

## CHELTENHAM WILLS 1571-1580

**1571/147**

In the name of God, Amen. The 24<sup>th</sup> August in the 13<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 Richard Hawlinge of Cheltenham in the county of Gloucester, husbandman, being sick of body but of a good mind and perfect memory, thanks be to Almighty 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 my maker and redeemer and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Cheltenham aforesaid. And as for my worldly goods I give and bequeath them as follows. First I give and bequeath unto my son Thomas Hawlinge fourteen pounds of good and lawful money of England to be given unto him when he accomplishes and comes to the lawful age of 21 years. Item I give and bequeath unto Margaret my daughter twelve pounds in like money to be paid unto her at the age aforesaid or at the day of her marriage. And my will is that if either of them die before the accomplishment of the above years or the day of marriage that then the legacy of those so deceased shall wholly remain unto the other living. Item I give unto every godchild that I have 12d. Item I give unto the poor people of the parish of Cheltenham to be distributed at the discretion of the overseers where need shall require 15s. All the rest of my goods, debts and chattels moveable and unmoveable, my debts, legacies & funeral expenses discharged, I give and bequeath unto Alice my wife whom I appoint and make my full executrix. And I do ordain and appoint my brother William Hawlinge, William Pates, William Lane als French, Richard Merret and Thomas Brockbanke my overseers, desiring them to see these my bequests truly and faithfully done and fulfilled and also I desire them to be aiding and helping my wife in gathering up such debts as are due and owing unto me and for their pains so taking I give unto every of them 12d.

Debts which I the said Richard Hawlinge do owe

First I owe unto Thomas Higges the farmer	£7	
I owe unto Alice the daughter of Margery Smith of Alston	13s	4d
I owe to Francis Longe for a pair of shoes		9d
I owe to my sister Cicely	20s	
I owe to John Doweton		4d
I have remaining in my hands of the church stock whereof I have disbursed certain parcels which I have a note of	20s	
I do owe unto Henry Hurst for half a sheep		20d
Debts which are due unto me the said Richard Hawlinge		
Walter Brush of Westal does owe unto me two weighs of barley, payable at Michaelmas next coming and he the said Walter must receive of me or my assigns in full payment for the said two weighs	7s	
Moreover the said Walter Brush does owe unto me Richard Hawlinge or my assigns, payable when he has home his harvest this present year 1571 the sum of	40s	
Harry Maule does owe unto me	28s	
Thomas Stroude owes unto me	18s	
William Lane als French owes to me	9s	
Thomas Raynolds owes me for two weighs of malt	£6	12s
Moreover the said Thomas owes unto me		32s
and then the said Thomas must receive of me or my assigns eight bushels of malt		
William Pates owes unto me for two weighs and a half of malt payable at Michaelmas next coming	£7	12s
Robert Hibbart does owe unto me for one weigh and a half of malt	£4	16s

William Byggleyne of Stoke Orchard does owe unto me for two quarters of malt	22s 8d
Richard Reade of the same village aforesaid does owe to me	2s
Sybil Beale does owe unto me for making of four weighs and a half of malt	27s
James Parker does owe to me for 12 bushels of malt	14s
William Merrell does owe to me of money which I lent him out of my purse	5s
Robert Ancocke does owe me for barley	12d
Edward Bartram does owe me for three bushels of malt	4s
Robert Townsend of Badgeworth does owe unto me for one curnock of malt	5s 4d
Richard White of the same village does owe to me for two bushels of malt	2s 8d
Edmond Baddinge does owe unto me for two bushels of malt	2s 8d
Robert Corcke does owe unto me	8s
Thomas Burrall does owe unto me for one curnock of barley payable at Michaelmas next coming	[not stated]
And his wife does owe unto me of money which I lent her out of my purse	8d
John Hobbes does owe unto me for two bushels of barley	[not stated]
Lawrence Mace owes unto me for mowing 3 acres of grass	2s
William Whytlegge does owe to me for mowing grass	8d
William the son of John Hawlinge owes to me	11s
Richard the son of John Clerke owes to me of money which I lent him out of my purse	5s
Thomas Chester owes to me for mowing of three acres and a half of barley	12d
William Hawlinge of Southam owes me one bushel of barley	[not stated]
One his name is Mace dwelling in Coteshold owes me	4s 4d
Witnesses to this my last will and testament: William Barnice, Thomas Strowde, John White, Harry Maulle, Harry Gregorie and John Hitchcocke, curate there	
Probate: 13 October 1571	

### 1571/253

In the name of God, Amen. The 19<sup>th</sup> January 1570 & in the 13<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 William Smythe of Westal in the parish of Cheltenham in the county of Gloucester, servant unto Walter Lane, being sick in body but of a perfect mind and memory, thanks be given unto Almighty God, do make this my last will and testament in manner & form following. First I give & bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God my maker & redeemer and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Cheltenham aforesaid. Item I give and bequeath unto Margaret Smythe my sister three sheep. Item I give and bequeath unto Alice Smythe my sister two sheep. Item I give and bequeath unto Annis Jacobe my sister two sheep. Item I give & bequeath unto Margery Jhonsones five shillings to be paid unto the same Margery within two months after my decease. Item I give unto the poor people of Cheltenham whereas is most need 3s 4d. All the rest of my goods moveable & unmoveable I give & bequeath unto my brother Robert Smythe whom I make my full and whole executor of this my last will & testament, my debts, legacies & funeral expenses being discharged.

Debts which are owing unto me

First Walter Brushe my master owes me 17s for my wages & 6s for 3 sheep.

