**Will of Dame Eleanor LEE** (ref: DAWf: 29/306 held at the Centre for Bucks Studies, Aylesbury)

**In the name** of god Amen the Two and Twentieth daye of October in the yere of our lord god one thousand six

hundred thirtye and two I Dame Elianor Lee of Morton in the county of Bucks widow, late wife of Sir Thomas Lee

knighte deceased, being in Reasonable healthe & in sound and pfect Remembrance thankes be given to god therefore doe make

and ordayne this my laste will & Testamente in manner ffollowing, ffirste I commend my soule into the hands of Almighty god

my maker and to Jesus Christe his onely sonne my saviour & Redeemer by whose deathe and passion I truste to be saved […..]

my bodye to be buried at the Discretion of my executor, And as concerning my wordlye goodes I Dispose thereof as follows

Imprimis I give and bequeath unto my oldeste sonne Thomas Lee esquire, All my plate whatsoever being sylver or gold And to

My daughter Lee his wife all my Damaske works, Item I give and bequeath unto my sonne Francis Lee One hundred

Pounds of lawful money of England to be paid unto him in manner ffollowinge, that is to saye ffortye pounds within one

yere nexte after my decease, and threescore pounds within two yeres nexte after my Decease, Item I give and bequeath […..]

my Sixe daughters now lyveinge, vizt my daughter Jackman, my daughter Styles my daughter Beale, my daughter Duncom

my daughter Pawley and my daughter Orpwood to eche of them Twenty pounds a peece of lawfull money of England to be

paid unto them vizt, Tenn pounds a peece within one yere nexte after my decease, and Tenn pounds a peece within two yeres

nexte after my decease, Item I give and bequeath unto my grandchild Elizabeth Garrett ffyve pounds of lawfull money of

England Item I give and bequeath unto my grandchild Jane Jackman ffyve pounds of lawfull money of England, Item I give

and bequeath unto my grandchild Elianor Duncom Twentye pounds of lawfull money of England to be paid to her when

shee shall have accomplished hir full age of Twentye yeres, and if shee fortune to die before hir said adge, then I give the said

Twentye pounds to hir nexte Syster that shall then lyveinge to be paid at hir adge of Twentye yeres, Item I give

and bequeath unto my grandchild Elianor Orpwood Twentye pounds of lawfull money of England to be paid unto hir

when shee shall hathe accomplyshed hir adge of Twentye yeres, and if shee fortune to dye before, then the said Twentye pounds

to be paid to hr nexte Syster that shalbe then lyveinge, at hir adge of Twentye yeres Item I give and bequeath unto my

Two grandchildren Elizabeth Lee and Michael Lee two of the children of my sonne Francis Lee to eche of them Tenn

pounds a peece to be paid unto them when they shall have accomplyshed their several adges of Twentye yeres Item I

give and bequeath to my said sonne Francis Lee my Bed in the parlour And all the furniture belonging to the said

Bed excepte the Bedsted, which the said Bedsted is my said sonne Thomas Lee’s Item I give and bequeath unto Agnes

Morris One heifer, which my executor will Item I give and bequeath unto William Hollyman son of Ursula

Hollyman Three pounds of lawfull money of England, Item I give and bequeath to the poore people of

the villadges hereafter named Sixe pounds of lawfull money of England to be Dystrybuted as followeth that is to saye Fortye shillings to Dinton Fortye shillings to Byshopstone and Fortye shillings

to March, Item all the Reste of my goods, cattells and chattells whatsoever unbequeathed I give

and bequeath to Michael Lee my sonne whom I make and ordayne to be the sole executor to this my

laste Will and Testament to pay my Debts and legacyes soe farre as my said goods will arise unto and noe

further and to Dyschardge my funeral expenses, In Wytness whereof I the said Dame Elianor Lee to

this my laste Will and Testament hath putt my hand and seale Dated the daye and yere first above written

Made publyshed sealed and

Delivered in the presence of

John Bockett his mark ***B*** signed *Elenor Lee*

Thomas Collins his mark ***T C***

& John Po-rtrace signed ***J P***

Notes:

*1) Dame Eleanor Lee died on 6th April 1633 and was buried in the parish church of St. Peter and Paul, Dinton. The memorial to her in the church states she was the mother of 24 children. In some 17th century scripts a 1 written can sometimes be mistaken for a 2. Did this happen? The names of fourteen children of Eleanor can be located using the information in the above Will and the Dinton parish register. Whether there were ten more children we do not know.*

*2) Eleanor was a Hampden by birth. Hartwell House came to the Lee family through Eleanor’s marriage to Thomas Lee. Eleanor’s brother Alexander had no surviving children and, in his Will of 1617, passed Hartwell House on his death to Eleanor and thus to the Lee family. Hartwell House had been built by Alexander probably in the late sixteenth or early seventeenth century.*

*3) Ursula Hollyman, named in the above Will, was the daughter of Christopher Hollyman: probably the eldest daughter as in her father’s Will of 1588 it is mentioned Ursula has an inheritance from her maternal grandmother Ursula Lee (formerly Yates and later Saunders). Young Ursula (daughter of Christopher) was named after her maternal grandmother. She married in 1609 in All Saints Church, High Wycombe to Robert Redman: the Redmans another landed family in Bucks. Ursula and Robert had a son William born in 1611. Ursula died in 1621. Her burial is recorded in the parish register of All Saints, High Wycombe. When Dame Eleanor wrote her Will in 1632 the legacy to William Hollyman was actually to William Redman, son of Ursula Redman (nee Hollyman). Dame Eleanor would have been quite elderly at the time and just remembered Ursula as Ursula Hollyman.*

*4) Marsh village is a hamlet in the parish of Great and Little Kimble. In the middle ages Marsh Manor was purchased by the Hampden family.*