

**Will, Inventory and Renunciation of John Soper of Dummer, yeoman
HRO 1621B/50**

In the name of God Amen I John Soper of Dummer in the county of Southampton yeoman being sickly and weak in body but yet in whole and strong mind and of perfect memory (all thanks and praise be given to God therefore), do make and ordain these presents to be my last will and testament the tenth day of September in the year of our Lord God one thousand six hundred twenty and one according to the computation of the church of England and in the year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord James by the grace of God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, King Defender of the Faith etc., that is to say of England the nineteenth and of Scotland the five and fiftieth in manner and form following. **First** and principally I do commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God my Maker and Creator and of Jesus Christ His only Son my Saviour and Redeemer faithfully believing to be saved by His most precious blood which He shed upon the cross for me and for all mankind. **And I** commend my body to the earth whereof it was made and to be buried in the parish church of Dummer at the end of my seat where I sit in the same church. **Item** I give unto the cathedral church of Winchester six pence. **Item** I give unto the parish church of Dummer ten shillings to be paid unto the churchwardens thereof for the time being within one year after the day of my decease by my executors hereafter named. **Item** I give moreover to the church of *missing* twelve pence a year to be paid yearly and for every year after my decease unto the churchwardens of the said church at and upon the day of the giving up of the accounts in the said church. **And whereas** I have twenty shillings in my hands of the gift of my brother in law William Mynchin sometimes inhabitant of Dummer which *missing* the church of Dummer to have twelve pence a year to be paid yearly and for every year hereafter unto the church of Dummer, my will is that both the said twelve pence which *missing* self do give yearly to the church of Dummer forever, as also the said twelve pence which I am to pay for my brother in law William Mynchin in regard of his twenty shillings by me received, be ever hereafter after my decease paid out of my acre of land in Stokefields commonly called by the name of Soper's Croft, and lying in the *missing* Field at the town's end next unto the dwelling house of Robert Bygges first of all by my son and heir John Soper to whom I give that acre of land and *missing* heirs successively forever, or by any son whomsoever that shall hold and enjoy that acre of land from me or my heirs unto the churchwardens of Dummer *missing* time being yearly and successively for every year hereafter forever. **Item** I give unto the poor people of Dummer that shall be at my burial ten shillings to be *missing* at the time of my burial by my executors hereafter named according to their appointment and discretions. **Item** I give to John Soper my son and heir *missing* house which I have built and set upon an acre of ground which is meadow ground joining unto a tenement of mine called Hopkins, and the said acre of meadow ground also be it more or less together with the house thereupon, I give to my said son and heir John Soper and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten and to be begotten forever. **Item** I give moreover unto my said son and heir John Soper and to his heirs and

executors forever twenty and one acres of arable land lying and being in the common fields of Dummer which I do hold freely of Anthony Helior of [Uphurstborne]¹ in the county of Southampton with the commons thereunto belonging in the common fields of Dummer and in Dummer Down both for great beasts and sheep, for half a yardland and no more, which twenty and one acres of arable land lies in the fields of Dummer as follows: to wit six acres in Breadless Fields whereof three acres lie at a place called Hooke Hearne and one acre at Smokelands; one acre at Blackdeane between half of the land of the said John Soper's on the east side, and one acre at Priestashes on the east part of the land of Walter Madgwicke; five acres more in the field called Basingstoke Field whereof one acre lies at the town's end commonly called Soperscroft; three acres lie at Chalkdell and one acre lies at Growchgate on the east part of the land of John Cox late of Dummer; five acres more in Dummer Fields whereof one acre abuts against Popham Lane; two acres lying at Blackdeane whereof one acre lies between the land of William Murrall of Dummer and the land of the aforesaid John Soper's; one acre between the land of Reynard Wyther and James Smith; two acres at Merridge Stile abutting upon Dummer Down; five acres more in Grange Field, whereof four acres at Staples abutting upon the Cow Lane; one acre at Hanging Lands between the land of Reynold Wyther and Walter Madgwicke. **Item** I give moreover to my son and heir John Soper the sum of five pounds of current money of England and to his son and heir Peter Soper, my grandchild and my godson, I give twenty shillings both which sums of money my will is that they be paid to my son and heir John Soper within one twelve months after my decease by my executors hereafter named. **Item** I give unto my second son William Soper my messuage or tenement commonly called by the name of Hopkins lying and being in Dummer together with the backside and close of meadow ground belonging there unto containing a yard meal of ground by estimation be it more or less. **Item** I give moreover to my said son William Soper eight acres of arable land lying in the common fields of Dummer which I hold freely of the manor of West Dummer, that is to say, three acres thereof lying in Breadless Field whereof one acre near unto Reade Closes; one acre in Stokesdeane by a half of John Soper's on the west side and one acre in Ryfurlonge along by the path going to the Grange; three acres in Basingstoke Field whereof two acres in the further side of Hollis Hedge; one acre at Gold's Close End and two acres in Dummer Field abutting upon Popham Lane belonging to the said messuage or tenement of Hopkins all which stand together with the messuage or tenement called Hopkins with all and singular the appurtenances thereunto belonging I give to my said son William Soper and to his heirs forever with commons there unto belonging for a cotland and no more. **And whereas** there is twelve shillings of yearly rent to be paid out of the said tenement called Hopkins with the appurtenance to James Smith of Dummer and to his heirs yearly forever, my will is that my son and heir John Soper, his heirs and successors forever shall pay eight shillings yearly of the said twelve to James Smith and to his heirs forever for his half yardland that I have given unto him. **And the**

