

Transcription & Translation of
The Last Will and Testament of Richard Bedford of Newbery
Dated 11 September 1494; Probate 19 November 1494
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1. **In Dei nomi[n]e amen** vndecimo die mensis Septembris Anno Testamentum
d[omi]ni Mill[es]imo CCCC^o Nonagesimo Richardi Bedford

In the name of God, amen. (On) the eleventh day of the month of September (in) the Year of (our) lord the One Thousandth, 400th, Ninetieth

2. quarto Ego Richardus Bedford sane memorie licet eger corpore Clothemaker de Newbery Sar[um] dioc[ese]

(&) fourth [i.e. 1494], I, Richard Bedford, sound (in) memory, though sick (in) body, Clothemaker of Newbery (in) the diocese of Salisbury,

3. condo testamentum meum in hunc modum In primis lego anima[m] mea[m] Deo patri omnipotenti Beate

make my testament in this manner: Firstly, I bequeath my soul (to) God the father almighty, (to) the Blessed

4. et gloriose virgini Marie Corpusq[ue] meum coram Imagine sancti Georgij in eccl[es]ia p[redi]c[t]a humand[um]

and glorious virgin Mary, and my Body before the Image of saint George in the church aforesaid to be buried.

5. It[e]m lego eccl[es]ie matrici Sar[um] xxd It[e]m lego sum[m]o altari eccl[es]ie de Newbery p[re]dict[e] p[ro] Decimis & obla

Likewise, I bequeath (to) the mother church of Salisbury 20 pence. Likewise, I bequeath (to) the high altar of the church of Newbery aforesaid, for Tithes & obla-

6. tionibus oblitis xls Item lumi[ni] sancti Georgij in eccl[es]ia p[re]d[i]c[t]a et eiusdem sustentacioni xls pret[er]ea

tions forgotten, 40 shillings. Likewise, (to) the light* of Saint George in the church aforesaid, and (to) its same maintenance, 40 shillings; moreover,

[* it is unclear whether this would have been a candle, lamp, or torch]

- 7.** cuilibet lumi[ni] eccl[es]ie p[re]dicte coniu[n]ctim et Diuisim xijd Item lego fabrice columnarum int[er] cancellam
(to) whatsoever light of the church aforesaid, jointly and Separately, 12 pence. Likewise, I bequeath (to) the fabric of the pillars between the chancel
- 8.** et capellam Beate Marie virginis quinq[ue] marcas Item lego sustentacioni pontis ville p[re]dicte xls
and the chapel of the Blessed virgin Mary five marks. Likewise, I bequeath (to) the maintenance of the bridge (in) the town aforesaid 40 shillings.
- 9.** It[e]m fabrice Aule co[m]mun]is xiijs iiijd Item lego operibus eccl[es]ie de Thacham vjs viij d Item reparacionib[us]
Likewise, (to) the fabric of the public Hall 13 shillings, 4 pence. Likewise, I bequeath (to) the works of the church of Thacham 6 shillings, 8 pence. Likewise, (to) the restorations
- 10.** eccl[es]ie de Shawe ijs iiij d Item lego insup[er] eccl[es]ie De Spene ijs iiijd Item lego Domino Joh[ann]i Brew[er]
of the church of Shawe 3 shillings, 4 pence. Likewise, I bequeath in addition (to) the church of Spene 3 shillings, 4 pence. Likewise, I bequeath (to) Sir John Brewer,
- 11.** vt instant[er] oret pro salute anime mee xxvjs viij d Item lego Cristine sponse mee Cuicirc[um] et dimid[ium]
in order that he urgently should pray for the salvation of my soul, 26 shillings, 8 pence. Likewise, I bequeath (to) Cristina, my wife, Whatever (is) round-about, and one-half,
- 12.** p[ro]tem[pore] utensiliu[m] Domus mee Ita q[ue] nullo modo ea que sunt in opella quouis iure sibi vendicabit Item
for the time[-being], of the uses of my House; So that (in) no manner they [i.e. those things] which are in the [work-]shop, wherever, by right (to) herself will (she) claim. Likewise,
- 13.** Item [*sic.*] lego Cristine sponse mee p[re]dict[e] unu[m] Craterem argenteu[m] et xij cocliaria argentea que sibi
Likewise [*sic.*], I bequeath (to) Cristina, my wife aforesaid, one silver Bowl, and 12 silver spoons, which (for) herself

