

The Will of John Parsons of Wootton Bassett, Gentleman, written 20 Oct 1622,  
proved 22 May 1623)

PROB 11/141/559

[Paragraphed for easier reading]

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN The twentieth daie of October in the yeare of our Lord  
God One thousand six hundred twentie and two **I John Parsons of Wotten  
Bassett in the countie of Wiltes gentleman** doe make this my last will and  
testament in writtinge revoaking thereby both in deede and in lawe all other former  
wills & testaments

First I commend my Soule into the handes of Almightye God my maker and  
Redeemer and my bodie to be buried in the parish Church of Wotton Bassett  
aforesaid.

And for my landes and temporall goodes which god hath blessed withall I give and  
bequeath in manner and forme following (That is to saie)

I give and bequeath unto **Bartholomew Horsall Ann Horsall Elizabeth Horsall** and  
**Christian Horsall** the inst? somme of eight poundes of currant englishe money  
equallie to be devided amonge them beinge **the sonne and daughters of Henry  
Horsall of Wootton Bassett** aforesaide; which said somme of eight poundes shalbe  
within halfe an yeare after my decease be delivered unto the Overseers of this my  
testament and put out for the best use and benefit of them, and delivered unto each  
of them at their accomplishing the age of twentie an one yeares.

Item. I give **Christian Bath my sister** my howse at the Lawne gate duringe the  
terme of her naturall life and after her decease the residue of the yeares then to  
come I give and bequeath unto **Ann my daughter**.

Item. I give and bequeath unto **Edith now wife of Henry Horsall** the somme of  
fortie shillings to be payed delivered unto her within one halfe yeare next after my  
decease.

Item. I give and bequeath unto the said **Henry Horsall** my second best cloake to be  
delivered unto him the next daye after my funerall.

Item. I give and bequeath unto **Bartholomew Horsall** aforesaid my best Dublett and  
Breeches.

Item. I give to the parish Church of Wootton Bassett the inst? somme twelve pence.

Item. I give and bequeath unto the poore of the towne of Wootton aforesaid the inst  
somme of twentie shillings to be payed forth by them by the Maior and Burgesses  
or overseers of the towne aforesaid for ever, and the benefit that doe come and  
growe forth thereof by the said Maior and Burgesses for the tyme beinge on the feast  
of St. Thomas th'apostle to the said poore to be yearly distributed.

Item. I give and bequeath unto **my daughter Ann** the somme of fortie poundes of currant englishe money, my table bord and cubberd in the Hall, my great Caldron, one fether bed with appurtenances, my mault which and my great Coffe to be delivered unto her at her daye of marriage, if she shall and doe marrye with the consent and good likeinge of her mother and my overseers, but if she marry against theire wills then my will is she shall not receyve it before shee accomplish the age of one and twentie.

Item. I give and bequeath unto **my daughter Joane** the like somme of fortie poundes, my silver bowle, my brasse pann, my best coffe, one flockbed with appurtenances and my second best Caldron to be delivered unto her in such manner and sorte as her sister Ann is to receyve her said money and goodes.

Item. I give to the child wherewith my wife is now with Childe withall the like sommes of fortie poundes to be payd in such sorte as my twoe daughters Ann and Joane are to be paid.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my said unborne childe all my landes and tenements that I am seyzed of in fee simple if it be a manchilde or ---?--- not and all the interest right and title that Robert Heath is to assure me of and in one pasture growne newlye inclosed in the commons of Straton in the countie aforesaid together with all my right and interest that I have or of right ought to have in one obligacon wherein the said Heath and wicks? standeth bownde to me in the somme of one hundred and twentie poundes for the setling of the said lande unto me and my heires but if it be a woman childe then my will is shee shall have onely the said ground conveyed unto her by the said Heathe. And **my daughter Ann** and her heires to have the howse wherein I now dwell called the crosse Keyes, and the howse wherein **Henry Horsall** nowe dwelleth. And then **my daughter Joane** to have the howse wherein William Frye now dwelleth which said howses are situate in Wootton Bassett aforesaide. To have and to holde the said howses with thappurtenances unto them belonging, unto them their heires and assignes, and if it happen either of my children to decease before they accomplish the age of twentie and one yeares and unmarried then my will and meaninge is that the survivors shall have that childe porcon as shall so happen to decease, and if twoe do happen to decease the last Survivor to enjoy all thothers porcons, and if it happen all my said children to decease without issue of their bodyes lawfully begotten then my will is that those persons hereafter mencioned and their heires forever shall enjoy my landes vizt **John Parsons my brother William Parsons sonne** to have and to holde my howse with appurtenances wherein I nowe dwell called the crosse Keyes. **Thomas Parsons brother of the said John** all my land in Straton & Margetts, **Richard Parsons their brother** my howse with appurtenances wherein William Frye nowe dwelleth, And to **Bartholomew Horsall** aforesaid the howse with appurtenances wherein his father nowe dwelleth

