

## CHELTENHAM WILLS 1591 – 1600

1592/161

In the name of God, Amen. The 10<sup>th</sup> May in the 33<sup>rd</sup> year of the reign of our *(torn)* grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, defender of the faith etc and in the *(torn)* the computation of the Church of England one thousand four score and ale *(torn)* within the county and diocese of Gloucester do constitute, ordain and make this my last will and *(torn)* First I bequeath my soul and body unto Almighty God my maker, saviour and redeemer by *(torn)* to be saved and by not other means or merits and my body to be buried in the Christian bu*(torn)* of my executor. And for all my worldly goods I will, give and bequeath them as follows *(torn)* Margaret Latner my well-beloved wife all my free grounds with the appurtenances within *(torn)* Legbrook, containing by estimation four acres being more or less, to the said Margaret *(torn)* life and after her decease unto the heirs male of me, the said Richard and *(torn)* and for want of such issue unto Edward Latner my son and to the heirs male of *(torn)* issue to the right heirs of me, the said Richard, for ever. Item I give, will and bequeath *(torn)* the body of now my wife Margaret, that is to say my son Richard latner, William La*(torn)* Latner twenty marks to every one of them of lawful money of England. And if any *(torn)* or their part received that then they that overlive to have the said legacies of them that *(torn)* among them, provided always, and my very will is, that if my said wife Margaret who*(torn)* marry without the assent, consent and agreement of my trusty and well-beloved friends w*(torn)* this my last will and testament and before she enter into sufficient bonds with sufficient*(torn)* these my legacies unto my said four children bequeathed that this my very will and mean*(torn)* two of them shall by virtue of this my will and testament enter and take into their hands *(torn)* foods, chattels and cattle as well royals as personals whatsoever as shall amount unto *(torn)* children's legacies before expressed to the only use and commodity of my said children at th*(torn)* limited, that is to say, at their several ages of twenty one years or at any times befo*(torn)* discretion of my overseers. Item my very will is that if my eldest son Edward Latner do *(torn)* his right title and estate and interest of my house with the appurtenances in Prestbury *(torn)* and a half into the hands and possession of Mr Richard Badger or his heirs to the only *(torn)* Margaret, Richard Latner and William Latner my sons and that the said Margaret my w*(torn)* sons may be put in quiet possession by the said Mr Richard Badger or his heirs. And that *(torn)* do aid and procure to the uttermost of his power at the only cost and charges of my said *(torn)* lease of their three lives from the said Mr Richard Badger and his heirs to the said *(torn)* Lattner and William Lattner my sons according to the true meaning and intent of this *(torn)* and I give and bequeath unto my said son Edward Latner for the right that he has *(torn)* appurtenances, twenty pounds to be paid within two years after my decease. Item *(torn)* daughter Ellen Goodchepp's three children, Mary, William and Martha, 20s apiece to be *(torn)* my decease. Item I give, will and bequeath to my daughter Elizabeth Blower's dau*(torn)* two years after my decease. Item I give and bequeath unto John Meyow my best frieze *(torn)* best frieze hose to be delivered immediately after my decease. Item my very will is and *(torn)* and Mary Goodcheppe, my daughter Ellen Goodchepp's two children, more 20s apiece to be de*(torn)* my decease. Item I give and bequeath unto Martha Goodcheppe, my said daughter Ellen *(torn)* bed and bolster to the same belonging to be delivered within two months after my decease *(torn)* overseers. Item I give and bequeath unto Richard Fortye my godson 20s to be paid *(torn)* years after my decease. Item I do ordain and make my well-beloved wife Margaret Lattner my sole and whole executor of this my last will and testament. Item I do ordain and make my well-beloved father-in-law Richard Mylton, Thomas Apparrye, Richard Pates, Thomas Clyvelye, John Fortye and Thomas Mylton my trusty and well-beloved friends, to be the overseers of this my last will and testament to see it performed according to my trust and confidence in them.

