

Thomas Vernon Will 1721

I **Thomas Vernon of Hanbury** in the County of Worcester Esquire do make this my last Will and Testament in the manner and forme following. I desire to be interred in the Chancel at Hanbury with my ancestors and that my funeral may be without unnecessary charge and free from vanity in other matters. I leave it to the discretion of my executors herein after named and give them the power to lay out any sum not exceeding £500 in a tomb or monument for me and one in memory of my father and mother if not done by me in my lifetime I Will all my just debts should be paid.

I devise to **Mary Vernon my dear wife** one annuity or rent charge of £1,000 per annum to be paid unto her half yearly during the term of her natural life by my Trustees herein after mentioned out of the rents and profits of my Real Estate clear of all charges and deductions except taxes or to be imposed by Parliament and what I have forgiven to my wife is in lieu and satisfaction of jointure settled upon her before marriage and of all other claims and demands out of my Real Estate. I also give my said wife during her widowhood my capital Mansion House at Hanbury with the gardens orchards outhouses and buildings thereto belonging and the park there unto adjoining and the meadows pastures and arable land usually kept in my own hands and which shall be occupied with the said capital messuage at the time of my death my said wife keeping said capital messuage with the buildings thereunto belonging with the gardens, orchards and Park in repair. But in default thereof or in case my said wife shall marry again or shall not think fit to reside at the said capital messuage for the space of three months in every year in each and every of those cases my will and desire is that my said wife deliver the possession of the said capital messuage buildings gardens orchards park and lands devised to her as aforesaid to **Bowater Vernon** if living and if dead unto his son if he leave any or to such other person of my name and kindred as is to enjoy that and the residue and bulk of my Real Estate according to the Trusts and limitations herein after mentioned.

I also give to my said dear wife the use of all my goods pictures and furniture in my said capital messuage at Hanbury for and during such time as she shall hold and enjoy the said capital messuage by virtue of this my Will but so as not to remove the same from the said house, my Will and desire being that my Trustees herein after named to whom I do hereby

give all my said household goods pictures and furniture in my study and gallery and in all out buildings and offices there should permit and suffer the same to be held and enjoyed with my said capital messuage as heirlooms by such person and persons as from time to time shall be entitled to the possession of the capital messuage aforesaid according to this my Will and I hereby empower my said Trustees to assign out and transfer the said goods and furniture to other Trustees as there shall be occasion and as they shall be advised may be necessary and to have the trust so declare thereon as may best tend to preserve and keep the said goods and furniture in the said House and from being removed or secured from it for the use and benefit of the persons who shall or may become entitled to the said house by virtue of this my Will. I also give unto my said dear wife the sum of £500 in money to be paid her within a month of my decease and I also give her all the household goods and furniture of any dwelling house in London, my coaches and coach horses and all my plate except what is hereinafter otherwise disposed of all my broad gold jewels and watches and also all the clocks in London house.

I give to **my dear sister Elizabeth Acherley** one annuity or rent charge of £200 per annum to be paid her half yearly out of the rents and profits of my Real Estate to her own hands for her separate use exclusive of her present or any after taken husband and in case she happen to survive my wife my Will is that £200 per annum from the time of my wife's decease be made up the sum of £400 per annum from my wife's decease during the life of my said sister for her sole and separate use as aforesaid.

I also give to **my niece Letitia Acherley** the sum of £1,000 at her age of eighteen or marriage which shall first happen provided she marry with the consent of her father and mother and of my wife or of such of them as shall be then living. But if she marry without such consent I give her but £100 and the £900 to cease and to fall into my personal Estate and to be disposed of as is hereinafter mentioned.

