

# **Oxford's First Quaker Meeting Place: The Home of the Surgeon Richard Bettris (c.1606-1682)**

**by  
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In 1979 New Road Baptist Church, Oxford was granted a 125-year lease on an adjoining house at 1 New Inn Hall Street (see Figure 1). The property is a substantial three-storey building dating to the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century, and it has a long history of association with Dissenters in the city. As best can be determined, the dwelling was originally built in the early 1650s by a surgeon named Richard Bettris (sometimes spelled Bettrice or Betterice, or even Bettridge), who was well known in Oxford as a follower of the Quaker movement. The property itself was immediately adjacent to the local parish church of St. Peter-in-the-Bailey; indeed, the south-side windows of the property looked directly on to the church yard. Several other prominent Dissenters, including Ralph Austen, the Registrar of the Parliamentary Visitors (1647-1653), lived in the immediate vicinity of New Inn Hall Street, which at the time was occasionally called the Lane of the Seven Deadly Sins.

Fortunately, some early documents from the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century relating to the Bettris property have recently come to light, notably three rental agreements (or 'indentures') from 1676, 1684 and 1690, the final will and testament of a member of the Bettris family which was composed in 1684, and a final court decree pertaining to the property which was issued by the Court of Common Pleas in Westminster in London in 1690.<sup>1</sup> These five documents demonstrate the involvement of the Bettris family with the Oxford property for nearly 30 years.

The purpose of this study is to make the contents of these hitherto unpublished documents available for those interested in Oxford's early Quaker history. The full text (and, where appropriate, translation) of these documents will be offered as Appendices 3, 6, 9, 10 and 11) below. These will be supplemented by the full text (and translation) of six additional documents, one in the Friends Library, London (Appendix 1), one in the Bodleian Library, Oxford (Appendix 2), and four from the National Archives, London (Appendices 4, 5, 7, 8), all of which are associated with the Bettris family. Collectively these eleven documents present a rare and unexpected insight into the life of the Bettris family, who owned and occupied the house in the centre of Oxford in the earliest days of the Quaker movement. However, in order to appreciate more fully the significance of these new primary sources a brief introductory discussion of Richard Bettris and his family as a first-generation Quaker presence in Oxford is in order.

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<sup>1</sup> I purchased these documents from Sylvan Manuscripts in Norwich within public E-bay auctions held in February-May and December of 2006.



Figure 1: The Bettris House at 1 New Inn Hall Street, Oxford (2003)

## 1. Richard Bettris and the Establishment of a Quaker Presence in Oxford

Early records of the Quakers associate the surgeon Richard Bettris with the establishment of a Quaker presence in Oxford, noting that his house was the first gathering place for such meetings. The Oxford antiquarian Anthony Wood (1632-1695) stated that the Quakers arrived in Oxford in 1654 and ‘had their meetings in an old stone-house, almost opposite to the com[m]on gate of New Inne (in w[hi]ch Rich[ard] Beatrice, chirurgian and Quaker, then lived).’<sup>2</sup> Another early summary of Quaker history (probably compiled in 1706) similarly noted that Bettris’s house was the first meeting place for Quakers in the city. It also records the role that Jane Bettris, Richard’s wife, had in helping to support those originally responsible for bringing the Quaker message to Oxford:

Oxford – Some of y<sup>e</sup> first y<sup>t</sup> published of y<sup>e</sup> Truth in Oxford  
was Eliz[a]b[eth] Fletcher & Mary homs & next was John  
Audland & J[oh]n Cam & was Rec[eive]d by Jane Bettres  
and Mary Clow[e]r. Y<sup>e</sup> first setteld meeting place  
was at Rich[ar]d Bettras hous ~~till we built~~ a meeting  
hous was builded hear in y<sup>e</sup> year 1689.<sup>3</sup>

A contemporary artist’s depiction of Bettris’s house, which shows its proximity to the parish church of St Peter-in-the-Bailey, can be seen in David Loggan’s *Oxonia Illustrata* (1675) (see Figure 2). Fortunately, there is even a record of when worship services were conducted in the Bettris’s home, although these were regularly interrupted by rude and abusive students (see Appendix 1).<sup>4</sup> This account, which was

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<sup>2</sup> Wood’s remark is found in an annotation he made to his copy of *Here Followeth a True Relation of Some of the Sufferings Inflicted upon the Servants of the Lord who are Called Quakers* (1654); the copy is in the Bodleian Library, Oxford (Wood 515 (14)). Wood’s note is cited in Andrew Clark *The Life and Times of Anthony Wood, Volume I: 1632-1663* (Oxford: Oxford Historical Society, 1891): 190. William C Braithwaite *The Beginnings of Quakerism to 1660* (William Sessions Ltd: York, second edition 1970): 297, and Stephen Allott *Friends in Oxford: The History of a Quaker Meeting* (Oxford Friends: Oxford, 1952): 3, mistakenly identify Bettris’s house as Frewin Hall, an Augustinian house in which Erasmus once stayed; Frewin Hall was located further north along New Inn Hall Street, and on the opposite side of the street to Bettris’s property. They both appear ultimately to be dependent upon Charles E Gillett, ‘The Early Quakers in Oxford’, *The Oxford Review* (12 June 1902): 4, for this error. Gillett himself was reliant upon Andrew Clark “*Survey of the Antiquities of the City of Oxford, composed in 1661-6, by Anthony Wood, Volume 2* (Oxford: Oxford Historical Society, 1890): 230. Clark was using Anthony Wood’s manuscript, designated *MS Wood F 29a*, where the crucial paragraph is found on folio 247a, and is part of the discussion about the foundations of the medieval St. Marie’s Colledge. The entry is dated 18 June 1661 and reads: ‘They having then obtained this house [St Marie’s], did afterwards in process of time much enlarge it with buildings both at y<sup>e</sup> entry into y<sup>e</sup> Little lane or alley leading from y<sup>e</sup> Highstreet thereunto, as also on y<sup>e</sup> other side all most opposite to Newin-hall, which building is yet standing & was employed not long since as a conventicle house for y<sup>e</sup> Quakers.’ Gillett misinterprets the ambiguously worded paragraph, and consequently misidentifies the location of the Betteris property. He appears to be driven by a romantic desire to tie Erasmus, William Penn and John Wesley all to a single geographical site (see his ‘The First Oxford Meeting-house and Its Historic Associations,’ *The British Friend* 12 (August 1903): 238, on this particular point). More recently, David M. Butler *The Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain, Volume II* (Friends Historical Society, London, 1991): 501, briefly discusses the Bettris house on New Inn Hall Street, but avoids the geographical error of the earlier Quaker historians.

<sup>3</sup> *First Publishers of Truth* (Portfolio 7), folio 63 verso. The subsequent ‘meeting house [which] was builded hear in y<sup>e</sup> year 1689’ refers to the Quaker property along St Giles, originally owned by Silas Norton.

<sup>4</sup> *First Publishers of Truth* (Portfolio 5/61), pages 1-3.

compiled in 1685 (see line 17), records that there were two weekly meetings, which took place on Sundays at 9:00 am and on Thursdays at 4:00 pm (see lines 20-22), and gives details of some of the cruelties endured by the worshippers who had gathered in the Bettris home. Richard Bettris is specifically mentioned twice in the document (lines 21 and 113), and it seems that Jane Bettris is alluded to once ('y<sup>e</sup> woman of y<sup>e</sup> house' in line 57).

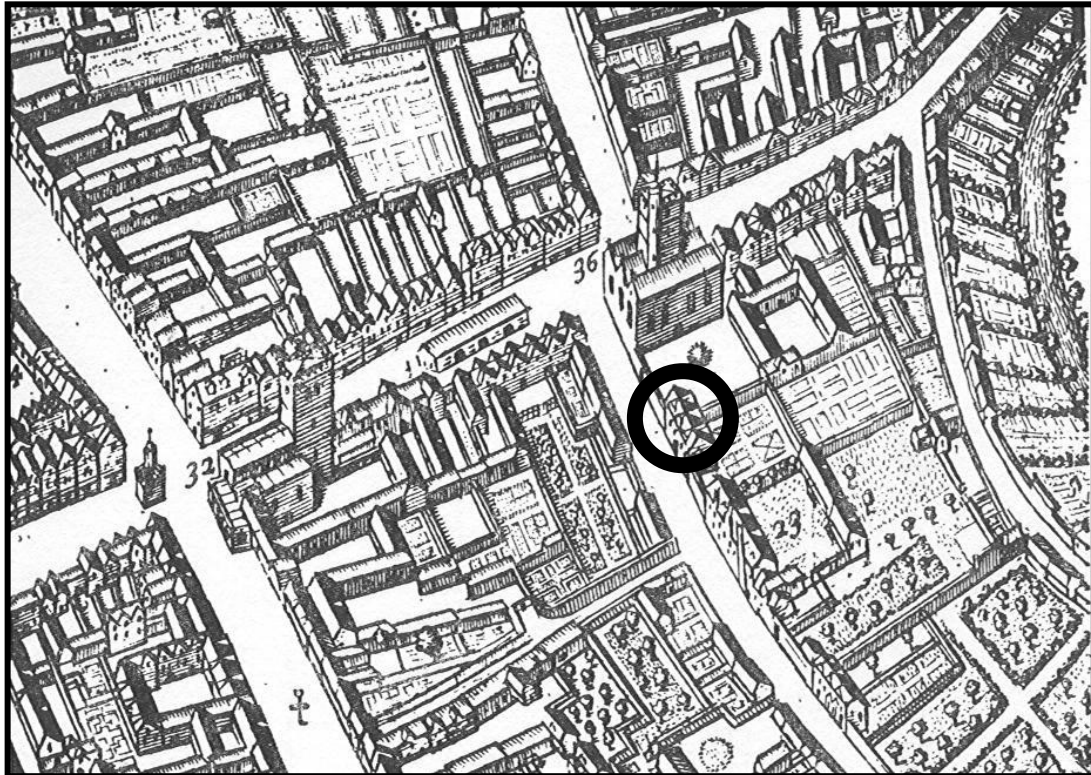


Figure 2: The location of the house of Richard Bettris in the parish of St Peter-in-the-Bailey, Oxford. Detail from David Loggan's *Oxonia Illustrata* (1675)

Some details of Richard Bettris's career, both as a physician and as a religious leader, are known. For example, he gained some early notoriety for his controversial support of, and care for, Parliamentary prisoners incarcerated by Charles I in the Oxford Castle during the Civil War in 1642-3. Bettris was even imprisoned himself by the vindictive jailor who was keen to make an example of what he felt was an interfering physician.<sup>5</sup> In 1654 he opened his home to the visiting preachers who first brought the Quaker message to the city, notably Richard Hubberthorne, John Camm, Humphry Smith, and William Simpson.<sup>6</sup> In addition, accounts of his mistreatment by Oxford students in the 1650s,<sup>7</sup> and a thirteen-month period of imprisonment in 1661-2

<sup>5</sup> A number of tracts and pamphlets discuss Bettris's role in this, including Edmund Chillenden *The Inhumanity of the Kings Prison-Keeper at Oxford* (1642); *A True and Most Sad Relation of the Hard and Exxtrem [sic] Cruelty* (1642); Edward Wirley *The Prisoner's Report* (1643).

<sup>6</sup> *First Publishers of Truth* (Portfolio 7), folio 64 verso-64a recto.

<sup>7</sup> Accounts of the abuses inflicted by students upon Quakers can be found in *First Publishers of Truth* (Portfolio 7), folios 64 recto-65 verso; *Here Followeth a True Relation of Some of the Sufferings*

at the hands of Richard Bayley, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford,<sup>8</sup> demonstrate that Bettris continued to be an object of derision throughout the Interregnum and into the reign of Charles II. He was frequently cited to appear before civic and ecclesiastical courts for his activities against the established church. Bettris was indicted on 7 October 1658 for disturbing a minister who was preaching in a worship service at the parish church of St Giles in the northern outskirts of the city (he was fined £5 for the incident).<sup>9</sup> On 26 July 1662 Bettris was cited for failure to support his local parish church (St Peter-in-the-Bailey), and was accused of ‘absenting from prayers & sermons for y<sup>e</sup> yeare paste & neglecting Min[ister’s] dues & baptism of his childe’.<sup>10</sup> On 17 January 1664 the city bayliffes and constables arrested three Quakers for holding a meeting at Bettris’s house; they were brought before the mayor and committed to the city prison for various offences.<sup>11</sup> Eventually these Dissenting activities led to him being formally excommunicated from the Church of England on 7 February 1664.<sup>12</sup> Despite this, Bettris continued as an active Dissenter. In 1668 a meeting taking place at Bettris’s house, led by Cuthbert Hayhurst, was interrupted by order of the Vice-Chancellor of the University; Hayhurst was taken to the city prison where he was incarcerated for one month.<sup>13</sup> Bettris was present at another meeting which took place at his house on 2 June 1670, and was broken up by Peter Mews (1619-1706), Vice-Chancellor of the University, who was notoriously zealous in his prosecution of Dissenters.<sup>14</sup> Bettris was fined £20 for his involvement in the incident, which dragged on for months afterwards in the courts, and eventually was subjected to an additional order of distraining of his goods by Mews.<sup>15</sup> In 1675 Bettris was again fined £20 for holding a meeting in his house; in this instance Stephen Smyth was preaching (he was also fined £20 for his involvement).<sup>16</sup> Most importantly, Bettris was inadvertently implicated in the trial and execution of the so-called ‘Whig martyr’ Stephen Colledge in Oxford in 1681. Colledge had specifically requested that Bettris be allowed to visit him in his prison cell in the Oxford Castle as he awaited execution for treason, but the request was refused by court officials.<sup>17</sup>

Bettris continued to be active in Quaker activities in Oxford right up to the end of his life. Some of the last records of him are dated 5 October 1680 and 11 February 1681 and concern his hosting two meetings of those appointed by the Quarterly

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*Inflicted upon the Servants of the Lord who are Called Quakers* (1654); Richard Hubberthorne *A True Testimony of the Zeal of Oxford-Professors and University-Men* (1654): 1-4; and Joseph Besse *A Collection of the Sufferings of the People Called Quakers, Volume 1* (1753): 565-6.

<sup>8</sup> *First Publishers of Truth* (Portfolio 5/62), page 1; *An Abstract of the Sufferings of the People Call’d Quakers, Volume III* (1733): 31; Joseph Besse *A Collection of the Sufferings of the People Called Quakers, Volume 1* (1753): 569. Richard Bailey was Vice-Chancellor in 1630, 1637 and 1661.

<sup>9</sup> *Petty Sessions Roll – 1656-1676* (O.5.11), folio 19 recto. Also see *First Publishers of Truth* (Portfolio 5/62), page 1.

<sup>10</sup> *Oxford Diocesan Records: Excommunications – 1633-1791* (c. 99), folio 238 recto.

<sup>11</sup> *First Publishers of Truth* (Portfolio 5/62), page 3.

<sup>12</sup> *Oxford Diocesan Records – Excommunications: 1662-1667* (c. 100), folios 2 recto and verso. The full text and translation of this Latin document can be found in my ‘*Seditious Sectaryes*’: *The Baptist Conventiclers of Oxford, 1641-1691* (Studies in Baptist History and Thought Volume 30.2; Milton Keynes: Paternoster Press, 2006): 793-795.

<sup>13</sup> Joseph Besse *A Collection of the Sufferings of the People Called Quakers, Volume 1* (1753): 571.

<sup>14</sup> Peter Mews was Vice-Chancellor from 1669-1673.

<sup>15</sup> *First Publishers of Truth* (Portfolio 5/62), pages 4-5 (the date given for this is given in error as 1668).

<sup>16</sup> Stephen Allott *Friends in Oxford: The History of a Quaker Meeting* (Oxford Friends: Oxford, 1952): 8, gives details of this incident.

<sup>17</sup> See my ‘*Seditious Sectaryes*’: *The Baptist Conventiclers of Oxford, 1641-1691* (Studies in Baptist History and Thought Volume 30.1; Milton Keynes: Paternoster Press, 2006): 56-9.

