

In the name of god the father and the son and of the holy ghost three
persons in unity and one god to whom be all honor and praise world
without end Amen / Forasmuch as yt becometh every chresten man
to have in remembrance the temporall death and end of this
transitory lyffe which by naturall course we must all suffer and
for that the tyme therof is so uncertayne that outwardly we may
be oppressed therewith if we be not in a readynesse therfore so yt if
therfore John Clarke of playden in the parishes of hencham in the
countie of Essex and in the Diocese of London yoman being of good
and perfect mynd mynd and memory laude and praise be unto
almighty god entering into a laste attempte wth my selfe as me
as god shall give me grace to render unto him his due and that that
shall remaine to distribute and dispose so as yt maye be to goddys
pleasure and for the benefite and profit of my welbelovyd^{wyf} and charyng
of my children and for the quyte of myn owne conscience and
considering the greates benefite of almighty god gyven unto me in this
transitory lyffe do render unto hym moost humble and hearty thank
knowledgyng my selfe insufficient to deserve the same and considering
that I am a mortall man as every living creature is and knowing
that death is moost certayne but the howe and tyme of death

It was put upon the 10th day of
month December 1664 and in
Dance or Admisses

most comendous
being somewhat put in remembrance thereof by good visitation of sickness
and willing not to departe this present lyffe, in estate but to make a
due and plaine declaration of my mynde and will concerning all
such goodes and cattell landes and tenures which god hath lent me here
in this world. This present eighte daye of September in the yere
of our lordes god a thousand five hundred threescore and four being
the sixte yere of the reigne of our Soveraigne Lady Elizabeth by
the grace of god Queen of Englande ffraunce and Irelande I sende
of the sayde &c I do ordain make and declare this my present testame
testifying in yt my last will in manner and forme following that
as to witte firste and principally I most humbly and lowly comende
my soule and beque the my soule into the handes of the moste glorious blessed
Christe belovynge steadfastly that by the meane of the deathe and
passion of his deere son Iesus Christe to have cleave remission and free
don of all my synnes like as all men shall have that steadfastly beleeve
in hym and truste to be saved and to be made partaker of his everlasting
kingdome and the elects and chosen to enjoye everlasting lyffe and my
wretched bodye is trespas to be buryed in the churche buryall in such
maner
as

as to myn Exortacion shalbe thought convenient wth such exhortacion
prayers and suffrages as shalbe for deade folles according to thier
distinction wth such distabution of almes to poore as to my said
Exortacion shalbe thought, mete and convenient also I will that all
such debte and duties that I do owe to any person or persons of right
or otherwise be truly contented and payd Item I will and devise give
and beque the to Thomas Clarke my son and to his heires for one
annuall or yearly annuall rente of eight pennes of lawfull money of
Englande to be payed and taken to the said Thomas and of his heires
for ever and in all that my Mann^r of ploughden hall wth thair tenement at the
feaste of saynt Michell the archangel and the Annunciation of o^r blessed
Lady saynt Mary the virgin by such portions and of yt for the
said yearly rente of eight pennes or any parte or parte thereof to be
behynne and repayd in parte or in all at any of the said feaste or dayes of
payment in which yt ought to be payd due and lawfully after
that then and from then forth I will that yt shalbe lawfull to and
for the said Thomas his heires or assignes into the said Mann^r of ploughden

late and into all and singular the lands tenements and freeholdings pastures
and other the premises whatsoever to the said (Man) belonging and into
the parts and parts thereof (Except the acres of arable lands and
a grove hereafter in this my present last will and testament excepted
and reserved from and out of the lands and tenements pertaining to
the said (Man) which said acres of lands and grove I have given
and bequeathed to Robert Clerk my son and his heirs as appertains
hereafter following and except also some chambers in the said (Man) of
pledgeon hall as before which I have hereafter given to Johane my wife
for term of her life) To rule and distrain and the distresses
thereon to take lawfully the hym or hym to bear hereof the arrears
and the same to receive and compound and take until the said
yearly Rent or summe of Rents and the arrears of the same of any
be due to the said Thomas his heirs or assigns fully satisfied contented
and paid Also I give and bequeath to the said Johane my wife
one annuity or yearly Rent of five pounds thirteen shillings
and some pence of lawful money of England in consideration

