

John Spurgeon's will

[Pomeroy Collection \(ID 25802\)](#), box 185/35/4, bundle 16

5 September 1778

Copy of the will of Mr John Spurgeon

In the name of God Amen I John Spurgeon of Bracon Ash in the county of Norfolk, farmer, being of sound mind memory and understanding praise be almighty God for the same do make publish and declare this to be my last Will and Testament in manner and form the following (that is to say).

First I give will & devise all those my messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever situate lying and being in Wreningham in the said county of Norfolk, with the appurtenances unto my son Thomas Spurgeon of Hardingham in the same county, farmer, to hold unto and to the use of my said son Thomas Spurgeon his heirs and assigns for ever.

Also I give will and devise all those my messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments situate and being in Bracon Ash aforesaid and now or later in the respective occupations of William Johnsons Christopher Davey John Carman and Nathaniel Outon and also all those two pieces of waste ground near or adjoining to the last devised messuages and premises and now in the respective occupations of the said William Johnsons and Christopher Davey be the same freehold or copyhold with their appurtenances unto my daughter Elizabeth now the wife of Stephen Cowell of Shottisham All Saints in the said county of Norfolk blacksmith to hold unto and to the use of my said daughter Elizabeth Cowell and her heirs and assigns for ever.

Also I give will and devise all those my messuages lands and tenements situate lying and being in Bracon Ash aforesaid which were last in the use and occupation for my son James Spurgeon, now deceased, and of Catherine Spurgeon, Roger Roberts, Edmund Chidwick and Charles Thynne and also all that pightle piece or parcel of land in Bracon Ash aforesaid near or adjoining the last devised messuage and premises and now in my own use with their appurtenances unto Mary Spurgeon, late the wife and now the widow of my said deceased son James Spurgeon. To hold the said last mentioned messuages and premises with their appurtenances unto her the said Mary and for and during the term of her natural life, in case she shall so long continuing a widow and unmarried and not otherwise. And from and after the decease or intermarriage of her the said Mary which shall first happen I give will and devise all and every the same last mentioned messuages, lands, tenements and rights to pieces or parcel of land with their appurtenances unto and equally among all and every the children of my said deceased son James Spurgeon as well sons as daughters share and share alike they to take as tenants in common and not as joint tenants and if it shall happen that any of the said children of my said deceased son James Spurgeon shall depart this life under the age of twenty one years then I give the part, or shares parts, or share of him her or them so dying of and in the last mentioned hereditaments and premises unto and equally amongst the survivors or survivor of them and his for her their heirs share and share alike. And my mind and will is that in case the said Mary the widow of my said deceased son James Spurgeon shall marry again that my executors herein after named or the survivor of them his executors or administrators shall and do and I do hereby authorise and empower them my said executors or the survivor of them his executors or administrators immediately upon such last intermarriage to enter into and upon the said last mentioned messuages hereditaments and premises by and devised, to her the said Mary, in manner aforesaid, and from henceforth to have hold and enjoy the same and the rents issues and profits thereof to and take until as and when the said children of my said deceased James Spurgeon shall respectively attain his her or their said age or ages of twenty one years and in the mean time pay apply and dispose of the clear yearly or other rents issues and profits of the same premises for and

towards the maintenance and education and bringing up of such children born respectively during their respective minorities according to their respective parts shares rights and interests therein. Also I give will and bequeath unto Benjamin Spurgeon son of Henry Spurgeon my late deceased son three pounds and to Susanna Spurgeon daughter of the said Henry Spurgeon my said son ten pounds to be severally paid to them by my executors herein after named or the survivor of them his executors or administrators if as and when they shall attain respectively the age of the age of twenty one years. In that case I do subject and charge such part of my real estate as I have herein given to the said Mary the widow and the children of my late deceased son James Spurgeon in manner as aforesaid to and with the payment of the legacies aforesaid prospectively.

Also I give will and bequeath unto Mary Muskett the wife of John Mark Muskett of Shottisham All Saints aforesaid carpenter ten pounds to be paid unto her by my said executors or the survivor of them his executors or administrators out of my personal estate within twelve months next after my decease.

And as to my household goods household furniture implements of household ready money securities for money and all other my personal estate and effects whatsoever or wheresoever and of any nature kind or quality soever (after payment throughout of all my just debts, funeral charges and expenses of this my will altogether with the probate of this my will and other incidental charges and legacies by me above given and bequeathed as aforesaid and accordingly subject hereto) I give will and bequeath the same and every part thereof unto my said son Thomas Spurgeon and Stephen Cowell my son-in-law their executors and administrators and for their own proper use and benefit.

And I do hereby make nominate constitute and appoint my said son Thomas Spurgeon and my said son-in-law Stephen Cowell executors of this my will.

And lastly I do hereby revoke all other wills by me at any time heretofore made published and declared and do declare this to be my only last will and testament. In witness whereof the said John Spurgeon the testator have to this my last will and testament contained in two sheets of paper affixed together at the top through and sealed set my hand and seal (that is to say) my hand to the bottom of the first sheet thereof, and my hand and seal to the last sheet thereof the fifth day of September in the year of our lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight. John Spurgeon

Signed, dated published and declared by the said testator John Spurgeon as and for his last will and testament in the presence of us who in his presence and at his request and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as witness hereunto the above interlineation being first made.
Charles Thynne Thomas Faulkner Isaac Brothingham.

By the tenor of those proponents, we Peter Petit clerk Master of Arts Commissary in and throughout the arch deaconry of Norfolk lawfully constituted do make know to all men that on the twenty eighth day of November in the year of our lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight before the Revd John Francis clerk Master of Arts our surrogate duly appointed at Norwich. The last will and testament of John Spurgeon late of Bracon Ash in the county of Norfolk and our jurisdiction farmer deceased hereunto annexed was proved approved and registered and administration of all and singular the goods chattels and credits of the deceased.

And in any way concerning his said will was then duly granted to Thomas Spurgeon his son, and Stephen Cowell his son-in-law, the executors named in the said will, they being first sworn upon the holy evangelist well and faithfully to administer the same and to make a true and perfect inventory of all and singular the said goods chattels & credits and to exhibit the same unto the registry of the court kept for the said arch deaconry on or before the last day of May next ensuing and also to

render a just and true account thereof when thereunto lawfully called. Given under the usual seal of our office the day and year first above written. Robert Francis Junior