

Will of Thomas Speke, 1726

In The Name of God Amen I Thomas Speke of Haselbury in the County of Wilts Esq being in good health of body and thanks be to God of a sound disposing mind and memory do the first day of June in the eighth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith Anno Dom 1722 make and ordain this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following

First I give devise and bequeath unto my trusty and well beloved friends Edward Gore the Elder of Barrow in the County of Somerset Esq Anthony Blgrave of Southcott in the County of Berks Esq and George Millard of Box in the County of Wilts Clerk all those my manors or reputed manors of Box alias Box Agard Haslebury alias Haselbury and *Fitchbridge* in the said County of Wilts with their and every of their Rights Members and Appurtenances and also all that my capital messuage manor or dwelling house situate lying and being in the parish of Haslebury alias Haselbury in the said County of Wilts commonly called or known by the name of Haslebury House And also all that the rectory or Parsonage impropriate of Box alias Box Agard aforesaid and also all and all manner of tithes of corn and grain glebe lands portions pensions profits fruits emoluments hereditaments and appurtenances whatsoever to the said Rectory or Parsonage or in any wise appertaining and also all and singular the messuages cottages farms mills lands tenements meadows pastures commons waste grounds heaths marshes woods underwoods waters water courses fisheries rents reversions services liberties privileges and all other the profits commodities and emoluments whatsoever within the said manors or reputed manors or any of them or to the same or any of them belonging or in any wise appertaining or accepted reputed or taken as part parcel or member of them or any of them and also all that my tenement or farm called or known by the name of Middle Hill Farm or by what other name or names the same hath been called or known lying and being in the said parish of Box alias Box Agard or else wherein the said County of Wilts with all the lands as well arable as meadow and pasture ground wood and underwood thereunto belonging lying and being within the said parish of Box alias Box Agard or elsewhere in the said County of Wilts with their appurtenances now or late in the tenure of or occupation of William Panton and all other my messuages lands tenements and hereditaments whereof or wherein I or any other person or persons in trust for me have or hath any estate of inheritance either in possession remainder or reversion with their and every of their appurtenances which were devised descended or otherwise came to me by or from my late father George Speke Petty Esq deceased or which I have since purchased or which I am any ways entitled unto within the said parishes precincts and places of Box alias Box Agard Haslebury alias Haselbury and Fitch bridge or any of them together with all lofts buildings barns stables orchards gardens demesnes lands woods underwoods arable grounds meadows pastures tithes seedings commons and common of pasture and heaths marshes waters water courses ways fishings moors quarries duties rents services and all and hereditaments whatsoever to all or any of the said manors or reputed manors messuages lands tenements hereditaments and premises or any of them respectively belonging or in any wise appertaining or

therewith or with any part thereof used occupied or enjoyed or reputed or taken to be part parcel or member of them or any of them And also the advowsons and right of patronage of the parish church of Box alias Box Agard and the Rectory of *Fitchbridge* aforesaid to have and to hold the same manors messuages lands tenements advowsons tenths tithes hereditaments and premises and every part and parcel thereof with their and every of their rights members and appurtenances unto them the said Edward Gore Anthony Blagrave and George Millard their heirs and assigns to the only proper use and behalf of them the said Edward Gore Anthony Blagrave and George Millard their heirs and assigns forever to the several uses and ends intents and purposes hereinafter expressed and declared and to no other use or purpose whatsoever (that is to say) as for touching and concerning all that my capital messuage or tenement at Haselbury aforesaid wherein I now dwell with all houses outhouses dovehouses stables orchards gardens and other appurtenances to the same belonging and also all those several closes and parcels of arable meadows of pasture called by the name of Hither Swine Loare containing by estimation eight acres more or less all that close of pasture called Conduit Close containing by estimation six acres and half more or less all those two closes of arable land called bottom fields containing by estimation twenty acres more or less all that close of arable land called Twelve Acres containing by estimation ten acres more or less all that close of arable called Lime Kiln piece containing by estimation fourteen acres more or less all that close of arable land called Horse Close containing by estimation five acres be it more or less and all that close of arable land called Hop Garden containing by estimation four acres be it more or less all which premises are now in my possession or my under tenants and are situate and being in the several parishes of Haslebury and Box alias Box Agard aforesaid or one of them and also all that close of arable called White and containing by estimation six and thirty acres more or less also in my possession and lying in the said parishes of Box alias Box Agard aforesaid and also all that messuage or tenement farm and lands thereunto belonging now in possession of my tenant William Lewis situate and being in the said parishes of Haslebury and Box alias Box Agard aforesaid or one of them and also all that other messuage or tenement farm and lands thereto belonging situate and being at *Fitchbridge* and Box alias Box Agard aforesaid or one of them and now in possession of my tenant Edward Lewis all that other messuage or tenement farm and lands thereto belonging situate and being in or near a place called Henley in the said parish of Box alias Box Agrard now in possession of my tenant Lionell Lee and also all that other messuage or tenement farm and lands situate and being in the said parishes of Box alias Box Agard and Haselbury or one of them and late in possession of James Lee as tenant and now of my possession to the use and behalf of my dear and loving wife Anne Speke and her assigns during her natural life freed and discharged of and from all debts and encumbrances due thereon or any part thereof and which is in full of all dower and thirds which my said wife can or may have claim and demands out of all or any part of my lands tenements or hereditaments and which is likewise taken to be in full performance of certain articles of agreement bearing date the eighteenth day of October in the seventh year of his present majesty's reign and in the year of our Lord God one thousand seven hundred and twenty and made between myself and my said wife of the one part and Edward Gore of London Gent and the said Edward Gore of Barrow of the other part