Probate for Richard Latner of Cheltenham: 10 June 1592

**1592/182**

In the name of God, Amen. The 10<sup>th</sup> February in the 34<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth etc I Thomas Chester of Cheltenham in the county of Gloucester, sick in body but of perfect remembrance, God be thanked, do make this my last will & testament in manner and form following. First I commend my soul to Almighty God and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Cheltenham. Item I give & bequeath to my son Thomas 7 nobles of lawful English money due to be paid to me by one Richard Stone of Walsall at the Feast of St Michael the Archangel next coming after the date hereof and also 10s yearly during the space of 5 years to be paid by my daughter-in-law Agnes Elcockes as hereunder shall appear, the which said sums my will is that they be set forth by my executor to the use of my said son so soon as they shall be paid and so when he shall come to the age of 21 years that all the said sums with all their increase shall be paid unto him if he shall so long live. Also I give and bequeath unto my said son my greater cistern and a gard... being both at a house in Cheltenham now in the occupation of the said Agnes Elcockes. Item I give and bequeath to the said Agnes Elcockes all the term of years unexpired in the whole house wherein she and one Davy Voughan now dwell, on this condition, that she shall pay yearly for the term of five years next coming after the last day of April next coming after the date hereof to my executor to the use of my said son 10s at 2 terms in the year by equal portions viz. the Feast of All Saints and at the third day of May commonly called Holyrood Day or within 10 days after any of the said days of payment. Also I give and bequeath to the said Agnes all my moveable implements now being in or about the house wherein she dwells (these things only excepted which are before bequeathed). Item I give and bequeath to the said Agnes one brass pot, the greatest that I have save two. All the rest of my goods unbequeathed moveable and unmoveable I give and bequeath to my wife Agnes and her I make my whole and sole executrix of this my last will and testament. And I appoint for my overseers Thomas Aperrye & John Smith. In witness whereof I have set hereunto my hand the day & year first above written.

Witness: William Panton

Debts owing by the testator

First I owe to John Worrall of Manchester	23s	2d
To Goodwife Little	10s	
To Thomas Perrye to be paid at the Feast of the Annunciation next	6s	
To Ellis Hosted	7s	3d

but the said Ellis does owe him a great burden of hay

Probate: 4 July 1592

**1593/75**

In the name of God, Amen. The 2<sup>nd</sup> May in the 35<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, defender of the faith etc I John Little of Cheltenham in the county of Gloucester, sick in body but of perfect remembrance, God be thanked, do make this my last will & testament in manner & form following. First I commend my soul to God my maker & redeemer & my body to be buried in the churchyard of Cheltenham. Item I give & bequeath to Alice my wife all my goods & chattels whatsoever, my debts that are due to me only excepted. Item I give & bequeath to my kinsman Richard Stevens als Weaver of Henley Castle all such debts as are due unto me. Item I make & appoint my said wife my whole & sole executrix of this my last will & testament.

Witnesses hereunto: John Simes, Eleanor Syms, Auchers Lawrence, Alice Jones

Probate: 12 December 1593

**1593/126**

*(torn)* day April in the 34<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of our *(torn)* Elizabeth, by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, defender of the faith etc.

In the name of God, Amen. I Richard Milton of Westal in the parish of Cheltenham and county of Gloucester, yeoman, being sick in body but of perfect memory I do praise God, make this my last will and testament as follows. That is to say first I give and bequeath my body to be buried in the churchyard of Cheltenham. Item I give and bequeath my house and the ground which now is in the occupation of William Sanders unto Thomas my son for twelve years next and immediately after my decease. Also I will that my son Thomas shall have £11 15s to be paid unto him by my executors in recompense of the money I owe him. Item I give and bequeath unto Richard Hawkins my godson one sheep and one calf of a year old. Item I give and bequeath unto Francis Clevly, the son of Thomas Clevely, one sheep and one calf of a year old. Item I give and bequeath unto all the rest of his children of the said Thomas Clevly which he now has one sheep apiece. Item I give and bequeath unto my goddaughter Elizabeth Irland one sheep. Item I give and bequeath unto Giles Mathew, the son of Thomas Mathew, one sheep. Item I give and bequeath unto Thomas Ockye my godson, the son of William Ockie, one sheep. Item I give and bequeath unto Mary Yaringtone, the daughter of Robert Yarington, one sheep. Item I give and bequeath to the four children of my daughter Margaret Packer, which she had by her husband Richard Lattener, four sheep. Item I give and bequeath to the two children of my son-in-law Thomas Littell of Churcham two sheep. Item I give and bequeath to Anne Milton, my brother Richard Milton's daughter, one cow. *(torn)* and bequeath unto John Bishope my servant one sheep. *(torn)* give and bequeath unto my sister Margaret Chambers of Painswick 40s to be bestowed upon her by my executors upon such necessary things as shall seem most mete and convenient unto them for her wants, to be paid unto her in the space of one year and half next after my decease at four several times. Item I give and bequeath unto the poor of the parish of Cheltenham 40s to be dealt among them at the discretion of my executors & overseers at 20s a year, that is to say, 10s at and upon the day of my funeral and other 10s at the feast of Easter next after my decease and then 10s at Christmas next after and other 10s at Easter then ensuing. Item I give and bequeath 6s 8d to be bestowed upon the reparations of the parish church of Cheltenham according to the discretion of the churchwardens. Item I give and bequeath unto my son Robert my whole team with all the implements as belong, carts, wains and all other things thereunto belonging whatsoever and my wife to have the use and occupation of the same during her natural life. Item I give and bequeath unto my four daughters 6s 8d apiece. Item I give and bequeath unto my son William Milton 10s. Also my will is that those my gifts and bequests shall be paid by my executors in the space of four years after my decease, the gifts already limited to be paid excepted. I will that my wife shall pay unto my heir one hundred pounds if she do marry, to be paid unto him or her that then shall be heir by the custom upon the day of her marriage. All the rest of my goods, chattels moveable and unmoveable which are unbequeathed and not given I give and bequeath unto Eleanor Milton my wife whom I make my sole executrix. Item I make and appoint my overseers to be of this my last will and testament Edward Packer, Thomas Hawkins, Thomas Clevly, Robert Yarington, Edmund Packer.

