

WILLS & INVENTORIES of GLOUCESTERSHIRECOPE FAMILIES

LISTING of Items included in the next 17 pages. All are Wills unless otherwise stated. They are not necessarily of Copes in our Branch - or family even - as I haven't been able to prove links with any except those starred below. They are nearly all of the ones available in the Gloucester & Bristol Records Offices.

Will of John Cope of Dyrham - 1549

William Cope of Hinton in the Parish of Dyrham 1573

Joan Cope of Dyrham 1594

Nathaniel Coape of Mayes Hill, Westerleigh 1631

John Cope of Westerleigh - Inventory after death on 1/8/1664/5

John Cope the elder, Yeoman of the Parish of Pucklechurch 1701 ***) (See photos of Leigh

John Coap - Inventory of John Cope the elder 1702 ***) Farm on page 18.)

Benjamin Cope, Carpenter of Dyrham 1711

Thomas Cope of Longney, Glos 1716, proved 1721

Sarah Cope of Doynton 1736

Joan Cope of Longney 1740

Edmund Cope of Slymbridge 1741

William Cope, Pargeter of Berkeley 1852 ***

William Cope of Tetbury, Glos 1793

JOHN COPE of DYRHAM, GLOS. – 1549.

In The name of God Amen etc. the 20th day of May in the year of our Lord God 1549, I John Cope of the Parish of Dyrham within the Diocese of Gloucester, being whole of mind and sick in body make my Testament and Last Will in manner and form following:

First: I bequeath my soul to Almighty God and my body to be buried in the Churchyard of Dyrham aforesaid.

Also I bequeath to my five daughters, that is to say to Joan, Margaret, Agnes, Isabel, and Christian to every one of them, one cow, to be delivered unto them after the death of Agnes Cope, my Wife and their Mother.

Also I bequeath to John my son a plough string, my gretteste panne and 10 sheep.

Also to every one interlined of my childers childer, one sheep. (Presumably Grandchildren)

Also to the poore mens boxe 4d.

Also I will that after the decease of Agnes, my wife, that my 2 greatest crokes and all my plough harness shall remain to William, my son.

Also I bequeath to my servant Joan Steven, one sheep.

Also to every one of my god children, I bequeath 4d.

Also I will that Agnes Cope, my wife, and William Cope, my son, shall be my holle executors and to enjoy the residue of my goods, both movable and unmovable, to their use, and to dispose of them for my Soul health as they think convenient.

Witnesses

Sir Robert Savage, Priest
 Edmond Taylor
 John Llewellyn
 With Other (not named)

Notes by the Palaeographer.

1. Clerks of this period often put raised letters after cardinal numbers, rather like the “th” written after most ordinal ones. Thus this Clerk wrote “ti” at end of XX (XX^{ti}) = 20th and “d” at the end of “M” or “D” e.g. M^d = one thousand and D^d = five hundred.
2. The Clerk gave the title “Sir” to clergymen as well as knights, in medieval fashion.
3. The words I understand have been spelt in the current fashion. Those words I do not know the proper old meaning of I have left as spelt originally.
4. “Crokes” are almost certainly the cast iron pots that hang over the kitchen stove

Note by Michael.

5. I thought a Plough String most probably was a pair of horses or oxen, though the Oxford English Dictionary says it was an obsolete word for one of the traces of a plough (rope, chain or leather straps.)

The WILL of WILLIAM COPE of HINTON in the PARISH of DYRHAM – 1573.

In the name of God Amen, the 16th day of April in the year of our lord god 1573, I, William Cope of Hinton within the Parish of Dyrham and within the county of Gloucestershire, husbandman, sick in body but of perfect memory doth make this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First, I bequeath my soul to almighty god, the maker and redeemer thereto, and my body to be buried within the Churchyard of Dyrham aforesaid.

Item, I give to Christopher Cope, my son, my 2 greate croces and 20 shillings of money, to be delivered him after the death of his mother.

Item, I give to my son, John Cope, a bullock or Heiffer and second best pane and 2 platters, and my second best waynebed and a bolted plow strenge, and a pair of plough irons with all their tines.

Item, I give to Alice Cope, my daughter £20 of current money of England.

Item, I give more to Alice Cope, my daughter, 3 platter and 3 pottengers and my best cansticke and me best panne and my best flocke bed, a pair of sheets and a pair of blankets and a bolster and a coverlet, all this to be delivered her at the day of her marriage.

Item, I give to every one of my children, a sheep – all the rest of my goods moveable and unmoveable not bequeathed, I give to Joan, my wife, whom I do ordain, constitute and make my sole executrix to see my last will performed and to see me honestly brought in the earth and to receive my debts and to pay my debts.

Debts owing unto me, William Cope:

Robert Brayne of Dyrham oweth me 20 shillings.

James Hollister of Westerleigh oweth me £5 -13 sh. - 4d (Originally the £ sign was Li for Libri)

John Truman oweth me £8 -13 sh. - 4d

John Joachim of Westerleigh oweth me 5 sh. - 4d.

As far as I can discover, the equivalent money value in 2003 is about 200 times what it was in 1570.

Witnesses to this same

Harry Were of Hinton & Thomas Taylor of Hinton.

The Will of William Cope of Dyrham proved at Chipping Sodbury on 21st July in the year 1573. The

Noncupative WILL of JOAN COPE of DYRHAM - 1594.

(Note: a nuncupative Will was one made "by word of mouth" and only written down after the Testator's death.)

Memorandum that Joane Cope, late of Dyrham in the County of Gloucester, did, about the last day of April in year of our Lord God 1594, being of good and perfect memory, declare and utter her last will in manner and form following:

First, being put in memory by (...) Hall, the Minister there, that in respect of her great sickness and weakness wherein she then was, she would dispose of her worldly affairs to the intent she might with more quietness of her conscience prepare herself unto God and give herself wholly to the meditation of that holy life. And likewise to take away occasion of controversy among her children.

And thereupon, being particularly motioned by the said Minister what her Will was to bestow upon her son Christopher Cope and his children, who had been a dutifull and laudable child unto her, She, the said Joan, did answer that she had nothing to bestow but the bedding whereon she then did lie and a presse, and that they should have it all amongst them.

And afterward, the same demands being reiterated unto her by the said Minister, she answered that Margaret should have some kerchief or neckingers, and her share of the linen, and that the rest they should have all amongst them.

NOTES. 1. A press was usually a cupboard with shelves in which to store clothes and linen.