I give to **cousin Richard Vernon my steward** the sum of £100 to **his son Thomas Vernon** the like sum of £100. To **his daughter Sarah Vernon** £100. To **cousin Jane Townsend widow** £20 per annum during her life and for **her son Robert Townesend my Godson** £100. I give to **each of the daughters of cousin William Vernon deceased** £100 a piece. To **their brother, cousin William Vernon** I give all my messuage lands tenements and hereditaments at Horsington in Lincolnshire for 99 years if he shall so

long live with power for him to make a wife a jointure not exceeding one moiety thereof and after his decease the whole to his first and other sons In Tayle male successively according to their seniority and birth he or they who shall have the possession of the said Estate paying thereout and I charge the said Estate with the payment of £100 per annum thereof all taxes and deductions whatsoever into my Trustees herein after named during the life of my wife the better to enable them to pay the annuities before devised and to perform such my Will and I give the said premises in Lincolnshire to my Trustees and executors herein after named during the life of the said **William Vernon** to preserve the contingent remainders to his first and other sons in Tayle but in trust to permit him to receive the profits for his life paying said £100 per annum as is before mentioned.

I give to **Thomas Vernon youngest son of cousin William Vernon deceased** the sum of £20 per annum to be paid him during his natural life. I give to **my cousins Edward and George Vernon Clerks** the sum of £20 a piece to buy them mourning. To **cousin Edward Bearcroft** and **cousin John Bearcroft of Meer Green** and to **his sisters Frances Bearcroft** £20 a piece. To **cousin Thomas Vernon son of the said Edward Vernon Clerk** the sum of £100 at his age of twenty one years and I give to **every servant that shall be living with me at the time of my death** a years wages over and above what shall be arrears or due to them at the quarter day before my decease.

I give the Cottage or tenement which (. .) Wilde widow now or lately dwelt near the church at Hanbury with the appurtenances and garden close and orchard adjoining and also the reversion and inheritance of the close thereunto adjoining called the Court Close when the lease thereof expires to my said Trustees hereinafter named and their heirs the rents and profits thereof to be employed and **towards the maintenance of a school master at Hanbury to teach the poor children of the said Parish gratis or such a number of them as the Trustees of the said Charity shall think proper.**

I give the sum of £200 to be placed out at interest in the name of my said Trustees or to be invested in land by them and the interest thereof whilst in money and the rents and profits when laid out in lands to be employed for ever either annually or once in two or three years at farthest **to apprentice a poor boy of the parish of Hanbury to some trade to be nominated** by such person as shall enjoy or inherit the Manor of Hanbury

for the time being according to this my Will and by the Rector of Hanbury for the time being and in case they cannot agree therein then the nomination of the boy to devolve for that time or turn upon the parishioners of Hanbury at their meeting for passing amounts in Easter week and so from time to time as often as the devise of the Manor of Hanbury and Rector of Hanbury shall differ and cannot agree in the nomination of a boy to be placed out an apprentice as aforesaid.

I give the sum of £80 to be laid out and invested in lands with the consent of the Minister and Churchwardens of the Parish of Audley in the County of **for the benefit of the schools and poor of Audley** in lieu and satisfaction and for increase of the charity of 40 shillings given by **my Great Grandfather Richard Vernon** for that purpose.

All the rest and residue of my Real and personal Estate my debts legacies and funeral charges being first paid and satisfied. I give and bequeath unto **my brother Roger Acherley Esquire, George Vernon Rector of Hanbury George Wheeler of the sinner Temple Gent. John Bearcroft of Meere Green Gent** and of **Richard Vernon of the Webb House Gent** their heirs executors and administrators respectively upon special trust and confidence in them reposed that the annuities and annual rents before devised to my wife and sister and other the persons herein for that purpose above names being first duly paid out of the rents issues and profits of my Real Estate whereof I shall die seized or possessed whether freehold or leasehold and after payment of all my debts and all legacies that I have or shall by this my Will or by any Codicil or Codicils give or devise my funeral charges and the charges of the probate of this my W and Administration being paid and satisfied they the said Trustees the survivor and survivors of them or heirs and assigns of such survivor do lay out and invest the residue and surplus of my personal Estate in lands of inheritance in the County of Worcester if conveniently may be or if not then in some near adjacent County within the space of 10 years after my decease and that they my said Trustees shall stand seized and possessed of all my real and personal Estate during the life of my wife to the uses and purposes in this my Will mentioned and to enable them the better to perform the same and that from and after the decease of my said wife in case I shall happen to die without issue of my body then living they shall stand seized and possessed of my Manors messuages lands tenements and hereditaments well freehold as leasehold for lives and years and also of