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1. nouerit potissimu[m] oportuna Ceteram vero partem vtensilium domus mee cum app[er]tinen[tiis] opelle concedo filio

she should have found especially serviceable. The remaining part, truly, of the uses of my house, with the appurtenances of the [work-]shop, I grant (to) my* son,
[* "my" corresponds with "meo" at opening of the next line]
2. meo Will[iel]mo Bedford Item lego filio meo p[re]dict[o] xix^C marc[as] It[e]m lego filie mee Allicie v^C marc[as] Lego p[r]eterea

William Bedford. Likewise, I bequeath (to) my son aforesaid 1900* marks. Likewise, I bequeath (to) my daughter Alice 500* marks. I bequeath, moreover,
[* these sums are literally written as 19¹⁰⁰ and 5¹⁰⁰ respectively]
3. filie mee Margarete quingent[as] marcas Q[uo]d si contingat p[re]dictas filias meas Aliciam & Margaretam

(to) my daughter Margaret five hundred marks. With respect to which, if it should befall my aforesaid daughters, Alice & Margaret,
4. ab hac luce migrare priusq[ua]m Decessevit p[re]dictus filius meus Will[iel]mus do et concedo filio meo p[re]d[i]c[t]am

from this life to depart before my aforesaid son William should Die, I give and grant (to) my son the aforesaid
5. ip[s]am sum[m]am mille marcar[um] ip[s]is filiabus meis prius concessam hoc est si priusq[ue] nubant obierint

sum itself of one thousand marks, (to) my daughters themselves before granted; this is, if and before they should marry, they should die first.
6. Q[uo]d si filius meus Will[iel]mus p[re]dictus priusq[ua]m ip[s]e filie mee p[re]d[i]c[t]e obierit volo q[ue] sum[m]a p[re]d[i]c[t]a xix^C marc[as]

With respect to which, if my son William aforesaid before my daughters themselves aforesaid should die, I will that the sum aforesaid, 1900 marks,
7. equalit[er] Diuidatur int[er] filios Johannis Bedford et Thome Bedford fratrum meorum & Will[iel]mu[m] Bedford

equally should be Divided between the sons of John Bedford and Thomas Bedford, my brothers, & William Bedford,

- 8.** fratrem meum It[e]m si contigat p[re]d[i]c[t]as filias meas alicui honesto viro vel alicuius honesti viri filio Ita
my brother. Likewise, if it should befall my aforesaid daughters (to) any respectable man, or (to) any respectable man's son, So,
- 9.** saltem adindicato inter honestes vires proximos et vicinos matrimonio coniu[n]gi volo cum etate[m] nubilem
at least, having been indicated about [i.e. reputed as such] amongst respectable men, nearest and neighbouring, to be joined (in) marriage, I will (that) when marriageable age
- 10.** egerint ip[s]e coniu[n]ctim et vnaqueq[ue] earum Diuisim p[er]cipiat sum[m]am prius illis concessam Q[uo]d si alicui
they should achieve, themselves jointly, and each one of them Separately, (she) should gain the sum before (to) them granted. With respect to which, if (to) any
- 11.** viro proceri adherenti aut domos Curialiu[m] frequentanti aut viro Inhonesto sic saltem int[er] vicinos
man, a nobleman having been involved (with) either houses of Courtiers, having frequented (them), or (to) a Dishonourable man, so at least among the neighbouring
- 12.** et p[ro]ximos adindicato sese matrimoniu[m] velle contrahere affirmauerint volo q[ue] sibi sic affirmanti vel
and nearest having been indicated about [i.e. reputed], (&) the very marriage they should have affirmed to wish to enter into, I will that, (to) herself thus affirming, or
- 13.** ip[s]is sic affirmantibus nulla sum[m]a ip[s]is prius legata concedatur sed detur filio meo Will[iel]mo p[re]dicto
themselves thus affirming, no sums (to) themselves before bequeathed should be granted, but should be given (to) my son William aforesaid.
- 14.** Q[uo]d si ip[s]e obierit int[er] fr[at]rem meum Will[iel]mu[m] et liberos fratrum meorum Johannis et Thome p[re]dict[orum] in equa
With respect to which, if (he) himself should die, between my brother William and the children of my brothers John and Thomas aforesaid, in e-
- 15.** les porciones Diuidatur It[e]m lego Cristine sponse mee p[re]dict[e] decem vaccas cum duob[us] Juuentis
qual portions, (it) should be divided. Likewise, I bequeath (to) Cristina, my wife aforesaid, ten cows, with two Youths [i.e. calves/young cows].

