

*The Last Will and Testament of  
John Stokes  
of Bishopstrow  
Will proved 4th February 1683*



*Transcribed from Wiltshire Notes & Queries Vol 6*

	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Given Names</b>	<b>(parish)</b>
<b>Testator:</b>	Stokes	John	Bishopstrow
<b>Executors:</b>	Stokes	William	

<b>Beneficiaries</b>		<b>Relationship to testator</b>	<b>Other Information</b>
<b>Surname</b>	<b>Given</b>		
Debnam	Thomas	Grandson	
Debnam	Jane	Granddaughter	
Hopton	Elizabeth	Granddaughter	
Debnam	Mary	Granddaughter	
Debnam	Joane	Granddaughter	
Debnam	Alice	Granddaughter	
Debnam	Ann	Granddaughter	
Debham	John	Grandson	
Debham	Margaret	Granddaughter	
Hopton	John	Grandson	
Hopton	Daniel	Grandson	
Hopton	Mary	Daughter	
Debham	Alice	Daughter	
Stokes	Kimbry	Wife	
Stokes	William	Son	
<b>Witnesses</b>			
Edwards	William		
Slade	Edward		
Gibbs	John		

John Stokes of Bishopstrow yeoman, his body to be buried in the churchyard of Bishopstrow, in the same place where his father was buried.

His grandchild Thomas Debnam, 20s, his grandchild Jane Debnam, 40s and his grandchild Elizabeth Hopton, 20s, to be paid them 6 years after his decease; His grandchildren Mary Debnam, Joane Debnam, Alice Debnam,

Anne Debnam, John Debnam, Margaret Debnam, John Hopton, and Daniel Hopton, 10s each on their ages of 21, the legacy of any of them dying to be divided among the survivors.

His daughter Alice Debnam 10s. His daughter Mary Hopton £30; His wife Kimbry Stokes an annuity or rent charge of £16 out of his messuage and lands in Bishopstrow, payable half-yearly also to her during her life the hall, buttery, and two lower chambers in the messuage he now lives in in Bishopstrow, and all his household goods in said messuage, except a furnace cupboard, great chair, four table boards, 2 tester bedsteads, a great brass pan, and "the halfe-headed bedstead"

His son William Stokes, his leasehold estate in Heytesbury for the rest of his term, and that part of the said messuage not before bequeathed, and the arable lands and pasture lands thereto belonging subject to the said annuity of £16, and if William die without issue the remainder to be divided between his (John's) daughters Alice Debnam and Mary Hopton equally. The other part of the messuage after the decease of his wife also to go to William Stokes his son, and on the latter's death without issue to his said two daughters, subject to an annuity of £10 to William's wife if he leave one on his death ;

His son William, residuary legatee and executor.

"The mark of John Stokes." Seal in red wax; device, a stag's head.

Witnesses, William Edwards, gentleman, John Gibbs, and Edward Slade.

**Taken from Wiltshire Notes & Queries Vol 6**