

Will of John Gardiner of Great Bromley, gentleman, 1772

In the Name of God Amen I **John Gardiner** the Elder of Great Bromley in the County of Essex, Gentleman, being weak in Body but of a sound mind memory and understanding (thanks be to Almighty God for the same) Do make, publish and Declare this my last Will and Testament in manner following (that is to say)

First and Principally I resign my soul into the hands of Almighty God, hoping for pardon for all my sins, And my Body I Commit to the Earth to be Decently interred at the discretion of my Executor herein after named.

And as to my Worldly Estates and Effects I dispose there of as follows

Imprimis: I Give and Devise unto my Eldest son **John Gardiner** of Great Bromley aforesaid, farmer, All those my Freehold Messuages, Tenements, Farm Lands, Hereditaments and premises with all and every of their appurtenances as the same are now in the Occupation of him my said son **John Gardiner** or his Assigns situate, lying and being in Great Bromley aforesaid. To Hold to him, my said son **John Gardiner** and to his Heirs and Assigns forever.

Item: I also Give and Devise to my said son **John Gardiner** all and every my Copyhold Messuages, Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments and Premises with all and every of their Appurtenances as Holden of the Mannor of Great Bromley aforesaid in the said County of Essex, and which are now in the Occupation of my said son **John Gardiner** and his undertenants or assigns, To Hold to him my said son **John Gardiner** and to his Heirs Assigns forever.

Item: I likewise Give and Devise to my said son **John Gardiner** All my Copyhold Messuages, Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments and Premises, with all and every of their appurtenances Holden of the Mannor of Great Braxted in the said County of Essex, To Hold to him, my said son **John Gardiner** and his Heirs and Assigns forever.

Subject to and Charged and Chargeable never the less, And it is my Will and I do hereby Expressly Charge all and singular my said Freehold and Copyhold Estates and Premises hereby given to my said son **John Gardiner**, with the payment of all my and every my just Debts, both simple and Contract, of what nature or kind so ever, as also my funeral Expences and Charges of the Probate of this my will. And also with the principal and interest due at the time of my decease to my late son-in-law **James Chaplin**, on a Bond given to him as a security for the portion of my Daughter **Hannah** – his then wife, on their marriage. I Likewise Charge all and singular the said Freehold and Copyhold Estates and premises so given to my said son **John Gardiner** with the payment of all Principal Moneys due or that shall be due at the time of my decease to my son-in-law **Thomas Leak**, on a Bond given to him on his Marriage with my Daughter **Mary Gardiner**, now his wife, as a security for her Marriage Portion.

And I also further Charge the aforesaid Freehold and Copyhold premises with the payment of £50 a piece to each of my Grand Children, son and Daughters of him, my said son **John Gardiner** (that is to say) **John, Mary, Hannah, Elizabeth and Lucy**, To be paid to them as they shall respectively arrive at the age of 21 years. And if either or any of them should happen to Dye before he, she or they arrive at the age of 21 years and without Lawfull Issue, then I give his, her or their share so dying without Lawfull Issue as aforesaid to be Equally divided amongst the survivors, share and share alike.

Item: I Give and Devise to my son **William Gardiner** All and every my Copyhold Messuages, Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments and premises with all and every of their appurtenances Holden of the Mannor of Great Clacton in the County of Essex aforesaid (which premises I have before resigned to him, my said son **William**), To Hold the same to him, my said son **William Gardiner**, and to his Heirs and assigns forever.

Item: All the Rest, residue and remainder of my Estate and Effects, whether real or personal whatsoever and whensoever to me in anywise belonging or appertaining at the time of my decease, I Give, devise and Bequeath the same and every part thereof to my said son **John Gardiner** and to his Heirs and assigns forever.

And Lastly I do hereby nominate, Constitute and appoint him, my said son **John Gardiner**, sole Executor of this, my Last Will and Testament and revoking all former wills by me at any time heretofore made, do declare this to be my last.

In Witness whereof I have to this last Will and Testament Contained in two sheets of Paper, to each sheet set and subscribed my Hand and Seal this 4th February 1772.

John Gardiner

Witnesses: Jeremh. Foaker, Jno Ambrose, Henry Cook.

Proved: 11th April 1772.