Meeting to assist Quakers who were being presented at the Oxford Quarter Sessions court as Papists.<sup>18</sup> In terms of wealth and social standing Richard Bettris was the most successful Quaker in Oxford, and he dedicated his available resources to the religious cause.<sup>19</sup>

Throughout his colourful career Richard Bettris had an excellent and capable partner in the form of his wife Jane (sometimes known as Jeane). Indeed, there are several records detailing her own work among the Quakers in Oxford, including her being among those who came to the aid of some Quaker women who were badly treated by Oxford students in 1654, and her confronting the Vice-Chancellor John Owen<sup>20</sup> about the maltreatment and imprisonment of a Quaker preacher in the Oxford gaol.<sup>21</sup> She made a similar appearance before Vice-Chancellor John Fell on 9 November 1662 when her son John was among a group of four Quakers who were taken at a meeting held at the Bettris house.<sup>22</sup> On 2 June 1670 she was confronted by Vice-Chancellor Peter Mews, who, accompanied by a number of other university officials, entered a meeting taking place in her house hosted by her husband (see the discussion above). Mews demanded to know what was going on, and was met by the silence of the worshippers. Eventually Jane Bettris told him that they were ‘there mett in the feare of God’, much to the irritation of the Vice-Chancellor, who collected the names of those present.<sup>23</sup> Another account of the incident relates, ‘Jane Betteress & her daughter [Anne] Olive were fined £5 a piece & one of y<sup>e</sup> overseers takeing Pitty (most of their goods being taken before) laid down y<sup>e</sup> Money.’<sup>24</sup> Occasionally Jane Bettris’s name appears in print in connection with her religious activities. Her name is the first in a list of 112 women and daughters from Oxford who in 1659 sent to Parliament a petition against the injustice of church tithes.<sup>25</sup> Clearly, the city of Oxford was the focal point of most of Richard and Jane Bettris’s political and religious activity, although there is some evidence of Jane’s activity further afield within Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire<sup>26</sup> and Marlborough in Wiltshire. According to one source, in 1656 in the market-town of Marlborough Jane Bettris and Mary Loe were arrested for preaching in the parish church. The women were committed to the town prison where ‘the Gaoler put [them] into the Dungeon, to prevent their speaking to the People through the Grate.’<sup>27</sup> The connection to Mary Loe is intriguing, for she was the wife of Thomas Loe of Oxford, the influential preacher renowned for having brought William Penn to Quakerism. However, when exactly Penn was converted to

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<sup>18</sup> *Oxfordshire Quarterly Meeting – 1671-1746 – Men’s Minutes* (D/F 2 A 2/1), folios 20 verso and 21 recto.

<sup>19</sup> According to one record from December 1679, Bettris was named as the only Quaker in Oxford who was a freeholder whose estate was worth 40 shillings per annum (*Oxfordshire Quarterly Meeting – 1671-1746 – Men’s Minutes* (D/F 2 A 2/1), folio 18 verso).

<sup>20</sup> John Owen was Vice-Chancellor from 1652-7.

<sup>21</sup> *First Publishers of Truth* (Portfolio 7), folios 64 recto and 65 recto.

<sup>22</sup> *First Publishers of Truth* (Portfolio 5/62), page 2.

<sup>23</sup> *First Publishers of Truth* (Portfolio 5/62), pages 4-6.

<sup>24</sup> *Oxfordshire Quarterly Meeting – Sufferings – 1654-1789* (D/F 2 A 2/5), folio 19 recto. Joseph Besse *A Collection of the Sufferings of the People Called Quakers, Volume 1* (1753): 572, has a brief account of the incident, but mistakenly describes Jane Bettris as a widow. Besse does not give the name of the daughter, who was called Anne and was married to Humphrey Olliffe (see below).

<sup>25</sup> The petition was published in *These Severall Papers Was Sent to the Parliament* (1659): 46. Jane and Richard’s twelve-year old daughter Anna is also included among the 112 names in the petition.

<sup>26</sup> Jane Bettris published *A Lamentation for the Deceived People of the World* (1657), which was addressed to the inhabitants of Aylesbury and its surrounding villages. She may also have been behind the anonymous pamphlet *Spiritual Discoveries to the Overthrow of Popery Root and Branch* (1657).

<sup>27</sup> *An Abstract of the Sufferings of the People call’d Quakers for the Testimony of a Good Conscience, Volume 1* (London, 1733): 293, for a note about this.

Quakerism is a frequently debated issue. Commonly it is argued that Penn heard Thomas Loe preach in Ireland in 1667 and this was a key event in his becoming a Quaker.<sup>28</sup> However, it is possible that Penn came under the spell of Thomas Loe much earlier than this, perhaps when he was a sixteen year-old undergraduate in Christ Church in early 1661. Penn matriculated at Christ Church on 26 October 1660, and Loe is known to have been in Oxford immediately prior to his arrest and imprisonment in the Oxford Castle on 13 January 1661. If Penn did hear Loe preach in Oxford as a young student, then the most probable place for him to have done so was at the home of Richard and Jane Bettris in New Inn Hall Street.

Jane Bettris died in Oxford on 11 June 1675; the record of her death describes her as ‘an honourable woman in the truth & sufferer for it.’<sup>29</sup> Interestingly, both Richard and Jane Bettris are named as recusants from the parish of St Peter-in-the-Bailey in a list composed by the Bishop of Oxford, John Fell, in June of 1679.<sup>30</sup> There was clearly a lack of accurate information about Dissenters on the part of the ecclesiastical officials, and it is somewhat surprising. One would have thought that news about her death somehow would have filtered through to parish clerks during the course of the intervening four years. It is likely that Bishop Fell would have recognized the name of Richard Bettris, given that as a young man Richard had served as his father’s servant at Christ Church (more on this below).

We turn now to discuss other members of the Bettris family, and note some of the documentary evidence associating them with the property in New Inn Hall Street.

## 2. The Bettris Family and the House in New Inn Hall Street

Richard and Jane Bettris were long-time residents of the parish of St Peter-in-the-Bailey, and there are several tax records which attest to their living in the aforesaid house during the 1660s.<sup>31</sup> Interestingly, there are also some intriguing records from New College, Oxford of a legal wrangle that Richard Bettris had with a neighbour, a Baptist ex-military officer named Roger Hatchman, who lived in a house to the north (the dispute was over a dividing wall that separated their properties). The Oxford City Council appointed viewers to arbitrate in the matter in February of 1665,<sup>32</sup> and Hatchman and Bettris eventually signed an agreement settling their dispute on 10 April 1665.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> A tradition based primarily on the so-called Harvey Manuscript (which dates from 1729). On this matter, see ‘The Convincement of William Penn.’ *Journal of the Friends Historical Society* 32 (1935): 22-26.

<sup>29</sup> *First Publishers of Truth* (Portfolio 5/62), page 7.

<sup>30</sup> *Oxford Diocesan Records: Returns of Recusants – 1679-1706* (c. 430), folio 41 verso.

<sup>31</sup> Richard Bettris paid tax on four hearths on the property in the Hearth Taxes of Michaelmas 1662 (*Hearth Tax of August-November 1662* (E 179/255/4), Part 2, page 69 reverse), Michaelmas 1665 (*Hearth Tax of Michaelmas 1665* (E 179/164/513), membrane 28 verso) and Lady Day 1665 (*Hearth Tax of 24 April 1666* (E 179/164/514), membrane 23 verso). These Hearth Tax documents are all in the National Archives in London. There is also record of Bettris paying taxes collected on 24 June, 29 September, 21 December of 1667 and 26 March, 28 June, 26 September, and 26 December of 1668, while living in the property (*War Taxes – 1667-1668* (P.5.8), folios 7 verso, 27 verso, 51 recto, 72 verso, 76 recto, 94 verso, 112 recto).

<sup>32</sup> *Husting and Mayors Court 1665-1666* (M.4.5), folio 25 verso.

<sup>33</sup> This is discussed in my ‘Seditious Sectaries’: *The Baptist Conventiclers of Oxford, 1641-1691* (Studies in Baptist History and Thought Volume 30.1; Milton Keynes: Paternoster Press, 2006): 164-5. Bettris also held a lease on a tenement in the parish of St Thomas from November 1667 until March of 1678 (see H.E. Salter *Cartulary of Oseney Abbey, Volume 2* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1929): 519, for details).

On a more domestic level, what is known of the family circumstances of Richard and Jane Bettris? Unfortunately, there is no surviving record of their marriage, although it is likely that they were married sometime in the mid-1640s. The Poll Tax of 1667 lists the couple as having three children, but it does not give their names or ages.<sup>34</sup> As best can be determined, the couple had at least five children, although precise details of their dates of birth are largely unknown. These children were: Anne (or Anna), Richard, Sarah, John, and Edward (see the ‘Family Tree of Richard Bettris’ below). Some details are known about these five children, and we shall discuss them each briefly below, co-ordinating the discussion with the eleven primary source documents noted above. Insofar as is practical, these documents will be handled in chronological order, although it will make sense to begin the discussion with the one document of the eleven that comes from the hand of Richard Bettris himself.

a. Richard Bettris (c.1606-1682) – Patriarch of Oxford’s First Quaker Family

The earliest of our eleven aforementioned primary sources is Richard Bettris’s last will and testament, a parchment document extending over three folios (see Appendix 2). The document was signed on 14 August 1682 in the presence of four witnesses, all of whom were long-term Oxford residents. Bettris’s will is in the Bodleian Library as part of the University archives, although *how* it came to be there is something of a mystery. The most likely explanation is that its placement in the Bodleian was triggered by Bettris’s position as a member ‘of the University of Oxon’, an assertion that he makes in the opening statement of the will (lines 1-2).<sup>35</sup> Interestingly, there is record of Bettris matriculating in the University on 6 February 1629, at the age of 22. An entry within the official register of the University lists him as among the ‘Servientes’ (Servants), and records that he was matriculated when Dr Accepted Frewin was Vice-Chancellor. The entry, which offers the variant spelling of *Bettridge* for his name and tells us that his father was an Oxonian named John, reads:<sup>36</sup>

[Text]

Feb[ruarius] 6<sup>o</sup> [1629] Rich[ard]us Bettridge famulus Do[cto]ris Fell Oxon fil[ius] \_\_\_\_\_ 22  
 Joh[ann]is Bettridge de Oxon Pleb[eius] an[no] nat[ali]

[Translation]

February 6<sup>th</sup> [1629] Richard Bettridge, servant to Doctor Fell of Oxford, son \_\_\_\_\_ 22  
 of John Bettridge of Oxford, Commoner, in the year of his birth

It does not appear that Bettris ever pursued an academic career within Oxford; there is no record of him being granted a degree, and his name is not recorded within records of Christ Church where Doctor Samuel Fell (1584-1649) was Lady Margaret professor of divinity. In any event, Richard Bettris’s last will and testament remains the best illustration of his own desire to assert his connection to the University of Oxford.

<sup>34</sup> *Poll Tax of 1667* (P.5.7), folio 43 recto. Bettris paid £1 7s in tax, which included poll tax on himself, his wife, and three children (5s), a tax on £100 in money (£1), and tax on the 30s wages of a servant named Susanna Stewart (2s).

<sup>35</sup> *Will of Richard Bettris – 14 August 1682* (Oxford University Archives).

<sup>36</sup> *Registrum Matriculatam Universitatis Oxon – 1615-1647* (Oxford University Archives): folio 347 verso. Also see Joseph Foster *Alumni Oxoniensis: The Members of the University of Oxford, 1500-1714 – A-D* (Oxford: Parker and Co., 1887-8): 119.



Unfortunately, although his will was signed on 14 August 1682, there is no accompanying declaration as to when and where it was probated following Bettris's death. Details of his burial are not recorded in the local parish register, and there is some confusion about when he died within some of the 17<sup>th</sup>-century sources. Thus, Anthony Wood stated that Richard Bettris 'lived to the time of King James II',<sup>37</sup> a point that we know from other sources was factually incorrect. Fortunately, there is a Quaker record that states that Bettris ('an antient & faithfull man & great sufferer') died on 16 September 1682, and that he was buried at Adderbury, near Banbury.<sup>38</sup> Generally wills are an excellent way of clarifying the family relationships of the person concerned, and Richard Bettris's last will and testament is no exception. The will gives us some valuable insights into the details of Bettris's family, although it does not tell us everything there is to know about all of his children. For example, the will does not make any mention of Richard and Jane's son John, which is understandable given the fact that this son died as a young man in 1663.<sup>39</sup> Similarly, there is no mention in the will to his eldest son, Richard Bettrice junior, although some intriguing records about him survive, including ecclesiastical court documents which detail his citation and excommunication from his local parish church (St Michael-at-the-Northgate, Oxford) in November of 1681.<sup>40</sup> In this regard Richard Bettris junior was following the pattern set by his father, who, as noted above was formally excommunicated from his parish church on 7 February 1664. Strangely, there are no further records offering details of Richard Bettris junior; he vanishes from the civic records after 1681. We simply do not know what happened to him, although it is clear that he was off the scene altogether as far as the property arrangements for the house at 1 New Inn Hall Street in 1684 and 1690 were concerned. The most likely explanation is that he died in late 1681 or early 1682, which would also explain why he is not named in his father's will. Perhaps Richard Bettris junior fell victim to one of the many plague or cholera epidemics that regularly struck the city of Oxford during the latter part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Similarly, there is no mention in Richard Bettris's will of a daughter named Sarah, although we know from other sources that Richard and Jane Bettris had a daughter by that name. We now consider Sarah Bettris's place within the wider story of the Bettris family and the property in Oxford, using, as a convenient starting point, an indenture for the house which bears her name.

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<sup>37</sup> Andrew Clark *The Life and Times of Anthony Wood, Volume I: 1632-1663* (Oxford: Oxford Historical Society, 1891): 190.

<sup>38</sup> *First Publishers of Truth* (Portfolio 5/62), page 7. It is probable that this was arranged through the agency of Bray Dooley (†1696), an influential Quaker from Adderbury who erected a meeting house on his property in 1675. Bray Dooley and Richard Bettris were distantly related by marriage: Dooley's niece Dorothy married Thomas Olliffe (of Aylesbury) in 1679; Bettris's daughter Anne married Humphrey Olliffe (of Oxford) in about 1670. The family connection helps explain why Bray Dooley appears so prominently in Anne Olliffe's will (see the discussion below).

<sup>39</sup> *First Publishers of Truth* (Portfolio 5/62), page 3, records, '1663 – John y<sup>e</sup> son of Richard Bettris, a faithful young man departed this Life.' There is also a brief note about the young man being arrested with four others at a meeting held at the house of his father Richard on 9 November 1662. They were brought before John Fell, and when they refused to swear an oath of allegiance, were committed to prison, where they were kept for eleven weeks (*First Publishers of Truth* (Portfolio 5/62), pages 2-3). Similarly, Joseph Besse *A Collection of the Sufferings of the People Called Quakers, Volume 1* (1753): 569, similarly records that in 1662 John Bettris and four others were taken out of a meeting in Burford and put into prison.

<sup>40</sup> *Oxford Archdeaconry Records – 15 October 1681-16 December 1693* (c. 23), folio 7 verso; *Oxford Archdeaconry Records – Excommunications – 1610-1783* (c. 121), folio 300 recto; *Oxford Diocesan Records – Citations – 1681-1690* (c. 108), folio 13 recto.

b. Sarah Bettris (c.1655-1681) – Daughter of Richard Bettris

The earliest of the three recently available property indentures for the house at 1 New Inn Hall was originally signed by Sarah Bettris on 21 May 1676 (see Appendix 3). The indenture is an agreement between Sarah Bettris and Richard Bettris, who is described as her father (line 3). It appears that by means of the indenture Richard Bettris was making provision for her future, perhaps as he faced advancing age and ill health. According to a supplementary paragraph of the indenture (lines 43-58), Sarah Bettris took possession of the property on 12 July 1676.

We can assume that at the time of the signing of the indenture Sarah was over twenty-one years of age (the legal age for someone to enter into such an agreement). We can also assume that at the time of the writing of the indenture Sarah Bettris was unmarried (she is described as a ‘spinster’ in line 3 of the indenture). However, we know from other sources that Sarah married the Quaker activist and writer William Bingley (1651-1715), probably in about 1678. Exactly when the couple were married is uncertain, although they did have two children: a son named William, and a daughter named Anna. Sadly, William Bingley was a most unfortunate man, for both children died in 1680, and his wife Sarah died on 10 May 1681;<sup>41</sup> there is record of William’s burial on 5 May 1680,<sup>42</sup> of Anna’s burial on 17 January 1681,<sup>43</sup> and of Sarah’s burial on 13 May 1681.<sup>44</sup> All three were buried in the Quaker burial ground in Witney, although the burial of William in conformity to the law about ‘burial in woolen’<sup>45</sup> is specifically noted in the parish register of the church of St. Mary, Witney.<sup>46</sup> Throughout this period Bingley, a malster by trade, was an active member of the Quaker community in Oxfordshire.<sup>47</sup> Strangely, Bingley’s activities in Oxford and its environs have been overlooked by historians interested in his life, who have tended to concentrate on his work after he moved to London in 1682. Indeed, his marriage to a member of the influential Bettris family has gone unnoticed by Quaker historians.

Interestingly, Richard Bettris named William Bingley within his will, describing him as his ‘Son in Law’ (line 60),<sup>48</sup> even though at the time Bingley was a widower and all the family ties to the Bettris’s had been severed by death. Clearly Bettris was favourably disposed to Bingley, and continued to view him as part of his extended

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<sup>41</sup> *First Publishers of Truth* (Portfolio 5/62), page 8.

<sup>42</sup> *Monthly Meeting of Witney in the County of Berkshire and Oxfordshire* (RG 6/1370), folio 145 recto.

<sup>43</sup> *Monthly Meeting of Witney in the County of Berkshire and Oxfordshire* (RG 6/1370), folio 145 verso.