My master Walter Lane owes unto me at Holy Rood Day next coming 9s saving 2d  
Ellis Forty owes unto me 2s  
John Kympe of Cheltenham owes unto me 16d  
Debts which I myself owe  
I do owe unto Walter Milton of Westal 16d  
I do owe unto Walter Whithorne of Cheltenham 10d  
Witnesses unto the same: Walter Lane, John Varindare and John Hitchcoke, the  
writer hereof  
Probate: 19 May 1571

### **1572/10**

In the name of God, Amen. The 14<sup>th</sup> July 1569 & in the eleventh year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, defender of the faith and of the Church of England and Ireland supreme governor I Alice Mayles of the parish of Cheltenham in the diocese of Gloucester, widow, being weak in body but of good and perfect remembrance, thanks be to God, do ordain & make this my last will & testament in manner & form following. First I commend & bequeath my soul to Almighty God my maker and redeemer & saviour & my body to be buried in Christian burial at the discretion of my executor undernamed. Item I give & bequeath to John Mayles my eldest son five pounds in money to be paid in manner & form following: that is to say 20s a year until the said sum of five pounds be fully satisfied, contented & paid. Item I give & bequeath unto William Butler, my daughter's son, 12 bushels of barley to be delivered unto him at the age of 21 years or day of marriage. Item I give & bequeath to Margaret Butler, my daughter's daughter, other 12 bushels of like barley to be likewise delivered provided always that in case the said William Butler do depart this world before the said years or day of his marriage then my will is that his said legacy shall remain to the said Margaret his sister and in case the said Margaret do depart before the said years or marriage then the said legacies to them given to remain to my executor. Item I give & bequeath to Henry Mayles, the son of John Mayles, half a weigh of malt to be delivered unto him at 21 years of age or day of marriage and my mind is that my executor shall find the said Henry Mayles honestly till he come to the age of 21 years and then to make him apprentice. Item I give & bequeath and assign all my right title & interest of the years yet to come of one tenement situate, lying & being within the town of Cheltenham wherein I now dwell to William Mayles my son. Item I give to Margaret Butler my daughter all my apparel to my body belonging. Item I give unto Henry Smythe my son-in-law my great pan. Item I give to Margaret Carpenter, the daughter of Richard Carpenter, my best kerchief. Item I give to Agnes Mason 4d. Item I give to Alice Este 4d. Item I give to Alice Alcock 4d. Item to the poor people of the said parish 10s. The residue of all & singular my goods moveable & unmoveable, my debts, legacies & funerals contented, satisfied & paid, I give & bequeath to William my son whom I constitute, ordain and make my sole executor revoking all other testaments heretofore by me made & this to be my last will & testament and for the performance hereof I nominate & appoint William Pate & Henry Mason my faithful supervisors & overseers of this my last will and for their pains taken therein I give to either of them 20d.

These bearing witness: Thomas Jones, Richard Carpenter, John East with others  
Probate: 28 January 1572

### **1572/39**

In the name of God, Amen. In 1571 & in the thirteenth 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 Henry Clearke of Alstone in the parish of Cheltenham in the

county of Gloucester, husbandman, being sick in body but of good and perfect mind and memory, praise be to Almighty God, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I give and bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God my maker and redeemer and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Cheltenham aforesaid. As touching my worldly goods I give and bequeath unto William Clarke my eldest son one quern, a great cauldron, a chair, a brass pot and a barrel which was given unto him by his grandfather. Also I give unto the same William 4 ewes to be delivered unto him within one month after my decease. Item I give unto my son John 2 wethers and 2 hogs to be dd [given] unto him at the time aforesaid. Item I give to my son Richard the best of my 4 yearling calves to be dd [given] unto him at the time aforesaid. Item I give unto my son Thomas one tagged cow called Google and two wether sheep to be dd [given] unto him at the time aforesaid. Item I give unto my son Edward one black yearling calf and 2 of my best ewes to be dd [given] at the time aforesaid. Item I give unto my son Henry one black heifer which is now with calf and one sheep hog and one yearling ox calf and one good ewe and one of the best wether sheep. Item I give unto my daughter Margery one black heifer of 2 years old and 2 ewes and a quarter of barley. Item I give unto my daughter Alice the elder of that name 2 sheep and a curnock of barley. Item I give unto Margaret my daughter 16s and a curnock of barley which my brother Richard Clarke does owe unto me and one bed helling which was her grandfather's, one curnock of barley more and 2 sheep. Item I give unto my daughter Alice the younger of that name one cow called Lily and 2 ewes. Item I give unto my daughter Annis one row of wheat next unto William Ranoylde's on the east side and 4 sheep. Item I give unto Thomas Clearke, son of the foresaid Richard Clarke, one sheep called a hog. Item I give unto the poor people of the parish of Cheltenham 16d to be dd [given] at the discretion of the curate & my overseer. All the rest of my goods and chattels moveable and unmoveable, my debts and legacies paid and my funeral expenses discharged, I give and bequeath unto my wife Alice Clarke whom I make my full & sole executrix of this my last will and testament.

Witnesses to the same: Richard Clarke, my cousin, Alexander Tyson & John Hichcock, curate

Debts which are owing me

First John Kinge of Benhall Wood does owe me 16d and a bushel of wheat. Item Thomas Nycoles does owe me for summering of 2 beasts 2s 4d. Item Thomas Bloxson owes me 13s which I gave unto Margery my daughter. Item my brother Richard Clarke does owe me 16s and 4 bushels of barley. Item I give and bequeath unto Richard Clarke of Cheltenham my cousin one ewe & a lamb. Item I give unto Thomas Clarke the son of the aforesaid Richard Clarke one sheep named a hog. Moreover I do appoint and ordain Thomas Mathewe & Thomas Gregory to be my overseers and I give unto either of them for their painstaking therein 2s 8d, desiring them to see this my will and testament fully performed

Probate: 21 February 1572

### **1572/57**

In the name of God, Amen. The 12<sup>th</sup> August 1572 I John Robins of Cheltenham in the county of Gloucester, sick in body but perfect of memory and of good remembrance, make this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First and before all things I bequeath my soul to Almighty God and my body to the earth. Item I give and bequeath unto Agnes my wife all my goods moveable and unmoveable whom I make my sole executrix, paying and receiving all my debts.

