

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 30 July 1549 and proved 16 May 1552, of Sylvester Danvers (b.1518) of Dauntsey, Wiltshire, whose son, Sir John Danvers (1540-1594) purchased Oxford's manor of Christian Malford (see TNA C 2/Eliz/D4/46), and whose daughter-in-law, Elizabeth (nee Neville) Danvers (1545x50-1630), was Oxford's kinswoman and the mother of Sir Charles Danvers (c.1568-1601), executed for his part in the Essex Rebellion in 1601. Sir Charles Danvers' lands escheated to the Crown after his attainder, and Oxford was involved in an attempt to secure those lands for the Queen (see TNA SP 12/279/123, f. 225 and related documents).

The testator was the only son of Sir Thomas Danvers and his wife, Margaret Courtenay, the youngest daughter of Sir William Courtenay (d.1512), of Powderham Castle, Devon, and his wife Cicely Cheney, the daughter of Sir John Cheney of Pincourt. In 1537 the testator married Elizabeth Mordaunt, the second daughter of Sir John Mordaunt, 1st Baron Mordaunt of Turvey, and by her had three sons, Sir John, Henry and Anthony, and three daughters, Anne, Ursula and Elizabeth, all of whom survived him. The testator's bequest mentioning 'the sum of two hundred pounds which I bequeathed to Margery, my daughter', suggests that he had a fourth daughter, Margery, who predeceased him. By his second wife, Elizabeth Reade, the daughter of William Raede of Milton, the testator had a son, Giles, whose birth is anticipated in the will below.

For the foregoing, see the pedigree between pp. 102-3 in Macnamara, F.N., *Memorials of the Danvers Family*, (London: Hardy & Page, 1895), and pp. 282-4.

The testator's executor, Walter Hungerford (d.1595x7), was the son of Walter Hungerford (1503-1540), Baron Hungerford of Heytesbury, who had been married to the testator's aunt, Susan Danvers. See the pedigree in Macnamara, *supra*, and the entries in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*:

*Hungerford, Walter, Baron Hungerford of Heytesbury (1503–1540), alleged traitor, was the only child of Sir Edward Hungerford (d. 1522) of Farleigh Hungerford, Somerset, and his first wife, Jane, daughter of John, Lord Zouche, of Harringworth. He married first Susan, daughter of Sir John Danvers of Dauntsey, Wiltshire; second, in 1527, Alice, daughter of William, Lord Sandys, of the Vine; and third, in October 1532, Elizabeth (d. 1554), daughter of John, Lord Hussey of Sleaford. . . .*

*Sir Walter Hungerford (d. 1595x7), first son of Walter, Baron Hungerford, and his third wife, Elizabeth Hussey, was popularly named 'the knight of Farley' in recognition of his sporting prowess. The younger Walter, who like his father had been in the service of Thomas Cromwell, was restored in blood in 1542 and recovered the greater part of the Hungerford estate in 1554 at his marriage to Anne Basset, a maid of honour to Mary I. He was knighted in 1554 and sat in parliament for Wiltshire (1554) and for Bodmin, Cornwall (1558). . . .*

The testator's executor, Sir Anthony Hungerford (c. 1485-1559) of Down Ampney, Gloucestershire, was the husband of the testator's aunt, Dorothy Danvers (d.1557x9). See the pedigree in Macnamara, *supra*.

RM: T{estamentum} Silvestri Danvers

In the name of God, Amen. The year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred forty and nine the 30th day of July in the third year of the reign of our victorious King Edward the Sixth by the grace of God King of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, and of the Church of England and Ireland Supreme Head, I, Sylvester Danvers of Dauntsey in the county of Wiltshire, esquire, whole of mind and perfect memory, thanks be given to God of whom I know all goods, bounty and mercy to come of him, make this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to the only mercy of the Trinity, the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost, in whom I do unfeignedly believe without any ambiguitie [=ambiguity(?)], doubt or question, and by the passion of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, th' only begotten Son of the Father, I only hope to be saved, and by none else;

First for my movable goods, all my movable [+and?] unmovable goods and chattels as sheep, oxen, kine, with all stuff of household in any manner of wise being, remaining, pasturing or going in my manor or house of Prescote in the parish of Cropredy in the county of Oxford, I give and bequeath to Elizabeth Danvers, my loving wife, forever;

And further I give & bequeath my wife one nest of white silver goblets being parcel gilt with a cover;