and from and immediately after the death of my said wife to the use and behalf of my first son and the heirs male of his body lawfully issuing and for default of such issue to the use and behalf of my second third fourth fifth and all and every other my son and sons and of the heirs male of their body and bodies of such son and sons lawfully issuing as they shall be in seniority of age and priority of birth the elder of such son and sons and the heirs male of his body being always preferred before the younger of such son or sons and the heirs male of his body and for default of such issue to the use and behalf of all and every my daughter and daughters and to the heirs of her and their body and bodies lawfully issuing and for default of such issue to the use and behalf of my brother Edward Speke his heirs and assigns forever And as for touching and concerning all the rest residue and remainder of my said manors or reputed manors messuages mills lands tenements hereditaments advowsons tenths tithes and premises before mentioned with their and every of their rights members and appurtenances (whereof no use is yet declared) to the use and behalf of them the said Edward Gore of Barrow Anthony Blgrave and George Millard their heirs and assigns forever in trust that they my said trustees and the survivors and survivor of them his and their heirs and assigns shall and may with all convenient speed and opportunity immediately after my death sell and dispose of the same or any part or parcel thereof either in fee or fee for any term or terms of years as my said trustees or the majority of them shall judge necessary and with the money arising by such sale and in the meantime and until such sale can be made the rents issues and profits of the said premises the same shall be applied in the first place for the discharging all such debts and encumbrances as are on all or any part of the premises hereinbefore given to my said wife afterwards for the payment of all other my debts legacies herein bequeathed and funeral expenses and probate of this my Will the remainder of the money arising by such sale or such part of the said premises as shall be left unsold to the use and behalf of my first and other son and sons in tail male as aforesaid for default of such issue to my daughter and daughters and her and their heirs for default of such issue to my said brother Edward Speke his heirs and assigns forever Item My will is and I do hereby expressly declare the same to be that the lands before appointed to be sold for payment of my debts shall stand charged and chargeable with the payment of all such money as is or shall be due on all or any part of the premises before particularly mentioned to be given to my said wife and shall likewise save harmless and keep indemnified the said premises of and from the same and my will is that my said trustees shall from time to time out of the trust estate hereby in them reposed repay themselves all such costs charges damages and expenses as they shall pay or be put unto for or by account of the said trust and that neither of them shall be answerable for the act or deed of the other but each only for his own act and deed Item I give to each of my said trustees as shall accept of and act in this trust twenty pounds Item I give to my said wife all her jewels and tea equipage and one hundred pounds for mourning Item I give to my uncle the said Edward Gore of Barrow my sister Blgrave my cousin Thomas Bourne and my Godson Thomas Goldney forty pounds apiece for a ring Item I give to my old servant William Lewis and to every of my other servants that shall be living with me at my death ten pounds apiece to buy mourning Item I give to the Charity School at Box one hundred pounds to be paid in two years after my death Item All the rest and residue of my goods and chattels rights and credits of what nature or kind soever I

give and bequeath unto them the said Edward Gore of Barrow Anthony Blgrave and George Millard in trust that they sell and dispose of the same as soon after my death as possible and apply the money arising thereof towards payment of my debts and legacies and I do hereby constitute nominate and appoint them the said Edward Gore of Barrow Anthony Blgrave and George Millard whole and sole executors of this my last Will and Testament in trust for the purposes aforesaid revoking and making void all former and other wills by me made

IN WITNESS whereof I have to this my last Will and Testament contained in this and four precedent sheets of paper affixed together with red ribbon and to each sheet set my hand and seal the day and year first above written (Thos Speke) signed sealed published and declared by the said testator Thomas Speke as his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who subscribed our names in his presence and sight Wm James Charles Stone Wm Porter

Proved 22 October 1726

A handwritten note is added in the margin reading:

On the 19th July 1750 with the Will of all and singular the goods chattels and estate of Thomas Speke late of Haselbury in the County of Wilts Esq by George Millard Clerk one of the executors was granted to Sarah Speke widow the relict and sole executor of the Will of Edward Speke deceased being the brother and residuary legatees being first sworn*Too difficult to read the remainder.*