These bearing witness: Robert Corke and Edmund Budding

Probate: 24 November 1572

**1572/179**

In the name of God, Amen. I Thomas Brackebanke of Cheltenham in the county of Gloucester, sick in body but nevertheless of perfect mind and memory, I give my Lord God the praise, do make this my testament and last will in manner and form following. First I commit and yield my soul into the merciful hands of Almighty God, my maker and redeemer, and my body to the earth to be buried in the churchyard of Cheltenham there amongst other Christian burials. First as touching the distribution of my worldly goods I give and bequeath to John my son half a weigh of barley, a coat, a leather doublet, a pair of hose. Item I give and bequeath to Alice my daughter her living here in my house during the years of my lease or else 40s yearly out of my lease to be paid yearly of whom shall enjoy my lease of years. Item I give unto my son William one feather bed, one pair of blankets, one coverlet, one bolster and one pair of sheets. Item I give unto Thomas my son one brindle cow and a cistern. Also my will is that Thomas my son and William my son shall have my wains, harrows, yokes, ploughs and all other things belonging or appertaining to the tack of the plough to be equally divided between them at the end of the lease. And if my wife do marry that then it shall be divided at the day of marriage between them. And also the lease of my house jointly to occupy during the term of years between them if my wife do marry. Also my will is that I will my goods shall be at my wife's day of marriage equally divided into three parts, that is to say to Agnes my wife, William my son and Thomas my son to be equally divided between them at the discretion of my overseers. And if she do not marry that then it shall be divided at the end of my lease. Also my will is that if it please God to call for William my son or Thomas my son or both of them that then I will that his or their part shall remain to John my son and Alice my daughter to be divided between them equally. Item I give and bequeath all the rest of my goods and reserved I give & bequeath to Agnes my wife whom I make my sole executor of this my testament and last will. Also I shall desire Thomas Parker and Thomas Wilshyre to be overseers of this my testament and last will, faithfully and truly kept and performed and for their painstaking there I give them 6s 8d to every of them apiece.

Witnesses to the same: John Jones, Thomas Wilshire

Probate: 8 October 1572

**1572/199**

In the name of God, Amen. The 12<sup>th</sup> November 1572 and in the 14<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 Walter Higgess of Cheltenham within the county of Gloucester, yeoman, being sick in my body and whole of mind and of perfect memory, laud be to Almighty God, do make and ordain my last will and testament in manner and form following. That is to say, first I bequeath my soul to Almighty God my maker and redeemer and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Cheltenham aforesaid. And as for all my worldly goods I give and bequeath in manner and form as follows. First I give and bequeath to Joan my wife, during herself widow, her meat and drink and the chamber where she lies now and 20s every year to be paid out of the same house during 12 years if she so long lives and also I do give her one feather bed with all his apparel, three pair of sheets, one coverlet and a pair of blankets, a canvas and the second brass pot with three platters, three pottingers and three saucers. And also I give to every one of my servants 5s apiece and to the poor people 5s. And all the rest of my goods, debts and details, moveable and unmoveable, my debts, legacies and funeral expenses discharged, I give and bequeath to Thomas my son whom I do appoint and make my full executor. Also my will is that that my brother Thomas Higgess shall have the government, order, use & keeping of my son Thomas and of all the goods that I have given him till he come to the full age of 21 years and that an inventory to be made of these things. And if God

shall call for my son Thomas before he come to his lawful age of 21 years then my will is that these my goods shall be equally divided between my brother Thomas and my brother Richard whom I do make to be overseers. And also I do give to Richard Merret and Thomas Wells three shillings & 4d apiece to be witnesses to my last will and testament.

Witness hereunto: Richard Merret & Thomas Wells

Debts that I the said Walter do owe

First unto Edward Parke	2s 6d
To John Clarke	10s
To Margery Clarke	10s
Sum	22s 6d

Debts that being owed unto me the said Walter Higges

First John Plummer, gentleman

Mr Edward Grevell

Thomas Lucas

Thomas Appary

James Dobbys

Sum	£11 6s 7d
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*The individual amounts are illegible*

Probate: 2 January 1572

### 1572/208

In the name of God, Amen. The 16<sup>th</sup> July 1572 in the 13<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 William Bendfielde of Cheltenham within the diocese of Gloucester, yeoman, do make this my last will & testament in manner and form following. First and above all things I give and bequeath my soul unto God the Father who made me and unto God the Son who has redeemed me and my body to be buried within the parish churchyard of Cheltenham aforesaid. Item I give and bequeath unto John Bendfielde my son all that my burgage or tenement wherein one Roger Showell now dwells in, lying and being in Cheltenham aforesaid being between the burgage of one William Frenche on the east side and the burgage of the said William Bendfielde on the west side upon this condition that the said John Bendfielde shall give unto Eleanor his sister at and upon the day of her marriage 20 marks of currant money which if he refuse to do then I will and do give unto my said daughter Eleanor the said burgage or tenement during her natural life, paying only the chief rent. The rest of all my said burgages I give and bequeath unto Alice my wife during her natural life, the remainder unto John my son. Item I give and bequeath unto John my son a great pot, a great pan and a great broach. Item unto Eleanor my daughter three pair of sheets, a board cloth, one bed and his furniture, all which goods I will shall be delivered unto my said daughter at the day of her marriage by the discretion of my overseers. Item I give and bequeath unto my said daughter one cow, six sheep at the day aforesaid and by the discretion of my said overseers. The residue of my goods and chattels moveable and unmoveable, my debts, legacies and funerals paid, I give and bequeath unto Alice my wife and John my son whom I make my executors of this my last will and testament. And for the better execution hereof I make and ordain my well-beloved Thomas Machyn and John Heywarde overseers of my will and testament.