and allowance of her dowry ^{or} third of and in all the
messuages houses lands and tenements what soever I the said John Clerk
was seised of any estate of inheritance at any time during the
lifetime between me and the said Johane To have hold and yearly
to pay the said annuity or yearly Rent of Rents and the same
the said Johane and her assigns during her natural life To be paid
at the feast of saint Michael the herbage and the annunciation
of ^{the} Lady saint Mary the day by then persons To be paid
in mind and form following that is to say Three pounds six shillings
and eight pence of the said Rents and the same to be paid yearly to the said
Johane or her assigns during her life by the said John Clerk my son
his heirs or assigns at the said feast of saint Michael the herbage
and other three pounds six shillings and eight pence residue of the said
Rent of Rents and the same to be paid to the said Johane or her
assigns during her life at the said feast of the annunciation of
the Lady saint Mary the day by the said Thomas Clerk my
son in the manner following that is to say and Richard Clerk my
son in the manner following that is to say every six months by the

^{Robert}
 the said Richard Clerk his heires or assignes / And every my
^{Richard}
 the said Thomas Clerk his heires or assignes / And if yt fortune
 the said John Clerk my son his heires or assignes to make default of
 payment of the said m^{ty} bnd or of any parte therof by hym
 to be payde at y^e above said to the said Johane or his assignes at
 the said feaste of Saint Michell Garthmurgill in which yt ought to
 be payde / That then and from then fforwrd I will that yt shalbe
 lawfull to and ffor the said Johane or his assignes into all and
 singuler the shires wher so ever it shalbe convenient and into every parte therof wher
 by the said Johane last will and testament is charged and bounden to the
 districte or districtes of the said Thomas Clerk my son his heires or
 assignes ffor his above said Rent of eight poundes or ffor any part
 therof to enter and distrayne and the districtes therof so taken
 lawfully to beare dryde or carge awaye and the same to redde
 retorne and keep until the said yearly rent of m^{ty} bnd / And
 and the arrearses of the same / of any be / be to the said Johane
 his assignes fully contented and payde / And also of yt ffor time
 that the said Richard Clerk my son his heires or assignes to
 defaulte of payment of the said yearly Rent of every my

my 2^{de} 1220 by hym to be paid as is above said at the said feast
of the Annunciation of o^r lady at which yt ought to be paid /
That the said and from the said I will that yt shalbe lawful to and
for the said Johane and hir assignes into all thes mesuages howso
lands and tene the said sett lying and being in the parishes
and fild of Stamps Mountfichet in the said Countie of Essex
and into any 2^{de} and 3^{de} 1220 where I have hereafter by this
my present last will and testament given and bequeathed to the
said Richard and to his heirs for ever / to enter and distreyn
and the distresses thes shalbe taken lawfully to have dyne and
carry away and the same to retayne unpowred and kept untill
the said Rente of xxij s^{ij} m^d and the arrears of the same of any
be / be to the said Johane or hir assignes contented and paid /
I will to the said Johane my wyfe in like consolarion as is above said
during the terme of hir natural lyffe one Chamber within
the said maner of Plidgeth Hall at hir owne appoyntment
eleven and thys the said xxij s^{ij} m^d and the said to goe bear or
carry to and from the same Chamber and the said Chamber during
hir lyffe to rise and occupy at hir will and pleasure / and I

Will that the said Johane during his natural life shall have
and enjoye yearly sufficient force to be taken from the said manors
of plidgen hall and the grounds therof / wherof I have given hereafter
by this present testament to the said John Clerk my son and to
his heirs males of his body / to be taken by the said Johane or
his assigns at such time and times as the said Johane
shall think mete and convenient to be burnt and consumed by
the said Clerk and also I will ^{that} the said Johane during his said
life shall have for his life sufficient and competent meat and
drink provided and furnished by the said John Clerk my son his heirs
or assigns at my said son John Clerk's cost and charge at such times
and times as the said Johane shall think mete or disposed to have
thereof / also I will and devise give and bequeath to the said John Clerk
my son and to his heirs males of his body lawfully begotten all
that my Manor of plidgen hall aforesaid with the appurtenances and
also all and singular messuages tofts mylands dovecotes garden
orchards laundes with meadows feeding and pastures woods
underwoods mores marshes waters ffishings warrens founteyns

