

**Transcription of The Last Will and Testament of
Richard Bedford of Burcott, Dorchester**

Dated 24 May 1617 ; Probate 08 July 1617

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- 1. In the name of God Amen** I Richard Bedford of Burcott
2. in the parish of Dorchester in the County of Oxon gent albeit sicke in bodye yet of
3. perfect and good remembrance, I thanke my good God, And therefore Doe herebie
4. Declare my last Will and Testament in manner and forme heereafter followinge the
5. xxiiiijth Day of Maye Anno D[omi]ni 1617, That is to saye, ffirst I geve and Comitt
6. my soule into the hand[es] of my Lord and saviour Jesus Christe assuringe my selfe by
7. his Death and passion Resurrec[i]on and assenc[i]on to be made an inheritor of a farr
8. better life in the kingdome of heaven w[i]th my good God and his heavenlie Angells
9. Willinglye yealdinge this my frayle bodie to thearth from whence it was taken
10. And to be buried att the Discreation of my Executors heereafter named, And for
11. those temporall blessinges which God hath geven vnto me to assiste me in this miserable
12. life I bequeath them in manner and forme followinge, Item I geve and bequeathe to the
13. poore people of the towne of Dorchester Tenn shilling[es], Item I Doe geve to the poore

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14. people of Burcott Twentie shillings to be Distributed where moste neede is by my
15. Executors w[i]th in one monethe after my Decease, Item I Doe geve vnto John Elton of
16. Henly vppon Thames xxs. Item I Doe geve vnto every of the nowe Wives of the
17. Three sonnes of the said John Elton one Ringe of gould worthe Tenn shilling[es] every
18. Ringe, That is to saye to every of the said three weomen a gould Ringe A peece, Item
19. I Doe geve and bequeath xx^{li} to be employed and Disposed of bye the Minister of the
20. parish of Dorchester the Churchwardens for the tyme beinge and the high Constable
21. of the hundred of Dorchester for the good and and [*sic.* – repeated] benefitt of the poore people of Burcott
22. to remayne for a stocke for the said poore people forever to render vnto them xls A
23. Yeare for ever as aforesaid yf by the lawes and statutes of this Realme lawefullye it
24. maye soe be employed and Continewed w[hi]^{ch} said Minister Churchwardens and highe
25. Constable or any three of them shall heereby haue full power and auctoritie to take
26. securitie from time to time for the said stocke and to receive the profit[es] therof arisinge
27. and to Distribute the same amongst the poore people of Burcott aforesaid, where
28. moste neede is vppon S^t Thomas Daye before xpmas [i.e. 21 December], Provided allwayes and my
29. true meaneinge is that yf the lawes of the lande shall att any tyme heereafter

30. prohibitt that manner of Course to rayse soe much yearely encrease, then my
31. will is that the said xx^h shalbe Disposed bye the p[ar]ties before named vppon
32. some peece or p[ar]cell of lande that will yeald such benefitt or profit as aforesaid
33. or soe neere vnto it as in there Wisdomes they shall see fitt as aforesaid to
34. bestowe it vppon, Item my will and meaneinge is that there shalbe soe much
35. money raysed out of my p[er]sonall estate and the lande lately purchased by me in

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1. the Countie of Wilts[hire] as will take the reverc[i]on of my tenement and landes in Burcott
2. of my right honorable Lord ffrances Lord Norris, Whoe hath often promysed me to
3. Deale honorablie w[i]th me in the price therof and the same to be taken for the lyfe of
4. my Nephue Henry Bedford and so to be Conferred vppon him as my guyfte, Ite[m]
5. I Doe ordeyne and make my good freind[es] John Gardyner of Lamborne gent and
6. Robert Costard of Newenham Courtney my executors of this my last will and
7. Testament for the Disposeing orderinge and governinge of my said estate to see my
8. Debt[es] payed my funerall Discharged and all and everie the aforesaid legacies before
9. geven to be Delivered for w[hi]^{ch} said busines to be p[er]formed and legacies payed I Doe
10. allowe vnto them one whole yeare after my Decease all and every w[hi]^{ch} said

