

## Will of John Cowlen made and proved in 1765.

N.B. This is a very long will, with several words illegible, and only pertinent extracts have been transcribed

God's will be done I **John Cowlen** of Sampford Peverell in the county of Devon gentleman do make my last will and testament in manner and form following that is to say I give devise and bequeath unto **George Wood the (younger?) of ... in the parish of Habbaton in the said county yeoman my nephew in law** .... all my messuage and tenement called... Ditches ... in the parish of Tiverton ... upon trust for my **nephew John Cowlen** son of my late ...Cowlen, and for default upon trust for my **nephew William Cowlen** another son of my said late deceased brother...

Also I bequeath all my messuages tenements and estates parcels of land... in the said parish of Halberton... and also one little meadow called Sampford Meadow belonging to the said premises in Halberton but situate in Sampford Peverell ... unto my said nephew John Cowlen... and I give and bequeath unto my said Nephew John Cowlen £150... and I give and bequeath unto my said **nephew in law George Wood £600 that is to say upon trust from time to time during the minorities of his sons John Wood and Francis Cowlen Wood and his daughters Elizabeth Wood and Mary Wood...** until they reach the age of 21, £150 each when they reach that age *(with clauses to dictate how the £600 and interest thereon is to be divided if one or more of them die before age 21, with any residue being shared between all other children of the said George Wood and Susannah his wife, or failing any other children, then to Susannah)*...Also I give unto **my niece the said Susannah the wife of the said George Wood** my 3 silver castors and 2 silver salts and 2 silver shovels thereto belonging and my ... Waiter and Broad Basket to be delivered to her ... Also I give and bequeath unto the said George Wood my nephew in law the further sum of £200...and to and for the interest and purpose following that is to say that in the case of **John Bellamy of Sampford Peverell aforesaid shopkeeper husband of my niece Sarah** do and shall at any time within the said 6 months next after my decease enter into and duly execute one good and sufficient Bond or obligation unto the said George Wood... in the penalty of £400 conditioned for the heirs executors or administrators of the said John Bellamy and shall be thereby bound and obliged to pay or raise to be paid unto my said niece Sarah the wife of the said John Bellamy or unto the said George Wood...*(there then follow several default clauses)*... Also I give and bequeath unto the said John Bellamy my nephew in law ... £300... and from time to time during the minority of **Elizabeth Bellamy his daughter** put and place the said £300 at interest but expressing that it in trust for the said Elizabeth Bellamy... to age 21 *(there then follow clauses about her earlier death, default etc)*... Also I give unto my said niece Sarah the use of my silver coffee pott and large spoon waiter and silver stand thereto ... and immediately upon or after her death I give and bequeath the said coffee pott waiter and stand unto the said Elizabeth Bellamy... Also I give unto my said two nieces Susannah Wood and Sarah Bellamy all my china ware one dozen of silver tea spoons tea tongs strainer and milk ewer to be equally divided after my decease... Also I give and bequeath unto sad George Wood my nephew in law £30... to aid and assist his brother in law the said William Cowlen in the management of his affairs after my decease. Also I give unto the said John Cowlen George Wood and Susannah his wife and John Bellamy and Sarah his wife and to each of them a suit of mourning throughout Also I give and bequeath unto **John Capron of Tiverton...** husbandman the sum of twenty pounds Also I give and bequeath unto **Sarah Capron of Sampford Peverell spinster £20...** Also I give and bequeath unto **Agnes Capron the younger of Sampford Peverell spinster £20 ...** Also I give and bequeath unto my **servant maid Grace payne** if she shall

continue to live and be in my service at the time of my decease the sum of £40 and also an entire new suit of mourning value 40 shillings (*thereafter follow causes about giving mourning rings to various people in Somerset, but also including Mary the daughter of Richard Bellamy of Sampford Peverell*) Also I further give and bequeath unto John Wood son of George Wood £20 over and above what I have before given him... Lastly I devise my beloved friends ... to be my bearers and for their trouble therein I give unto each of them a mourning ring hatband and gloves ...Also I hereby give devise and bequeath unto my said nephew Willaim Cowlen another son of my brother Francis Cowlen deceased his heirs executors administrators and assigns for over all and singular the rest and residue of my messuages lands tenements and hereditaments and real estate money goods chattels and personal estate and effects whatsoever ...And I do hereby make constitute and appoint the said William Cowlen sole executor of this my last will and testament ..... any right title or interest into or out of my two copyhold tenements either of them or any part thereof known by the names of ... and Abbots Wood situate in Halberton aforesaid and parcel of the premises hereinbefore by me given or devised to my said nephew John Cowlen... I give unto my said nephew John Cowlen ... £1000 ... 13 January 1764

#### CODICIL 1

*The legacy of £150 to nephew John Cowlen is to be removed from the will, because the testator has resolved to advance to him a sufficient sum of money to set up and carry on his business .There are also changes to who inherits or has use of the various items of silver; nephew in law John Bellamy receives £100; conditions about the money to be left to his niece Susannah the wife of George Wood*

#### CODICIL 2

*This codicil makes further adjustments to the distribution of silverware*

This will was proved 13th day of July 1765 PCC by the oath of William Cowlen the executor