founteyns rents and profits and fines woods manage and profits of great
fines and annuities and all other profits and commodities whatsoe
belonging or in anywise appertaining to the said Manor of plidgen
hall siting and being in the townes field Hamlet and
parishes of Henham parishes Elfenham and plidgen with the
of Elfenham or in any of ^{the} said townes of Elfenham / Except allwaies
and reserved from and set out of the landes and woods appertaining
and belonging to the said Manor one grove of woods called Tarpes
grove containing by estimation two acres be it more or lesse
and also acres of marable land / wherof five acres lye in the
townes field called the hyde and the other of a piece of ground
called Trewhit acres and lye on the west side of the said piece
and five acres of the said five acres lye in a field abutting
upon the late mansion or dwelling house of William Basset
deceased and is part of a plot of the same field lying on the west
side of the same next the townes field called the hyde and the other
five acres residue of the said five acres is part of a field called
the poffeld and lye on the west side of the same, all whiche

said globe called ^{the} temple globe and ^{the} acre of land ^{the} temple
at ^{the} above said ^{the} globe and bequeste will and deede to ^{the} said
Robert ^{the} clerk my son and to his heirs and assigns for ever with
sufficient and necessary waye to goe to and froo carrye and reavey
to ^{the} said ^{the} acre of land and ^{the} said globe at all tyme and
tymes / And also ^{the} globe and ^{the} said ^{the} globe of ^{the} said ^{the} globe of
ploughden hall for some of ^{the} said ^{the} globe my wyffe ^{the} said
Chambers and ^{the} said ^{the} globe to his before by ^{the} my present last
will and testament / To have and to hold ^{the} said ^{the} globe land
tenement and all and singuler ^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} temple
at above said / (Except before excepted) to ^{the} said ^{the} globe
and to his heirs males of his body lawfully begotten / Also I have
and bequeste ^{the} said ^{the} globe and deede to ^{the} said ^{the} globe Robert my son and to his heirs
for ever all ^{the} said ^{the} globe my messuages and houses ^{the} said ^{the} globe and being in
Hamstead in ^{the} said ^{the} globe and all ^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} said ^{the} globe
lands to ^{the} said ^{the} globe belonging or in anywise appertaining
containing by ^{the} said ^{the} globe some acres be it more or lesse
and one piece of pasture ground containing by ^{the} said ^{the} globe
two acres be it more lesse ^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} said ^{the} globe

upon ^{the} said ^{the} globe having from ^{the} said ^{the} globe to ^{the} said ^{the} globe and
at ^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} said ^{the} globe of ^{the} said ^{the} globe of ^{the} said ^{the} globe on
^{the} said ^{the} globe and a piece of pasture ground ^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} said ^{the} globe
and on ^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} said ^{the} globe and bequeste will and deede to
^{the} said ^{the} globe Robert ^{the} clerk my son and to his heirs for ever all my ^{the} said
lands and ^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} said ^{the} globe and being in ^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} said ^{the} globe
all ^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} said ^{the} globe lands and ^{the} said ^{the} globe and ^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} said ^{the} globe
^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} said ^{the} globe and before by ^{the} said ^{the} globe my present last will
and testament given ^{the} said ^{the} globe or bequested to any ^{the} said ^{the} globe of my
heirs or to ^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} said ^{the} globe my wyffe / To have and to
hold ^{the} said ^{the} globe lands and ^{the} said ^{the} globe (Except before excepted) to ^{the} said
^{the} said ^{the} globe Robert to his heirs and assigns for ever / Also I have and
bequeste will and deede to ^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} said ^{the} globe my son and to
his heirs and assigns for ever all and singuler ^{the} said ^{the} globe my messuages
houses ^{the} said ^{the} globe lands and ^{the} said ^{the} globe meadows ^{the} said ^{the} globe and pasture
tenements ^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} said ^{the} globe and ^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} said ^{the} globe all and singuler
^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} said ^{the} globe
^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} said ^{the} globe
^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} said ^{the} globe ^{the} said ^{the} globe

Mountferrat aforesaid in the said County of Essex except the messuages
houses lands and tenements at and be before bequeathed by or
willed by the my said last will and testament to any one of my said
children and except almshouses and residences all free lands and
meadows as hereafter followinge are excepted and reserved that
as to five one close or part of ground called Turners containing
by estimation twelve acres be yet more or lesse and one meadow
called Goleman containing by estimation twelve acres be yet more
or lesse risinge under close or part of ground and meadow ^{are} ~~are~~ ^{are} ~~are~~
and lying in Stimples aforesaid and risinge under close or part of
~~ground and meadow or part and lying in Stimples aforesaid~~ and
risinge under close or part of ground called Turners ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~the~~
I give and bequeath will and devise to Symon Clerk my son
and to his heirs and assigns for ever / And also the said meadow called
Goleman ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ I give and bequeath will and devise to
Robert Clerk my son and to his heirs and assigns for ever / And I will
and bequeath to the said Symon my son four hundred pounds of lawful
money of Englande to be paid by the said John Clerk my son

