

The Last Will & Testament of  
Walter Nourse, of Weston-under-Penyard, Gent.

dated 26 December 1609/10



**I**n the name of God amen, The six and twentieth day of December Anno Domini A Thousand six hundred and Nine And in the year of the reign of our Sovereigne Lord James by the grace of god King of England Scotland France and Ireland Defender of the faith that is to say of England, France and Ireland the seventh and of Scotland the three and fortieth I Walter Nourse of Weston under Penyard in the county of Hereford gent sick of body but of perfect mynd and memory thanks be given to God do make and ordeyne this my last will and Testament in the manner and form following that is to say first I commit my soule into the hands of Almighty God my maker hoping assuredly by his mercy there and unto me in the merit and death of his sonne and my only Savior Jesus Christ to obtayne pardon and forgiveness of all my synnes And my body to be buryed in Weston Church Item I give toward the reparation of the church of Weston aforesaid six shillings eight pence Item I give to the poor of the parrish of Weston Twentie shillings Item I give to the poor of Rosse Twentie shillings Item I give and bequeath unto my three daughters Elianor Mary and Margaret and to each and every of them five hundred pound a piece which severall portions or summes of money my will is and shall be raysed and layed out of all my lands and leases within the form and space of four yeares next after my decease and to be payd at over severall payments viz one hundred and fiftie pounds at a tyme the first payment to be made within one yeare next after my decease and so every yeare after one hundred fiftie pounds until the somme of five hundred pounds given unto my sayd daughters be fullie payd provided always And my will and meaning is that if any of my sayd daughters happen to marry before the sayd [?] yeare be expired that then her portion or lagacie so marrying shall be payd unto her at the day of her marriage or at such other tyme or tymes as shall be thought fitt and appoynted by my wife and William Leuse Item I give unto Walter Nourse my sonne all my lands tenements meadows leases pastures woodes underwoods and hereditaments whatsoever with all and singular their profitts commodities and appurtenances situated lying and being in the severall parishes hamletts or towne shires of English Bicknor, Ruardyne [Ruardean], [Haseley?] and in every or any of them in the Countie of Gloucester in whose tenure or occupations so ever they be And also all and singular my Lands Tenements and hereditaments whatsoever with their appurtenances situated lying and being in the parishes of Linton and Aston or in euyther of them in the countie of Hereford which are now in the tenure or occupation of John Brooke or his assigns or undertenants together with all my lands tenements and hereditaments in the tenure or occupation of William Reed and Raphe Batlyn sett lying and being within the parish of Dewent in the countie of Gloucester to have and to hold all and singular the foresayd lands tenements meadows leasowes pastures woods and underwoods and hereditaments with the appurtenance in English Bicknar Rewardyne and Haseley aforesayd in the sayd countie of Gloucester and all also all and singular of the lands tenements and hereditaments with the appurtenances in Linton and Aston in the sayd countie of Hereford which landes tenements and hereditaments in Linton and Aston aforesaid are in the tenure or occupation of John Brooke aforesayd or his assigns and the sayd landes tenements and hereditaments in Dewent aforesaid in the