Witnesses hereunto are William Lane, Thomas Strude, Thomas Teynton and John Alynche

Probate: 21 July 1572

### 1573/37

In the name of God, Amen. The 22<sup>nd</sup> December in the 15<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 Eleanor Lane of Alstone within the parish of Cheltenham in the county of Gloucester, widow, sick of body but of perfect memory, thanks be given to God, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First and above all things I give and bequeath my soul unto Almighty God and my body to be buried in Christian burial. Item I give unto Eleanor Lane, my son's daughter, one heifer of colour brown. Item I give unto Richard Wickyn's children in number five, unto every of them one platter apiece. Item I give unto Robert Lane, my son's son, one wether sheep. Item I give unto Alice, my son's daughter, my second best brass pot. Item I give unto the above named Eleanor Lane my second best brass candlestick. Item I give unto William Lane, my son's son, one of my best chilver sheep hogs. Item I give unto Henry lane, my son's son, one wether sheep. Item I give unto Eleanor Bendfield one platter. Unto Richard Lane, my son's son, my cistern, the cupboard standing in the hall, one andiron, the table board and benches and forms there, one basin, two platters and a latten chaffing dish. Item unto the said Richard one pair of sheets. Item unto Walter Lane, one of my son's sons, one pair of sheets. Item unto Margaret his sister one pair of sheets. Item I give unto Richard Wickyns, my son-in-law, my iron-bound wain and all that belongs unto him with all my plough timber. The rest of my goods and chattels moveable and unmoveable, my debts and funeral charges paid, I give and bequeath unto John Lane, Robert Corke and Richard Wickyns whom I make jointly my executors. Overseers unto this my will I make William Reynowldes and Thomas Sturmye.

Probate: 25 April 1573

### 1573/183

In the name of God, Amen. The 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1573 I Thomas Taynton of the town and parish of Cheltenham, sick in body but, praised be God, of perfect memory, do make and ordain this my last will & testament in manner & form as hereafter follows. First and above all other things I bequeath my soul to Almighty God our only creator and saviour and my body to be buried in the parish churchyard of Cheltenham aforesaid. Item to Joan my daughter I give a cupboard, my biggest charger, 2 platters, 2 pottingers, 2 candlesticks, a middling pot, a pair of canvas sheets and a bolster. Item to William Taynton 6s 8d if he live till Christmas. Item to Joan Clyfforde 5s. Item to those godchildren that come to my burial 4d apiece. All the rest of my goods and chattels moveable & unmoveable not bequeathed I give & bequeath to Margery my wife whom I make my sole & only executrix of this my last will. Overseers whereunto I appoint my well-beloved William Payte & William Goodchepe & for their pains I give either of them 12d.

Witness hereunto: John Greneway & William White

Debts owing unto me the said Thomas Taynton

Henry Cotton	17s
Robert Benfeyld for a plough strings & other dues	2s 8d
John Hamans	8s
Henry Kemmes for stray	20d
William Martyn	11s 8d

Probate: 29 June 1573

### 1573/247

In the name of God, Amen. The 25<sup>th</sup> February 1573 and in the seventeenth 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 Frenche the elder of Cheltenham within the diocese of Gloucester, being sick in my body but, I give praises and thanks

unto Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, of good & perfect mind & memory, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First and principally I commend my soul unto the merciful hands of our Almighty God and saviour, beseeching him of his great and manifold mercies and that he will receive my soul unto the holy company of heaven there to laud & praise his holy name for ever & ever world without end, amen, and I commit my mortal body to be buried within the parish churchyard of Cheltenham amongst other Christian bodies there. And of my worldly goods I give and bequeath them as after ensues. First I give & bequeath unto the poor people of the town of Cheltenham 12d. And I give & bequeath to Eleanor Frenche & Elizabeth Frenche my two daughters to every one of them five pounds apiece of lawful money of England to be paid unto every of them when that they or any one of them shall come unto their several days of marriage or at their age of 21 years. And all the rest of my goods unbequeathed, my funeral discharged, I give and bequeath unto Catherine my wife and William my son whom I do make my executors jointly of this my last will and testament and my will is that they for to pay & discharge all my debts that I am indebted unto any person. And I desire as my sure & faithful friends William Path, Henry Mason, William Goodchepe & Richard Merett to be overseers of this my last will & testament to see it truly done & performed.

Witnesses hereunto: William Path, Henry Mason, William Goodchepe & Richard Merett the day & year abovesaid.

Debts that I the abovesaid William Frenche do owe

First do owe unto William Path	46s	
Do owe unto Giles Drever	57s	
Do owe unto James Smith of Cleve	£8	
Do owe unto William Barnard	£3	
Do owe unto Thomas Bought of Cleve	10s	
Do owe unto Roger Byglyn of Stoke	14s	
Do owe unto Richard Merett	13s	4d
Do owe unto William Goodchepe	£3	2s
and one half weigh of barley		
Do owe unto Thomas Atkings	£4	
Do owe unto Henry Mason	10s	
Do owe unto Thomas Robth, clerk	40s	
Do owe unto Mylland of Tewkesbury	18s	
Do owe unto John Lettell for the debt that I did owe unto	9s	
Richard Hallinge and a quarter of barley of value	5s	
Do owe unto John Carpenter	£3	
Do owe unto Thomas Burrall	10s	
Do owe unto Thomas Coxe	14s	
Do owe unto Kympe of Gloucester, draper	6s	8d
Sum total	£37	6s

