

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 3 January 1570 and proved 10 February 1571, of William Sheldon (d. 24 December 1570) of Beoley, whose granddaughter, Katherine Sheldon, married Oxford's brother-in-law, Francis Trentham, and whose granddaughter, Elizabeth Sheldon, married the brother of Thomas Russell, overseer of the will of William Shakespeare of Stratford.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the Sheldon family, see the pedigree in Phillimore, W.P.W., ed., *The Visitation of the County of Worcester Made in the Year 1569*, (London: Harleian Society, 1888), Vol. XXVII, pp. 127-8 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationcount01mundgoog#page/n143/mode/2up>

See also the Sheldon pedigree in Fetherston, John, ed., *The Visitation of the County of Warwick in the Year 1619*, Vol. XII, (London: Harleian Society, 1877), p. 3 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationcount01britgoog#page/n26/mode/2up>

The testator was the eldest son, and one of the eleven children, of Ralph Sheldon of Beoley, Worcestershire, and Philippa Heath. See:

<http://welshleigh.org/genealogy/oakleyancestry/sheldonfamily.html>

According to the inscription on Ralph Sheldon's tomb in Beoley church, he and Phillipa Heath had 11 children. The eldest son was named William after Ralph's elder brother, the second son was named Baldwin after Phillipa's father, and a daughter was named Joyce after Ralph's mother. From wills and pedigrees we know of other children named Thomas, Francis, Henry, Mary, Elizabeth, Alice and Isabel.

Two of the testator's brothers, Thomas and Baldwin, and five sisters ('my sister Ashfield', 'my sister Lench', 'my sister Rugeley', 'my sister Gower', and 'my sister Ferrers' are mentioned in the will below. Apart from the testator's 'sister Gower', who has not been identified, the testator's brothers and sisters were:

-Thomas Sheldon, who predeceased the testator. He married Elizabeth Rawlyns or Raylyns, by whom he had two sons mentioned in the will below. His eldest son, Ralph Sheldon of Childswickham, married Elizabeth Lygon, the daughter of Sir Richard Lygon (d. 20 March 1556) and Margery Greville (d.1542). Sir Richard Lygon was the grandfather of Margaret Lygon, mother of Thomas Russell, overseer of the will of William Shakespeare of Stratford. His second son, Thomas Sheldon, married Margaret Delves, the daughter of Sir Henry Delves (d. 6 August 1560) of Doddington, Chester, and Cecily Broke (buried 3 January 1562). Margaret Delves' brother, John Delves (d. 13 or 15 June 1571), esquire, married Mary Sneyd, the daughter of William Sneyd, the

grandfather of Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham. John Delves and Mary Sneyd's daughter, another Margaret Delves, married Edward Bushell, the grandson of Thomas Bushell (d.1558), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/42A/53. A grandson or great-grandson of Thomas Bushell (d.1558) may have been the 'Mr Bushell' of Richard Quiney's letter dated 28 October 1598 to William Shakespeare of Stratford (see SBTRO ER 27/4). There is thus an intriguing web of connections between Oxford and the family of the testator and the family of Thomas Russell, overseer of the will of William Shakespeare of Stratford. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, pp. 22-3; Maclean, *infra*, p. 222; Fetherston, *supra*, p. 3; Phillimore, *supra*, pp. 127, 129; and Ormerod, George, *The History of the County Palatine and City of Chester*, (London: Lackington, Hughes, 1819), Vol. III, p. 268 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/historyofcountyp03orme#page/268/mode/2up>

See also the will of William Sneyd, TNA PROB 11/54/430; and Burke, John and John Bernard Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Extinct and Dormant Baronetages of England*, (London: Scott, Webster and Geary, 1838), p. 157 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=K1kBAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA157&lpg=PA157>

For the marriage of Thomas Sheldon and Margaret Delves, see also:

<http://www.geni.com/people/Thomas-Sheldon/6000000028259844170>

-Baldwin Sheldon (buried 5 July 1548) of Broadway, who married Jane Wheeler, by whom he had several children, including a son, Ralph Sheldon of Broadway, who married Mary Huband, the daughter of Nicholas Huband (d. 2 May 1553) and Dorothy Danvers (d. 16 May 1554), the daughter of John Danvers (d. 30 October 1509), esquire, of Thatcham, Berkshire, for whose will, proved 4 May 1509, see TNA PROB 11/16/352. See the will of Jane Wheeler's third husband, Thomas Lewknor, TNA PROB 11/53/434, and the will of William Combe (d.1610), TNA PROB 11/117/573, Jane Wheeler's son by her second husband, John Combe (d.1550). See also the Sheldon pedigree in Phillimore, *supra*, pp. 127-8.

See also 'The Hubands of Ipsley' at:

<http://hubandfamily.com/ipsley.html>

See also Macnamara, F.N., *Memorials of the Danvers Family*, (London: Hardy & Page, 1895), pp. 169, 187-8, 226 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/memorialsoldanve00macn#page/186/mode/2up>

-Alice Sheldon (d.1573), who married firstly John Fox (d.1549) and secondly Anthony Ashfield (for his will, see TNA PROB 11/45/297). For the pedigree of Ashfield, see Fetherston, *supra*, p. 165 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationcount01britgoog#page/n190/mode/2up>

-**Elizabeth Sheldon**, who married William Lench.

-**Joyce Sheldon**, who married John Rugeley on 30 November 1542, and after his death married Thomas Baskerville of Curdworth, Warwickshire. For the pedigree of Rugeley of Dunton, Warwickshire, see Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, Vol. III, New Series, (London: Hamilton, Adams and Co., 1880), pp. 199-200 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=s2BIAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA199&lpg=PA199>

-**Mary Sheldon**, who according to Fetherston, *supra*, p. 3, married firstly a husband surnamed Sylvester, and secondly, George Ferrers. It appears that Mary Sheldon's husband, George Ferrers, was the son of Sir Edward Ferrers (d.1535) and Constance Brome (d.1551). See the wills of Sir Edward Ferrers, TNA PROB 11/25/416 and Constance Brome Ferrers, TNA PROB 11/34/401; and:

<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!topic/soc.genealogy.medieval/2PDSNAhRPZQ>

See also the Sheldon pedigree in Maclean, John and W.C. Heane, eds., *The Visitation of the County of Gloucester Taken in the Year 1623*, (London: Harleian Society, 1885), Vol. XXI, p. 221 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofcoun00inchit#page/220/mode/2up>

See also the History of Parliament entry for the testator at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/sheldon-william-1511-70>

MARRIAGES AND CHILDREN

The testator married firstly Mary Willington, the daughter of William Willington of Barcheston, Warwickshire. For the will of William Willington, proved 14 November 1559, see TNA PROB 11/42B/642.

By Mary Willington, the testator had two sons and four married daughters named in the will below:

* **Ralph Sheldon**, eldest son and heir, who married firstly, in 1557, Anne Throckmorton (c.1540-1603), the daughter of Sir Robert Throckmorton (d.1581) by his first wife, Muriel Berkeley, the daughter of Thomas (1572-1533), 5th Baron Berkeley, and secondly, as her fourth husband, Jane West (1557-1621), the daughter of William West

(c.1519-1595), 1st Baron De La Warr. For the will of Ralph Sheldon, dated 20 November 1612 and proved 19 April 1613, see TNA PROB 11/121/345.

* **William Sheldon** (1543-1587) of Wadborough Park, Worcestershire, who married, firstly Elizabeth Leveson, the daughter of Sir Richard Leveson (d.1560) and Mary Fitton (1529-1591), and secondly, a wife named Jane. For his will, see TNA PROB 11/71/283.

* **Anne Sheldon** (c.1528 - 25 October 1619), eldest daughter, who married by licence dated 26 November 1546 Francis Savage (c.1524 - 19 August 1557) of Elmley, Worcestershire, a descendant of King Edward I. Francis Savage's sister, Bridget Savage (d.1608x11), was related by marriage to Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham (d.1612x13), and to Thomas Combe (1589-1657), to whom William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon left a sword in his will (see the will of Thomas Combe (d.1609), dated 22 December 1608 and proved 10 February 1609, TNA PROB 11/113/130).

Francis Savage and Anne Sheldon had three sons, William (1555 - 7 August 1616), Anthony (d.1587), and Walter (1558-1622), and two daughters, Mary and Anne. For details see Armstrong, George Francis, *The Ancient and Noble Family of the Savages of the Ards*, (London: Marcus Ward, 1888), pp. 76-9, 85-6, 88-9; Keen, Alan & Roger Lubbock, *The Annotator*, (London: Putnam, 1954), pp. 118-20 and Chart 3; Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, pp. 22-3, 493, and Vol. IV, p. 387; Blacker, Beaver H., ed., *Gloucestershire Notes and Queries*, Vol. III, (London, William Kent, 1887), p. 669; Barnard, Ettwell A. B., *The Sheldons, Being Some Account of the Sheldon Family of Worcestershire and Warwickshire*, (Cambridge University Press, 1936), p. 98; Barnard, Ettwell A. B., *New Links With Shakespeare*, (Cambridge University Press, 1930), pp. 3, 61, 101-2, 118-19; the will of Francis Savage, dated 17 August 1557 and proved 4 July 1558, TNA PROB 11/40/349; the will of William Savage, dated 6 August 1616 and proved 10 February 1617, TNA PROB 11/129/154, and:

<http://www.welshleigh.org/genealogy/oakleyancestry/sheldonfamily.html>

See also Lee, Alfred T., *The History of the Town and Parish of Tetbury*, (London: John Henry and James Parker, 1857), p. 233 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/historytownandp00leegoog#page/n280/mode/2up>

After the death of Francis Savage, his widow, Anne (nee Sheldon) married Anthony Daston (c.1510 - 19 July 1572) of Wormington, Gloucestershire, who had obtained the lease of a large part of Broadway manor from the Abbot of Pershore in 1535. They resided at Broadway great farm, and in 1574, two years after Anthony Daston's death, Anne bought the house and 2960-acre farm. She died in 1619, aged about 90, having outlived all her sons apart from Walter Savage (1558-1622), who took over the Broadway property. By her second marriage she had a daughter, Anne Daston, who on 23 April 1584 married Ralph Huband, from whom in 1605 William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon purchased for £440 a half share in the Stratford tithes, the other half being owned

by Thomas Combe (d.1609). Ralph Huband was the brother of Sir John Huband (d. 24 December 1583), who in his will dated 1 April 1583 had bequeathed him the Stratford tithes. See the will of Sir John Huband, TNA PROB 11/66/331. Nicholas Huband's sister, Frances Huband, married Michael Nashe (buried 18 August 1577), and was the grandmother of Anthony and John Nashe, legatees in the will of William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon.

