

The Last Will and Testament of Raphe Copcote 14th June 1595

In the name of god Amen the xiiij daie of June in the xxxvij th yere of the reigne of oure soverigne Ladie Elizabeth by the grace of god of England ffrance and Ireland Queen defender of the faithe I Raphe Copcott of Pyrton in the County of Hertford gent beinge sicke in bodie but of good and perfect remembrance all lord and prase be geven to Almightye god doo ordaine and make this my last will and testament in manner and forme ffolowinge

ffirst and principallie I bequeath my soule into thand of Almightye god my creator and maker and to Jesus Christe my alone and only lord and Saviour trustinge assured by through the meritte of god in him to have full remission and forgevenes of all my sinnes and my bodie I will to be buried with in the channcell of the paryshe church of Pyrton aforesaid.

And as touchinge the dispotion of my landes and goods ffirste I geve and bequethe unto Elizabeth Copcott my eldest daughter the some of tow hundred marks of good and lawfull money of England to be paid unto her by myne Executrix within one yere after the day of her marrage or els at the age of xxjty yeres which of them shall first happen to come and in the meane tyme to be brought up in godly educacon at the charge of my executrix

Item I geve and bequeathe unto my second daughter Katherine Copcott the somme of tow hundred marks of good and lawfull money of England to be paid unto her by myne Executrix within one yeare after the day of her marriage or els at thage of xxjtie yeares which of them shall ffirst happen to come and in the mean tyme to be brought up in godly educacon at the charge of my executrix.

Item I geve and bequeath unto my youngest daughter Ellyn Copcott the sum of tow hundred marks of good and lawfull money of England to be paid unto her by my executrix within one yere after the day of her marriage or els at thage of xxjti yeers which shall first happen to come and in the meane tyme to be brought vp in godly educacon at the charge of my executrix And if yt shall please god to call any of my daughters out of this world before tymes appointed that they should redeeme their legacies that then my will and meaninge is that her porcon deceased shal equallie devided betweene the reste of my daughters then liveinge and survivinge

Item I geve and bequeathe unto Ffrancis Copcott my youngest sonne the somme of seaven score poundes of good and lawfull money of England to be paid unto him by myne Executrix at thage of xxiti yeres and in the meane tyme I geve unto my said

sonne Francis ten pounds a year towards his mayntenance at scole to be paid by myne executrix half yearly until such tyme as he shall accomplysh the full age of xxjti yeres as aforesaid

Item I geve and bequeath unto my sonne Ralf Copcott the sume towe hundreth pounds of good and lawfull money of England to be paid unto him in manner and forme followinge that is to say one hundreth pounds by myne Executrix at thage of xxjti yeres and thither hundreth poundes to be paid unto him by my eldest sone George within one yere after that he shall or may lawfullie enter uppon the remainder of those yeres unexpired of the parsonage of Pirton wherin I nowe dwell PROVIDED alwaies that if my sonne George shall refuse to pay the said hundreth poundes at the tyme appointed that then my will is that my sonne Ralph shall enjoy and have the whole tythe of all the demeane landes nowe in the ocupacion of Thomas Dockewray Esquire as also of all other demeane landes belonginge to the colledge of Eyton for by and duringe the terme and tyme of ten yeres Item I geve unto my said sone Ralf tenn poundes a yere yearly duringe the terme of ten yeres after my decease towards his mayetnace to be paid unto him halffe yearly by myne Executrix

And for the better performance of this my last will and testament in payment of my debtes and legacies I will and bequeath unto Beterisse my lovinge wief the whole use profytt and ocupacion of the leace and Rectory and parsonage of Pyrton in the county of hertford and all the gleabe lands, tyeths rents and profytte thereunto belonginge which all do hould and enjoye for sundry yeres yet to expire To have and peceave to her and her assignes for by and duringe the terme and tyme of eleaven whole yeres fullie to be accomplished next and imediatly after my decease and frome and after thend and determynacon of the said terme of eleaven yeares then I will and bequeathe the whole Interest and residewe of my said terme on the Parsonage of Pirton unto George Copcote my eldest sonne and his assignes for by and duringe my and the whole terme and Interest of the Rectory and parsonage of Pyrton aforesaid and I doo further will and dispose for the better mayntenance of my said wief and my children which are younge that frome and after the said terme of eleave yeres expired wherby the interest of my sonne George shall begin of in and to the said Rectory and parsonage of Pirton that my said sonne George Copcott shall yearly satisfie content and pay unto Beatris my lovinge wief one yerly anuytie of twenty pounds of lawfull English money by the yeare to be isuinge and goinge and paid out of the said Rectory and parsonage of Pirton and of the gleabe land then unto belonginge and to be paid

