

## CHELTENHAM AREA WILLS 1571-1580

### 1571/15

In the name of God, Amen. The 1<sup>st</sup> August 1571 I Annis Dowdeswell of the parish of Leckhampton & in the diocese of Gloucester, widow, being whole in body and mind, make my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I (*torn*)queath my soul unto Almighty God & to my saviour (*torn*) by whose death I trust to be saved and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Leckhampton. Item I give and bequeath unto William Randles four pounds 10s of money and four sheep. Item I give and bequeath unto Thomas Randles four pounds 10s of money and four sheep. Item I give and bequeath unto Walter Haryes and his wife 10s. Item I give and bequeath unto William Yonge and his wife 20s. Item I give and bequeath unto Harry Whore and his wife 40s. Item I give and bequeath unto Thomas Yonge a ewe and a lamb. Item I give and bequeath to Richard Peynter a bushel of wheat. Item I give and bequeath unto my three daughters all my apparel to be equally divided among them. Item I give and bequeath unto Jane Felowes a sheet & a porringer and a saucer. Item I give and bequeath unto John & William, the sons of Harry Whore, two sheep. Item I give and bequeath unto Catherine Longforte a bullock of the age of 2 years. Item I give and bequeath unto Edward Church one sheep. Item I give and bequeath unto Thomas Filto one sheep. Item I give and bequeath unto the four daughters of Harry Whore and Margery 4 sheets and four porringers. Item I give and bequeath unto Ralph Randle my best charger. All the rest of my goods unbequeathed moveable & unmoveable, my funerals and debts discharged and paid, I give and bequeath unto my son William Randle whom I do make my whole executor. Also I do appoint John Finche, John Geynes and Thomas Randle to be overseers that this my will be fulfilled.

Witness at the making hereof: John Finche, John Geynes, Walter Channler with others

Probate: 29 September 1571

### 1572/5

In the name of God, Amen. The 14<sup>th</sup> December 1571 I Agnes Wele of Leckhampton within the county of Gloucester, widow, being sick in body but of good and perfect remembrance, laud and praise be given unto Almighty God, do make my last will containing my last will and testament in manner and form following. Item I give and bequeath unto Edmund Pomfrett my godson my great broach. Item I give and bequeath to John Crompe my godson one sheep. Item I give and bequeath to William Crompe my godson one sheep. Item I give and bequeath to Agnes Pomfrett my goddaughter one sheep. Item I give and bequeath to six children of my son Thomas Wele every one a sheep. Item I give and bequeath to Michael Wele, son to the said Thomas Wele, a calf a year and a half old. Item I give and bequeath to Joan Wele, daughter of the said Thomas Wele, one yearling calf. Item I give and bequeath to Agnes mayo my goddaughter my best petticoat. Item I give and bequeath to Thomas Wele my son all the rest of my goods moveable and unmoveable not bequeathed, the which Thomas I make my sole executor, paying my debts and funeral expenses.

These being witnesses: Robert Willes and Ralph Churches

Probate: 14 April 1572

### 1573/35

In the name of God, Amen. The 7<sup>th</sup> October 1573 and in the fifteenth year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth the Queen etc, I Edward Donston of the parish of Swindon in the county of Gloucester, husbandman, sick in body but of perfect mind and remembrance, thanks be to God, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I give and bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God, maker and redeemer, and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Swindon. Item I give to the poor 4 dozen of bread to be given them at the day of my burial. Item I give my son John one broach which he has already in keeping, my best coat, my best doublet and 40s of good money 30s to be delivered at the next Easter after my decease and the other 10s to be delivered at Easter twelve month after. Item I give to William my son one bedstead, that is to say, the standing frame for a bed which is in the solar, my table board in the hall with the dish board and the form, my malt quern with my ox harrows. Item I give Richard my son five pounds of good money and three sheep which be ewes to be delivered unto him the next day twelvemonth after my burial and my will is that my son William have the oversight of him to place him with his legacy with some honest man that can and will instruct him in some good science or occupation whereby he may be able to get his living hereafter in the way of truth. Item I give Edmund my son five pounds of good money and three sheep which be ewes to be delivered unto him the next day two years after my burial. Item I give Thomas my son five pounds of good money, four sheep & one calf to be delivered unto him the next day three years after my burial. Item I give Joan my daughter five pounds of good money, one heifer of the age of two years, 3 sheep which be ewes, one feather bed, one bolster, two pair of sheets, one canvas, one towel, one coffer with lock and key and ten shillings of money to buy her a pot to be delivered unto her at the day of her marriage if she chance to be married before she come to the age of 21 years, if not she shall take and receive it at the age of 21 years. And my will is that if any of my said children die before he has received his part of legacy or before he has wit or discretion to use it that then it shall be equally distributed to the rest of my children which shall then be alive. Item I give Alice my maidservant one candlestick and one platter. Item all the rest of my goods and chattels moveable and unmoveable I give to Margaret my wife, making her my sole and only executrix to see my debts, legacies and funeral discharged. And I do appoint to be overseers of this my last will William Dontston my son and Edmund Gest and for their pains I give them severally 3s 4d.