Item, if the said Elizabeth, my wife, be with child and delivered hereafter of a male or man-child, that then my will and bequest is that the said male child shall enjoy, possess and have my lease and years of certain downs and pastures for sheep, thone called Hempes lands, thother called Theven down, set, lying and being in the parish of Bishops Cannings in the county of Wiltshire, which downs and pastures I, the said Sylvester Danvers, have by indenture of Edward Baynton, gentleman, bearing date x<sup>o</sup> die Aprilis Anno secundo Regni Regis Edwardi Sexti, as by the said indenture more at large it doth appear, with all my stock of ewes, hogs and wethers going and pasturing in the same;

And if it be a female and woman-child, that then I give and bequeath out of the said stock and lease above specified the sum of £266 13s 4d of good and lawful money of England to the marriage & preferment of the said female and woman-child;

And if it fortune my said wife to have none nother male nor female of my body lawfully begotten, that then I give the said lease and downs above-written with all the stock thereupon to the preferment of all my daughters of my first wife begotten, to be equally divided among them;

Item, I give to my eldest daughter, Anne Danvers, to her marriage the sum of £266 13s 4d;

And to Elizabeth and Ursula, my daughters, every of them the sum of two hundred pounds to their marriages;

And if it fortune any of my said daughters to die before they or any of them be married, that then her part that so dieth to revert and come amongst the rest of my daughters;

Item, I give to my son, John Danvers, the sum of one hundred thirty-three pounds six shillings and eight pence which William Reade of Mytton within the county of Gloucester, esquire, oweth me, as appeareth by his writings to me made therein;

The rest of my goods not above bequeathed I give to John Danvers, my eldest son, whom with my uncle, Anthony Hungerford, knight, Walter Hungerford [+and?] Edward Baynard, esquires, I make my sole executors of this my last will and testament;

In witness whereof I, the said Sylvester Danvers, to this my present will and testament have subscribed my name and put to my seal the day and year abovesaid in the presence of Walter Hungerford, Edward Baynard, esquires, and George Worthe, gentleman.

RM: Vltima vol{untas} eiusd{em}

This is the last will and testament of me, Sylvester Danvers, esquire, of all my lands, tenements and hereditaments that I have in possession or reversion within the counties of Wiltshire, Oxford and Cornwall:

First, the King's most excellent Majesty to have his Grace's use during the minority of John Danvers, my son, or other my children if the said John do die, during every of their minority or minorities the full and entire third sum of all my lands and possessions that I have in possession or reversion according to the statute therein provided:

First, whereas the entire and whole sum of all my lands in the counties abovesaid being at this present in possession amounteth to the sum of £252 18d, I will the King's Majesty to have all my lands & tenements called or known by the name or names of Mayen{er}, Senteleck, Bynsey, Boskege, Wyu{er}, Gevlmayowe, Pesantynewe, Lanvel, Hendy in Trygge, Tremateney, Maneley, Tothall, Trevant, Treonevell, Sey{n}twa, Tregustok, Lamboeu{er}, Trevenell, Treleyne, Trekamide [f. 104r] Trevangare [=Trevanger?], Eglos, Hayll, Trebowher, Chywarwyn{er}, Saynt lorayne, Boshaberthine, Treboreke, set, lying and being within the county of Cornwall, the total sum whereof is £59 10s 5d ob q{ua} over and above one annuity of £20 going out of the said lands above-written, to my mother, Margaret Danvers, widow, by the grant of my grandmother, Anne Danvers, deceased, who was sole inheritor thereof, and also the rent of the farm of Morkedeu{er}

in the county of Wiltshire, the sum of £20 2s yearly, and also the said rent of £8 13s 4d of my farm and lands of Bermingham within the said county, the total sum of all, £87 9s 1d ob half-farthing;

The second part touching my lands for the payment of my debts, the sums of money for my children[‘s] marriages, annuities of my children, kinsmen, friends and servants, I will to be levied, provided and taken out of my manor of Dauntsey within the county of Wiltshire; the sum of the rent yearly is one hundred fifteen pounds twelve shillings ten pence, out of the which sum I will and give to my wife, Elizabeth, as recompense of her dower £20 yearly out of my foresaid manor of Dauntsey to and with my manor and mansion house of Prescote within the county of Oxford, the value whereof is threescore pound, during her natural life;

Item, I give out of the said manor of Dauntsey one annual rent of £20 to my cousin, Walter Hungerford, to endure by the space of one whole year, and my white trotting gelding;

