

Transcription of the will of William Benson

Will of WILLIAM BENSON, yeoman, of Parkhead, Levens, dated 24 November 1719¹

In the name of God amen the Twenty ffourth Day of November in the Sixth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George by the Grace of God of Great Britain ffrance and Ireland King Defender of the ffaith in the year of our Lord God One Thoufand Seven Hundred and Nineteen I William Benson of Parkhead in Levins in the Parifh of Heversham in the County of Weftmorland, Yeoman at this time in Health of Body and of good Mind & Memory/ Blessed be to God therefore/yet knowing the Uncertainty of this Life on Earth, and that tis appointed for all men once to dye, and being willing and defirous to settle my Temporall Affairs according to my Will and Mind herein after expressed Doe therefore Make Ordain and Declare this my last Will and Teftament in manner & fforme following/ that is to say/ ffirst and principally I Commend my Soul unto the Mercifull Hands of Almighty God my Maker, Trusting through the Mercitty Death and Paffion of Jesus Christ my only Saviour and Redeemer to have full and free Pardon of all my Sins...at the Laft Day unto Eternall And my Body I Committ to the Earth from which it was taken to be decently buried at the Difcretion of my Executor herein after named in my Parifh Church of Heversham aforesaid as near unto my Deceafed Relacons as conveniently may be And my Temporall Estate Reall and Perfonall wherewith it hath pleased God far above my Desert to blefe in ...this Life I Give Devife & Bequeath and Difpofe of in manner following/ that is to say/ ffirst it is my ffill Will and Mind And I doe hereby Give Devife and Bequeath unto my Loveing brother Joseph Benson and his heires in Confideration of his Continued Care and Paines for many Years past about my Affaires Reall and Perfonall and his great Love and Refpect to me and Carefullnefs of And for Settleing and Confirming the Tenantright and Inheritance of the premifes hereby Devifed unto and upon him and them All that my Cuftomary Meffuage and Tenement fcituate lyeing and being in Levins in the Parifh of Heverfhm in the County of Weftmorland commonly called and known by the Name of Parkhead And all and every the Cuftomary Clofes Enclofures and Parcels of Arrable Pafure Meadow and Waifte Ground thereto belonging with all the Rights Members[?] priviledges proffitts Mofses Mofsroomes Turffcoates Coatfteads...Hereditaments and Appurtenances whatfoever the same in any wife appertaining or therewith...enjoyed or accepted....which Devifed premifes are of the Lands of the Honourable James Grahme Esquire and the yearly rent of One Pound ffourteen shillings and Eight Pence And after all my Estate Right Title Interest Inheritance Poffeffion Property Use and Claime whatfoever in law and in Equity therein and thereunto and in...any part thereof To have and to hold the said Cuftomary Meffuage and Tenement Clofes Enclofures and Parcels of arable Meadow Pafure and Waifte Ground and Premifes hereby given and Devifed or intended to be hereby given and Devifed and every part thereof with the appurtenances to the said Joseph Benson his Heires and Affigns to his and their proper Use and Behoofe for ever according to the Custome under payment of the aforefaid yearly Rent and performance of the Duty or Suites[?] or Services of right ... and for the same Item it is my Will and Mind and I doe hereby Give and Bequeath unto soe many of the Children of my Brother John Benson as shall be living

¹ Copy of will from the deeds of Frosthwaite, Levens.

at the time of my Deceafe One Guinea apiece to become payed unto them immediately upon their Demand thereof in...at Parkhead aforesaid and to be in full to them and every of them of all Title Right Claime and Demand whatsoever out of my Eftate Reall and Personall Item the Whole and Sole Executor of this my laft Will and Teftament I Nominate Make and appoint my said Loving Brother Joseph Benson To Whom I Give and Bequeath All my Goods Cattell Chattells Specialty[?] or and whole Perfonall Eftate whatsoever Hee out of the same paying all my juft Debts Legacyes and ffunerall Expences And I doe hereby Revoke and make Void all other Wills and Testaments by me at any time formerly made and doe declare & Establish this only for my laft Will and Teftament In wittnefs thereof I the said William Benson have hereunto putt my Hand and Seall the Day and Year above written

[The will is signed 'Wm Benson' and the witnesses are Anthony Lowis, Thomas Lowis and Thomas Wells, all of whom signed in full.]