Witnesses to this my last will and testament: Edmund Gest, John Hammons and Thomas Eliotes, curate there

Debts that I owe

First to Alice Biglen, my maidservant 23s

To John Licke 20s

To William Whitlegge of Cheltenham half one weigh of barley

Probate: 20 January 1573

### 1573/142

In the name of God, Amen. The 8<sup>th</sup> September 1569 I Robert Newman of Prestbury in the county of Gloucester, husbandman, being sick in my body but, praises being unto our Lord Christ, being of perfect mind & good memory, do make this my last will & testament in manner & form following. First I commend my soul unto the merciful hands of Almighty God & my body to be buried in the churchyard of Prestbury. Item I give & bequeath to the poor man's box 12d. Item I give & bequeath of my worldly goods unto Joan my wife two kine, four ewes, two brass pots, one cauldron & the wood that lies over the pigs' cote, six pewter platters & pottingers, two saucers, one salt cellar, one feather bed and a mattress with the appurtenances to one bed

belonging & four pair of sheets in all, a coffer & one candlestick. Item I do give & bequeath to Joan my wife one quarter of wheat & two quarters of barley to be paid within three years after my decease yearly to be paid one quarter of the same corn. Item I do give & bequeath to my son Thomas Newman's two of his youngest daughters, Agnes & Alice, two sheep apiece. Item I do give & bequeath to my son John Newman's three daughters Margaret, Margery & Alice two sheep apiece if I have so many at my decease. And all the rest of my goods unbequeathed I do give & bequeath unto William my son & unto John Newman's son William whom I make my executors of this my last will & testament & I do make my overseers John Higinson and John Wattes & for their pains I do give them the best sheep saving two that I have at my decease & that it is my will that after the day of probate my own goods shall be equally distributed between the two executors by the hands of those two overseers John Higinson & John Wattes & that my son John Newman's son William shall have my wains, ploughs & plough gear, my mill & cistern & that he shall have his part delivered unto his mother Margaret Newman's hands until such time that her son come to lawful age.

These bearing witness: Robert Benfield, Robert Smith, William Waulter the elder, John Higinson & John Wattes.

My debts that I do owe

First unto Alice Newman, daughter to Thomas Newman 33s 4d

To William Newman 13s 4d

To Master Bager for well's money 13s 4d

Probate: 22 January 1573

### 1573/193

In the name of God, Amen. The 6<sup>th</sup> June 1573 I Thomas Steevens of Prestbury within the county of Gloucester, husbandman, being sick in my body but, praises being unto our lord & Christ, being of perfect mind and good memory, do make this my last will & testament in manner & form following. First I commend my soul unto the merciful hands of Almighty God & my body to be buried in the churchyard of Prestbury. First I do give & bequeath unto the poor man's box 2s. Item I do give and bequeath unto Humphrey my son my tagged bullock of my own breed and my grey mare and my ox calf with two white feet behind and one quarter of wheat & one quarter of barley and my cistern, my good vat, my table board in the hall and my dish board, my iron-bound wain, my plough & plough gears & all chains & irons thereunto belonging. Item I do give & bequeath unto Daniel my son 8 strikes of barley to be delivered unto him when the Watershoot Field bear barley before Christmas then next following. Item I give & bequeath unto William my son the keeping of a calf by my executrix until it be two years old & 6 strikes of good wheat when the nether West Field bear wheat next to be delivered unto him at or before Michaelmas then next following. Item I give & bequeath unto William & Daniel my sons a pair of dung wain wheels or else ten shillings. Item I do give & bequeath unto Barbara my daughter 12 strikes of barley to be delivered unto her before Christmas next after my decease. Item I give & bequeath unto Anne my daughter 6 strikes of wheat to be delivered at Shrovetide next after my decease. Item my will is that if Daniel, William, Barbara & Anne, my said sons & daughters, happen to die before the foresaid legacies be delivered unto them according to the true meaning of this my will that then it shall remain unto the rest surviving by equal portions to be distributed. And further it is my will that Agnes my wife shall occupy & enjoy my cistern, my great vat, my table board and my dish board, my wain & plough & plough gears & all chains & irons thereunto belonging as long as she keep her a widow and at the end to leave it as good as it was when she first entered upon it unto the sight of two honest men. Item I do give & bequeath unto Humphrey my son two loads of good hay to be paid at my executrix's marriage or

within one month after to be delivered within the lordship of Prestbury by the sight of two honest men. Item i do give & bequeath unto Agnes my wife whom I do make my whole executrix of this my last will & testament all the rest of my goods & chattels , unbequeathed and I do make my overseers of this my last will & testament to see it justly & truly performed, fulfilled & kept Richard Latner & John Wattes

These being witness: Richard Hobbes

My debts that I do owe

First unto Robert Beecke of Arle	£7
Unto John Brocke	£3 6s 8d
Unto William Waulter als Christover	17s
Unto William Waulter	4s 6d
Unto William Smarte's children	41s
John Freeman on Bourton-on-the-hill	16s
Richard Shreewe	£3 3s 4d
William Badger, esquire	13s 10d
George Badger, gentleman	6s 8d
Richard Clemack	12s 4d
Richard Hibard	7s 4d
Richard Waulter	23s
Thomas Clere of Woodmancote	20s
Richard Tupley 20s & a quarter of good barley	
Barbara my daughter	27s 4d
Debts owing unto me Thomas Stevins	
First Thomas Tumes	17s
Maud Brounricke	8s
Probate: 13 October 1573	

