

Edward Easton, yeoman of Mayfield 1786

Will made 19 August 1786 probate 19 January 1788

In the Name of God Amen I Edward Easton of Mayfield in the County of Sussex yeoman being of sound perfect and disposing Mind and Memory do make this my last Will and Testament First I desire to be buried at Warbleton at the Discretion of my Executor and Trustee hereinafter named My Estate and Effects I dispose of in Manner and Form following

Imprimis to my **eldest Son John Easton** I give and bequeath the Sum of one hundred Pounds of good and lawful Money of Great Britain over and above his part or share of my Estate and Effects hereinafter named Item I give and bequeath unto my now **Wife Mary** In Trust for herself and her three **Sons James Jesse and Anthony** the Sum of one hundred Pounds to be paid to her my said Wife by my executor to this my last Will and Testament within one Year after my decease which said hundred pounds my said Wife shall use and dispose of as she shall think proper for her own Support and towards the Maintenance and bringing up of her above named three **Children James Jesse and Anthony** And after the Payment of my above named Legacies all my just and lawful Debts my Funeral Expenses and Probate of this my last Will and Testament then All the Residue and Remainder of my Estate and Effects Bills Bonds Notes Mortgages Money Stock Tackle Household Furniture together with every other property whatsoever or wheresoever which unto me appertaineth I give bequeath and devise to be equally divided between my above named **Wife Mary** my above named **Son John** my **Daughter Ann the Wife of William Message** my **Son Edward** my **Daughter Mary** my **Daughter Sarah** and my **son Thomas** I say to be divided between them seven viz my Wife and my above named six **Children John Ann Edward Mary Sarah and Thomas** equally share and share alike within one year after my Decease to each of my above named Children as shall be twenty one years of Age and to the others as they shall respectively arrive at the full age of twenty one years But if it shall happen that any my above last named six Children shall be in Want or absolute Need of any part of their Money before they come to the full age of twenty one years then in such case my Executor and Trustee to this my last Will and Testament shall act towards them as Justice and Humanity shall direct and require And I do hereby nominate constitute and appoint my above named **Son John Easton** sole Executor of this my last Will and Testament And I do likewise nominate and appoint my **Cousin Stephen Goldsmith** of Bucksteep Mill in Warbleton Trustee to this my last Will and Testament and I do hereby invest him my said **Cousin Stephen Goldsmith** with full power to act and transact and to settle my Business together with my Executor as he shall think best and most conducive to the good of my Family And I do hereby order and appoint him my said Cousin to be paid for all his Trouble and Expenses arising from this his place of Trust And I hereby will and command all my Family to adhere to his Counsel and Advice nevertheless if my said Trustee shall meet with such Embarrassments in this his place of Trust so as he cannot act to the Satisfaction of my Family or without hurt or prejudice to himself I do hereby grant him power to resign at his own Discretion with his being paid for what he has done But I will and desire that all my Family will unite and agree amicably together and endeavour to make the most of what I have [left] them Also my Will is that if it shall happen that my Wife should die before the Time of the payment of her Legacy given to her and her three Children then in such Case my said Legacy of one hundred pounds shall rest in the hands of my Executor and Trustees and be expended by them towards the bringing up of my three first[t] named Children Also that my Wife being now pregnant it

may chance that she may die and leave four Children instead of three then in such Case my Will is that both her Legacy of one hundred pounds and her Dividend in the Division of my Estate and Effects shall go towards the bringing up of her Children this my meaning is that what I have given to her shall go to her Children if she should die be they more or less Also if any of my last named six Children shall die before they have received their part or share then such Part or Parts shall be equally divided among the Survivors my Wife coming in with them And I do hereby utterly revoke disallow and disannul all former Bequests Wills or Legacies by me heretofore in any wise left or made declaring ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last Will and Testament written on two Sheets of Paper In Witness whereof I have unto each of these Sheets set my Hand and to the last my Hand and Seal this nineteenth day of August in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty six

The mark of Edward Easton

Signed sealed published and declared by the within named Testator Edward Easton to be his last Will and Testament in the Presence of us who subscribed our Names as Witnesses in the Presence of the said Testator and likewise in Presence of each other

Thos Fowle

James Wells

Saml Waters

The will of Edward Easton late of Mayfield within the Deanery of South Maling in the County of Sussex yeoman was proved the nineteenth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty eight before the Reverend Edward Robert Raynes Clerk Surrogate and so forth upon the oath of John Easton the sole Executor in the said Will named to whom was committed the Administration of the Goods etc they being first sworn well and faithfully to administer the same and so forth And also that the Goods etc of the said Thomas Easton did not amount in Value unto one thousand pounds

Transcribed by Rosie Ansell February 2019.