

William Rickards of Eastnor, 1607

Ref: Herefs. RO 9/2/31

1607. **In the name of God**, Amen. I William Rickards of Eastnor in the county of Hereford, sick in body, but thanks be unto Almighty God, perfect of mind, (on the 18th day of April, in the year of the reign of our sovereign Lord James, by the grace of God, of England, Scotland, France and Ireland King, defender of the faith etc. that is to say of England, France and Ireland, the 5th, and of Scotland the 40th), do make this my last will and testament, in manner and form following. **First** and above all other things I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God my maker and redeemer, and my body to be buried in the parish church of Eastnor aforesaid. **And next** I give and bequeath unto my son John Rickards, his children, that is to say Henry, Mary and Joan, £20 of lawful English money and the use thereof to be employed to the breeding up of Joan, the daughter of my son John, until she shall accomplish the age of 15 years. **Item** I give and bequeath unto the 2 sons of John Collins of Minsterworth in the county of Gloucester, which he had by my daughter Eme [Emma] the full sum of £5, to be delivered, even when they shall accomplish the age of 21 years. **Item** I give and bequeath unto Sybil Beddo, the reputed daughter of Thomas Elcox, 1 two-year old heifer, with a feather bed and all thereunto belonging. **Item** I give and bequeath unto Joan Rickards the daughter of my said son John Rickards, deceased, 1 featherbed with all thereunto belonging. **Item** I give and bequeath unto William Somer, my godson, 1 ewe and a lamb. **Item** I give and bequeath unto Mary Batche, the daughter of Edward Batche, 1 ewe and a lamb and 1 yearling sheep. **Item** I give and bequeath unto Mary Batche, my daughter in law, 1 candlestick and her mother's best petticoat, with a flitch of bacon. **Item** I give and bequeath unto Anne Rodge, my daughter in law, her mother's best gown and I forgive her the money which she borrowed of my wife, her mother. **Item** I give and bequeath unto Thomas Elcox my son in law, 1 young cow. **Item** I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth Elcox, my daughter, 1 petticoat cloth and my wife's best hat. **Item** I give unto my daughter Elizabeth 2 pair of sheets. **Item** I give unto Elizabeth Houlder, my goddaughter, 1 hog sheep. **Item** I give and bequeath unto the poor of Eastnor 3s 4d. **And finally** I do nominate and appoint Thomas Elcox of the parish of Eastnor, my son in law, in perfect trust, to be my sole executor of this my last will and testament, so that he do nothing herein without the consent or advice of Richard Holder and John Webley of Eastnor, whom I likewise appoint to be my overseers of this my last will, as long as they shall live together to assist or be helpful unto the said Thomas in their good discretion to advise him from time to time, to fulfill this same. **And** I give unto my three friends so put in trust, as aforesaid, for their pains as followeth: that is to say unto Thomas Elcox 10s and unto Richard Holder 10s and unto John Webley ten groats. My debts and funeral being discharged, **the residue** of all my goods, not given or unbequeathed, I give and bequeath unto the children of Thomas Elcox which he hath or may have by my daughter, and to her, my said daughter, to be employed to the use of her and her children by the consent of the overseers, as aforesaid, to the which my testament and last will I have fully consented.

In the presence of Thomas Elcox, Gabriel Harford and Richard Holder, with others.

Probate 24 April 1607 [sic]

Note: William Ricketts [sic] was buried on 20 April 1607, and a Jane Ricketts had been buried on 15 April [Herefs. RO BO93/1]