2. A neckinger was an article of clothing worn around the neck.

3. It is not clear who Margaret is. Could be Joan's daughter, Christopher's wife or even one of Christopher's daughters.

**WILL of NATHANIEL COAPE of MAYES HILL
in the Parish of WESTERLEIGH - 1631.**

In the name of God Amen, the 6th June in the year of our Lord 1631, I, Nathaniel Coape of Mayes Hill w... the parish of Westerleigh in the Diocese of Gloucester, Tanner, being sick and diseased in body but of sound mind and good remembrance, thanks to Almighty God does make this my last Will and Testament in the manner and form following:

Firstly I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God our Saviour and Redeemer, and my body to be buried in the Church Yard of Westerleigh aforesaid.

And as god of mercy hath lent me, I give and bequeath the following:

Item, I give and bequeath unto Edith Coape, my daughter, the sum of forty shillings, to be paid by my Executrix, hereafter named, on the third day of May next after my decease, and one bed with his appurtenance, which she lieth upon, cow hide in my tanpits, which I bought off William Prigge and one horse hide which I bought? ... widow Skidmore and one yearling skin which I bought off John Peckard, and my best bed with his appurtenance, And the one half of my pewter and brass, all my linen after the decease of my wife, excepting one canvas pair of sheets.

Now my will is that the Implements of household stuff, before given to my said daughter, that Joane, my wife shall have the use of so long as she liveth unmarried. But if she happen to marry, then the same implements afore given to her use ... presently delivered after her contract or marriage. (Note. I think this should mean that it goes to his daughter Edith in the event of his wife getting remarried.)

Item, I give and bequeath unto John Coape, my son, the sum of forty shillings, to be paid on the third day of May next after my decease, by my Executrix, hereafter named, and also the bed which I lieth upon, with his appurtenance, and one pair of canvas sheets and one cow hide which is in my Tanpit, which I bought off John Wickham, and all my wearing apparel and best Cloak.

I do further give and bequeath unto John Coape, my son, my best standing bedstead and one press and one table board with iron frame, one chair, to Formes, half a dozen of joined stooles, but my will is that

Joane, my wife, shall have the use of them implements of householdstuff given to my said son so long as she liveth unmarried.

And further, my will is that John Coape, my said son, shall give unto my daughter Edith, twenty shillings, when he do enjoy the said implements afore named, which are all standing in the chamber where I lie.

Also further, I do give and bequeath unto my son John, my dwelling house with all out houses and with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging, after the decease of Joane Coape, my wife.

And lastly, I give to my said son, my Tanpits and vats, and my bark mill, after the decease of Joane, my wife.

Also my will is that either of son or daughter happen to depart this life before they accomplish the age of one and twenty years, or married, that then all the legacies and bequeaths to me given and bequeathed shall remain to her or to him which shall be then living.

Item. I give to my brother, Thomas Coape, three shillings.

The rest of all my goods, Cattles, Chattel and Credits, not heretofore given nor bequeathed, I do give and bequeath unto Joane Coape, my wife whom I make my sole Executrix of this my last Will and Testament, paying my debts and legacies, and taking what is owed to me and I do appoint my trusty and well beloved friends William Crome and John Robins, to be my overseers, to see this my last will and testament performed.

Debts owing to me:

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| John Estbury of Berkeley oweth me .. | Eleven Shillings |
| Strange of Bristol, shoemaker, oweth me .. | Fifteen Shillings |
| James Parker of Sodbury, | Two Shillings |
| Richard Trewman of Porbury oweth me | Nine Shillings and Six pence |

Witnesses hereunto:

Signed - Samuell Smith Cleric

The mark "WC" here of William Crome

The mark "A" here of John Robins

The mark of "X" here (Nathaniel Coape)

This Will was proved at Chipping Sodbury on the 2nd day of August in the year of our Lord 1631 before Francis Baker, Dr. of Laws, the Chancellor etc. And it is approved by him.

And the Administration was and is granted etc to the Executrix etc. she having been previously duly sworn, Saving the right of any other person etc.

NOTE. A. This Will was VERY faint and it is a miracle to me that the Palaeographer (Dr. Peter Franklin) was able to make anything of it at all.

**AN INVENTORY OF ALL THE GOODS & CHATTELS OF JOHN COAPE of
WESTERLEIGH who died on 1st August, 1664/5.**

I have been unsuccessful in finding a Will for this man who died 38 years before the John Cope, Yeoman of Westerleigh who farmed on Leigh Farm. It does seem quite possible that the subject of this Inventory is the Father (or even grandfather at a pinch) of Yeoman John, but we still lack any proof or information that gives any clues to that possibility. I am of course hoping that I can prove he was my 8 times Great Grandfather

This Inventory was transcribed by me (with Gill's help) and therefore may not be 100% accurate.

A true and perfect inventorie of all the goods and chattels of John Coape of the Parish of Westerleigh within the Diocese of Gloucester who deceased the first day of August Anno Dom 1664 taken and prized the sixth day of August by George Edmunds John Edmonds and others as followeth -

| | £. | s. | d. |
|--|------|-----|----|
| Imprimis His wearing apparrell prized | 1 | 10. | 0. |
| It. Five horsebeasts & theyre tackle prized | 13 | 0. | 0. |
| It. 3 Cowes three heysows two yearlings prized | 17 | 0. | 0. |
| It. Two piggs two calves prized..... | 3 | 0. | 0. |
| It In the kitchin 2 iron crocks 2 drying pans one cheyne and other Trumpery prized | | 5. | 0. |
| It. In the hall 2 table boards and one chest one Cupboard two kettles one posnet 3 pieces of pewter, one pewter candlestick 2 stoles (?) one form & other small Implements prized | 2 | 0. | 0. |
| It. In the hall chamber one flock bed and boutestow one rug one blan(ket) a paire of sheets one chest 4 boxes one cheyre one pair of Iron doggs three hundred of cheese prized | 4 | 0. | 0. |
| It. In the kitching chamber one bed and bedstead prized | 1 | 0. | 0. |
| It. In the butterie chamber one bed and bedstead prized | | 5. | 0. |
| It. His hay prized | 8 | 0. | 0. |
| Sum all ???? | £ 50 | 0. | 0. |

According to calculations on the Website "Measuring Worth", £50 in 1664 would be valued (using the RPI) at about £ 6,230 in 2008. Using the average earnings index however, the figure would be £79,300!

- NOTES.**
1. The word prized means priced or appraised
 2. A posnet is a small metal pot for boiling, with 3 feet and a handle
 3. A cheyre is of course a chair.
 4. Boutestow - no clue what this is. Somewhere to stow one's boots perhaps?
 5. Iron doggs or Dog-irons are a pair of utensils placed at each side of a fireplace to support burning wood etc.
 6. Three hundred is probably short for 3 hundredweight = 3 x 112 lbs (150 Kg)
 7. There are several other words that puzzle me:-
e.g. Horsebeasts and heysows and I wonder if these are specialised Gloucestershire farming terms

Pages 6 & 7.