### 1573/225

In the name of God, Amen. The 27<sup>th</sup> June 1573 and in the 15<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of our sovereign lady Queen Elizabeth, by the grace of God etc, I William Walter of the parish of Prestbury, husbandman, being sick in body but perfect in mind, thanks and praised be to Almighty God, do make my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I bequeath my soul to the merciful hands of Almighty God my saviour and redeemer and my body to be buried wheresoever it shall please Almighty God. Item first I give and bequeath of my worldly goods to the poor men's box in Prestbury 6s 8d. Item I give to Richard my eldest brother 40 sheep. Item I give and bequeath unto John Walter my brother 40 sheep. Also I give and bequeath unto my youngest brother William Walter 40 sheep. The rest of my worldly goods unbequeathed, my funeral and legacies discharged and paid, I give to my mother Joan Walter whom I make my sole executor.

Witnesses to this my will: Henry Norris, Christopher Wormhyll, James Jones, Thomas Norris with others

And further my will is that William Walter my youngest brother shall have the occupation of my lease of Kentes, doing and paying the charges hereof belonging.

Debts that are owing to me

Henry Norris 20s if God do his will by me that then he shall pay 10s to my mother and the other 10s to keep to himself.

Thomas Stevens does owe me 4s 6d

Thomas Butle (*illegible*)

### 1574/121

In the name of God, Amen. The 16<sup>th</sup> May 1574 I Reginald Cleveley within the county of Gloucester of the parish of Leckhampton, husbandman, being in whole mind and in good and perfect remembrance, laud and praise be given unto Almighty God, do make and ordain this my present testament containing herein my last will and testament in manner and form following. That is to say, first I commend my soul unto Almighty God my maker and redeemer and my body to be buried in the parish churchyard of Leckhampton aforesaid. Item I give and bequeath unto the reparations of the parish church of Leckhampton two shillings. Item I give and bequeath unto the poor folk at Charlton Kings six shillings eight pence. Item I give and bequeath unto my brother Thomas Cleveley dwelling in Westal one sheep and unto five of his children four shillings apiece but besides unto one Joan Cleveley, being one of the forenamed five and my goddaughter, I give four pence with one sheep and unto Thomas Cleveley, his eldest son, I give four shillings or else the bed of a wain. Item I give and bequeath unto another of my brethren named Robert Cleveley dwelling in Cheltenham two shillings with four shillings apiece unto his two children. Item I give and bequeath unto another of my brothers named John Cleveley the younger dwelling in Charlton Kings four shillings and unto four of his children four shillings apiece but unto Annis Free, being another of his children and my goddaughter, I give four pence with one sheep. Item I give and bequeath unto the children of John Cleveley the elder, another of my brothers, twenty shillings to be divided amongst them, that is four shillings apiece, and if any part remain of the said twenty shillings the same to remain to the father of the said children, John Cleveley the elder. Item I give and bequeath unto another of my own brothers named Harry Cleveley one cow with two sheep, two bushels of wheat and 4 bushels of barley and his two children every one a sheep. Item I give and bequeath unto my daughter Annis Houlder the choice of my kine, the heriots for the lord first discharged. Item I give and bequeath unto Alice Free, the wife of Rhys Free, one yearling heifer with one little brazen pot being broken in the brims. Item I give and bequeath unto her husband the said Rhys Free four bushels of barley and 2 bushels of wheat with a sheet, a blanket, a coverlet & two sheep and unto his daughter Annis Free one sheep. Item I give and bequeath unto William Houlder, the son of John Houlder my son-in-law, being one of my godchildren, one yearling heifer with one sheep and unto the rest of my godchildren I give to every one four pence. Item I give and bequeath unto the rest of my son-in-law John Houlder's children to every one two sheep and unto his three boys William, John & Robert to every one a brazen pot but unto his daughter Joan my second brass pan and I give to every of them a piece of pewter & a pair of sheets. Item I give and bequeath my best brass pot to John Cleveley, the son of my brother John Cleveley the younger now dwelling in Charlton Kings during the life of my brother John same and if he shall happen to have any children then my will is the pot to remain to some of his male children and if it shall happen the said John never to have any children of male kind then my will is the pot to remain to one John Cleveley, the son of the said Harry Cleveley, my brother, Item I give and bequeath to one Harry Hore one sheep. Item I give and bequeath unto one Richard Heynes and Joan Elberowe, my servants, one sheep hog apiece. Item I give and bequeath unto my son-in-law John Houlder all the rest of my goods moveable and unmoveable not bequeathed, the which John Houlder I make my whole executor, paying my debts & funeral expenses. Item Walter Brusse of Westal owes me twenty shillings. Also my will is that my brethren Thomas Cleveley & Harry Cleveley shall be my overseers to see that this my last will & testament be performed according as before expressed. Witnesses at the making hereof: Harry Hoore, William Smithe, Reginald Gines, parson there, with others  
Probate: 26 January 1574

