

Margaret Morton, Eastnor, widow, 1688

Ref: TNA, PROB 11/396

In the name of God Amen, I Margaret Morton of Eastnor in the county of Hereford, widow, being in good health in body and of sound and perfect mind and memory, praise be therefore given to Almighty God, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say: **First** and principally I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God, hoping through the merits, death and passion of my saviour Jesus Christ to have full and free pardon and forgiveness of all my sins, and to inherit everlasting life. And my body I commit to the earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my executors hereafter named. **And** as touching the disposal of all such temporal and personal estate as it hath pleased God to bestow upon me, I give and dispose thereof as followeth: **First** I give and bequeath unto my several children, sons and daughters, the sum of 5s. apiece to be paid immediately after my decease. **Item** I give and bequeath all other my goods, cattle and chattels of what nature or quality soever they be, unto my loving sons Francis Morton and Anthony Morton, to be equally divided betwixt them. And I do hereby make, constitute and ordain them joint executors of this my last will and testament. **Item** I give, devise and bequeath unto my son Anthony Morton all that parcel of land, being arable land, containing by estimation one acre or thereabouts, be it more or less, which I bought of Thomas Norbury of Eastnor aforesaid, lying and being in a common field called Brinckfield in the aforesaid parish of Eastnor and commonly called or known by the name of Rutters Acre, or by what other name the same is or hath been called; to have and to hold the said parcel of arable land with the appurtenances thereunto belonging unto the said Anthony Morton and his heirs for ever from and immediately after my decease. **Item** I will that my debts and funeral charges be paid and discharged, and lastly I desire that my body may be buried in the parish church of Eastnor, and to lie by my loving husband. **And** I do hereby revoke disannul and make void all former wills and testaments by me here before made. **In witness** whereof I have hereunto put my hand and seal the 18th of September in the fourth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord James II, by the grace of god of England, Scotland, France and Ireland king, defender of the faith etc. AD 1688. The mark of Margaret Morton.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of: D. Dangerfield, Richard Tippin his mark, Edmund Morton his mark, William Luke his mark

Probate granted 17 July 1689

Note: There is a gap in the Eastnor burial registers 1678 to 1734 The baptismal register shows John and Anthony the sons of Humphrey Mauton and Margaret baptised on 27 October 1636, and Anthony the son of Humphrey and Margaret Morton baptised on 15 April 1638. Thereafter there are many gaps in the baptismal register until 1666. The marriage of Humphrey Morton and Margaret is not recorded at Eastnor (Herefs. RO BO 93/1 and 2).

There was in Eastnor church, before its demolition and rebuilding in 1851, the following memorial, recorded by the then rector:

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Here lieth the body of MARGARET the Wife of HUMPHREY MORTON of this Parish by whom she had four sons and two daughters. FRANCIS JOHN ANTHONY HUMPHREY MARGARET and ELIZABETH. She departed this life the 15 day of May 1689 aged 86 in hopes of a happy restoration to eternal life - and near this place ANTHONY the third son of Humphrey Margaret MORTON deceased the 28 day of May 1701, aged 65

H. L. Somers-Cocks, *Eastnor* (1923) "We are indebted to Mr. HERBERT PULLING for the following extracts from monuments which could be seen in the church before it was demolished and rebuilt in 1851. For the most part these stones were in such a bad state of decay that it was found impossible to replace them after the restoration."

Cited by the Herefordshire Family History Society's survey of the monumental inscriptions of Eastnor.