tenure or occupation of William Reed and Raphe Bathyn or either of them with their appurtenances unto the sayd Walter Durse my sonne and to his heyres forever provided always And my will is that one hundred and fiftie pounds being one of the payments of the portions or summes of money appoynted and given by me unto my sayd daughters as aforesayd shall be raysed and levied out of the sayd landes tenements and hereditaments before by me given unto my sayd sonne Walter Durse and be payd in manner and form as before is sett downe Item if my wife Christian shall not make any title clayme or domanne unto any of my landes tenements or hereditaments either copiehold or freehold or unto any profitt or commodities arising or growing out of the same or are parte thereof by virtue or valour of her free [...?...] jointure or dower or otherwise but shall sufficiently revise and release unto my sonne John Durse and his heires forever all her right title and domanne of in or to my landes tenements and hereditaments as well appurtenances as freehold with the appurtenances by virtue or valour of her free [...?...] jointure dower or otherwise as aforesaid Then I give and bequeath unto my sayd wife Christian the use and occupation of the moytie or one half of all the use of my freehold landes and leases [...?...] to be so held and occupied together with my sayd sonne John Durse his heyres or assignes during the naturall life of my sayd wife Item my will is that my sayd sonne John Durse shall have the custodie and keeping of all and singular my leases and shall have the use and occupation of the same together with my sayd wife during her life And after her decease my will is and I do hereby give and appoynt the sayd Leases with all their profitt and commodities to my sayd sonne John his executors administrators and assigns during all the rest of the terms of yeares therein to come and which shall be expired Item I give and bequeath to each and every of my sayd three daughters Elianor Mary and Margaret of one featherbed with the furniture Item I give unto my sayd daughter Mary six silber spoones Item I give unto my sonne Walter one featherbed with the furniture Item I give unto my daughter Elianor my second best brasse pott Item I give to my daughter Mary my third best pott of brasse And to my daughter Margaret my fourth best brasse pott Item I give to my servant Christian Sargeant ten shillings And to every of the rest of my servants five shillings eight pence a piece Item I give and bequeath unto Margaret Dunne wife of Robert Dunne one annuitie or yearly rent of Twenty shillings to be payd unto her during her life yearly at the feast of St. Michaell The same annuitie to be payd unto her out of my landes in Weston now in the occupation of John Swayne And if it shall happen the sayd annuitie or yearly rente of twentie shillings or any part thereof to be behinde and unpaid by the term of fourteen dayes next after the sayd feast at which the same ought to be payd That then it shall be lawfull to and for the sayd Margaret Dunne and her assigns to enter upon the sayd premises and there to restrayne for the sayd annuitie or yearly rent and the [...?...] there be had and taken to have drive or cary away and the same to expound and inpound to keepe until of the sayd annuitie or yearly rent to the sayd Margaret Dunne be fullie satisfied and payd Item I give unto William Leuse fortie shillings All the rest of my goods chattell land gold stuff ready money and debts due by penaltie and without penaltie any leases excepted my debts legacies and funeral expenses discharged I give and bequeath unto my sayd wife Christian and unto my sonne John Durse whom I make and ordayne joynt and sole executors of this my last Will and Testament And I hartoly desire my good friend and kinsman William Leuse to be overseer of this my sayd will And I do hereby utterly repeale and annull all former wills legacies or gifts by me at any tyme heretofore made given or bequeathed In witness where I have hereunto put my hand and scale given the day and yeare first about written. Walter Durse ./. Signed sealed and published in the presence of John Garne the elder ./. Anne Warteman ./. John Beale notary publique ./.



in manner and forme following. first and principally he gave and bequeathed his soule to God and his body to the earth to be buried in Christian buriall. And as touching all his goodes he gave and bequeathed the same to Elizabeth his wife in the presence of sundry credible witnesses.

**N**ono die mensis february Anno Domini milia ruz sum et computacione Ecclesie Anglicane milleesimo sexcentesimo nono. Emanavit omni Elizabetha Edwardi relicta viri defuncti habentis et ad administrand bona sua et hereditaria viri defuncti iuxta tenorem et effectum Testamenti remunerativi huiusmodi, eo quod dictus defunctus in eodem willum omnino nominavit Executorem. De bene et fideliter administrand eadem ad sancta dei evangelia alias pungere Commissionis in hac parte emanat. Jurat. / etc.

