

Thomas Danford the elder of Eastnor, yeoman, 1652

Ref: TNA, PROB 11/238

In the name of God, Amen. The 20th day of April in the year of our Lord God 1652, I Thomas Danford, the elder, of Eastnor in the county of Hereford, yeoman, being of good and perfect remembrance, thanks be given to Almighty God, yet duly considering the uncertainty of this transitory life, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following. **First** and principally I do commend my soul and spirit into the most merciful hands of Almighty God my maker and creator and of his only son my sweet saviour and redeemer Christ Jesus, most assuredly trusting and believing that all my most grievous sins are clearly forgiven and pardoned by his only merits, death, passion, resurrection and glorious ascension, and that after this sinful life ended, I shall be made partaker of life everlasting with the blessed and glorious saints in the kingdom of heaven. And I commit my sinful body to the earth, whereof it was made and framed, and decently to be buried in Christian burial according to the discretion of my executrix hereafter named. And as for my worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me, I do dispose of it as followeth: **First** I give and bequeath to the parish church of Eastnor aforesaid, towards the reparation thereof, 20s. And to the poor people, now and hereafter dwelling within the parish of Eastnor aforesaid, the sum of £5 to remain unto them for a stock for ever, and to be employed to the best use and benefit of the said poor, and the increase thereof to be yearly paid for ever unto the said poor people at the feast of Easter, by the good discretion of the minister and churchwardens of Eastnor aforesaid and two other discrete men of the said parish. **Also** I give and bequeath to the poor people of 'Hollowe' 20s, to the poor people of Cotheridge [Worcs] 10s, to the poor people of Bishopstone 10s, to the poor people of Couty-Park and Pixley 10s, and the poor people of Colwall 10s, to be paid within one year next after my decease. **Also** I give and devise unto Alice my beloved wife all that my messuage or tenement, called by the name of Dolletts, situate, lying and being within the said parish of Eastnor in the said county of Hereford and the folds, courts, orchards and garden thereunto adjoining, together with the barn, outhouses and all lands, meadows, leasowes, pastures and commons with the appurtenances to the same messuage or tenement belonging or appertaining (all the timber. trees, woods and under woods now growing or being, or which hereafter shall grow or be made upon the said premises only excepted); yet nevertheless my will and intent is that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Alice my wife at all times hereafter, when and as often as need shall require, to have and take by the assignment and appointment of my nephew and godson Thomas Danford and his heirs or assigns, in and upon the said premises convenient and necessary timber for and towards the reparations and amending of the said messuage or tenement and outhouses and buildings thereunto belonging. And also to have and take at all times such crops, shreds of trees and such other underwoods as shall be needful and necessary for the fencing and enclosing of the said premises, and reasonable and necessary 'firebot' to be spent in and upon the said premises and not elsewhere; and not making any waste, spoil or destruction thereof. To have and to hold all and singular the said premises with the appurtenances (except before excepted) unto the said Alice my wife immediately from and after my decease for and during the term of 40 years thence next ensuing fully to be completed and ended (if she the said Alice shall so long live and remain and continue a widow and unmarried), in lieu of her dower; yielding and paying therefore yearly during the said term, unto my said nephew