* **Philippa Sheldon**, who married Anthony Pollard (d.1577) of Little Baldon, Oxfordshire, a younger brother of Sir John Pollard (d. 12 August 1577), by whom she had no issue. For the will of Anthony Pollard see TNA PROB 11/59/438. For Sir John Pollard see his will, TNA PROB 11/39/424, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/pollard-john-1508-57>

* **Goditha Sheldon**, who married Robert Brayne (d.1570) of St. James in Bristol. Robert Brayne was the son of Henry Brayne (d. 1567), Merchant Tailor of London, and the brother of Anne Brayne, who married George Winter (d. 29 November 1581), and Emma Brayne, who married firstly Giles Morgan (d. 9 March 1570) and secondly Sir Charles Somerset (1535-1599), son of Henry Somerset (d. 26 November 1549), 2nd Earl of Worcester. See the will of Henry Brayne, TNA PROB 11/49/135; the will of Robert Brayne, TNA PROB 11/53/133; the will of Sir Charles Somerset, TNA PROB 11/95/315; and Maclean, John, 'History of the Manor and Advowson of Staunton in the Forest of Dean', in *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society for 1882-83*, (Bristol: C.T. Jerreries and Sons), Vol. VII, pp. 227-66 at pp. 237-44:

<https://archive.org/stream/transactionsbris07bris#page/236/mode/2up>

See also the History of Parliament entry for Giles Morgan at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/morgan-giles-1515-70>

See also the History of Parliament entry for Sir Charles Somerset at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/somerset-charles-1534-99>

For Sir Charles Somerset, whose sister Lucy Somerset married John Neville (d.1577), 4th Baron Latimer, son of John Neville, 3rd Baron Latimer and Dorothy de Vere, sister of the 14th Earl of Oxford, see also Maclean, John, ed., *Annals of Chepstow Castle*, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1883), p. 207 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=JTEQAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA207&lpg=PA207>

Robert Brayne died without issue in 1570. See ‘Claiming “prise wyne during Whitsonweek”: A Methodological Investigation into Bristol’s 1572 Crown Commission’, University of Bristol 44395, pp. 1, 77, available online.

After the death of Robert Brayne, Goditha Sheldon Brayne married John Seymour, esquire. See Maclean, *supra*, p. 237.

* **Katherine Sheldon**, who married Edmund Plowden (c.1518-1585). See his will, TNA PROB 11/68/650; and the *ODNB*:

Plowden, Edmund (c.1518–1585), law reporter, was most probably born at Blunden Hall in Bishop's Castle, Shropshire. He was the eldest son of Humphrey Plowden (d. 1558), a local landowner, and his wife, Elizabeth Wollascot, daughter of John Sturry of Ross Hall, Shropshire. Virtually nothing is known about Plowden's upbringing and early education, or about the origins of the unwavering, but deeply private, adherence to the Catholic faith that was such a conspicuous feature of his life. . . .

Plowden's will, dated 2 January 1582, gives his residences as Burghfield, Berkshire, and Shiplake, Oxfordshire. The latter house was leased to him in connection with his wardship of the young Francis Englefield, whose father had fled into exile at the accession of Queen Elizabeth, entrusting his estates to Plowden. Probably towards the end of the 1550s Plowden had married Katherine, daughter of William Sheldon of Beoley, Worcestershire.

Second marriage

After his first wife’s death, the testator married Margaret Broke (d.1589), the daughter of Sir Richard Broke (d.1529), Chief Baron of the Exchequer. By her first marriage to Henry VIII’s Attorney-General, William Whorwood, Margaret Broke became the stepmother of Anne Whorwood and Margaret Whorwood, William Whorwood’s daughters and coheirs by his first marriage to Cassandra Grey, the daughter of Sir Edward Grey (d. 13 February 1529) of Enville, Staffordshire. Anne Whorwood (d.1552) was the first wife of Leicester’s brother, Ambrose Dudley (c.1590), Earl of Warwick, while Margaret Whorwood married Thomas Throckmorton (c.1534-1615), son and heir of Sir Robert Throckmorton (d.1581). For the will of Margaret (nee Broke) Whorwood Sheldon, dated 12 October 1587 and proved 12 March 1590, see TNA PROB 11/75/190. For the will of Sir Robert Throckmorton, see TNA PROB 11/63/176.

In the will below the testator refers to debts of more than £1600 owed by William Clopton (1538-1592), owner of New Place, later purchased by William Shakespeare of Stratford-upon-Avon. It appears the testator had both lent William Clopton money himself, and had also entered into bonds as a guarantor of Clopton’s debts to others:

And further whereas I have paid and laid out and stand bounden unto certain persons for William Clopton, esquire, the sum of sixteen hundred pounds and more, and whereas it is

agreed between the said William Clopton and the said William [sic?] Plowden, Ralph Sheldon and others that certain lands of the said William Clopton's shall be sold for the repayment of the said sum of £1600 and more

The testator's decision to lend William Clopton money and guarantee his debts to others may have come about as a result of the testator's second marriage to Margaret Broke. Margaret Broke's first husband, William Whorwood, had earlier been married to Cassandra Grey, the daughter of Sir Edward Grey of Enville, Staffordshire (see above). William Clopton's mother, Elizabeth Grey (b.1505), was also a daughter of Sir Edward Grey of Enville. See the Wikipedia article on William Clopton created by the author of this website, and the pedigree of Clopton in Fetherston, *supra*, p. 111 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationcount01britgoog#page/n136/mode/2up>

For Sir Edward Grey, see his will, TNA PROB 11/23/92; Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 484; and the History of Parliament entry for his son, William Grey, at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/grey-william-i-1521-74>

For Sir Richard Broke, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/broke-richard-1474-1529>

For Sir William Whorwood, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/whorwood-%28horwood%29-william-1505-45>

As noted in the clause above, William Clopton had decided in 1570 to sell certain lands in order to realize sufficient funds to repay the testator and his other creditors, thus releasing the testator from his guarantees. For the two indentures dated 7 December 1570 by which certain of William Clopton's lands were sold to Rice Griffin, see TNA C 54/843, mm. 10-12 and TNA C 54/843, mm. 12-15 on this website. For images of the two indentures, see the Shakespeare Documented website at:

<http://www.shakespearedocumented.org/exhibition/document/two-conveyances-property-warwickshire-william-clopton-showing-john-shakespeare>

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

The testator leaves a bequest to Anne Bushell:

First to Anne Bushell, to be paid at the time of her marriage, upon condition that she be ruled in her marriage by my son, Ralph Sheldon, her two brethren, and Edmund Porter or by any two of them, the sum of forty pounds.

This bequest is followed by what appears to be a bequest to Margaret Delves:

Item, I do give to Margaret Delphes(?) ten pounds to be paid at her marriage, if she be ruled in her marriage by my wife in the same marriage and by my brother Broke.

It appears from the Bushell pedigree and from the will of Thomas Bushell (d.1558), TNA PROB 11/42A/53, that Anne Bushell was the sister of Thomas Bushell and Edward Bushell, and that Thomas Bushell married firstly Elizabeth Winter and secondly Mary Morris, that Edward Bushell married Margaret Delves, and that their sister, Anne Bushell (presumably the Anne Bushell mentioned in the testator's will below) married Thomas Gawdy, but died without issue. See Phillimore, *supra*, p. 29, Fetherston, *supra*, p. 139, and Maclean, *supra*, p. 241 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofcoun00inchit#page/238/mode/2up>

Margaret Delves was the daughter of John Delves (d. 13 or 15 June 1571), esquire, son of Sir Henry Delves (d. 6 August 1560) of Doddington, Chester, and Cecily Broke (buried 3 January 1562), sister of the testator's second wife, Margaret (nee Broke) Whorwood Sheldon. See the History of Parliament entry for Henry Delves at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/delves-sir-henry-1498-1560>

John Delves (d. 13 or 15 June 1571) married Mary Sneyd, the daughter of William Sneyd, the grandfather of Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham. See the will of William Sneyd, TNA PROB 11/54/430; and Burke, John and John Bernard Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Extinct and Dormant Baronetages of England*, (London: Scott, Webster and Geary, 1838), p. 157 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=K1kBAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA157>

For the marriage of Margaret Delves and Edward Bushell, see also Ormerod, George, *The History of the County Palatine and City of Chester*, (London: Lackington, Hughes, 1819), Vol. III, p. 268 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/historyofcountyp03orme#page/268/mode/2up>

The testator forgives a debt owed to him by John Heyberd:

Item, whereas John Heyberd [=Huband?] oweth unto me certain money, by this my will I do remit and forgive unto the said John Heyberd all the said debt.

This may be Sir John Huband (d. 24 December 1583), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/66/331. As noted above, Sir John Huband's sister, Mary Huband, was the wife of Ralph Sheldon of Broadway, the eldest son of the testator's brother, Baldwin Sheldon (buried 5 July 1548) of Broadway.

TAPESTRY WORKS

For the tapestry works mentioned by the testator in the will below, see:

<http://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/dept/aa/projects/sheldontapestries/revisingattributions.html>

TESTATOR'S LANDS

For the testator's manor of Skilts and property at Studley, see:

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/warks/vol3/pp175-187#h3-0004>

For the testator's property in Brailes and Chelmscote, see:

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/warks/vol5/pp17-26>

For the testator's manor of Compton Scorpion, see:

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/warks/vol5/pp98-103>.

For the testator's properties at Upton Wold, Ditchford, Hanging Aston and Blockley, see:

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/warks/vol5/pp98-103>.