¹ Probably Hurstbourne Tarrant

other four shillings of yearly rent my will is that my son William Soper and his heirs and executors forever shall pay unto the said James Smith and to his heirs yearly forever for the cotland that I have given unto him. **Item** I give moreover to my said son William Soper ten pounds of current English money to be paid unto him within one whole year after my decease by my executors hereafter named. **Item** I give to my son Gilbert Soper the sum of twenty pounds of lawful money of England to be paid to my said son Gilbert within twelve months after my decease by my executors hereafter named if my said son Gilbert shall be then surviving after my decease, but if it shall so happen that he dies before me then in lieu thereof I do give unto the son and heir of my said son Gilbert ten pounds of current money of England if he be then surviving to be paid by my executors hereafter named as aforesaid within twelve month after my decease. **Item** I give moreover unto the son and heir of my said son Gilbert Soper twenty shillings of current money of England to be paid unto him within one twelve months after my decease by my executors hereafter named, if he shall be then surviving and not otherwise. **Item** I give unto Andrew Grover a youth that now dwells with me the sum of forty shillings of current money of England to be paid unto him by my executors hereafter named when he shall come to be of the full age of twenty and one years if he so long live. **Item** I give to my son Phillippe Soper my house that I now dwell in in Dummer with all the lands, grounds, both arable and meadow belonging thereunto and with all and singular the appurtenances appertaining unto the same (excepting the said lands and grounds which I have before given to my two sons John Soper and William Soper), which house and land *missing* and singular appurtenances that belong there into (except before excepted) my will is that they shall remain to my said son Phillippe Soper and *missing* heirs and executors for ever after my decease. **The residue** of all my goods and chattels whatsoever my legacies and gifts before bequeathed being discharged, my debts being paid and my funeral expenses defrayed I give equally and jointly to my well beloved wife Ellin Soper of Dummer and to Phillippe Soper my son to be divided equally and indifferently by two or three honest and sufficient men without partiality by equal and even portions between them. **Both which** that is to say my wife Ellin Soper and my son Phillippe Soper I do ordain and make my executors of this my last will and testament jointly together, and I request my well beloved friends Richard Marriatt clerk and parson of Dummer and my cousin Richard Soper dwelling at the Breach Gound at Manydown to be my overseers of this my last will and testament and I desire them to have a care that all things therein may be as near as they can truly and faithfully performed according to my intent and meaning in the same, and according to the trust that I do repose in them. **In witness** whereof and of all things contained in this my last will and testament, I have hereunto put my hand and seal in the presence of those whose names are hereunder written the day and year first above named in these presents 1621.

Memorandum that the within named John Soper before the ensealing of this his last will and testament does moreover give and bequeath to his son William Soper all his

wearing apparel as also a christening sheet which was bestowed upon the said William his son at his baptism both which his will is that they should presently be delivered unto him the said William within three days after his decease. **Also he** gives moreover unto his son William his best coverlet and a white tester of linen for a bed; both which his will is that his wife should have the use of them during her life. **And then** after her death to be delivered unto him or to his heirs, executors or assigns. **Item** moreover he does give unto Andrew Grover a youth that dwells with him a yearling bullock or heifer with a star in the forehead to be delivered to the said Andrew Grover to his use and benefit presently after my decease. **Item** moreover whereas the within named John Soper has in his use and occupation the stock and legacy of one Richard Moorali an orphan, the son of Bennett Moorely late of Dummer, which legacy and stock is five pounds of current money of England, one brass pot, one brass skillet, one brasen candlestick and a platter and a porringer of pewter, his will is that the said five pounds of money and the other goods shall be delivered truly and faithfully by his executors within named to any honest and sufficient man of the parish with whom he shall be placed after his decease to his only use and benefit, putting in sufficient bond and so make unto them that his said legacy of five pounds shall be and use to his benefit and maintenance during the nonage of the said Richard Moorely. **And then** when he comes to the age of twenty and two years to be paid and delivered to the hands of the said Richard Moorely himself, or to his executors and assigns. **In witness** whereof the said John Soper has also put to his hand the day and year within written in the presence of us.

