

# Oxfordshire

## BURFORD PROBATE DOCUMENTS

**Edmunde SYLVESTER, clothier of Burford**

**Will proved 1568[69]**

**The National Archives PROB 11/51**

*Numbering at left identifies line of original document*

- 1 **In the name of god amen** the Tenneth daye of Januarye in the yeare of oure lorde god  
/1568/ I
- 2 Edmunde Sylvester th[e]elder of the towne of Burforde in the countye of Oxforde  
Clothier beinge sicke in bodye, but of good and perfecte remembrannce
- 3 thanks be geyven to god for yt, doe make and ordaine this my present testament  
conteyninge herein my laste will in manne<sup>r</sup> and fourme followinge/ that
- 4 is to saye, First I com[m]ende my soule into the handes of almightye god my onelye  
maker savio[ur] and readeamer, by whose goodnes and mercye my full-
- 5 some and stedfaste hope is to be saved and that onelye thorowe the death and passione of  
o[ur] lorde and Saviour Jhesus Christe and my bodye to be buried
- 6 in the chappell sometyme called oure Ladye Chappell in the Southe syde of william Hues  
there. Item I give and bequeathe towards the repairinge of the
- 7 churche of burforde aforesaide vj s viij d . Item I give unto the poore mens boxe ther iij s  
iiii d. Item I give unto William Sylvester my seconde sonne my
- 8 mesuage or Tenement with all and singular the appurtenannces commonlye called  
Osmundes lienge ov[er] the easte parte of the hill in Burforde wherein
- 9 the said William nowe dwelleth and also twelve akers of arrable lande lienge in the  
feeldes of upton w[i]th certaine meadowe grounde belongenge to the said
- 10 twelve akers sometyme belonginge to the Chauntrey in burforde, And also one mesuage  
or Tenement lienge on the weste parte of the hill of burforde
- 11 aforesaid with all and singuler the appurten[a]nces nowe in the tennure of Edmunde  
Sylvester the younger, betwene the Tenementes of John Floyde on
- 12 the Southe and Thomas Hues on the Northe, And also one close abuttinge on bates Lane  
late belongenge to the chauntreye aforesaide, And
- 13 also one mesuage or tenement lienge and beinge on the the easte part of burforde beneath  
the churche lane nere unto the Tenement of Hutles[?or Hickes or Huttes] on the South

14 parte/ Item I give unto the said William my beste graye geldinge, my vj carte horses, with  
 all harnesses and geares to them belonginge, my twoe Iron  
 15 bounde cartes with exp.... and Lin..s my plowes and harrowes and plowe geare and all  
 other the furnytüre thereof/ Item I give unto him more  
 16 Twelve quarters of barlye toward the sowing of his crosse/ Item I give unto Robert  
 Silvester my thirde sonne my house called the broad  
 17 gattes lienge and beinge in the churche lane of burford aforesaid with Gardenns courtes  
 and all other the appurten[a]nces<sup>belonginge</sup> to the same house  
 18 and also thirty and twoe akers of arrabell land lienge and beinge in the Easte and West  
 feeldes of burford and Synett and also one aker of meade  
 19 lienge in the lotte meade of burford called hye meade belonginge to the same howse.  
 Item I give unto the same Robert Fourtye poundes of  
 20 lawfull monye of englande the one half of it to be delivered unto hym within vj weeks  
 after my decease and the other half within three  
 21 monethes, Also I give unto hym my signet of golde, Item I give unto the same Robert my  
 beste gowne colour blacke faced with foynes, my best  
 22 cloke, my best coate, my best sattain dublet, my best Jacket and my best blacke hosen/  
 and also a coate of plaite called a paire of brigandynes<sup>1</sup> my best  
 23 weapon bill and twoe platters/ Item I give and bequeath unto Thomas Sylvester my  
 fourthe sonne my house or Tenement in Sheep streete  
 24 nowe in the tenure of William Willcockes with a garden grounde and a close abutting  
 uppon the same and showtethe Southe uppon the farne  
 25 pece, which said house and close late was parcell of the Chauntreye in burford aforesaid/  
 Item I give unto the same Thomas Twentye and  
 26 Sixe Poundes xij s iiii d of lawfull monye of englande to be paide in manne[r] and  
 fourme as his brother Robert his parte is/ Item I give  
 27 Unto hym my best russett coate fringed with silke fringe, my seconde best dublet of  
 sattin, my thirde best gowne colo[ur] blacke weltd with velvett and  
 28 my worsted<sup>2</sup> dublet/ I give more to the said Thomas my lease of the Mylles of Upton  
 which I holde of Maister Edmund Harman Esquire  
 29 with gates and Fishinges and all other comodities to the same mylles belonginge the  
 nether parte of the over hamme frome the rayles downe to the