WILL OF JOHN COPE - 1701.

Pages 8 & 9. **Transcript of the INVENTORY OF JOHN COAP - 1702.**

In the name of God Amen, I John COPE the Elder of ye Parish of Pucklechurch in the County of Gloucester, Yeoman, being weak of body but of sound and perfect mind and memory (praise be therefore given to Almighty God) Do make and Ordaine this my Last Will and Testament in manner and forme following (viz) first and Principally I commit my Soule into the merciful hands of my Creatour hoping thro' ye meritts Death and passion of my Blessed Saviour Jesus Christ to obtaine full remission of all my Sins and my body I commit to ye earth to be decently buried by the Discrecion of my Executors hereinafter named and as touching such worldly goods (the Lord hath lent me) I dispose thereof as follows (viz.)

Impis. I will that my Funeral Expences & Debts be first paid and discharged

It. I give and bequeath unto my son **John Cope** the sum of five pounds of lawfull English money.

It. I give and bequeath unto my Grandson **John Coap** son of the said John Cope the sum of twenty pounds of lawfull English money.

It. I give and bequeath unto my son **Joseph Coap** the sum of twenty pounds of lawfull money.

It. I give and bequeath unto my Grandson **Joseph Coap** son of the said Joseph Coap the sum of five pounds of lawfull money.

It. I give and bequeath unto **Sara** the wife of **Edmund Brock** the sum of fifteen pounds of lawfull English money.

It. I give to my son **Thomas Coap** the sum of five pounds of like lawfull money.

It. I give to my Grandson **John Coap** the son of the said **Thomas Coap** the sum of Ten pounds of like lawfull money.

It. I give to my son **William Cope** the sum of twenty pounds of like lawfull money.

It. I give to my Grandson **John Coap** the son of the said **William Coap** the sum of Ten pounds of like lawfull money.

It. I give to my daughter **Christian** ye wife of **Samuel Jones** the Sum of twenty pounds of like lawfull money.

It. I give to **Samuel Jones** son of the said **Samuel Jones** the Sum of Ten pounds of like lawfull money.

It. I give to **John** son of the said **Samuel Jones** the Sum of Ten pounds of like lawfull money.

It. I give to **Daniel** son of the said **Samuel Jones** the Sum of five pounds of like lawfull money.

It. I give to **Thomas** son of the said **Samuel Jones** the Sum of five pounds of like lawfull money.

It. I give to **William** son of the said **Samuel Jones** the Sum of five pounds of like lawfull money.

It. I give to **Elizabeth** daughter of the said **Samuel Jones** the Sum of five pounds of like lawfull money.

It. I give to **Mary** daughter of the said **Samuel Jones** the Sum of five pounds of like lawfull money.

It. I give to **Mary** my wife the Sum of Eighty pounds of lawfull English money.

It. I give to **Thomas Kinton** the Sum of Ten pounds of like lawfull money.

It. I give to my Son in Law **Francis Hathaway** the sum of five pounds of like lawfull money.

It. I give to my Grandson **John Hathway** the Sum of five pounds of like lawfull money.

It. I give to my servant **Mary Bishop** the sum of Five and Twenty pounds of like lawfull money.

It. I give to my servant **William Bishop** the sum of five pounds of like lawfull money.

It. And whereas I promised to give to my daughter **Philippa Coap** the Sum of Thirty pounds of lawfull English money to be paid to her upon her Marriage, therefore my Will is that the said Thirty pounds shall be well and truly paid to her by my Exec'rs according to my promise.

It. I give to **Mary** my said wife all those goods and Utensils of household stuffe whatsoever that were her own before my marriage to her.

It. I give to **Jacob** son of **William Coap** the sum of five pounds of like lawfull money.

It. I give to **Sara** daughter of the said **William Coap** the sum of five pounds of like lawfull money.

It. I give to **Mary** daughter of the said **William Coap** the sum of five pounds of like lawful money.

It. I give to **Elizabeth** daughter of the said **William Coap** the sum of five pounds of like lawful money.

It. I give to **Anne** daughter of the said **William Coap** the sum of five pounds of like lawful money.

It. I give to my daughter **Philip** Coap the sum of Ten pounds of like lawful money.

It. And lastlie all the rest and residue of my Estate goods and chattells whatsoever after my funeral Expences Debts and Legacies being paid and discharged, I give and bequeath unto my sons **John Coap, Joseph Coap, Thomas Coap, and William Coap** equally to be divided amongst them whom I make Ordain and Constitute Joynt Executors of this my last Will and Testament, revoking disannulling and making void all former and other Wills and Testaments by me heretofore made. In Witnesse whereof I have to this my last Will and Testament Interchangeably set my hand and Seal the six and twentyeth day of April Anno Regiis Gulirlius tertij Angl. Scot. Franc, et Hibernia Regis fides Defensoris & etc. Tredecimo Anno Deus 1701.

Signed, Sealed & Published
in the presence of us.

Signum
J. C. Coap

Will. Bishop March 10 1702/3
Rich. Parsons Jurat 4 or extores
Joan Belsire
Robert Sherman, jnr.

NOTE 1. I find the virtually indiscriminate spelling of COPE or COAP quite extraordinary.

NOTE 2. The sums of money mentioned above total £375.00. At present day values (2008) this Works out well in excess of £30,000. (See Chapter 4 Page 19 for Graphs of equivalents)

(What do modern women think of the penultimate item on page 1 - monstrously chauvinistic - but that was the legal position that women had to put up with in those days. Very considerate of him to give them back legally!)

Over page

A Transcript of the INVENTORY of the Goods of John Coap of the Parish of Pucklechurch, 1702/3

(The work of transcription of both the Latin and Secretary Hand is that of Dr. Peter Franklin of Accrington)

**A Transcript of the INVENTORY of the Goods of John Coap of the Parish of
Pucklechurch, 1702/3**

(Spellings etc. as written)

Novemb the 26th 1702.

A true and perfect Inventory of all the Goods, Chattles & Cattle of John Coap, late of the parish of Pucklechurch in the County of Glouc^o, yeoman, decsd, viewed & Apprized by us, whose names are here under subscribed, the day & year above written.

£ : s : d.

