

Thomas Allen, will – 1775/7

In the Name of God Amen I Thomas Allen of the Parish of Great Okely in the County of Essex Gentleman being weak in Body but sound and disposing Mind and Memory (praised be Almighty God) considering the certainty of Death and the uncertainty of the Time thereof and revoking all former Wills by me heretofore made do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament in Manner & Form following (that is to say)

First and principally I commend my soul to Almerciful God my Creator hoping through the Mediation of Jesus Christ to obtain Pardon and Remission of all my Sins and to inherit eternal Life My Body I commit to the Earth to be decently buried according to the Direction of my Executor herein after named

And as to the worldly Estate wherewith it hath pleased or shall please God to bless me I order and dispose thereof as follows.

I give devise and bequeath all my freehold Messuage or Tenement Farm and Lands situate lying and being in Tolsen Knights otherwise Tolsen Bushes in the County of Essex now in the occupation of Charles Richardson or his undertenants with the Barn Stables Outhouses and Appurtenances thereunto belonging unto my Sister Sarah the wife of Ralph Bull of Beaumont in the County of Essex Gentleman and unto her Heirs and Assigns for ever.

Also I give devise and bequeath the Term or Terms which at the Time of my Decease shall be to come and unexpired of an in the Farm wherein I now dwell and which I now hold called Great Okely Hall in the said County of Essex and all the Stock and Crop corn Hay Cattle Utensils and Implements of Husbandry thereon therein or thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining unto my Brother in Law the said Ralph Bull his Executors or Administrators and Assigns

Also all my Household Goods and Furniture Plate Jewels Rings ready Money Bonds Bills Notes in Securities for Money Goods Chattels Rights Credits and all the Rest and Residue of my personal Estate whatsoever and wheresoever which I shall die possessed of interested in or intitied unto (after Payment of my just Debts the Charges of my Funeral and of proving this my Will and other incident Charges I give devise and bequeath unto my said Brother in Law Ralph Bull and his Executors or Administrators and assigns and I do nominate and appoint my said Brother in Law Ralph Bull sole Executor of this my last Will and Testament

And lastly I do declare these Presents contained in two Sheets of Paper to be my last will and Testament

In Witness thereof I the said Thomas Allen the Testator have to each of the said Sheets subscribed my name [and have] put my seal this third Day of October 1775.

Witnesses: John Keable, B. Didier, B J Didier.

Proved: 19th Nov 1777.

ERO ref: D/ACW 33/7/19