

John Mason of Basingstoke, gentleman, 1639

Ref: TNA PROB 11/181/661

In the name of God Amen, the sixteenth day of September AD 1639 and in the fifteenth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord Charles by the grace of God, of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, King defender of the faith etc., I John Mason of Basingstoke in the county of Southampton gent., being sick and weak in body but perfect and sound in memory and understanding, praised be God for it, do make and ordain this my present last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say: **first** I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God my Creator assuredly trusting that through the only merits, death and passion of Jesus Christ my blessed Saviour and Redeemer I shall be saved everlastingly and my body to Christian burial in the church of Basingstoke aforesaid, near unto my dear wife where I will expect a blessed resurrection to immortality and glory by Jesus Christ. **And as** touching that estate in lands, tenements, goods and chattels which it has pleased God of his goodness to bestow upon me, **first** I give and bequeath unto the church of Basingstoke aforesaid twenty shillings and to the poor of Basingstoke aforesaid forty shillings and to the cathedral church of Winchester twelve pence. **Item** I give, devise and bequeath unto my eldest son Henrie Mason my house wherein I dwell with the appurtenances in Basingstoke aforesaid and all my lands thereunto belonging and all other my freehold lands and tenements with the appurtenances in Basingstoke aforesaid and in Wildmoor in the county aforesaid, to have and to hold unto him my said son Henrie for and during ~~for and during~~ the term of his natural life. **And from** and after his decease I give and devise the same, my said house and all my said lands and tenements with the appurtenances, unto my second son John Mason and to the heirs of his body lawfully to be begotten forever. **And for** want of such issue, the remainder thereof unto my son Edward Mason and the heirs of his body lawfully to be begotten forever. **And for** default of such issue, the remainder thereof to my [...] right heirs forever. **Item** I give and bequeath unto my daughter Dorathie Mason two hundred pounds of lawful money of England for her portion to be paid unto her by my executor hereafter named at her age of twenty and one years or upon the day wherein she shall be married, which shall first happen. **And in** the meantime until my said daughter's portion shall be so payable unto her, my will is that she shall have some reasonable allowance up and for and towards her maintenance out of my estate. **Item** I give and bequeath unto my said son Edward Mason the like sum of two hundred pounds of like money for his portion to be paid unto him at his age of twenty and one years. **And in** the meantime he also to have reasonable allowance for and towards his maintenance unless he shall be sooner bound apprentice which is my desire he should be, and that some fitting sum of money be given with him out of my estate for the bonding of his apprentice accordingly over and besides the said portion. **Item** I give and bequeath unto my said son John Mason the sum of one hundred pounds of like lawful money of England to be paid unto him as soon and conveniently may be. **Item** I give unto my servant maid Anne Hannyngton twenty shillings, unto old goodwife Clapshewe ten shillings, unto John Styles my workman ten shillings and unto my boy Crosse Eyles five shillings. **And if** either or any of my said children Dorathie, Edward and John shall happen to die before their said several legacies or portions shall be due and payable unto them respectively, then my will and meaning is that the legacy or portion of either or any of them so dying shall be paid unto the survivors or survivor of them equally at such time and times as they are to receive their said own legacies respectively as aforesaid. **The rest** and

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residue of all my personal estate, leases, household stuff, plate and other goods and chattels whatsoever, my debts, legacies, funeral expenses and other necessary charges paid and discharged, I leave unto my dear and loving brother Thomas Mason Doctor of Divinity to whom I make and ordain and appoint my loving friends Mr Henry Osey and Mr John Aylwyn of Basingstoke aforesaid to be overseers and to whom for their pains to be taken therein I give five pounds for pieces of plate for them. **And lastly** I revoke all former wills and testaments by me heretofore made. **In witness** whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal proven the day and year first above written John Mason signed, sealed and published in the presence of William Wither, Richard White, John Fuller.

Probate granted 11 December 1639 to Thomas Mason.