RM: T{estamentum} Will{el}mi Sheldon Ar{migeri}

[f. 58r] In the name of God, Amen. The third day of January in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred threescore and nine and in the 12th 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 William Sheldon of Beoley in the county of Worcester, esquire, being whole in mind and [+of?] perfect remembrance, thanks be to God, make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God, my Maker and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, trusting by the merits of his glorious passion and resurrection to be saved, and my body

to be buried in such holy place as by the discretion of mine executors and overseers in this my last will and testament hereafter mentioned shall be thought meet and convenient;

Also I will and bequeath unto Margaret, my well-beloved wife, upon these conditions following, all such jewels, plate, household stuff, goods and chattels which were the said Margaret's at such time as I did intermarry with her and which as yet remain or be unspent or unconsumed;

And also all her apparel, biliments, bracelets and rings;

And also I will and bequeath unto my said wife four score pounds in gold which she hath in [+her?] keeping, one white stoned horse which she commonly useth to ride upon, and also one ambling splayed mare, and all such mares, geldings and colts as she shall have at the time of my death and by my sufferance being then and before known or taken to be hers;

And also four other of my geldings, together with the pillion, saddles and other furniture belonging to the said geldings and horses to be appointed by my said executors or part of them;

And also twenty of my best kine at my manor of Beoley in the county of Worcester and at Skilts in the county of Warwick;

And also the bedding, hangings and all the chests and cupboards usually or commonly used and lying within the chamber at Beoley aforesaid wherein she and I usually do lie;

And also the sum of six hundred pounds of lawful English money more, upon these conditions and provisos following, that is to say:

Provided that if my said wife do at any time hereafter sue for or demand by action or suit any dower of or in any tenements or hereditaments whereof I have been seised during the coverture between her and me, so that she may quietly have and enjoy during her life in possession either all those my manor, lands, tenements, closes and pastures called or known by the name of Freemans Ditchford and Gyes Ditchford or now Sheldons Ditchford or either of them lying in the parish of Blockley in the said county of Worcester, and also the first crop of one meadow in Hanging Aston in the said county of Worcester, and also all other my lands, tenements and hereditaments in the parish of Blockley in the said county of Worcester whereof I have estate of inheritance (except and reserved only all those pastures lying in the parish of Blockley called or known by the name of Upton Wold), or else my manor of Weston and all other my lands, tenements and hereditaments in Weston and Long Compton in the county of Warwick according to certain writings, assurances or conveyances thereof made, or if it happen that my executors or administrators or any of them or any of the executors of the survivor of mine executors be by any action of account or by any other action, suit, complaint, seizure or taking molested, troubled or sued for any of the rents, revenues, issues or profits received by me or by any to my use during the coverture between me and my said wife by force of

any conveyance or act done or made by my wife before marriage had between her and me of any of the manors, lands, tenements, leases or hereditaments that late or sometime were one William Whorwood's, deceased, late husband unto the said Margaret, or whereof the said William Whorwood in his lifetime took the issues and profits, or for any goods and chattels that were my said wife's before the marriage between her and me and given away, sold or spent by me at any time before my death;

That then all my legacies of the premises and of every part thereof made to my [f. 58v] said wife and all such things as hereafter shall be given or limited to her by this my last will and testament shall be void, and that then she shall redeliver unto my executors all my legacies to her in this my will willed to go and be to, for and towards the performance of this my will;

And I will that mine executors upon delivery of this my legacy given to her or of any part thereof shall take of her sufficient bond[s] for the delivery of the same unto my said executors upon the same condition broken, and until the same bonds be made I will mine executors shall and may stay the delivery of the same legacy and every part thereof;

And also I do will, devise and give to my said wife upon the said conditions and provisos all that my house and park of Skilts and the common ground belonging to the same or known by the name of Skilts and the game and coneyes that are and be in the same, without making of any wilful waste or spoil, and all that my lands, pastures, rents and meadows in Gatewikes within the parish of Studley in the said county of Warwick, and all my lands, meadows, leasows and pastures in the parish of Studley aforesaid which was purchased of John Middlemore and the money paid by me for the same and whereof Thomas Knottesford and William Childe are now or late were seised, to have and to hold all the said house, park and the common ground and all other the premises in Skilts, Gatewikes and Studley aforesaid to my said wife during her natural life;

And also I will and devise that my said wife shall yearly during her natural life have that part of Mon{n}es moor which she now occupieth and is known to be in her occupation and lieth next to Dearne Yate, the hay to be spent yearly at Skilts aforesaid;

And although I have heretofore assured after my decease the manor of Beoley whereof the said moor is parcel to my son, Ralph Sheldon, in tail, whereby I cannot assure the said parcel of the said moor to my said wife during her life without the consent of my said son, therefore my will, devise and mind is that my said son within three months next after my decease shall make unto my said wife a sufficient grant by writing whereby she may have, take and enjoy the profits of the said parcel of the moor aforesaid yearly during their two natural lives, or else that all such legacies of goods or chattels as hereafter in this my will I shall give unto my said son, Ralph Sheldon, shall be utterly against him void and of none effect until the said assurance be made, and that then and in the meantime all the same legacies bequeathed unto my said son, Ralph Sheldon, shall go to the performance of my last will, and then my executors shall content and pay unto my said well-beloved wife in recompense of the said hay one hundred pounds current money of England;

Also I do will and devise that my said wife and my son, Ralph Sheldon, shall at the reasonable costs and charges of my executors keep my household together at Beoley and Skilts or at one of them for the space of one quarter of a year next after my decease without the putting way of any of my servants doing their duties, within which quarter of a year and after the said bond taken of my said wife my will and mind is my said wife shall have paid unto her hands three hundred pounds of her legacy, and the rest of her legacy in money in this my will given to my wife, my will is shall be paid to my said wife within one year next after my decease;

And if my son, Ralph, shall refuse or will not suffer my said wife and household to continue and keep household at Beoley for the said quarter of a year, then my will and mind is that the same shall be continued and kept for the said quarter of a year next after my decease either at Skilts or at Weston as my said wife and my son, Edmund Plowden, shall think meet, and the same to be at the charges of my executors as is aforesaid, as well in the finding of the said house as in the payment of my servants' wages;

Also I do will and bequeath unto my son, William, all that the manor or lordship of Frampton with th' appurtenances in the county of Gloucester and all my lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments in Frampton aforesaid, such part thereof as in this my present will I do appoint and limit to the wife of the said William standing and being to her good, effectual and of force, to have and to hold the same unto my said son, William, from and immediately after the feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross which shall be next after the end of six years next after my decease and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten so long as the said William, my son, nor any heirs males of his body do not by any fraud, covin or mean alien or discontinue the premises or any parcel thereof or do or willingly suffer any act whereby the same or any parcel thereof should or ought not continue in the said William Sheldon, my son, or his said heirs males according to the entail to them made by this my present will according to the true meaning of the same other than to make his or their wife or wives a jointure for term of life or a lease or leases of and for term of 21 years or under so that upon every such lease or leases there shall be reserved for the said lands after the rate of the yearly rent of two hundred marks or more for and during all such terms and interest of such leases;

And for lack of issue male of the said William Sheldon, my son, or after the estate limited to the said William Sheldon, my son, and to his heirs males by this my present will otherwise determined, then I will that the said manor [f. 59r] of Frampton and all other my lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments in Frampton aforesaid shall be and remain to Ralph Sheldon, my son, for term of his life;

And after his decease then the same to be and remain to the eldest son of the said Ralph and to the heirs males of the body of such eldest son lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue, then to the second son of the said Ralph Sheldon and to the heirs males of the body of the said second son lawfully begotten;

And so from son to son of the said Ralph Sheldon and to the heirs males of the body of every such son of the said Ralph lawfully begotten so long as there shall be any son of the body of the said Ralph or any issue male of the body of any such son living;

And for lack of such issue male of the body of any such son living and for lack of issue male of the body of the said Ralph begotten, then I will that the said manor of Frampton and other the premises in Frampton aforesaid shall remain to the heirs of the body of me, the said William Sheldon, lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue, the remainder thereof to the right heirs of me, the said William Sheldon;

Provided always by this my last will and testament and my mind, devise and will is that the wife of my said son, William, that shall happen to be living at my decease shall have from and after the death of the same William, my son, by way of remainder for term of her life in the name of her jointure and dower of the said lands only the rent and reversion of all that part of my said manor of Frampton as is now in the tenure and occupation of my son-in-law, Anthony Daston, and Anne, his wife, by lease for certain years;

And also I do will and devise that my executors shall have the occupation of all the park of Wadborough and al the meadows and lands belonging to the same and of all the deer within the same during the term and interest that I shall have in the same at the time of my death, to have to them for the performance of this my last will and testament during the time that my interest shall continue in the same upon condition, that my executors shall not alien nor depart with the interest in the said park and other the premises nor in any parcel thereof above the term of one year nor under the yearly rent of thirty pounds to no person or persons but only to my son, William Sheldon, in manner and form as hereafter in this my last will shall be declared;

And if they do break this condition, then it shall be leeful to my well-beloved cousin, Harry Afild, and my well-beloved servants, Symon Walweyn [=Walwyn?] and Thomas Savage, to enter into the same park and other the premises belonging to the same and thereof to expel my said executors, and then my will is that the said Harry Affild, Symon Walweyn and Thomas Savage shall have and take the profits of the said park of Wadborough and all the meadows and lands belonging to the same during my interest in the same, yielding and paying therefore yearly once in every year to my executors the sum of twenty pounds of current money of England;

Also I do will and bequeath unto my son, Ralph Sheldon, all those my manors, lands, closes, pastures and hereditaments with their appurtenances called or known by the name or names of Freemans Ditchford and Gyes Ditchford or either of them lying in the parish of Blockley in the said county of Worcester, and also the first crop of a meadow in Hanging Aston in the said county of Worcester and the reversion and reversions thereof, to have and to hold the said manors, lands, closes, pastures and other the premises called or known by the name or names of Freemans Ditchford and Gyes Ditchford or either of them and all other the premises with their appurtenances in Blockley and Hanging Aston

aforesaid and the reversion and reversions thereof from the day of the death of the said Margaret, my wife, who hath the same for term of her life, unto my said son, Ralph Sheldon, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of issue male of my said son, Ralph, then and after the death of my said wife I will that the premises in Blockley and Hanging Aston aforesaid shall be and remain to my said son, William Sheldon, for term of his life;

And after his decease then the same to be and remain to the eldest son of the said William and to the heirs males of such eldest son lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue male then to the second son of the said William Sheldon and to the heirs males of the body of the said second son lawfully begotten;

And so from son to son of the said William Sheldon and to the heirs males of the body of every such son of the said William Sheldon, my son, lawfully begotten so long as there shall be any son of the body of the said William, my son, or any issue male of the body of any such son living;

