

CIRENCESTER AREA WILLS 1571-1580

1574/7

In the name of God, Amen. The 24th July 1574 I Anne Greneway in the parish of Daglingworth in the county of Gloucester, widow, being sick of body nevertheless whole of mind & of good remembrance, laud & praise be given to God, do make my testament confirming herein my last will in manner & form following. That is to say, first I commend my soul to Almighty God my maker & redeemer and my body to the earth to be buried by my husband. Item I give & bequeath to the seven children that John Yelles has by my daughter unto every one of them 10 bushels of barley to be delivered yearly, that is to say at the Purification of Our Lady the Virgin next after my departure to the elder 10 bushels and so to the next eldest the same day twelve month next following 10 bushels and so that day every year in the whole be paid. Also I give unto the same seven children to every one of them 2 chilver sheep apiece as they shall run forth of the fold and my will is that my executor hereafter to be named shall keep the said sheep unto such time that the children be of discretion and shall give such reasonable hire for the said sheep as my overseers shall think good and when the hire does amount to so much money as will buy another sheep my executor shall buy the said sheep to the nourish of the children & so to keep the nourish until such time as the children come to discretion and then to deliver his part or her part with the nourish. Also my will is that if any of the foresaid children die before he or her or any of them be of full discretion as is aforesaid that his or her part be equally divided among these that be living. Item I give Alice Yeles, John Yeles' daughter, my great pot which I bought last, two pottingers, 2 saucers, a new salt cellar, 2 candlesticks and the coffer that stands in the hall. Item I give to Anne Yeles, John Yeles' daughter my goddaughter, the little pan, the bigger cauldron, 2 pottingers & 2 saucers. Item I give to the other three daughters of John Yeles, Edie, Frances and Katherine, to every of these a saucer. Item I give to William Yeles, John Yeles' son, my second best pan. Item I give & bequeath to John Yeles my son-in-law 6 chilver sheep that shall not be of the worst nor of the best to be delivered at the feast of All Saints next after my departure. Item I will & appoint my executor to deliver to Robert Chanler my son-in-law one score of sheep which I promised him at his betrothing to my daughter and four beasts that I promised him at that said time, that is to say, one of my kine & a bullock at Preston and the other two beasts on Holyrood Day come two years which shall be in 1576. Also I give to Robert Chanler 12 bushels of barley to be paid 6 bushels at Candlemas next after my departure & that the other 6 bushels that day twelvemonth next following. Item I give to John Chanler, Robert Chanler's son, 4 bushels of barley. Item I give & bequeath to my two daughters Iseard Yeles & Anne Chanler all my wearing clothes, one medley cassock excepted which I give to my sister Alice Turner, and all my linen except 3 pair of harden sheets which I give to my son Harry & 3 sheets which I give to Richard Grenway my cousin and the said linen to be equally divided between my two daughters. Item I give to my daughter Iseard Yeles the bed which I do now lie on with all belonging to him and a bolster & one fine blanket. Item I give to Anne Chanler the featherbed that has the old case, a bolster & the other fine blanket, a carpet cloth which I bought last, a coverlet in the back chamber. Also I give to my two daughters all my woollen cloth that is yet unoccupied. Item I give & bequeath to Richard Grenway, my cousin and now being my servant, the standing bedstead that stands in the brond chamber, a flock bed, 3 sheets & 2 acres of barley to be delivered by my overseer or by one of them not of the best or of the worst at harvest next after my departure. Also I give to Richard Grenway a coffer that stands in the back chamber. Item I give to Anne Chanler the new cupboard that stands in the hall and a coffer that stands in my chamber by the window. Also I give to Robert Chanler a swarm of bees and to Iseard Yeles I give a coffer that stands in my chamber at my bedside.

