

*The Last Will and Testament of  
John Ballard  
16<sup>th</sup> November 1769  
[Proved 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1778]*



This is the last Will and Testament of me **John Ballard** of Imber in the County of Wilts Gentleman as follows that is to say first I give and bequeath to my sister **Mary Drewett** widow all that my leasehold tenement hold by lease for lives under His Grace the Duke of Queensbury consisting of two yard lands situate at Woolhampton in the said County of Wilts which I purchased of Thomas Burge To hold to her the said **Mary Drewett** her executors administrator and assigns for all interest that shall be to come at my decease Also I give and bequeath to her the said **Mary Drewett** the sum of five hundred pounds of lawful money of Great Britain to be paid to her by my executors hereinafter named in twelve months next after my decease Also I give and bequeath to my sister in law **Mary Pocock** widow all that my copyhold consisting of two other yard lands situate at Woolhampton aforesaid hold by copy of Court Roll under the said Duke of Queensbury for the ....of her [*the next line of text is only partly legible*]....and my household .... **Mary Pocock** [*text is only partly-legible*].....appoint to hold to her the said **Mary Pocock** ...her executors administrators and assigns for and during her own life with power to...the same to which she has devise or appoint for and during the life of her son the said **John Pocock** if he shall survive her and also during the widowhood of his wife **Martha Pocock** or any future wife of his who may claim any interest therein by the custom of the Manor of Woolhampton Also I give and bequeath to my niece **Broadhead Ballard** one annuity or clear yearly sum of ten pounds per annum to be paid her by my executors herein after named for and during her natural life the first payment thereof to begin and be made the first quarter day come twelve months next after my decease also it is my express will and meaning that the said annuity shall not be subject to pay the debts as be in any manner at the disposal of any husband she may intermarry and that it may be to and for her own sole and separate use and her benefit alone at all times shall be a sufficient discharge for the same and also that it shall not be in her power to alter sell or dispose of the said annuity without incurring the forfeiture thereof to my executors herein after named Also I give and bequeath to my niece **Elizabeth Tree** wife of **William Tree** of Bulkington .....like annuity or clear yearly sum of ten pounds per annum to be paid her by my executors hereinafter named for and during her natural life the first payment to be begin and be made the first quarter day come twelve months next after my decease and it is my express will and meaning that the said annuity shall not be subject to pay the debts of her said husband **William Tree** or be in any manner at his disposal or of any future husband she may intermarry but that the said annuity shall be to and for her own sole and separate use and her receipt alone at all times shall be a sufficient discharge for the same and that it shall not be in her power to alter sell or dispose of the said annuity without incurring the forfeiture thereof to my executors hereinafter named and Also I give and bequeath to my niece **Ann Ballard** all that my leasehold tenement called Shute living hold to lease for lives under Lord Viscount Weymouth situate at Bratton in the said of County Wilts to hold to her the said **Ann Ballard** her executors adminors and assigns for and during all the .....estate and interest that shall be to come thereon at my decease Also I give and bequeath to her the said Ann Ballard the sum of one hundred pounds of lawful money of Great Britain to

be paid her by my executors hereinafter named in twelve months next after my decease Also I give and bequeath to my niece **Eleanor Blatch** wife of **John Blatch** the younger of Bratton aforesaid Yeoman the interest of two hundred and fifty pounds at four pounds per rent per annum of lawful British money to be paid her yearly by my executors herein after named out of my personal estate during her natural life the first payment thereof to begin and be made the first quarter day come twelve months next after my decease and it is my express will and meaning that the said interest money so growing due shall not be subject to pay the debts or be in any manner at the disposal of her said husband **John Blatch** but that the same shall be to and for her own sole and separate use and benefit and her receipt alone at all times shall be a sufficient discharge for the same and from and immediately after her decease I will and devise that my executors and trustees herein after named do pay and apply the interest of the said two hundred and fifty pounds from time to time as they shall seem most proper for and towards the maintenance and support of all and every the child and children of my said niece **Eleanor Blatch** during their minorities and the said principal sum of two hundred and fifty pounds I give and bequeath to and amongst all and every the child and children of her body equally to be parted and divided amongst them share and share alike as they shall severally also respectively attain their ages of twenty one years But if my said niece **Eleanor Blatch** shall die without issue of her body living or that shall not live to attain the age of twenty one years then it is my will and devise that the said principal sum of two hundred and fifty pounds shall sink into my residuary estate for the use of my executors herein after named Also I give and devise to my two nephews **William Aldridge Ballard** and **Thomas Whitaker** all those my freehold lands tenements and hereditaments called .....Downs situate at West Ashton in the said County of Wilts which I lately purchased of the aforesaid **Broadhead Ballard William Tree** and **Elizabeth** his wife to hold to them the said **William Aldridge Ballard** and **Thomas Whitaker** their heirs and assigns for ever to receive and enjoy the rents and profits thereof equally between them share and share alike Also I give to the poor of Imber Bratton and Woolhampton aforesaid the sum of fifty shillings a piece to each of those places to be paid them at the discretion of my executors herein after named Also all the rest residue and remainder of my monies securities for money stock of cattle corn hay and utensils of husbandry goods chattels and personal estate whatsoever and wheresoever after payment of my debts legacies and funeral expenses I give and bequeath to my said two nephews **William Aldridge Ballard** and **Thomas Whitaker** their executors administrators and assigns to be equally parted and divided between them share and share alike and lastly I do hereby nominate constitute and appoint the said **William Aldridge Ballard** and **Thomas Whitaker** joint Executors and also Trustees and overseers of this my said last Will and Testament whom I devise will act as such and see it put in execution and I do hereby revoke all former wills heretofore made In witness whereof I have to this my said last will and testament contained in two sheets of paper set my hand to the first sheet thereof and my hand and seal to the last sheet this sixteenth day of November in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Nine [*Signed – John Ballard*]

Signed sealed published and declared by the Testator **John Ballard** as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who in his presence and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as witnesses thereto

[*Signed - Philip Tinker – Isaac Wilkins – John Gibbs*]

This Will was proved at London the second day of April in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Eight before the Worshipful Francis Simpson Doctor of Laws surrogate of the Right Worshipful Sir George

Say Knight also Doctor of Laws Master Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury lawfully constituted by the oaths of William Aldridge Ballard and Thomas Whitaker the nephews of the deceased and Executors named in the said Will to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods chattels and credits of the said deceased ...first sworn duly to administer