In witness hereof I have hereunto set my hand in the presence of these witnesses:  
Thomas Packer, William Panton, clerk, William Wockeye

Probate: 13 November 1593

**1594/116**

In the name of God, Amen. The 20<sup>th</sup> May 1593 and in the 35<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of our sovereign lady Queen Elizabeth, by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith etc, I Richard Hickes of Alston in the parish of Cheltenham and county and diocese of Gloucester, husbandman, being sick in body but of good and perfect memory, thanks be given to Almighty God, do make this my testament containing my last will and bequeaths in manner and form hereafter following viz.

First I will and bequeath my soul unto Almighty God, assuredly believing that he will mercifully receive the same through the merits, death and passion of my saviour and redeemer Jesus Christ and my body to be decently buried in the parish churchyard of Cheltenham aforesaid. Then I give and bequeath unto Thomas Hickes my son my lands belonging to the parish of Staverton being six lands or thereabouts lying within the tithing of Alston aforesaid. Also I will that my son do use, occupy and enjoy the one half of my living in Alston with Alice my wife during her life so that he do aid, help and labour for her in the husbandry thereof continually and so to be joint partakers either with other of the profits. Item I give and bequeath unto Eleanor my daughter half a weigh of barley to be paid unto her by my executors in reasonable time and that her portion may be bettered at their discretion if so she uses herself orderly in good sort and to [their contenting?]. All the rest of my goods and chattels I give and bequeath unto Alice my wife, Thomas my son and Elizabeth my eldest daughter whom I make my joint executors equally to be distributed and divided betwixt them and that Thomas Sturme and Thomas Bicke whom I do appoint overseers of this my will to be aids and overseers of the distribution and proportioning thereof. Finally I give and bequeath to the poor of the parish of Cheltenham 3s 4d to be distributed amongst them at the discretion of my executors and overseers when they shall think convenient.

Witnesses unto the making hereof: Thomas Packer, Thomas Syurmy, Thomas Bicke  
Probate: 13 April 1594

**1594/131**

In the name of God, Amen. The 10<sup>th</sup> May 1594 I Rowland Hinkes of Cheltenham in the county of Gloucester, sick in body but of perfect memory, God be thanked, do make this my last will & testament in manner & form following. First I commend my soul to Almighty God my maker & redeemer and I will that my body be buried in the churchyard of Cheltenham. Item I give & bequeath to my son William Hinkes four pounds either in money or retail ware whether my wife shall think best to be paid him at his age of 20 years. And further my will is that if he shall behave himself well, duly & gently towards his mother until that time that then he shall have four pounds more. Item I give & bequeath to my son Rowland Hinkes £8 to be paid him either in money or retail ware at his age of 20 years. Item I give & bequeath to my son Thomas Hinkes £8 to be paid him either in money or retail ware at his age of 20 years. Item I give & bequeath to my godson Rowland Holdie 10s of lawful English money to be paid to his use within two months after my decease and my will is that the said 10s be set forth at the discretion of my overseers to the best use of my said godson. All the rest of my goods moveable & unmoveable I give & bequeath to my wife Eleanor Hinckes and her I make my sole executrix of this my last will & testament. And further my will is that if it please God to call out of this life any of my said children before their said legacies be due to them that then the legacies of or legacies of him or them so deceased shall remain to my wife & my child or children surviving to be equally divided amongst them all and to be paid at such time or times to those of the survivors as it should have been paid if the other had been themselves alive. I appoint for my overseers my 2 neighbours George Horne & John Holdie and for their pains I give them 2s the piece.

Witnesses hereunto: William Danton, curate, John Overburie, Izard Horne

Probate: 3 August 1594

**1595/103**

In the name of God, Amen. The 11<sup>th</sup> February in the 37<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth etc I Margery Read of Cheltenham in the diocese of Gloucester, sick in body but yet whole in mind and of perfect remembrance, thanks be unto God, do make my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God my saviour and my body to the earth from whence it came. As touching my worldly goods moveable and unmoveable, my debts and funerals first discharged, all the rest then I give and bequeath unto Thomas Baylise of Kemerton in the said diocese of Gloucester, my son-in-law, whom I make sole executor of this my last will and testament.