Item. My will is that the three severall sommes of fortie poundes a peece given to my said children as aforesaid shall within sixe monthes after my deceast be delivered to

my Overseers to be put forth for my said Children and the use thereof yearely payed unto Ann my said wife for longe as she shall educate bringe up and maintaine my said Children in lerninge? and otherwise in such sufficient manner as children of their bearth and estate ought to be educated and mainteyned, and if it fortune that my said wife shall marrye after my decease or my children or one of them not used as ought to be then my will is my Overseers shall take them into their Custodies and plan? them as they shall thinke meete and convenient and shall maynteyne them with the encrease of their said stocks and yearely rents untill they marrye or accomlishe the age of one and twentie yeares.

Item. My will is that **Ann my wife** during the tyme that she keepeth my said Children shall have the profitt and yearely rents of my land hereby bequeathed and given. And that duringe the tyme she shall keepe her selfe widdow she shall have my three kins leaze in the Lawne. But whensoever shee shall marrye then my will is that **Ann my daughter** shall have them.

Item. All the rest of my goodes and Chattells my debtes being paid and my funerall expenses beinge discharged I give unto **Ann my wife** whome I make my sole Executrix of this my last will & testament.

Item. I desire and appointe **my brother Robert Bath my brother in lawes Thomas Masklyn and Robert Maslyn and my cosens John Saye** the younger to be overseers of this my last will and testament and doe hereby give full power unto my saide Overseers to end all doubttes s---tes and controversies that shall hereafter arise or growe betweene my said Executrix and my said children [a couple of words illegible due to smudging] person whome I have given and bequeathed anye thinge unto by this my will and testament touchinge anie clause or bequeth herein made or given and doe hereby give unto either and every of my Overseers for their paynes therein to be had tenn shillings.

In witness whereof I have hereunto sett my marke and seale the daye and yeare abovesaid. JOHN PARSONS. I give my witnesses twelve pence a peece to be paid at my funerall.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of Fr: Archer, Arthur Greene, John Brinsden.

John PARSONS married Ann MASLIN\* on 24 Sep 1618 in Wootton Bassett, Wilts. Ann's brothers Thomas and Robert were overseers of John Parsons' Will.

John and Ann had the following children, christened in Wootton Bassett:

- Anne Parsons, chr. 24 Oct 1619, named in her father's Will
- Joane Parsons, chr. 7 Jan 1620/1, named in her father's Will
- John Parsons, chr. 4 Feb 1622/3. Appears to have been born either just before or after his father's death. At the time of writing his Will, John Parsons Sr. indicates that his wife Ann was with child.

John PARSONS was buried in Wootton Bassett on 30 Nov 1622. No burial record can be found for Ann PARSONS who presumably remarried to Thomas HOOPER on 24 Jul 1626 in Wootton Bassett.

John names his "brother" Robert BATH along with his brothers-in-law Thomas MASKLYN and Robert MASLYN (per above) as Overseers of his last Will and Testament. John also names as a beneficiary of his Will his "sister" Christian BATH. In the Will of Christian BAATH of Wootton Bassett Christian identifies Robert BAATH as her brother.

John names as beneficiaries the children of Henry HORSALL and Edith his wife, without specifying his relationship to the Horsell family. In the Will of Christian BAATH of Wootton Bassett, she names as a beneficiary her sister Edith HORSELL.

\* Ann MASLIN and her brothers Thomas and Robert were most likely the children of Thomas MASLYNE the Elder of Woodshawe in Wootton Bassett and Anne his wife. Thomas and Robert are both named as beneficiaries in the 1635 will of Thomas MASLYNE the Elder, who also names his daughter Anne and makes bequests to her children 'nowe born and livinge'. Thomas does not provide her married name. Thomas MASLYNE the Elder was buried in Wootton Bassett on 15 Apr 1635.