11. busines beinge p[er]formed by my Executors afore named and there Cost[es] and Charges
12. and travells trulye borne and Defrayed w[i]th ffyve poundes in money w[hi]^{ch} I geve
13. vnto the said John Gardyner and A gould Ringe worth xx^s vnto Robert Costard[es]
14. Wife, The residue of the estate then remayneinge I Doe geve vnto Lucke Bedford
15. my brother which said porc[i]on so to come to my said Brother my will is shalbe
16. bestowed vppon some houshold stufte or some tenem[en]^t that maye remayne to the
17. goud and benefitt of his said Wife yf God shalbe pleased to call him awaye before
18. her, Nowe touchinge the Disposic[i]on of my ffee simple land[es] in Willcott in the
19. Countye of Wilts[hire] I will and appoint full power and lawfull auctoritie vnto
20. my Executors to make sale thereof vnto such p[er]son and p[er]sons as will purchase the
21. same heereby Ratefieinge and makinge good the sale that they shall make thereof
22. Wherein I Desire my wife maye have the first offer therof if shee will buye it
23. in p[ar]te of payement of such money as is to be paid vnto her bye obligac[i]on w[hi]^{ch} I
24. Desire maye be truly payed according to the Condic[i]on of the obligation thereof heere
25. tofore made together with one Ringe of gould w[i]th A Deathes head there vpon worth
26. xxs w[hi]^{ch} I geve heerebye vnto her, Item I Doe also geve vnto Christian my wyfe

27. one silver pott and three silver spoones. Richard Bedford, Declared and published
28. for my verye true and last will ^in^ the xxiiijth Daye of Maye in the yeare of our Lord
29. God 1617, in the presence of Robert Grace Minister William White, Item I
30. Doe geve vnto Margaret Blinckarne xs, Item I Doe geve vnto Saraye Tuckey
31. xs, Item I Doe geve vnto Elinor White xs, Item I do geve vnto Christian
32. Burbage xs.
33. **Octavo die** mensis Julij Anno Domini millesimo sexcentesimo
(On) the Eighth day of the month of July (in) the Year of (our) Lord the one thousandth six hundredth
34. Decimo septimo Emanavit Com[m]issio Luce Bedford fratri n[at]urali et l[egi]time dicti def[uncti]
 [&] seventeenth, [A] Commission Issued (to) Luke Bedford, natural and legitimate brother of the said deceased,
35. Ad Administrand[um] bona iura et Credita dicti def[uncti] iuxta tenorem et eff[e]c[t]um test[ament]i siue
 for Administering the goods, rights, and Credits of the said deceased, according to the tenor and effect of the testament or
36. vltime voluntat[is] pred[icti] defunct[i] eo quod Johannes Gardner et Rob[er]tus Costard
 last will of the aforesaid deceased, because John Gardner and Robert Costard,
37. Executores in eodem testamento nominat[os] ex certis causis eos et animos suos in ea
 the Executors in the same will named, from certain causes them and their own minds in the same
38. parte moven[tibus] oneri execuc[i]onis dicti testamenti expresse renu[n]ciau[erunt] de bene et fideliter
 respect moving, the burden of the execution of the said will expressly renounced, with regard to well and faithfully

39. Administrando &c ad sancta Dei Evangelia Iurat[e] Christiana Relicta dicti def[uncti] ex certis

Administering, etc. Sworn on the holy Gospels of God. Christiana, Relict of the said deceased, from certain

40. causis eam et animu[m] suu[m] in ^hac^ p[ar]te moven[tibus] oneri ad^{m[inistracionis]} bonoru[m] dicti def[uncti] expresse renuciau[it]. Ex[aminatus]^d

causes her and her own mind in ^this^ respect moving, the burden of the administration of the goods of the said deceased expressly renounced. Examined.