**1574/137**

In the name of God, Amen. Upon the 29<sup>th</sup> March 1573 I Robert Benfild of Prestbury within the county of Gloucester, husbandman, being sick in my body but, praises being unto our Lord & Christ, being of perfect mind & good memory, do make this my last will & testament in manner & form following. First I commend my soul unto the merciful hands of Almighty God & my body to be buried in the churchyard of Prestbury. First I do give unto the poor man's box 12d. Item I do give & bequeath unto my eldest son Richard Benfild the table board, the bench, the form & the cupboard in the hall & my best coffer. Item I do give my father my best cloak. Item I do give & bequeath unto my youngest son John Benfild with one hand the house in the burgage that Christopher Davis now dwells in with the appurtenances thereunto belonging after my decease for the end & time of 80 years if the foresaid John do so long live. And all the rest of my goods unbequeathed, my debts being paid, I do give & bequeath unto John Benfild the elder, William Benfild, Christopher Benfild, John Benfild the younger with one hand, Agnes Benfild, Joan Benfild and Margery Benfild. And if any of these my sons or daughters happen to die before they come to this age which is here appointed that then the goods to remain to the other that are then alive by even portions. That is to say, the man to be paid at 24 years of age & the woman to be paid at 21 years of age. And further it is my will that my daughter Agnes shall have her part if any be at the third year's end after my decease if that she keep herself good & true & honest. And I do make my executors of this my last will Henry Norris, John Stubbe & John Wattes, whom I do faithfully put in trust. Item John Meadman & Lettice his wife must have the house which they now dwell in with the garden for the end & term of 9 years next after Michaelmas following & that the said John or Lettice must pay 12d a year yearly & the last year they must pay 3s 4d & the foresaid John & Lettice must have mortar & straw brought a place & they to lay it on. These bearing witness: Thomas Butlar, Rowland Parker, Thomas Smarte, William Pate the younger with others  
Probate: 7 March 1574

**1574/187**

In the name of God, Amen. The 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1573 and in the 15<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, Queen Elizabeth by the grace of God of England, France & Ireland, defender of the faith etc I William Walter of the parish of Prestbury, husbandman, being sick in body but perfect in mind, thanks and praises be to Almighty God, do make my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I bequeath my soul to the merciful hands of Almighty God my saviour and redeemer and body to be buried wheresoever it shall please Almighty God. Item first I give and bequeath of my worldly goods to the poor men's box in Prestbury 6s 8d. Item I give to Richard my eldest brother 40 sheep. Item I give and bequeath unto John Walter my brother 40 sheep. Also I give and bequeath unto my youngest brother William Walter 40 sheep. The rest of my goods unbequeathed, my funeral and legacies discharged and paid, I give to my mother Joan Walter whom I make my sole executrix.

Witnesses: Henry Norris, Christopher Wormehill, James Jones, Thomas Norris with others

And further my will is that William Walter my youngest brother shall the occupation of my lease of Kent's domg, paying the charges thereof belonging.

Debts that are owing to me

Henry Norris 20s. If God do his will by me that then he shall pay 10s to my mother and the other 10s keep to himself.

Thomas Stevens does owe me 4s 6d

John Thomas, butler 6d

**1575/3**

In the name of God, Amen. The 12<sup>th</sup> July 1573 and in the fifteenth year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God of England, France & Ireland Queen, defender of the faith etc I Andrew Lewen of Leckhampton in the diocese & county of Gloucester, husbandman, being sick & diseased in body nevertheless of good & perfect remembrance, thanked be Almighty God, do make and ordain this my present testament containing herein my last will in this manner & form following. First & principally I commend my soul unto Almighty God, Jesus Christ my only redeemer & saviour, faithfully trusting by the merits of his blessed passion to enjoy the everlasting joys in heaven and my body to the earth to be buried in the churchyard of Leckhampton. And touching the disposition of my worldly goods first I give & bequeath to Thomas Gregorye, my son-in-law, & Margery his wife, my daughter, twenty pounds of lawful money of England to be paid by my executrix hereafter named within one year next & immediately after my decease at two sundry days of payment within the same year. Item I give & bequeath to Richard Beckett my brother-in-law four bushels of wheat & four bushels of barley. Item I give & bequeath to Thomas Cherington, the son of William Cherington of Campden, 6 sheep & one yearling bullock. Item I give & bequeath to my goddaughter Agnes Fynche 2 sheep. Item I give & bequeath to my godson Andrew Coke 2 sheep. Item I give & bequeath to my godson Andrew Bowyer 2 sheep. Item I give & bequeath to my godson Andrew Merrell 2 sheep. Item I give & bequeath to my godson Edward Hawle 2 sheep to be delivered to Edward Wager his other godfather to the use of the said Edward Hawle. Item I give & bequeath to my daughter Alice ten sheep & one flock bed with the appurtenances which I will shall be delivered to the same Alice & her mother immediately after my decease. Item I will, give & bequeath to the poor people of the parishes of Leckhampton, Cheltenham & Charlton Kings twelve bushels of wheat to be made in bread & to be equally divided amongst them by the discretion of my executrix & overseers hereafter named. Item I give & bequeath towards the reparations of the church of Leckhampton twenty shillings of lawful money of England to be paid to the churchwardens for the time being within one year next after my decease and I give to four men to ring for me there 16d. Item I give & bequeath towards the reparations of the church of Cheltenham six shillings eight pence of lawful money of England to be likewise delivered and I give four men to ring for me there 16d. Item I give & bequeath towards the reparations of the church of Charlton Kings six shillings eight pence of lawful money of England to be likewise paid & delivered and I give to five men to ring for me there 20d. The residue of all & singular my goods & chattels moveable & unmoveable in what place or wheresoever they be found, my debts paid & burial discharged, I wholly & fully give & bequeath to Catherine my wife whom I do make, constitute & ordain my only & sole executrix of this my present last will & testament and I do ordain, constitute & appoint my wellbeloved & trusty friends John Alexander and Thomas Kympe to be overseers of this my last will & testament, authorising them by this my present last will & testament to see all my legacies & bequests in this present heretofore specified & declared to be truly performed & done according to the true intent & meaning of this my last will & testament. And I do give to each of them for their pains therein to be sustained forty shillings of lawful money of England.