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<sup>1</sup> Brigantines – pliable kind of armour consisting of small plates of iron sewn on to quilted linen or leather-  
*Rosemary.Milward*

<sup>2</sup> Worsted – type of woollen cloth – *Joy Bristow*

30 foote bridge ov[er] to Teynton onely excepted and restored and he the said Thomas to  
paye the whoale rente of the said myll and furdre to doe every thinge  
31 and thinges conteyned and specyfyed in a paire of Indentures thereof made and by the  
tennante to be fulfilled and kepte/ Item I give unto  
32 the said Thomas all the ymplementes there which belonge to the arte or scyence of a  
tucker/ Item I give and bequeathe unto Danyell  
33 Sylvester my fifte sonne one house or tenement on the west syde of the hill in burforde,  
nowe in the tenure of David Wirge lyinge betwixte  
34 the Tenement of Symon Wysedome of the northe parte and a close of Thomas Hues on  
the Southe parte and fyve akers arrabell  
35 Lande in the west feeldes of burforde and halfe an aker in the Easte feelde lienge almoste  
at the sterte and fyve akers of arrabell lande in the  
36 Fyldes of upton/ all which parcelles of lande are belonginge unto the said howse and were  
parcell of the chauntrey aforesaid/ Item I give unto the said  
37 Danyell Twentye Poundes of lawfull monye of englande to be delivered unto hym at his  
age of twentye yeares/ Item I give and bequeath unto  
38 John Sylvester my Sixte sonne one howse or Tenement on the easte side of the hye streate  
of burforde nowe in the tenure of Robarte Hayter w[i]th  
39 a gardene grounde and a backesyde and all shoppes and Sellers to the same house  
belongeinge lienge betwene the tenemente of master Edmunde  
40 Harman on the Southe parte/ and the Tenemente of Richard Jones on the northe parte/  
Also I give unto the said John Twentye Poundes of  
41 Lawfull monye of englande to be delivered unto hym at his age of twentye yeares/ All  
which parcelles of lande gyven and bequeathed unto my said  
42 Fyve sonnes William, Robart, Thomas, Danyell and John I give unto them and to their  
heires of their bodyes lawfullye begottenn forever and  
43 for defaulte of suche yssue of anye of my said sonnes I will the lande of the partye so  
departinge without yssue to remaine to Edmunde Sylvester  
44 my eldest sonne and to his heires forever/ Item I give and bequeath unto my eldest  
daughter Anne Sylvester Thirtye Poundes of lawfull  
45 monye of englande to be delivered to her at the full age of Sixtene yeares or at the daye of  
her maryage yf she shall chance to marrye before  
46 that tyme/ also I give unto the same Anne one good flockebedd made of Draste flockes  
with a good sufficient case and a bolster to the same and also

47 A paire of sheetes A paire of blanckettes and a coveringe/ Item I give unto the same Anne  
three of my best silver spoones, twoe latten<sup>3</sup> candelstickes  
48 vj platters vj pottingers and three sawcers/ Item I give and bequeathe unto my daughter  
Marye Silvester thirtye Poundes of lawfull  
49 monye of englande to be delivered unto her at her full age of xvj yeares or at the daye of  
her maryadge, if she channce before that tyme to marrye  
50 Item I give unto the said Marye one good sufficient flocke bedd made of Draste flockes  
w[i]th a good sufficient case and bolster to the same and  
51 also a paier of sheetes a paire of blancketes and a coveringe. Item I give unto the said  
Marye three of the seconde best silver spoones/ twoe  
52 latten candelstickes a Judde/ vj platters/ vj pottingers and three Sawcers/ Item I will that yf  
anye of my foure youngest  
53 children, that is to saye, Danyell, John, Anne or Marye doe decease before the tyme that  
theye sholde receave these theire legacyes, then theire  
54 parte or partes to be equallye amongst the reste of the same that shalbe lyvinge, and yf  
they channce all foure to dye before the  
55 receipte of theire partes, then I will all theire partes to be equally devided amongst my  
foure elder sonnes or to so manye of them as shalbe  
56 then lyvenge/ Item I give little Anne Sylvester my sonne Edmund his daughter my hoope  
of goulde which I weare upon my  
57 Little fynger, Item I give unto my kynswoman Joane Collier and to her children xij s iiij  
d to be bestowed upon them in apparrell and  
58 other necessaries at the discrec[i]on of myne executors/ Item I give to Sylvester Braye my  
godsonne iij s iiijd and to everye of my godchildrenn  
59 xijd/ except Edmund Colburne and Olyver hues/ Item I give to henrye Tayler of  
Shereburne iij s iiijd/ Item I give to  
60 Roger Collier my fryse<sup>4</sup> coate and a paire of russet hosenn/ Item I give and bequeath unto  
Joanne my Wyfe all my croppe  
61 of corne in my barnes (except twelve quarters of barlye before gyven to William my  
sonne) and excepte all the fodder strawe and chaffe to fynde all  
62 the foresaid & nine geldinges and cattail withall/ And also I give unto my saide Wyfe all  
my naperye or Lynnen as sheetes table clothes, napkins