Item I give & bequeath to John Yeles & to Robert Chaneler all the wood that stands in the peit in the overside of the close. Item I give to John Yeles one reasonable load of hay in my lease lying in Stratton every year during the years of the lease which I hold of Mr Maysters by indenture for years yet to come to be made and delivered by my executor. I give to Iseard Yeles my little stool. Also I give to my two daughters Iseard Yeles and Anne Chaneler to either of them a red coverlet and to every of them 2 of my best platters and to Anne Chaneler my best candlestick of brass and a white candlestick and to Iseard Yeles 2 of my second best candlesticks of brass and to them two the four counterfeited dishes. Item I give to Iseard Yeles during the term of 4 years next ensuing every year half a tod of wool to be delivered to her in the shear hey by my executor or his deputy, every year seven pounds of good wool. Also I give to Anne Chaneler the piece of the best broach that was left & as much of other iron as will make a broach for her. And I give to my two daughters to either of them a pillow & to Iseard a posnet that I bought of Longe and to Anne a chair and a little pan in the buttery. Item I give & bequeath to Harry Greneway my son the house with the appurtenances belonging to him which I now dwell in that I have taken of Henry Eldrynton, gentleman, & Elizabeth his wife by indenture for years to come as the indenture do specify more at large. The whole years I give him if he live so long and if God do call away my son Harry before the years of the said indenture be fully ended the years of the said house with the appurtenances then to come I freely give & bequeath to Richard Greneway my cousin now being my servant. Item I give to my two daughters Iseard & Anne four silver spoons to either of them 2. Item I give to Richard Heynes, John Rydeler & Richard Gyllum my godsons to either of them a sheep apiece. Item I give to the Goodwife Gyllum half a bushel of barley and a poke of wheat and to Robert Vycare a poke of barley & to Anne Androwse half a bushel of barley and to the weaver a peck of wheat & a poke of barley. The residue of all my goods not given nor bequeathed, my debts paid, my legacies and funeral expenses performed, I freely give & bequeath to Harry Greneway my son whom I do make my whole executor of this my last will and testament and do make & appoint to see this my last will in all points to be performed Giles Dobbys and Leonard Turner and I give to either of them for their labour a sheep.

These being witnesses: John Turner, Thomas Heynes, Robert Hancock and Leonard Turner with others

Probate: 11 September 1574

1574/148

In the name of God, Amen. The 3rd October 1574 in the 16th year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, of England, France & Ireland Queen, I Thomas Williams, clerk, parson of Coates in the county of Gloucester, sick in body but whole of mind, God be praised therefore, do make this my testament and last will in manner & form following. First I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God and my body to be buried in the chancel of Coates. Item I give, remit & forgive all such money and debts as any of the poor people owed or owe unto me. Item my will is that my cousin Richard Coxe of Little Fawley in the county of Hereford shall permit & suffer Joan my wife to have, occupy and enjoy the house & lands at the ford in the parish of Lynton in the said county of Hereford, paying the yearly rent reserved on the same to the lords thereof during her life natural if the years thereof do so long endure. And if she die before the years be expired my will is that the residue of the years of the house and lands shall remain and come unto one William Thomas my cousin, paying the yearly rent reserved t hereupon to the lord & lords thereof. And if he the said William die before the years thereof be fully expired my will is that then the residue of the said years of the said house and lands to remain and come to the said Richard Coxe & his assigns. Item I give and bequeath £10 in money to be levied & had upon my goods & chattels by my executors and by him to be kept & converted to the use of my said