And for lack of such issue male of the body of any such son living and for lack of such issue male of the body of the said William lawfully begotten, then I will that the said lands in Blockley and Hanging Aston after the death of my said wife shall remain to the heirs of me, the said William Sheldon, lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue, the remainder thereof to the right heirs of [f. 59v] me, the said William Sheldon, forever;

Item, I will, give and devise unto my executors for and towards the performance of this my last will and testament for and during the term of 6 years next and immediately ensuing my decease and unto the feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross then next following all my manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments hereafter mentioned, that is to wit, all my manors, lands, tenements or hereditaments called or known by the names of Compton Scorpion in the county of Warwick and Frampton in the county of Gloucester or by any of the same names, and also one yearly rent of £20 going out of the manor of Childswickham and Murcot in the said county of Gloucester for and during the term of ten years next after my decease, and also all my lands, tenements, possessions and hereditaments in Chelmscote in the parish of Brailes for and during the term of ten years next after my decease, and all that my manor of Bentley Pouncefoot with th' appurtenances in the county of Worcester, and all that my wood in Shrawley in the country of Worcester and the rent reserved upon the said wood, and also one yearly rent reserved out of the manor of Shrawley, and all that my leasows and pastures with their appurtenances lying the parish of Blockley in the said county of Worcester called Upton Wold for and during the term of ten years next after my decease;

And after the ten years ended, then I will and bequeath to my said son, Ralph, all my said manors, lands, tenements and all other the premises called or known by the name of

Compton Scorpion and all my lands, tenements and hereditaments in Compton Scorpion aforesaid, to have and to hold unto the same Ralph for term of his life;

And after his decease to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of issue male of my said son, Ralph, then and after the said ten years ended, I will that the premises in Compton Scorpion aforesaid shall be and remain to my said son, William Sheldon, for term of his life;

And after his decease then the same to be and remain to the eldest son of the said William and to the heirs males of such eldest son lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue male then to the second son of the said William Sheldon and to the heirs males of the body of the said second son lawfully begotten;

And so from son to son of the said William Sheldon and to the heirs males of the body of every such son of the said William Sheldon, my son, lawfully begotten so long as there shall be any son of the body of the said William, my son, or any issue male of the body of any such son living;

And for lack of such issue male of the body of any such son living, and for lack of issue male of the body of the said William lawfully begotten, then I will that the said lands, tenements and hereditaments in Compton Scorpion aforesaid shall remain to the heirs males of the body of me, the said William Sheldon, lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue male then to the heirs males of my late father, Ralph Sheldon, esquire, deceased, lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the heirs of me, the said William Sheldon, lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue the remainder thereof to the right heirs of me, the said William Sheldon, forever;

And after the said ten years ended, then I will and bequeath unto William Savage, son and heir unto my late son-in-law, Francis Savage, esquire, deceased, the said annuity or yearly rent of £20 going out of the said manors of Childswickham and Murcot, to have and to hold the said yearly rent of £20 from thenceforth unto the said William Savage and to the heirs males of the body of the said William Savage lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue male of the said William Savage, then and after the said ten years ended I will that the premises in Childswickham and Murcot aforesaid shall be and remain unto my son, Ralph Sheldon, and to the heirs males of the body of my said son, Ralph Sheldon, lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue, the remainder thereof unto the right heirs of me, the said William Sheldon, forever;

And after the said ten years determined, then I will and bequeath unto my said son, Ralph Sheldon, all my lands, tenements and hereditaments in Chelmscote aforesaid in which I have an estate of inheritance, to have and hold unto my said son, Ralph, and to his heirs forever, upon condition that he, his heirs or assigns, shall pay, give and distribute yearly from thenceforth forever 40s to the poor people of the parish of Tysoe in the said county of Warwick for the time being at the feasts of the Nativity of Our Lord God and Easter or within one month next after every of the said feasts by even portions, and if he or his heirs do fail thereof, then I will, give and devise out of the same premises in Chelmscote one rentcharge of five marks by year to Symon Walweyn and Thomas Evett, their heirs and assigns, forever to the intent that they shall employ four marks forever yearly upon the poor people aforesaid, for which five marks they may distrain in the same premises in Chelmscote;

And whereas I, the said William Sheldon, in consideration of [f. 60r] a marriage being now had and solemnized between my said son, Ralph Sheldon, and Anne, now his wife, daughter of Sir Robert Throckmorton, by indenture made between the said Sir Robert on the one party and me, the said William Sheldon, on the other party, have conveyed and assured the manor of Weston with th' appurtenances in the said county of Warwick and all my lands, tenements and hereditaments with th' appurtenances in Weston and Long Compton in the said county of Warwick to the use of me, the said William Sheldon, for term of my life without impeachment of waste, and after my decease to the use of the said Edmund Plowden, Francis Savage, Anthony Pollard and Robert Brayne and one William Walker [sic?], their executors and assigns, for and during the term of 60 years then next following if the said Margaret, my wife, shall fortune so long to live, and after that for term of 6 years then next immediately following to the intent and upon confidence and trust that they, the said Edmund Plowden Francis Savage, Anthony Pollard, Robert Brayne and William Walter or the overlivers or overliver of them or th' executors or executor or administrator of the overliver of them within two months next after the decease of me, the said William Sheldon, shall give, grant and assure the said manor of Weston with th' appurtenances and all other the premises with their appurtenances in Weston and Long Compton aforesaid during the same term of 60 years and the said term of 6 years unto such person or persons as I, the said William Sheldon, by my last will or testament in writing or otherwise in writing shall limit, appoint or declare;

I, therefore, the said William Sheldon, do will and bequeath unto th' executors of my said last will and testament the issues, revenues and profits of my said manor of Weston with th' appurtenances and of all my lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances in Weston and Long Compton aforesaid from the day of my decease for and during the term of 12 years then next and immediately following for and towards the payments of my debts, funerals expenses and performance of this my last will and testament;

And that the said Edmund Plowden, Anthony Pollard, Robert Brayne and William Walter or the then overlivers or overliver of them within two months next after my decease shall give, grant, convey or assure or cause to be given, granted, conveyed or assured the said manor of Weston with th' appurtenances and other the premises in Weston and Long Compton aforesaid unto my executors during the said 12 years, and from the end of the said 12 years unto the heir or heirs of me, the said William Sheldon, according to the true meaning of the said indentures made between the said Sir Robert Throckmorton and me;

And further I, the said William Sheldon, do will and devise and my true intent and meaning is that in case my son, Ralph, for and during as many of the said years next immediately ensuing after my decease as he shall live do not permit and suffer all the rents, revenues, issues and profits as well of the third part which by the order of the law I cannot devise by my last will and testament as also of the two parts of all such manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments which by this my will I have devised and willed to my executors for the performance of my will to be perceived, employed, used and bestowed upon, for and about the performance of this my last will and testament, then and so long I will the said Ralph shall take no benefit of any legacy or thing to him by this my will given or bequeathed;

And then I will and bequeath to my said executors and the overlivers and overliver of them and his executors for and towards the performance of this my last will and testament all the rents, revenues and profits of two parts of the said manors and other the premises in Compton Scorpion, and also two parts of the manor of Bentley Pauncefoot and all other the premises with their appurtenances in Bentley Pauncefoot aforesaid, and of two parts of the wood in Shrawley and of the rent reserved for the same, and also of the rent reserved for the said manor of Shrawley, and together with two parts of all those my lands in the parish of Blockley called Upton Wold, and two parts of all my lands and coal mine with free liberty to get coals within all my lands in Coleorton in the county of Leicester;

To have and to hold all the issues, rents, revenues and profits of all the said two parts of all the said manors, lands, tenements and other the premises in Compton Scorpion, Bentley Pauncefoot, Shrawley and in Blockley called Upton Old [sic?] and Coleorton to my executors for the term of twenty years next after my decease;

Also I do will and bequeath unto my said son, William Sheldon, for and in full recompense, satisfaction and discharge of one especial and particular legacy of £80 to him willed and bequeathed by and in the last will and testament of my late father-in-law, William Willington, esquire, deceased, and also as my legacy two hundred marks of lawful English money, and also the fifth part of the residue of all my household stuff and plate, and also the fifth part of all my armour and harness being and remaining at Beoley and there usually kept and occupied, except the hangings of tapestry and arras which I do will shall remain at Beoley from heir to heir;

And touching the value of the marriage of William Savage, my will and meaning is that he [f. 60v] shall be discharged thereof so that he be ordered and ruled in his marriage by

my son-in-law, Edmund Plowden, and my son, Ralph Sheldon, and if it shall happen the said Edmund Plowden and Ralph Sheldon to die before the marriage of the said William Savage, as God defend, then so that he be ruled in marriage by my executors then living;

And I do will and give by this my will unto my daughter, Anne Daston, one hundred pounds, and to my son-in-law, Anthony Pollard, esquire, and to my daughter Philippe Pollard, one hundred pounds of lawful English money, and to my son-in-law, Robert Brayne, esquire, and to my daughter, Godith Brayne, for and in full recompense, satisfaction and discharge of one special and particular legacy of £80 to her bequeathed by and in the last will and testament of my said father-in-law, William Willington, and as my legacy one hundred pounds of lawful money of England to be delivered unto the said Robert Brayne and Godith after a jointure made to the said Godith of lands, tenements and hereditaments according to certain agreements heretofore had and concluded between me and Henry Brayne, esquire, or else to the said Godith within one year next after the death of the said Robert Brayne, which of them shall first happen, and yet the said legacy of £80 to my said daughter, Godith, was agreed to be parcel of the sums of money that I gave with the marriage of my said daughter, Godith;

Also I will and bequeath unto my son-in-law, Edmund Plowden, and to my daughter Katherine Plowden, his wife, one hundred pounds of lawful English money, and also unto my son-in-law, Edmund Plowden, one other hundred pounds to the intent that he shall be an aider unto my children and to take pains in the performance of this my will;

Item, I will and bequeath unto my son, Ralph Sheldon, all the residue of my plate, armour and household stuff, and also all other my implements and utensils of household and husbandry, and also my chain of gold which I appointed to be an heirloom and to go from heir to heir, and also 6 geldings to be appointed out by my executors;