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<sup>3</sup> Latten – alloy of copper and zinc, similar to fine brass – *Rosemary Milward*

<sup>4</sup> Frieze – a coarse woollen cloth with a nap on one side – *Rosemary Milward*

63 Pillowe beares and suche other like/ Also I give unto the said Johanne viij brasse pottes,  
 the greatest onelye excepted, and also iiij worte  
 64 Pannes of brasse/ also vj kettelles a chafer of brasse, a greate broch, twoe myddell  
 broches and a binde broche, a paire of Andirons to reste uppon  
 65 A fyre shovell and a fyre picke two drippingge pannes two fryinge pannes the lesser  
 gridyron a brandyron, a malte myll ij chafinge disshes iiij  
 66 candellstickes the rest of my pewter unbequeathed A spyce mortar of brasse and a pestle,  
 all my cowprye ware the greate vate excepted/  
 67 three of the next best fetherbeddes saveinge one three flocke beddes all my bowlsters and  
 pillowes unbequeathed the best coveringe of arras onelye excepted  
 68 [*in margin* ] a bolster only excepted also all covering .... unbequeathed....  
 69 twoe of the seconde best carpettes viij thromme cusschons two cusschions of sylke Damyxe  
 and twoe yallowe silke cusschyons a square ioyned table/ A  
 70 greate cheste of Elme a little cheste of Oke an other chest of oke in the chamber over the  
 hall chamber, two chares the best table borde in the halle and  
 71 bothe the ioyned formes to the same a ioyned bedsteede at William Sylvesters and a  
 cupborde there for the which I give unto hym the ioyned  
 72 bedsteede over the hall chamber and the cupborde in the hall/ Item I give unto my said  
 wyfe A trussinge bedsteede and the greate truckell  
 73 bedsteede and foure small silke cusschions of white Dorinx/ Item I give unto her A cove  
 colour redd/ Item I give unto the said Johanne my  
 74 wyfe Fourtye Poundes of lawfull monye of englande uppon condic[i]on that she the said  
 Johanne or any other parsonn or parsonnes for her  
 75 doe not clayme anye interest, righte or title duringe her widowes estate or otherwyse of,  
 in, or to one mesuage or Tenement and one yarde lande  
 76 with thappurtenances in the Towne and Feeldes of burforde in the countye of Oxforde,  
 called the oxehowse which I the said Edmund  
 77 doe holde, by coo pie of courte rolle accordinge to the custome of the manner there, or of,  
 in, or to one other mesuage or Tenement and twoe yarde  
 78 Lande with Thappurtenances in Crawleye in the said countye, which I the said Edmund  
 doe holde by coo pie of courte rolle accordinge to  
 79 the custome of the manno[r] of Witney/ And yf the said Johanne or any other parsonn or  
 parsons for her or in her name <sup>or</sup> interest doe make anye  
 80 Clayme in or to the said twoe copie holdes or either of them/ Then I will that she shall not  
 have the said somme of Fourtye Poundes or

