

THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF THOMAS CHAPPELL died 1590 in Exeter
Version 3 - 25 Oct 2013 (only minor change)

The following transcription has been made by L. Shade from a photographed copy of the version of the Will held at the Devon Heritage Centre in Exeter. Some words are obscure and corrections to the current transcription may be made in time.

The DHC version differs slightly in spelling and some other particulars from the version provided by the National Archives, which has also been consulted and from which several words are provided in square brackets below. The writing is much easier to read in the DHC version but there are some abbreviations which are written out and clearer in the NA version.

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In the name of God Amen the XX2th [two and twentieth] Day of August in the yere of our Lord 1589 [a thousand five hundred eighty nyne] and in the XXX1th [one and thirtieth] yere of the raigne of our Sovergne Lady Elizabeth by the grace of god of Englande France and Irelande Queene defender of the faith. I Thomas Chappell Maior of the Citye of Exeter, Marchaunt, beinge of good and perfitt remembraunce thanks be to almyghty god doe make and ordayne this my last Will and testament in manner and forme followinge. First and principally I bequeath my soule to almighty god and my body to the Christian burial whensoever it shall please god to visite me. **Item I give** amongst the poore people of this Citty of Exeter fyve poundes of lawfull money of Englande to be distributed at the discretion of my overseers hereafter appointed. **Item** I give and bequeath unto the Maior Bailiffes and Comynaltye of the Citye of Exeter the full some of Thirtye poundes of lawfull moneye of Englande to be payde within three yeres next after my death that is to saye, yerely in the XXth [twentieth] day of June the some of Tenne pounds untill the full some of Thirtye poundes be payd upon condition and of Trust that they the said Maior Bayliffe and Comynalty of the sayd City then for the tyme beinge, the Govenor and Tresurer of the Marchaunts of the Citie Then for the tyme beinge, the M[aster] and M[aster] Wardens of the Companie of the Taylors then for the tyme beinge which shalbe assembled at the Counsaile Chamber of the said Citye by reason of the Last Will and devize of Johan Tuckfielde late wife of John Tuckefyeld late Alderman of the said City deceased and upon the receate of everye of the said somes of Tenne poundes my Will is that the same shalbe by them the said Maior and Receaver Govenor and Treasurer M[aster] and M[aster] Warden put into a certayne Chest together with

suche moneys as shalbe by them then received The said daye by reason of the said will of the said Johan Tuckfield there to remeyne untill the XXth [twentieth] daye of Julye then following, which XXth [twentieth] day of Julye my will is that the said Maior and Receyver Governor and Treasurer, M[aster] and M[aster] Warden shall deliver fourth the said severall Somes of X [ten pounds] as it shall yerely Com into such Two inhabitants of the said City and freemen of the same as to them or the most parte of them shall seeme most meete viz to every of them five poundes to have and use the same for the share of three yeres unto the XXth [twentieth] of June then next followinge and then in the said XXth [twentieth] of June to redeliver and repaye the same some unto them delivered unto the said Maior and Receiver Governor and Treasurer M[aster] and M[aster] Warden betwene such howers and upon such good surfiet as they shall devise and to paye onlye the lyke fees for the makinge of the assuraunce and to the same Clarke as by the will of the sayd Johan Tuckfielde. My devise and my Will mynd is that the said severall somes of X [ten pounds] after the repayment thereof as aforesaid in the said XXth [twentieth] daye of Julye then next followinge shalbe delivered and put fourth agayne to Two other inhabitants and freemen of the sayd Cytie to have the same unto them for the lyfe tyme and in lyke manner and that the same shalbe as aforesaid received repayd and delivered fourth for ever from tyme to tyme as aforesaid accordinge to the late Will and Devise of the said Johan Tuckfielde to two inhabitants and freemen of the said Cytie the which I do desier the said Maior Bayliffs and Comynaltye to see to be performed as they have a care for the mayntenance of the good estate of the Cytie. **Item I Give** to my sonne **John Chappell** my best Salte Two littell Boles of Sylver gilte Two silver spoones and one hundred and fyfye pounds of lawfull money of England. **Item I Give** unto **William Chappell** my sonne one Sylver Tankerd gilted Two silver spoones and one hundred and fyfye poundes of lawfull money of England. **Item I Give** unto **Richard Chapell** my sonne one silver Tankerd gilted Two silver spoones and one hundred and fyfye poundes of lawfull money of Englande. **Item I Give** unto my sonne **Thomas Chappell** one silver Tankerd gilted Two silver spoones and one hundred and fyfye poundes lawfull money of England. **Item I give** unto **George Chappell** my sonne a Goblett of silver parcell gilte Two silver spoones and one hundred and fyfye poundes of lawfull money of England. **Item I give** unto **Nicholas Chappell** my sonne one Goblett of silver parcell gilte two silver spoones and one hundred and fyfye poundes lawfull money of England. **Item I Give** unto **Ambrose Chappell** my sonne one Goblett of silver parcell gilte Two silver spoones and one hundred and fyfye poundes lawfull money of Englande. **Item I Give** unto **Christofer Chappell** my sonne one silver Tankerd parcell gilte Two silver spoones and one hundred and fyfye

