

*The Last Will and Testament of
Anthony Druce
of Bradford 1677*



In the Name of God Amen The last will and Testament of Anthony Druce of Bradford in the County of Wilts Clothier made and ordained the Nyneth and Twentieth day of November in the yeare of our Lord One Thousand Six Hundred Seventy and Seaven Imprimis I Comend my soule into the hands of Almighty God And my Body I Comit to the Dust And as touching my Worldly Estate my will is That it shall be disposed of as followeth (That is to Say) Unto Joane my Loving Wife I give and bequeath the use of all my household goods during her naturall life onely And att the day of her decease the whole goods to remain unto my Executors hereinafter named Alsoe to her I give and bequeath those Roomes of my Tenement in Bradford (That is to Say) The Chamber I now lodgeth in The Best Chamber in the Hall and the Buttery called the Wine Sellar and the Little Room under the Staires with that Garden next to the said Best Chamber And all wayes unto the said Premises Leading To hold to her and her Assignes dureing the Terme of her naturall Life And alsoe I give and bequeath unto her the Sume of Twenty Pounds yearly To be paid unto her halfe yearly dureing the same Terme by my sonnes James Druce and John Druce out of my lands in these presents given them (That is to Say) James to pay the one halfe thereof and John the other halfe dureing the Terme aforesaid on the dayes and Times herein intended to be paid by even and equall portions And if the same or any part thereof shall remaine behind and unpaid by the space of one moneth after any halfe shall be ended in which the Said Sume of money ought to be paid Then and in such case I do hereby give power unto my said wife and her Assignes to enter upon the lands of such of my sonnes as shall make default in payment thereof and the Same to keepe and detaine with the Rents issues and proffitts thereof during the said Terme of her naturall life Provided alwayes that if That if my said wife shall clayme any Joynture of Dower out of the premises otherwise Then by vertue hereof That then that bequest to her of the premises to be void and of none effect Item unto my said Sonne James Druce and unto his heires for ever I give and bequeath All my lands messuages and Tenements in Bradford Item unto my said Sonne John Druce I give and bequeath All my lands and Tenements whatsoever lying within the Tything of Winsley in the said parish of Bradford To hold to him his heires and assignes for ever And if my said son James shall depart this life unmarried Then my will is That my sonne John shall have all my lands and Tenements in Bradford paying to each of my other Children The Sume of One Hundred Pounds a peice when they shall each of them attaine to the age of One and Twenty yeares a peice And if it shall happen that my said sonne John shall dye before his being One and Twenty yeares or att any time after before his marriage Then my will is that my said sonne James and his heires for ever shall have all the lands hereby given him he the said James paying out of the same To every of my other Children the Sume of ffifty Pounds a peice within the Terme of one whole yeare after the death of my said sonne John hee dying as aforesaid Item unto my sonne Jeremy als William Druce I give and bequeath the Sume of Three Hundred pounds To be paid him by my other Two sonnes att his reaching the age of Three and Twenty yeares And they to bind him forth an Apprentice att their cost and soe to keep

him until then in Stead of not paying any Interest with the said Sume of Three Hundred pounds when it shall become due and payable Item unto my daughters Sarah Druce and Ann Druce I give and bequeath the severall sumes of Two Hundred and ffifty Pounds a peice To be paid them Respectively when they attaine to the age of one and Twenty yeares a peice And if it happen That either of my said Three Children last named shall depart this life before their attaineing the age aforesaid Then and in such case my will is That every one of my Children that are then Liveing shall have an equall part of the Legacie given to such as shall soe dye Item All the Rest and residue of my Estate I give and bequeath unto my said Sonnes James and John Druce And them I doe make Executors of this my last will and Testament desireing that they will performe the same ffaithfully And I desire that my Kinsmen and Loveing freinds Mr George Grant Mr Paul Methuen Mr Christopher Bayly and Mr Richard Druce will be Overseers to this my Last Will and Testament And to them or any Two of them I give power to call my said Executors to account from time to time concerning my Estate untill all my debts and Legacies shall be fully paid And if they or any Two of them shall find That my said Executors or either of them shall waste my Estate and not pay my debts and Legacies therewith as is hereby intended Then my will is That from thenceforth They shall be discharged of being Executors and shall become liable to pay whatsoever they shall retaine of my said Estate into their hands, unto my said Wife and to my said Overseers or to any Three of them whereof my wife to be one And those Three from thenceforth I make Executors in such case to this my last will and Testament onely in Trust for payment of my debts and and Legacies and the Improvement of my Estate for the advantage of my Children detaineing for themselves out of the same all reasonable and necessarie Charges that they shall be att therein And I doe hereby declare That if my personall Estate will not pay All my debts and Legacies aforesaid That then my Land shall stand Charged proportionably with what my personall Estate will not amount unto so farr as not to make the Estate of my said Two Sonnes James and John to be of lesse value in Land or other Estate The the Sume of fower Hundred and ffifty Pounds for James and fower Hundred Pounds for John To be adjudged and determined by my said Overseers or any Two of them and by none other person In witnes whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seale the day and yeare ffirst above written Ant: Druce Signed sealed and published to be the last will and Testament of the said Anthony Druce in the presence of Thomas Lewis Hen: Shrapnell Benjamin Duke Thomas Dicke

Proved at London 16 January 1679

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