Witnesses: William Stevens, William Combe

A note of such debts as are owing unto me

First Thomas Meyseye of Colesborne owes me £6 11s

Giles Cooke owes me 20s and a peck of wheat

John Twyninge owes me 20s for which said 20s Nicholas Smythe gave his word to see it paid

Thomas Packer of Charlton Kings owes 13s 4d

Mr Dennis of Gloucester for weighs 7s

Thomas Edmand of Cheltenham 7s

A note of such debts as I owe

First I owe to Thomas Meyseye's wife 3s

Probate: 18 October 1595

**1596/35**

In the name of God Amen. The 12<sup>th</sup> February 1595 I George Hornebe of Cheltenham in the county of Gloucester, sick in body but of perfect mind & remembrance, do make this my last will & testament in manner & form following. First I commend my soul to God Almighty my maker and redeemer, hoping by the death & merits of my saviour Jesus Christ to have forgiveness of all my sins and I will that my body be buried in the churchyard of Cheltenham. First I give & bequeath to my daughter Agnes £8 of lawful English money (besides the two quarters of malt that she has already in my house), the said £8 to be paid her at the day of her marriage if she marry with the consent of her mother or of my overseers, but otherwise my will is that it be not paid until all the legacies hereunder mentioned be discharged. Item I give & bequeath to my son Walter £10 of lawful English money to be paid him when he shall come to the age of 21 years. Item I give & bequeath to my daughter Alice (besides her own stock) £9 of lawful English money to be paid her at the day of her marriage so that she marry with the consent of her mother or my overseers and my will is that it be paid her when she shall come to the full age of 20 years whether she shall be then married or not, either with their consent or without. Item I give & bequeath to my daughter Margery £12 of lawful English money to be paid & set out to her use at her age of 15 years until she shall come to the full age of 20 years and then to be paid to her with all the profits that has come thereof for the last 5 years before. Item my will is that if any of my said children shall depart this life before their legacies shall be due to be paid as is aforesaid that then the legacy or legacies of them so departing shall remain to the survivor or survivors of my said children to be equally divided amongst them. All the rest of my goods moveable and unmoveable, chattels and debts whatsoever I give & bequeath unto Issy my wife, making her my sole & whole executrix of this my present last will & testament. And further my will is that if my said wife shall happen to marry again after my decease before she has paid all the said legacies above specified that then she shall pay presently after her marriage all the

legacies then unpaid into the hands of my overseers or their assigns to be put forth to the use of my said children until it shall be due to be paid into their own hands. And I appoint for my overseers my loving neighbours Thomas Aperrie & Walter Masone. And further my will is that if any doubt shall arise in this my will that it shall be set down according to the discretion of my overseers as they shall judge my purpose & meaning therein to have been. On witness whereof I have hereunto put my mark in the presence of these witnesses whose names are underwritten. Item I give to my overseers 3s 4d apiece for their pains. Item I give to my brother of Gloucester all my wearing apparel.

Witnesses hereunto: William Panton, clerk, Richard Towrie, Elizabeth Ladde

Probate: 23 November 1596

### **1596/135**

In the name of God, Amen. The 9<sup>th</sup> March in the 35<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, defender of the faith etc I Thomas Mathew of Alston in the parish of Cheltenham in the county of Gloucester, yeoman, sick & weak in body but of perfect remembrance (God be thanked) make this my last will & testament in manner & form following. First I commend my soul to Almighty God my maker & redeemer, hoping for salvation only by Christ's death & merits and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Cheltenham. First I give & bequeath to my son Richard a featherbed & bolster which Ralph Wilcoxe laid to pledge unto me for 10s on this condition that the said Ralph or his wife shall at any time pay unto my son the said 10s that then he shall deliver them the said bed & bolster. Item I give & bequeath unto my said son 2 pair of hempen sheets and three quarter of barley, 12 bushels thereof to be paid at the feast of the Nativity of our saviour Christ which shall be in 1595 and the other 12 bushels to be paid at the feast of the Nativity of our saviour Christ 1596. Item I give & bequeath unto my son Walter 3 pair of sheets. Item I give & bequeath to my son Giles three pair of sheets and a little brass pan & 2 of my best platters. Item I give to my son Jeffery two pair of sheets. Item I give & bequeath to my daughter Joan's son Arnold one yearling heifer & a ewe & a lamb & one pair of sheets. Item I give & bequeath unto my said daughter's eldest daughter Joan 2 pair of sheets & to her daughter Eleanor one pair of sheets. Item I give & bequeath unto my daughter Alice's son Giles one pair of sheets and to her son Francis one pair of sheets & to her son John one pair of sheets & to her daughter Agnes one pair of sheets & to her other daughter Elizabeth one pair of sheets. Item my will is that my joined press in my chamber, the table board, forms & benches in the hall, the little buttery in the hall with the cupboard therein & all the tallets about my out-houses & all my beasts standings & a tub standing behind the horses for chaff & one cistern and the furnace, all these things my will is that they shall remain as standers unto my house so long as my wife or any of my children or their issue shall enjoy the same. Item my will is that within one month after my decease my executors shall cause three bushels of wheat to be baked in small bread & distribute the same amongst the poor of the parish at home at their own houses. Item I give & bequeath to my foresaid son Richard a young dun mare. All the rest of my goods moveable & unmoveable, chattels & duties whatsoever I give & bequeath unto Agnes my wife & Thomas my son, both which I make my executors of this my last will & testament to see my body decently buried, my debts discharged & my legacies above mentioned paid. And I appoint for my overseers Thomas Hawkin of Westal & William Gregorie of Arle and I give them ten groats the piece for their pains. In witness whereof I have set hereunto my hand the day & year first above written.