- 16.** It[e]m lego filio meo Will[iel]mo p[re]dicto duos equos Item fr[at]ri meo Thome duos equos volo p[re]terea q[ue]
- Likewise, I bequeath (to) my son William aforesaid two horses. Likewise, (to) my brother, Thomas, two horses. I will, moreover, that
- 17.** filius meus p[re]dictus cum etatem l[egi]timam attigerit vice & no[m]i[n]e meis deliberet seu deliberari faci
- my son aforesaid, when lawful age he should have achieved, as & (in) my name should deliver, or should cause to be deli-
- 18.** at plenam seisinam seu possessionem tenementi vulgarit[er] nu[n]cupat[i] Colondys cum om[n]ib[us] Jurib[us]
- vered, full seisin or possession of the tenement commonly called Colondys*, with all Rights
- [* "colundis" roughly translates as "(place to be) lived in"]
- 19.** et p[er]tinen[tiis] eiusdem quondam legati domui pauperum ex oppo[s]ito eccl[es]ie de Newbery p[re]dict[e] in boriali
- and appurtenances of the same, formerly bequeathed (to) the house of the poor, opposite (to) the church of Newbery aforesaid in the northern
- 20.** p[ar]te p[er] Will[iel]mu[m] Pydman nup[er] defunct[i] in sustentacionem pauperum Domus p[re]dict[e] ut patet sufficient[er]
- part, by William Pydman, late deceased, for the maintenance of the poor House aforesaid, as is manifest sufficiently
- 21.** in testamento Will[iel]mi Pydman p[re]dict[i] in manus constabularioru[m] balliuorum & Jconomoru[m] eccl[es]ie &
- in the testament of William Pydman aforesaid, into the hands of the constables, bailiffs, & Wardens of the church &
- 22.** ville p[re]dict[arum] tunc saltem Regencium Q[uo]d si p[re]d[i]c[tu]m filiu[m] meum priusq[ue] l[egi]timam etatem egerit mori
- town aforesaid, at that time, at least, Managing [i.e. running the Poor House]. With respect to which, if my aforesaid son, before he should achieve lawful age, to die
- 23.** contingat volo executores meos infra limitandos p[re]d[i]c[t]am seisinam vel possessionem tenementi p[re]d[i]c[t]i
- it should befall, I will my executors, below bound, the aforesaid seisin or possession of the tenement aforesaid,