Also I do will and give unto all such persons as shall be named or contained in a certain writing indented to be subscribed by me all such sum and sums of money as in the same writing is to him or her assigned, limited, named or appointed;

Also I will that my said executors and the overlivers or overliver of them and his executors for and towards the payments of my debts, legacies, funerals expenses and performance of this my last will from the day of my death for and during the term of 10 years then next following shall have, hold, use, occupy and enjoy the manors, lands, tenements, hereditaments, farms, parsonages and tithes hereafter expressed, that is to say, the tithes of corn, hay, wool and lamb & other tithes of and in Burmington in the county of Warwick, and my three parts of the demesnes of the manor of Tredington in the county of Worcester, and the manor and farm of Chelmscote in the said county of Warwick, and the manor, lands and tenements called or known by the name of Combe Campden in the county of Gloucester, and also all those my manors, lands, tenements, farms, closes and pastures called or known by the name or names of Ditchford Frary in the said county of Warwick, together with all stocks of cattle and sheep as I shall have going in and upon all my lands and leases willed or devised for the performance of my will at the time of my death being not otherwise before or after in this my last will willed, and also all the rents,

revenues, issues and profits of the same farms and stocks of cattle and sheep rising, growing or coming during the said 10 years;

And after the same 10 years ended and determined, I will and give the occupation of all the said farms and leases of and in the said tithes of and in Burmington aforesaid, and of and in the said manor of Chelmscote, and also of and in all those my manors, lands and tenements called or known by the name of Combe Campden and all my interest and terms therein unto my said son, Ralph, and after his death unto his issue male of his body begotten;

And if it shall fortune my said son, Ralph, to die without issue male of his body, as God defend, then I will, devise and bequeath the occupation of all the said farms and leases before by this my will willed unto my said son, Ralph, after the said 10 years ended unto my said son, William, and after to his heirs males of his body begotten;

And after the said 10 years ended and expired, then I will, devise and give the occupation of al those years that shall be then to expire and come of and in the said manor, farm, pastures and other the premises called Ditchford Frary or known of that name of Ditchford Frary, and also three parts of the farm of Tredington with th' appurtenances unto my said son, Ralph, and after to his heirs males;

Also I will and devise that my executors shall have, perceive and take [f. 61r] all the profits of the parsonage of Tredington in the said county of Worcester for the space of 10 years next after the feast of Saint Michael next after my decease towards the performance of my will, paying yearly the rents reserved for the same to the parson there now being and bearing all other charges, and that after the said 10 years determined, the same shall remain to Ralph Sheldon, my son;

And also I do will unto my said son, Ralph, all such interest, leases and terms of years as I have of and in the parsonage of Bishampton in the said county of Worcester, with all the tithes and other profits thereunto belonging;

And I do will and devise that my said executors shall have and take the profits of my interest, lease and term of years that I have of and in the manor or lordship of Brailes for the term of 10 years, and that after the said ten years the same lease and term of years shall remain and come to my son, Ralph Sheldon;

And also I will and bequeath unto my said son, Ralph, the occupation of all the pastures of Hewell fild, Chandelor sale, Ormesley and parcel of the wood of Waltershey and Fryersfild which I now occupy and hold for years, being the inheritance of the Lord Windsor, to have to my said son, Ralph, and to his heirs males of his body begotten during all the years that I have or shall have to expire and come at my death, my son, Ralph Sheldon, paying to my nephew, Ralph Sheldon of Broadway £20 of and for such interest and title as he hath into parcel of the said pastures by my father's will;

Provided always that if the said manor, farm, lands, pastures, closes and other the premises called or known by the name of Combe Campden or any parcel thereof during my term in the same by the grant, act, assent or means of my said son, Ralph Sheldon, or of my said son, William Sheldon, or of th' executors, administrators or assigns of them or either of them, mediate or immediate, direct or indirect, shall be or come to th' hands, possession, usage or occupation of Thomas Smyth of Campden, esquire, his heirs, executors or assigns, or of any other person or persons to the use of him, his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns or to any of the children of the said Thomas, his or their executors, administrators or assigns or to the use of any of them, that then this my said legacy, gift or bequest of and in the said manor and other the premises called or known by the name of Combe Campden shall be void, and that then it shall be lawful unto my said executors into the said manor and other the premises called or known by the name of Combe Campden to re-enter and the same to re-have(?) as in their former estate, and after such entry had, the same to grant over unto such of the said Ralph or William, my sons, as were not consenting, privy or means to the breaking of the condition aforesaid with such condition and in manner and form as is aforesaid;

And for the second breaching of, or if they were both assenting to the first breach of the same condition, then my said executors to retain the same to the performance of this my will;

Also I do will and bequeath unto my said son, William Sheldon, and to his wife one annuity or yearly rent of £40 to be going out yearly of my manors, lands, close and pastures called or known by the name of Frampton in the county of Gloucester, to have, hold and perceive the same annuity or yearly rent of £40 unto my said son, William, and his wife from the day of my death for and during the term of 6 years then next and immediately following if my said son, William, and his wife or either of them do so long live, to be paid yearly at two times in the year, that is to wit, at every half year £20;

Also I will and devise that my executors and the overlivers of them shall yearly during the said 6 years and during all the said other years next after my death that I have devised and willed to them any manors, lands, tenements, leases or stocks of cattle make a true, perfect and just account in writing unto William Walter, William Child, Symon Walweyn and Thomas Savage or to the more part of them of all the issues, revenues and profits of all my said lands, leases and farms to them bequeathed during the said years;

And also I do will and bequeath unto every of the said William Walter, William Child, Symon Walweyn and Thomas Savage twenty pounds for their pains in all the said accounts, and over that all their charges that they shall sustain at the time of every such account, so that they do justly, faithfully and without affection see the same account justly made, and also I will and require them to see the same account justly taken without favour or affection as they answer to God;

Item, I do will and bequeath that all such sum or sums of money, debts and duties which I do owe unto any person or persons by contract or agreement without specialty which hereafter shall appear unto my executors to be due unto any person or persons shall be

well and truly paid by mine executors by force of [f. 61v] this my last will and testament, and over this for the safeguard, surety and indemnity of my executors, which perhaps may pay my legacies or other debts and duties due by contract and not by especialty, and ignorantly by such payments not retain in their hands sufficient of my goods and chattels to satisfy and pay especialties or other duties which by the common law ought to be paid and whereof they had no knowledge at the time of the payment of such legacies and other duties due by contract and not by especialty, and thereby charge themselves by the order of the common law of their own goods to such debts due by specialty lately come to their knowledge, which I think be not meet nor convenient of their own goods they should pay, but to save them harmless for the same therefore I will and devise that if at any time after my executors or any of them have paid my legacies, debts or duties due upon contract or agreement and not by especialty there shall appear or be proved any other debt, duty or sums of money to be due by matter or record or especialty to be paid by me or by mine executors as my debt whereof the[y] had no knowledge at the time of my legacies or debt or debts due by contract or agreement and not by especialty paid, and that then there shall not remain in th' hands of mine executors sufficient of my goods, chattels and of the rents, revenues, issues and profits of my lands willed and bequeathed unto them to pay the same, that then and from thenceforth and at all times after the said 6 years ended my said executors and the overlivers or overliiver of them and his executors shall have, perceive and take as much of the rents, revenues, issues and profits of my said manors, lands, tenements and other hereditaments called or known by the name of Compton Scorpion as shall and will discharge and pay the same debt, duties, legacies or sums of money, and so to be done from time to time as often as any such thing shall happen to be;

Also I will, devise and bequeath that my executors shall have all my debts and sums due or owing to me, and the residue of all my goods and chattels not before or hereafter otherwise by this my will given, limited or appointed for and towards the payment of my debts, legacies, funerals expenses and the performance of this my last will and testament;

Also I will and bequeath unto the children of my brother and sister Ashfield now unmarried £20, and to the children of my brother and sister Lench now unmarried £20, and to the children of my sister Rigeley [=Rugeley] now unmarried £20, and to the children of my sister Gower now unmarried £20, to my sister Ferres' [=Ferrers?] children forty pounds;

Item, to the vicar of Beoley for tithes forgotten 40s;

Item, I will and bequeath twenty marks to be bestowed on the amendment of highways between Beoley and Stratford, and other 20 marks upon the highways between Beoley and Worcester in such places as my executors shall think meet; also twenty pounds to be bestowed upon poor maidens' marriages after 20s apiece in discharge of my conscience for like legacies bequested by my father, Ralph Sheldon, esquire, deceased, to the amendment of highways and poor maids' marriages;

Item, whereas John Heyberd [=Huband?] oweth unto me certain money, by this my will I do remit and forgive unto the said John Heyberd all the said debt;

And if it fortune that my debts, duties and sums of money that shall be due to me and shall be paid or come to th' hands of mine executors or any of them, and my goods and chattels that shall come to th' hands of mine executors or any of them, and the rents, revenues, issues and profits of my manors, lands, tenements, farms and hereditaments before by this my will appointed to the performance of this my will to be received or levied by mine executors to the performance of this my will within all the said years before mentioned to be received by my executors after my death and which hereafter shall be received or levied by mine executors or any of them by reason or virtue of this my will within the said years next after my death shall not suffice to satisfy, content and pay my debts, legacies, funerals expenses and all other things willed by this my last will to be paid or which mine executors or any of them shall be charged with or ought to pay by reason of this my will;

Then I will, bequeath and devise that mine executors and their executors and assigns shall and may at all times from the end of all the said years before mentioned to be received by my executors after my death have, receive and take as much of the rents, revenues, issues and profits of all my said manors, lands, tenements and other the premises called or known by the name or names of Compton Scorpion and Ditchford Frary as shall suffice to content and pay the residue of my said debts, legacies, funerals expenses and other things which mine executors shall be chargeable with to pay by reason of this my will;

And whereas I have in this my will made divers conditions touching my well-beloved wife and my two sons of goods and lands to them severally devised, and it may be that [+by?] some of them negligently or ignorantly [f. 62r] may be some small thing or things broken, and thereby my gift to them or him that so shall break the same to be void, my will and mind is that if any of the said conditions that shall so happen to be broken by my said wife or by either of my sons that yet the extremity of the breach of the said condition or conditions shall be ordered and qualified by Sir Robert Throckmorton, knight, Mr Justice Welshe, my son Plowden, Anthony Pollard and Anthony Daston or the more part of them then living, so that Mr Justice Welshe and my son Plowden during their lives shall be two of them, and such order and qualification as shall be so made to stand in such full effect as though the same was plain expressed at large in this my will, and to be as parcel of my will;