pounds of lawfull money of Englande. **Item I Give** unto Elizabeth Chappell my daughter one silver Bole gilted and two silver spoones and one hundred and fyfty poundes of lawfull money of Englande. **Item I Give** unto Katheryne Chappell my daughter one silver Bole gilted Two silver spoones and one hundred and fyfty poundes lawfull money of England. **Item I Give** to Johan Bagwell my daughter one silver Bole gilted and two silver spoones all which said somes of money and plate before by me given and bequethed to be delivered them or any of them when they shall com to the age of Twenty and fower yeres or before at the discrecion of their Mother and my Overseers in full contentation of all and every there legaces bequestes Childs parte and portion of my goods to them or any of them apportayninge or belongnige by reason or force of the Custome of the foresaid Cittye of Exon [Exeter] and if it happen that any of my children to dye before they shall accomplish the age of Twentye and fower yeres or before any of this my bequeste be delivered unto them That then my Will and mynde is that the parte and portion of every or any of them so deceasinge shalbe and remayne to and amongeth residue of my children that shalbe then livinge by equall portion to be devidid. **Item I** remite to Davide Bagwell my sonne in law Twenty poundes of lawfull money of Englande which he oweth to me. **Item I Give** unto the said David Bagwell Thirtye poundes of lawfull money of Englande. **Item I Give** unto the foresaid David Bagwells children called William Bagwell and Prisylla Bagwell and to every of them the some of three pounds six shillings and eight pence a peece of lawfull money of England. **Item I Give** to every of my servants that shalbe with me dwelling at the hower of my death Ten shillings a peece of good and lawfull money of Englande. **Item I Give** to Rober [*NA version has "Brother"] Chappell my brother Anthonies sonne XXs [twentie shillings] of lawfull money of England. **Item I Give** to my Coson Johan Chappell my mayde fyve markes of lawfull money of Englande. **Item I Give** to Edward Chappell mye Brother Anthony Chappells sonne Twenty shillings of lawfull money of Englande. **Item I Give** unto Humfry Chappell sonne unto Edward Chappell when he shall com to be of the age of XX1 [one and twentie] years the some of Twenty shillings of lawfull money of Englande. **Item I Give** unto William Brewer Twenty shillings of lawfull money of England. **Item I give** unto my Brother George Chapell fower poundes of lawfull money of Englande. [*This sentence omitted from DHC version.] **Item I Give** unto my brother George Chappells Two sonnes Twenty shillings a peece of lawfull money of Englande. **Item I Give** unto Anthonye Chappell the sonne of Thomas Chappell the sum of XXs [twenty shillings] of lawfull money of Englande. **I Give** and bequethe to every of my god Children two shillings a peece. **Item I Give** and bequeth to the poore people of Alphington Twenty shillings of lawfull

mony of Englande. **Also** my Will mynde and intent is that **Thomasyne** my wyfe shall duringe her naturall lyfe have hold and enjoy all that garden of myne lyeinge neere the highe streete of the foresaid Cytye of Exeter which I lately purchased of one Henry Paramore deceased **provided** allwayes and my Will intent and meaninge is that if anie of my said children do or shall at any tyme or tymes hereafter demannde or require to have any parte or portion of my goods or Chattels beinge in and at the tyme of my death or before by reason of the Custom of the Citye of Exeter or otherwyse to appertayne or belonge to them or either of them by reason of their his or her childes parte or portion of my goods or Chattells or otherwise if any of my said Children shall or do upon the tender or offer of their his or her legases refuse to make to my said Executrix a sufficient release and discharge of their his or her parte or portion of my said goods to them him or her belonging for their his or her Childs parte but cleaminge by force of the said Custom of the City of Exeter that then all and every gyfte legases and bequests to them him and her devised willed or bequeathed so denying or refusing shalbe utterly frustrate voyde and of none effect as of them him or her so denying or refusing had never by me named or mentioned in this my last Testament. The residue of all my goods Chattells moveable and unmoveable not given nor bequeathed my debts legases and funeralls payd **I freely** give and bequeath unto the foresaid **Thomasine** my Wife whom I make and ordayne my full and whole Executrix of this my present last Will and Testament and she to order and dispose the same as to her wisdom shalbe thought most meete and convenient. And for my overseers I make and ordayne Mr John Davye Mr Nicholas Spycer my Cousin **John Chappell** and my Cousin **Thomas Chappell** and for the better accomplishment of this my last will and Testament accordinge to the intent and true meaninge thereof **I Give** to every of my overseers for their paynes takinge therein the Some of Twentye shillings a peece of lawfull monye of Englande. **In wites** whereof I the said **Thomas Chappell** have here unto subscribed my hande and sett to my Seale the day and yere above written in the presence of those whose names are here under written. [The National Archives version has here the names Thomas Chappell, John Chappell the elder, Thomasin Chappell.]

Memorand the sixth day of September Anno 1589 Wheras I have devised and bequeathed to my sonne **John Chappell** one hundred and fyfty poundes amongst other things as aforesaid for as much as I have now lately payde to the said **John Chappell** my sonne one hundred poundes and twenty poundes of lawfull Englishe money I will that the residue thereof beinge Thirty poundes shalbe only payde to my

said sonne John and no more money thereof any thinges in my said Testament to the contrary not withstanding.

On the iXth [ninth] day of January [1590] my Will and mynd is that my Executrix shall give unto Sixetene poore people eache of them one black gowne of Cotton.

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The DHC document continues with a reference to the value of the inventory of Thomas Chappell late Maior of the Citie of Exon. The figures are in archaic writing.

Further details of entitlement to payments follow and there is a list of the his children, the main beneficiaries (but omitting Johan as she did not receive any money). There are John, William, Richard, Thomas, George, Nicholas, Ambrose, Christopher, Elizabeth and Katheryne.

According to Dianne Vickers on Ancestry, this was proved 9 May 1590 by Peter Johnson, Noty Publ Procurator of Thomasine Chappell.