**I**n the name of god amen. The six and twentieth day of December Anno Domini 1598 thousand six hundred and nine. And in the year of the reign of our soveraigne Lord James by the grace of god King of England Scotland France and Ireland Defender of the faith etc that is to say of England France and Ireland the seventh and of Scotland the thirtieth. I Walter Nurse of Weston under Penyard in the Countie of Hereford gent first of body but of perfect mynde and memory (that he be given to God) doe make and ordeyne this my last will and Testament in manner and forme following that is to say first I commend my soule into the hands of Almighty God my Maker hoping assuredly by his mercyes shewed unto me in the merit and death of his sonne and my onely Saviour Iesus Christe to obtayne pardon and forgiveness of all my synnes. And my body to be buried in westons church. Item I give towards the reparation of the church of Weston aforesayd six shillings eight pence. Item I give to the poore of the parish of Weston Twentie shillings. Item I give to the poore of Trosse Twentie shillings. Item I give and bequeathe unto my three daughters Elianor Marye and Margarett and to each and every of them two hundred pounes a peece which severall portions or summes of money my will is shalbe rayssed and leyed out of all my landes and lease within the terme and space of fouer yeares next after my decease and to be payd at fouer severall payments viz one hundred and fiftie pounes at a tyme. The first payment to be made within one yeare next after my decease and se every yeare after one hundred and fiftie pounes untill the somme of six hundred pounes given unto my sayd daughters be fullie payd. Provided alwayes and my will and meaning is that yf any of my sayd daughters happen to marry before the sayd fouer yeares be expired that then her portion or legacie so maryeng shalbe payd unto her at the day of her mariage or at such other tyme or tymes as shalbe thought fitt and appoynted by my wyse and william Keyse. Item I give unto Walter Nurse my sonne All my landes Tenements meadowes Leasowes pastures woodes punder wood and hereditaments what soever with all and singuler their profitts commodities and appurtenances situate lying and being in the severall parishes hamletts or Towneships of English. Birkenar Forwardyne Hasleley and in every or any of them in the Countie of Gloucestre in whose liberties or occupations so ever they be. And also all and singuler my landes Tenements and hereditaments what soever with their appurtenances situate lying and being in the parishes of Lynton and Apton or in cyther of them in the Countie of Hereford which are now in the tenure or occupation of John

Walter Nurse

Brooke

X also

Brooke or his Assignes or undertenants Together with all my landes tenements and hereditaments in the tenure or occupation of William Peck and Raphel Watlyn sett lying and being within the parish of Nement in the Countie of Gloucester: To have and to hold all and singular the foresayd landes tenements meadowes Leaswes pastures woods and underwoodes and hereditaments with thappurtenances in English Birkuar Frowardyn and Hasleley afore sayd in the sayd Countie of Gloucester And also all and singular other the landes tenements and hereditaments with thappurtenances in Lynton and Aston in the sayd Countie of Hereford which landes tenements and hereditaments in Lynton and Aston afore sayd are in the tenure or occupation of John Brooke afore sayd or his Assignes And the sayd landes tenements and hereditaments in Nement afore sayd in the tenure or occupation of William Peck and Raphel Watlyn or either of them with thappurtenances unto the sayd Walter Nurse my some and to his heires for ever. Provided always and my wyll is That one hundred and fiftie poundes being one of the payments of the portions or sommes of money appoynted and given by me unto my sayd Daughters as afore sayd shalbe raysed and levied out of the sayd landes tenements and hereditaments before by me given unto my sayd some Walter and be payd in manner and forme as before is sett downe. Item yf my wief Christian shall not make any title clayme or demand unto any of my landes tenements or hereditaments either Copiehold or freehold or unto any profitt or commodities arising or growing out of the same or any parte thereof by vertue or colour of her free bench Joynture or dower or otherwise but shall sufficiently remise and release unto my some John Nurse and his heires for ever all her right title and demand of in or to my landes tenements and hereditaments as well Copieholds as freehold with thappurtenances by vertue or colour of her free bench Joynture dower or otherwise as afore sayd: Then I give and bequeathe unto my sayd wief Christian the use and occupation of the moztie or one half of all the rest of my freehold landes and Leasws joyntly to be used and occupied together with my sayd some John Nurse his heires or Assignes during the naturall life of my sayd wief. Item my will is that my sayd some John Nurse shall have the custodie and keeping of all and singular my Leasws and shall have the joynt use and occupation of the same together with my sayd wief during her life: And after her decease my will is and I do hereby give and appoynt the sayd Leasws with all their profitt and commodities to my sayd some John his Executors Administrators and Assignes during all the residue of the terme of yeares therein to come and which shalbe unexpired. Item I give and bequeath to each and every of my sayd three Daughters Elianor Mary and Margaret one featherbed with the furniture. Item I give unto my sayd daughter Mary six silver spoones. Item I give unto my some Walter one featherbed with the furniture. Item I give unto my daughter Elianor my second best brass pott. Item I give to my daughter Mary a my third best pott of brass: And to my daughter Margaret my fourth best brass pott. Item I give to each and every of my sayd Daughters six peeces of pewter. Item I give to my servant Christian Cargant Ten shillings. And to every of the rest of my servants six shillings eight pence a peere. Item I give and bequeath unto Margarette Dunne wief of Robert Dunne one Annuitie or yearly rent of Twentie shillings To be payd unto her during her life yearly at the feast of S<sup>t</sup> Michael: The same annuitie to be payd unto her out of my landes in Weston now in the occupation of John Swayne. And yf it shall happen the sayd annuitie or yearly rente of