Probate: 2 March 1573

### 1573/248

(*torn*) God, Amen. The 27<sup>th</sup> October 1573 and in the 15<sup>th</sup> year of the reign (*torn*) Elizabeth, by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, defender of the faith etc, I Walter (*torn*) parish of Cheltenham in the county of Gloucester, husbandman, sick in body but of perfect mind and remembrance (*torn*) and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I give and bequeath (*torn*) Almighty God my maker, saviour and redeemer and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Cheltenham. (*torn*) unto the mother church 4d. Item I give to the parish church of Cheltenham aforesaid 12d. (*torn*) poor people dwelling in the foresaid parish half a weigh of wheat equally to be distributed to them that (*torn*)



need. Item I give to Ralph Barnard my kinsman 40s. Item I give unto Eleanor Mason my maidservant one red cow. Item I give to Agnes Grove my other maidservant one black cow. Item I give to Nicholas my manservant 6s 8d. Item I give to Robert Taylor 6s 8d. Item I give to John Taylor 6s 8d. Item I give to Frances, the daughter of Walter Brushe, 5s. Item I give to Margaret, the other daughter of the said Walter, 5s. Item I give unto Margery, the daughter of Thomas Taylor, 5s. Item I give to Margaret, the other daughter of the said Thomas, 5s. Item I give to Walter Olyvley 5s. Item I give to Agnes Clyvley 5s. Item I give to Mary Milton the pied calf. Item I give to Walter Hixe 3s 4d. Item I give to William Milton one black heifer with a white star in the forehead. Item I give unto Robert Byrche one bushel of wheat. Item I give unto Eleanor Milton my best pan. Item I give unto Richard Milton my iron-bound wain. Item I give unto Walter Frenche my godson 6s 8d. Item I give unto Walter Lane 20s. Item I give unto Margaret Lane, sister to the said Walter, 6s 8d. Item I give unto Robert Sherle one bushel of wheat. Item I give unto Eleanor Fawxe, daughter unto Robert Fauxe, 5s. Item I give unto William Holder 4 bushels of barley. Item I give unto Alice, the wife of John Humfrie, one bushel of wheat. Item I give to Joan, the wife of John Dylcoxe, one bushel of wheat. Item I give to the four children of Richard Barnes 20s to be divided amongst them at the discretion of my executors which hereafter shall be nominated. Item I give to Richard Wickens of Alstone 3 bushels of wheat. Item I give to John Whythorne my godson 5s. Item I give unto John, the son of John Gyles, 5s. Item I give unto Joan Grove one bushel of wheat. Item I give to William Milton the featherbed on which I now lie. Item I give unto Richard Barne the flock bed which is under the said featherbed. Item I give unto Walter Mylton 4s. Item I bequeath unto William Milton my great brazen pot. Item I give to Walter, the son of John Jacksons my godson 5s. Item I give unto Elizabeth Cooke one cow the price of 26s 8d. Item I give unto Walter Lane 20s. Item I give unto the five children of William French 26s 8d. Item I give to Thomas Milton 6s 8d. Item I give unto Roger Milton 6s 8d. Item I give to Agnes Milton 6s 8d. Item I give to Joan Milton 6s 8d. Item I give unto Margaret Milton 6s 8d. Item I give unto Walter Barnard one bullock. Item I give unto Walter Cooke 5s. Item I give to the children of Richard Frenche the under bailiff 13s 4d. Item I give to Thomas Clyvley the malt quern. Item I give to Joan, the daughter of Walter Cooke of Painswick, 6s 8d. Item I give to the daughter of William Pate 6s 8d. Item I give unto Thomas Cooke 5s. Item I give to the four children of William Frenche 20s equally to be divided amongst them. Item I give unto Richard Barnard my great broach. Item I give unto Walter Frenche of Arle my great chest and the iron bar in the chimney and my great cistern together with my garner of boards. Item I give unto John Nycholas, the bellman of Cheltenham, my best coat. Item whereas John Higgess of Cheltenham does owe to me £4 of good money for one weigh of malt I give unto my executors that shall be hereafter named full power & authority to demand and receive of him the foresaid sum of £4 unto their own commodity and whereas I am indebted unto Thomas Packer and Edward Packer the sum of £3 of money I will and charge my executors that they content and pay or cause to be contented and paid the said Thomas and Edward with the said sum of £3. Item the residue of all my goods and chattels moveable and unmoveable, my said debts and legacies and funeral discharged and paid, I give and bequeath unto Richard Barnard of Hardwick and Walter French of Arle, making them my whole and lawful executors of this my last will and testament, revoking all other wills and testament by me heretofore made. Witnesses and overseers to this my last will and testament these whose names are underwritten, that is: Richard Milton, Henry Hurste and Richard Barne  
 Probate: 20 January 1573