These being present as witnesses to this my last will & testament: Reginald Cleveley & William Balynger and I do also give to each of them for their pains therein to be sustained thirteen shillings & four pence of lawful money of England.

In witness whereof I the above named Andrew Lewyn have caused this my testament & last will to be written & read & have allowed the same before my said executrix, overseers & witnesses the day & year first above written.

Debts owing by me the said Andrew Lewyn

To John Kent of Sandhurst	16s
To John Clark of Cheltenham	16s
To Miles, Mr Lygon's miller	16s
Debts owing to me the said Andrew Lewyn	
William Kynges owes me for wheat taken away by force appraised	£5 4s
William Kynges owes me for beans	£5
William Kynges owes me for 2 wain rails	10d

Probate: 5 November 1575

### 1575/108

In the name of God, Amen. Upon the 24<sup>th</sup> February 1574 I Nicholas Barne of Prestbury in the county of Gloucester, husbandman, being sick in my body but, praises be unto our Lord & Christ, being of perfect mind & good memory, do make this my last will & testament in manner & form following. First I commend my soul unto the merciful hands of Almighty God & my body to be buried in the churchyard of Prestbury etc. First I do give unto the poor man's box 5s. Item I give & bequeath unto William & William & John & to Elizabeth, Cicely & Felix my sons & daughters 20s apiece to be paid at 20 years of age. And if any of my sons or daughters happen to die before they come to this age which is here appointed that then the goods to remain to the other that are then alive by even portions. And all the rest of my goods unbequeathed I do give & bequeath unto Margaret my wife whom I do make my whole executrix of this my last will & testament.

These bearing witness: Henry Norris, Robert Fissher alias Smith & John Wattes  
 Probate: 28 June 1575

### 1576/34

In the name of God, Amen. The 14<sup>th</sup> January 1576 I Edward Giest of Swindon within the county of Gloucester, husbandman, being sick in body but of perfect memory, praised be God, do make & ordain my last will & testament in manner & form following. First I give & bequeath my soul to Almighty God & my body to be buried in the Christian burial in the churchyard of Swindon. Item I give & bequeath to my son Allen now remaining in the keeping of Robert Coocke at Ballnors Green within the county of Worcester. Item I give to the foresaid Allen the one half of the increase of all such grain as shall now grow & be upon my lands in Swindon and the other half I give to Elizabeth my daughter to be divided equally by the bushel between them two & that the one may have & enjoy as much of the straw & fodder as the other to find provision for their cattle. Item I give Allen my son one stone nag coloured grey and to the wife of the said Allen one great brass pot & one meat cloth. Item I give to Edward, the eldest son of the said Allen, 3 ewes. Item I give Edmund his second son 3 ewes. Item I give William his third son 3 ewes & if it happen any of them to die then the said sheep to remain to the other two. Item I give to every of the said sons of Allen one calf apiece. Item I give to Elizabeth my daughter 3 oxen coloured red & black & two kine & two heifers, one black & a red. Item I give her one grey mare. Item I give Edmund my cousin one hog wether sheep being in Cotsall. Item I give Elizabeth my daughter all my pewter & one cauldron. Item I give Allen my son & Elizabeth my daughter the whole fallow of my ground for the next year to be sowed between them according to the use & custom of husbandry do require & the grain thereof had to be divided equally as before. Item I give Allen all my plough gear at the end of such years as my daughter Elizabeth & he shall give up their husbandry before mentioned & in the meantime she, my said daughter, to enjoy the occupying between them jointly. Item I give all my wood about my house to the said Allen at the end of such years the said plough gear & wood to be made good between the said Allen &



Elizabeth at such time as they shall give up their said husbandry. Item I give my daughter Elizabeth also 20 sheep young & old. Item I give Edmund my cousin 2 bushels of barley & 3s 4d in money. Item I give to the parish church of Swindon 8d. Item I give to Allen my son 11s 4d owing to me by one Robert Cocke of Ballnors Green. Item I give Margery my daughter 8s in money owing to me by the same Robert Cocke at Michaelmas come twelvemonth. Item I do constitute that Elizabeth my wife shall have half the linen & half the bedclothes to be divided equally between my daughter Elizabeth & her. Item I do constitute & make Allen my son & Elizabeth my daughter my executors & overseers of this my last will & testament by this presents dated the year & day above written.

In the presence of: William Duttson, Richard Wode, Robert Goughe, Edmund Gieste

Debts owing by the testator

First to John Buttler	20s
To Richard Welswoman	10s
To Mr Baker	4s

which debts I constitute Elizabeth my said daughter to only see it discharged.