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|------|----|----------------|
| Firstly, In ready Money in his House | 108 : | 12 : | 06 | (See Note 1) |
| It. In Houshold Goods in the House | 20 : | 00 : | 00 | |
| It. Fifty Hundred of Cheese | | | | |
| at 20s. per hundred, | 50 : | 00 : | 00 | (See Note 2) |
| It. In Wheat, 100 Bushells, at | | | | |
| 3s per Bushell | 15 : | 00 : | 00 | (See Note 3) |
| It. A bond of £84 from John Stoak(es) | | | | |
| with interest | 84 : | 00 : | 00 | (See Note 4) |
| It. 28 Kyne at £3 per Cow | 84 : | 00 : | 00 |) (See Note 5) |
| It. 7 Young Beasts | 14 : | 00 : | 00 |) |
| It. 6 Calves | 7 : | 00 : | 00 | |
| It. A Yoake of Oxen (i.e. a pair) | 10 : | 00 : | 00 | |
| It. A Mare & Colt | 4 : | 00 : | 00 | |
| It. In Hay | 40 : | 00 : | 00 |) |
| It. Fowerscore Sheep (i.e. 80) | 20 : | 00 : | 00 |) (See Note 6) |
| It. Eight Piggs | 8 : | 00 : | 00 |) |
| It. A Wagon & Dung Pott & other | | | | |
| Plow Harness. | 5 : | 00 : | 00 | (See Note 7) |
| It. Due for Wool | 5 : | 00 : | 00 | |

Summe Totall 475 : 02 : 06

William Bishopp)
Samuel Jones) Appraisors

(In Latin) This Inventory was shown at Glouc^o on the 10th day of the month of March in the year of our Lord 1702/3 (**See Note 8**), by John Coap, Joseph Coap, Thomas Coap and William Coap the natural and lawful (or legitimate) sons of the deceased and the Executors etc. for a true and full inventory etc. Under protestation, nevertheless, of adding etc. and if etc. (**See Note 9**)

NOTE 1. £108 was a LOT of money in those days (probably equivalent to about £10,000 at today's rates) and to have that in the house seems very strange and asking for theft. Goldsmith-bankers were in existence in the 17th century, but I suppose they were only in major towns and not convenient for day-to-day business transactions - no cheques or credit cards in those days - that would have been essential for a farmer. There were such things as very heavy metal bound chests with locking arrangements,

fore-runners of safes, and I expect wealthy people had these. However, there was no mention of one in John's Inventory.

The other comment I want to make is that there is still NO MENTION of Buildings or Land - nor any indication of the location of his farm and I find this immensely disappointing.

NOTE 2. In this context Fifty Hundred would have been 50 Hundredweight and assuming this was 112 lbs in 1700, there was two and a half tons of cheese! This must have required quite a large area for storage apart from anything else.

NOTE 3. A Bushell was a Dry Measure equivalent to 8 gallons. I've tried imagining what 8 gallons was like and I suppose that was about a sack full. John therefore had 100 sacks of Wheat in stock.

NOTE 4. From this it also looks as though John was lending money, or at least letting someone have long-term credit!

NOTE 5. The term "7 young Beasts" looks a bit vague when other types of animals are listed. Dr. Franklin says this term was usually used to describe larger livestock but thinks the clerk may have used it specifically to mean "heifers" and Calves in descending order of age and value. These 7 animals would have been the previous year's calves, now worth £2 each, and been added to the herd of cows in a year or two's time. The clerk used the old fashioned "kine" - here "Kyne" - for cows. It was still sometimes used in the 18th and 19th centuries.

NOTE 6. This note relates to Hay, Sheep and Piggs. I don't know how many Hay stacks would have been represented in the value of £40 but it surprised me that his Hay Store was worth considerably more than 80 Sheep and 8 Pigs. Obviously the winter feed was considered very valuable.

NOTE 7. A Dung Pott was a low-wheeled dung-cart. Plow harness means plough tackle or gear.

NOTE 8. The use of "double-dating" was popular at the time. The year A.D. still officially began on 25th March, the Feast of the Annunciation of St. Mary. 1st January was sometimes celebrated as New Year's Day, but did NOT become the *Official* start of the year until 1752.

Hence when the note was written it was officially still 1702 but some people would have regarded 1703 as already having begun!

NOTE 9. The etceteras used here all refer back to phrases in the Will and in particular that final sentence should read: "Under protestation, nevertheless, of adding *any other goods, and if any such should come to their knowledge or possession, they will add them to the Inventory.*"

We have a copy of an Indenture in which this John Cope leased 136 acres at Leigh Farm for 7 years from 1669. The lease may well have been renewed thereafter. Leigh Farm still exists and pictures are included on Page 18 of this document.

"BENJAMIN COPE, Carpenter, of DYRHAM – 1711. (2 pages)

Request for the Administration of the Goods of Benjamin Cope of Dirham, undated

(From Latin)

On which day Anne Cope, spinster, and Sarah, wife of John Parker, appeared in person and they alleged that Benjamin Cope, Carpenter, late of Dirham in the County and Diocese of Gloucester, had gone to that Light (i.e. died) intestate, no Will having been made by him, and that they were and are the natural and lawful daughters of the said deceased, Wherefore she asked that the administration of all and singular the goods, debts and credits of the said deceased be entrusted and committed to her, under a suitable Bond brought forward by them, and the right?, etc, Let her be sworn to the Administration,

signed: "Charles Brereton?, Bachelor of Laws, Surrogate."

Administration Bond for the Goods of Benjamin Cope of Dyrham, 1711 (From Latin)

"Let all men know by these presents that we, Anne Cope of Wick and Abson in the County of Gloucester, Spinster, Joseph Jackson of Dointon in the County aforesaid, clerk, and Beloved Wilkes of Wick and Abson

aforesaid, Yeoman, are held and firmly bound to the Reverend Father in Christ the Lord, the Lord Edward, by divine permission Bishop of Gloucester, in the sum of £40 of the good and lawful money of Great Britain, to be paid to the same Lord Bishop, or to his proven attorney, executors or administrators, To make which certain payment well and faithfully, in full and in cash, we firmly bind ourselves, and each one of us, our heirs, executors and administrators, and those of each one of us, by these presents, sealed with our seals,

Given the 19th day of the month of April and in the 10th year of the reign of the Lady Anne, by the grace of God Queen of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, etc, and in the year of our Lord 1711."