wife for the payment of the rent of the said house for the space of ten years next ensuing after my death. Item I give & bequeath the years which I have of the pastures called Croyse in the parish of Aston in the said county of Hereford unto Joan my said wife term of the years in the same lease yet to come if she so long live. And if she die before the years be expired my will is that the same years & the profits of the said pastures should come, revert & be to the use & behalf of the foresaid William Thomas my said cousin & if he die before the years be fully expired then I give & bequeath the years remaining with the profits of the same pastures to the foresaid Richard Coxe & to his assigns. Item my will is that all such glass in the windows of my parsonage at Coates with all benches, lofts boarded & windows in my said parsonage there should be and remain in the said parsonage for the next incumbent whosoever shall happen to succeed me, upon condition that the said next incumbent do not call, crave, sue nor seek any recompense for any the dilapidations of the said parsonage if any there be, which if the said next incumbent do demand, sue and seek any advantage for dilapidations or recover the same against my executor then my meaning is & so I do will that he should have no benefit by the foresaid gifts but the said glass windows, benches and solars to be valued & sold to the payment and discharge of my said executor of & for the said dilapidation of any there be. Item I give & bequeath to every of the poor householders of the parish of Sapperton one bushel of barley. Item I give to 6 of the Queen's almsfolk or poor people of St John's House in Cirencester one garment of plain white cloth to the value of £4 every garment. Item my will is that there shall be bestowed at my burial b... for the people of my said parish & to the poor as shall be thought best by my executor and overseers. Item I give & bequeath to William Thomas my said cousin ten pounds in money to be employed to some profit & good use by my said cousin Richard Coxe to the behalf of the said William until he, the same William, come to the years of discretion or to the years of 21 years. Item I give & bequeath to my cousin & servant Blanche Prosser to her preferment £8 in money over & besides what I have heretofore given her & in her custody, that is 49s in money. One heifer, 8 sheep, one sow. Item I give to the said Blanche one flock bed, one bolster, two blankets, one pillow, one pair of sheets, one covering. Item I give & bequeath to Maud Prosser my cousin five pounds in money. Item I give & bequeath to Joan Coxe, daughter of the said Richard Coxe, 10 of the best of my ewes. Item I give & bequeath to the said Richard Coxe my cousin five pounds in money to be by him bestowed in preferment of my cousin Sybil Coxe, his daughter. Item I give to Walter Llu[elling], clerk, my best gown & all my books excepting the paraphrase upon the evangelists & epistles, which paraphrase my will & meaning is should remain & be in the church of Coates. Item I give to Roger Gardener, clerk, my best cloak. Item I give to my good master Sir Giles Poole, knight, for his geldings, 12 bushels of oats. Item I give to Mr Harry Poole 4 bushels of oats and to William Webbe, clothier, 8 bushels of oats. The residue of my goods & chattels, my debts, funerals and legacies paid and discharged, I give & bequeath unto Joan my wife. Item I do make, constitute, ordain & appoint my cousin Richard Coxe of Little Fawley in the said county of Hereford my sole executor of this my last will & testament and shall desire the right worshipful & my singular good master Sir Giles Poole, knight, & my very friend William Webbe, clothier, to be overseers, the doings of this my last will and testament to be by their both goodness & by the doings of my said executor executed and done according to the true meaning of the same.

Witnesses: Christopher Broughton, John Dovy, Walter Lluelling, Roger Gardyner, Thomas Coxe, John Pomneye, Thomas Wyett

Probate: 6 December 1574

In the name of God, Amen. The 28th May 1574 I Richard Wyttes of Stratton in the diocese of Gloucester, husbandman, being in health & good & perfect remembrance, do institute, ordain and make this my last will and testament in manner & form following. First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God the Father etc and my body to be buried in Christian burial. Item I give & bequeath to Thomas my son* in money and money's worth the sum of four pounds of good and lawful money to be paid and delivered unto them when they come to lawful age or years of discretion according to the order of law. Also if either of them do fortune to die before they come to lawful age or be married then my will is that his or her part so happening to remain to the other. And furthermore if they happen both to die before they be married or come to lawful age that then their portions to remain to Alice my wife, mother of the said children. Also I give & bequeath to my daughter Ancrete my cupboard after the decease of her mother and if she die to remain to her brother. Also my will is that if my wife do happen to marry and that when she is so disposed to do that my overseers shall take such assurance that these my children may be sure of their parts or portions when they shall come to the time of discretion to receive it or else to take it into their hands or rent it to such whereas it may be always forthcoming when time shall require. Item I give to be distributed amongst the poor at the day of my burial 3s in the town of Cirencester in Saint Lawrence Street & Saint John's House. The residue of all my goods and chattels not given nor bequeathed I give & bequeath to Alice my wife whom I do make my sole executrix to dispose all things as she shall see good with oversight of my beloved in Christ John Byrt of Cirencester, William Grenewaye of Stratton & I give to either of them for their painstaking therein 12d apiece.

