

# Will of Edward Stokes, of Titherton, 1667. [Abridged.] May 30, 1667.



I, **Edward Stokes**, of Titherton Lucas esquire, desirous to settle in order my estate which God hath bestowed upon mee that I may not in my extreames be incumbred and troubled with worldly affaires, do first revoke, etc having committed my soule to the mercy of God Almighty. I committ my body to the earth to be buried in a silent and decent manner without pagan pompeor popish ceremony, in a place I shall appoint in my lifetime if I happen to dye att or near Tytherton Lucas.

As for my worldly estate etc., To my most dear and tender wife **Elizabeth Stokes** all the goods, household stuff, and implements of household brought with her unto my house, and also my two chests of drawers, best bed and furniture thereto belonging, and her rings and jewels, furniture and implements remaining in her closets in my now dwelling house, and a moiety of my "clift " wood and faggots about my house and coal to her own use, and the use of all my other household stuff and furniture in that part of my dwelling house, called the new building, during her life. After her death, to **Elizabeth Stokes** my daughter, with my plate. To my son **Christopher Stokes**, £200, to be paid in a year after my decease. All my debts to be paid with all convenient speed, a schedule whereof as also of debts due to me I intend to annex hereunto or otherwise to leave it in my almanacke or book of accounts. Each of my brothers and sisters 10s. apiece; my niece **Susanna Garrard**, £50, to be paid within a year after my decease.

My uncle **John Cheke** gent, 10s, my servant Roger Webb and the two maidservants that shall be with me at my decease, 20s. each ; also to all my constant workmen at the time of my decease, that is to say, threshere, smithe, taylor, wheelwright, carpenter, thatcher and mason, 6s 8d. apiece.

To my long painefull and trusty servants **John Robins**, *alias* Duke, and **Robert Angell**, £5 each, and do hereby release all rents due from said **John Robins** for his house and garden grounds.

The children of my brother **Thomas Garrard**, gent., which he had by my sister (excepting the said **Susanna**), £5 each.

The bailiff and burgesses of the borough of Chippenham and their successors, £12, to remain in the town stock to be let forth by them upon bonds and sufficient securities, that is to say, to 6 poor freemen of the borough not exceeding the sum of 40s. apiece. The said bonds to be renewed yearly on securities as the money remaining in the town stock is usually let forth.

Whereas, I have delivered to **John Jacob**, of Norton, co. Wilts, gent.; **Nevill Maskelyne**, of Purton, co. Wilts, gent, **Henry Francklyne**, of Sherston Magna ; and to **Thomas Neate**, of Chippenham, co. Wilts, gent., the sum of £1,000 for the use of my daughter **Elizabeth Stokes**, payable to her at the age of 16 years. Now I bequeath the said sum to her with the increase thereof, only reserving the interest for my life time. If she happen to die before her age of 16 years, then £500 to my son **Christopher Stokes**, and £500 to my wife **Elizabeth Stokes**, with the interest to be raised 6 months after my daughter's decease. My grandchild **Mary Stokes** £10 to buy her a piece of plate.

The poor of Titherton Lucas £6, to be distributed amongst those whom I shall nominate.

My son **Abjohn Stokes**, residuary legatee and executor, whom I commit to the guidance and protection of Almighty God under which I desire and require him to perform the same.

The said **John Jacob**, **Nevill Maskelyne**, **Henry Franckline** and **Thomas Neate**, overseers, to whom in token of my love I give 20s. apiece.

Witnesses, **John Cheke**, **John Stokes**, **Edward Croke**, **Susanna Garrard**, **Robert Angell**.

[Proved at Exeter Hall, in the Strand, co. Middlesex, 8 January 1667/8]

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