(From English)

The Condicion of this Obligacion is such that if the abovebound Anne Cope & Sarah, Wife of John Parker, Daughters and Administrators of all and singuler the goods, ch(att)ells and credits of Benjamin Cope, late of Dyrham in the County of Glouc(ester), deceased, doe make, or cause to be made, a true and perfect Inventory of all and singuler the goods, chattells and credits of the said deceased which have, or shall, come to the hands, possession or knowledge of them, the said Anne Cope & Sarah Parker, or into the hands and possession of any person or persons for them, and the same soe made doe exhibit, or cause to be exhibited, into the Registry of Glouc(ester) at or before the last day of May next ensuing,

And the same goods, chattells and credits, and all other the goods, chattells and credits of the said deceased at the time of his death which at any time after shall come to the or into the hands and possession of any other person or persons for them, doe well and truly administer, according to law, And further doe make, or cause to be made, a true and just account of their said Administracion, at or before the last day of March next, and all the rest and residue of the said goods, chattells and credits which shall be found remaining upon the said Administrators accompt, the same being first examined and allowed of by the Judge or Judges, for the time being, of the said Court, shall deliver and pay unto such person or persons respectively as the said Judge or Judges, by his or their decree or sentence pursuant to the true intent and meaning of a late Act of Parliament made in the two and twentieth and three and twentieth years of the raigne of our Late Sovereigne Lord King Charles the second, Intituled An Act for the better settling of Intestates Estates, shall limit and appoint,

And if it shall hereafter appeare that any last will and Testament was made by the said deceased, and the Executor or Executors therein named doe exhibit the same into the said Court, makeing request to have it allowed and approved accordingly, if the said Anne Cope & Sara Parker, above bounden, being thereunto required, doe render and deliver the said Letteres of Administracion, approbacion of such Testament being first had and made, in the said Court,

Then this Obligacion to be void and of none effect, or else to remaine in full force and vertue

"Sealed and delivered in the presence of,

signed: "Robert Moore", Notary Public,

"The mark of Anne Cope, "A"

signed: Joseph Jackson,
Beloved Wilkes.

NOTES

- 1) This document is a hand-written form. A standard text was written out already and the details of personal names, place-names and dates added as required.
- 2) One of those bound was indeed called "Beloved Wilkes". (The clerk made no attempt to turn his forename into Latin, though "Amadeus" or "Theophilus" might have done, taking the meaning to be Beloved of God.)
- 3) Edward Fowler was Bishop of Gloucester from 1691 to his death in 1714.
- 4) Notice that although Sarah Parker was named as an Administrator in the English section, she had not been bound in the Latin section. I do not know if this is an error or if it was not necessary to bind both Administrators.
- 5) The clerk has used the archaic letter "thorn", looking very like "y" but sounding as "th". I have rendered it as "th" without further comment.
- 6) All "etc"s appear in the original text.

THOMAS COPE of LONGNEY, GLOS. – Dated 1716 – proved 1721.

In The name of God Amen. I Thomas Cope of ye Parish of Longney in ye County of Gloucester, Yeoman being sick and weak in body but of sound and perfect mind and memory, praise be therefore given to Almighty God, do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament in manner following (viz) first I commend my Tomb into ye hands of Almighty God, hoping through ye merritts of his son Jesus Christ to have full and free pardon of all my sins past and be made an heir of Everlasting life and my body I commit to ye earth to be decently interred: And as touching those earthly blessings with it hath pleased God to bestow upon me I do dispose thereof as follows here. And first I wish that my debts and funeral expenses be paid and discharged.

It: I do give and bequeath unto my dear and loving wife, ye sum of Ten pounds.

It: I do bequeath unto my son Thomas Cope, ye sum of Five pounds.

It: I do bequeath unto my son John Cope ye sum of Twenty pounds and to my daughter Elizabeth Ellis ye sum of Five pounds and to her three sons Jonathon, Thomas and Joseph ye sum of Five pounds apiece.

It: I do give and bequeath to my daughter Sarah Jones ye sum of Five pounds.

It: I do give and bequeath to my Grand daughter Katherine Cope ye sum of Ten pounds and to my Grand daughter Hester Cope ye sum of Twenty pounds.

It: I do bequeath unto my son-in-law John Gough ye sum of Ten pounds.

All which bequests I do order to be paid by my Executrix herein after mentioned at such time as my son John Cope shall attain to the age of one and twenty years, if he shall so long live, or otherwise at ye end of one whole year next after my decease. All ye rest of my personal estate, goods and chattels whatsoever I do give and bequeath to my dear and loving wife Joane whom I do make full and sole Executrix to this my last Will and Testament in trust and to and for ye life henceforth and behoofs of my three children John Cope, Mary Cope and Hester Cope jointly and to and for no other life intent or purpose whatsoever. In witness whereof I have hereunto setting hand and sealed this sixth day of February in ye year of our Lord One thousand Seven hundred and Sixteen.

Signed sealed and declared
in the presence of
Richard Merrett
Young (his mark)

Matthew Kryer

Signed Thomas Cope T (His mark)

Proof is all in Latin unfortunately but is Joseph
dated 27th January, 1721

SARAH COPE of DOYNTON – 1736.

In the name of God Amen. I Sarah Cope of Doynton in the County of Gloucester – widow being in good health of body and of a sound mind, memory and understanding, thanks be to God for the same, but considering with myself the certainty of death and the uncertainty of the time thereof do this twenty ninth day of May in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and thirty three make and ordain this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following, that is to say Imprinis I give and devise unto my daughter Anne Francombe and to her Heirs and Assigns for ever, All that my Dwelling House wherein she now lives, together with One Tyneing of meadow or pasture ground containing by estimation Five Acres now in the occupation of my son-in-law John Francombe. Item, I give unto my said daughter Anne my Ground called the Outermost Toghill which abutteth against the Highway called Doyntons Toghill to hold to her her Executors Administrators and Assigns during all my estate term and interest therein. Item. I give and devise unto my daughter Sarah Summerell All that my Dwelling House wherein I myself and my tenant Daniel Packer do now live, with the Outhousing Garden and little Close of pasture thereto enjoining and belonging. And also that my piece of ground called the Rag, One Acre of Meadow ground enclosed out of South Field. One Acre of arable ground lying in a ground of Mr. Cobbs called Hangrove and a quarter of an Acre of ground lying in a Close of Mr. Walkers called the Tineing To Hold to my said daughter Sarah Summerell, Stephen Summerell her husband and Samuel Summerell their eldest son do and shall within six Months next after my decease release unto my said daughter Anne Francombe and to

her Heirs and Assigns for ever all their estate right title interest challenge claim and demand whatsoever of in and to the Dwelling House, Outhousing Garden and Orchard abovementioned to be given and devised to my said daughter Anne Francombe and to her Heirs and Assigns for ever. And in case my said daughter Sarah and her said husband and their said eldest son shall refuse or neglect to execute such Release as aforesaid within Six Months next after my decease, unto my said daughter Anne Francombe and to her Heirs and Assigns for ever Then and in such case, all the Reall (sic) Estate which is herein given and devised to my said daughter Summerell and to her Heirs and Assigns for ever I do give and devise to my said daughter Anne Francombe and to her Heirs and Assigns for ever. Item. I give unto my said daughter Sarah my ground called the Innermost Toghill To Hold to her Executors Administrators and Assigns during all my estate term and interest therein. And lastly I do give all my Household Goods unto my said daughter Anne Francombe whom I make sole Executrix of this my last Will and Testament. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