<sup>44</sup> *Monthly Meeting of Witney in the County of Berkshire and Oxfordshire* (RG 6/1370), folio 145 verso.

<sup>45</sup> There is an interesting form of words that Quakers in Faringdon adopted in order ‘to answer y<sup>e</sup> interests of y<sup>e</sup> Late Act for Burying in Woollen’ and avoid having to swear oaths recorded in the *Vale of White Horse Monthly Meetings – 1673-1722* (BOQM I/i/1), folio 15 verso.

<sup>46</sup> The parish register records that a certificate was received on 14 May 1680 (*Witney Parish Register – Burials – 1678 to 1708* (MSS DD Par. Witney b.2), folio 6 recto). The entry also states that William Bingley was from the parish of St Peter-in-the-Bailey in Oxford.

<sup>47</sup> He is named as one of three Quakers from Oxford appointed in a meeting held in Witney on 14 July 1679 to collect funds for persecuted Friends in Danzig in Poland and Emden in Germany (*Witney Monthly Meeting Records – 1675-1704* (BOQM I/ii/1), folio 16 recto). Bingley was also listed as one of those who desired to purchase a copy of Samuel Fisher’s *The Testimony of Truth Exalted* (1679) in a meeting held in Witney on 12 April 1680 (*Witney Monthly Meeting Records – 1675-1704* (BOQM I/ii/1), folio 19 verso).

<sup>48</sup> Bingley is similarly described as ‘Brother in Law’ in Anne Olliffe’s will (lines 47, 51, 64, 77, 89, 97). See Appendix 4 below.

family. This affinity appears to have continued even when Bingley remarried, taking his second wife Mary, probably by 1684.<sup>49</sup>

Originally from Yorkshire, Bingley was an active member of the Quaker movement in the south of England, although he made important trips with other Quaker leaders to Ireland (in 1672, 1680 and 1682)<sup>50</sup> and Holland (in 1684). There are also indications that he took an active interest in the Quaker involvements in America.<sup>51</sup> However, most of Bingley's activities after 1682 were London-based, and a number of stories about his prosecution as a Dissenter there have survived.

For example, Bingley and three others were taken out of a meeting in Gracechurch Street in White-Hart Court on 18 November 1683, and charged with riot and disturbing the peace. They were brought before the Quarter Sessions court in the Guildhall on 10 December 1683, and then again on 14 February 1684. Fines were imposed on them a week later on 21 February 1684, and when Bingley refused to pay his fine of £5, he was imprisoned in the Newgate prison for nearly five months.<sup>52</sup> Meanwhile, in October of 1685 he was arrested along with Samuel Fox for attending a meeting in Southwark. The pair was harshly treated by the arresting officials, and hefty fines imposed. When Bingley refused to pay the fine a warrant was issued for the distraining of goods and property. A shameful confrontation ensued in November when Bingley's house was broken into by a corrupt and abusive constable named Duncomb Norris. Norris and his accomplices acted in a despicable manner, commandeering much more than was justified by the warrant; they also failed to respect that Bingley's wife Mary was heavily pregnant at the time, and treated her very roughly.<sup>53</sup>

Clearly Bingley was involved at the highest levels of the Quaker movement for a number of years. He was in correspondence with George Fox, and a letter he wrote to Fox from Whitby in Yorkshire in July of 1688 has survived.<sup>54</sup> Thus, it is not surprising that he was also one of the people who spoke at the funeral of George Fox in 1690. Bingley was one of 25 Quaker leaders castigated in Thomas Crisp's *A Just and Lawful Tryal of the Foxonian Chief Priests* (1697). He was also one of the Quaker leaders specifically identified in a famous etching entitled 'The Quakers

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<sup>49</sup> There are records of a William and Mary Bingley who bought property in Warminster, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania in the 1680s. The couple joined a number of Quakers from the Witney area in west Oxfordshire in this venture (See W.W.H. Davis *The History of Bucks County, Pennsylvania from the Discovery of the Delaware until the Present Time* (Doylestown, Pennsylvania, 1905, second edition): Chapter 14). Bingley is also listed as one of the property holders of the Philadelphia scheme organized by William Penn; he paid £10 for 500 acres, including a lot within the city). He is named as the holder of Lot #50 (William Penn *A Letter from William Penn, Proprietary and Governour of Pennsylvania in America to the Committee of the Free Society of Traders in that Province Residing in London* (1683): 14). The lot was north of the High Street (now known as Market Street), and was situated along what is now North 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, just near to the present Franklin Institute.

<sup>50</sup> Norman Penney 'Record of Friends Travelling in Ireland, 1656-1765', *Journal of the Friends Historical Society* 10 (1913): 159, 160. Thomas Wight *A History of the Rise and Progress of the People Called Quakers in Ireland, from the year 1653 to 1700* (1751): 352, also notes visits by Bingley to Ireland in 1675 and 1682-3.

<sup>51</sup> M. Ethel Crawshaw, 'Letters from Virginia Quakers,' *William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine* 6 (1926): 88-93, discusses a letter dated 9 September 1697 which was sent to Quakers in Virginia from Friends in London. Bingley was one of seven signatories of the letter.

<sup>52</sup> Joseph Besse *A Collection of the Sufferings of the People Called Quakers, Volume 1* (1753): 460. *First Publishers of Truth* (Portfolio 5/103-109), contains records and transcripts of some of the trial proceedings.

<sup>53</sup> Joseph Besse *A Collection of the Sufferings of the People Called Quakers, Volume 1* (1753): 475-6.

<sup>54</sup> A.R. Barclay *Manuscript CXXXI*.

Synod', which appeared in Francis Bugg's *Pilgrim's Progress from Quakerism to Christianity* (1698) (see Figure 3).

Bingley wrote a number of important tracts and pamphlets including *A Lamentation Over England and Faithful Warning to the Inhabitants Thereof* (1682); *An Epistle of Tender Love to Friends in Ireland* (1691); and *Tender Counsel and Advice to the Flock of God Everywhere* (1697). He joined with other prominent Quakers in producing a number of other publications, including *The Christian Doctrin [sic] and Society of the People Called Quakers* (1693). A few examples of Bingley's sermons have also survived, including one preached at Grace-Church Street in London on 4 March 1694 (published in *The Concurrence and Unanimity of the People Called*



Figure 3: Illustration from Francis Bugg's *Pilgrim's Progress from Quakerism to Christianity* (1698). William Bingley is identified as one of the leaders seated at the table.

*Quakers* in 1711). Bingley died in Tottenham, Middlesex on 11 August 1715, and was buried in the Quaker burial ground in Bunhill Fields, London on 15 August. He was 64 years old and is described as a ‘stuff merchant’ within the burial record.<sup>55</sup> Although Richard Bettris’s will understandably omits any direct reference to his deceased daughter Sarah, this stands in stark contrast to the attention given to his oldest married daughter, Anne Olliffe. Not only is she described as ‘my loving and dear daughter’ (line 31), but she is named as one of the two executors of his will (lines 87-89). We turn now to consider some details of her life, notably her own last will and testament and the probate records associated with it.

c. Anne Olliffe (1647-1683) – Daughter of Richard Bettris

The only child of Richard and Jane Bettris about whom a record of birth has survived is their daughter named Anne, who was born on 3 January 1647.<sup>56</sup> It is possible that she was married by the time that the Poll Tax of 1667 was collected, and thus was not included within the official entry for Richard Bettris and his family. Anne’s husband was Humphrey Olliffe, who, like his father-in-law, was a surgeon by trade. Details of where and when they were married are unknown, but it is probable that the marriage took place in Oxford. Moreover, one intriguing story, recorded by Joseph Besse in 1753, relates an incident from 1670 which brought together Richard Bettris and Humphrey Olliffe, confirming their mutual involvement in Quaker meetings. At the very least the story provides a context out of which the contact between Humphrey Olliffe and the Bettris family was to grow. Perhaps it even hints at the event which first brought together Humphrey Olliffe and Richard Bettris’s young twenty-three year old daughter, whom he went on to take as his wife. The incident involved Vice-Chancellor Peter Mews, who fined Bettris for holding a meeting in his house. Besse’s account reads:

*Richard Betteris, for a Meeting at his House in Oxford, was fined 20l for which the Officers took of his Goods to the Value of 30l which they undersold so much, that the Justices granted them another Warrant to distrain again for a Deficiency of 10l which they laid upon Humphrey Ollive, Thomas Nichols, and Laurence Willier, who were present at the same Meeting, and their Goods were taken away to the Value of 14l 8s 3d. Beside which, the two last had taken from them for their own Fines, Goods worth 2l 6s.<sup>57</sup>*

There are a few surviving records which provide details of Humphrey Olliffe’s activities amongst Quakers in Oxford during the 1670s. One of the most interesting is connected with the Oxford Quarterly Meeting held on 7 December 1673, at which Olliffe was one of three members of the Oxford group deputed to assist any Quakers from Oxfordshire prosecuted for non-payment of tithes. The record reads:

It is ordered by friends that If any friends bee sued in  
ye County Court for tythes that when they come to Oxford  
Concerning it, yt Laurence Willier, Thomas Nichols

<sup>55</sup> *London – Middlesex Quarterly Meetings – Digest Register of Burials (2) 1700-1750.*

<sup>56</sup> *Parish Register of St Michael-at-the-Northgate – 1558-1666* (Par 211/1/R1/1), folio 61 recto. The entry specifically states that the daughter was *born* rather than baptized, suggesting that Bettris was a Dissenter and that he deliberately did not have the child baptized within the parish church.

<sup>57</sup> Joseph Besse *A Collection of the Sufferings of the People Called Quakers, Volume 1* (1753): 572. *Oxfordshire Quarterly Meeting – Sufferings – 1654-1789* (D/F 2 A 2/5), folio 17 recto, gives the date of this incident as 2 June 1670.

& Humphry Olliffe or one or some of them doe goe  
along with them to Timothy Box & to assist them  
in it as much as in ym Lyes.<sup>58</sup>

Another intriguing record arises out of the Quarterly Meeting held in Oxford on 16 August 1674. In this case Humphrey Olliffe was one of eleven members deputed to help ensure that a women's monthly meeting was established in the city. The record reads:

Whereas ther has been some Neglect among friends in Oxford  
Devisision concerning the setlent & establishing a womens monthly  
meeting according to friends former order for y<sup>e</sup> Service of truth  
It is ordered by friends y<sup>t</sup> at y<sup>e</sup> Quarterly meeting that Thomas  
Minchin, Benjamin Staple, John Harris, Thomas Taylor,  
Alexander Harris, Francis Dring, Thomas Nichols, Richard  
Bettris, Humphry Olliff, Silas Norton, Laurence Willier,  
Doe take Care to assist & Intoseage as much as in them Lyes.  
All y<sup>e</sup> woemen friends y<sup>t</sup> are capable there in theyr devisision to  
Setle & establish a woemens monthly meeting at y<sup>e</sup> time and  
place where y<sup>e</sup> men doe meet monthly for y<sup>e</sup> Service of truth according  
to friends former order & to give an account at y<sup>e</sup> Next Quarterly  
meeting.<sup>59</sup>

There are only one or two records of Anne Olliffe's activities as a Quaker, and interestingly, one of them is directly connected to the establishment of a women's meeting in Oxford. Anne Olliffe is named once in the records of the Women's Quarterly Meeting; this concerns a meeting held at Astrop on 18 August 1678. At this meeting Anna (or *Hannah*, as she is here named) Olliffe and Helen Minchin were appointed representatives from Oxford who joined others from the county and were given the responsibility of helping to place two girls as servants among Quaker families.<sup>60</sup>

One of the last records mentioning Humphrey Olliffe arises out of the Quarterly Meeting held in Oxford on 6 April 1675. The meeting appointed Olliffe to collect an account of the sufferings of the Quakers in Oxford and bring them to the next scheduled meeting so that they could be included in the county records.<sup>61</sup> Humphrey Olliffe died less than a year later on 29 February 1676<sup>62</sup> and there is one surviving probate record of him which is now contained in the National Archives in London.<sup>63</sup> Unfortunately this parchment roll is in a poor state of preservation, and the writing has faded to the point that little of importance is readable beyond the date of 23 March 1676. The marriage of Humphrey Olliffe and Anne Bettris produced at least one child, a daughter named Jane, who, strangely, is not named in the will of her grandfather Richard Bettris. However, she is named within her mother's will (lines 14-20, 29, 34, 36, 44, 75, 79, 83, 85, 107, 114); it is clear that she was unmarried and not yet twenty-one years of age. Nevertheless, her mother bequeathes to her a property in Seendrowe in the parish of Melfsham in Wiltshire (lines 20-22). Interestingly, there is no mention of the property that Anne Olliffe purchased as part

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<sup>58</sup> *Oxfordshire Quarterly Meeting – 1671-1746 – Men's Minutes* (D/F 2 A 2/1), folio 4 recto.

<sup>59</sup> *Oxfordshire Quarterly Meeting – 1671-1746 – Men's Minutes* (D/F 2 A 2/1), folio 5 verso.

<sup>60</sup> *Oxfordshire Quarterly Meeting – 1677-1790 – Women's Minutes* (D/F 2 A 2/4), folio 2 verso.

<sup>61</sup> *Oxfordshire Quarterly Meeting – 1671-1746 – Men's Minutes* (D/F 2 A 2/1), folio 7 recto.

<sup>62</sup> *First Publishers of Truth* (Portfolio 5/62), page 7.

<sup>63</sup> *Probate Inventory of Humphrey Olliffe* (PROB 4/10784).

of William Penn's scheme for the establishment of the city of Philadelphia (she paid £10 for 500 acres in September of 1681, including a small lot within the city itself).<sup>64</sup>

Sadly, Richard Bettris's daughter Anne, Humphrey Olliffe's widow, did not long survive the passing of her father; there is a Quaker record of her death on 16 April 1683, with carries an additional note that she was 'aged about 40 years'.<sup>65</sup> Her will is dated 19 March 1683, and was probated in London on 26 May 1683 (see Appendix 4).<sup>66</sup> In large measure Anne Olliffe's will following the intentions and provisions set out in Richard Bettris's will, especially concerning provision for the children of Richard's son Edward. Richard's will established generous legacies for his two granddaughters, Mary and Jane, and this provision is continued in Anne Olliffe's will, although she noted in passing that Mary Bettris had died in the interim (line 43). Finally, there is a touching note of marital affection struck within the will, as Anne specifically states 'my earnest desire is to be buried in the burying place where my dear Husband Humphrey Olliffe now lyeth as neare as possible may be to him' (lines 124-126).

Fortunately, an inventory of the goods and possessions of Anne Olliffe has survived, and, like her will, is contained within the National Archives in London. The list pertains to the property in New Inn Hall Street and was compiled on 5 June 1683, and submitted as part of the probate record on 22 May 1684.<sup>67</sup> The text of the inventory, which extends over two small rolls of parchment, is in a fairly good condition and the text is quite legible (see Appendix 5). One of the most interesting incidental facts that emerge out of this inventory is that the house was apparently still functioning as a Quaker meeting place in the early 1680s. The reference to the 'Chamber over the meeting house' (lines 71-72) suggests this was the case. It also seems that, following the death of his wife Jane, Richard Bettris continued to live in the house with his widowed daughter Anne Olliffe. The reference to 'Mr Bettris Chamber' (lines 74-75) points in this direction. All indications are that the elderly Quaker surgeon (he would have been in his mid-70s) spent the last years of his life living in the house with his widowed daughter. Upon her death the property in New Inn Hall Street fell into the hands of her younger brother Edward, to whom we now turn.

#### d. Edward Bettris (c.1659-1685) – Son of Richard Bettris

Edward Bettris was born in Oxford, probably in about 1659. Like his father and older brother, he made his living as a surgeon, although much of his life was spent in Witney and Bampton in west Oxfordshire. He was granted the status of 'privileged person (*privilegiatus*)' of the University of Oxford on 5 November 1683, at the age of 34.<sup>68</sup> No doubt the fact that Edward was the only surviving son of Richard Bettris, who as we noted above was a member of the University, figured in the conferral of the position.

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<sup>64</sup> She purchased Lot #19 (William Penn *A Letter from William Penn, Proprietary and Governour of Pennsylvania in America to the Committee of the Free Society of Traders in that Province Residing in London* (1683): 14). The lot was south of the High Street (now known as Market Street), and was situated between what is now Chestnut and Walnut Streets, very near to Lot #18 which her brother Edward purchased jointly with two other Quakers from Oxfordshire in 1683 (see below).

<sup>65</sup> *First Publishers of Truth* (Portfolio 5/62), page 8.

<sup>66</sup> *Will of Anna Olliffe* (PROB 11/373), folios 69 verso-71 recto.

<sup>67</sup> *Probate Inventory of Anne Olliffe* (PROB 4/11084).