Item, to Sir Anthony Hungerford, knight, ten pound of money;

Item, to Edward Baynard ten pounds of money, for their pains taken about this my last will and testament;

Item I give unto my youngest son, Anthony Danvers, of my first wife begotten, my manor of Winterbourne Dauntsey in the county of Wiltshire, the value whereof is £8, to the said Anthony and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of issue male of the said Anthony, to the right heirs of me, Sylvester Danvers, forever;

Item, I give to Anne, Elizabeth and Ursula, my daughters, and to every of them, till such time as they shall come to th’ age of 21 years or be married, every one of them one annual and yearly rent of four pounds going out of my foresaid manor of Dauntsey;

Item, I give to my second son, Henry Danvers, one annual rent of £13 6s 8d going out of a lease or pasture called Saint Annes lease within my manor of Smythcote during the life natural of George Worthe by indenture for term of his life, and after his decease and death of the said George Worthe, I will the said Henry Danvers to enjoy the said lease and pasture before-named for the term and space of 60 years, yielding and paying yearly to th’ heirs of me, Sylvester Danvers, the foresaid sum of £13 6s 8d during the space of the foresaid term;

Item, I will that after the death of William Saye that my youngest [+son?], Anthony Danvers, shall have the house that the said William dwelleth in, to the said Anthony Danvers, my son, during the space of 21 years, yielding and paying all such rents as the said William Saye now payeth to me, Sylvester Danvers, during the space of the said term of 21 years above rehearsed;

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Item, I give and bequeath to George Worthe, my servant, my sorrel gelding and his mare that I bought last of him;

Item, I give to Robert Buckull, the register, my gray trotting mare that was bought in Dorsetshire;

Item, Robert Hayes my grey trotting gelding Norborne;

Item, John Sewell my black curtal called Nicholas;

Item, John Mychell my grey ambling colt that I bought of George Worthe;

Item, to Roger Medyns my dun trotting flaxen mane gelding;

Item, Harry Neale my grey curtal that I had of my sister, Anne Wykes, widow;

Item, Thomas Ball my white mare ambling;

Item, Baldwyn Lee my grey horse;

Item, John Hawtyne my trotting gelding that I bought of Fowler;

Item, to Webbe my ambling horse, colour bay, called Gildu(?);

Item, John Knappe my grey ambling nag bought of Sir John;

Item, Christopher Brages my bay mare that I had of my brother Wykes;

Item, Thomas Lee my young bay mare;

Item, I give Robert Albyn my bay mare that I bought of George Worthe;

Item, I give to Thomas Mychell my wall-eyed (blank);

Item, I give to Thomas Potyfer, my servant, my young black mare;

Item, to Barnarde, my servant(?), my grey nag called Legeasage;

And as many of my horses, mares, colts not above bequeathed remaining in my manor of Dauntsey I give to Elizabeth, my wife;

In witness whereof as above is declared I have put my hand and seal the day and year abovesaid. Witnesses knowing the same. This is the last will and testament made the 30th day of July in the third year of our Sovereign Lord King Edward the Sixth, willing them(?) to stand in effect in all points, trusting that Elizabeth, my wife, will not go about to alter nothing comprised there in my will, and if she do, then I will that all my movable

goods granted to her shall revert to the marriage of my daughters, that the lands which I have bequeathed to the marriage of them may the sooner come to th' use of John Danvers, my son;

Item, I give to the child that my wife goeth withal the sum of two hundred pounds which I bequeathed to Margery, my daughter, *prout in eadem vltima voluntate plenius continentur* &c.

[f. 105r] Probatum fuit testamentum coram domino Cantuariensis archiepiscopo apud London xvjo die Mensis Maij Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo quiinquagesimo secundo Iuramento domini Hungerford militis Executoris in huiusmodi testamento nominati Cui commissa fuit administratio omnium bonorum &c defuncti prefati executori De bene &c Ac de pleno Inuentorio &c Exhibendo Ad sancta dei Evangelia Iurat Reseruat potestate reliquis executoribus in huiusmodi stoc(?) &c cum venerit [sic?]

[=The testament was proved before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the 16th day of the month of May in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-second by the oath of Sir [+Anthony?] Hungerford, knight, executor named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all the goods etc. of the said deceased to the forenamed executor, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., and to exhibit a full inventory etc., with power reserved to the rest of the executors [+named?] in the same [+testament?] when they shall have come.]