Witness hereunto: Richard Stevens, William Grenewaye, Thomas Faryngton with others

Probate: 25 October 1575

** only the son is named though it seems the daughter is included*

1576/56

In the name of God, Amen. The 20th June 1576 I John Heyns of Daglingworth in the county of Gloucester, husbandman, being in body sick but, thanks be to Almighty God, of perfect mind and memory, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I give and bequeath my soul to Almighty God my maker and redeemer and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Daglingworth there to remain to God's pleasure. Item I give and bequeath unto Richard Hynes my godson one sheep. Item I give and bequeath to John Smyth my godson 3s 4d. The rest of all my goods unbequeathed I give unto Margaret my wife whom I make and ordain my full executrix to discharge my debts and to see my body honestly brought to the earth.

These being witness: Thomas Heyns, Giles Dobbys and Richard Sanders

My Debts

To Robert my brother 28s

To Thomas Collyns at Michaelmas next 30s

To John Plumar 5s

Probate: 28 November 1576

1576/105

In the name of God, Amen. The 25th May 1574 and in the 16th 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 Turner of Duntisbourne Abbots in the county of

Gloucester, husbandman, being whole in mind and in good memory, laud and praise be to God, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God and my body to be buried in the churchyard as it may be godly done by my executors. Item I bequeath unto John my eldest son one flock bed with the appurtenances and 4 years maintenance at school. Item I bequeath to John my younger son to be paid when he shall come to the age of 30 years 4 marks of current money. Item I bequeath unto Hugh my son £5 in goods or money to be paid when he shall come to the age of 30 years. Item I bequeath unto Allen my son £5 in goods or money to be paid when he shall come to the age of 28 years. Item I bequeath unto Alice my eldest daughter £5 to be paid at the day of her marriage. Item I bequeath unto Sybil my daughter £4 in money or goods to be paid unto her when she shall come to the age of 28 years or else the day of her marriage. Item I bequeath unto Maud my daughter £5 in money or goods when she shall come to the age of 28 years and the second brass pot after my death. Item I bequeath unto Elizabeth my daughter £4 in money or goods when she shall come to the age of 28 years. Item my will is that my best standing bed and my best table board be never given away from my son Thomas. The residue of all my goods and purchases moveable and unmoveable, my debts and legacies being paid, I give and bequeath unto Agnes my wife and Thomas my son whom I make my whole executors. Furthermore my will is that if any of my said children do marry in my life time their gift in this my testament is nothing at all. Witness to this my present testament: John Broad & Richard Broad. Wherefore I shall desire these my overseers Richard Jefferys and Anthony Ockold to see this my testament executed and performed. Probate: 10 November 1576

1577/10

In the name of God, Amen. The 9th September 1577 I Agnes Hancock of Stratton in the diocese of Gloucester, widow, being sick in body but whole of mind & remembrance, thanked be God, do institute, ordain & make this my last will & testament in manner & form following. First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God etc and my body to Christian burial. Item I give to Mary my daughter one kerchief & a partlet, my old red petticoat, the best coffer. Item I give to Alice my daughter-in-law one kerchief & a partlet, my second red petticoat, my little silver pin, a cotton waistcoat, the other coffer, a pan, my worst candlestick. Item I give to Agnes my daughter likewise a kerchief & a partlet, my sleeveless cassock, a cauldron, my third candlestick & one platter and also to every one of them three a canvas apron. Item I give & bequeath to Elizabeth my daughter my best silver pin & my tache hooks, my ring, my best cassock & my best petticoat and all the rest of my linen, my other waistcoat, one pair of sheets and the two coverlets that I brought with me, also a new flock bed case and a bolster & my pillows, a coffer, a little brass pot, my best cauldron, 2 of the best candlesticks, 3 platters of the best, one pottinger & a saucer, the rest of the yarn cloth after 2 aprons taken for Alice & Agnes, and also my cloak & my fosset. Item I give to my sister my medley cassock with sleeves. Item I give to Margery my servant one smock & a russet apron. Item I give to my father-in-law William Watson 4 of my best sheep that be left to me and to my brother-in-law Thomas Maneryng 4 sheep, also to Richard Stevens 2 sheep & to William Greneway 2 sheep. The residue of my goods & chattels that do come to my part by the executrix of my late husband I will into the hands of William Watson my father-in-law & Thomas Manering my brother and they to prove these wills before the Ordinary & to become in bonds for the performance of the same and so to distribute the overplus upon the said children and my child to have a child's part as food as any of the others as God shall move their hearts towards poor orphans being left in distress of friends with the oversight of Richard Stevens & William Greneway.