Witnesses hereunto: William Panton, curate of Cheltenham, Simon Spyre

Probate: 29 November 1596

**1597/176**

In the name of God, Amen. The 7<sup>th</sup> April 1597 in the 39<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth etc I Robert Staple of Cheltenham in the county of Gloucester, sick & weak in body but of perfect remembrance (God be praised) do make this my last will & testament in manner & form following. First I commend my soul to God Almighty my maker & redeemer, hoping for salvation only by the merits & death of Christ my saviour. And I appoint that my body be buried in the churchyard of Cheltenham. And for the worldly goods wherewith God has endued me I give and bequeath them all, both chattels, goods & debts whatsoever, unto my three daughters Elizabeth, Alice & Margaret to be equally distributed amongst them by my overseers. And I make and appoint my said three daughters jointly the executors of this my last will & testament. And I appoint for overseers my loving brothers Thomas Staple & Richard Staple & my kinsman William Ruggedale. And further my will is that, although I make my said daughters my executors, yet that my overseers shall have the dividing, disposing and ordering of all my said goods & debts to the use of my said daughters. And if any my said daughters shall marry without the consent of my said overseers or one of them that then the portion or portions of her or them so marrying against the will of my overseers shall remain and be given to my other daughter or daughters. In witness whereof I have put hereunto my hand in the presence of the witnesses whose names are underwritten.

Witnesses hereof: William Panton, clerk, Richard Querne, Robert Benet

I owe to Henry Greenynge £3 2s whereof is to be abated 6d for making of malt

I owe to Jane Force 19s 6d

I owe Joan Hyat £3 9s

Debts due to me

John Holdie owes me £5 already due and 10s also

Ralph Wilcoxe owes me	20s
Goodwife Kinge of Stroud, widow	£3 4s 8d
Katherine Ockewelll of Stroud	18s
Thomas Bankenet of Stroud	13s 4d
Richard Campnet of Stroud	16s
Thomas Goodrich of the Ham	29s 4d
Jeffery Tufely	3s 8d
Thomas Parke	13s
Robert Bennet	4s
Margaret Barnewood	5s

Probate: 1 October 1597

**1598/36**

In the name of God, Amen. The 24<sup>th</sup> October in the 40<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, defender of the faith etc I Ellis Hawsted of Cheltenham in the county of Gloucester, butcher, sick in body but of good & perfect remembrance, praised be God, do make & declare this my last will & testament in manner and form following. First I commend my soul to Almighty God my maker and redeemer, hoping for salvation in the kingdom of heaven only through the death and merits of my saviour Jesus Christ. And for my body I appoint that it be buried in the church of Cheltenham. And for my worldly goods which God ahs given me I dispose them as follows. First I give and bequeath unto my daughter's three youngest children, that is to say William Rogers, Richard Rogers and Eleanor Rogers, the pounds apiece of lawful English money to be paid to their use at the feast of Pentecost next coming after my decease to be set forth and employed to their best commodity by my overseers until the times hereunder mentioned and then to be paid by my overseers into their own hands, that