twentie

twentie shillinges or any part thereof to be behynde and unpaid by the  
 space of fower teene dayes next after the sayd feast at which the same  
 ought to be payd. That then it shalbe lawfull to and for the sayd Mar-  
 garet Dunc and her Assignes to enter upon the sayd premises and there  
 to distrayne for the sayd annuities or yearly rent, and the distress there-  
 so had and taken to leave drive or carry away and the same to vmpounde  
 and in poynt to keepe untill of the sayd annuities or yearly rent the  
 the sayd Margaret Dunc be fully satisfied and payd. Item I give unto  
 William Exyst forty shillinges. All the rest of my good chattell house-  
 hold stuff ready money and debty due by specialtie and without specialtie  
 (my leaseb excepted) my debty legacies and funeral expences discharged  
 I give and bequeathe unto my sayd wief Christian and unto my sonne John  
 Nurse whom I make and ordeyne ioynt and sole Excutors of this my  
 last will and Testament And I hartely desire my good frend and kinsman  
 William Exyst to be Overseer of this my sayd will. And I doe hereby vt-  
 terly revoke and adnull all former wills legacies or gifts by me at any  
 tyme heretofore made given or bequeathed. In witness whereof I have  
 herunto put my hand and scale vpon the day and yeare first above  
 written. Walter Nurse. Signed sealed and published in the presence  
 of John Garne thelde Anne Warkeman. Jo. Beale no. 2 publique.

**Probatum**

fuit suprascriptum Testamentum apud London coram  
 venerabili viro Magistro Johanne Amylym doctore Curie Cantuarie  
 venerabili viro Jemmo Johanne Beuct militis legum doctore Curie pro-  
 rogative Cantuarie Magistri custodis sive commissarii legitime  
 constituti. Decimo quarto die mensis februarii Anno Domini milia rni-  
 sum et computationem Ecclesie Anglie millesimo sexcentesimo nono  
 Juramento Johanne Nurse filij naturalis et legitimi dicti defuncti et  
 unius Excutorem in huiusmodi Testamento nominatorum. Qui omnia  
 fuit Administratio honorum suorum et creditorum dicti defuncti. De bene  
 et fideliter administrand eadem ad sancta dei evangelia Jurat Reservata  
 potestate similibus Commissionem faciendi Christiane Nurse relicte dicti  
 defuncti et alteri excutorem in dicto Testamento nominatorum cum de-  
 berit eam petitura in debita Juris forma admissur.

**In the name of god amen**

The first day of July in the  
 year of our Lord god A thousand six hundred and nine and in the year  
 of the reigne of our Sovereigne Lord King James by the grace of God of  
 England France and Ireland the seventh And of Scotland the two and  
 and forty. I John Symons of Luell in the countie of Warwick James  
 be my self in body but whole in mynde and of perfect remembrance thank  
 be to God therfore) doe ordayne and make this my last will and testament  
 in manner and forme following. First I bequeathe my soule into the hand  
 of Almighty God hoping assuredly by the death and passion of his deare  
 sonne Jesus Christe my only saviour and redeemer to be partaker of everlast-  
 ing life with eternall joy and felicitie in his heavenly Kingdome. Secondly  
 I will that my body shalbe buried within the Church or Churchyard of  
 Luell aforesayd when it shall please God to appoynt the tyme. Thirdly  
 and lastly all my worldly goodes and substance I give and bestowe as here-  
 after followeth viz. I give and bequeathe to my brother Henry Symons

J. Johannis  
 Symons.

of