Richard Marriatt
Rychard Willmot

The mark of John Soper

Probate granted 29 November 1621 to Ellin Soper widow and Phillip Soper son. Obligation on the same of Dummer, husbandman and Richard Willmott of the same place, blacksmith and Richard Soper of Wootton St Lawrence, husbandman.

Signed, sealed and confirmed the day
and year first above written in the
presence of Richard Marriatt cleric
Richard Willmot

Probate granted 29 November 1621 to William Soper, son, Ellina Soper, relict and Phillip Soper son executors.

Obligation on the same of Dummer yeoman husbandman, Richard Willmott of the same place blacksmith and Richard Soper of Wootton St Lawrence, husbandman.

A true inventory of all the goods and chattels of John Soper of Dummer deceased, taken by us Richard Marriatt clerk and parson of Dummer, George Wyther of Hall,

John Soper of East Oakley, Richard Willmot of Dummer and Richard Soper of Wootton *St Lawrence*, the nineteenth day of November in the year of our Lord God 1621.

	£	s	d
In the hall			
1 musket furnished	1	3	0
1 table with a joined frame and 3 joined stools and a joined form	0	10	0
1 little table more in the hall		<i>missing</i>	
1 joined chair		<i>missing</i>	
4 cushions	0	2	0
1 other plain form in the hall	0	0	4
1 cupboard	0	10	0
1 English bible in [fol]	0	6	0
In the chamber where he lay			
1 bedstead	0	6	8
1 plain press to put clothes in	0	6	8
2 chests	0	5	0
1 feather bed, 1 flock bed, 2 feather bolsters, 2 flock pillows, 2 blankets and a white coverlet	2	0	0
In the inner chamber			
1 joined bedstead	1	0	0
2 flock beds, 1 feather bolster, 2 feather pillows			
2 flock pillows, 2 coverlets and a blanket	1	10	0
1 chest and 1 shelf	0	2	6
In the chamber over the hall			
1 cheese rack and two shelves	0	1	6
1 old cupboard table	0	2	0
1 new bushel	0	1	6
A table plain, 2 trestles, 4 old tubs and one oatmeal tub with other lumber	0	5	0
5 bushels of malt and 1 bushel of oatmeal	0	10	0
1 pound of hops	0	1	0
Cheese and onions	0	6	0
In a high chamber over the low chambers			
1 bedstead	0	3	4
1 little flock bed, 2 simple coverlets, 1 blanket	0	5	0
3 chests	0	13	4
Hops	0	1	6

A pair of old stock cards	0	0	6
1 shelf, 3 old tubs with coarse wool, flocks in the tubs and other lumber	0	13	4
Rip hooks and hackling hooks etc., 2 prongs	0	3	4
apples in a little loft	0	2	0

In the outward chamber below and in the cellar

6 barrels, 3 firkins, 2 tubs, 1 kive	1	0	0
5 bottles great and small, 1 lantern, 2 bills	0	3	4

In the buttery

2 powdering tubs, 1 butter tub, 1 safe to put meat in, 1 plank and a little board with one small pat of butter	0	8	0
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In the chamber over the kitchen

2 servants' bedsteads with stained testers	0	2	6
1 flock bed, 1 coverlet, 2 blankets, 1 hull bed with a blanket and coverlet	0	16	8

In the kitchen

1 silting trough, 1 old cheese press, 1 kneading kiver, 1 butter churn, 1 little kiver, 3 tubs, 6 buckets, and other lumber	1	0	0
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Working tools , 2 wedges, 1 bill, 1 axe, anvil, mattock	0	6	8
2 andirons, 2 pairs of pot hangers, 2 pairs of pot hooks, 2 spits, 1 pair of fire tongs, a fire shovel, 1 frying pan, 1 peel, 1 little iron dripping pan, 1 plate dripping pan, 1 tenon saw and one iron bar	0	10	0
	0	4	0

In the bolting house

1 bolting witch and other lumber	0	2	0
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Brass