Signed sealed published and declared

By the Testatrix to be her last Will

And Testament in the presence of:

**Aaron Strange
Robert Palmer
George Francombe – his Mark**

**20th May 1736
The abovenamed Anne Francombe, sole
Executrix was duly sworn before me
Rich^d Barry Surrogate**

This Will was proved the 20th Day of May in the Year of our Lord 1736 before the Worshipful Sir Henry Penrice Knight Doctor of Law Vicar General and Spiritual of the Right Reverend Father in God Martin by Divine permission Lord Bishop of the Diocese of Gloucester and of his Episcopal consistory official principal lawfully constituted by Anne Francombe, sole Executrix and so forth to whom and so forth after having first sworn well and faithfully to Administer to this said Will and also to exhibit an Inventory and render an Account and so forth.

JOAN COPE of LONGNEY – 1740.

In the name of God Amen. I JoanCope of ye Parish of Longney in ye County of Gloucester, widow being sick in body but of perfect memory and understanding, praised be to God do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament in maner(sic) and form following: first of all I bequeath my soul to God who gave it, hoping through Christ to have full pardon and forgiveness of all my sins and my body to ye earth to be buried at ye discretion of my executors hereinafter named and my worldly goods I dispose hereof as followeth: Also I give devise and bequeath all those my Freehold Estates in the Parish of Rockhampton in the said County to my daughter Mary James, to be possessed and enjoyed by her during ye term of her natural life, and also to for and after her decease, I give devise and bequeath my said estates in the Parish of Rockhampton to my Grandchildren as followeth. Namely I give devise and bequeath to my grandson John James all that my ground with ye appurtenances called Eakley and to his Heirs and Assigns for ever and also my ground called Reynlands and to his Heirs and Assigns for ever. And also I give devise and bequeath all my ground called Wimmersley to my grandson Thomas James and to his Heirs and Assigns for ever. And also I give devise and bequeath ye House, garden and orchard commonly called ye Little House with ye ground thereunto adjoining commonly called ye Hill and another ground commonly called ye Calves Lodge to my grand daughter Mary James and to her Heirs and Assigns for ever. And also all my other Freehold Estates in ye said Parish of Rockhampton, together with all my Houses and lands not hereby already bequeathed and devised and disposed of I do hereby devise, give and bequeath to be equally divided between my grandchildren Anna James, Nathaniel Mallot James, and Theophilus James and to their Heirs and Assigns forever. Also I give and bequeath to my grandson William James the sum of Five pounds to be paid him within ye space of one year after my decease. Also I give and bequeath to my said grandson John James ye sum of Sixty pounds. Also I give and bequeath to my Grandson Thomas James ye sum of Forty pounds. And also I give and bequeath to my said grand daughter Mary James ye sum of Fifty pounds. And also I give and bequeath to my said grand daughter Anna James ye sum of Fifty pounds. And also I give and bequeath to my said grandson Theophilus James ye sum of Forty pounds. It is also my will and desire that if it shall please God that any or either of these my grandchildren shall happen to die before they attain to ye age of one and twenty years of age that then and in that case ye hereby bequeathed legacies shall be due payable and equally divided between my other surviving grandchildren; namely ye lands as well as ye summes of money hereby bequeathed for their benefit and advantage. And finally all ye rest of my goods, chattels, money and personal estate whatsoever, I give and bequeath to my daughter Mary James whom I constitute and appoint to be sole Executrix of this my last Will and Testament. Witness my hand and seal this third day of June in ye year of our Lord 1740. Signed sealed published and declared in the presence of:

5th Day of August, 1740

John Church
John Ellis

The abovenamed Mary James,
daughter and sole Executrix

(Sgd)
Joanne Cope

The Mark of Elizabeth James

was duly sworn before me.

Samuel Gwinnett Surrogate

This Will was proved the 5th Day of August in the Year of our Lord 1740 before the Worshipful Sir Henry Penrice Knight Doctor of Laws Vicar General in Spirituals of the Right Reverend Father in God Martin by Divine permission Lord Bishop of the Diocese of Gloucester and of his Episcopal consistory official principal lawfully constituted by Mary James, daughter and sole Executrix and so forth to whom and so forth having first sworn well and faithfully to Administer to the said Will and also to Exhibit an Inventory and render an Account and so forth.

EDMUND COPE of SLYMBRIDGE. 1741(executors - **MARTHA COPE (widow of WILLIAM COPE) and THOMAS COPE.**)

Know all men by these presents that Wee **Martha Cope of Charleton , in the County of Wilts, widow William Cope of this same estate and personage and Thomas Cope of Duntisbourne Rouse in the County of Gloucester Yeoman** are held and firmly bound unto **Martin Lord, Bishop of the Diocese of Gloucester in the sum of four hundred pounds** of good and lawful Money of Great Britain to be paid unto the **said Lord Bishop** or to **his** certain Attorney **his** Executors, Administrators or Assigns to which payment well and truly to be made. We oblige ourselves and **every one** of us by **himself or themselves** for the whole and every one of our Heirs, Executors and Administrators firmly by these presents sealed with our seals dated the **ninth** day of **July** in the **fifteenth** year of the Reign of our Sovereign **Lord George the second**, by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, being Defender of the Faith and so forth and in the year of our Lord One thousand Seven hundred and **forty one**.