And also whereas I have a lease of the manor of Atch Lench and a portion of tithe in Atch Lench aforesaid in the county of Worcester for many years yet to come now belonging to the Cathedral Church of Westminster, and also whereas I have a lease for 21 years of one other portion of tithe in Atch Lench aforesaid now belonging to the Bishopric of Worcester, and also whereas I have now the one half of all the woods in Salford Priors in the county of Warwick for many years yet to come, my will and mind is and also by this my last will and testament I do devise and will that all the profits of the said leases for term of 14 years next after my decease shall be received and taken by my executors and shall be employed to the performance of this my last will;

And after the said 15 years ended and determined, I will that Edward Sheldon, son and heir apparent of Ralph Sheldon, my son, and his heirs males of his body begotten shall have the occupation of the said leases last recited during all the said years that shall be from thenceforth to expire and come;

And also whereas I have bought of one Thomas Bourne a lease of all the toll or custom as well of fairs as of market days every week to be holden within the lordships of Bishop's Castle in the county of Shropshire with all the members so often as it shall happen there to be holden and exercised yearly with all customs, fees, profits, toll, commodities and other things whatsoever to the said fairs and markets appertaining or belonging, to begin at the 9 day of April next and immediately following the end of the term, surrender or forfeiture of the state and grant of the farm of the said toll or custom and other the premises with their appurtenances to one Peter Cornwall, son of Sir Thomas Cornwall, made and to have continuance from thenceforth for term of 51 years, yielding and paying for the same yearly ten pounds, the which reversion granted by the said Thomas Bourne is conveyed to my said well-beloved cousin, Harry Affild, to my use upon trust, and which reversion is to begin, as it is thought, in April which shall be in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred threescore and fifteen, my will and mind is and also by this my last will and testament I do devise and will that all the profits of the said lease until that Edmund Plowden, son of the aid Edmund Plowden, esquire, my son-in-law, shall accomplish or may accomplish, if God give him life, the full age of 24 years shall be received and taken by my executors and shall be employed for evermore in manner and form following, that is to say, for all the said years to be lent freely from time to time upon good sureties to such person and persons as shall occupy and use the art of making of tapestry and arras or either of them within the county of Worcester and Warwick and in the cities of Worcester and Coventry in such manner and form as is hereafter in this my will expressed and declared, that is to say:

First that William Dowler, now servant to Richard Heekes, the only alter [=author?] and beginner of this art within this realm, shall have freely by way of loan of the first issues, revenues and profits that shall arise and grow of the said toll and the profits thereunto belonging for ten years upon good sureties to use the said art and to repay the same at the end of ten years the sum of £26 13s 4d;

And my will and mind is that every other person or persons that is now servant or hereafter shall be servant or servants to the said Richard Heekes or to one Thomas Chaunce(?) or to the said William Dowler in the said art at the time of my death and being born within this realm shall have and orderly as they be in years likewise freely by way of loan of the next issues and profits that shall arise and grow of the said toll and other the premises thereunto belonging in Bishop's Castle aforesaid;

And also of such other sums of money as is already lent by me or shall be lent by me in my life for the maintenance of the said art and of such other sums [f. 62v] of money as shall be lent of the said issues and profits of the said toll and other the premises to the same belonging and repaid again for 10 yeas upon good sureties to sue the said art and to repay the same at the end of ten years the sum of £20, and that every stranger born that

shall work with the said Richard Heekes, Thomas Chaunce and William Dowler in the said art at the time of my death shall have orderly as they have been or shall be in service with the said Richard Heekes, Thomas Chaunce and William Dowler or any of them by way of loan of the next issues and profits that shall arise and grow of the said toll and other the premises thereunto belonging in Bishop's Castle aforesaid and of the said stock of money lent and repaid again for ten years upon good sureties to use the said art within this realm and to repay the same again at th' end of ten years, the sum of twenty marks;

And also my will and mind is and also I do devise and will that after all such as now work in the said art with the said Richard Heekes, Thomas Chaunce or with any Englishman now being in work or which shall be in work at Barcheston or Bordesley at the time of my death shall have had their said sums of money to them appointed by this my last will and testament, that then the residue of all the issues, revenues and profits of the said toll and other the premises afore appointed in Bishop's Castle and of the said sums of money lent and repaid again shall be forever applied and lent for ten years by £20 apiece to every such as shall use the said art, chiefly to such as shall be hereafter prentice to any of my said servants before-named using the said art, finding sufficient sureties to use the same and repay the money again at the end of ten years if the party that shall have the money shall so long live;

And if it shall chance the same party to die within the said ten years, that then he shall repay the said money within one year next after the time of his death in manner and form following, that is to say, to every person that shall so use the said art within the said counties of Worcester and Warwick & in the said cities of Worcester and Coventry, and for lack of such persons there or elsewhere within the counties of Gloucester, Hereford, Shropshire, Stafford, Oxford and Berkshire, so that every of them do find sureties as is aforesaid, which sureties and bonds of all the said persons aforementioned and unnamed I will and my mind is shall be made unto my executors and the overlivers of them and such person and persons as shall be justices of assizes at the time being of the county of Worcester and to the clerk of the peace of the said county of Worcester, and after the death of my executors then to the justices of assizes for the time being and to the clerk of the peace of the said county and to my heir male of my body begotten only;

And that after that the said Edmund Plowden, son of Edmund Plowden, my son-in-law, shall accomplish the full age of 24 years, then I will and devise that he and his assigns shall have all the residue of the years that shall be then to come of the term of years of the said toll and other the premises in Bishop's Castle aforesaid;

And whereas I have lawfully assured to me and my heirs the reversion of certain lands, tenements, rents, reversions and services in the county of Hereford, my will, devise and mind is and also by this my last will I do devise and give the said reversion of all the aid lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances unto my executors for the term of ten years to the performance of this my last will;

And after the said ten years ended, then the same to remain to my son, Ralph Sheldon, for term of his life, and after to Edward Sheldon, son of the said Ralph, and to the heirs

males of his body lawfully begotten, and for lack of such issue to the heirs males of the said Ralph Sheldon, and for lack of such issue to the right heirs of me, the said William Sheldon, forever;

And my will and mind is and also I do give, will and devise to Symon Walweyn of Oxhill in the county of Warwick and Thomas Evett of Mickleton in the county of Gloucester and their heirs forever to th' use of them and their heirs forever yearly out of all my lands, tenements and hereditaments in Little Wolford in the said county of Warwick fifty-six shillings eight pence to the intent nonetheless that the said Symon Walweyn and Thomas Evett and their heirs forever shall yearly content and pay to the said justices of assizes for the time being 40s and to the clerk of the peace of the said county of Worcester for he time being 10s to that intent that the said justices of assizes and clerk of the peace shall see and take order for the taking of the said bonds yearly, and that the said sums of money may and shall be yearly employed according to the true intent and meaning of this my last will;

And my will and min is and also I do devise and will that it shall be leeful to the said Symon Walweyn and Thomas Evett and their heirs for non-payment of the said sum [+of?] 56 8d to them before bequeathed from time to time to enter the said lands and to distrain for the same and to levy by way of distress in the said lands for every such default of payment of the sum of 20s in name of [f. 63v] a penalty, and the same from time to time to have and detain to their own uses;

And I do devise and will that the said Symon Walweyn and Thomas Evett and their several heirs shall have yearly the said 6s 8d, the overplus of the said fifty shillings, in recompense of their pains to receive the said annuity of fifty shilling[s] and for the payment thereof yearly as is abovesaid;

And also my will, mind and devise is that John Ward, my servant, shall be bailie and woodward of the said manor and other the premises in Atch Lench and Salford Priors during 24 years if he so long live, and shall yearly make a true account of all the profits thereof coming to my executors and the overliver of them, and that in consideration thereof he shall have yearly allowed him out of the said manor and other the premises in Atch Lench in [sic?] Salford Priors aforesaid for his fee and wages 13s 4d, and that he shall have the first copyhold that shall fall void in the said manor of Atch Lench after my death, paying but the yearly rent now reserved for the same and all other services now due and accustomed without any fine to be paid for the same, to have and to hold the same to him during his natural life after the custom of the said manor with a licence to make an under-tenant or under-tenants thereof from time to time, and that my executors shall cause a sufficient copy to be made of the same copyhold to the said John Ward at the next court to be kept after the said copyhold shall fall & become void;

And I do ordain my said executors and the survivor of them to be steward and stewards of the said manor of Atch Lench during the said 24 years, and also I do will and devise that my executors shall permit and suffer my son, William Sheldon, to have the occupation from year to year of the park of Wadborough and the grounds belonging to

the same and the keeping of the said park during the interest that I shall have in the same at my death with two bucks and two does to be taken by him every year and not above, so that my said son do make no spoil nor destruction of the deer that be or shall be within the said park nor make any wilful waste or spoil of or in any of the woods there, and so that my said son, William, do permit and suffer Ralph Woodward, my servant, to have for one year next after my death such number of cattle and such ground there as he shall have at the time of my death, paying for the same year to my said son, William, so much in rent as he paid to me for one year next before my death, and so that my said son, William, do not demise or let the said park and grounds nor any parcel thereof but by way of gistments without the consent of the more part of my executors, and so that my son, William, do pay yearly the old and accustomed rents of the said park and ground to the Lady Lucy Latimer so long as she shall live and my interest so long continue, and after to the Lord Latimer and his heirs, and also five pounds yearly to my executors towards the performance of this my will;

And my will and mind is and also I do devise that my son, Ralph Sheldon, shall have the ordering and disposing of the game within the said park during the time of my interest;

And further whereas I have begun to make a sough or drain in certain lands of one Mr Winter's adjoining near to my lands in Coleorton, and also have compounded with him and likewise with the right honourable and my good Lord the Earl of Huntingdon to work, make, drive and convey the said sough or drain in and through certain of their lands unto certain of my lands being parcel of my manor of Coleorton to th' intent to get coals as well in some part of my said good Lord's lands as within my said manor, and forasmuch as the attaining and getting of the said coal will not be only beneficial unto my heir or heirs but great commodity to a great number of the Queen's Majesty's subjects to have the said coals at reasonable prices for their fuel, my will and devise is that my executors shall effectually with all convenient speed do their endeavour to finish the said sough or at leastwise to bring the same in such order that the coals by the said sough may be gotten by drawing of water, if God will so suffer the same;