the lands hereby directed to be purchased with the surplus of my personal Estate and shall convey settle and assure the same in such manner as Council shall advise To the use of **Bowater Vernon** for 99 years if he shall so long live with power of making a jointure of any part of the premises except the capital messuage and Manor of Hanbury so as such jointure do not exceed £500 per annum then to Trustees during his life to preserve contingent remainders and for his first and other sons in a Tayle male and in default of such issue to **his Brother William Vernon** for 99 years if he shall so long live with like power of making a jointure and to Trustees to preserve contingent remainders and to his except in the alterations herein after mentioned-

In the first place the portion or legacy there by given to **my niece Letitia Acherley the daughter of my sister Acherley** be made up in the whole the sum of £6,000 and payable to her at age of twenty one or marriage which shall first happen and I recommend it to her to take her own mothers and my wife's consent to her marriage if they shall be then living. But my mind and will is that what I have so given to my sister and niece be by them accepted and taken in lien and satisfaction of all they or either of them might claim out of my real or personal Estate and upon condition that they release all right and title thereunto unto the executors and Trustees in my Will named and having thus provided for my sister and niece I devise all the lands by me purchased since the publishing of my Will either in Worcestershire, Shropshire or Warwickshire to the Trustees and executors in my Will named subject to the same Trusts and for the same uses for which I have mentioned to devise my Manor of Hanbury and the bulk of my Estate.

I hereby revoke that part of my Will whereby I appointed Roger Acherley Esq., George Vernon Clerke and Edward Vernon Clerke to be three of the Trustees in my Will and I request and devise my brothers Francis Keck and John Niccoll Esq. to be two of my Trustees and I devise my said Real Estate to them accordingly after all other debts and legacies.

I Will that out of the surplus of my personal Estate **the sum of £1,000 be set apart for benefit of the poor of Hanbury and Shrawley to be kept as a perpetual stock for buying gowns for poor old men and women and coals and other fuel in the winter** at the discretion of my execution and Trustees.

Item I give to Edward the groom £10 besides the wages that will be due to him at the time of my decease. To my wife's woman £10. To Mary Ankers £5 per annum for her life. To John Ankers her son towards placing him out apprentice and setting of him up.

Item I give to John Bonaker over and above the wages that may be due to him at the time of my decease the small copy hold tenement at Hanbury wherein his father lived to hold for his life.

Item I give to my brother Keck my best horse and furniture and to his daughter my niece £20 to buy her a ring in remembrance of me. To brother Nichols a Ring of £5 value. To my wife's niece Freeman £20 to buy her a ring and £10 to cousin Elizabeth Good. Mourning for such of our relations as my executors and Trustees shall think proper.

I witness whereof I have hereunto set and put my hand and seal this 2nd day of February 1720 (Tho Vernon) Signed sealed and published by the within named Thomas Vernon Esq. in the presence of us who have subscribed our names in the presence of the Testator Peter Cottingham, Jno Sharp, Jno Clayton

A Codicil to be annexed to my last Will ...?... I give unto my kinswoman Jane the wife of Peter Cottingham the sum of £10? to buy her a piece of plate in remembrance of me. To eight poor men for bear up my coffin each of them a crown of 20 shillings value. To Ann Wareing house maid £10 over and above the wages that will be due to her at the time of my death.

14th March 1720

Appeared personally, John Sharpe of the Parish of St Dunston in the West London Gentleman and by virtue of his corporal oath deposeth that he knew and was very well acquainted with Thomas Vernon late of the same parish Esq deceased and with his character and manner of handwriting having several times seen him write and having now seen and perused a Codicil to the Will of the said deceased beginning thus a Codicil to be annexed to the last Will or an ending thus That will be due to her at the time of my death doth verily believe the samtpe to be all wrote by and with the proper handwriting of the said deceased (Jno Sharpe) die Pradyt

juratus fuit dictus Johannes Sharpe super veritate pramissorum coram me
N Phipps sur