<sup>68</sup> *Registrum Matriculatam Universitatis Oxon – 1662-1693* (Oxford University Archives): page 781. Also see Joseph Foster *Alumni Oxoniensis: The Members of the University of Oxford, 1500-1714 – A-D* (Oxford: Parker and Co., 1887-8): 119.

Bettris was married twice, and had children from both marriages. There is a marriage bond dated 26 June 1676 which lists Edward as being from Bampton and his bride as Elizabeth Baker from Buscot, near Faringdon.<sup>69</sup> It does not appear that either Edward or Elizabeth Bettris were very active in the Quaker meetings that took place in the Faringdon area. The only record of either of them involved in meetings there is of Elizabeth attended a monthly meeting at Faringdon on 27 July 1677.<sup>70</sup> It appears that the focus of their Quaker activity was in Oxford, Burford and Witney in west Oxfordshire. There are several records which illustrate Edward's involvement in this area. For example, there is record of Edward's attendance at a meeting held at the house of John Wheeler of Alvescot, near Burford, on 28 February 1675. He was fined 5 shillings for his involvement in this meeting, but his goods were not distrained.<sup>71</sup> Bettris is listed as one of the 26 men who attended the Oxford Quarterly Meeting on 11 April 1676 where the matter of holding combined meetings for men and women was debated. His father Richard Bettris was also in attendance, which suggests that the meeting was probably held in his house in New Inn Hall Street.<sup>72</sup> Edward also served as one of the witnesses to an apprenticeship contract at the Witney Monthly Meeting on 8 January 1677,<sup>73</sup> and there is record that the Witney Monthly Meeting made a payment of 6s 6d to him on 14 January 1678, probably in connection with this apprenticeship.<sup>74</sup>

Edward and Elizabeth Bettris had three children, a daughter named Jane who was born in 1677 but died and was buried in Witney on 26 July 1678,<sup>75</sup> a daughter named Mary who was born in 1678, and a daughter, also named Jane, who was born in 1679. Sadly, Elizabeth herself died and was buried in Witney on 16 August 1680.<sup>76</sup> With two young children to care for, Edward lost no time in finding another wife.

His second wife was named Anne, although details about where she was from and what her maiden name was are uncertain. It is not known when Edward and Anne Bettris married, although it was probably in the spring of 1681. What does seem clear is that Anne Bettris was not from a Quaker family; indeed, there is every indication that she was a member of the Church of England. The couple had a daughter named Anna, who was baptized in the parish church in Bampton on 26 May 1682.<sup>77</sup> In what must have been seen as a controversial move, Edward Bettris and the other two children from the first marriage, Mary and Jane, were all baptized in the parish church

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<sup>69</sup> *Oxford Diocesan Records: Marriage Bonds* (d. 24), folio 123. The matter of their proposed marriage was discussed by the Friends Meetings held at Childrey and Faringdon on 26 November and 31 December 1675 (*Vale of White Horse Monthly Meetings – 1673-1722* (BOQM I/i/1), folios 10 recto and 10 verso). The record notes that the families of both parties consented to the marriage, and that a statement was requested and received from the Quakers who met in Oxford. The entry for the marriage contained in the *Quarterly Meeting of Berkshire and Oxfordshire - Marriages – 1648-1837* (D/F 2 A 3/21), folio 4 verso-5 recto, records that the marriage took place in Faringdon on 7 February 1676 (7<sup>th</sup> day of 11<sup>th</sup> Month in 1675).

<sup>70</sup> *Vale of White Horse Monthly Meetings – 1673-1722* (BOQM I/i/1), folio 18 verso.

<sup>71</sup> *Sufferings Book for the Vale of White Horse Monthly Meetings – 1660-1760* (BOQM IV/i/1), folios 3 recto and 3 verso.

<sup>72</sup> *Witney Monthly Meeting Records – 1675-1704* (BOQM I/ii/1), folio 6 recto and verso.

<sup>73</sup> *Witney Monthly Meeting Records – 1675-1704* (BOQM I/ii/1), folio 9 verso.

<sup>74</sup> *Witney Monthly Meeting Accounts – 1675-1696* (BOQM V/ii/A1), folio 14 verso.

<sup>75</sup> *Monthly Meeting of Witney in the County of Berkshire and Oxfordshire* (RG 6/1370), folio 145 recto.

<sup>76</sup> *Monthly Meeting of Witney in the County of Berkshire and Oxfordshire* (RG 6/1370), folio 145 recto. An entry for 22 August 1680 in the local parish register confirms that the burial took place amongst Quakers in Witney (*Witney Parish Register – Burials – 1678 to 1708* (MSS DD Par. Witney b.2), folio 7 recto).

<sup>77</sup> *Parish Register of St Mary the Virgin Church, Bampton* (Par 16/1/R1/1), page 58.



in Bampton on 12 November 1682.<sup>78</sup> At the time Edward was 33 years old; the daughters were four and three years old respectively. It is likely that the decision to become an Anglican was some time in the making. Indeed, there are some indications that Edward fell out with his fellow Quakers in 1679, perhaps because he was moving away from Quakerism and toward the established church.<sup>79</sup> Certainly by the summer of 1679 relationships had deteriorated to the point that the Quarterly Meeting held at Witney on 6 September 1679 agreed that their next meeting in Oxford should take place at the home of Silas Norton (and *not* Richard Bettris's house), and that Edward Bettris should be 'in the meane time removed from the meeting house.'<sup>80</sup> Moreover, at that next meeting in Silas Norton's home, which took place on 30 December 1679, his case was again discussed:

The s[ai]d Quarterly Meeting having taken into Consideracon the matter concerning Edward Bettris, It was the Judgm[en]t thereof, That it will be y<sup>e</sup> best way for the Clearing of Truth in y<sup>l</sup> matter, That he remove quite from the meeting house, but if he cannot handsomely be so effected, it is left to Friends of Oxford to do therein as they shall see meet, and give an acco[un]t thereof to the next Quarterly Meeting.<sup>81</sup>

It is never made clear what it was that Edward Bettris had done to warrant his dismissal from the Quaker fellowship; the matter is discretely handled within the surviving records. It is possible that it had to do with him spreading slanderous rumours about fellow Quakers (something that was specifically mentioned as a concern in an earlier meeting in Witney on 17 August 1679).<sup>82</sup> In any event, by mid-1679 Edward's commitment to and involvement with Quakerism was waning. Indeed, an entry about Bettris contained in a list of Quakers in Bampton, which was composed in June of 1679 for the Bishop of Oxford John Fell, describes him as 'not obstinate'.<sup>83</sup> This suggests that he was not a hard-line Quaker, and was open to persuasion in religious matters. Nevertheless, the conversion to Anglicanism must have been difficult for committed Quakers, such as his father Richard, to accept. This may help explain why Edward is given such cursory treatment within his father's will, where it is made quite clear that Edward's children, and *not* Edward himself, were to benefit from his (Richard's) legacies to the family (see lines 32-34). True, Richard Bettris did leave the house in New Inne Hall Street to Edward, but even in this regard he made explicit provision for his daughter Anne Olliffe to take whatever she desired from the property (lines 63-77). Sometime after the death of his father in September of 1682, Edward relocated his family to Oxford, probably to the house he had inherited. While living there his wife Anne gave birth to a son, named Edward. The child was baptized in the parish church of St Peter-in-the-Bailey on 19 September 1683, but sadly died a little more than a month later. He was buried on 27 October

<sup>78</sup> *Parish Register of St Mary the Virgin Church, Bampton* (Par 16/1/R1/1), page 58.

<sup>79</sup> Charles E Gillett, 'The Early Quakers in Oxford', *The Oxford Review* (12 June 1902): 4, and Stephen Allott *Friends in Oxford: The History of a Quaker Meeting* (Oxford Friends: Oxford, 1952): 12, both note the tension between Bettris and his fellow Quakers, but neither associates it with his own move towards Anglicanism.

<sup>80</sup> *Oxfordshire Quarterly Meeting – 1671-1746 – Men's Minutes* (D/F 2 A 2/1), folio 16 recto.

<sup>81</sup> *Oxfordshire Quarterly Meeting – 1671-1746 – Men's Minutes* (D/F 2 A 2/1), folio 17 recto.

<sup>82</sup> *Oxfordshire Quarterly Meeting – 1671-1746 – Men's Minutes* (D/F 2 A 2/1), folio 15 recto.

<sup>83</sup> *Oxford Diocesan Records: Returns of Recusants – 1679-1706* (c. 430), folio 4 recto. Mary Clapinson *Bishop Fell and Nonconformity* (Oxford: Oxfordshire Record Society, 1980): 5, discusses this.

1683.<sup>84</sup> Meanwhile, Edward Bettris agreed an indenture on the property in New Inn Hall Street on 28 April 1684 (see Appendix 6). The agreement was to allow Henry Adams of Harwell and John Adams of Kingston Lisely to rent the house for the period of one year, and Bettris was paid five shillings by the two men.

Edward Bettris died and was buried in the local parish churchyard, just yards from his house, on 27 January 1685.<sup>85</sup> He left a will (a copy of which is in the National Archives in Kew, London) which was signed on 29 April 1684 (the day after the indenture was agreed) and probated on 11 February 1685 (see Appendix 7).<sup>86</sup> In his will Edward Bettris stipulated that his wife Anne and their daughter should have the right of abode within the house at 1 New Inn Hall Street for the remainder of their natural lives. All the rest of his worldly estate was left to his wife Anne, including 2,000 acres of land in Pennsylvania, which was initially established as a Quaker colony under the direction of William Penn in 1681 (there were 589 persons who bought 715,437 acres in Pennsylvania between July 1681 and March 1685). Bettris was in the first group of buyers, and is listed in the first catalogue of purchasers, dated 25 October 1681 (this includes 259 persons who bought the first 320,000 acres).<sup>87</sup> According to a document published by William Penn in 1683, Joshua Haystings, Edward Bettris, and Thomas Minchin were listed as joint purchasers of Lot #18, a frontage property just along the Skuylkill river in what is now downtown Philadelphia.<sup>88</sup>

The probate inventory of Edward Bettris was composed on 10 April 1685, and was entered into the probate record on 11 May 1686 (see Appendix 8).<sup>89</sup> The parchment scroll is not in very good condition; the writing in places is faded, and the right edge of the scroll is jagged and uneven, probably due to water damage or maybe because it was eaten by mice. Unfortunately, this means that all of the appraisal figures assigned to the goods in the inventory list are missing. It does, however, give us an indication of the decoration of the rooms in the house (Red Chamber, Green Chamber, Blew Room, Sad-Coloured Room, etc), and invites a comparison with the description of the house contained in the inventory list of Anne Olliffe (discussed above).

We turn next to consider the property indenture signed by Anne Bettris, the widow of Edward Bettris, together with the associated court decree issued by the Court of Common Pleas in Westminster in London.

#### e. Anne Bettris (c.1660-1694) – Daughter-in-Law of Richard Bettris

The third of the indentures relating to the property in New Inn Hall Street was signed by Edward Bettris's widow Anne Bettris in 1690, six years after the indenture on the house was signed by her husband (see Appendix 9). The agreement was

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<sup>84</sup> *Parish Register of St Peter-in-the-Bailey – 1684-1742* (Par 214/1/R1/3), folio 33 verso.

<sup>85</sup> *Parish Register of St Peter-in-the-Bailey – 1684-1742* (Par 214/1/R1/3), folio 50 verso.

<sup>86</sup> *Will of Edward Bettris* (PROB 11/379), folios 120 verso-121 recto.

<sup>87</sup> *An Account of the Lands in Pennsylvania Granted by William Penn ... To several Purchasers within the Kingdom of England, 25 October 1681* [Patent Book AA-5/130, Division of Land Records, Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg]. There were 18 people from Oxfordshire who purchased land within this scheme. Edward Bettris is specifically listed in '#205 The First Purchasers of Pennsylvania, 1681-1685,' in Richard S Dunn and Mary Maples Dunn (eds.) *The Papers of William Penn, Volume 2, 1680-1684* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1982): 638.

<sup>88</sup> William Penn *A Letter from William Penn, Proprietary and Governour of Pennsylvania in America to the Committee of the Free Society of Traders in that Province Residing in London* (1683): 13. The lot was just south of the High Street (now known as Market Street), and was situated between what is now Chestnut and Walnut Streets.

<sup>89</sup> *Probate Inventory of Edward Bettris* (PROB 4/10723).

between Anne and two Oxford merchants, John Bishop an alebrewer, and Francis Holloway, a mercer. The indenture bears the signatures of both Anne Bettris and Francis Holloway, but not John Bishop (line 28).

In accordance with the stipulations outlined within the indenture (lines 15-16), Anne Bettris, John Bishop and Francis Holloway pursued a final title deed agreement in the courts. Thus, an agreement concerning the property was issued in May of 1690 by the Court of Common Pleas in Westminster. The text of the court record, which was agreed during the Easter term sessions, is in Latin; it records arrangements that Anne Bettris made for the eventual passing on of the legal claim for the property (see Appendix 10). Clearly Anne Bettris lived in the property with her daughter Anna at the time. There are tax records from 1692-1694 which show that Anne Bettris paid property taxes on the house in the parish of St Peter-in-the-Bailey. Thus, there is an entry dated 27 June 1692 for ‘Anne Bettris, her daughter and maid \_\_\_\_ £1 3s 0d’.<sup>90</sup>

Anne Bettris’s last will and testament was signed on 3 June 1693, with codicils added on 7 June 1694 and 7 September 1694; supplementary codicils dated 12 October 1694 and 15 May 1705 are attached to the main will and add additional information about the family relationships. In particular, these concern the passing on of property and inheritances to her twelve year-old daughter, whose name was Anna (see Appendix 11).<sup>91</sup> According to parish records, the widow Anne Bettris died and was buried at the church of St Peter-in-the-Bailey on 9 October 1694.<sup>92</sup> Her death seems corroborated by the fact that her name is replaced in the tax records on the property dated December 1694 by ‘Thomas Bettris and wife’, no doubt a relative by marriage, but precisely what the relationship was is not clear.<sup>93</sup> Few details about her surviving daughter Anna are known, although she does attach a codicil to her mother’s will which is dated 15 May 1705 (see lines 71-100). There is also a record of Anna Bettris’s marriage to Thomas Stanley on 28 May 1711 in the parish church of St Peter-in-the-Bailey.<sup>94</sup> Stanley is described in the parish register entry as the rector of the church in Middleton Cheney, Northamptonshire and Anna Bettris is described as being from the parish of St Mary’s in Oxford. It appears that after the wedding the couple left Oxford and family ties to the Bettrises were lost over time. It seems that there were no male descendants to carry on the Bettris family name. Indeed, there is a curious notice that appeared in *Jackson’s Oxford Journal* for 1776<sup>95</sup> which appealed for any heirs of Edward Bettris, a surgeon living in Oxford in 1681, to come forward and make a claim for an inheritance. What this inheritance consisted of, and whether any successful claimants were found, are matters lost in the mists of time.

## Concluding Summary

This concludes our exploration of the association between an early Quaker family and a 17<sup>th</sup>-century property in the parish of St Peter-in-the-Bailey in Oxford. We have

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<sup>90</sup> *Taxes – 1691-1694* (P.5.9), folio 37 verso. Further payments are recorded for 1693 (folio 73 recto), 2 May 1694 (folio 146 verso), and 27 August 1694 (folio 149 recto). There is also an entry for an *Elizabeth* Bettris from 1694 (folio 118 verso), probably a clerk’s mistake about her first name.

<sup>91</sup> A copy of the will and the various codices is contained in the Bodleian Library.

<sup>92</sup> *Parish Register of St Peter-in-the-Bailey – 1684-1742* (Par 214/1/R1/3), folio 72 recto.

<sup>93</sup> *Taxes – 1691-1694* (P.5.9), folio 169 verso.

<sup>94</sup> *Parish Register of St Peter-in-the-Bailey – 1684-1742* (Par 214/1/R1/3), folio 41 recto. Stanley matriculated at Brasenose College in 1693, took his BA in 1696 and his MA in 1699. He served as proctor of the University in 1708.

