

Last Will and Testament



This is the Last Will and Testament of Lord Jonathan of St. Mary, as dictated to Father William of the manor church on this 13th day of the year of our Lord 625.

I hereby leave all my property of every nature and kind to my son, Phillip, asking that he care for my wife Emma, be she still in this world upon my leaving, his younger brother Mark, as well as his sisters until the time they are wed. The belongings I leave are as follows: the manor land and all serfs that dwell thereupon, the manor house and all its furnishings and implements, all cows, horses, oxen, and swine, and any other materials in my possession upon my passing.

Mine is a life of privilege, without question. The thousand acres I oversee have been in our family for several generations and shall, be it God's will and that of the Baron, remain thus for many to come. Still, to those to whom much is given, we must remember that much too is expected. This I share with my heirs and pray they will heed.

Protect and defend the land to the death should the need arise. Give honor to your lord and be a good steward of the people and animals entrusted to you. Improve the lands and the house, if you are able, in order to leave behind a better place than you received.

Be honest and faithful in all of your dealings and above all things, love and obey God. Attend mass on the Sabbath and all holy days. Remember also to regularly confess your sins to the priest that you may remain pure in the eyes of God.

I want to bestow upon all my family and friends my blessing and sincerest hopes for their happiness and well-being. Thanks be to God for all He has given me – and you.

*In God's name,
Lord Jonathan*

Last Will and Testament



Owing to the fact that I cannot read nor write, I hereby state that this Last Will and Testament of Robert the Farmer is being dictated to Father William of St. Mary's Church. Though I, Robert, have little to call my own, I wish to leave this record for my wife Rebecca and my sons, Jacob, Peter, George, and Richard.

Having lived since birth on this manor, I have known almost nothing of the world, nor will you. That is our lot in life, but we are as most in our world. Ours is a life of long days of hard work with few rewards. We must remember that our rewards are yet to come.

In my life I have managed to gather but a few things to leave behind: my wattle and daub cottage, two oxen, a bed, six straw mattresses, six chairs, a table, and of course the land my family is given to farm by our manor lord. Though my twig and mud house and its contents are not grand, I wish to leave it and all to my sons with the request that Rebecca is to be cared for until her time to leave this world.

Since I have little to give, I also wish to leave advice for my sons. Work hard, marry, be good to your wives and children, and always attend mass on Sundays and holy days. Pay to the lord what is due. Work his fields as required before your own, and plow, weed, and harvest them in season as if they were yours, according to the teachings of the Church. Do all as required and do not complain, as this is the life God has chosen for you.

Know your neighbors and care for them. Work together and share your bounty with those in need. Give of your oxen to your neighbor to arrange a full team to plow his field, as he will give his to you. All we have in this world is our family and friends. Cherish them and think not of the discomforts of life or the miseries of hard work, because the Kingdom of God awaits. All in His name,





Life on a Medieval Manor



DIRECTIONS: Using information from the lesson and your own imagination, describe life for each person or group living on a medieval manor. Provide as many details as you can think of.

Serfs:

Manor Lord & Family:

Clergy (priest & others at the manor church):