is to the said William & Richard when they shall come to the age of one and twenty years and to the said Eleanor when she shall come to the age of eighteen years. Item I give and bequeath to Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of my said daughter Rogers, forty shillings and two sheep to be paid to her at Whitsuntide next after my decease. And my will is that if any of my daughter's three children first above named shall depart this life before they come to the ages above specified that then the legacy or legacies of the party or parties so departing shall remain to be equally divided and paid amongst all the rest of my said daughter's children surviving at such times as they shall come to the ages above specified. Item I give and bequeath unto my said daughter Rogers the house, tenement or messuage whereupon I now dwell with all and singular the appurtenances thereunto belonging with all the right, interest & demand which by copy of Court Roll according to the custom of the manor of Cheltenham I have thereunto provided that, if Helen my now wife at the next Court held at Cheltenham after my decease shall lawfully surrender according to the custom all the right, interest & demand that she shall have in & to the messuage & tenement with the appurtenances in Cheltenham now in the occupation of my said daughter (except two acres of the said messuage to be reserved to the said Helen during her natural life), that then this bequest or legacy last bequeathed unto my said daughter shall be utterly void & of none effect to all intents & purposes. Item I give to the poor of the parish of Cheltenham 40s to be distributed by my overseers the day of my burial. Item I give and bequeath to my said daughter Rogers' children all the goods, household stuff, corn and cattle in and about the house or tenement where she now dwells yet she to hold the same still in her possession presently after my decease during her natural life if she shall be so disposed. Item I give & bequeath to my kinswoman Joan Hawsted ten groats and 12d apiece to my servants and to Isabel Cowper. Item I give and bequeath to my kinsman Nicholas Hawsted some of my wearing clothes as a doublet, a pair of breeches & stockings. All the rest of my goods moveable and unmoveable, lands, chattels, cattle, moneys & debts whatsoever I give & bequeath unto Helen my wife and her I make my sole & whole executor of this my last will & testament. And I appoint for my overseers William Drinkwater of Butlers Court and Walter Cooke of Leckhampton, giving them ten groats apiece for their pains. Item I give towards the reparation of the Market House of Cheltenham 6s 8d to be paid at such time as it shall be repaired. Item I owe unto my kinswoman Elizabeth Rogers above named ten pounds already due. Item I owe to Joan Hawlinge of Haydon five pounds. Jeffery Tuffeley owes me due long since four & forty shillings. I have an obligation of one John Gamon but it is all discharged saving 13s 4d. In witness whereof I have put hereunto my mark the day and year first above written.

Witnesses hereof: William Panton, clerk, William Reade, Thomas Goodrich als Welles, Anthony Greenaway

Item my will is that although my wife shall surrender all her right & interest of the messuage & tenement now in the occupation of my daughter Rogers as is above mentioned yet if it shall happen that my wife do depart this life before the estate which by copy of Court Roll I have in & to my now dwelling house with the appurtenances be fully expired & ended, that then presently after her decease the whole commodity of my said now dwelling house with all the appurtenances (except the moveable goods) shall remain unto my daughter's children during the rest of the said copy to be equally divided amongst them by my overseers or their assigns. Item my will is that my daughter shall pay the herriot at the said surrender.

Probate: 11 January 1598

### **1598/85**

In the name of God, Amen. The 26<sup>th</sup> May in the 40<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, defender



of the faith etc I John Ashmead the elder of Cheltenham in the county of Gloucester, husbandman, sick in body but of perfect remembrance, God be praised, do make this my last will & testament in manner & form following. First I commend my soul to Almighty God my maker & redeemer, hoping for salvation in the kingdom of heaven only by the death and merits of my saviour Jesus Christ. And I appoint that my body be buried in the churchyard of Cheltenham. Item I give & bequeath unto my son Thomas twenty pounds of lawful English money, five pounds thereof to be paid at the feast of St Michael the Archangel in 1599 and £5 more at the feast of St Michael the Archangel in 1600 and the other £10 at such time as the years of his apprenticeship shall be fully expired. Item I give & bequeath to Joan my wife two kine viz. the fallow cow & the brown heifer and twenty marks in money. Also my will is that she shall have the next house adjoining to my bedchamber wherein William Symmes did dwell of late, to have & to hold the said house with the appurtenances unto the said Joan and her assigns from the day of my decease during the term of sixteen years for 2s the year. And if my executor shall not suffer her to hold the said house as is aforesaid that then he shall pay her yearly during the said 16 years forty shillings. Yet my will is that my said wife shall continue & have her finding with my son John so long as they shall agree so to do but if she shall at any time mislike and shall be disposed to depart from my said son that then he shall pay her within one month next after her departing from him the one half of the said 20 marks before to her bequeathed and the other half thereof within one year after. Item I give to my said son Thomas a flock bed with the appurtenances & a pair of sheets & my best brass pot saving one. Item I give & bequeath to the said Thomas my house at Mead Furlong Stile with the backside lying on the south side [of] the land during the term of the lease, paying his brother 5s by the year for the same and also one platter besides his own. Item I give & bequeath to my said wife the third part of all the rest of my household stuff to be divided and appointed out by itself by my overseers and other my honest neighbours at such time as an inventory shall be taken of my goods after my decease. All the rest of my goods moveable & unmoveable, lands, chattels, debts & moneys whatsoever I give and bequeath unto my son John Ashmead and him I appoint & make my whole and only executor of this my last will & testament. And I appoint for my overseers my loving neighbours Randall Yeardley and Hugh Jones, giving them 3s 4d apiece for their pains. In witness whereof I have put hereunto my mark in the presence of those witnesses whose names are underwritten.