<sup>95</sup> *Jackson’s Oxford Journal* #1230 (23 November 1776): 3. The heirs were invited to contact a London attorney, and promised that ‘they will hear of something to their Advantage.’

noted some of the religious and political activities of Richard and Jane Bettris, influential leaders among the Quakers in the earliest days of the movement. We have also clarified the connections within wider Bettris family, particularly as they related to ownership and occupation of their property at 1 New Inn Hall Street. Most significantly, the study included publication of five hitherto unknown 17<sup>th</sup>-century documents (three property indentures, a court decree, and the last will and testament of a member of the Bettris family). These new documents, together with a number of related primary sources pertaining to the Bettris family and their house in Oxford, provide us with a unique insight into the life and circumstances of Oxford's pre-eminent Quaker family in the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

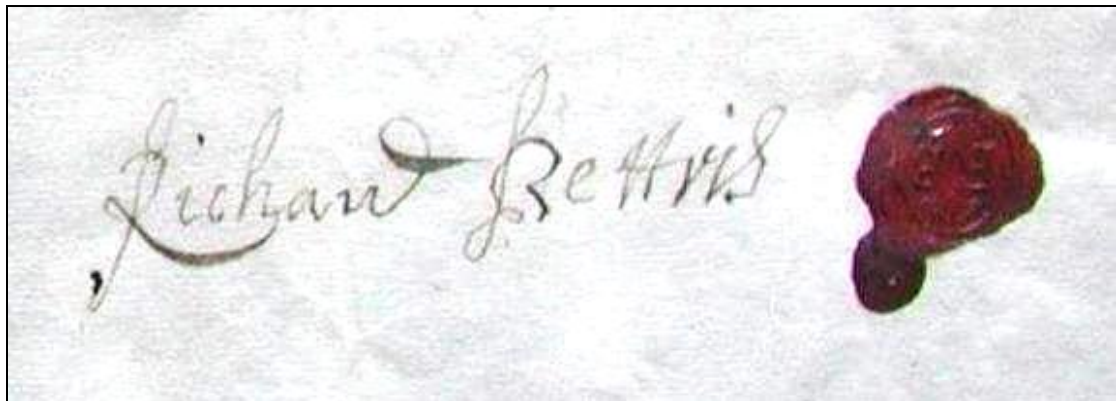


Figure 4: The Signature and Seal of Richard Bettris (1665)

## Location of Primary Sources Cited

### Oxfordshire Records Office, St. Luke's Church, Cowley Road, Oxford

*Husting and Mayors Court 1665-1666* (M.4.5)  
*Oxford Archdeaconry Records – 15 October 1681-16 December 1693* (c. 23)  
*Oxford Archdeaconry Records – Excommunications – 1610-1783* (c. 121)  
*Oxford Diocesan Records: Excommunications – 1633-1791* (c. 99)  
*Oxford Diocesan Records – Excommunications: 1662-1667* (c. 100)  
*Oxford Diocesan Records – Citations – 1681-1690* (c. 108)  
*Oxford Diocesan Records: Returns of Recusants – 1679-1706* (c. 430)  
*Oxford Diocesan Records: Marriage Bonds* (d. 24), folio 123  
*Parish Register of St Mary the Virgin Church, Bampton* (Par 16/1/R1/1)  
*Parish Register of St Michael-at-the-Northgate – 1558-1666* (Par 211/1/R1/1)  
*Parish Register of St Peter-in-the-Bailey – 1684-1742* (Par 214/1/R1/3)  
*Petty Sessions Roll – 1656-1676* (O.5.11)  
*Poll Tax of 1667* (P.5.7)  
*Taxes – 1691-1694* (P.5.9)  
*Vale of White Horse Monthly Meetings – 1673-1722* (BOQM I/i/1)  
*War Taxes – 1667-1668* (P.5.8)  
*Witney Monthly Meeting Records – 1675-1704* (BOQM I/ii/1)  
*Witney Monthly Meeting Accounts – 1675-1696* (BOQM V/ii/A1)  
*Witney Parish Register – Burials – 1678 to 1708* (MSS DD Par. Witney b.2)

### Bodleian Library, Oxford

*Will of Richard Bettris – 14 August 1682* (Oxford University Archives).  
*Registrum Matriculatam Universitatis Oxon – 1615-1647* (Oxford University Archives)  
*Registrum Matriculatam Universitatis Oxon – 1662-1693* (Oxford University Archives)  
*MS Wood F 29a*  
*Wood 515 (14) = Anthony Wood's copy of Here Followeth a True Relation of Some of the Sufferings Inflicted upon the Servants of the Lord who are Called Quakers* (1654)

### Friends House Library, London

*A.R. Barclay Manuscript CXXXI*  
*First Publishers of Truth* (Portfolio 5)  
*First Publishers of Truth* (Portfolio 7)  
*London – Middlesex Quarterly Meetings Burial Digest.*

### Berkshire Records Office, Reading

*Oxfordshire Quarterly Meeting – 1671-1746 – Men's Minutes* (D/F 2 A 2/1)  
*Oxfordshire Quarterly Meeting – 1677-1790 – Women's Minutes* (D/F 2 A 2/4)  
*Oxfordshire Quarterly Meeting – Sufferings – 1654-1789* (D/F 2 A 2/5)  
*Quarterly Meeting of Berkshire and Oxfordshire - Marriages – 1648-1837* (D/F 2 A 3/21)  
*Sufferings Book for the Vale of White Horse Monthly Meetings – 1660-1760* (BOQM IV/i/1)

### The National Archives, Kew Gardens, London

*Hearth Tax of August-November 1662* (E 179/255/4)  
*Hearth Tax of Michaelmas 1665* (E 179/164/513)  
*Hearth Tax of 24 April 1666* (E 179/164/514)  
*Monthly Meeting of Witney in the County of Berkshire and Oxfordshire* (RG 6/1370)  
*Probate Inventory of Anne Olliffe* (PROB 4/11084)  
*Probate Inventory of Edward Bettris* (PROB 4/10723).  
*Probate Inventory of Humphrey Olliffe* (PROB 4/10784)  
*Will of Anna Olliffe* (PROB 11/373)  
*Will of Edward Bettris* (PROB 11/379)

### Private Collection of Larry Kreitzer, Oxford

*Sarah Bettris Indenture* (dated 21 May 1676)  
*Edward Bettris Indenture* (dated 28 April 1684)  
*Ann Bettris Indenture* (dated 1 May 1690)

Court Decree issued by the Court of Common Pleas, Westminster, London in the name Ann Bettris (dated 1 May 1690)  
Anne Bettris's Last Will and Testament (original will dated 3 June 1693, with codicils added on 7 June 1694 and 7 September 1694; supplementary codicils dated 12 October 1694 and 15 May 1705 are attached to the main will)

## Appendices:

### **1. An Account of Sufferings of Oxford Quakers at the Hands of Students (compiled in 1685)**

[Page 1]

A brief account Touching the sufferings of y<sup>e</sup> People of God called Oxford inflicted on them by y<sup>e</sup> Schollars of y<sup>e</sup> University of Oxford in Their Meetings of worship & att other times.

- [5] Whereas ever since y<sup>e</sup> Lord hath raised us up to be a people to beare testimony to his name & hath in this City, greate hath been y<sup>e</sup> opposition of y<sup>e</sup> Schollars of this University, both att our meetings & att other times (as in this following acc[oun]t will appeare that if possible y<sup>e</sup> name of y<sup>e</sup> Lord might not be mentioned in truth and righteousness but the Lord hath preserved a remnant of us over all their wickedness and carried us through our sufferings w[i]th patience where for divers good causes wee doe record these things:
- [10] first yt their wicked and cruell actions might not be forgotten or buried as if they had never been but yt they may be seen by generations to come and also to answer the expectations of any yt may have a desire to inspect into these things relating too our sufferings may see y<sup>e</sup> wicked and ungodly actions of those who pretend to be the teachers & ministers of Christ but here contrary to y<sup>e</sup> Life of Christianity their Lives & conversations are who have continued their cruelty & wickedness towards us from y<sup>e</sup> yeare 1654 for y<sup>e</sup> time of Olliver Cromwells government in this Nation untill this present yeare [16]85, att which time this narrative was comprised & entered being Collected but of ye severall acc[oun]ts yt was taken by friends who were eye witnesses of these things as followeth:
- [20] Our usuall manner hath been to meet together to waite upon and worship God in Spiritt & in Truth, att Rich[ar]d Betriss house on first dayes of y<sup>e</sup> week about y<sup>e</sup> ninth hour in y<sup>e</sup> mornings and on fifth dayes of y<sup>e</sup> week about four in y<sup>e</sup> afternoon at w[hi]ch times was Constant practice of y<sup>e</sup> schollars there to meet us & act their wickedness & abuses towards us.
- [25] As pulling off friends haire of their heads and beards by y<sup>e</sup> roots, plating their haire into knots, pluck't off friends hatts & throw ym att others & t[he]n beat ym on y<sup>e</sup> heads. They took one friend by y<sup>e</sup> neck cloath & held him up from ground untill they had neare choaked him, & stopt another friends mouth ready to strangle him. One drew his knife & swore he would cutt off a friends nose, took another friend
- [30] by ye neck cloath and drew him aboutt over Feorms untill they had almost choaked him, and tryed to open a friends mouth by force because he would not answer him to his wickedness, took & held a friend by y<sup>e</sup> throat untill he was neare choaked. They took a friend & bound his hands & Laid him on a bench and pull'd off his shoes, and pluckt down his breeches, & holding him laid his shirt over his face, & ask him why he Laid so like a beast; [They] pull friends up & down y<sup>e</sup> Meeting roome, & some out of Doors, endeavouring to have ym to y<sup>e</sup> pump, to plump water on them, but yt they were Rescued out of their hands by some Neighbours; [They] bring in Nettles & thrust ym in friends Faces, throw down forms w[i]th friends on them, bind some w[i]th Cords & draw them up & down ye meeting Room abusing them, Teare friends Cloathes, shoot bullets through banks in friends faces. They took one friends hatt & caried it forth & pist in it & then brought it againe to have putt it on his h<sup>e</sup>ad, took another friend & Indeavoured to pull off his Cloathes to have him stand naked in ye meeting; w[i]th a paire of sisers cutt on[e] side of a friends beard

of[f] & Left y<sup>e</sup> other remaineing; came behind friends as they sitt on y<sup>e</sup> feorms and

[Page 2]

[45] Lay there hands on there shouldiers & then punch ym on the backs w[i]th their knees, thrust pinns in there flesh, ride on Friends backs & indeavour to kiss y<sup>e</sup> woman and putt there hands under there Coats, and use so much uncivillity towards them both in there wicked and baudy discourse, as also in there actions, that its a shame to mention it. Some of them took a maid by y<sup>e</sup> hands, whilst others putt there hands  
[50] under her coats yt shee was forced to cry out. They struck on[e] woman on y<sup>e</sup> breast yt her breast swelled much & struck another on ye belly bigg w[i]th childe w[hi]ch shee could not recover for some time. W[i]th sticks [they] punch & beats friends; one Austin of Martin [Merton?] Colledge took a friends hatt and cutt it severall wayes; [they] bring in dogs and throw ym about att friends, take away there handercheifes & hatt bands  
[55] and sometimes hatts, and a common practice w[i]th them to push one or another of there company upon us. They have gone into y<sup>e</sup> friends dwelling house when y<sup>e</sup> meeting was kept & threw down y<sup>e</sup> woman of y<sup>e</sup> house & beat & abused y<sup>e</sup> maid servant & take meate of[f] y<sup>e</sup> table & bread & porridge out of the pott, lapping it up like dogs, and take books and stooles & carry ym away, and  
[60] y<sup>e</sup> Key of y<sup>e</sup> Doore severall Times.

Friends having borne there wickedness & cruelltyes for a Long time & seeing no Amendment but rather to grow worse & wors & fearing Lest any murder should be by ym comitted upon us and so wee be accesary to our own death for not making it known to these in role and authority over ym as have  
[65] power to restraine ym from such things, Least it be Laid only on y<sup>e</sup> young schollars these unchristian actions and speeches. Whereupon there was Laid before ye vicechancellor an account of there wicked actions & how unlike men professing Christianity such things were & what a Dishonour it was to y<sup>e</sup> University, whereupon y<sup>e</sup> Proctors came to our meeting to Drive ym  
[70] away, & one time George Fletcher<sup>96</sup> of Wadham Colledge, pro-proctor and Preist of Martins, w[i]th Stephen Bates,<sup>97</sup> Master of Art (so called) of Hart hall, came to our meeting pretending to Look for Schollars att w[hi]ch time it so happened yt Stephen Smith, a stranger being declareing Truth amongst us, They turned Informers, whereupon y<sup>e</sup> said Stephen Smith was Committed to prison untill y<sup>e</sup>  
[75] next day, and then brought up to y<sup>e</sup> hall before severall Justices who fined him twenty pounds for preaching & so Discharged him sending a warning to y<sup>e</sup> Justices inhabiting in y<sup>e</sup> County where he lived to seize for y<sup>e</sup> said fine. Y<sup>e</sup> next first Day following y<sup>e</sup> said informers came againe Fletcher & Bates to our meeting w[i]th severall constables and there took friends  
[80] Names so here may be seen y<sup>e</sup> redresse wee received from there Tuters by making our Grievances known to them, and the Schollars att a Certain time being very wicked were tould by a friend there tuters would be ashamed to heare of there uncivill behaviour and one of y<sup>e</sup> Schollars replied saying we were sent by ym.

[Page 3]

[85] They have brought into our meeting hoggs and pulled ym about y<sup>e</sup> Room to make a noise and likewise madmen, one Mack<sup>98</sup> of Trinity Colledge brought into our Meeting a pistol and cockt it and swore he would shoot friends. Another pist in y<sup>e</sup> room and said he had Left some divine Inspiration. They have come into our meetings hooping and hallowing and scoffing, swearing & Cursing,  
[90] & Calling friends Rogues and whores, dogs and bitches & toads and allmost all other wicked and ungodly names, making a Noise like catts and Doggs, threw

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<sup>96</sup> George Fletcher took his BA in 1661, his MA in 1664, and was made a Fellow of Wadham College in 1666. He was made rector of St Martin's church in 1670 and served there until his death on 6 January 1677.

<sup>97</sup> Stephen Bate took his BA in 1669 and his MA in 1671. He was made rector of Horsmonden, Kent in 1673 and remained there until his death on 22 October 1724.

<sup>98</sup> Probably Edmund Mackes, who matriculated as a student of Trinity College in 1673. He did not complete his degree.

- Squibbs into our meeting, squeeze and abuse friends going in & coming out,  
 Breake y<sup>e</sup> porch of y<sup>e</sup> Dore and break ye windows of y<sup>e</sup> house, beat & abuse  
 Friends as they are passing allong ye street, one friend as he was going from a  
 [95] meeting to his own dwelling and passing by Johns Colledge was Drew in  
 to y<sup>e</sup> Colledge hall by a company of schollars and thrust into a Chaire, then  
 beate and abused him very much, pinching him & thrusting pinns into his  
 flesh in so much yt his naturall sence was taken away for a time; he  
 having been ill but a little before – and not eaten a bitt of bread in  
 [100] Ten dayes together – and scoffingly asked him where y<sup>e</sup> spirritt did not  
 move him, bidding him tell a tale, sing a song, Lett a fart, after some time  
 three or four came and pulled him down & bid him be gone, and as he was  
 passing forth seeing some of y<sup>e</sup> cheife of y<sup>e</sup> Colledge he speake to them of y<sup>e</sup>  
 Cruel actions of ye Schollars toward him whereatt one came and ki[c]kt  
 [105] him and bid him be gone – y<sup>e</sup> Friends name was Abraham Allin.  
 A friend Edmond Orpwood being in town found a nessesity laid upon him  
 to goe to Maries Masshouse and theire to declare to ym that they were  
 as painted walls and whited sepulchers, beautifull outsides, but within full  
 of Rottenness and putrefaction, who having delivered his Message to  
 [110] them was Drew out by one of y<sup>e</sup> bedles (as he thought) into y<sup>e</sup> Street  
 and there Left to a greate company of rude Schollars who did very  
 much beate and abuse him and had him to a pump and threw him down  
 and pumpt water upon him and he afterwards went to Richard Bett-  
 riss house whither y<sup>e</sup> rude company followed him and because they  
 [115] were not suffered to go in w[i]th him they broke y<sup>e</sup> windows & indeavoured  
 to breake open y<sup>e</sup> dore. This short account being recorded of y<sup>e</sup> behaviour  
 of y<sup>e</sup> Oxford schollars wee Leave ye Reader to Judge of them –  
 more might be added if desired of theire evill doings & incivillity.