- 24.** cum p[er]tinen[tiis] et iuribus eiusdem deliberare seu deliberari facere in manus p[re]d[i]c[t]or[um] constabularior[um]
with the appurtenances and rights of the same, to deliver, or to cause to be delivered, into the hands of the aforesaid constables,
- 25.** balliuoru[m] et Jconomorum eccl[es]ie et ville p[re]d[ict]ar[um] Et ad hanc meam et Will[iel]mi Pydman voluntates ex
bailiffs, and Wardens of the church and town aforesaid. And towards this my and William Pydman's wills (being) ex-
- 26.** equendas obligo filiu[m] meum p[re]dictum et executores meos coniu[n]ctim et vnu[m]quoq[ue] eorum diuisim in
ecuted (in the future), I bind my son aforesaid, and my executors jointly, and each one of them separately, in
- 27.** Cibi soluendis in manus constabulariorum balliuorum & Jconomorum eccl[es]ie et ville p[re]dict[arum] ad vti
the releasing of Food into the hands of the constables, bailiffs, & Wardens of the church and town aforesaid, to the ad-
- 28.** litatem et sustentacionem pauperum Domus p[re]dict[e] volo p[re]terea q[ue] ip[s]am legationem mea[m] suprad[i]c[t]am
vantage and maintenance of the poor House aforesaid; I will, moreover, that my above-said same legacy
- 29.** filio meo concessam executores mei sibi sinent vsq[ue] l[egi]timam hoc est xxj anni etatem plene & co[m]plete
(to) my son having been granted, my executors (to) him will allow (it) until lawful, this is (when) the age of 21 years, fully & completely,
- 30.** attigerit Om[n]ia eciam terras et tenementa mea in manus executoru[m] meoru[m] vsq[ue] filius meus
(he) should have achieved. All, furthermore, my lands and tenements into the hands of my executors, until my son
- 31.** p[re]dictus p[re]fatam etatem complete egerit sinari [*sic*(?)] volo It[e]m do et lego xxx textoribus executoru[m] meoru[m]
aforesaid the afore-mentioned age completely should have done [i.e. attained], I will to be allowed(?). Likewise, I give and bequeath (to) 30 weavers, (by) my executors'
- 32.** Iudicio limitandis vniciq[ue] eorum Diuisim xx vlnas de Canvas Residuu[m] vero bonoru[m] meoru[m] non

Judgment (to have been) bound, and each one of them Separately, 20 ells of Canvas. The Residue, truly, of my goods not

33. legatorum do & lego Johanni Bedford et Thome Bedford fr[at]ribus meis quos facio et ordino meos

bequeathed, I give & bequeath (to) John Bedford and Thomas Bedford, my brothers, whom I make and ordain my

34. l[egi]timos executores vt ip[s]i vtilitati anime mee p[ro]uideant Sup[er]uisores autem ordino et constituo

lawful executors, in order that they themselves (for) the benefit of my soul should provide. (As) Supervisors, moreover, I ordain and constitute

35. Johannem fflagott Johannem Warr et Robertu[m] Sawderson quibus et cuilibet eoru[m] p[ro] laborib[us]

John Flagott, John Warr, and Robert Sawderson, (to) whom, and whomsoever of them, for the labours

36. suis do et lego quinq[ue] marcas hijs testib[us] magistro Johanne Estyrfylde Rectore eccl[es]ie p[re]d[i]c[t]e domino

belonging to them, I give and bequeath five marks, (with) these witnesses: Master John Estyrfylde, Rector of the church aforesaid, Sir

37. Johanne Brewer et domino Will[iel]mo Palm[er] eccl[es]ie p[re]dicte capellanis cum ceteris ad id p[re]cipue vocat[i]s

John Brewer, and Sir William Palmer, chaplains of the church aforesaid, with others, for (the purpose of) it especially summoned.

38. **Probatum** fuit supradictum testamentum Coram & c Apud Lamethix
xix^o die mensis Novembris

The above-said testament was **Proved** Before, etc., At Lambeth, (on) the 19th day of the month of November

39. Anno d[omi]ni Mill[es]imo CCCC Nonagesimoiii^o Juramento Johannis fflagott Johannis Warr & Roberti

(in) the Year of (our) lord the One Thousandth 400 Ninetieth (&) 4th [i.e. 1494]. (Under) the Oath of John Flagott, John Warr, & Robert

40. Sawdyrson et Johannis Assh testium & c Ac approbatum & c Et com[m]issa fuit admi[ni]stracio omniu[m] bonoru[m]

Sawdyrson, and of John Assh, the witnesses, etc. And probated, etc. And administration was granted of all the goods,

- 41.** et c executoribus in h[uius]mo[d]i testamento no[m]i[n]at[is] de bene & fidelit[er] administrand[um] et c Ac de pleno & fideli

etc., (to) the executors in this testament named, with regard to well & faithfully being administered, etc. And with regard to a full & faithful

- 42.** Inventario & c citra festum conceptionis beate Marie virginis p[ro]x[ime] etc Necnon de plano & vero co[m]pot[o]

Inventory, etc., before the feast of the conception of the blessed virgin Mary* next, etc. And also with regard to an open & true account

[* i.e. 08 December]

- 43.** et c ad sancta dei eu[an]gelia iurat[is]

etc.; sworn on the holy gospels of god.
