

*The Last Will and Testament
Of Thomas Bennett
of Pyt House, Tisbury
Will Written
27th May 1591*



Probate Court of London
Original reference
Will Dated 27th May 1591

Testator:	Bennett	Thomas	Gentleman of Pythouse, Tisbury
Executors:			
Bennett	Thomas	Son	Sole Executor
Overseers:			
Davys	John		
Davys	Mathew		Gentleman
Foyle	John		
Gray	Nicholas		Yeoman of Semley
Toft	Thomas		Yeoman

Beneficiaries		Relationship to testator	Other Information
Surname	Given Names		
			Lady Church of Salisbury (Cathedral)
			Tisbury Parish Church
Bennet	John	Grandson	
Bennett	Anne	Granddaughter	
Bennett	Christopher	Grandson	
Bennett	John	Son	
Bennett	Mary	Granddaughter	
Bennett	Mary	Wife	
Bennett	Thomas	Son	
Blackman	Mary	Granddaughter	
Blackman	Susan	Granddaughter	
Davis	Matthew	Godson	
Witnesses			
Davys	John		
Davys	Mathew		
Graye	Nicholas		
Toft	Thomas		
Other Names			
	Christopher		Gentleman
	Edward		Gentleman of Crockerton

Aubrey	Thomas	Lessee of the Estate	
Bennett	Edward		Yeoman of Tollard
Blackman	Andrew	Lessee of the Estate	
Davys	Edward		Farmer of Tisbury
Gray	Thomas		
Scammell	Edward	Tenant	
Toft	Henry		

In the name of god amen the twenty seventh daye of Maye Anno Domini 1591 and in the three and thirtieth yere of the raigne of oure Sovereigne Ladie Elizabeth by the grace of god of England, France and Ireland Queen defender of the faithe I Thomas Bennett of Pythouse in the countie of Wiltshire gentleman being in good healtie and perfect memorye praise and thankes be given to Almighty god calling to remembrance the of oure mortall estate the frailitie of mans life and I do therefore make and ordeyne this my last will and testament in manner and forme following Ffirst I commend my soule to Almighty god trusting assuredlie to be saved by the deathe and blood shedding of Jesus Christe my only Redeemer and my bodie to be buried in the parish church of Tisseburye Item I give to Lady church of Sarum twentie pence Item I give to the parrish church of Tysebury ten shillings And whereas I have already assured unto Mary my nowe wife my Capitall..... Mannor or ffarme of Pythouse in East Hatch and all lands and tenements thereunto belonging And also one other message of tenement called Gatches in West Hatche with the appurtenances and dyvers other thinges to a good value for tearme of her life after my decease without any restraynte or Waste or destroying of my Woodes whereof I have greate care and do earnestlye desire my said wife to forbear the spoyle and cuttinge downe of any of them And upon condition that she shall give assurance by her owne hand beyinge Widowe unto myne executor for the pres..... thereof within one month o' next after my decease not to fell out downe or any of my Woodes or trees other than suche as have beenheretofore..... standing and growing upon any of my groundes called W..... my full mynde will and intente ys that my said wife shall have in stocke to And her groundes withal duringe her life (if she so longe contynewe) Twentie kyne one young black bull with a white face, fower oxen, two of my best Steeres, my black gelding, my litle gray mare and Colt, one wayne yron ropes and all thinges necessary belonging to ploughe And all my will and intent ys that my said wife shall have all my corne nowe growing upon my grounde as a Stocke. (One Acre of Rye and three Acres of oates excepted which I give unto my sonne Thomas) And yf my said wife shall happen to marrye agayne then my will mynde and intent is that she And deliver unto my executor or his assignee all the said stocke of cattel and furniture of ploughe or the true value thereof And also the true value of Seaven acres of wheate seaven acres of Barley and five Acres of Oates which shall remayne as a stocke upon Pythouse within ten dayes next after her marriage And if she die not beyinge againe marryed then my will also ys that she leave unto my said executor or his assignee all the said stocke of cattel and furniture of ploughe or the like true value thereof and seaven acres of wheate seaven acres of barley and five acres of oates sowed upon my said Mannor or ffarme of Pythouse or so muche in money as shall paye for the plouginge and sowing the crop to remayne upon the said premises unto my said executor and his As a stocke given by me the said Thomas Bennett there to contynewe And my further will meaning and Intent ys that my said executor having gotten the said Stocke of cattel and or the true value thereof into hys hands either by meanes of the marriage or death of my said wife shall upon reasonable request gyve good assurance unto the overseer of this my last will and testament to leave the like Stocke bothe of Cattell and or the said true value in recompense thereof unto Thomas Bennett his sonne or to suche other as shall fortune to be his next heire and by possibilitie likelie to enjoye the said premises My will mynde and intente is also that my said wife shall have the rest of my best silvere goblet, sixteene silver Spooones and a stone Cuppe covered with Silver during her life And after her decease the same to be lefte and given unto suche of my children or my childrens children as in her discretion shall be thought best Item I give and bequeathe unto her my best silver salte gilte' to be disposed at her pleasure And fower ffeather beds whereof twoe are in myne owne Bedchamber and the other twoe in the parlour, fower paire of Sheetes, fower paire of Blankette, fower Bolsters fower pillowtyes and fower coverlettes with the best Coverlett the Second best and the other twoe ordin.... Allso I give unto her one flock bed for her proper to lie on Allso I give unto her all suche thinges and goodes whatsoever as are in my Bedchamber (my cheste of Evidence and all my money and excepted) Allso I give and bequeath unto her twentie yewes and twentie Lambes Item my will and intent is that my said wife shall duringe her life have the necessary use of all my Brasse Pewter and tymber vessel, and after her decease or before at her choice to leave the same between my twoe sonnes John and Thomas as in her discretion shall be thought fitte And my will also ys that suche Wheate Barley And other grayne as ys nowe about or in any of my houses shall remayne hers to be spent in housekeeping among my wife my children and there familie Item I give and bequeath unto Thomas Bennett my sonnes sonne my best stone cuppe covered with Silver and guilte and Tenne poundes in money to be paied when he accomplisheth the age of one and Twentie years Item I give and bequeathe to Christofer Bennett one other of my sonnes sonne my little silver salte ?parrell guilte and ten pound in

