

COPY OF JOHN ETHERIDGE'S HANDWRITTEN WILL
18 JUN 1575

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN, the eighteneth day of June in the Seaventeneth yere of the reign of O(ur) Sov(er)aigne Lady Elizabeth by the grace of god Quene of England ffraunce and Ireland defendor of the faith &c I John Etheridge citizen and grocer of London beinge sicke in body but yet nev(er)theles of good and perfecte remembraunce laude and praise be therefore given to almightie god do make and ordeine this my P(rese)nte testament and last will in manner and forme folowinge that is to say

ffirst and principally I give and bequeth my sowle to almightie god my maker savior and redem(m)er in whome and by the merritts of the second p(er)sonne Jesus Christ I truste and belive assuredly to be saved and to have full and cleire remissionn and forgiveness of all my synnes and I commytt my body to the earth to be buried in the parish churchyarde of Tottenham in the countie of Midd(les)sex as neare unto the place where my father and mother lieth buried as conveniently may be

And that beinge done I will that all suche debtes and duties as I shall owe unto any parson or parsons in right or in concience shalbe truly paied

And that beinge done then I will that all and singular my goodes chattelles and debtes and redy monny shalbe devided into two equall and indifferent partes and procionnes accordinge to the custome of the citie of London Whereof one parte thereof I give and bequeath to Elizabeth my wife to her owne prop(er) use forev(er) And the other equall parte thereof I resyne unto myselve and to my executors here under named therew(ith) to pay my guifts legacies and bequestes hereafter expressed

that is to say I do cleirely release and forgive William Etheridge my brother all suche debtes duties and sommes of monny as he shall owe or be indebted unto me at the tyme of my decease by any wayes or meanes whatsoev(er) upon condition that my said brother William Etheridge his executors or assignes shall pay fortie markes percell thereof to Abraham Etheridge his sonne and to Margaret and Ann his daughters at suche tyme as they and ev(er)y of them shall accomplishe and come to their lawfull age of one and twentie yeres or daies of marriage which shall first happen procionn and porcionn(s) like And ev(er)y of them to be heire to other if death shall happen to them or any of them in the meane tyme

Item I give to my cosen Thomas Wheler carryor my gemeive of golde conteyninge three small ringes which I do use to were for remembrance of me

Item I give and bequeth to William Serche Scrivannor one ringe or gemeive of golde of the value of tenne shillinges or tenn shillinges in gold therefore as he choyse

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Item I give to my lovinge frende William Sherman grocer one ringe of golde set with a pownce

Item I give and bequethe to George Plough my servaunte ffortie shillinges in monny to be paied unto him at th(e)ende or expiration of his yeres of apprentizhodd which he hath to s(er)ve with me

The residue of my said parte and porcionn remayning after my guifts legacies and bequestes in this my p(rese)nte testament and last will p(er)formed I fullie and wholly give and bequeth to John Etheredge my brothers sonne to his owne prop(er) use forever

Item I give and bequeth the somme of ffive shillinges to be given amongst the poore of the parrishe of Christschurch in London where I ame now a parrishnor And other ffive shillinges to be distributed amongste poore of the foresaid parrishe of Tottenham on the daie of my buriall

And of the excutiounn of this my p(rese)nte testament and last will I ordeine and n(omin)ate the foresaid Elizabeth my wife my full executrix provided alwayes that yf my said wyfe do not prove this my last will and testament within one moneth next after my decease then I will that my said brother William Etheridge shalbe full and sole executor.

And I do appointe the foresaid Thomas Wheler my cozen to be ov(er)seer of this my p(rese)nte testament and last will And I do clierely release and forgive the forsaid George Ploughe one yeres s(er)vice of his apprenticeshood which he shall have to serve with me at my decease

In witness whereof to this my p(rese)nte testament and last will I the said John Etheridge have sett my seale the day and yere above written by me John Etheridge.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of me William Serche Scryvannor per me Trouyan Shortus yremonger John Howes

TRANSLATION FROM LATIN:

The will above written was proved before Master William Drury doctor of laws commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury at London on the twenty eighth of June In the year of the Lord One thousand five hundred seventy and five upon the oath of Elizabeth relict and executrix, nominated in the said testament.

Then she was granted administration of all and singular the goods &c debts &c And swore on the holy gospels (duly to administer).