The Condition of this Obligation is such that if the **above bound Martha Cope, lawful Mother and Administrator** of all and singular the goods Chattells and credits of **Edmund Cope, late of Slymbridge, Yeoman**, Deceased do make or cause to be made a true and perfect Inventory of all and singular the goods Chattells and credits of the said deceased which have or shall come to the hands possession or knowledge of her the said **Martha Cope**, or into the hands and possession of any person or persons for her and the same so made do exhibit or cause to be exhibited into the Register of the **Bishop of Gloucester** at or before the **last** day of **August** next ensuing and the same goods Chattells and credits and all other the goods Chattells and credits of the said deceased at the time of **his** death which at any time after shallco (sic) to the hands or possession of the said **Martha Cope** or into the hands or possession of any other person or persons for her, do well and truly administer according to law And further do make or cause to be made a true and Just accompt (sic) of **her** said Administration at or before the **last** day of **June next** and all the rest and residue of the said goods Chattells and credits which shall be found remaining upon the said Administrators accompt, the same being first Examined and allowed of by the Judge or Judges the time being of the said Court shall deliver and pay unto such person or persons respectively as said Judge or Judges by his or their decree or sentence pursuant to the said intent and meaning of late Act of Parliament made in the two and twentieth and three and twntieth years of the reign of our late Sovereign Lord King Charles the second Instituted an Act for the better settling of Intestate Estates shall limit and appoint And if it shall hereafter appear that any last Will and Testament was made by the said deceased and the Executor or Executors therein named do exhibit the same into the said Court making request to have it allowed and approved accordingly if the said **Martha Cope** above bounden being thereunto required do renay and deliver the said Letters of Administration approbation of such Testament being first had and made in the said Court then this Obligation to be void or Else to remain in full force and Vertue.

Sealed and delivered being first
duly stamped in the presence of

Tho^s Branch N.P. (?)

Also signed by Martha Coap

William Cope

The mark of Thomas Cope**9th July, 1741.**

On which day appeared personally Martha Cope and alleged that Edmund Cope late of Slymbridge in the Diocese of Gloucester, Yeoman died intestate, that she the said Martha was and is the lawful Mother of the said deceased – Wherefore she Prayed that Administration of all and singular the goods Rights and Credits of the said Deceased might be Granted and Committed to her on giving such good and sufficient security as on this behalf is required and so forth.

Let Administration be granted according to the tenor of the above petition.

Charles Wallington, Surr.

WILLIAM COPE'S WILL –1852

This is the Last Will of me **William Cope** of Berkeley in the County of Gloucester, Pargeter. **I give and bequeath** all my personal Estate and Effects after payment of my debts, funeral and testamentary expenses unto my Wife, Eliza, absolutely.

I devise all that my freehold Messuage or Dwelling houses situate in Salter Street, Berkeley, aforesaid which I have lately purchased and in which I now reside with the outbuildings, garden and appurtenances thereto belonging and all other my real estate unto and to the use of Robert King of Berkeley aforesaid, Schoolmaster, and James Phillips the younger of the same place, plumber and glazier, whom I appoint trustees of this my Will their heirs and assigns **In Trust** for my said wife during her Widowhood and to permit her to occupy and enjoy the same accordingly, she keeping the same in good repair and insuring the same from loss or damage by fire and on her decease or second marriage **Upon Trust** to sell all my real estate by public auction or private contract subject or not to any special conditions and to buy in and resell the same and rescind or vary any contract for sale and to be possessed of the proceeds of such sale and of such real estate until sold, **In Trust** for such children of mine living at my decease and such child or children of mine dying before me or shall attain the age of twenty one years or marry, in equal shares but so that the child or children of any deceased child shall take only such share as his or her parent would have taken if living, And to apply any part of such child's presumptive shares under the trusts aforesaid for his or her maintenance education or advancement with power for my said Trustees to invest any such share or Government or real securities or in any savings or Joint stock Bank and to vary such investments, **I declare** that the receipt of the Legatees notwithstanding covertures shall be sufficient discharges.

I authorise and direct my Trustees under the Trusts aforesaid to let and manage my real estate and to repair and insure the same and I declare that such real estate shall be deemed converted in equity from the time of my decease. **I devise** all estates vested in me on Trust or mortgage unto my said Trustees their heirs and assigns subject to the equities affecting the same. **I declare** that the Trustees or Trustee of my Will may give valid discharges for all Trust monies which shall be received by them.

I appoint my said Wife and the said Robert King and James Phillips the younger Executors of my Will with full power to compound and compromise debts and claims and settle my accounts and affairs and adjust by arbitration or offensive questions and disputes in relation thereto. **I declare** that if any person herein named or hereafter appointed a Trustee of my Will should die or disclaim or relinquish or refute or be incapable to perform or desire to retire from the office it shall be lawful for the other Trustees or Trustee or if there be no such Trustee for the person or persons so retiring or disclaiming/being capable and willing/or if there be no such Trustee for any Executor or Administrator of the Trustee who shall then have last died in the office or if there be no such person for any, my Executor or Administrator to appoint by writing any fit person or persons to be a Trustee or Trustees in the room of such first mentioned person.

And that no Trustee of X my Will shall be answerable for any Co Trustee or for any money which he shall not actually receive or for any involuntary loss. **And** that each Trustee may retain and allow all expenses incurred in the execution of the aforesaid Trusts **And** that the Trustees or Trustee for the time being of my Will may exercise any power or discretion hereby given to the Trustees herein named. **I revoke** all former Wills. **In Witness** whereof I have to this my Will contained in this and the proceeding sheet hereunto set my hand to this twenty fifth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty two.

Certified by the said William Cope as his last Will in
the presence of us present at the same time who at his
request in his presence and in the presence of each
other have hereunto inscribed our names as witnesses.

William Cope

(signed)

25th July, 1852.

Mr. G. Hickes of Berkeley, Surgeon.
Geo. Hickes Soltr. Berkeley.

Appeared personally Eliza Cope of Berkeley in the County of Gloucester, Widow and alleged that the foregoing paper writings contain the Last Will and Testament of

William Cope late of Berkeley aforesaid Pargeter deceased who died on the 9th day of August 1852. That she was the Executrix therein named. That she would well and faithfully perform the Trusts of the said Will and pay the Debts of the Deceased and render an Inventory and Account, when required, that the goods, chattels and credits of the deceased were under the value of ONE HUNDRED POUNDS and that he had no Leasehold Estate - wherefore she prayed probate.

Probate? reserving power for the Executors when etc..

(Sgd) Not deciphered

(Office held not deciphered)

WILLIAM COPE of TETBURY, GLOS. – Dated 1793.