unto her or her assignes quarterly at in and upon the feaste daies of Sainit Mitchell the archangel the nativitie of our Lord god thainciason of the blessed virgin mary and Saint John Baptist by or on and equall porcons for by and duringe suche number of yeres as in the lease thereof then shalbe to expire of the said Beatrisse shall so longe live and if she the same Beatrisse shall depart this world within the said terme then my will is that the said anuytie or annall rent from the usesorth shall cease and determyn and for further securitytie thereof I will and devise and doo grant by this my last will and testament that it shall and may be lawfull to and for the said Beatrisse my wief and her assignes for defaulte of paymente thereof or of any parte thereof by equall] porcons at and after any and every the quarter daye namely the feaste of Sainet Michaell tharchanell the natrivity of our Lord thanniciacon of our Blessed Ladye the Virgin Mary and saint John Baptyst aforesaid which shall be and happen duringe the said terme if she shall live so longe to enter in and upon the said Rectory and parsonage and gleabe land thereof and therin to dystraine and the said distress so taken to impound and deteyne untill the said Beatrisse and her assignes shalbe satisfied and paid of the said anuitye and rent aforesaid so with thereof ? beinge behind and that shalbe come one in manner and forme aforesaid PROVIDED nevertheless that if Beatrisse my said wief shall challenge and demand any dower or third parte and for any my landes tenements and hereditaments duringe the terme of yeres aforesaid that then my will and entente is suche that the said anuitie and yerly rente shall cease and dertermyn for such tyme as she shall so have or perceave any suche her dower and for the better maintenance and releif of my eldest sonne George Copcott untill suche tyme as the said terme of Eleaven yeres soo bequeathed unto my said wief of and in the lowre of the Rectory and parsonage of Pirtonne aforesaid and shall determyn I will demise and grannt by this my last will and testament unto the said George Copcott my said sonne one Anuitie or yerly rent of fourty poundes by the yere of good and lawfull money of England to be paid issuinge and goinge out of all the said Rectory parsonage and gleabe land of Pirton aforesaid TO have perceave and take unto him for by and duringe the terme of eleaven yeres the same to begin next and imediatly after my death or decease the said yearly rent of forty poundes to be yerly paid at in & upon the feast day of Saincte Mitchell tharckangell the birth of our lord god thanuciacon of or lord blessed vergine marye and Saint John Baptist by even porcons and for default of paymente thereof of or after any the daies feastes or times aforesaid next imediatly from & after my deathe or decease & that then I will grannte

and demise by this my last will and testament yet it hath and may be lawfull for the said George Copcott to enter and upon the said Rectory parsonage and gleabe landes of Pirton aforesaid and then on there to be distranie and the same to impounde and deteyne untill the said George Copcott and his assignes shalbe satisfied and payde of the forsaid rente withe the arraeages therof so beinge behind

Item I geve and bequeathe unto the poorest sorte of the parishioners of Pirton aforesaid Xls to be dytributed amongst them by the discretion of my Executrix in forme followinge That is to say twenty shillings within one moneth next after my decease and the other XXs within one moneth next after my decease to be distributed that tyme twelve moneth

And fynallie all the residewe of my goods and chattels ? reall & personall moveable and unmoveable and by this my last will and testament not otherwise disposed I will and bequeath unto Beatrisse my lovinge wief whome I ordeine and make my sole and only Executrix of this my last will and testament IN wittnes wherof to this my present testament I have here unto sette my hand and seale the day and yere first above written In the prescence of Henry Wilcock, John Hammond Signn Peter Ashton Signn William Ashton, Thomas Copcott John Seargent with others

Probate granted 9th July 1595

From:- Calenders of Lincoln Wills 1320 – 1600. Consistory Court of Lincoln.

Ref:- COPCOTE Raphe 1595. 1595 ii 43