And after that my executors and the overlivers of them shall take the issues, profits and money that shall arise and grow of the said coals so to be gotten and of my lands in Coleorton to the performance of this my last will until such time as my will be fully performed with the same and with such other lands, leases and other profits as I have devised that my executors shall have to the performance of this my last will;

And after my said will performed, then my will and mind is that my son, Ralph Sheldon, shall take the issues, revenues, rents and profits of my said manor of Coleorton and of the said coal mine from year to year during [f. 63v] his natural life;

And if my said son die, as God defend, before my heir male of my body begotten then being under the age of 22 years, then my will and mind is that my executors from thenceforth shall have and receive the issues and revenues and profits of my said manor and coal mine for the space and term of 12 years, and bestow the issues, revenues and profits that shall arise and grow of my said manor and coal mine in the purchasing of so

much lands as may conveniently be bought with the said money, saving and excepting of the same the sum of one hundred pounds in money, which one hundred pounds my intent, meaning and devise is that my executors then living shall have in recompense of their travail in and about the same over and besides their reasonable costs, charges and expenses, which said lands so to be purchased or attained by my executors or the overlivers of them my will, intent and devise is that my said executors or the overlivers of them shall execute a lawful estate in fee simple without condition or conditions unto such person or persons as then shall be my next heir or heirs;

And after the said 12 years fully ended and determined, then my will and devise is and also I do then will, bequeath and devise the said manor and coal mine unto my heir male of my body lawfully begotten and to his heir males of his body begotten, and for lack of issue male of my body lawfully begotten, then to my heirs general;

And I do give unto William Bavand to be paid unto him in five years the sum of ten pounds;

And further whereas I have paid and laid out and stand bounden unto certain persons for William Clopton, esquire, the sum of sixteen hundred pounds and more, and whereas it is agreed between the said William Clopton and the said William [sic?] Plowden, Ralph Sheldon and others that certain lands of the said William Clopton's shall be sold for the repayment of the said sum of £1600 and more, which sum of money is appointed to be paid to the said Edmund Plowden and Ralph Sheldon in a certain time, and for the non-payment thereof certain lands of the said Clopton's to the yearly value in rent of £80 or thereabouts is assured unto the said Ralph Sheldon and his heirs, which rent of £80 is to be received by the said Ralph Sheldon until the said sum of £1600 and more be contented and paid in such manner and form as in the said writings made between the said William Clopton and Edmund Plowden, Ralph Sheldon and others is mentioned, my will and devise is that as well the said lands to the value of the said rent of four score pounds and the rent thereof as the said £1600 or more shall go to the performance of this my last will and testament until the same be fully performed;

And also whereas I have, as is before mentioned, willed and devised divers manors, leases, farms, rents and other profits and the said coal mine to the performance of this my last will and testament, some for many years and some for fewer years as by this my said last will doth at large appear, my intent, will and devise is that after all my debts, bequests, legacies and funerals be fully satisfied, contented and paid, and after that my said executors have in their hands custody or possession with such stock of cattle, debts and other goods that I shall happen to have at the time of my death unbequeathed the sum of three thousand pounds, that then my devise and will of all the said manors, leases, farms, rents and other profits and the said coal mine before appointed and limited to my executors shall cease and determine except the devise of my manor and lands in Compton Scorpion before appointed for the surety of my executors that they shall not be charged by the payment of any of their own goods, and then I will that my said daughter Plowden shall have thereof towards the marriage of her children, the eldest son excepted, the sum of two hundred pounds;

And my daughter, Anne Daston, shall have thereof towards the marriage of her children, the eldest son excepted, two hundred marks;

And my daughter Pollard, if she shall happen to have any issue, two hundred marks, and if she have no issue then but one hundred pounds;

And my daughter Brayne to have thereof towards the marriage of her children, if she have any, two hundred marks, and if she have no issue then but one hundred pounds, but my will and devise is that my son Brayne shall not have in his hands any of the said money, but that my executors shall keep the same and employ it according to the meaning of my will upon her and her children if she have any;

And my son, William Sheldon, shall have thereof towards the marriage of his children, if he have any, two hundred marks, and if he have no issue then but one hundred pounds;

And of the rest and residue of the said sum of three thousand pounds my will, intent and devise is that every of my executors then living shall have ten pounds apiece;

And of the residue my will, intent and meaning is that seven hundred pounds shall be employed equally to the marriage of my son Ralph Sheldon's children, the eldest excepted, upon condition that he do permit and suffer my executors to have and receive the issues, rents, revenues and profits of all such lands, farms and leases as I have before appointed, devised, willed and bequeathed unto them for and towards the payment of my debts, [f. 64r] legacies, funerals expenses and performance of this my last will and testament, and if he do not, that then the said seven hundred pounds that should be employed equally to the marriage of his children shall go and remain to my said executors to be equally divided amongst my children, my son, Ralph, excepted;

And whereas I do owe and am indebted unto Richard Thomlyns, deceased, in the sum of £63 6s 8d which I had of him towards the grant of a lease to be made unto him of that part of the farm ground of Tredington which in his lifetime was in his occupation for certain years yet to come, my will and meaning is that my executors shall permit and suffer the executors of the said Richard Tomlyns to occupy the same during all such years as shall be to expire and come thereof at the time of my death, or else to repay the said money to the same executors again at the choice of the executors of the said Richard Tomlyns;

And further I will that if any of my said sons, Ralph Sheldon or William Sheldon, or either of them deliberately with good and plain deliberation privily or apparently will go about to break any part of this my will, or will challenge or demand any other lands, leases, rents or sums of money of(?) or for any part of my lands, leases or farms, or will challenge any other lands, leases, rents or sums of money by any promise or conveyances heretofore by me made, or else will disagree and not be contented with such lands or tenements as to them and every of them by this my last will as before is appointed whereupon any suit or contention in the law shall arise or grow amongst them or any of

them, and the same act or acts of the said Ralph or William shall be disallowed by the judgment in writing of Mr Justice Welshe, Edmund Plowden, Anthony Pollard and Harry Affild or the overlivers of them or by any two of them, whereof the said Edmund Plowden, if he be then living, shall be one, and the same act not reformed or recompense thereof not made within 6 months after such judgment in writing made, then my very last will and mind is that all the profits of the lands, rents and goods appointed to such as shall so hereafter disagree shall be evenly divided amongst all the rest of my children which shall be contented and agreeing with this my last will and testament, and the other so refusing and breaking this my said will or any part thereof to have no part nor parcel of those lands, rents or goods to them or any of them within this my present will appointed;

And also I do will and devise and my intent is that the residue of the said sum of three thousand pounds, which will be about the sum of fifteen hundred pounds, shall be by my executors and overseers or the more part of them employed and bestowed in the purchasing and buying of so much lands as the same conveniently will buy, which land my will and intent is shall be assured to my son, William Sheldon, for term of his life, the remainder to the eldest son of my said son, William Sheldon, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for lack of such issue of his body lawfully begotten, then the said lands to remain to the second son of my son, William, Sheldon, if he shall happen to have any second son, and to the heirs of the body of the said second son lawfully begotten, and so from son to son of the said William Sheldon, my son, and to the heirs of the body of every such son of the said William Sheldon, my son, lawfully begotten, so long as there shall be any son of the body of the said William Sheldon, my son;

And for lack of such issue of the body of the said William Sheldon, my son, lawfully begotten, then I will that one part of the said lands to be purchased in manner and form as is before mentioned in three parts divided shall be and remain to the issue male of the body of my brother, Baldwin Sheldon, lawfully begotten;

And one other part in three parts divided unto Ralph Sheldon, son of my brother, Thomas Sheldon, deceased, and to his heir males of his body lawfully begotten;

And one other part of the said lands in three parts divided, being residue of the said lands, tenements and hereditaments, to Thomas Sheldon, one other of the sons of the said Thomas Sheldon, my brother, and to the heir males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue male of the body of my said brother, Baldwin Sheldon, lawfully begotten, or of the said Ralph Sheldon, son of my said brother, Thomas Sheldon lawfully begotten, or of the said Thomas Sheldon, son of my said brother, Thomas Sheldon, lawfully begotten, then I will that the said lands so to be purchased and assured as is aforesaid as any of the said several states shall be determined as before mentioned shall remain and come to Edward Sheldon, son of my son, Ralph Sheldon, and to his heirs forever;

And also whereas I have in this my present will ordained and made Edmund Plowden, Anthony Pollard, my sons-in-law, Ralph Sheldon, my son, Harry Affild, my cousin, and

Thomas Evett, my servant, my executors, my will, devise and intent is that if my son, Ralph Sheldon, do any kind of way give any occasion for the breach of my will in not performing of the same that shall be disallowed in writing by Mr Justice Welsh and my son Plowden or the survivor of them, that then my said son, Ralph, shall not be any of my executors [f. 64v] until he hat reformed himself according as the said Justice Welshe and Edmund Plowden or the survivor of them shall think meet and allow of by writing;

And further my will and intent is that Edmund Plowden, Anthony Daston, Anthony Pollard, Symon Walweyn [=Walwyn] and Thomas Evett and the heirs of the said Edmund and the heirs, executors, administrators and assigns of every of them, shall execute and perform my intent, declaration and meaning expressed and contained in one writing dated the first day of the month of January last etc. concerning two(?) several rents of £30 apiece and the arrearages thereof expressed in the same, which two several rents were severally granted by William Willington, esquire, deceased, unto two of his daughters their heirs out of the manor or lordship of Ditchford Frary aforesaid, and I do charge them therewithal in honesty and conscience;

And also I do will and devise and my intent is that my said son, Ralph Sheldon, shall have all my interest, lease and term of years that I shall have at the time of my death in Knaptoft in the county of Leicester, and to enter upon the same at the feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross that shall be next after my death and not before upon these conditions following, that he shall permit and suffer all such sheep and lambs that shall be pasturing, going and feeding at the time of my death at, in or upon the manor of lordship of Barcheston in the said county of Warwick and at, in or upon the manors or lordship of Combe Baskerville, Over Westcote and Nether Westcote in the county of Gloucester to pasture, feed and go to the performance of this my last will until the 20th day of August next after my decease or somewhat longer so that the lambs that shall come of the ewes pasturing on the said manors last recited may be sold to the most advantage, wherewith my said son may well content himself seeing that he doth and shall take the most benefit of this my last will;

Also I do will and devise that if my son, Ralph Sheldon, shall happen to overlive me, that then my executors shall pay and bear towards the charges of his living the sum of two hundred pounds to be levied of my goods, leases and lands devised to my executors;

And of this my last will and testament I do ordain and make Edmund Plowden, Anthony Pollard, my sons-in-law, Ralph Sheldon, my son, Harry Afild and Thomas Evett my executors;

And I do constitute and make overseers of this my last will and testament Mr Justice Welshe, Sir Robert Throckmorton, knight, Anthony Daston and John Wilkinson of Paul's Churchyard;

And I do give unto the said Justice Welshe, Sir Robert Throckmorton, Anthony Daston and John Wilkinson for their pains herein to be taken twenty pounds apiece, and to every of my executors twenty pounds apiece for their pains;

In witness whereof to this my last will and testament I have subscribed my name, these being witness whose names are subscribed, with divers others. Per me William Sheldon. Per me Humfr{id}um Purcell. Roger Wilkynson. John Harrington. Richard More. Per me Joh{ann}em Blayney. Per me Ioh{ann}em Mownford. Per me Robert Harper. Per me Will{elmu}m Pollard. By me Harry Hangston. By me Thomas Richardson.

