

John Webley the elder of Eastnor, husbandman, 1614

Ref: Herefs. RO 64A/2/13

In the name of God, Amen. The 28th August in the year of Our Lord God 1614; I John Webley, the elder, of the parish of Eastnor in the county of Hereford, husbandman, being sick and weak in body, but yet of good and perfect remembrance, all laud and praise be given unto Almighty God, calling to mind the frailty of man's estate, and uncertainty of the time of death, and advisedly minding to bestow, set in order, and dispose myself toward Almighty God, and my goods, cattle and chattels towards the world, by whose grace, bounty and goodness I received the same, do by these presents, make, publish and declare this my present testament containing herein my last will in manner and form following, that is to say: **First** and principally I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God my maker and redeemer, beseeching of his infinite mercy, and for the merits and passion of his dear son Jesus Christ our alone saviour and redeemer, that he will receive the same into his glory and place it in the company of the heavenly angels and blessed saints, whensoever it shall please his omnipotence to separate my soul and spirit from this mortal body and from this transitory life; and my body I will to be buried in the churchyard of Eastnor aforesaid. **And** as concerning my funeral expenses and distribution to the poor at the time of my burial, I reserve that to the decision of my executrix hereafter nominated and appointed. **And** I do hereby renounce and revoke all former wills whatsoever, containing any other gift, legacy or bequest, other than the gifts, legacies and bequests in this my last will and testament contained. **Item** I do nominate, ordain and make Elinor, my wife, sole executrix of this my last will and testament. **Item** my will, intent and meaning is that Elinor my wife and my executrix shall have the use and occupation of all my goods, chattels and cattle during her natural life, and that it shall and may be lawful for my said executrix, from time to time, during her natural life to sell (for the maintenance of her corporeal necessity for food and sustenance) any part or parcel of my goods or chattels, provided always and my will, intent and meaning is that Elinor my said wife and executrix shall not sell, give, nor otherwise dispose of any part or parcel of any my goods, chattels or cattle, during her natural life, without the consent and agreement of John Webley thereunto first had and obtained. **Item** I do give and bequeath unto Elinor my wife and my executrix the use, occupation and profit of all that part of my now dwelling house from the entry or alley southward, together with half the backside and gardens with free ingress, egress and regress into and from the said part of the said dwelling house, backside and gardens, for my said executrix and her assigns during her natural life.

In witness whereof I do acknowledge this to be my last will and testament, made and published the day and year aforesaid, in the presence of Thomas Danford, Richard Steward and John Webley.

Proved 23 Sept. 1614

Note: John Webley, householder, was buried on 31 August 1614 [Herefs. RO BO93/1]