Memorandum: that my executor shall make my wife's house tenantable unto her.

Item I give to Alice French one sheep.

Witnesses hereof: Richard Gregorie, Thomas Maior, Peter Lawrence, William Panton, clerk

Debts due to the testator

First Thomas Gunner due at Michaelmas next	30s	
Edward Jones due at midsummer next	16s	
William Clifford already due	9s	4d
Richard Hammons at Michaelmas next	20s	
William Millard already due	5s	
Thomas Wager already due	8s	
Edward Barnewood already due	14s	
Anthony Machin due long since	20s	
Laid out more for Thomas Gunner	3s	4d
Robert Bicke the younger for barley	5s	
Sum total: £6 10s 10d		

Probate: 26 September 1598

In the name of God, Amen. The 28<sup>th</sup> November 1601 I Joan Mason of Cheltenham in the diocese of Gloucester, widow, being sick in body yet of good and perfect remembrance, praised be God, declared her last will & testament nuncupative in manner following. First she gave and bequeathed unto her godson Henry Mason, son of Walter Mason, 20s. Item she gave unto Mary and Hester Mason, daughters of the said Henry Mason, ten shillings apiece. Item she gave unto Jane Mason, daughter of John Mason, 10s. Item she gave unto Giles Perry, son of Thomas Perry her son-in-law, ten shillings, Item she gave to Edward Gregory, son of William Gregory her son-in-law, 10s. Item she gave to Jane Joyns one coverlet and a bed tick. And she acknowledged that she owed unto her son Henry Mason nineteen pounds, sixteen shillings & had but little to give away and made him her executor in the presence of Thomas Perry her son-in-law and others.  
Probate: 10 December 1601

#### **1601/188**

In the name of God, Amen. The 29<sup>th</sup> November 1601 I Toby Smithe of Naunton within the parish of Cheltenham, labourer, being weak in body but yet of perfect remembrance, praise be given unto Almighty God, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I commit and bequeath my soul to Jesus Christ my saviour and my body to be buried in Christian burial. Item I give unto Mary Smithe my daughter two kine and six sheep. Item I give unto Edward Smithe my son two kine and six sheep, the which four kine and twelve sheep given to my said children I will shall be sold at Holyrood day in May next before or at any time after the said day when they shall be marketable by the counsel and discretion of Robert Smithe my brother and Edward Church. And the said kine and sheep being sold I will the money for them received by the said Robert and Edward shall be equally divided between them and shall be employed and set forth in such sort as by their discretion shall be thought good and the increase thereof to be paid yearly to Ellen my wife towards the keeping and bringing up of my said children and the same to continue until they come to the age of sixteen years. But if they shall be placed in service at any time before the said term be ended and my wife then not charged with the keeping of them I will the increase presently upon the same shall be added to their legacies and to be delivered unto them when they come to the age of twenty one years or at any time before if the said Robert and Edward shall think it good. Also if my said daughter shall wilfully marry before or at the said term of sixteen or twenty years without the consent of her mother, the said Robert, Edward and other of her friends, then I will half her legacy with the increase thereof shall remain to Edward her brother. And if any of my children shall decease his or her part shall remain to the other that shall live. And further the said Robert Smythe & Edward Church shall declare and show yearly to Ralph Gynes, parson of Leckhampton, and to Ralph Randell of the same parish how they have employed my children's several legacies and what assurance they have taken for the same. Item all the rest of my goods, chattels & debts moveable & unmoveable I freely give unto Ellen my wife whom I make my whole executrix, she performing this my last will & also paying my debts & funeral expenses.