#### 1574/91

In the name of God, Amen. The 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1573 and in the sixteenth 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 Gregory of Arle in the parish of Cheltenham 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 my maker and redeemer and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Cheltenham. Item I bequeath unto the parish church of Cheltenham 3s 4d. Item I give and bequeath to the poor of the same parish 20s. Item I give and bequeath unto John Yevans, curate of the same parish, 2s 8d. Item I give and bequeath unto Henry Hurst the clerk 2s. Item unto John Nicholes the bellman I give and bequeath 12d. Item I give unto my sister Margaret 20 sheep which shall be worth 3s 4d apiece. Item I give and bequeath unto the said Margaret my sister £6 13s 4d of good money and one cow of the price of 26s 8d. Item I give and bequeath unto my sister Alice 20 sheep which shall be worth 3s 4d apiece and delivered out of hand. Moreover I give and bequeath unto her £6 13s 4d of good money which money shall not be delivered unto her otherwise than it is expressed here following. That is to say, she shall receive yearly of my executors or their assigns 13s 4d until the value of money aforesaid unto the said Alice be paid. And in case that my sister Alice die before she has this received her part of legacy then that part of legacy which is behind unpaid shall not be delivered nor paid unto her husband or any other for her but it shall be lawful for my executors to retain and keep it as their own. Item I give and bequeath unto the aforementioned Alice my sister one cow worth 26s 8d which cow shall be delivered unto her immediately after my decease. Item I give and bequeath unto my father my best bullock, one cow and 10 sheep which sheep are worth 3s 4d apiece. Item I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth Byngley one ewe with her lamb and 6s 8d of good money. Item I give unto Edith Foxe my goddaughter one heifer. Item I bequeath unto Alice Mylton one ewe with her lamb worth 5s. Item I give and bequeath unto John Fyntch one sheep worth 3s 4d. Item I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth Halliday one sheep worth 3s 4d. Item I give and bequeath unto Robert Halliday my coat, my hose and my canvas truss which I have now on. Item I give and bequeath unto Alice the wife of Henry Clarke 20s. Item I give and bequeath unto Alice her elder daughter 20s. Item I give and bequeath unto Joan my sister my term of years which I have on the close that I took of Richard Clarke and Thomas Mathewe. Item I give unto William Gregorie one mare. Item I give and bequeath unto my sister Eleanor one black colt. Item I give unto Edward Clarke 3s 4d. Item I give and bequeath unto Edith, the daughter of Mrs Grywell one ewe with her lamb worth 6s. Item I give and bequeath unto Agnes Gynkes one bushel of wheat. Item I give and bequeath unto Agnes Deacle half one bushel of malt. Item I give and bequeath unto Alice Raynoldes 10s. Item I give and bequeath unto Agnes Kemmes one bushel of malt. Item I give and bequeath unto Walter Brushe 40s which forty shillings he shall have and take up from the sum of money which he the said Walter owes unto me for a certain bargain made between us whereof I have an obligation to show. And whereas Henry Bycke owes unto me £4 of money I forgive him 5s of the said sum. Item all the residue of my goods and chattels moveable and unmoveable I give and bequeath, my debts, legacies and funeral discharged, unto my brother William Gregorie, my sister Joan Wattes and my sister Eleanor Foxe, making them my full and whole executors. And I do appoint as overseers of this my last will and testament Robert Bycke and Robert Milton and for their pains I give severally 3s 4d.

Witnesses: John Yevans, curate and Henry Hurst

Debts owing unto me

Thomas Mathewe owes unto me £4 but if the bargain shall stand which was made between the said Thomas and me about the Close within written that then the said Thomas owes unto me but 30s

Robert Hubbart owes unto me for half one tod of wool 8s 6d

The said Robert owes me also a certain sum of money as mentions a bill from his own hand

Richard Robbins owes me a certain sum of money by a bill of his hand, 10s  
excepted which I received in part payment of the said sum  
Henry Bycke owes me £4, five shillings excepted as is mentioned  
The wife of Thomas Sturmy is indebted unto me 13s  
Edward Packer is in my debt 40s  
Robert Milton owes me 40s  
Walter Brushe owes unto me a certain sum of money as is mentioned in an  
obligation from his hand except forty shillings which I give him from the said sum as  
is within mentioned.  
Thomas Higges the farmer owes me for one cow 25s and I do owe unto him 21  
pounds of tithe wool  
Thomas Packer owes unto me a certain sum of money as is mentioned in a bill from  
his hand  
Thomas Gardener owes unto me for one cow 26s  
William Whit owes me 24s  
James Parker owes me 17s which is the residue of the price of a horse which he had  
of me  
John Hammons of Swindon owes unto me certain money by a bill of his hand  
Richard Clarke owes me by a bill from his hand 20s  
Thomas Littell owes unto me 3 bushels of barley and 13s 4d  
Probate: 6 October 1574

#### **1574/149**

In the name of God, Amen. The 24<sup>th</sup> May in the year of our lord God I Thomas Davis,  
baker, of the parish of Cheltenham in the county of Gloucester, being weak of body  
but whole of mind & of perfect remembrance, thanks be to God, do make this my last  
will and testament as hereafter follows. First and before all other things I bequeath  
my soul to Almighty God me redeemer and saviour and my body to be buried in the  
churchyard of Cheltenham aforesaid. First I give and bequeath to my kinswoman  
Alice Dodswell three pounds of money to be in my wife's occupying while she lives  
and then to be paid unto her at my wife's decease. Item I bequeath to my four  
godchildren 12d apiece. Item I give and bequeath all the rest of my goods moveable  
and unmoveable, debts and other, unto Joan Davis my wife whom I ordain and make  
my sole executrix to this my last will and testament.  
These bearing witness: Thomas Chester, Robert Koxe and William Dauson, curate  
Item I give to Thomas Chester 3s 4d  
Item I give to Robert Koxe 3s 4d  
Item I give to William Gregory 12d  
Probate: 12 June 1574