1 brass pan, 2 brass pots, 7 kettles great, 2 small, 1 pot, 1 bell skillet, 1 other bell skillet, 2 brasen skillets, 1 brasen mortar, 3 brasen candlesticks	2	0	0
1 furnace	1	6	8

Pewter

15 platters and porringers, 22 pieces of small pewter and a dozen and half of spoons	2	3	4
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Bacon

6 flitches of bacon	1	0	0
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Linen

9 pairs of sheets, 9 table napkins, 4 tablecloths, 3 pillow beres	2	11	0
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Wool

3 yards of woollen cloth for swathe	0	5	0
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Sheep

Four score and two sheep	16	0	0
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Kine and bullocks

Twelve kine and bullocks	11	0	0
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Hogs

7 hogs	4	3	0
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Wood at Mr Venable's farm

5 hundred of faggots	1	0	0
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6 loads of moares and lop wood	1	10	0
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Ploughs and plough timber

Plough timber and 4 cart axles	0	8	0
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3 loggers for horses and ropes unto them	0	2	0
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A plough and the furniture belonging unto it for 4 horses excepting the share and two old harrows	0	13	4
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Wheat at Mr Venables' farm

3 quarters of wheat	4	0	0
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Barley in the great barn there

15 quarters of barley	10	16	0
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2 quarters in the cart house	1	0	0
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1 vat more to winnow corn and 1 bushel	0	8	0
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2 ladders and a willy	0	4	0
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In the little barn

1 load of barley	1	0	0
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2 loads of dredges	<i>missing</i>		
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2 quarters more of barley	0	10	0
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1 quarter of peas	0	16	0
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6 quarters of oats	1	4	0
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Tillage for sheep	0	5	0
Hay at the farm	1	6	2

Cart timber at his own house

10 dozen of spokes and a dozen and a half of felloes			
and 3 pairs of cart hooks	[1	0	0]
1 plough for 4 horses and a pair of harrows	[0	13	0]

Wood and timber at his own house

12 hundred of faggots	2	10	0
3 loads of lugs	1	0	0
6 loads of plock	1	10	0
5 hundred of lathes	0	6	0
Planks and rollers about the saw pit	0	2	0

Timber in the wood gate

	1	0	0
4 short planks	0	2	6
1 cart and a dung pot	1	5	0
The iron of 3 old wheels	0	10	0
6 plough [chips], 1 plough beam, 1 cart axle	0	3	0

In an old house

Plough timber	0	3	0
1 malt quern, 1 trough with a cover, certain boards and			
1 yoting vat	1	3	4
2 corn line	0	2	0
3 [iowles] of peas and some tillage	1	3	0
4 loads of oats	3	4	0
1 old gate and 1 spare hurdle gate	0	1	4

Wheat and barley in the barns at his own house

6 quarters of wheat	8	0	0
20 quarters of barley	13	6	8
6 sacks, 1 winnowing sheet, 1 fan, sieves and ridders	0	10	0

In the hay house

1 trough with a cover	0	2	6
2 loads of hay	2	0	0

In the fodder house

1 load of dredge and vetches	0	6	8
1 store sow and 5 shoots in the gate	1	6	8
2 hog troughs and one horse trough	0	3	0

One well rope, bucket and chain with other necessities belonging to the well	1	0	0
1 piece of timber and planks in the street	0	10	0
Due from Phillip Soper to his father upon a [accominge]	3	3	4
Wheat sown upon his own living this year for the winter crop 8 acres	5	6	4
Of vetches 2 acres	1	0	0
For vetches sown upon 3 halves of ground which Phillip Soper is to answer	0	6	0
For an old horse	0	5	0
Sum total	138	17	0

By me Richard Marriatt senior
George Wyther
John Soper's mark of East Oakley
Richard Willmot
Richard Soper mark

Be it known unto all men by these presents that whereas John Soper late of Dummer deceased did appoint in his last will and testament us Ellin Soper his wife and Phillip Soper his son to be executors of his last will and testament, were for diverse good causes and especial considerations as especial moving have and do refuse to take upon us the chair of executors but do desire to be freed from the same and would be willing that William Soper, another of his sons or some other such friend or sufficient man, should take upon them that burden. **Or whether** the said William Soper or some other will undertake that the business then our desire is that the office and Court of Winchester would administer these goods that the said John Soper has left and pay them to the creditors so far forth as they will go. **In witness** whereof we the said Ellin Soper and Phillip Soper have here unto put our hands the 22 day of November 1621.

The mark of Ellin Soper
The mark of Phillip Soper