In witness: John Hamons, John Wells, Robert Goghe

Probate: 25 January 1576

#### **1577/48**

In the name of God, Amen. The 6<sup>th</sup> August 1576 I John Nyglet of the town of Prestbury within the county of Gloucester do make my testament containing therein my last will in manner and form as hereafter follows. That is to say, first I give and bequeath my soul to Almighty God my only saviour and redeemer and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Prestbury. Also I give to Annis my wife all my goods and chattels both moveable and unmoveable whatsoever they be as well within my house as without or elsewhere with all and singular debts and demands due unto me from any person or persons, to have, hold, enjoy and occupy all the foresaid goods and chattels with all and singular profits above named to the said Annis my wife, to use the same at her pleasure for the full term of her life without any let or interruption of any person or persons. And at her decease I will that she give no part nor parcel of her goods to any other person or persons than to my son Thomas Nyglet and Robert Byspe, son to the said Annis my wife. The which goods and chattels by the said Annis my wife so left at the decease of the said Annis I will to be equally divided between the said Thomas and Robert without any fraud or deceit. The which Annis my wife aforesaid I constitute & make my sole executrix, paying and discharging all my debts and bringing my body to the earth. And I constitute and make my well-beloved brother Thomas Appyrye overseer that this my will be fulfilled to the pleasure of God and the wealth of my soul and all Christians.

Witness: Thomas Colerick, Thomas Appyry, Morris Williams

Probate: 8 July 1577

#### **1577/148**

In the name of God, Amen. In 12<sup>th</sup> April 1577 I Richard Cosson of Prestbury in the county of Gloucester, husbandman, sick in body but of good and perfect remembrance, laud and praise be unto Almighty God, do ordain and make this my present testament containing herein my last will in manner and form following. That is to say, first and principally I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God and to all the celestial company of heaven and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Prestbury or elsewhere it shall please God me to depart. Item I give and bequeath unto my sister Elizabeth Cosson forty shillings. Item I give and bequeath to John Cosson the son of my brother six shillings eight pence. Item I give and bequeath unto

Steven Cosson my brother's son six shillings eight pence, a coffer, a bill, a paddle staff. Item I give and bequeath unto Joan Cosson my brother's daughter six shillings eight pence and also I give and bequeath unto Audrey Cosson six shillings eight pence to be delivered unto them by my executor hereafter to be named at the full age of sixteen years if they be then surviving and living. If any of those my forenamed cousins happen to die before they come to the age of sixteen years then my will is the rest surviving and living shall have these legacies by equal portions. All the residue of my goods and chattels not bequeathed I give and bequeath unto Thomas Cosson my brother whom I do make my whole executor of this my last will and testament.

My debts owed unto me

Thomas Taylor of Westal	37s
Alice Varander	10s
Walter Varender	6d
Mr Ockeland	12d
Elizabeth Goste	5s
Richard Launer	6s 8d
Thomas Packer	4s

Probate: 30 August 1577

#### 1578/226

In the name of God, Amen. The 14<sup>th</sup> January 1578 and in the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God of England, France & Ireland Queen, defender of the faith etc I William Bagehot alias Badger of the parish of Prestbury within the diocese, esquire, being of perfect mind & of good memory, I praise God therefore, do make this my last will & testament in manner & form following. First & principally I do commit my soul unto the merciful hands of Almighty God my creator by whose mercy and by the merits of his son Jesus Christ, without any of my own deserts, I have a sure and steadfast hope to be saved and I do commit my body when it shall please God to take me from this miserable world and transitory life then to be buried in the chapel on the south side of the parish church of Prestbury aforesaid in which I have been accustomed to kneel. And I do bequeath of my worldly goods first to the reparations of the parish church of Prestbury aforesaid 40s. Item my full intent and mind is that my two silver salts with a cover for the one of them and marked with W and B and also one dozen of my silver spoons marked with B and also two of my best bedsteads and two of my second best coverlets, two pair of my second best sheets, two pair of my second best blankets, two pair of my second best pillows, and the hangings in my great chamber over the parlour and the hangings in the little chamber over the hall and all the wainscot and ceilings fixed to any part of my house and all the portals and glass about my house and one long table board with a frame and two joined forms being now in my parlour and one square table board with the frame and two joined forms and one joined cupboard in my hall and the lead, the meshing vat, the mill and the uting stone in my brewhouse and also one great pair of racks of iron and two great broaches, the one round and the other square, and one great bar of iron in the chimney in the kitchen, shall stand, be and remain standers in my manor house called Hall Place wherein I now dwell for ever. And I do ordain hereby that whosoever of my sons or of my sons' sons that shall hereafter happen to dwell at any time or times in my manor house called Hall Place in Prestbury aforesaid shall have the use and occupation of the foresaid standers for and during such time and times as they or any of them shall dwell in my foresaid manor house of Hall Place in Prestbury aforesaid. Item I give and bequeath unto William Slaughter, my daughter's son, ten pounds of currant English money. Item I give and bequeath unto Margaret Bagehott, daughter of Edward Bagehott my

