

## **The will of ffrancis Trentham of Rocester Abbey**

Dated 25 November 1619, probated at Lichfield 10 June 1628.

Located at Lichfield Record Office, Catalogue Index B/C/11, indexed under probate date.

ffrancis was buried at Rocester on 13 October 1626, the Inquisition Post Mortem of his Staffordshire estate was held at Uttoxeter on 3 July 1627 and comprised the manorships of Rocester, Denstone and Westwood Grange, 960 acres of land, 172 acres of meadow, 420 acres of pasture, 120 acres of wood, 2 Capital Manor Houses, 26 messuages, 30 cottages, 10 tofts, 30 barns, 3 corn mills, 1 Fulling mill, 3 dovescotes, 50 gardens, 50 orchards which had been entailed to his son and heir Sir Thomas Trentham Knight with his wife Katherine holding a life interest in certain named lands as jointure.

One anomoly in the will below is that ffrancis makes a bequest to “my good daughter the Ladie Prudence Trentham” and yet when this will was originally signed (25 Nov 1619) ffrancis’ son and heir Sir Thomas had not yet married Prudence Eyre - the latter would only become Lady Prudence Trentham upon her marriage at Bakewell, Derbyshire on 17 April 1620.

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**In the name of god amen** the xxvth day of November in the yeare of our lorde god 1619 in the seaventeenth yeare of the Raigne of our sovaigne lord James by the grace of god of englande ffraunce & Ireland kinge defender of the ffaythe [ ] and of Scotland the three & ffyftyth I **ffraunce Trentham of Rocetor** in the Countie of Stafforde esquire doe ordayne & make this my testam’t contayninge my last will in manner & fforme folowinge

**ffyrst** & pryncipallie I comend my soule & Spyritt into the handes of allmightie god assuredly beleevinge that as he fyrst gave yt to me So he will lykewise receave yt whensoever yt shall please him to p[ar]te & sep[ar]ate the same from the bodie and that being washt from all my synnes in the precyous blood of my onely Savour & redeemer Chryst Jesus he will make me both in soule & bodie p[ar]taker of the heavenly joyes w’ch are both unspeakable & endles, in w’ch hope & full assurauce of a joyfull resurrection at the last day I joyfully comitt my bodie to the earth from whence it was fyrst taken desyring to be buried in the church att Rocetor as neere unto the place where my deceased father was laid as conveniently may be, & that to be done w’th as lyttle pompe or ceremonie as may be,

**And** as touching sutch worldie goodes & possessions as god of his great goodness hath bestowed upon me ffyrst I gyve & bequeath unto my deare & welbeloved wyffe **Katheren Trentham** ffoure of my best mares she will make choise of, & my coche w’th the [ ] [ ] thereto now belonginge and my vellett cloake w’ch is laced avant & downe the sides

**Item** I gyve & bequeath to my eldest sonne **Sir Thomas Trentham Knight** my bay stoned colte & all my bookes whatsover & wheresoever to them he may dispose sutch thereof as he maye best [ ] & shalbe most fytttest for his brethren [ ] them.

**Item** I gyve & bequeath unto my good daughter the **Ladie Prudence Trentham** [ed: actually his daughter-in-law] my grey stoned Colt. and to my good brother in lawe **Sir John Peshall** baronett my yong grey gelding or any other gelding I shall have have att the tyme of my death which he shall make choise of and unto my servaunt **George Henshaw** my younge bay mare,

**Item** I gyve & bequeath to my sonne **Sir Thomas Trentham** a sylver bason & ewre two sylver dishes & one sylver salt Sixe fetherbedes furnished & all those [ ] hanginges which I have except sutch as furnishe the great dyning chamber the mydle old dynyng chamber & the end chamber,