## 2. Last Will and Testament of Richard Bettris (dated 14 August 1682)

[Folio 1]

- In the name of God, Amen. I, Richard Bettris, of the University of  
 Oxon, Chyrurgion, being of sound mind and memory, thanks be given to  
 God for the the same, doe make & ordayne this my last Will and Testament  
 in manner & forme following (that is to say), First, I doe hereby  
 [5] revoke, frustrate & make voyd all other Wills by me formerly made  
 And declare & appoynt this to by my last Will & Testament. Item:  
 Whereas Bettris Cox & Thomas Cox have mortgaged to me,  
 the said Richard Bettris, for the Sum of One hundred and fifty  
 pounds of lawfull money of England which I have payd unto them  
 [10] All that their Messuage or Tenement or Inne called the Signe  
 of the White Hart scituate and being in St Ebbe's Parish within the  
 City of Oxon, And all howses, Outhowses, Edifices, buildings, backsides,  
 yards, Gardens, Orchards, and appurt[en]ances whatsoever thereunto  
 belonging, I give the said One hundred and fifty pounds unto my  
 [15] Grandaughters Mary Bettris & Jane Bettris, daughters of my Son  
 Edward Bettris to be equally divided betweene them, the said Mary  
 and Jane when they or either of them shall attayne to their severall and  
 Respective ages of One & twenty yeares. Item: I give unto my Said  
 Grandaughters Mary Bettris & Jane Bettris the sum of Fifty pounds  
 [20] of like lawfull money of England over & above their Legasies aforesaid  
 to be equally divided betweene them and payd unto them when they  
 or either of them shall attayne to their severall & respective ages of One &  
 twenty yeares as aforesaid. And my Will is That in case either of  
 my said Grandaughters shall happen to dye before they shall attayne to the  
 [25] age of One & twenty yeares, Then I give the Legasie of her soe dying  
 unto the Survivor of them. And if both my said Grandaughters, Mary

Richard Bettris [signature]



[Folio 2]

and Jane Bettris, shall happen to dye before they shall attayne to their  
respective ages of One & twenty yeares, Then I give their said Legasies of  
[30] One hundred and fifty pounds and the said Fifty pounds to them bequeathed  
as aforesaid unto my loving and dear daughter Anna Olliff, her  
Executors, & Admin[istrat]ors. And my Will further is That my Son Edward  
Bettris shall have & receive onely the interest of the said two  
[35] hundred pounds untill they, the said Mary Bettris & Jane Bettris  
or either of them, shall attayne to their severall and respective ages of  
One & twenty yeares. And my expresse Will is That whensoever the  
said One hundred & fifty pounds or any part thereof shalbee payd in  
at any time before my said Grandaughters Mary or Jane Bettris  
[40] shall attayne to the age of One & twenty yeares the said One hundred  
and Fifty pounds shalbee payd unto my said daughter Anna Olliff &  
Silas Norton of the City of Oxon, Maultster, and Richard Houghton  
of the said City of Oxon, School Master, their Executors, Admin[istrat]ors or  
Assignes, Or the Survivor or Survivors of them (and not to my said  
[45] Son Edward Bettris). And the said moneys shall be placed out again  
or put forth by them, the said Anna Oliff, Silas Norton & Richard  
Houghton, Or the Survivor or Survivors of them, their Executors, Adm[inistrat]ors,  
or Assignes, by & with the consent & approbation of my said Son  
Edward. And if they, the said Anna Oliff, Silas Norton & Richard  
[50] Houghton, Or the Survivor or Survivors of them, their Executors, Admin[istrat]ors,  
or Assignes shall at any time hereafter be minded to call in the said One  
hundred and fifty pounds due upon Mortgage or the said Fifty pounds, I doe  
hereby order, appoynt and authorize them and every or any of them to  
ask, receive, sue for, and to use all lawfull wayes and meanes for the  
[55] recovery of the Same or any part thereof (for the uses aforesaid) by  
vertue of this my last Will & Testament. Item: I give unto my  
said daughter Anna Olliff the sum of Forty pounds to give and  
dispose of the same as she shall see fitt. Item: I give & bequeath

Richard Bettris [signature]

[Folio 3]

unto my Grandaughter Anne Olliff my Watch and One little silver Cupp, One silver  
[60] spoone, and a peece of Gold called a Jacobus. Item: I give unto my Son in Law William  
Bingley the Sum of Sixty pounds of lawfull money of England to be payd unto  
him within One Moneth next after my decease. Item: I give to Edward Freeman  
thelder Tenne shillings. Item: I give unto my said daughter Anna Olliff my  
Furnace which is in the Cellar in the howse I now live in, and all the Iron work,  
[65] Brick, and all other Materials to the said Furnace belonging. And I give unto my  
said daughter Anna Olliffe All my shelves, dressers, Woodden Drawers and  
the Iron Barrs in the Windows that are in the Howse which I now live in, And  
that it shall & may be lawfull to and for my said daughter Anna Olliff to  
take down and carry away the said Furnace, Iron work, brick & Materialls  
[70] thereunto belonging, and the said shelves, dressers, wooden Drawers and Iron barrs  
and to dispose of the same at her owne Will & pleasure. And my Will is  
that my said daughter Anna Olliff and her Assignes shall hold & enjoy  
receive, perceive & take the rents, issues and profits of the howse which I now live in  
with thappurtances for & dureing the terme of Six moneths next after my decease without  
[75] paying anything for the same. And from and after the expiration of Six Moneths  
next after my decease Then I give the said howse unto my said Son Edward Bettris,  
his heires & Assignes for ever. And as for & concerning the said Legasie of two hundred  
pounds before in this my Will bequeathed to my said Grandaughters Mary & Jane Bettris,  
my Will is that if they, the said Mary & Jane Bettris, shall happen to dye before they shall  
[80] attayne to the age of One & twenty yeares, Then I will that my said daughter Anna  
Olliff, her Executors, Admin[istrat]ors or Assignes shall pay to my said Son Edward Bettris  
Tenne pounds a yeare yearly on the quarterly dayes of payment by equal port[i]ons dureing

the naturall life of my said Son Edward Bettris after my said daughter Anna Olliffe shall have received the said Two hundred pounds soe bequeathed to her as aforesaid, in  
 [85] case my said Grandaughters Mary & Jane Bettris shall dye before the age of One & twenty years. Item: All the rest of my Goods & Chattells whatsoever (my debts, Legasies & funeral expences being payd & discharged) I give to my said daughter Anna Olliff. And I doe hereby make and appoynt my said daughter Anna Olliff and the said Richard Houghton, my Executors of this my last Will & Testament. And I doe give to the said Richard  
 [90] Houghton one Ginney. In witness whereof I, the said Richard Bettrice, have hereunto Set my hand & seale the fourteenth day of August In the year of our Lord 1682.

Signed, sealed, published & declared  
 To be the last Will & Testament of  
 Richard Bettris. In the the p[re]sence of  
 [95] the mark of

Thomas T Tredwell

Richard Bettris [signature]

Will[ia]m Plater [signature]  
 the mark of

Jane S Squire

[100] Mary Plater [signature]

### 3. Sarah Bettris Indenture (dated 21 May 1676)



[Recto]

This Indenture made the One and Twentieth day of May in the Eight and Twentieth year of the raigne of our Sov[er]aigne Lord Charles the Second by the grace of God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the faith &c Annoq[ue] D[omi]ni 1676, Betweene Sarah Betterice of the City of Oxon, Spinster of thone p[ar]te, And

- Richard Betterice of the said  
 Citty of Oxon, Barber Chirurgion, Father of the said Sarah of thother p[ar]te, Witnesseth that the  
 said Sarah Betterice, aswell for and in Performance of a certayne Trust in her repossessed, As  
 also in considerat[i]on of the sume of One Hundred Pounds of Lawfull money of England to her in  
 hand well and truely paid and satisfied by the said Richard Betterice at or before then sealing  
 and
- [5] Deliv[er]y hereof, the receipt whereof the said Sarah Betterice doth hereby acknowledge and  
 thereof and of ev[er]y p[ar]te thereof, doth acquitt, exonerate and dischargd him, the said  
 Richard Betterice, his Heires  
 Executors and Adm[inistrator]s & ev[er]y of them by these p[re]sents, And for div[er]se other good  
 causes & considerations, her, the said Sarah Betterice, especially moveing hereunto, Hath  
 given, granted, bargained, sold, alienated, released,  
 enfeoffed & confirmed, And by these p[re]sents doth theareby and absolutely give, grant,  
 bargaine, sell, alien, release, and confirme unto unto the said Richard Betterice, His Heires &  
 Assignes for ever, All that her new  
 erectd Messuage or Tenem[en]t with ye Garden Ground and all other Appu[r]ten[a]nces to the  
 said Messuage or Tenem[en]t belonging or in any wise app[ur]teyning, Scituate lyeing &  
 being in the p[ar]ish of S[ain]t Peter in the  
 said Citty and now in the possession of the s[ai]d Richard Betterice, betweene a Tenem[en]t of the  
 Warden and Schollers of the Colledge of S[ain]t Mary Winton in Oxford on the Northside and  
 ye Church of S[ain]t Bayly on ye Southside
- [10] and abutting on a Lane leading to New Inn Hall on the east side and on the garden ground  
 heretofore in the Tenure of Thomas Huntfeild on the Westside, And the Revert[i]on and  
 Revert[i]ons, Remainder and Remainders, of all and  
 Singular the said bargained p[re]misses and ev[er]y p[ar]te thereof Together with all Deeds,  
 Evidences, and Writeings concerning the same or any p[ar]te thereof, To have & to hold the  
 said Messuage or Tenem[en]t and Garden  
 Ground, and all and Singular other the before mentioned or intended to be bargained p[re]misses  
 with their and ev[er]y of their App[ur]ten[a]nces unto the said Richard Betterice, his Heires  
 & Assignes for ever, to the only use  
 and behoofe of the s[ai]d Richard Betterice, his Heires and Assignes for ever, and to & for noe  
 other use, intent or purpose, whatsoever, And the said Sarah Betterice, for herselfe, her Heires  
 and Assignes, and for every of them doth  
 Covenant, Promise & Grant to and with the said Richard Betterice, his Executors,  
 Admin[istrat]ors and Assignes by these p[re]sents, That the said Sarah Betterice at the time of  
 then sealeing and delivery of these
- [15] p[re]sents is and Standeth rightfully and lawfully Seized to her and her Heires of and in all and  
 singular the before bargained p[re]misses with their App[ur]ten[a]nc[e]s of a good, sure and  
 indeaseazable estate  
 of Inheritance in Fee Simple without any use, Trust, or other Limittat[i]on whatsoever to alter,  
 chainge, determine or make voyd the same, And that she, the said Sarah Betterice, hath good  
 right  
 full power and lawfull and absolute Authority to give, grante, bargaine and sell all and singular the  
 s[ai]d p[re]misses with their App[ur]ten[a]nces unto the said Richard Betterice His Heires  
 and Assignes  
 in manner and forme aforesaid. And also that it shall and may be Lawfull to and for the said  
 Richard Betterice, his Heires and Assignes and ev[er]y of them at all atimes from henceforth  
 for ever lawfully and quietly to have hold, occupy, possess and enjoy all and Singular the  
 p[re]misses before by these p[re]sents mentioned to be bargained and sold with the  
 App[ur]ten[an]c[e]s without the
- [20] Lett, Trouble or Deniall of her, the said Sarah Betterice, her Heires and Assignes or of any other  
 p[er]son or p[er]sons whatsoever, And that freely and clearly acquitted and discharged or  
 otherwise from time to time well and sufficiently Saved and kept harmless of and from all and  
 all manner of former & other bargaines, Sales, Gifts, Grants, Feoffements, Entailes,  
 Estates, Uses, Leases, Statutes, Recognizances, Judgements, Executions, Rents and Arrearages  
 of Rents, Fines, Tithes, Troubles and all other Incumbrances whatsoever, Had, Made,  
 comitted, Donn  
 or Suffered or hereafter to be had, Made comitted, Donn or Sufered by her, the said Sarah  
 Betterice, her Heires or Assignes, the Rents and Services from henceforth due to the cheife  
 Lord or

- Lords of the Fee or Fees thereof only excepted and Foreprized. And further that she, the said Sarah Betterice, her Heires and Assignes, and all and every other p[er]son of p[er]sons haveing or lawfully
- [25] claimeing to have any right or interest in the premisses or any p[ar]te thereof and ev[er]y of them shall and will from time to time and at all times hereafter dureing the space of Tenn yeares now next ensueing at the reasonable request and at the Costs and Chardges in the Law of the said Richard Betterice, his Heires and Assignes, Make, doe, acknowledge execute and suffer or
- cause to be made, donn, acknowledged, executed and suffered, All and every Such other and further reasonable Act and Acts, Thing and Things, Devise and Devises, Assurance and Assurances in the Law whatsoever, for the further and better Assureing and sure makeing of all and singular the said p[re]misses with the App[ur]ten[a]nc[e]s unto the said Richard Betterice, his Heires and Assignes, To the only use and behoofe of the said Richard Betterice and of his Heires and Assignes for ever, Be it by Fine or Fines, Feofement, Recovery or Recoveries with double or
- [30] Single vouchers, Deeed or Deeds inrolled or not Inrolled, the Inrollment of these p[re]sents or by any other waies or meanes whatsoever, And in such manner and forme as by the said Richard Betterice, his Heires or Assignes or his or their Councell learned in the Laws of this Land shalbe reasonably Advised, Devised, or Required, All which said Fine or Fines and all other and further Assurance and Assurances whatsoever hereafter to be had, made, leavied, Suffered or acknowledged of the said premisses or of every or any parte thereof shalbe and inure, and are declared adjudged and taken to be and inure unto and for the only use and behoofe of the said Richard Betterice and of his Heires and Assignes for evermore and unto and for noe other use, intent, or purpose whatsoever. In Witness whereof the p[ar]ties aforesaid to these Indentures Interchangeably have set their hands and seales the day and yeare
- [35] first abovewritten.

Sarah Betterice [signature]

[Verso]

- Sealed and Delivered  
in the p[re]sence of  
J[ohn] Paynton
- [40] Jane + Westbrooke  
her marke  
Sam[uel] Thurston

- Mem[oran]d[um] that the Twelfth day of July in the eight & twentieth yeare of ~~the~~ his Ma[jes]ties Reigne within written the withinamed Sarah
- [45] Bettrice in her propper p[er]son did enter upon and take the full & peaceable possession of the Messuage & p[re]misses within ment[i]oned and after the taking possession thereof did alsoe in her p[ro]p[er] p[er]son give and deliver unto the within named Richard Bettrice full possession, Livery and Seizin thereof by the delivery of the Ring of the outward dore of the s[ai]d
- [50] Messuage to the s[ai]d Richard Bettrice in the name of Seizin and possession of all the s[ai]d Messuage and p[re]misses within ment[i]oned, To have and to hold the same to the s[ai]d Richard Bettrice, his heires & assignes, Decl[ar]ed according to the true Intent & meaning of the deeds within written in the p[re]sence of
- [55] J[ohn] Paynton  
Jane + Westbrooke  
her marke  
Sam[uel] Thurston

#### 4. Last Will and Testament of Anne Olliffe (dated 19 March 1683; probated on 30 May 1683)

[Folio 69 verso]

In the name of God, Amen.

I, Anna Olliffe, of the City of Oxford, Widow, being weake in body but of sound and perfect mind and memory, thanks be to God, and being desirous to settle things in order doe make this my last will and Testament as followeth: And first I doe revoke, frustrate, and make void all former [5] Wills by me heretofore made and declared and appoiynt this to be my last will and Testament. Item: I give to my Brother Edward Bettris and his wife Five shillings apeice. Item: I give to Jane Bettris, daughter of my said Brother Edward, Twenty pounds of lawfull money of England [10] to be paid unto her when shee shall attaine to the age of one and twenty yeares or when shee shall be marryed which soever shall first happen. And my will is that in case the said Jane Bettris shall happen to depart this life before

[Folio 70 recto]

shee shall attaine to the age of one and twenty yeares or be marryed, Then I give the said Lagacie of Twenty pounds unto my daughter Jane Olliffe and my will [15] is that the said Jane Bettrices Legacie of Twenty pounds to her bequeathed shall be put out for the best use by my said daughter Jane's Guardians and Executors in trust herein after named for the benefit and advantage of her, the said Jane Bettris untill shee shall attaine to the age of one and twenty yeares or be marryed which soever shall first happen. Item: I give unto my said daughter [20] Jane Olliffe and her Heires for ever, All that my freehold estate with the appurtenances lying and being in Seendrowe in the Parish of Melfsham in the County of Wilts[hire] which I lately purchased of John Harris and all Howses, Outhouses, Edifices, buildings, barnes, stables, yards, backsides, gardens, orchards, Lands, Tenements, Meadowes, Pastures, Feedings, Comons, wayes, waters, [25] trees, woods, underwoods, profits, comodities, hereditaments and appurtenances whatsoever to the said Premisses belonging or appurtaining and all other my Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments whatsoever To have and to hold all and every the said premisses with their and every of their appurtenances unto my said daughter Jane Olliffe, her Heires and Assignes for evermore, [30] in case my said daughter Jane Olliffe shall live to the age of one and twenty yeares or be marryed. And my will is that my said daughters Guardians and Executors in trust herein after named from and imediately after my decease shall receive and take the Rents, issues and profits of the said Premisses for the only use and benefit of my said daughter Jane Olliffe untill shee [35] shall attaine to the age of one and twenty yeares or be marryed which soever shall first happen. Item: I give and bequeath unto my said daughter Jane Olliffe the sum of two hundred pounds in case the said Jane Bettris, daughter of my said Brother Edward shall dye before [s]he shall attaine to the age of one and twenty yeares which was given to me in and by the last will and [40] Testament of my Father Richard Bettris in case Mary Bettris and Jane Bettris, daughters of my said Brother Edward Bettris should dye before they or either of them should attaine to their respective ages of one and twenty yeares, (the said Mary Bettris being now dead). And my will is that if my said daughter Jane Olliffe and the said Jane Bettris shall happen to [45] depart this life before they or either of them shall be marryed or attaine to the age of One and Twenty yeares, Then I will that the said two hundred pounds shall be laid out or disposed of by my brother in Law William Bingley, Bray Doyley of Aderbury, Thomas Nicholls of Oxford, Cordwayner, and my Kinsman John Harris or the survivors or survivor of them to [50] such person or persons and to such use and uses as they or the major part of them shall think fit. Item: I give and bequeath unto my brother in Law William Bingley the sume of Tenne pounds of lawfull money of England. Item: I give to Martha Patricksonne of London, spinster, Fifty shillings of like lawfull money. Item: I give to Ellen Seale of Oxford, Spinster, the

