

Richard George of Basingstoke, woollen draper, 1656

Ref: TNA PROB 11/258/394

In the name of God Amen: the twenty fifth day of May in the year of our Lord God one thousand six hundred fifty and six I Richard George of Basingstoke in the county of Southampton woollen draper, being weak in body but whole and perfect in memory, thanks be given to Almighty God, do constitute, ordain and make this my last will and testament in manner and form following. **First** I bequeath my soul to the great mercy of Almighty God and my body to be buried at the discretion of my executrix. **Item** I give and bequeath unto the children of my sister Meryfeild, late deceased, namely Richard Meryfeild, Elizabeth Meryfield and Joane Meryfeild the sum of ten pounds apiece of current English money to be paid by my executrix at the full term of one and twenty years of age or at the day of marriage which shall first happen. **Item** I give unto the child that my sister Creede is now being withal, it please Almighty God to give it life, the sum of ten pounds of current English money to be paid unto the said child be it son or daughter at the full term of four and twenty years of age or day of marriage which shall first happen, the use thereof, with the use of the thirty pounds given to my sister Meryfeild's children redounding to my dear mother Elizabeth George during her life, and after her decease to the benefit of the children. **And in** case either of my sister Meryfeild's children should happen to depart this life then the money bequeathed unto them to be equally divided between the other two. **And for** that my sister Creed do go withal if it shall please God it does fail and not live then the ten pounds to redound to my executrix. **Item** I give and bequeath unto my brother Henry Meryfeild the sum of five pounds of current English money. **Item** I give unto my well beloved sister Mary Creede my silver porringer and a small silver spoon. **Item** I give and bequeath unto my well beloved sister Joane George the sum of forty pounds of current English money to be paid unto the said Joane within three months after my decease. **Item** I give unto the poor of the town aforesaid the sum of twenty shillings of current English money to be dispersed of at the discretion of my executrix. **All the** residue of my goods and chattels not given, nor bequeathed my debts, legacies and funeral expenses discharged, I give and bequeath unto my dearly beloved sister Elizabeth George whom I ordain and make my sole and whole executrix of this my last will and testament in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand seal the day and year above written in the presence of these whose names are underwritten. **The overseers** of this my will whom I do ordain and make my beloved friends John Coleman the younger, and William Coleman both of the town aforesaid - Richard George.

Signed and sealed in the presence of John Coleman junior, William Coleman, William Smith.

This will was proved at London the fourteenth day of October one thousand six hundred fifty six before the judges for probate of wills and granting administrations lawfully authorised by the oath of Elizabeth George, the sister sole executrix named in the said will, to whom administration of all and singular the goods, chattels and debts of the said deceased was committed she being first by commission sworn truly to administer the same.