

In the name of God Amen. I William Yeo yeoman of the parish of Bradford in the County of Devon being of perfect mind memory and understanding do make and ordain this to be my last will and testament and as touching such worldly things wherewith it has pleased God to bless me with in this life. I hereby give and bequeath the same in the following manner and form.

First I crave the assistance of my two friends namely Edward Walter of Libbear in the parish of Shebbear in the county of Devon and Matthew Routly of Daracott in the parish of Kilkhampton county of Cornwall brother to my wife whom I hereby nominate and appoint to be my executors in trust and I hereby authorise them immediately after my decease to have full power with my hereinafter named executors to transact and see that all my undernamed bequeathments are paid according to the intent and meaning of this my last Will and Testament the said Executors in trust to be paid what is reasonable for their services if required.

I hereby give and bequeath to my wife the sum of two hundred pounds sterling money and the bed complete that we generally sleep on with a thing of a sort of my household furniture she may make choice of. I also give and bequeath to my son William fifty pounds. I also give and bequeath to my son Thomas ten pounds. I also give and bequeath to my son Barnabas two hundred pounds. I also give to my daughter Elizabeth three hundred pounds. I also give and bequeath to my daughter Emma Nora three hundred pounds. I also give and bequeath to my daughter Grace fifty pounds. I also give and bequeath to my daughter Mary Jane ten pounds. I also give and bequeath my daughter Sophia five pounds. I also give and bequeath my son John one hundred pounds. All these legacies above given to be paid by my hereinafter named Executors within three months next after my decease.

I also give and bequeath to my two sons namely Benjamin and Matthew who I make my executors the great or sheaf tithes or rent charge in lieu of tithes of the two estates known by the names of Braddons and Nichols and Neals situate in the village of Alfardisworthy in the parish of Bradworthy Devon to them their heirs and assigns for ever with the rents that I am entitled to from Lay and Chilla or Addelhole two estates in the parish of Blacktorrington Devon now in the occupation of J Down and James Luxton as tenants at will with a life policy that will become due after Ezekiel Leach decease with all my other goods and chattels and property that I am at present or shall hereinafter be possessed of and I do hereby revoke and make void all former and other Wills Codicils testamentary dispositions and appointments whatsoever by me at any time made and do ratify and confirm this to be my last Will and Testament. In witness hereof I hereunto set my hand and sign and seal this the twenty fourth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy one

Wm Yeo

Signed sealed published and declared by the said William Yeo the testator as and for his last Will and Testament who in his presence present at the same time and at his request and in the presence of each other of us have subscribed our names as witnesses

*Thomas Bate*

*Francis Ridge*

This is a codicil to the last Will and Testament of me William Yeo of the parish of Bradford in the county of Devon which bears date the twenty fourth day of October one thousand eight hundred and seventy one. Whereas I have given such legacies as therein contained and in addition to the legacies given by the said Will and not revoked by this Codicil I give and bequeath unto my two Grandsons William Hodge Beckley and John Henry Beckley sons of my son in Law Richard Beckley the sum of twenty five pounds to each of them and these Legacies to be paid by my Executors before named in my last Will and Testament within three months next after my decease. And I hereby appoint my aforesaid Executors in trust namely Edward Walter and Matthew Routly my Executors in trust for my aforesaid grandsons until they shall attain the full age of twenty one years and it is further my will that the

aforesaid Richard Beckley shall have no right nor claim on the said Legacies given to his two sons before named. And in all other respects I do confirm my said Will.

In witness hereof I hereunto set my hand and sign and seal this the twenty second day of January one thousand eight hundred and seventy two

*Wm Yeo*

Signed sealed published and declared by the said William Yeo the testator this a Codicil to his last Will and Testament who in his presence present at the same time and at his request and in the presence of each other of us have subscribed our names as witnesses

*Thomas Bate*

*Francis Ridge*

Transcribed from a copy supplied by the Probate Registry, York. The will (with its codicil) was proved at Exeter by the testator's son Benjamin Yeo – one of the named executors – on 6 April 1872 by means of an affidavit, following William's death two months previously. The valuation of the estate was stated in the probate record to be 'less than £2000'.

---

Will of William Yeo, yeoman

Dated 24 October 1871

Died 5 February 1872

Proved 6 April 1872

Transcription © Gill Badcock 2025

---