Thomas Danford, his heirs or assigns, the yearly rent of 50s of lawful money at the feast of St Michael and the Annunciation of the blessed virgin Mary by even and equal portions, the first payment thereof to begin at which of the said feasts that shall first happen next after my decease. **Also** I give and bequeath to the said Alice, my wife, £30. **Also** I give and bequeath to the two daughters of my nephew William Danford, deceased, £10 (that is to say to each of them £5), to be paid unto them when they shall accomplish the full age of 21 years or else be married. And if either of them shall die before she shall accomplish that age, or else be married, then the legacy to her bequeathed shall remain to the survivor of them. **Also** I give and bequeath to my godson Thomas Danford the younger, son of my said nephew and godson Thomas Danford the elder, £5, my great brass pan, my 2 table boards in the hall and parlour, my best chair, liv[er]y cupboard and all my forms and joined stools, my best bedstead, my jack and iron swayle, my iron racks and iron fire shovel and tongs to remain as standard of the house. Provided always and notwithstanding this my bequest, my will is and so I do order and appoint that Alice my wife shall have the use of my wains, carts and tack of team and of all other the said goods and things lastly before mentioned during her widowhood, only keeping and leaving the same in good reparation. **And** I give unto Thomas Danford the younger son, of my nephew Thomas £5 and my said wains and carts and tack of team to be kept and used by my said wife as before is mentioned. **Also** I give and bequeath to my said nephew Thomas Danford the elder 40s. **Also** I give and bequeath to my niece Mary the wife of John Tomlins £30, to be paid unto her within two years next after my decease. **And** I give and remit to my nephew John Nurbery £4 which he oweth me. **And** I give unto Thomas Nurbery son of Roger Nurbery otherwise Careles 50s. **Also** I give and bequeath unto my nephew William Nurbery otherwise Careles £20 and 6 sheep. **Also** I give and bequeath to Elizabeth the daughter of my sister Anne £3, and to Mary, another daughter of my said sister Anne 50s, and to Sybil, another of the daughters of my said sister Anne £4. **Also** I give and bequeath unto Thomas Daniell my godson and grandchild of Thomas Daniell my brother-in-law 40s. **Also** I give and bequeath unto my niece Joan, daughter of my sister Joyce, deceased, £5, and I give and bequeath unto my sister Joyce, her other daughter, £6; to be paid unto them within two years next after my decease. **Also** I give unto my loving cousin Mr John Webley of Ledbury £5, my best doublet and hose, my riding hood and one of my best shirts and as many of my boots as he shall make choice of, my best cloak, my best pair of boots, my best pair of stockings, my best band and handcuffs, 2 handkerchiefs, my taffeta cap, my best hat and best girdle. And I give and bequeath to my said cousin Webley, his wife, 11s. in gold. **Also** I give and bequeath to my cousins Timothy Hill and William Hill, to each and either of them, 10s. **Also** I give to my cousin Thomas Danford, son of my cousin John Danford, £4 to be paid within one year next after my decease. **Also** I give to my loving cousin John Danford of Powick and to my good cousin, his wife, to either of them a piece of gold of 11s. **Also** I give to my good mistress Mrs Anne Fleete 20s in gold to buy her a ring. **Also** I give and bequeath to my uncle William Danford, his two daughters, to either of them, 10s. **Also** I give to my cousin Anne Parsons, late wife of John Parsons, deceased, 10s, and I give unto my sister Cave and her daughter, to each of them, 10s in gold; and I give unto Hugh Wilde, son of my loving cousin Mrs Anne Wilde, deceased, 20s. I give and bequeath to my servant Margaret Shaw 10s. and to my servant Margery Weaver 5s. And my will is and I desire that there shall be distributed and bestowed in and about my funeral the sum of £10 according to the good disposition of my executrix and the overseer of this my last will and testament hereafter named, and as they shall think fit and convenient. **All the rest** of my goods, plate, corn, grain, cattle whatsoever not given

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and bequeathed by this my last will and testament, after my debts and legacies paid and my funeral expenses discharged, I give and bequeath to Alice my loving wife, whom I make sole executrix of this my last will and testament, hoping she will with good care and conscience see the same truly performed. **And** I do freely remit and forgive unto all and every such person and persons that shall be indebted unto me at the time of my decease, one half year's consideration for the forbearance of all such sum and sums of money as they or every of them shall owe unto me at the time of my decease, provided nevertheless that none shall have the benefit of this my gift and remission, but only such person and persons as have been or shall be indebted unto me by the space of 6 months or more next before the time of my decease. **And** I do hereby appoint and desire my said cousin John Webley to be overseer of this my last will and testament and to assist my executrix in the execution thereof according to his best discretion. **In witness** whereof to this my last will and testament, written in two sheets of paper, I have put my hand and seal, the day and year first above written, 20 April 1652. Thomas Danford. Signed, sealed and published in the presence of John Webley, John South, Richard Bramley, Thomas Godfrey, his mark.

Probate 4 October 1654

Note: there is a gap in the Eastnor burial registers April 1641 to July 1666 (Herefs. RO BO93/1).