**Item** my will is & I doe lymytt [ ] & devise that sutch Jewells silver plate or vessel, as hath byn gyven to any of my children eyther at their Christeninges or otherwise or bequeathed unto them or any of them by my late good mother or my **Aunte ffuliambe** [ed: Joanna Trentham who married Godfrey Fouljambe] shall with as mutch conveniencie as maye be after my death be [ ] unto sutch of my said children as the same were bequeathed or gyven unto which I must ref[er] to any wyffe who knoweth the sonne better then any other doth,

**Item** I gyve & bequeath unto my sonne **C[h]ristopher Trentham** my black nagg I bought of **Cosen Cotton** & my Cloth cloke which is lyned with rosecolored vellett & my black cloke which is lyned with [ ] vellett & to my sonne **ffraunce Trentham** my vellett cloake which is laced about with black lace,  
Item I gyve and bequeath unto my sonne **Anthonie Trentham** my yong grey mare and to my sonne **William Trentham** one of my three yeare old ffyllies

**Item** my will is that my executors hereafter named shall bestowe  $\text{£}ij \text{ v s viii d}$  [ed.  $\text{£}3 . 6s . 8d$ ] in a ringe of gold which I gyve & bequeath to my daughter **Grace Ashebey** to keepe & weare for a remembraunce,

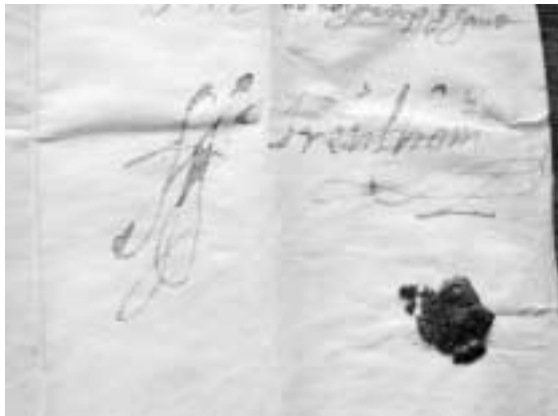
**Item** I gyve & bequeath unto my servaunts **Elizabeth ffowne George Henshawe** the yonger **Thomas ffelthouse** & **Willm ffelthouse** evrie one of them fortie shillinges a peece,

**Item** I give & bequeath unto the **poore of the parish of Rocetor** the sume of ffive poundes to be devided amongst them att the discrecon of my executors

**Item** I gyve and bequeath unto my servaunt **Thomas Braddock**  $xli \text{ s}$  [40 shillings] yearely during his naturall lyffe,

Item I gyve & bequeath unto my daughters **Vere Trentham Katheren Trentham** & **Anne Trentham** evrie one of them one thousand poundes of good & lawfull money of England to be paid unto them sevrally within sixe monthes next after they shall sevrally accomlishe the full ages of twentie & one yeares or be married and unto my daughter **Marie Trentham** the sume of ffive hundred poundes of the lyke lawfull Englishe money to be paid unto her within sixe monthes next after she shall accomlishe the full age of twentie & one yeares or be married, over & above the sume of ffive hundred poundes which my late honorable good sister the **Countesse of Oxenford** deceased bequeathed unto her & ys in my handes & which my will ys shall then also be paid unto her by my executors

**And** I doe ordayne constitute make & appoynte my said loving brother in lawe **Sir John Peshall** my loving sonne **Sir Thomas Trentham** & my servaunt **George Henshawe** executors of this my last will & testament & doe by theis present revoke all [ ] wills by me made In wytnes whereof I have published this as my last will & testament. theis beinge present whose names are published:



[signed with seal] ff Trentham

[signed] Tho: Levinge; John Peshall; George Henshawe Junior

[codicil in different hand - most likely that of ffrancis Trentham himself]

**Item** a bequathe unto my only loving sister my ladye **Katheryne Stanhope**, a peece of plate of the value of  $\text{£}x$  [ $\text{£}10$ ]

[signed] ff Trentham

In the presence of

[signed] Katherin Trentham; Tho: Levinge; George Henshawe Junior