#### **1575/56**

In the name of God, Amen. For as much as death is to all men certain and the hour  
thereof uncertain, therefore this present Saturday being the 13<sup>th</sup> June 1574 and in the  
sixteenth year of the reign of our lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God of England,  
France and Ireland Queen, defender of the faith etc I James Parker of the town &  
parish of Cheltenham in the diocese of Gloucester, being of good and perfect  
remembrance, thanks be to Almighty God, yet feeble and sick in body, do make this  
my last will and testament in manner and form following. That is to say, first I give  
and bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my maker, redeemer and saviour, and my  
body to be buried within the churchyard of Cheltenham aforesaid. Item I give and  
bequeath unto my sister Elizabeth two pottingers and one saucer. Item I give and  
bequeath unto my daughter Agnes the great bedstead that is in the great chamber.  
Item I give and bequeath unto my said daughter the flock bed that lies on the said

bed together with one pair of sheets, one dowlas sheet and the other of canvas. Item I give and bequeath her the best coverlet that I have one double canvas and one bolster belonging and pertaining unto the said bed. Moreover I give and bequeath unto my said daughter Agnes three pewter plates, 6 spoons, one pewter quart pot, one covered salt cellar, one saucer, one drinking cup of tin, my greatest brazen pot together with the least cauldron. Also I give and bequeath unto her the long table that is in the hall and two joining forms that belong unto the said long table. Furthermore I give and bequeath unto her the carpet that belongs unto the said table, one board cloth of diaper and one towel wrought with blue. Also I give and bequeath unto her two candlesticks of the middle sort. Item I give and bequeath unto my daughter Joan the bedstead that is in the great chamber together with the flock bed thereunto belonging, the second best coverlet, one white covering for the said bed, one pair of canvas sheets, one bolster for the said bed. Also I give and bequeath unto my said daughter Joan one pewter platter, two pottingers, one covered salt cellar, one saucer 6 spoons, one pewter quart pot. Moreover I give and bequeath unto the said Joan my daughter the table that is in the great chamber, one form belonging unto the said table, one dowlas board cloth together with the greatest cauldron and the least brass pot. Also I give and bequeath unto my two daughters Agnes and Joan the great wood pile that is in the backside to be equally distributed between them as the overseers of this my last will and testament shall think most mete and convenient. Item I will and bequeath unto John Parkere my son 40s of current money of England if he will come himself to demand the said money and in case that he comes not himself to require the said money and none for him or in his name then my will is that the said forty shillings shall remain in the hands of Agnes my wedded wife as her own proper goods. Item I will, give and bequeath unto William Melyne my kinsman my best coat that I have and my best hose. Item I give and bequeath unto Thomas Underwood my white frieze coat that I now do lie in. Item I give and bequeath unto John Underwod one pair of stockings of hose, the which I now wear. Item I give and bequeath unto Joan, daughter of Thomas Underwod my goddaughter 6d and to all the rest of my godchildren (base children only excepted) I give and bequeath unto every one of those that are lawfully begotten 4d. Item I am indebted unto John Jackson of Cheltenham in the sum of 2s 4d. Item to John Hulle of Chipton in the sum of ten shillings. Also I am indebted unto John Barentone, Mr Norowede's man, in the sum of 16s. Moreover unto Richard Plaster of Gloucester in the sum of 4s and also to Mr Halyday of Gloucester in the sum of other 4s. Hereafter shall the debts that are owed unto me be recited viz first Thomas Koxe is in my debt of 8d. Item Richard Abrame does unto me 5d. Item John Greneweys does owe unto me 2s. Item Thomas Garner does owe me 7s 4d. Item Thomas Felton alias Mylner does owe unto me 2s 4d. All the which debts I will and mind is that my executrix which hereafter shall be nominated and named shall levy, receive and rake up of my aforesaid debtors to her own proper use for ever. All the residue of all and singular my goods wheresoever they are or may be found (my legacies and funeral expenses together with my debts fully satisfied, contented, discharged and paid) I wholly give and bequeath unto Agnes my wedded wife whom I constitute, ordain and make my faithful and sole executrix of this my last will and testament, revoking all other wills heretofore by me made and this same to be my last will and testament.

These being witnesses following that is to say: Harry Hurste, John Underwoode. Also I do ordain, constitute and appoint to be overseers of this my last will and testament these persons subscribed viz: Anthony Machyne, John Teyntone and Richard Teyntone

By me John Evance, clerk, curate of Cheltenham

Probate: 31 May 1575

In the name of God, Amen. The 20<sup>th</sup> March 1575 and in the seventeenth year of the reign of (*torn*) lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God of England, France (*torn*) Queen, defender of the faith etc I William Rannolds of (*torn*) the parish of Cheltenham within the county of Gloucester, of good (*torn*) perfect memory do dispose & make this my testament containing (*torn*) in my last will in manner & form following. That is to say, first I bequeath my soul to Almighty God my maker & redeemer & my (*tom*) to be buried in the churchyard of Cheltenham aforesaid. Item I give & bequeath to the poor man's box of the same parish 20d. Item I give & bequeath to Peter Miles my son-in-law one quarter of barley & unto the children of the said Peter five sheep to be equally divided between them. Item I bequeath unto the children of Richard Bubb two sheep. Item to Annis Comme 6s 8d. Item I give & bequeath unto Thomas Rainolds 10s which is due unto the father of the said Thomas from Richard Machine for one tree. And all the rest of my goods & chattels as well within my house as without or elsewhere both moveable & unmoveable and that unbequeathed, all such debts & duties as either I or my predecessor do or did owe to any manner person or persons of right or of conscience be well & truly paid & discharged of my executor undernamed I give & bequeath unto Alice Rainolds my wife whom I constitute, ordain & make my only executor of this my last will and testament. And of the execution of the same I make and ordain my well-beloved in Christ Robert Bick of Arle & Thomas Matheu overseers that this my present testament be in all points fulfilled & my funeral discharged by my executor to whom and every of them I give and bequeath 20d towards their pains & I utterly revoke & annul all & every other former testament or testaments, wills, legacies, bequests, executors & overseers by me before this time made, named, willed or bequested.