A certain codicil or writing to be annexed and parcel of my will made on the 28th day of September 1570

And whereas I have assured the manor, lordship and park of Beoley and all my lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances in Beoley aforesaid to remain, descend, revert or come after my death unto Ralph Sheldon, my well-beloved son and heir apparent, of a state of inheritance as by the conveyance thereof more plainly at large appeareth;

And whereas my good, dear and natural father, Ralph Sheldon, deceased, whose soul God pardon, did of great and weighty considerations disparked [sic?] some part of the said park;

And whereas I have upon the same considerations and divers others of great importance towards me in the respect of my calling and for the natural zeal [=zeal?] and love that I bear unto my said well-beloved son, Ralph Sheldon, and his son, Edward Sheldon, who God long preserve to his pleasure, have disparked more of the said park and do intend to dispark the whole park or the greatest part thereof, if God spare me life, to that end that the soil of the ground thereof may be converted, used and employed rather to the benefit of the commonwealth than used and employed for the keeping of things for the pleasure of few men not so beneficial for the commonwealth, which every man of so mean a calling as I am of ought in conscience to have consideration of;

Now I will and devise and my meaning and intent is that if my said son, Ralph Sheldon, or any other by his means or under his title do at any time within 16 years next after my death or decease newly impark or keep any deer in any park [sic?] of the grounds or soil of the said park which is now disparked or shall be disparked or taken out of the said park hereafter at any time during my lease, or shall be limited or appointed in writing, sealed and subscribed by me, to be disparked or taken out, and do not reform the same again [f. 65r] within one year after the doing and alteration thereof, and so to continue the same disparked for the said 16 years next after my death or decease, that than and from thenceforth my said son, Ralph, shall not be any of my executors nor shall have, receive or enjoy from thenceforth any legacy or legacies of my goods or chattels or of any sum or sums of money that shall arise, grow or come of any lease, leases, lands or hereditaments devised in my last will to be received by my executors or else specially bequeathed unto him, but that the same and every part thereof shall be employed and bestowed by the rest of my executors in manner and form hereafter following, that is to say, upon the said

Edward Sheldon, son of my said son, Ralph Sheldon at such time as the said Edward Sheldon shall accomplish the full age of twenty and two years;

And if it shall happen that he shall depart this world before, as God defend, then to his issue male if he have then any;

And for lack of such issue then to the heirs general of the body of the said Edward Sheldon, if he have then any, and to the children of all other my children equally and evenly to be divided amongst them without favour or affection, anything in my said last will or testament mentioned to the contrary notwithstanding;

And whereas in respect of a gift made by William Willington, esquire, deceased, of the manor and lordship of Barcheston and all other his lands in Barcheston in the said county of Warwick unto me and Mary, my well-beloved first wife, and to her heirs of a state of inheritance, and by award made by Sir Robert Throckmorton, knight, and others the same manor or lordship of Barcheston and all the other lands and inheritance late the said William Willington's in Barcheston aforesaid be and are by lawful conveyances and assurance assured to me for term of my life without impeachment of any waste, and after to my said son, Ralph, and to his heirs forever, by reason of which award I paid unto Sir John Throckmorton, knight, two thousand and five hundred pounds, and spent in the law above five hundred pounds;

And whereas I have placed in the mansion house of Barcheston aforesaid one Richard Heekes, and granted him the mill there and all the houses, orchards, gardens, the going, pasturing and feeding of 17 kine, 6 horses and certain other cattle without paying any rent in money for the same but only to make certain malt for me and to carry certain of my corn and hay, and chiefly in respect of the maintenance of making of tapestry, arras, mockados, carolles(?), plumbets, programs, says and serges;

And where also the said Richard Heekes and I are condescended and agreed that certain money shall be yearly disbursed and laid out by me and my heirs towards the making of the said tapestry and other things before recited, and how and in what manner the same shall be answered to me, my heirs and executors, and a recompense also for the said house and other things to the said to the said Richard Heekes granted, as by a bill indented made between him and me more plainly at large appeareth;

And forasmuch as the same Richard Heekes hath bestowed and must bestow on the houses there a good piece of money to make all things necessary for workmen to work in the premises;

And for that his trade will be greatly beneficial to this commonwealth to trade youth in and a mean to sterve(?) [=stay?] great sums of money within this realm that will issue and go out of this realm for the same commodities to the maintenance of the foreign parties and to the hindrance of this commonwealth;

And considering that I do think my said well-beloved son, Ralph, will have the same consideration to the commonwealth as I now have or more;

I do will and devise that my said son, Ralph, if he do permit and suffer the said Richard Heekes to have and enjoy the said house and all other things specified in the said writings made between me and the said Richard Heekes according to the time limited in the said writing and according to the tenor thereof, that then my said son, Ralph, and his heir male shall not only have all the things and profits reserved in the said writing indented, but also the stock that shall remain in the hands of the said Richard Heekes at the time of my death;

And if the same be not then the value of three hundred pounds, that then my executors shall within one year make the same three hundred pounds which shall be yearly employed according to the said writing indented;

And in case that my said son, Ralph, shall not seem good to fulfill the said writing indented as much as is therein mentioned on my part and my heirs to be performed, that then I do devise and will that the said Richard Heekes shall have of the said stock the occupation of one hundred pounds during his natural life, so that he do seal and deliver to my executors or to one of them one bill obligatory for the repayment of the said sum of one hundred pounds to my executors within two years next after the decease of the said Richard Heekes, and so that the said Richard Heekes, as my special hope and trust [+is?] he will do, continue the exercising of the said trade to so good a purpose as he hath begun;

And further I do will and devise that as well all the premises and all other legacies, bequests and things that shall be expressed in this writing and subscribed by me or written by or within [sic?] my own hand shall be annexed to my will as a codicil or parcel of my will, and to be, stand and remain to all purpose and intents as parcel of my last will as well as [+if?] the same had been written in my said will.

Certain legacies given by me, William Sheldon, by force of a clause mentioned in my last will

First to Anne Bushell, to be paid at the time of her marriage, upon condition that [f. 65v] she be ruled in her marriage by my son, Ralph Sheldon, her two brethren, and Edmund Porter or by any two of them, the sum of forty pounds;

Item, I do give to Margaret Delphes(?) [=Delves] ten pounds to be paid at her marriage, if she be ruled in her marriage by my wife in the same marriage and by my brother Broke;

Item, I do give to Alice Lye to be paid at her marriage forty shillings;

Item, I do give to every maidservant that shall be dwelling with me at the time of my death and two years before twenty shillings to be paid at their several marriages;

Item, I do give to every of my servants of husbandry that shall be dwelling with me at the time of my death and two years before one half year's wages, James, my bailie, excepted, unto whom I do give 40s;

Item, I do give unto every one of my five musicians four pounds to be paid within two years after my death or [+one?] year if my debts be satisfied;

Item, I do give unto every manservant of mine that serveth me in my stable or else in my kitchen, brewhouse or bakehouse, or else that serveth me in the state of a yeoman, his whole year's wages;

My meaning is that the(?) Lombard, Thomas Coke and Sugar shall not be taken within the compass of my former legacies, but I do give to every of them five pounds in recompense of their service northward in case they be not better advanced by me in my life time;

Item, I do give to Robert Harper ten pounds;

Item, I do give to Myles, my servant, five pounds;

Item, I do give to be divided amongst my nephew Thomas Sheldon's children ten pounds;

Item, I do give to be divided amongst my nephew Ralph Sheldon's children of Wickwam [[=Wickwar?] ten pounds;

Item, I do give to be divided amongst the children of my nephew Ralph Sheldon of Broadway ten pounds;

Item, I do give unto the children of my nephew, William Sheldon of Broadway, to be divided equally five pounds;

Item, I do give likewise to be divided unto the children of my nephew, Anthony Sheldon, five pounds.

Per me, William Sheldon.

Probatum fuit h{uius}mo{d}i Testamentu{m} vnacu{m} Codicill{i}s cora{m} domino Cant{uariensis} Archie{pisco}po apud London decimo ffebruarij Anno d{omi}ni mill{es}imo qui{n}gentesimo lxxo Iurament{o} Iustiniani Kydd Notarij publici p{ro}cur{atoris} Radulphi Sheldon Armigeri Execut{ori} in h{uius}mo{d}i Testament{o} no{m}i{n}ato Cui Com{m}issa fuit Administrac{i}o o{mn}iu{m}

bonoru{m} d{i}c{t}i defunct{i} De bene &c Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{i}
Res{er}uata p{otes}tate &c alijs Execut{oribus} cu{m} venerit [sic?]

[=The same testament was proved together with the codicils before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the tenth day of February in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 70th by the oath of Justinian Kydd, notary public, proctor of Ralph Sheldon, esquire, executor named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all the goods of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., with power reserved etc. to the other executors when they shall have come.]