

William Upton of Newnham, yeoman, 1655

Ref: TNA PROB 11/244/294

In the name of God Amen I William Upton of Newnham in the county of Southampton yeoman, being in perfect health and memory, the Lord be therefore praised, do make, constitute and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following. **First** and above all things I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God my Heavenly Father in full assurance of a joyful resurrection through the only merits of his blessed Son Christ Jesus, and my body to be buried in Newnham aforesaid. **Also** I give and bequeath unto the poor people of the parish of Newnham ten shillings. **Also** I give and bequeath towards the necessary repairing of Newnham church six shillings and eight pence. **Also** I give and bequeath six shillings and eight pence to be bestowed in the necessary mending of Bridge Lane in Newnham aforesaid at the discretion of the surveyors of the highways for the said parish that shall happen to be in the summer next after my decease. **Also** I will and my mind is that all my lands and tenements of what nature soever they be shall be and remain unto my son James Upton and his heirs forever from and immediately after my decease. **And it** is also my mind and intent that my said son James shall pay unto each of the children of Justinian Upton my brother that shall be living within one year after my decease twelve pence, and shall likewise pay within one year after my decease twelve pence to each of the children of Rowland Upton my brother that shall be then living, and shall further pay unto the children of William Goodyer of Up Natley within one year after my decease twelve pence to each of them that shall be then living, and shall likewise pay unto each of my godchildren twelve pence apiece. **And it** is my full mind will and intent that if my said son James shall happen to die and depart this present life not having any heirs of his body lawfully begotten, that then all my aforesaid lands and tenements shall be and remain unto John Upton, the son of the said Justinian Upton my brother, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten forever upon condition that he, the said John Upton, shall well and truly pay within one year after the decease of my said son James unto each of the other children of my said brother Justinian ten pounds of current English money, and shall further pay within two years after the decease of my said son James unto each of the children of my said brother Rowland Upton that shall be then living likewise ten pounds of current money, and shall likewise pay within three years next after the decease of my said son James unto each of the children of the said William Goodyer that shall be then living, also ten pounds of like current money.

And lastly I do nominate and appoint my said son James to be my sole executor of this my last will and testament and I do hereby will and appoint him to give and allow unto John Goodchild and his wife my servants, six pounds yearly wages and their meat and drink and meat and drink for their two children according as now they have of me for so long time as they, my said servants shall accept thereof upon condition and in full assurance that they shall be laborious in doing his service as now they are in doing mine and be also ready to guide and assist him in his business in as much as in them lies. **And** I do desire my two loving friends Mr Francis Tilney of Rotherwick in the county of Southampton and Richard Make of Medstead in the said county yeoman, to being overseers to see this my last will and testament performed according as I have herein willed and devised. **And for** their pains and care therein I give unto them ten shillings apiece. **In witness** whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the twenty second day of February in the year of Our Lord Christ according

to the English account one thousand six hundred fifty and two. William Upton his mark. Witnesses hereunto John Rainger Senior, John Sex, Edward Evered his mark.

This will was proved at London the fourteenth of July in the year of our Lord God one thousand six hundred fifty and five before the judges for probate of wills and granting administrations lawfully authorized by the oath of James Upton the natural and lawful son of William Upton late of Newnham in the county of Southampton yeoman deceased, and sole executor named in this last will and testament of the said William Upton deceased, to whom was committed administration of all and singular the goods, chattels and debts of the said deceased [sp..] the said James Upton the son and executor of the said deceased being first legally sworn by virtue of a commission well and truly to administer the same.