son, ten pounds of currant English money. Item I give unto Edward Bagehott and Charles Bagehott, two of my youngest sons, all my leases and all my lands and tenements which I have and do hold for any terms of years by the grant of any others, to have and to hold the same leases and lands and tenements to them and to their assigns for and during my estate or estates therein that shall be to come or unexpired at the time of my decease, to the use of Richard Bagehott my eldest son and of his heirs males of his body lawfully begotten. And afterwards, for default of such issue, to the use of George Bagehott my second son and of his heirs males of his body lawfully begotten. And afterwards, for default of such issue, to the use and behalf of Giles Bagehott my son and of his heirs males of his body lawfully begotten. And afterwards, for default of such issue, to the use and behalf of the said Edward Bagehott my son and of his heirs males of his body lawfully begotten. And afterwards, for default of such issue, to the use and behalf of the said Charles Bagehott my son and of his heirs males of his body lawfully begotten. Provided always that if any of my sons before named or any of their heirs males of their bodies lawfully begotten or to be begotten or any of their assigns shall do or commit any manner of waste or spoil in or upon the premises wherein I am now possessed for years as is aforesaid, or any part thereof to them or either of them so committed in use, whereby the said Edward & Charles or either of them or the executors or assigns of them or either of them shall or may be charged in action of waste, that then the use of the premises as to him limited so committing waste shall cease during his life and that from thenceforth it shall be in my said sons Edward and Charles & either of them to use & dispose the foresaid premises as it shall be thought good to them and either of them for & during the life of him that shall so commit the waste. Item my will is the said Edward & Charles my sons within six months after my decease shall be bound in several bonds to Richard Bagehott, George Bagehott & Giles Bagehott their brothers, being by them requested thereunto, every bond to be of the sum of a thousand pounds of currant English money, that they the said Edward and Charles shall suffer them & every their heirs males of their bodies lawfully begotten to occupy the premises according to the use limited for and during such term or terms as shall be to come or unexpired in all & every such my lease and leases at the time of my decease so long as they and every of them, their heirs, executors and assigns & the heirs, executors & assigns of them & every of them shall pay the rents and perform the covenants specified in every such lease and leases without committing or willingly suffering any manner waste or spoil therein or in or upon any part or parcel thereof, provided always and my full mind, intent and will is that the said Edward and Charles my sons and either of them and the executors & assigns of them and either of them, notwithstanding any word or matter before expressed, shall and may quietly and peaceably have, hold, occupy, enjoy & keep to their most benefit all such leases and all such lands and tenements as I have at any time before the making of this my last will & testament granted, assigned or set over to them or to either of them and to their assigns and all other leases that I shall hereafter grant or assign or set over to them or either of them for any term of years of any such lands and tenements which I hold myself by leases. And for the better assurance thereof and for the further benefit of Edward Bagehott & Charles Bagehott my foresaid sons and all others to whom I have at any time before the date hereof granted or let any lease or leases my full mind & intent is, and I do hereby will & ordain that Richard Bagehott, George Bagehott and Giles Bagehott within two months next after my decease or departure out of this life, shall be severally bound in several bonds or obligations to the foresaid Edward Bagehott and likewise to the foresaid Charles Bagehott as by them, the said Edward & the said Charles and by their learned counsel in the law, shall be thought best, which obligation they, the said Richard, George & Giles & every of them, shall seal & deliver to the foresaid Edward and to the foresaid Charles being by them or either of them requested thereunto every bond or obligation to be of the sum of a thousand pounds with condition that

they the said Edward & Charles and either of them and the executors and assigns of them & either of them & all others to whom I have at any time before the date hereof granted, let or set to farm any of my manor lands or tenements, shall & may quietly & peaceably without molestation, vexation, expulsion or interruption of the said Richard, George or Giles or any of them or the heirs, executors or assigns of them or any of them or by any others by their or any of their means, assent, consent or procurement have, hold, occupy & enjoy all such leases and all such lands & tenements, annuities, advowsons, grants & assignments as I, the said William Bagehott, have at any time before the making of this my last will & testament made, granted, let, set to farm, assigned or set over to them or to any of them or shall hereafter make, grant, let, set to farm, assign or set over to them or to any others. And if the said Richard, George or Giles or any of them shall or will refuse to enter into bonds or obligations and will not be bound in form aforesaid then my will is and I do ordain and appoint hereby that he or they refusing to be bound as aforesaid shall not claim anything by this my last will and testament, neither shall my foresaid sons Edward & Charles nor either of them be charged to perform anything to him or them that shall refuse to be bound in manner & form aforesaid, notwithstanding anything contained in this my last will & testament. And finally all other & the rest of my moveable goods unbequeathed and not given I give and bequeath them unto the foresaid Edward Bagehott my son whom I make, constitute, ordain & appoint my sole & only executor of this my last will & testament. Be it known that I do hereby revoke, renounce, call in and utterly annul all other wills, testaments, legacies & bequests heretofore had, made or written. In witness whereof I the above said William Bagehott have hereunto set my seal.

