

THE WILL OF SIR THOMAS HOLT OF
GRISTLEHURST, KNT.

IN the name of God Amen I Sir Thom̄s Holt off Gryselhurst in the cownty off Lancaster knight beinge whole in bodye and off good and perfect remembrance thanks lawde and preyse be unto almyghtye God yet pceavinge and concideringe that death is to everye person at Goddes wyll and pleasure most comon and uncerteyn and offten tymes [men] sodenlye betaken out off this transitorye world no wyll disposition nor order off their landes goodes and cattalls or onye thinges wherewth they be charged dysposyd made or declaryd by reason whereof offten tymes great stryffe and variance dothe growe and ryse and their duties and dettes be not payd Therefore I the sayd Syr Thom̄s Holt knyght the xij day off ffebruarye in the yeare off our Lord God a thowsand fyve hundreht threescore and tooe and in the fowrth yeare off the reygne off our sovereygne ladye Elyzabeth &c. ffyrst and pryncipallye wyllinge the wealth and health off my sowle and to have yt prayd ffor affter my deceasse and departure off my bodye ffrom this transitorye lyffe And secondly wyllinge and desyringe the pffarment and settinge fforthe off my wyffe chyl dren and others doe therefore make and declare my testament and last wyll &c. ffirst I bequeth my soule unto almyghtye God my Creator and Redemer and trustinge in the merites off Chrystes death passion and bludshed to be one off those y^t shall be savyd at the great general day off judgement and my bodye to be buried wheare yt shall please almyghtye God Item I geave and bequeth to the ornamentes off Burye church ij^s iiij^d Item I geave unto eyght poore flolke evy off theym one gowne whyte or blacke immediatlye affter the departure off my lyffe And the sayd poore flolke to be off the poorest off my tenanntes wthin the parishes off Burye Mydleton and Rache-

dale by my executors yff I doe not appoynt theym in my lyffe tyme and y^t everye off the sayd poore ffolkes to have geaven by my sayd executors everye off theym iiij^d I geave &c. unto ffrancis Holt my sone and heyre one damaske gowne a saten jaket wth sleeves and my cheyne off golde And also I geave unto the sayd ffrances and to soche heyres males as shall hereafter dwell at my house off Grystelhurst or in anye other place all maner off artyllerye or harneysse as jack salett whyte harnesse w^t my flagge and pensyll w^{ch} hatht my armes and badge uppon accordinge as yt was appoyntyd me off the kynge off harawldes Item I geave unto the sayd ffrances Holt my tent and tent polle wth all iron ware and ropes to the sayd tent belonginge Item yt ys my full mynde that the sayd damaske gowne saten jaket cheane off gold w^t all kynd off harnesse as ys afforesayd shall be delyveryd unto the sayd ffrances immediatlye affter the death off me the sayd S^r Thom^s Holt Item I geave &c. unto the sayd ffrances Holt one sylver salt wth a cover dowble gylte a pounse bolle pcell gylt ix sylver spoones called the apostells spoones a ffurnesse off leade wth dyverse stone trowes keyres and arkes standinge in the backehowse brewhouse and larder howse I geave &c. unto the sayd ffrances Holt all arkes keyres and sawed bowrdes wth other chyste ware and tymber y^t ys now or at anye tyme off my deathe shalbe in the kylne what maner off tymber so ever yt be uppon condition that Dame Dorothye my wyffe shall occupye the same duryng all her lyffe and y^t affter the decesse off the sayd Dame Dorothye my mynd ys the pcell as ys afforesayd shall remeyne unto the sayd ffrances Holt and hys heyres as heyrelomes Item I wyll &c. y^t affter the death off me the sayd Syr Thom^s Holt and Dame Dorothye my wyffe all kynde off bedstockes with hanginges ffor the same to remeyne and be heyre lomes at my howse or wheare the sayd heyres males shall dwell for ever Item I geave &c. unto Dame Dorothye my wyffe my best geldinge Item I geave unto ffrances Holt my sone my second best geldinge Item I geave unto Raffe Holt my yonger sone my thryd best geldinge Item

I geave unto Thom̄s Holt sone off the sayd ffANCES Holt my ffowrtht best geldinge Item I wyll that my executors shall delyver unto my aunte Annes yerelye duryng her liffe xl^s Item I geave unto Mawde Barlowe my sisters dawghter xl^s toward^e her mariage iff she be then alyve so that she guyde her selffe honestlye and be rulyd by her mother and by my next heyre apparant Item I wyll that after my dettes payd legacyes and ffunerall expences payd and doone that the residew off my goodes cattalls and dettes shalbe equallye devyded into iij partes whereoff one part to Dame Dorothye my wyffe the second part to Rauffe Holt and the thryd part y^t remeyneth unto me I geave unto ffANCES my sone towardes the mariage off his chyldren and brynginge off theym upp in vertusnes Also I constitute and make my trustye and welbelovyd Dame Dorothye my wyffe and Raffe Holt my soñe my trewe and ffaythfull executors to see that this my last wyll be pfformyd as they wyll answere beffore God at the generall day off judgement Also I wyll that this shalbe my trewe and last wyll conserninge the disposition off my goodes cattalls and dettes and that all other wylles heretoffore made to be ffustrate and off no effecte In witnes whereoff I the sayd Syr Thom̄s Holt have assygned this my last wyll in wrytinge wth my owne hand and sett to my seall in the p̄sens off Robert Holt.¹

¹ No date of probate. The testator was son of Ralph Holt of Gristlehurst Esq. by Anne, daughter of John Langley of Agecroft, and married Dorothy, daughter of Ralph Longford of Longford Knt. — *Suffield MSS.* His inquisition post mortem is dated 4 Elizabeth, at which time his son Francis was of the age of 38 years. The family continued in the possession of Gristlehurst and other lands in Lancashire until Thomas Posthumus Holt Esq. squandered his paternal estates and died in poverty near Tattenhall, where he was buried March 28, 1679. For an account of this family see *Notitia Cestriensis*, vol. ii. part i. p. 100; vol. ii. part iii. p. 477; and *The Stanley Papers*, part ii. p. 174.