This is the last Will and Testament of me William Cope of Tetbury in the County of Gloucester, Innholder. I resign my Soul to its Creator in all humble Hope of its future Happiness as in the Disposal of a being infinitely Wise and Good. As to my Body my Will is that it be decently buried according to the Discretion of my Executrix hereinafter named. As to my Estate Real and Personal I order and direct and tis my Will that an Inventory and Estimate be made thereof immediately after my Decease and a Copy of the same given to the Trustees hereinafter named of this my Will. **Imprimis I give** and bequeath All my Real and Personal Estate whatsoever and wheresoever in the Kingdom of Great Britain unto my beloved Wife Alice (in case she remains a Widow during the Time hereinafter mentioned) **in Trust** for her own use and the benefit of my children William, George, Edward, Walter and Jane that is to say for the Education, Apprenticing or otherwise bringing up my Children by her till my son William or the Eldest of the Survivors of my said Children arrive at the Age of Twenty One years the I give and bequeath unto my said Wife Alice for and during the Term of her natural Life any part of my Chattels, Plate or other parts of my Personal Estate to the value of One Hundred pounds and after her Decease I give and bequeath the same to my aforesaid Children to be equally divided among them or share and share alike. Also at the same time I give and bequeath to my said Wife Alice for the Term of her natural Life in case she remains a Widow, Twenty pounds a Year chargeable upon any Part of my Real Estate at the Pleasure this Also at her Decease to equally divided among my said children William, George, Edward, Walter and Jane. And all the Rest Residue and Remainder of my Estate both real and personal I order and direct (at least if it be thought best by my Executrix and Trustees hereinafter named of this my Will) to be sold to the best Advantage and equally divided between my said Children William, George, Edward, Walter and Jane by my Wife Alice or the survivors of them And I order and direct that the Monies thence arising be put out on Government or some other sufficient Securities and the Interest only of their respective Shares allowed them between the Ages of Twenty One and Twenty Five except their Mother or the Trustees of this my Will should think it for his or her Advantage to have the Principal Monies sooner, then I consent the Interest of the Shares belonging to all those under Age to be paid to their Mother for the uses beforementioned At the Age of Twenty five years I order that each of my said Children be paid (if it is not done before) his or her respective share of my Estate And in Case my said Wife Alice.

(a line is missing from the photocopy unfortunately)

??? mentioned. At the Age of Twenty Five years I order that each of my said Children be paid (if it is not done before) his or her respective Share of my Estate. And in case my

said Wife Alice should marry after my Decease before any of my Children have arrived to the Age of Twenty One years then I will direct and empower the Trustees hereinafter named of this my Will to act for such Children or Child as they shall see best I nominate and Appoint my said Wife Alice to be sole Executrix of this my Will. Also I Nominate Request and Desire my Brother-in-Law Stephen Jones and Thomas White, Gent. Both of Tetbury aforesaid to be Trustees to see the due execution of this my Will and Lastly I hereby revoke and make void all former and other Wills by me made. In Witness

whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal this Seventh Day of February in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety Three.

Signed sealed Published and declared in the presence

of the said Testator William Cope as and for his last (Sgd) William Cope
 Will and Testament in the presence of us who in his presence
 and of each other have set our Names as Witnesses hereto 13th Day of July 1793.

*Thomas Thompson The abovenamed Alice Cope , the Relict and sole James Ind
 Executrix was duly sworn before me.*

Thomas Alexander Sworn to less than £300

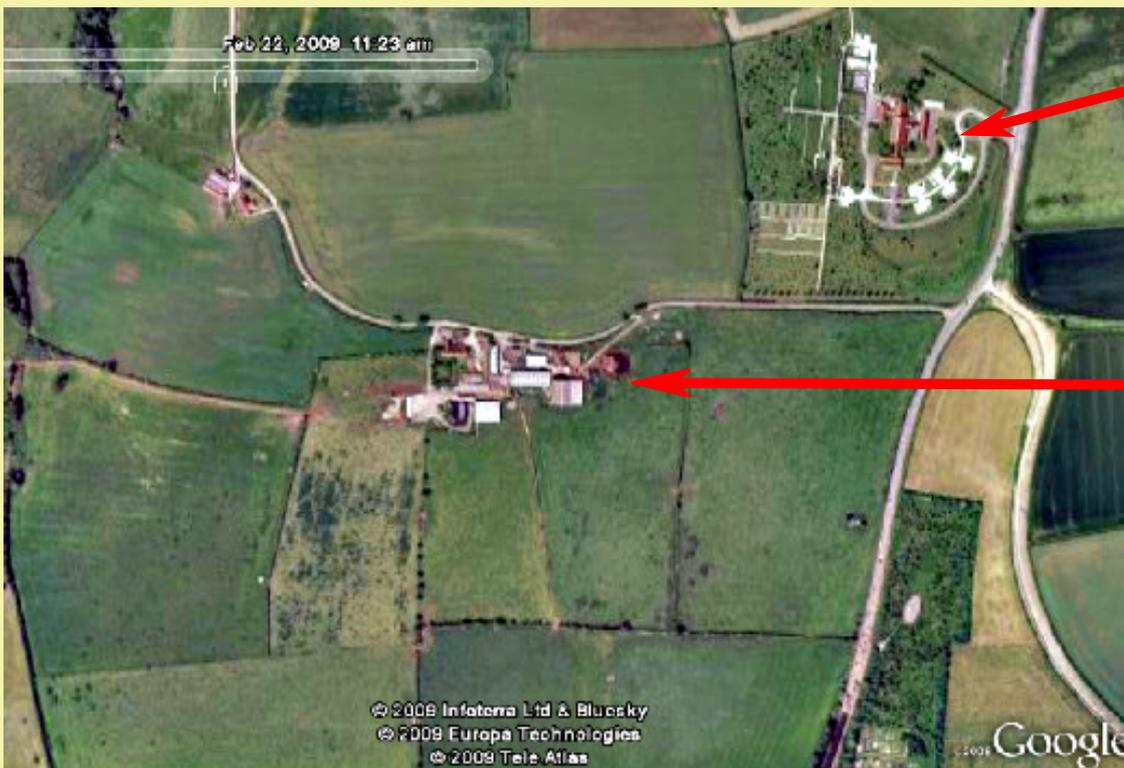
Thomas Judge Snr.

This Will was proved the 13th Day of July 1793 before the Reverend Thomas Judge, Surrogate to the Worshipful Edward Cooke A.M. Vicar General in Spiritual of the Right Reverend Father in God Richard by Divine permission Lord Bishop of the Diocese of Gloucester and of his Episcopal consistory Official Principal lawfully constituted by Alice Cope the Widow and sole Executrix etc. to whom etc. having first sworn well and faithfully to Administer to the said Will as also to Exhibit an Inventory and render an Account etc.

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3 Views of Leigh Farm photographed by me in 2006 while taking Marjorie Mitchell, (my 2nd cousin from New Zealand and grand daughter of Rosa Cope) to see where our 7 times Great Grandfather farmed in 1669!



WESTERLEIGH CREMATORIUM

LEIGH FARM