

**William Wigg of Basingstoke, yeoman, 1607**

**Ref: TNA PROB 11/109/248**

**In the name of God Amen.** The thirteenth day of August in the year of our salvation one thousand six hundred and six, I William Wigg of Basingstoke in the county of Southampton yeoman, being in good health of body and of perfect remembrance, thanks be given unto God, therefore revoking all former wills and testaments heretofore by me made do make and ordain this my last will in form and manner following. **First** I commit my soul into the hands of Almighty God and my body to be buried in the parish which it shall please God to call me out of this world. **Item** I give unto the Trinity Church of Winchester 12d. **Item** I give to the poor people of the parish of Deane 3s. 4d. **Item** I give to the poor people of Church Oakley 3s 4d. **Item** I will that the poor people of Deane and others that shall come to my funeral shall have eight bushels of wheat made in bread and bestowed amongst them. **Item** I give to Sibell my wife all such household stuff as her first husband John Ayliffe left her, and it shall appear by the inventory of the goods of the said John Ayliffe, which portion and none other I do allow her. **Item** I give and bequeath unto Anne Harwood my daughter £100 of good and lawful money of England, if she be living at my decease, and also if her husband do [assure] her of all the lands which he now holds during her natural life. **Item** I give unto John Harwood the son of Raphe Harwood and Anne my daughter, the sum of £40 of good and lawful money of England to be paid unto him within one month next after my decease. **Item** I give unto the other sons of the said Raphe Harwood and Anne his wife, to every one of them lawfully begotten of their bodies £10 of likewise lawful money of England to be paid unto every one of them at the age of one and twenty years. **And** if any one of them shall be above the age of one and twenty years at my decease, then every such son to receive his legacy within one month next after my decease. **Item** I give unto the daughters of the said Raphe and Anne, to every one of them lawfully begotten, £15 of lawful money of England to be paid unto them and to every one of them within one month next after my decease. **Item** my will is that all such household stuff as shall be expressed and contained in an inventory under the hands of the said Raphe Harwood as [remains] and shall be in the keeping of the said Raphe Harwood and Anne his wife at the time of my departure shall be equally divided between the children of their bodies lawfully begotten. **Item** I give to Richard Penton, my sister's son, £20 of lawful money of England. **Item** I give and bequeath unto Richard [Pincke] my first wife's son if he be living £13. 6s. 8d of good and lawful money of England.

**Item** I give unto John Longland my best riding cloak and my best hose and doublet. **Item** I give unto every man that shall help to carry me unto the place of my burial 4d. **Item** I give and bequeath for the better maintenance of the Free School in Basingstoke and towards the relief of the poor and impotent of the said town £100 of good and lawful money of England due unto me at the feast of Saint Michael next coming from John Ayliffe of [Halls], yeoman. **Which** hundred of pounds I will shall remain as a stock and to be put out to the pious and Godly use aforesaid in manner and form following, that as to said viz. **I will**, and my full intent and meaning is, that £20 of the said £100 before bequeathed, be paid by my executor to the overseers of the poor of the same town of Basingstoke for the time being and to be put out by them to the use of the said poor in the manner of a stock, and towards the perpetual relief of them, and so to be ordered as the same £20 may continue to that use, according to the effect and meaning of a statute in this behalf heretofore enacted.

**And** the uttermost profit thereof yearly arising to be distributed by the said overseers unto the poorest and most impotent people of the same town upon the Feast Day of every quarter of the year yearly forever by even portions, the first payment to begin upon the Feast of the quarter day that shall fall and come a full year next after my decease. **And** the other four score pounds, the rest of the said £100 to be paid likewise by my executors unto the Aldermen and Wardens of the Holy Ghost for the time being to be put out by them in like manner as the stock of the poor before bequeathed. **And** the profit thereof yearly arising to be paid unto the schoolmaster of the said Free School for the time being by equal portions upon the four usual Feasts of the quarter day *of the year* yearly forever. **The** first payment to commence *[illegible]* aforesaid for the relief of the poor. In *[illegible]* meaning is that the Aldermen and Wardens aforesaid shall cause one scholar *[to be]* taught by the said schoolmaster in the said Free School now kept within the *[illegible]* or where else hereafter it may fortune, to be kept in the rudiments and *[illegible]* of the Latin tongue and of the Christian faith for the continual space of five years next after his sending to the said School. **And** my will and *[vearie]* meaning is that the said child or scholar so to be sent, shall be born in the parish of Bramley in the county of Southampton, where I myself was born, and shall be chosen and appointed by the vicar of the same parish for the time being, and by the overseers of the poor of the same parish of Bramley aforesaid, and to be sent by them specifying under their hands and seals with an informal consent hereon. **And** then my will and intent herein is that the said Aldermen and Wardens do accept of every such scholar so set, at all times hereafter as often as the place shall become made so, as the said scholar can already write and read indifferently. **And** having learned the *[short]* introduction of grammar be ready to learn the rules of syntax. **And** I heartily pray the schoolmaster for the time being, to employ his power and diligence as in the teaching of the *[rest]*, so in training this, my scholar in his duties towards God and man, and in the perfect obtaining of the Latin tongue which in less time than is here appointed, if the Master be diligent and if the scholar but meanly witted, may be obtained to the *[ende]* the understanding of the Latin tongue obtained, he may be encouraged to climb the tree of knowledge whereby he may afterwards by God's good grace and his diligence prove profitable to God's church and his country which is my desire and the only *[end]* of this my bequest.

**Item** my will is that every sum of money above bequeathed without time of payment thereof limited shall be paid by my executor within the space of six months next after my decease. **All the** rest of my goods and chattels whatsoever unbequeathed, my funeral and legacies performed, I give and bequeath unto John Wigg my son whom I institute, make, ordain and appoint my very and sole executor of this my last will and testament praying him to execute the same in every point as my assured trust in him is he will. **And** if it shall happen that any party whatsoever unto whom I have given and bequeathed anything by this my last will do dislike or find fault therein or do withhold anything given or seek for more, then as given or do *[wayraise]* *[mys....]* trouble, molestation or quarrel, suit in law, or encumbrance whatsoever to withstand or contradict anything which in this my last will I have set down, my will and *[vearie]* meaning is that every such party or parties shall be utterly excluded and debarred from procuring or having any legacies, gifts or benefit by this my last will and testament.

**Item** I appoint and ordain John Barrant clerk and Richard Ayliffe of Skyers [Scures?] to be the overseers of this my last will and testament desiring them to cause and procure the same to be orderly approved, and to be well and truly in every respect performed and kept, and to aid and assist my executors in the due approving thereof and to advise my said executors the best they can for the continuance, and save making of the profit of the £100 which I have before bequeathed towards the relief or the poor and better maintenance of the schoolmaster of the town of Basingstoke aforesaid, that it may remain, continue and be employed to such pious uses as I have appointed it without coven or fraud according to my meaning and intent before set down. **And** for their pains herein besides their charges on their-behalf so sustained I give unto either of them 6s. 8d. **In witness** whereof I have unto this my last will and testament set my hand and seal in the presence of those whose names be hereunder written. **Witnessed** by me hereunto required and desired William Wigg. **This** will openly read to the testator, he approved every part and clause thereof as now whose names be hereunder written do witness in whose presence the same was sealed and subscribed with their above hands Thomas Burney Bayliffe, William Moores the elder (mark), John Barrant clerk, Richard Ayliffe of Skyers [Scures?].

Probate granted 24 Mar 1607.