his heirs executors or administrators to the said Symon at such
as he the said Symon shall accomplish the age of xxiiij years And
I will and give to Josiah my son the sum of one hundred marks
of lawful money of Englande to be paid by the said John Clerk my
son shall accomplish the age of xxiiij years to be paid by the said John
Clerk my son his heirs executors or administrators And I will and
give to Elizabeth Clerk my daughter the sum of xxv of
lawful money of Englande to be paid by the said John Clerk my
son his heirs executors or administrators at the day of the
marriage of the said Elizabeth And I give and bequeath to the said
John Clerk four quarters of wheat and four quarters of
barley of good and fresh corn indurably to be delivered to the
said John Clerk come year next after my death by the said
John Clerk my son or his executors / And the said John Clerk to take yet
where yet is any due or owing to him my barne & awns
or other part of my said Mann of phlegies Hall at his will
and pleasure / Also I give and bequeath to the said John Clerk of
my best winter sheep and the one half of all my furniture
of household stuffe to be taken at his pleasure without delay or

I will of myn goods and the other half I give and bequeath
to the said Thomas Clerk and Robert Clerk my sonnes equally +
between them to be divided and taken without delay or demur
of my sonne James. Item I give and bequeath to the said John
my next sonne of my best mylke lye, to be taken of his
owne clothes and horse and demur or delay of my said
sonne. Item I give to the said Thomas my sonne five of
my horses. And to the said Robert my sonne three of my horses, which
they shall equally divide and take amongst all my horses and
after such division them to divide so that the one have as good
as the other for his part of so many as I have given them And
to take them immediately after my death. Item I give unto the said
Thomas my sonne my best dark red of my best each garment
and my best plonge and all thinge therunto appertynning and four
of my best plonge garments to take at his will and pleasure at
above said. Also I give to the said Robert my sonne my best dark
meat the best red three dark garments next the best and
one plonge and all thinge therunto appertynning to take it at

his will and pleasure at is above said. Item I give to the said Thomas
my sonne two quarters of rye and two quarters of barley
five quarters of grass and five quarters of oates good and
undamaged stuffe of my room in my barn or of the corn
growing upon the ground of my manor of Chigden Hall
above said to take at his will and pleasure at is above said.
Item I give to the said Thomas five of my mylke lye and
tenne more sheep to be taken at is above said. Item I
give to the said Robert my sonne three of my mylke lye
and twenne more sheep to be taken at his will and
pleasure at is above said. And also I give unto the said Robert
five quarters of rye and five quarters of barley and two
bushells of oates and two bushells of grass to be taken at is
above said of the corn growing on the ground of
Chigden Hall above said or of the corn lying in the barn.
Item I give to the said Robert my sonne one of my horses to

to take at his pleasure except of the before given. Also I will and
bequeath my right to that off of fortune to the said Symon my
son to possess before he shall accomplish the age of xxij years
without issue of his body. Then I will that the said Josias my
son and his heirs shall have and enjoy for all the lands
and tenements ^{appertaining} whiche I have before by this my
present last will and testament given and bequeathed to the
said Symon, and of all fortune to the said Josias my son to
possess before he shall come to the age of xxij years
without issue of his body and the said Symon to discharge or
have issue of his body. Then I will that the said Josias
shall have before by this my present will to the said Josias
shall be paid to the said Symon or his issue of the said
by the said Josias to the said Symon or his heirs or assigns as it
above said and also I will that all the residue of my
goods and chattels not before given and bequeathed. My legat

debt and funeralle charges and payde / to be at the disposal
disposition of my said sonnes John Clarke and Thomas
Clarke whom I make constitute and ordain my Executors
of this my present last will and testament / I bequeath
allwaies and the meaning and intent of this my present last
will and testament was and is. that the said Thomas my

son shall not in anywise be charged, pinned or troubled for or
concerning the payment of any the legacies after a death
contained in this my present last will and testament whiche

I have appointed my said son John Clarke to paye and doo
also I give and bequeath to the said Thomas my son twenty shillings and
I make this bequeathment of twenty shillings to be entered of this my present testament and last will and I
give him for his payment of the said twenty shillings in witness whereof
I have signed this my last will and testament at the place above said the day and year above said.

to this my present testament and last will I have putte my
Seale the day and year above said / Joseph being
Witnesses Richard Stanes of Gosport (Richard Stork. Thomas
Stork. John Woolmay and other /