Debts that I do owe

First to my sister 7s

To my brother-in-law that I borrowed at
certain times since my husband died 20s

Confirmed with her own hand in the presence of Thomas Maneryng, Thomas
Faryngton with others

Probate: 7 October 1577

1577/79

In the name of God, Amen. The 23rd August 1577 I Joan Arnoll of Stratton in the diocese of Gloucester, widow, being sick in body but whole of mind & remembrance, thanked be God, do institute, ordain and make this my last will & testament in manner and form following. First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God the Father, to Jesus Christ my only Saviour & Redeemer, the Holy Ghost the Comforter etc and my body to be buried in Christian burial.

Debts that I do owe

First to Alice Arnoll my daughter-in-law £3 10s

Item my servant's wages at Michaelmas John Shereye 8s 4d

Item to William Damsell for his wages 5s

Item more to him for a tod of wool 23s

Item I give & bequeath to Joan Vooile 2 sheep, a curnock of barley, a cassock, 2 petticoats, a white & a red, 2 smocks, my hose and shoes & one kerchief. Item I give & bequeath to Thomas Vooile, the son of Joan Vooile, 2 sheep. Item I give & bequeath to Joyce Arnoll my daughter-in-law one sheep. Item I give & bequeath to Alice Arnoll my daughter-in-law one sheep. Item I give & bequeath to my goddaughters Margaret Grenewaye & Mary Hancock either of them a kerchief. Item I give to my sister Alice Gurneye two sheep. The residue of my goods not given nor bequeathed, my debts, legacies & funeral discharged, I give & bequeath to Agnes Westrope my daughter whom I do make my sole executrix with the oversight of my brother-in-law John Gurneye, Richard Stevens, William Grenewaye and I give to either of them a bushel of barley.

Witness to this: Thomas Faryngton, John Gurney

Probate: 20 September 1577

1577/152

In the name of God, Amen. The 18th August 1577 I Richard Hancoke of Stratton in the diocese of Gloucester, husbandman, being sick in body but whole of mind & remembrance, thanked be God, do institute, ordain & make this my last will & testament in manner & form following. First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God the Father, to Jesus Christ my only Saviour & Redeemer & to the Holy Ghost the Comforter & to all the heavenly company & my body to be buried in the churchyard of Stratton aforesaid. Item I give & bequeath to Mary my daughter in money £8, 10 sheep, a stored heifer which was bought of Master Watse when she was a calf, 3 platters, a pottinger and a saucer, a pair of blankets, a pair of sheets & a coverlet. Item I give & bequeath to my son Thomas in money £8, 10 sheep, an iron-bound cart that was bought of Otnoll, one sallow with his shear & coulter & other appurtenances, my new standing bedstead with his appurtenances in my new chamber, 2 yearling bullocks, one bought of the parson, the other of Jarrett Wytts, one brass pot and all my best apparel except my cloak, that is to say, 2 coats, my best stockings, my hose, my petticoat & my doublet, 3 shirts. Item I give to Alice my daughter in money £8, 10 sheep, a cow that I bought of Master Watson from Cricklade, 3 platters, one pottinger & one saucer, a pair of blankets, a pair of sheets & a coverlet. Item I give & bequeath to Agnes my daughter in money £8, 10 sheep, a blond red heifer bought at

