

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the nuncupative will, made 9 September 1615 and probated 4 October 1615, of John Bowser, son and heir of Richard Bowser (d.1586), who purchased the manor of Sheriffs from Oxford. For the fine, dated 29 June 1584, by which title to Sheriffs passed from Oxford to Richard Bowser, see TNA CP 25/2/132/1694/26ELIZITRIN, Item 24.

In the schedule of debts accompanying the indenture of 30 January 1575 drawn up by Oxford before he left on his continental tour (see ERO D/Drg2/25), the following amounts appear as owing by Oxford to Richard Bowser, presumably representing purchases from Bowser in his trade as a saddler:

To Richard Bowser	£240
To Richard Bowser	£22 2s

It seems likely that Oxford sold his manor of Sheriffs to Richard Bowser in payment of these debts.

After his father's death, the testator inherited the manor of Sheriffs. For a lawsuit in Chancery brought by Roger Harlakenden (d.1603) against the testator in 1594 concerning a parcel of land called the Galle belonging to Oxford's former manor of Sheriff's, see TNA C 3/242/4.

In 1605 the testator sold the manor of Sheriffs to Lawrence Caldwell (see <http://generation13.net/Celticumbria-eastofengland/colneengaine5.html>), and in connection with this sale, on 15 November 1605 he assigned to Caldwell the recognizance in the amount of £210 which Oxford had made to Richard Bowser (d.1586) on 26 June 1584 in connection with the sale of the manor of Sheriffs (see ERO D/DSx/475).

RM: Testamentum Iohannis Bowssar

Memorandum, that John Bowser, citizen and vintner of London, who died and deceased the tenth day of September in the year of Our Lord God a thousand six hundred and fifteen in the parish of Mitcham in the county of Surrey, and the ninth day of the said month and year, being of perfect mind and memory, and with intention and meaning to make and declare his will, did declare and make his last will and testament nuncupative by word of mouth in these or the like words in effect following, viz., he appointed his loving wife, Mrs Jane Bowser, his sole and only executrix, and willed and bequeathed to her the one half of all his goods, cattles, chattels and whatsoever he had unto him belonging, and the other half he then willed and bequeathed unto and amongst his eight children, part and part like between them equally to be divided, in the presence of Mr Richard Slater, Master of Arts and Vicar of Mitcham in the county of Surrey, and Mr James Traves, gentleman, of the parish of Mitcham aforesaid, and divers others.

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram Magistro Iohanne Amye legum doctore Surrogato venerabilis viri Domini Iohannis Benet militis legum etiam doctoris Curie Prerogatiue Cantuariensis Magistri Custodis siue Commissarij legitime constituti Quarto die Mensis Octobris Anno Domini millesimo sexcentesimo decimo quinto Iuramento Jane Bowser Relicte dicti defuncti et executricis in eodem Testamento nominate Cui commissa fuit Administracio bonorum Iurium et Creditorum dicti defuncti De bene et fideliter administrando &c ad sancta Dei Evangelia Iurate Examinatum

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before Master John Amye, Doctor of the Laws, Surrogate of the worshipful Sir John Bennet, knight, also Doctor of the Laws, lawfully constituted Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the fourth day of the month of October in the year of the Lord the thousand six hundred fifteenth by the oath of Jane Bowser, relict of the said deceased and executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer etc. Examined.]