money, to be paid when he accomplisheth the age of one and twentie yeres Item I give unto Mary Bennet my soones daughter my silver bell salte guilte and tenne pound in money to be paid at her daye of marriage or at the age of eighteen yeres Item I give and bequeathe unto Anne Bennett one other of my sonnes daughters my little silver gobblet and ten pound in money to be paid at her day of marriage or at the age of eighteen yeres And yf they or any of them happen dye before marriage or before they accomplish theyre several ages as aforesaid, then my will and mynde ys that the portion of hym her or them so dying shall remayne amongst the survyvor equallie to be divided Item I give and bequeathe unto Susan Blackman my daughters daughter tenne pound in Angelatee my best white cowe and best white calf of one yere and one little stone cuppe with a Beard covered with Silver, parrell guilte Item I give and bequeath unto Mary Blackman one other of my Daughters Daughter one little stone cuppe covered with silver parrell gilt Item I give unto Mathewe Davis my godsonne my leaset stone cuppe covered with Silver and guilt And whereas there ys a Lease granted by me unto Thomas Aubrey and Andrew Blackman deceased of a certeyne grounde called West Brache nere Pythouse for three more yere of my Selfe and Mary my wife shall so longe lyin' as in and by the same appeareth my will and desire ys unto the said Thomas Aubrey who'enever hath the same by survivorshippe that he will assigne and set over the same Lease and the tearme therein non conteyned unto my sonne Thomas Bennett or to such other person as he shall name and appoynte Allso I give and bequeathe unto John Bennet my sonne the summe of twentie five pound thirteen shillings fourepence of currant englishe money to be paid within one yere after my decease Allso I give unto hym the ffether bed wherein he lyeth the twoe Bolsters and pillow to the same twoe payre of good sheetes and one paire of Blankett one pillowtye and my ?murrey coverlet one little stone cuppe covered and footed with silver with the F and M and one nagge bridle and sadle All the rest of my goodes chattels moveables and unmoveables not before given and bequeathed my debtes and Legaceys paid and my ffunerall charges dischargd I give and bequeathe unto Thomas Bennett my younger sonne whom I do ordayne and make sole executor of this my last will and testament And do name and appointe Thomas Toft Mathew Davys John Davys John ffoyle and Nicholas Graye overseers of the same requesting them to see the same performed in all thinges according to my true meaning And unto them I give for their paynes therein tenne shillings a peece Allso my will and meaning ys and I do by these And appoynte that John Bennet my sonne Thomas Toft and Nicholas Grave and all others whatsoever which are on hereafter shall be seisers of any estate of of and in one messuage or tenement with the appurtenances in West Hathe In the occupation of Edward Scammell and all Landes tenements meadowes Leazures pastures seedinges commons profittes commodities and hereditaments whatsoever thereunto belonging or in anywise appurteyninge shall stande and be seised thereof to the Hereafter following That is to for tearme of my life withoute impeachment And after my Decease the remainder of all the said premises with the appurtenances to the and behoofe of Edward My of Crockerton gentleman Christopher gentleman Mathew Davys gentleman of Edward Davys of Tyssebury farmer Henry Toft sonne of the saied Thomas Toft of Yeoman, Edmond Bennet of Tollerd yeoman and Thomas Gray sonne of Nicholas Gray of Semeley yeoman and to their heires and assigns for ever In witness whereof the said Thomas Bennett have to this my will set my hand and seale the daie and yere above written in the presence of John Foyle By me *Thomas Bennett*; Nicholas Graye his marke, *Thomas Toft, Mathew Davys, John Davys*