- [55] sume of Fifty shillings of like lawfull money. Item: I give to Lydia Clarke Fifty shillings of like lawfull money. Item: I give the sume of five pounds to such person as shall be my own live defendant at my decease. Item: I give unto my Kinswoman Joane Tarrant the sume of Tenne pounds to place her out Apprentice. And my will is that the said Joanne Tarrant shall
- [60] from time to time during the time of her Apprenticeship shall have and receive such of the old clothes and wearing apparrell of my said daughter Jane Olliffe as her Guardians and Executors in trust shall think fit. Item: I Give and bequeath the sume of Twenty pounds of lawfull money of England to be laid out or disposed of by my said Brother in Law William Bingley,

*[Folio 70 verso]*

- [65] Bray Doyley, Thomas Nicholls, and John Harris or the survivors of survivor of them to such use and uses or to such person or persons as they or the major part of them shall think fitt. Item: I give to William Tarrant, Edward Langley and Edward Freeman the elder tenne shillings apeice to Each of them. Item: I give to the Poore of the Parish wherein I live the sume
- [70] of Fifty shillings to be distributed amongst them either in money or bread at the discretion of the said Guardians and Executors in trust herein after named or the major part of them. Item: all the rest of my Goods, Chattells or Plate and moneys whatsoever, my Debts, Legacies and funerall expences being first paid and discharged, I give and bequeath to my said daughter
- [75] Jane Olliffe whom I doe hereby make, ordaine and appoint sole and only Executrix of this my last will and Testament, and I doe hereby nominate and appoint my said Brother in Law William Bingley. Bray Doyley, John Harris, Thomas Nicholls and Richard Houghton of the City of Oxford School Master, Guardians and Executors in trust to and for my said daughter Jane Olliffe untill shee
- [80] shall accomplish the age of one and twenty yeares or be married which soever shall first happen to whom I give a Ginney a piece to each of them. And I desire and appoint them to manage whatsoever I have given to my said daughter by vertue of this my Will to the best advantage of my said daughter Jane Olliffe untill shee shall attaine to the age of one and twenty yeares or be married which shall first happen and my expresse will
- [85] is that if it shall happen that my said daughter Jane Olliffe shall depart this life before shee is married or shall attaine to the age of one and twenty yeares as aforesaid then I give and bequeath the said estate and premisses before ment[i]oned which I purchased of the said John Harris with their and every of their appurtenances unto my said Brother in Law William Bingley and to the said Bray Doyley, John Harris,
- [90] Thomas Nicholls and Richard Houghton their Heires and Assignes for ever, Provided allways and upon this condit[i]on neverthelesse, That they, the said William Bingley, Bray Doyley, John Harris, Thomas Nicholls, and Richard Houghton or the survivors or survivor of them shall sell the said Estate and Premisses and shall pay with the said moneys soon to be raised these severall Legacies and
- [95] pay to the said Jane Bettris One Hundred pounds XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX and to my said Brother in Law William Bingley one hundred pounds, and to the said Thomas Nicholls One hundred pounds, and to Anna West of Oxford, Widow, Fifty pounds and shall pay to my Kinsman Edward Jefferies, One hundred pounds and to
- [100] my said Kinsman John Harris One hundred pounds, and to my Kinswoman Elizabeth Olliffe Fifty pounds, and to the said Martha Patrickson Fifty pounds and to the said Ellen Seale Fifty pounds over and above their Legacies to them before herein bequeathed, and to Bray Doyley and Richard Houghton Tenne pounds apeice to each of them over and above their Legacies aforesaid. And to
- [105] Hanna Fletcher who was formerly my servant Fifty pounds, and to Mary Nicholls, daughter of the said Thomas Nicholls, Fifty pounds in case my said daughter Jane Olliffe shall happen to depart this life before shee is married or shall attaine to her age of one and twenty yeares as aforesaid. And my further will, true intent and meaning is That the surplusage or Surplus that shall
- [110] remaine of my estate not before given and bequeathed shall be disposed by the said Guardians and Executors in trust to such person or persons and to such use and uses as they or the major part or survivors or survivor of them

shall think fitt. And my will is that the said Jane Bettris and Joanne Tarrants Legacies last ment[i]oned, in case my said daughter Jane Olliffe shall dye before [115] shee be marryed or shall attaine to the age of one and twenty yeares shall

[Folio 71 recto]

be put out for the best use by the said Guardians and Executors in trust or the major part of them untill they, the said Jane Bettris and Jane Tarrant or either of them shall attaine to the age of one and twenty yeares, and I doe earnestly request the said Guardians and Executors in trust that they will be tender and carefull of my [120] said daughter whom I comit to their charge humbly begging of the Lord who is the searcher of all hearts that hee will enable them to discharge the trust which I have comitted to them with care and conscience as they will answer it before the tribunall seate of Christ, and my will and desire is that my said daughter shall have an honest carefull maid servant to waite upon her and my earnest desire is to be buried in [125] the burying place where my dear Husband Humphrey Olliffe now lyeth as neare as possible may be to him. In witsnesse whereof I, the said Anne Olliffe, have hereunto set my hand and seale this nineteenth day of March in the yeare of our Lord One thousand six hundred eighty and two, Anna Olliffe. Signed, sealed, published, declared to be the last will and Testament of the said Anna Olliffe in the presence of Will[ia]m [130] Egleton, Charles Wright, the marke of Thomas Treadwell, Thomas Ledwell.

Probatum fuit hu[ius]mo[d]i Test[ament]um apud London Coram ven[erabi]li viro D[o]m[in]o Richardo Lloyd<sup>99</sup> Milite Legum D[oc]tore Surr[ogato] Ven[erabi]lis et egregii viri D[omi]ni Leolini Jenkins<sup>100</sup> Militis Legum etiam D[oc]tori Curiae Praerog[ativae] Cantuar[iensis] Mag[ist]ri sive Com[miss]ario l[egi]time constit[uto] Tricesimo Die Mensis Maii Anno D[omi]ni Mill[es]imo [135] sex[ten]ce[si]mino octoge[si]mo tertio Juram Richardi Houghton unius Ex[ecuto]rum in hu[ius]mo[d]i Testam[en]to nominat[orum] Cui com[miss]a fuit admi[ni]stratio omnium et singulorum bonorum jurium et creditorum dicti def[unct]i de bene et fide[li]ter adm[in]istrandi ead[em] Ad sancta Dei Evangelia Jurat[o] Reservata p[otes]tate similem com[miss]i[on]em faciendi Willi[el]mo Bingley, Bray Doyley Johanni Harris et Thomae Nicholls caeteris Ex[ecuto]ribus in hu[ius]mo[d]i Testam[en]to nominat[is] [140] cum venerint seu alt[er] eorum venerit eand[em] petitur.

This will was probated in London before the venerable gentleman Lord Richard Lloyd, Knight, Doctor of Laws, Representative for the venerable and excellent Gentleman Lord Leoline Jenkins, Knight, also Doctor of Laws, legitimately appointed Master, Custodian or Commissioner of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on the thirtieth day of the month of May in the year of our Lord One thousand [145] six hundred and eighty three on the oath of Richard Houghton, one of the Executors named in this will, to whom was committed the administration of all and singular of the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased, he having been sworn to the good and faithful administration of the same on the Holy Gospels of God; the power being reserved of granting a similar commission to William Bingley, Bray Doyley, John Harris and Thomas Nicholls, the other Executors named in this Will,

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<sup>99</sup> Richard Lloyd, a Fellow of All Souls College, received his BCL in 1659 and his DCL in 1662. He served as an admiralty advocate from 1674-1685, and was a judge at the high court of the admiralty from 1685-6. He was knighted at Whitehall on 16 January 1677. He died on 28 June 1686.

<sup>100</sup> Leoline Jenkins, a Fellow of of Jesus College, received his DCL in 1662. . He was a judge at the high court of the admiralty from 1668-1673, and of the prerogative court of Canterbury from 1668-1685. He was knighted on 7 January 1669. He died on 1 September 1685.

[150] should they come or should any one of them come and request the same.

## 5. Inventory of the Goods of Anne Olliffe (dated 5 June 1683; published 22 May 1684)

[Roll 1]

A True and perfect Inventory of  
the goods, Chattles and Creditts of Anna  
Olliffe Late of the City of Oxford, a  
Widdowe, deceased, had made and  
Apprized the 5<sup>th</sup> day of June 1683  
By us, Thomas Tredwell and Charles  
Wright as followeth, Vizt:

	£	s	d
	xxv		
[10] Imprimeis: her wearing Cloathes And Money Seized upon in her House			
Item: the three best Feather Bedds with their three Bolsters and Six Pillowes	ix		
[15] Item: three old Small Feather bedds, two Bolsters and five pillowes	ii		
Item: two old Cloth bedds w[i]th two Bolsters		xiii	
[20] Item: five paire of old blanketts Item: five old ruggs and A Craddle rugg	i	x	
Item: two feather pillowes and Three old flock bolsters		vi	viii
[25] Item: Two Bedsteads with the Bords and matts thereunto belonging	i	v	
Item: A Cheste of Drawers	i	x	
Item: A close Hook and pann		v	
[30] Item: the best Curtains & vallens Item: Foure Setts of Curtaines and vallances	i ii	v	
Item: the pewter and brasse in the Middle Chamber	ii	x	
[35] Item: five paire of Andirons, two paire of Tonges and a Jack	i		
Items in the Lowe Room – two paire of andirons, three spitts, one paire of fyre shovell and Tonges, Six Smolting Irons, one the brasse one pewter	ii	x	
[40] Item: Eight matted Chaires		iiii	
Item: Six Cloath Chaires	i		
Item: A Palate Bedstead and A presse Bedstead		x	
[45] Item: five Stooles and twelve Leatherne Chaires	i	x	
Item: Foure tables with Drawers		xv	
Item: One Glasse Case and a Vergen Chaire		ii	
[50] Item: All the Lumber in the Lowe Room Item: One White Rugg		iiii xviii	
Item: a mans Coate and Wasecoate	i		



	Item: all the Linnen in the Middle Roome	iiii	x	
[55]	Item: An Old Gunn		ii	vi
	Item: One Tankard, three Bowles, One Silver Pottinger, five Silver Gobletts and Turrell, Fourteen silver spoones, one Watch with two Silver Seales and a little Box	xxiiii		
[60]	Item: A small Tortis shell Case of Instruments, A Silver Sullenger a Balsome Box, a Silver Case of instruments	v		
[65]	Item: two old Cases with instruments and a probe		x	
	Item: all the Bookes	ii	x	
[Roll 2]				
	Item: the Lumber in the Middle Roome		x	
[70]	Item: the Presse		v	
	Item: all the Lumber in the Chamber over the meeting house	i		
	Item: a Litle Furnace and A Kettle		xv	
	Item: A Presse in Mr Bettrises Chamber		v	
[75]	Item: A Skeine and Bushell		iii	
	Item: the Hangings, Candlesticks And Looking Glasse in the Dining Roome	i		
[80]	Item: Course Towells		ii	vi
	Item: All the Drawers, Boxes Glasses, Waters, Serves, Medcines Oyntments and Balsomes which are in the Closett		xv	
[85]	Item: the peeces of an old presse		i	vi
	Item: One Bolster at Mr Pinells		v	
	Item: a trunck and Linnen at Mr Pinnells	v		
	Item: two instruments att Lough Lambs		ii	vi
[90]	The aforesaid sume is	Ciii	xiiii	vi <sup>101</sup>
[95]	A true and Just Account of all The Bonds and Mortgages Due Or Belonging to the said Deceased Anna Olliffe as followeth			
	Imprimeis: one Bond of 50li with Interest due from Sir Thomas Clayton Dated the 25 <sup>th</sup> day of March 1681	L		
[100]	Item: one Bond of 50li with interest from W[illia]m Sadler dated the 16 <sup>th</sup> day of December 1676	L		
	Item: one Bond of 50li with interest	L		

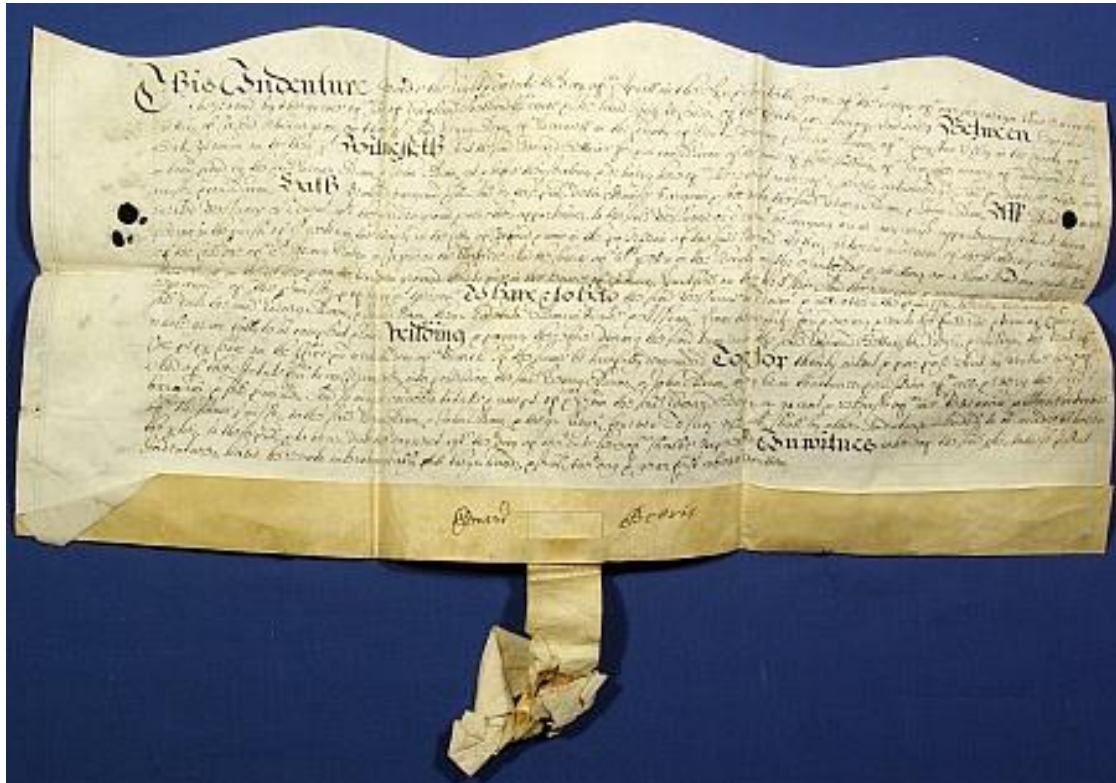
<sup>101</sup> This total is 2 pence under the total of the itemized entries, possibly a mistake in addition which read the figure given in line 23 as *vid* instead of *viiid*.

	from William Greene and Others dated the 24 <sup>th</sup> day of October 1678	
[105]	Item: Anthony Peirce his Bond for 4 pounds	iiii
	Item: Anthony Judson his bond For 3 pounds	iii
[110]	Item: Timothy Box his Bond To pay 5li whereof two pounds is paid	iii
	Item: A Bill from William Bingley to pay 40li	xL
[115]	Item: A Bill from William Taylor to pay Tenn pounds which Bill is dated the 22th day of Aprill 1643	x
	Item: Matthew Westons Bond to pay 50li with interest dated the 19 <sup>th</sup> day of December 1676	L
[120]	Item: Martha Middletons Bond for 10li whereof 4li is Paid	vi
[125]	Mortgages Impri[mi]s: Thomas Cox his Mortgage to pay 150li w[i]th interest Dated the Second Day of October 1678	CL
	Item: John Lumleys Mortgage for £	1.20
[130]	Suma Totalis huius inventory	DCLXXXIII xiiii viii <sup>102</sup>
<i>[Probate Declaration – Text]</i>		
	Ever[ard] Exton Exhibitum fuit huiusmodi Inv[ent]arium 22do die mensis Maii Anno domini 1684 per magistrum Everardum Exton Not[ar]ium pub[li]cu[m] procur[ator]em nominand[um] procur[ator]is Executorum] pro vero et p[er]fecto Inventario et sub protestatione tamen de addend[o] &c si &c	
[135]		
<i>[Probate Declaration – Translation]</i>		
	Ever[ard] Exton This Inventory was published on the 22 <sup>nd</sup> day of the month of May in the year of the Lord 1684 by the magistrate Everard Exton, Notary Public, administrator named to oversee the Executors, as a true and perfect Inventory and subject to a declaration of an addition &c, if &c	
[140]		

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<sup>102</sup> This total exceeds the sum of the actual itemized entries by £54, presumably because it includes interest monies due on the loans made.

