as it was rated February 2nd 1687/6

Item his wearing apparel, £2

Item 6 beasts with 2 small swine, £20

Item brass and pewter, £5

Item vessels and other wooden ware, £3

Item 3 beds with blankets coverlets and sheets, £7

Item 1 cupboard, 2 table boards with other implements of husbandry [sic], £1

Henry Aston of Eastnor, yeoman, 1686

Item corn in the house, £4

Item cheese in the house and bacon, £5

Item a must mill or cider mill, £1

Item money upon bond, £40

[Total] £88

Appraisers: Richard Charles, Richard Richards and Humphrey Cooper

These are to certify [to] all that it may concern that Jane the wife of Henry Aston lately deceased, by reason of her age and weakness, is not able to appear at the court.

Witnessed: William Stone, Rector of Eastnor

Exhibited 10 February 1686

Note: There is a gap in the burial registers 1678-1734.

Note: His widow Jane is probably the Jane Asston d. 1691 – see will Herefs. RO 114/4/6