

M^{rs} Holmeyer's Will

15/12

The Will of Thomas Holmes
of Colyton, Merchant.
8 June 1670

Next Charge on Rowlands's Account
for ever for the Poor.

In the name of God

I Thomas Holmes of Colyton in the County of Devon Esquire being Aged and sensible of Mortality Doe thus ordain my Last Will and Testament revoking any other here before made. First I commend my Spirit unto God who gave it, and my Body unto Christian Burial according to the Direction of our Minister. **ITEM** I give and bequeath unto my beloved Grand-daughters Margaret, Katherine, Elizabeth, Joynt and Mary Bunstons, sixty pounds apiece to be paid to them respectively when they come to the Age of One and twenty years, or at their day of Marriage. **ITEM** to my Grand-son Hugh Bunston One hundred pounds, and to John Bunston Sixty pounds, to be paid unto them when they come unto Years of Age. **ITEM** to my poor sister Annis Spiller, and to my poor Daughter in Law Mary Stephens two shillings a week apiece during their Natural Lives, to be paid by my Exors. whilst they live, and after by my heirs hereafter to be named. **PROVIDED** that my Charity may not be contracted for and so received by other hands. In which case I allow my Exors. to detain this my allowance from them. **ITEM** to my sister Elizabeth Bradocks and Charles her husband, and Charles her son, and Elizabeth her Daughter forty pounds to be equally divided betwixt them. **ITEM** to my two sons in Law M^r. Thomas Bunston and M^r. John Woolcot to by the said Wills, and in full satisfaction of my Daughter's ten shillings apiece. **ITEM** to my Nephew John Holmes of Colyton and his heirs for ever I give and bequeath the fulling Mill where in he liveth with all the appurtenances and twenty pounds in Money. **ITEM** to my Nephew John Curling of Axminster forty shillings. **ITEM** to my Niece Mary Holmes and her heirs for ever the house adjoining to my now dwelling house, and garden, and twenty pounds in Money. **ITEM** to Edward Porter five shillings to be paid with my funeral Expenses. **ITEM** to my Niece Elizabeth Spragg I bequeath ten pounds. **ITEM** I give and bequeath to the poor of the parish of Colyton three pounds a Year for ever to be distributed in bread made of 14 Loaves to the Dozen, that a Man and his wife may receive each of them one by the Week, so far as they will go, according to the best Discretion of the Distributor. **AND** I appoint my dear wife Mary the first to bear this Office, and after her my Nephew John Holmes during his Life, and after him whomsoever my heirs or Exors. shall in draft; but my Will is that they do not retain this Office to themselves, and so this my Distributor or Dispenser, I allow the surplusage of eight shillings by the Year for his care and pains out of the said three pounds. Furthermore for the better security of this my Legacy unto perpetuity, I have sealed and do seal so much as in me lies by this my Will and Testament. The Officers and Twenty Men or the Overseers of the poor for the time being to Demand it as a Rent Charge upon Newlands Dam as much as if I had made a Deed or Assent of it, suffering them to take a Copy of this my Grant by Will out of the Office of probates, and to keep it in their parish Chamber amongst their other Records. **ITEM** my Will is that my wife Mary as an Addition to her Joynture do enjoy the remaining profits of the said Dam during her Life. **ITEM** I appoint my dear Grand-son Thomas Bunston to be my heir of that and of all the rest of my Estate I shall not before bequeath, having only one Course of free Land called Gattombes, which I give and bequeath unto my beloved Grand-son John Woolcot and the heirs of his Body lawfully to be begotten, to remain ten Years after my Decease, but if he chance to die without Issue my Will is that the Reversion be to my Grand-son Thomas Bunston also. Whereas I have a long term in Hundreds Hays I give and bequeath that also to my Grand-son John Woolcot and the heirs of his Body to remain also ten Years after my Decease, and if he chance to die without Issue the Remainder to be saved to my Grand-son Thomas Bunston in fee. I earnestly entreat my very loving friends M^r. Peter Caswell, M^r. Edmund Cods, M^r. Rowland Dwyght, and my good brother M^r. Walter Vyse, Esq^r. in draft, and allowing some reasonable Amounts to themselves for their pains & charges as they think fit between themselves to dispose of all the Overplus of my Estate if there shall be any above what is before bequeathed amongst all my grand-children shares and shares like between them, excepting that whereas there is a term remaining in Borrowcombe as a Chattel real part of my Estate, I desire my Exors. above named not to touch with that, but suffer my heir and Grand-son Thomas Bunston to fill up the void and to take a farther Estate therein to his own benefit as the Lord shall please to favour him in consideration of my great improvement and divers Casualties upon the thing. **PROVIDED** notwithstanding that if my Estate fall short in any wise of making good these Legacies which I have bequeathed my aforesaid Grand-son and heir do either engage for them, or lose the benefit of this Exemption made in his favour. This is my whole Will which I desire signed by my self, when I could have no Counsel learned in the Law to advise me. **WITNESSE** my hand and seal the eighth Day of June 1670. Thomas Holmes Published in the presence of us. Thomas Tanner, Bernard Vinkery.

Copia vera est

Examined by us

John Marwood
Tho Speed