These being witnesses: Robert Bicke, Thomas Mathu with others  
Probate: 11 July 1575

#### **1577/54(i)**

In the name of God, Amen. The 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1576 I John White of Cheltenham, sick in body but, thanks be to God, whole and perfect in memory, do make my last will & testament in manner and form following. First I give & bequeath my soul to Almighty God my saviour and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Cheltenham over against the Cross. Next I make my wife my whole executor. Item I give and bequeath to my son Walter Whitte one flock bed. Also I give & bequeath to my son Walter 3 platters, 3 pottingers, the best candlestick & the worst, the best pot, two pair of sheets, one coffer in the buttery, the table board in the hall. Also my will is that my son Walter shall pay to his sister Ellen [Eleanor] 20 marks of good and lawful money of England within one month after his father's decease. If he be not married to pay it within four years upon condition that his mother shall surrender and confess before William Pattes and John Stobes and Henry Gregorie that her interest of burgage & base tenure land to be good and lawful for him to marry [enjoy] after her decease. Item my will is that my wife shall have half the lop and shred growing on the grounds called the Whonstid and the whole lop, shred & fuel within the fields but shall cut down no manner of elm, ash or oak. If they be old to fell them at her pleasure. Also my will is that none of my legacy goods by my wife to be paid shall not be delivered at any time appointed but at their pleasure. Item I give and bequeath to my daughter Eleanor 2 pillowberes and one bearing sheet, 2 pots next to the best, one brass pan, the best cauldron, 2 candlesticks, the second and the third, two basins, 2 platters, 2 pottingers, 2 saucers, one cow called Fillpail given to her of a calf, one featherbed, one pair of hempen sheets, one blanket, one coverlet red and yellow, one pair of hurden sheets and a flock bed, the best chest standing in the chamber & six sheep. Item I give to Alice Barnes a pair of sheets. If any of these legacies be worn out the executor not to stand to it. Item I give and bequeath to my overseers William Pats and John Stobbes 12d apiece.

Probate: 3 June 1577

*Note: there is a second copy of the will written in a different hand. The only difference between it and the first are the words in brackets above ie Eleanor for Ellen and enjoy for marry. The underlined phrases are badly written and spelled and inserted in the second copy in a third hand. There are no witnesses named in either. The second copy has no probate details.*

**1577/110**

In the name of God, Amen. I Richard Barns of Alstone in the parish of Cheltenham and in the county of Gloucester, husbandman, being sick in body but of a good and perfect memory, thanks be to God, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God and my body to be buried in the earth. Secondly all my goods and chattels as hereafter follows. Item I give and bequeath unto Eleanor my daughter one cow tagged called Millie and 14 bushels of barley and two bushels of wheat and one pair of sheets and two chilver sheep. Item I give and bequeath unto John Barns my brother three acres of arable land during to the end term of the years of my copy, one half acre lying in the sand field near unto Clark's Close and to Butts, the one lying in Hitchlands & the other in Will Furlong, four lands in Gorkyt in the nether side and one acre in Rowen field, the nethermost saving one. Item I give to Joan my daughter one bullock of two years old & six bushels of barley, one pair of sheets if she be ruled by her mother and her friends, if not she shall have nothing. All the rest of my goods moveable and unmoveable I give to Joan my wife the one half and to John and John my two sons the other half. And if that Joan my wife do marry again that then she shall have but the third part with my two sons and any of them do die their part that dies shall remain to those that be alive. Also I give to Richard Mylton's three younger sons one bushel of wheat. Item Mr Gills Grevell the elder does owe me for a bushel of malt 22d. Item I owe to Thomas Hygges of Cheltenham for two loads of hay 26s 8d. Item I owe to John my eldest brother 10s. Item I owe to Richard my brother 15s. Item I owe to John my younger brother 28s. Item I owe to Margery my sister 20s. Item i give to Margery my sister one bushel of barley. Item I give to William Mylton my godson 12d. Item I give to Richard Robyn's two children, the which he had by my sister, one bushel of wheat & that William Barns & John Barns, my two brothers, *illegible*. Item I give to the poor man's box 4d. Item I make Joan my wife & John & John my two sons my executors and *illegible* Mylton of Westal and William Barns my brother my overseers.

Witnesses: Harry Bycke, Thomas Gregorye, Thomas Wharton

Probate: 23 September 1577

**1578/148**

In the name of God, Amen. I Richard Clerke of Alstone of Alstone in the parish of Cheltenham in the county of Gloucester, husbandman, being very sick in body but of good and perfect memory, thanks be to God, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God and my body to the earth. Secondly all my goods and chattels as hereafter follows. Item I give and bequeath to Richard Clerke, my brother's son's son, one brass pot. Also I give to Anthony Clerke, my brother's son's son, one pan. Item I give to Alice Tufley, my brother's daughter, two of my best platters. Item I give to Joan Abean my flock bed the which I lie on, two coverlets, one blanket, one twill canvas, my best pair of sheets, two towels, my best coffer and my best pail, one cauldron and my little square table. Item I give to the poor in the parish of Cheltenham 6s 8d. Item I give to Margaret my sister one pair of sheets. Also I give to the same Margaret 3s 4d a year for 12 years if she live so long to be paid quarterly by my executor. Richard Clarke

My debts which I owe

I owe to Margaret Smith of Alstone £3 10s.

To the same Margaret one peck & a half of wheat and one peck & a half barley.

Item I owe to Thomas Bycke for a bushel of malt 2s 2d.

Item I owe to Thomas Davys of Bisley 10s.

Item I owe to Elizabeth Davys 8s.

Item I owe to William Gregorye of Arle 6s 8d.

Item I give to Edward Jones and Thomas Sturmy whom I make my overseers 4s.

All the rest of my goods and chattels I give to Richard Clarke my brother's son whom I make my executor.

Probate: 17 May 1578