81 anye parte or percell thereof, but that the same some shall whouly remaine to myne  
executors towards the performannce of this my laste  
82 will and Testament/ anye Legacy or bequeaste before expressed to the contrarye not with  
standinge/ and yf the said Johanne be  
83 contente to make Surrender of her Widowes estate as my Will is she should in the said  
two copie holdes, that then I will ymediatly  
84 Uppon the same Surrenders so made she shall receive the foresaid somme of Fourtye  
Poundes and also to enioye the lease and Tearme of yeares  
85 which I holde of Richard Jones, her sonne of his landes in burforde westall and Fulbrook/  
but yf the said Jone doe refuse to doe as is  
86 before saide, that then the said som[m]e of moneye to remaine to the use of myne  
executors as before is said and the said Lease and tearme of yeares  
87 shall remayne to William Sylvester my sonne/ Anye thinge before said to the contrarye  
not with standinge/ Item I give and bequeathe  
88 the some of Twentye Poundes of Lawfull monye of englande to bee and remaine within  
the Towne of burforde forever to thentente and purpose  
89 hereafter followinge that is to saye towards the releife and helpe of younge men which  
shalbe occupiers within the said towne to be delivered within  
90 One yeare next after my decease that is to saye unto the Alderman, bayliffes and  
Stewarde of the Fellowshipe within the said towne for the  
91 tyme beinge, And I will that theye shall have full power and authoritie to nominate and  
appointe iiij younge men of the said towne occupiers as  
92 afore is sayde to have the use and occupac[i]on of the same monye for fyve yeares uppon  
sufficient suerties to be founde by the said younge men occupiers  
93 frome tyme to tyme for the true payment thereof at the tymes appointed. Item I will that  
the said Alderman baylyfes and Stewarde shall yearelye, uppon  
94 the twesdaye in the Easter Weeke or within vj dayes after at the uttermoste, call the said  
iiij younge men occupiers for the tyme beinge with their  
95 Suretyes before them and then and there to allow the said suretyes or elles uppon anye  
suspecte of the said suerties to remove them and take other, and  
96 for defaulte thereof to take his or their parte as before is said into their handes againe  
and to sett it to others/ Item I Will that everye of the said iiij  
97 Younge men occupiers shall yearelye paye att the feaste of Easter at their accompte as  
followeth that is to saye to the Aldermen ijd a pece and to

98 the twoe baylyffes ijd a pece and to the stewarde iiijd a pece for their paynes therein to  
be taken/ Provided alwayes that yf yt shall fortune the said  
99 Alderman baylyffes and Stewarde for the tyme beinge not to com[m]ytt the said monye to  
be occupied in manne[r] and fourme aforesaide/ but doe deteine the  
100 same in their owne handes and occupac[i]on by the space of three monethes, then I will  
that yt shalbe lawfull unto myne heires or the nexte of kynne for the  
101 tyme being forever to demande have and recover the said som[m]e of Twenty Poundes  
and every parte and percell thereof of the said aldermen  
102 baylyffes or stewarde which soe shall detaine the somme unto his and their proper use  
and behowfe anye legacye or bequeaste before expressed to the contrarye  
103 thereof notwithstandinge / Item I give to the reader of the mo[r]nyng prayer iiij by the  
yeare soe longe as the said mornynge prayer shalbe used  
104 accordinglye as nowe it is and not longer/ and the said some of iiij to be paid quarterlye  
oute of the howse wherein nowe I dwell/ and for not payment  
105 thereof I will that it shalbe lawfull for the said Reader into the same howse to enter and  
distraine and the same ditresses soe taken to leade dunne  
106 or carry awaye and the same to detaine and keepe untill the said yearelye rent of foure  
shillings with thacerages thereof yf any bee, be unto the said  
107 Reader fullye contented and paid/ Item I will that myne executo[r] hereafter to be named  
shall yearelye paye unto Johanne my Wyfe or to suche as  
108 shall have the bringinge upp of my Younge children tyll they come to twelve yeares of  
age Fourtye shillings a peece and my said executo[r] to have  
109 the use and proffitte of their Landes tyll they come to that age, he maintayninge the  
reparac[i]ons of the howses duringe the said tyme and when  
110 theye shall come to thage of twelve yeares to bestowe them with their stockes to some  
honest maister that will bounde to give them their owne  
111 with reasonable encrease. The resydue of all my landes, Tenementes and goodes cattelles  
moveable and unmoveable unbequeathed my debtes paide  
112 and my funeralles dischargd/ I give unto my sonne Edmund Silvester whome I doe  
ordaine and appointe soale executo[r] of this my laste will and  
113 Testament/ Item I doe ordaine and appointe my welbeloved Frendes my brother Thomas  
Tayler of Witney and Richard Reynoldes of burforde  
114 Oversears of this my present testament and I give them for their paines xiiij ijd a pece/  
Thus have I fynnysshed this my said laste will

115 the eleaventh daye of Januarye in the yeare of our Lorde firste writtenn// theese beareinge  
witness Thomas Dampore clerke John hyerne  
116 Robert Evereste by me Edmonde Sylvester.  
117 Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum coram magistro Waltero Haddon legum  
doctore vice Prerogative cantuariensis  
118 commissario apud London decimo quarto die Februarij Anno domini Millesimo  
quingentesimo sexagesimo octavo/ Juramento Edmundi Sylvester  
119 executor in Testamento hui.. cro.../ Cui commiss.. fuit Administra... omnium et  
singulorum bonorum etc. de bene etc. Ad sancta dei Evangelia Jurat.

[*Summary of Latin Probate*]

Probate granted in London by Walter Haddon

14<sup>th</sup> February 1568 to Edmund Sylvester, Executor

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