Witnesses hereunto are: Edward Church & Elizabeth Church  
Probate: 27 February 1601

#### **1601/190**

In the name of God, Amen. The 1<sup>st</sup> June in the 43<sup>rd</sup> year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, defender of the faith etc I Walter Mason the elder of Cheltenham in the county of Gloucester, mercer, sick in body but of good and perfect memory, praised be God, do make this

my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I commend my soul to God Almighty my maker and redeemer, hoping for remission of my sins and everlasting salvation only by the death & merits of my saviour Jesus Christ and I will that my body be buried in the churchyard of Cheltenham. And for my worldly goods that God has lent me I bequeath them as follows. First I give and bequeath unto my son Thomas Mason one hundred pounds of currant English money to be paid at his full age of five and twenty years. Item I give and bequeath unto my son Henry Mason also one hundred pounds of currant English money to be paid at his full age of four and twenty years. And my will is that my said two sons Thomas and Henry in consideration of their said legacies so soon as they shall come to lawful years shall resign and make over unto my executor all their states for term of years that I have taken in any land or lands to their use or to the use of either of them at any time or times heretofore. Item I give and bequeath unto my daughter Mary one hundred marks of currant English money to be paid at her full age of one and twenty years. Item I give & bequeath unto my daughter Hester thirty pounds of lawful English money to be paid at her age of twelve years. And my will is that if it shall happen any of my said children to depart this life before their said legacies shall be due to be paid as is above specified that then the legacy or legacies of the party or parties so departing shall be equally divided amongst the rest of my said children that shall be living to be paid to them or to their use at such time or times as it should have been due to the other so departed if they themselves had remained alive. Item I give & bequeath unto my beloved wife twenty pounds of lawful English money to be paid within three years next after my decease. Also my will is that my executor shall be charged with the maintenance and bringing up of my said two daughters until their legacies shall be due unto them but if my wife shall be desirous to have the keeping of my younger daughter and will be content to discharge my executor of the keeping and maintenance of her until her said legacy shall be due then on that condition I give and bequeath unto my said wife ten pounds more of lawful English money to be paid at such times as her former legacies is before limited to be paid. Item all the lands & tenements that I have at any time or times bought or purchased I give and bequeath unto Walter Mason my son and to the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten and for want of such heirs to my second son Thomas Mason and to the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten and for lack of such issue to my third son Henry Mason and to the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten and for want of such issue to Marie Mason my daughter and to her heirs. Item I give and bequeath unto my said wife all those implements of household stuff & bedding that she brought unto me at our marriage to be delivered unto her so soon after my decease as she shall demand it. Also my will is that so long after my decease as she shall be content to let my executor have the profits of her thirds or dowry in my lands & tenements that she shall have the maintenance of sufficient meat, drink & apparel with my executor in my house there to bring up my children keeping herself widow. Item I give and bequeath unto the poor people of the parish of Cheltenham 20s to remain as a stock to their use. All the rest of my goods moveable and unmoveable, chattels, debts, lands & tenements whatsoever before not bequeathed I give and bequeath unto my son Walter Mason and him I make & appoint the only and whole executor of this my last will & testament. And I appoint for my overseers my beloved brother-in-law Thomas Aperry and my beloved brother Henry Mason and I give them 5s apiece for their pains. In witness whereof I have hereunto put my hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Witnesses hereof: William Panton, clerk, Edmond Balinger

Probate: 8 July 1601

In the name of God, Amen. The 30<sup>th</sup> September 1601 and in the 43<sup>rd</sup> year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, defender of the faith etc I Ralph Ireland of the parish of Cheltenham in the county of Gloucester, sick in body but of perfect remembrance, praised be God, do make this my last will and testament in manner & form following. First I commend my soul to Almighty God my maker and redeemer, hoping of salvation of body & soul only by the passion & merits of my lord & saviour Christ Jesus, willing that my body be buried in the churchyard of Cheltenham. Item for the worldly goods that God has lent me first I give and bequeath unto my son Zachary all my weaving looms with all their implements and appurtenances and also, whereas I have given him by copy to be presented in the Court the one half of my living for certain years, I give and bequeath unto him my said son so much wheat and barley as this year shall sow his part of his land which is to be sowed with such grain. Item I give and bequeath unto my said son my great cistern, my joined table with the frame in the hall with all the forms and benches in the hall, my joined bedstead in the chamber and the dais board in the hall but with this condition that his mother shall have the use of the said cistern, table, bedstead and other things in the hall above specified during her widow's estate. Item I give and bequeath to my daughter Isabel one flock bed and a bolster, three coverlets & one pair of sheets, one brass pot, one cauldron, one candlestick, three pewter platters and one quarter of barley, the said barley to be paid her within three months after my decease. Item I give and bequeath unto my daughter Susanna twelve bushels of barley to be paid also within three months after my decease. Item I give to the poor four bushels of barley to be distributed by my executors where she shall see most need within one month after my decease. All the rest of my goods moveable and unmoveable, cattle & chattels whatsoever I give and bequeath unto Margaret my wife and her I make the whole & sole executrix of this my last will & testament. And I appoint for my overseers my loving friends John Curriour of Charlton and William Gale giving them three bushels.

In witness whereof I have put my mark in the presence of the witnesses hereunder named: Richard Whitterne, John Hawle, Thomas Coxe, William Panton, clerk  
Probate: 19 May 1602