Cirencester this last fairing, 3 platters, 1 pottinger & a saucer, a pair of blankets, a pair of sheets & a coverlet. Item I give & bequeath to Elizabeth my daughter in money £8. Item I give & bequeath to Joan my daughter in money £8, five sheep, the tagged calf that I bought of Master Stone, my second brass pot. Item I give & bequeath to Thomas Wilkyns my servant one curnock of barley, my workday apparel. Item I give to Palmer my boy one sheep. Item I give to Thomas Faryngton 20d. Item I give to be distributed amongst my poor neighbours & others at the discretion of my overseers in money 5s. Furthermore my will & mind is that if my wife do happen to marry or to die that all necessary standers shall remain in the house as boards, forms, lattices, tallets, in stable or sheep house doors & windows not to be unhung nor taken away but to be left for my son Thomas against he shall come to it if God give him so long life or else all such as may be taken away to be divided amongst the rest of my children that shall be living. Also these legacies before named I will them to be taken into the hands of my overseers for the behalf of my children as they shall see good until they be of lawful age to receive it. That is, the maidens at 18 years or be married & if any of them do die before they come to that age or be married that then that part or portion to be divided amongst the rest of my first wife's children & likewise for the boy. And I desire my well-beloved in Christ William Watson, Henry Sturmye, Robert Hancoke & John Freman to be the overseers of this my will & testament to be duly performed for the behalf of my said children. I give to every one of them a good wether sheep.

Debts that I do owe

First to my brother Robert for straw	14s 8d
To Munck that is left unpaid	8s
To William Webbe for oaks at Oakley	40s

Debts due unto me

First William Watson my brother-in-law	£10
Roger Whytacre of Cirencester owes me	6s

I have his lease in gage

The residue of my goods & chattels not given nor bequeathed, my legacies & funeral discharged, I give & bequeath to Agnes my wife whom I do make my sole executrix with the oversight of my friends aforesaid.

Witness & confirm with his own hand in the presence of Robert Hancoke, John Freman, Thomas Faryngton

Probate: 7 October 1577

1579/20

In the name of God, Amen. The 21st August 1578 in the 20th 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 Edmund Dawes of Baunton within the parish of Cirencester in the county and diocese of Gloucester, being sick in body but, thanks be to God, of perfect mind and memory, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following. That is to say, first I give and bequeath into the hands of Almighty God my creator my soul, trusting to be saved by the merits, death and passion of my saviour Jesus Christ and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Cirencester. Item I give and bequeath unto William Dawes my eldest son my iron-bound cart. Item I give and bequeath unto my son Robert one fallow bullock and the iron band of a pair of wheels. Item I give unto my daughter Alice ten bushels of barley. Item I give unto my daughter Katherine ten bushels of barley. Item all the rest of my goods and chattels as well moveable as unmoveable I give and bequeath unto Eleanor my wife whom I make my whole executrix seeing my debts paid and my funeral discharged.

Witness hereunto: Thomas Burges, William Dawes

Item I confess myself to owe these parcels of debts hereafter mentioned, that is to say:

First unto Thomas Skaye	£5
Unto William Dawes	20s
Unto Dorothy Fowler	8s
Unto John Ballden	3s
Unto Thomas Walker	11s

Probate: 23 June 1579

1580/112

In the name of God, Amen. The 18th January in the 22nd year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith etc I Margery Hobbes of Bagendon in the county of Gloucester, being in health and perfect memory, thanks be unto Almighty God, do for diverse good causes and considerations me moving, but especially in consideration of mortality, institute and make this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my body to be buried where it shall please him to call me. First of those goods that God has given me I give and bequeath unto my cousin Joan Burton, my master's wife, all my wearing apparel. The rest of my goods I give and bequeath unto William Burton, son of my aforesaid master Richard Burton, parson of Bagendon aforesaid, my debts first paid and funerals ended, whom I make my whole and sole executor, desiring my said master to be the overseer of this my last will and testament to see it faithfully performed & done as is above said.

These bearing witness: William Spyght, George Ayer, Eleanor Simondes

Probate: 14 April 1580