

## THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF GEORGE DARBY

In the Name of God Amen: The third day of July one thousand Six hundred Sixty & Six: I George Darby of Gynn in y<sup>e</sup> County of Darby: Myne being weak of body but of Good & perfect, vnderstanding & memory: blessed be God for it: Doe make and ordaine this my last will and Testament in Maner and forme followinge: viz first and principally I doe resigne up my soule in to y<sup>e</sup> hands of Almighty God my Saviour and my Body to y<sup>e</sup> earth to be Buried at y<sup>e</sup> Discretion of My friends and Neighbors: and as for such worldly estate Real & personall as it hath pleased the Lord to Endow me withall I doe give Bequeath Sittle & Dispose thereof as followeth I Doe give & Bequeath unto Mary My Spoused Wife my Daughters of Gynn

This is how the will was written in 1666



**The graves of George Darby and his daughter Mary**

You will find them in the Lydgate, which is the little lane off the Square at Town End on your way to the Boundary Stone

**THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF GEORGE DARBY OF  
EYAM**

In the name of God, Amen. The third day of July, one thousand, six hundred and sixty six, I George Darby of Eyam, in the County of Derby: miner, being weak of body but of good and perfect understanding and memory: blesed be God for it: do make and ordain this my last Will and testament in manner and form following: viz.

First and principally I do resign up my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my Saviour and my body to the earth to be buried at the discretion of my friends and neighbours; and as far as such worldly estate real and personal as it hath pleased the Lord to endow me withall I do give bequeath settle and dispose thereof as followeth.

First I do give and bequeath unto Mary my espoused wife my dwelling house with all profits, privileges, easements or appurtenances thereto belonging to stand and remain the said Mary my wife's during her natural life.

Also my will is that at the decease of the said Mary, my loving wife my daughter Mary shall have the said dwelling house etc.....paying or performing such legacies or sums of money as shall be hereafter mentioned.

Also my will is that if the said Mary my daughter shall be living after my wife's decease to enjoy the aforesaid tenement or dwelling house to pay or to raise to be paid unto Anne the daughter of Robert Slinne my grandchild the sum of forty shillings to be paid in one whole year after she, the said Mary shall enter.

And as for the rest of my goods whether moveable or unmoveable quick or dead do give unto the said Mary my wife or Mary my daughter to enjoy them together for the natural good of them both. But if in case my daughter shall marry before my wife's decease my will is that she shall have the cupboard, the sealed chest and the sealed bed and I desire that my wife would give her the bed clothes to furnish it withall.

And for the rest of my goods that are within my house unrequested my will is that after my wife's decease they shall be equally divided between my daughter Mary and my daughter Elizabeth wife to Robert Slinne.

And when I call to mind the great mortality that it hath pleased God in his judgements to send in amongst us I certify that my will and mind is that if it please God to call for me and my wife and my two daughters Mary and Elizabeth or their children then my sister Elizabeth, the wife of William Oates of Attercliffe in the parish of Sheffield in the County of York shall have and enjoy all my whole estate without let molestation or hindrance.

I do hereby nominate, constitute make and appoint my loving wife and my daughter joint executors of this my last will and testament hereby revoking and making null and void to all intents and purposes in law whatsoever all and every former other will or wills deed or deed of gifts or bequests whatsoever or to whomsoever by me at any time heretofore made or pretended to have been made.

In witness thereof I have hereunto put my hand and seal the day and the year first above wrtitten.

George Darby  
his mark

Made and delivered in the presence of us:-

Robert Fox  
his mark

Will Frith

Further more my will is that my Grove shall be equally divided betwixt my wife and my daughter Mary: Also I certify that there is a riding turn tree and a drawing turn tree.

### THINGS TO DO

- 1 Why did George Darby and Robert Fox make a mark?
- 2 What possessions were "quick"? You will find the meaning of the word at the end of this paper'
- 3 Why were George Darby and his daughter not buried in the Churchyard?
- 4 What did George & Mary die of?

AN INVENTORY OF THE PROPERTY OF GEORGE DARBY  
3rd July 1666

A just and true Inventory of all the good and chatteles Moveable and unmoveable Quick and Dead of George Darby of Eyam myner Deceased July the 3rd day one thousand six hundred and sixty six

	£	s	d
His purse and aparell .....	1	0	0
cow and hay .....	2	0	0
A cubbord .....	2	6	8
two paires of bedsteads .....	1	6	0
A table .....		5	0
Four chaires .....		15	0
2 chestes and two arkes.....		10	0
A puter dublers and a little flagon and a cup ....		7	0
A brass pott and a little kettle .....		7	0
An iron pott.....		3	0
Loomes and kitts .....		3	6
Hooks a buffet and a forme .....		10	0
For bed cloathes.....		10	0
A land iron and a pair of rackets, two pairs of tongs, a fire pan, a pair of pot hooks and a toasting iron.....		4	0
meat piggen and trenchers.....			6
For anything that is forgotten.....		1	0
.....	8	14	2

Francis Bocken  
his mark

Will ffrith

Chesterfield 24th April 1667

The probate is granted to Maria, the relict of George Darby the deceased.  
It is signed by John Cooper Deputy.

**The list of words below will help you to understand the inventory and the will**

- sealed bed** a panelled bed
- quick**..... alive
- apparel**..... clothes
- potte**..... pot
- cubbord**... cupboard
- loomes**..... tub or bucket for milk etc.
- chaires**..... chairs

**The word list continued:-**

<b>forme</b>	bench
<b>arke</b>	wooden flour bin
<b>rackets</b>	iron frame in the fireplace with hooks for heating pots and pans.
<b>puter</b> .....	pewter a dull metal used for plates and tankards etc.
<b>piggen</b>	small wooden vessel with a long handle
<b>dublers</b>	large meat dishes
<b>turn tree</b>	a turn beam. The drum of a winding machine
<b>landiron</b>	a frame in the fireplace for holding the burning logs
<b>grove</b>	a pit or mine (in this case a lead mine).
<b>trencher</b>	a flat wooden plate
<b>kitts</b>	small barrel
<b>buffet</b>	a low stool
<b>forme</b>	bench

THINGS TO DO

To understand the value of the items in the inventory (which is a list of all the things people owned) you need to know a little bit about their money system.

A pound in money was represented by the sign £, ( as it is today) and was made up of 20 shillings, shown in the **s** column. There were 12 pennies in each shilling, and the sign for a penny was a **d**.

For easy reckoning	<b>2½d</b> was about	<b>1p</b>
	<b>6d</b>	<b>2½p</b>
	<b>8p</b>	<b>3½p</b>
	<b>1s</b> was the same as	<b>5p</b>
	<b>4s</b>	<b>20p</b>
	<b>6s</b>	<b>30p</b>
	<b>10s</b>	<b>50p</b>

- 1 Now you can make a list of how much things in the inventory would be worth in those days.
- 2 Would they cost more nowadays?
- 3 Make a list of the things in your kitchen and put what you think they are worth today.
- 4 There are 18 entries in this inventory. List a similar number of your important possessions.