Witnesses at the sealing hereof: Edward Lightfoote, clerk, Richard French als Lane, senior, this writer, James Pinners, John Maio & Richard French als Lane, junior  
Probate: 17 December 1578

### **1579/160**

In the name of God, Amen. The 10<sup>th</sup> March 1577 and in the twentieth year of the reign of our sovereign lady Queen Elizabeth I Thomas Floocke of Swindon within the county of Gloucester, husbandman, being of whole mind and in good and perfect remembrance, laud & praise be unto Almighty God, make & ordain this my present testament concerning herein my last will in manner and form following. That is to say, first I commend my soul unto Almighty God my maker and redeemer and my body to be buried in the parish churchyard of Swindon. Item I give & bequeath unto the reparation of the same church 6d. Item I give & bequeath unto the poor people of the same parish 3s 4d. Item I give & bequeath unto Edward my eldest son a pair of hempen sheets, a canvas & a board cloth. Item I give and bequeath unto William my son a pair of hempen sheets, my best towel and my best canvas. Item I give and bequeath unto Joan my eldest daughter a pair of sheets. Item I give & bequeath unto Margery my daughter a pair of sheets. Also I give and bequeath unto Joan my eldest daughter ten pounds. Item I give and bequeath unto Margery my daughter ten pounds. Item I give & bequeath unto William my son ten pounds, the which said sum of thirty pounds to be paid by my executor hereafter named according unto this manner as follows. That is to say, five pounds the first year after my decease to be paid unto Joan my eldest daughter. The second year after my decease five pounds to be paid unto Margery my daughter and at the third after my decease five pounds to be paid unto William my son. Likewise at the fourth year after my decease five pounds to be paid unto Joan my eldest daughter. The fifth year after my decease five pounds to be paid unto Margery my daughter. At the sixth year after my decease five pounds to be paid unto William my son. So my will & mind is that the said sum of thirty pounds shall be paid within six years after my decease according unto the order aforesaid. Item I will & my mind is that my malt mill, a salting trough of stone, a

cistern, all my wains, ploughs, yokes, tows, a pair of harrows and one ox harrow, 2 garners shall remain unto the use of Edward my eldest son after the decease of Elizabeth my wife. The residue of all my goods & chattels, my legacies contained in this my present testament fulfilled, I wholly give & bequeath unto Elizabeth my wife and Edward my son whom I make & ordain my sole executors of this my present last will & testament. Also I have made William Dutsone and Baldwin Chager my overseers of this my testament & last will to whom I give full authority to see it performed and they shall have for their labour & pains 3s 4d. And I utterly revoke & annul all and every other former testaments, wills, legacies, bequests, executors & overseers by me in any wise before this time made, named, willed and bequeathed. These witnesses of this my present last will & testament: John Hanckins, clerk, William Dutsone, Baldwin Chager  
Probate: 19 May 1579

### **1580/60**

In the name of God, Amen. The 13<sup>th</sup> July 1579 I John Crompe of the parish of Leckhampton in the county of Gloucester, husbandman, being weak in body notwithstanding strong in mind and of good and perfect remembrance, laud and praise be given unto Almighty God, do make this my testament concerning herein my will in manner and form following. That is to say, first I willingly and with a free heart render and bequeath into the hands of my Lord God my soul, nothing doubting but that this my Lord God for his mercy's sake will receive my soul into his glory and place the same in the company of the heavenly angels and blessed saints. And now as concerning my body whensoever life shall give it over I commend it to the earth whereof it came, nothing doubting but that, according to the article of our faith, at the general Resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God. Item I give and bequeath unto John Crompe my eldest son all my tack, that is my wain & all other implements appertaining to husbandry as strings, yokes, harrows and such like. And also my will is that my said son shall have the third part with his mother of all my household stuff within the house, to be equally divided between them both by agreement of themselves or by my overseers. Also my will is that if my wife shall happen to marry then my wife shall pay or give or cause to be paid or given unto William Crompe, Gabriel Crompe, Thomas Crompe and Lettice Crompe, being four of my children, twenty pounds of good money of England to be paid at the day of her marriage and to be divided equally between them by even portions. Item I give and bequeath unto Giles Crompe & Jane Crompe, being two of my children, twelve years rent of my house at Alstone, the rent being 20s, to be equally divide yearly between them during the said term. Item I give & bequeath unto Richard Crompe, being another of my children, 4 bushels of barley and 2 bushels of wheat or else one cow calf to be delivered at weaning time at his choice or election whether of these he will receive. Item I give & bequeath unto Alice my wife all the rest of my goods moveable & unmoveable not bequeathed paying my debts & funeral expenses, the which Alice my wife I make whole executrix of this my last will. Also my will is Thomas Tanye and Thomas Pomfret shall be my overseers to see this my testament performed accordingly.  
Witness at the making hereof are these following: Roger Gines, clerk, John Pomfret, Thomas Mathewe, Thomas Hawkin, Ralph Churches with others  
Probate: 29 October 1580

### **1580/111**

In the name of God, Amen. In the 21<sup>st</sup> year of the reign of our sovereign lady Queen Elizabeth, by the grace of God of England, France & Ireland Queen, defender of the faith etc I Margery Norris, sick in body & whole in mind & in good remembrance, the

21<sup>st</sup> July do make this my last will & testament. I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my body to be buried in the churchyard of Prestbury. First I give to my son John Norris's daughter a red heifer, a great pot, a great pan, a coffer, a great charger, 1 platter, a great candlestick, a pair of sheets. Item I give to my son John Norris my piece of wheat of forlet\* ground before the house, my son Harry to have the straw. Item I give to the poor of Prestbury 4 b[ushels] of wheat. Item I give the rest of my goods not bequeathed I give to my son Harry Norris's 5 sons, namely Thomas, William, Edward, John & Harry by even portions. If any of the children die without issue then that part to remain to the other children that be living. I ordain my son Harry Norris to be my executor.

These being witness: Miles Barstid, John Pilman

Probate: 1 September 1580

*\*forlet = uncultivated*

