

William Richards 1756

The will of William Richards of Wootton in the parish of Cumnor in the County of Berks. In the Grace of God Amen this eighth day of December 1755. I, William Richards of Wootton in the parish of Cumnor in the County of Berks, yeoman, being sick & weak in body, but of perfect mind & memory, thanks be given unto God; there forestalling into mind the mortality of my body & knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make & ordain this my last will & testament: that is to say principally & first of all, I give & recommend my soul into the hands of almighty God that gives it & my body I recommend to the earth to be buried in decent Christian burial at the discretion of my executors, nothing doubting but at the general Resurrection I shall receive the solace again by the mighty power of God & as touching such wordly state wherewith it hath pleased to leave this life, I give, demise & disperse of the same in the following manner & form. Imprimis, I deposit the thirds of my free land estate & the tythe which I got ? of my sister **Jane Richards** unto Edward Mayow of Oxford & James White of Maintherry ? farm in Oxon, yeoman, in Trust, whom I constitute, make & ordain my sole executors of this my last will & testament, nevertheless to permit & suffer **Elizabeth**, my beloved wife, to hold & enjoy the said premises until my daughter **Elizabeth** shall come to the age of twenty three years, then the tythe to be sold to my son **William** for one & ? pounds, if he shall think fit, & give it to my daughter Elizabeth in one year after he shall come to the possession of it, but in case my daughter Elizabeth should die before she shall come to the possession of it, then I give such to my son **Richard** the tythe of my said estate for his brother William to pay him the yearly rent as it becomes due. Item I give unto my son William the sum of one hundred pounds, to be paid him out of my stock, goods & chattels, when he shall require it. All the remainder of my stock, goods & chattels I give unto my loving wife Elizabeth during her life & then to be equally divided between my four sons **Thomas Richard James & Edward** & likewise fifty pounds apiece to be paid two years after their brother who hath given a bond for the same (Wm. Richards), Thomas & Richard to be paid two years after their brother Wm. shall come to the possession of my estate, James & Edward to be paid in four years after he comes to the possession of my estate; as for my son John, I give him ten pounds to be paid him immediately after my decease as being provided for before. Item I give twenty shillings worth of bread to the poor of Wootton & Boars Hill a week or two after my decease & I do hereby utterly disallow, revoke & disannul all & every other former testaments & wills, legacies & bequests & executors, by ? any ways before framed, willed & bequeathed, ratifying & confirming this to be my last will & testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal the day & year above written. I, Wm. Richards signed, sealed, published, pronounced & declared by the said Wm. Richards as his last will & testament in the presence of us the subscribers Langley Poulser, the mark of John Rose, the mark of Jonathan Sheers. This will was proved at Abingdon May 22 1756 before the Rev. John Lunby B. A lawful surrogate of the Rev. Worshipful Henry Stebbings D.D. ? of the diocese of Sarum & by him patron of the effects of the said testator was granted to Edward Mayow, one of executors (the like power being reserved to James White the other executor within named being first sworn to the truth of said will to perform the same to exhibit inventory & attend where lawfully required.

John Stait 1756

The will of John Stait of Wootton in the County of Berks & Diocese of Sarum.

In the name of God Amen, I , john stait being weak in body but sound in mind, God be praised for it, first I consign my body to the earth to be decently buried & my soul to God that gave it. Then I make my son John Stait executor of half my affairs & my daughters Elizabeth & Mary executors of the other half. I give to my loving wife 5 pounds a year to be paid her half by my son John & half by my daughters or otherwise to be maintained by them December 10 1754. this being my last will & testament (witness my hand ,the mark of John Stait) witness our hands Josiah Blackwell, Wm. Richards, Thomas Mesenger.

This will was proved at Abingdon may22 1756 before Rev. John Lunby B.A. lawful surrogate of Rev. Worshipful Henry Stebbings D.D. ? of the said Diocese of Sarum & by him patron of the effects of the aforesaid testator was granted to John Stait & Elizabeth Stait executors within named , being first sworn to the truth of the aforesaid & will to perform the same to exhibit an inventory when lawfully required.

*Wills of William Richards & John Stait held in Wiltshire & Swindon Record Office
(Probate of Diocese of Salisbury)*