

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF THOMAS MORRELL OF SAMPFORD PEVERELL 1589

BY CLIVE COTTON AND PETER BOWERS FEB 2014.

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Please note – the ORIGINAL spelling and capitalisation has been used to add poignancy to transcription.

In the name of god amen in the yere of our lord god a thousand ffyvie hundred eightie nyne I Thomas Morrell of Sampforde Peverell in the countie of Devon tanner beinge of perfect memory thanks be to god do make this my last will and testamente and all my former willes made heretofore to be frustrate worde and of none effecte in manner and forme followinge say ffirst I bequeathe my soule unto the Allmightie god my maker and redeemer and my bodie to be buryed within the parish churche of Sampford Peverell aforesaid. Item I give and my will and meaninge ys that if Edith my wife do not enjoye neither pretendes any titles unto my tenemente that I now houlde by coppie of Courte roll in the parish of Sampforde Peverell, that thenafter the refusall and not enjoyinge thereof first shall have twelve pounds by the yere to be paid unto her quarterly so longe as she shalbe and contynues my widow. And further my will and instute is that she shall use and have the parloure in my house if that by the using therof my sonne Thomas his estate be not impayred thereby and one Bead¹ perfourmed that standeth therin with all the furniture thereonto belonginge and nowe standing in the same if my sonne Thomas shall happen so longe to lyve with this conditon that yf then she marrye or dye that then it shall ytbe pass unto the saied Thomas the saied parloure with the furniture thereof in as good case as the firste founde it there and further that yf she dwell not therein yt then she shall likewise yeald and give over the saied paloure unto my foresaid sonne with all the furniture thereunto belonging as aforesaid. Likewise I give unto her as muche wood as shall suffice her to bowere moderatlye without wastinge of it as longe as she shall remayne my widowe and be residente and dwellinge in the aforesaid parloure. But yf she make waste that then my will and meaninge is that she shall have twentie shillinges to be paied her quarterly if as aforesaid she shalbe unmarried there resident and abydinge. Ffurther I give unto her one Acre of Rye uppon Burtridge one graye horse and one close of wheate which lyeth by Speartes by estimaton one Acre and that my Executor shall give unto her meate and drinke sufficient for one quarter of a yere next after my deathe at his owne coste and chardge Allwaies provided that yf Edith my wife shall pretende any title and enjoye my & aforesaid tenemente houlden as aforesaid that then all my former gifts and legaceys before bequeathed unto her in leinst of my testmente to be frustrate worde and of none effecte and as thoughe suche gifts had never ben made and to be and remayne unto Ths my Sonne. Item likewise I give unto Thomas Morrell Hughe Morrell William Morrell John Morrell Walter Morrell and Richard Morrell my sonnes all my goodes to be equally according to the discretion of my Exters devided amongste them. Allwayes provided that Richard Morrell must allowe fortie poundes wherof he is allreadie payed out of his parte and porcon . Likewise my will and further meaninge is that William Morrell Walter Morrell and John Morrell my youngest sonnes portions shall exceede and Be greater than the rest by tenne pounce. And further if any of my aforesaid children shall obstinatly refuse and be neither ruled nor governed by my Overseers That then his or their parte or porcon that will not so be ruled shall thereby be frustrated and as thought no such legacey had ben given unto hym and then to be and remayne and to be equallye devided among the rest of my saied children. And further yf yt shall happen any of them to dye or be

unmarried before they have accomplished the age of one and twenty yeres of which tyme and not before his or their partes or porcons shalbe paied unto them. That then his or their portion so beyng Deade and unmarried shalbe and remayne to be devided amongst the rest as aforesaid. Likewise I give unto Vincent Morrell my sonne twentie poundes my money besides that he oweth me all the grounde that I houlde of Culleford and empty Tannary and my best grounde. Likewise I give unto James Chave my nieces sonne five poundes. Likewise I give unto every one of Edward Chave children three shillings & fouer pence a peece. Likewise unto every one of my childers children three shillings & fouer pence a peece. And unto every one of my Sisters children five shillings. And unto every one of my godchildren twelve pence a peece. And further my will is that Fflorencie Borman shall have for her service twentie shillings. And of my goodes shall amounte unto one hundred pounde for every one of my aforesaid children that then Henry Stone and Nicholas Morrell shall have tenne pounde a peece. That my goods will reache so farre unto every one of my aforesaid children. And it is further provided that if Edythe my wife as aforesaid Do neither pretend any title nor enjoye but refuse my aforesaid testamente That then Thomas Morrell my sonne whom I ordeyne and make my whole Executor shall within three weekes after any such refusall uppon reasonable requeste unto hym made at the costes and chardges of Edythe my wife put in sufficient Surritie for the quarterlie paymente of the yerlie Annuitey of y saied twelve poundes to be paied out of his parte and porcon unto Edith my wife as aforesaid given and bequeathed accordinge unto the true meanyng of this my laste will and testam^t which if he refuse to do that then his parte or porcon ymedyatly after any suche refusall before unto hym given shalbe and remayne to Edith my wife. Ffinally I make constitut and ordeyne William Catford of Sampford Peverell Phillip Chave of Uplowman Edward Chave of Burlescombe and Robert Catford my Exters and overseers to see this my laste will and testamente accordinge to the true meanyng therof executed and performed and for their paynes takinge them ~I give and bequeathe to each of them tenne shillings a peece. Witnesses hereunto William Catford the younger Vincent Morrell and by me Robertum Catford

Probatum finit te pamentum supra Pringtu apnd London roram

Note 1. Bead means prayer.