## 6. Edward Bettris Indenture (dated 28 April 1684)



This Indenture made the Eight & Twentieth day of Aprill in the Six & Thirtieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord Charles the Second by the grace of God of England, Scotland, France & Ireland, Defender of the Faith &c, Annoq[ue] D[o]m[ini] 1684, Between Edward Bettris of Oxford, Chirurgion, on thone p[ar]t, And Henry Adams of Harwell in the County of Berks[hire], Yeoman, & John Adams of Kingston Lisely in the County of Berk[shire], Yeoman, on thother p[ar]t, Witnesseth that the said Edward Bettris for & in consideration of the sume of Five shillings of lawfull money of England to him

[5] in hand paid by the said Henry Adams & John Adams, at & before their sealing & delivery hereof, The receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, And for diverse other good causes & considerations hath demised, bargained & sold, And by these p[re]sents doth demise, bargain & sell unto the said Henry Adams & John Adams, All That new erected Messuage or Tenem[en]t w[i]th the garden ground & all other appurtenances to the said Messuage or Tenem[en]t belonging or in any wise appurteyning, scituate, lying & being in the parish of St Peter in the Bayly in the City of Oxford & now in the possession of the said Edward Bettris, between a Tenem[en]t of the Warden & Scholars of the Colledge of St Mary Winton in Oxford on the Northside, And the Church of St Peter in the Bayly on the Southside & abutting on a Lane leading unto New

[10] Inn Hall on theast side & on the garden ground heretofore in the tenure of Thomas Huntfield on the West side. And the revert[i]on & revert[i]ons, remaynder & remaynders of the premisses, & of every p[ar]t thereof, To have and to hold the said Messuage or Tenem[en]t & all other the premisses hereby bargained & sold unto the said Henry Adams & John Adams, theyr Executors, Administrators & Assignes, from henceforth for & during & unto the full end & term of One whole year fully to be compleat & ended, Yeilding & paying therefore during the said

term unto the said Edward Bettris, his Heyrs & Assigns the rent of  
 One pepp[er] Corn on the Five & Twentieth day of March. If the same be lawfully  
 demanded To & for thonly intend & purpose, That by vertue hereof  
 [15] And of the Statute for transferring uses into possession, the said Henry Adams & John  
 Adams may be in thactuell possession of all & every the said  
 bargained & sold p[re]misses, And so may be enabled to take & accept of & from the  
 said Edward Bettris a grant & release of the Revert[i]on & Inheritance  
 of the same p[re]misses to the said Henry Adams & John Adams & theyr Heyrs forever,  
 To such use as shall by other Indentures intended to be made between  
 the p[ar]ties to these p[re]sents & to bear date the day next after the day of the date  
 hereof shalbe expressed. In Witness whereof the said p[ar]ties to these p[re]sent  
 Indentures have hereunto interchangeably putt their hands & seals the day & year first  
 above written.  
 [20] Edward Bettris [signature]

## 7. Last Will and Testament of Edward Bettris (dated 29 April 1684)

In the name of God, Amen. I,  
 Edward Bettris of Oxford, Chirurgion, being of good and perfect minde &  
 Memory, thanks bee given to Almighty God, Doe make this my last Will &  
 Testament in manner and forme following( that is yto say): First and most  
 [5] cheifly, I commend my soule to the hands of Almighty God assuredly  
 hoping through the Meritts of Jesus Christ for salvat[i]on. And my body I  
 committ to the earth to bee decently buried according to the discretion of my  
 Executrix herein after named. And as for that worldly estate it hath pleased  
 [10] God to blesse mee with, I dispose thereof as follows, vizt: Whereas by Indenture  
 of Lease and Release bearing date the day before and the day of the date of this  
 my Will for the considerat[i]on therein ment[i]oned, I have conveyed and assured  
 unto Henry Adams of Harwell in the county of Berks[hire], Yeoman, and John  
 Adams of Kingston Lisely in the County of Berks[hire], Yeoman, their heires & assignes  
 [15] forever, All that new erected Messuage or Tenement with the garden ground  
 and all other appurtenances to the said Messuage or Tenement belonging  
 or in any wise appurteining, scituate and being in the parish of St Peter in  
 the Bayly in the said City of Oxford, bounded as in the said Indenture is  
 expressed, To the use of my selfe for and dureing the terme of my naturall life  
 [20] without impeachment of wast. And from and after my decease, To the use of my  
 wife Anne Bettris for and dureing the terme of her naturall life, without  
 Impeachment or wast and from and after the decease of mee and the said  
 Anne Bettris and of the survivor of us, To the use of the heire of the Body  
 Of the said Anne Bettris by mee begotten and for want of such Issue to the use of the  
 Right heires of the Survivor of us, the said Edward Bettris and Anne Bettris forever.  
 [25] I doe by this my will Ratify and confirm the said uses. And for a further and better  
 Jointure for my said wife in further performance of my marriage promise and  
 Agreement, I doe give and demise to her and her heires forever All those my two  
 Thousand Acres of Land and all other my Lands and tenements whatsoever  
 Within the province of Pensilvania or elsewhere within the Kingdome of England.  
 [30] Item: I give and bequeath to my said wife till such time as my Daughter  
 Anna shall attaine her age of one and twenty yeares the use of my silver  
 Tankard and my three silver spoons and then I give and bequeath the same  
 To my said Daughter Anna together with my three peeces of gold called  
 [35] Jacobus peeces. All the rest of my goods and chattells whatsoever I give and  
 bequeath to my said wife Anne Bettris, whom I make sole executrix of this  
 my last Will and Testament. In witness whereof I, the said Edward Bettris,  
 have hereunto put my hand & seale the nine and twentieth day of Aprill in the  
 six and thirtieth year of the reigne of our Sovereigne Lord Charles the Second  
 by the grace of God of England, Scotland, France & Ireland, King, Defender  
 [40] of the Faith &c. Annoque D[omi]ni one thousand six hundred eighty foure. Edward  
 Bettris Signed, Sealed, published and declared by the abovenamed Edward

Bettris, the words (the use of) being first enterlined to bee his last Will & testam[en]t  
In the p[re]sence of Grisill Brookes, Richard Brookes, Jo[natha]n Brooks.

- [45] Probatum fuit hu[ius]mo[d]i test[ament]um Londini Coram ven[erabi]li viro D[omin]o  
Ricardo Lloyd Milite, legum D[oc]tore Surr[ogat]o ven[erabi]lis et egregii viri D[omi]ni  
Leolini  
Jenkins, Militis legum etiam D[oc]toris Curiae Praerogativae Cantaurensis  
Mag[ist]ri custodis sive Commissarii l[egi]time constituti, Duodecimo die mensis  
Februarii, Anno Domini (Stilo Angliae) Millesimo Sextentesimo Octog[esi]mo  
Quarto, Juramento Annae Bettrice, Relictae d[ic]ti def[unc]ti et Executricis in d[ic]to  
[50] test[ament]o no[m]i[n]at[ae] Cui Commissa fuit Administratio omnium et singulorum  
bonoru[m]  
iurium et cred[itorum] d[ic]ti def[unc]ti. De bene et fidel[ite]r Administrando eadem ad  
S[an]cta  
Dei Evangelia Jurat[a].

[*Translation*]

- This will was proven in London before the venerable Lord  
Richard Lloyd, Knight, Doctor of Laws, Surrogate of the venerable and noble Lord Leoline  
[55] Jenkins, Knight, also Doctor of Laws, legitimately appointed Master, Custodian or  
Commissioner of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the twelfth day of the month  
of February, in the Year of the Lord (English Style) One thousand six hundred eighty  
four, on the oath of Anne Bettrice, Relict of the said deceased, and Executrix  
nominated in the said will, To whom was committed the Administration of all and  
every the goods,  
[60] rights and credits of the said deceased. She swore to the good and faithful Administration of  
the same on the Holy Gospels of God.

## 8. Inventory of the Goods of Edward Bettris (dated 10 April 1685; published 11 May 1686)

[*Text*]

- A True and perfect Inventory of all and Singular the Goods  
of Edward Bettris late of Oxford, Chyrurgeon, deceased, taken on the  
Tenth day of April Anno D[omi]ni 1685 by Thomas Tredwell  
And Benjamin Williams<sup>103</sup> of Oxford aforesaid, Apholsters
- [5] In the three Cocklofts  
Imprimis: Glasses, Gallipotts and Lumber  
Item: Lumber and Worme
- In the Red Chamber  
Item: Eight Chaires, Table and Fireboard  
[10] Item: Bedstead, Curtains and Beding  
Item: Six Leather Chaires and Joyntstoole
- In the Green Chamber<sup>104</sup>  
Item: Bedstead, Curtains and Beding  
Item: Two hanging presses, One Trunck, One Chest of Drawers  
[15] Item: Bookes  
Item: Steele Instruments

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<sup>103</sup> It is probable that Benjamin Williams was the son of Thomas Williams, a mercer who was mayor of Oxford in 1653-4 and had strong connections with the in the city. There are some early records which assert that Thomas Williams had a son who became a Quaker (see my '*Seditious Sectaryes*': *The Baptist Conventiclors of Oxford, 1641-1691* (Studies in Baptist History and Thought Volume 30.1; Milton Keynes: Paternoster Press, 2006): 277, for details).

<sup>104</sup> This was probably the room that Richard Bettris occupied when he lived with his daughter Anne Olliffe in the house (see page 14 above).

- Item: Three Cases of Silver Instruments  
 Item: Two Silver Tankards, Two Silver Bowles, Two Little Silver  
 Cupps, Two Silver Salves, Two Silver Spooones, Two Little  
 [20] Boxes and a Silver Watch  
 Item: Money and Gold  
 Item: Fire Things and an Old Skeine  
 Item: Fowerteen paires of sheets five Dozen of napkins  
 Dozens of pillow cases and other Linnens in ye same Roome
- [25] In the Blew Room<sup>105</sup>  
 Item: Boxes, Glasses and Gallyepotts  
 Item: Druggs  
 Item Hangings and Fowerteen Caine Chaires  
 Item: Two Tables and a Stand
- [30] Item: Fire Things and a Looking Glasse
- In the Sad Coloured Roome  
 Item: a Bedstead Curtains and Beding  
 Item: a Chest of Drawers and Child bed Linnen  
 Item: Tenn Chaires and Two Joynt Stooles & One Sideboard  
 [35] Item: Hangings and Fire hings and Looking Glasse  
 Item: the Wearing Apparell of ye said Deceased
- In the Kitchen  
 Item: Pewter of all Sorts  
 Item: Brasse and Tinn  
 [40] Item: One Jack and Spitts and Fire Things  
 Item: Fower Chaires and a Screene
- In the Chyrurgery  
 Item: One Presse Glasses and Galley Potts  
 Item: Scales, Waites and Mortars  
 [45] Item: Two Limbecks and a Still  
 Item: A Bason and Bleeding Dishes  
 Item: Lumber
- In the Seller  
 Item: A Furnace One Kettle and a Brasse pann  
 [50] Item: Fower Washing Tubbs and a Scrue Presse  
 Item: Lumber and Bottles  
 Item: Wood in the Backside and a Presse
- Debts due to ye Deceased
- The whole Sum
- [55] Ex[hibi]tu[m] fuit huiusmodi Inven[tarium] undecimo die mensis Maii Anno [torn edge]  
 Octog[es]imo sexto per Magistrum Edwardum Shaw Not[ar]iu[m] pub[licu]m  
 p[ro]cu[ratorem] [torn edge]  
 pro vero pleno vel p[er]fecto In[ven]t[ar]io et sub protestatione tamen addend[o] &c [torn  
 edge]
- [*Translation*]  
 This Inventory was published on the eleventh day of the month of May in the year [torn edge]  
 Eighty six before the Magistrate Edward Shaw, Notary Public, administrator [torn edge]  
 [60] to be true, complete and perfect Inventory and subject to a declaration of an addition &c [torn  
 edge]

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<sup>105</sup> This was probably the room used for Quaker meetings in the house (see page 14 above).

## 9. Ann Bettris Indenture (dated 1 May 1690)



This Indenture made the First day of May in the Second year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord and Lady William & Mary by the Grace of God of England, Scotland, France & Ireland, King and Queem, Defenders of the Faith &c, Annoq[ue] D[o]m[ini] 1690, Between Anne Bettris of Oxford, Widdow, on thone p[ar]t, And John Bishop of Oxford, Alebrewer, & Francis Holloway of Oxford, Mercer, on thother p[ar]t, Whereas Edward Bettris, late of Oxford Chirurgeon, by his Indentures & Lease & Release well & duely executed bearing date the Eight & Twentieth & Nine & Twentieth days of Aprill in the year of our Lord

[5] One Thousand Six Hundred Eighty & Four, made between the said Edward Bettris on thone p[ar]t And Henry Adams of Harwell in the County of Berks[hire], Yeoman, & John Adams of Kingstone Lisley in the County of Berks[hire], Yeoman, on thother p[ar]t, for the considerations therein ment[i]oned, did grant & convey unto the said Henry Adams & John Adams & to theyr Heysr & Assignes for ever All that New erected Messuage or Tenem[en]t w[i]th the Garden ground & appurtenances herein after ment[i]oned To the use of the said Edward Bettris for the tems of his naturall Life & after his decease to the use of the said Anne Bettris for her naturall Life, And after the decease of the said Edward Bettris & Anne Bettris & of the survivor of them, to the use of the Heysr of the Body of the said Anne Bettris by him, the said Edward Bettris

[10] begotten, And for want of such Issue, To the use of the right Heysr of the survivor of them, the said Edward Bettris & Anne Bettris for ever, And whereas the Barring & Destroying of all estates in Sayle herefore made or settled of all of any p[ar]t of the Messuage or Tenem[en]t & Garden with thappurtenances herein after

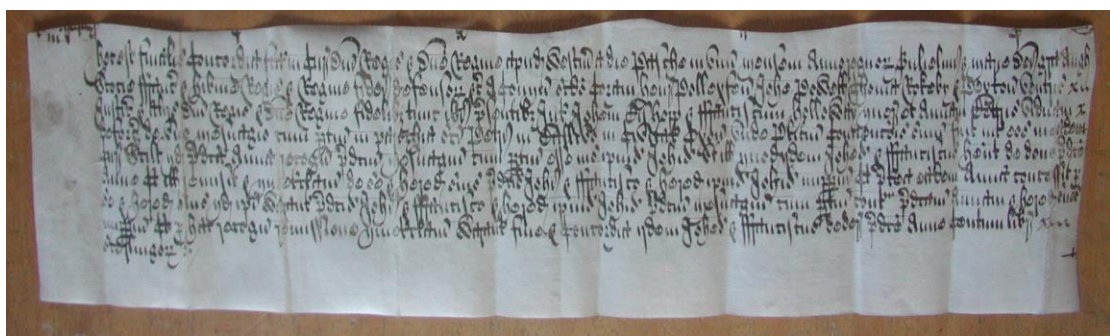
ment[i]oned And for setling & Assuring of the same Messuage of Tenem[en]t & Garden w[i]th thappurtenances unto & upon her, the said Anne Bettris & her Heyrs for ever & for diverse other good causes & considerat[i]ons, It is Coven[an]ted, granted & agreed by & between all the said p[ar]ties to these p[re]sent, And the said Anne Bettris for her self, her Executors, & Admin[ist]ratjors & Assignes doth Coven[an]t, grant & agree to & with the said John Bishop & Francis Holloway theyr Heyrs & Assignes by these p[re]sents in manner & form following:

- [15] that is to say, that the said Anne Bettris shall & will before thend of Trinity Term next ensuing the date hereof in Due form of law acknowledge & Levie before the King & Queens Ma[jes]ties Justices of theyr Ma[jes]ties Court of Com[m]on pleas at Quest[i]oner one fine *sur cognizance de droit* come too & c w[i]th p[ro]clamations thereupon to be had & pursued according to the form of the statute in that case made & p[ro]vided to the said John Bishopp & Francis Holloway & the Heyrs of the said John Bishopp, Of all That New erected Messuage or Tenem[en]t w[i]th the Garden ground & all other thappurtenances the said Messuage or Tenem[en]t belonging or in any wise appurteyning, scituate & being in the p[ar]ish of St Peter in the Bayley in the City of Oxford between a Tenem[en]t of the Warden & Schollars of St Mary Winton in Oxford on the North side and the Church of St Peter in the Bayley on the South Side
- [20] & abutting on a Lane Leading unto New Inne Hall on the east side & on the Garden ground heretofore in the tenure of Thomas Huntfield on the west side. And the revert[i]on & revert[i]ons, remaynder & remaynders of the p[re]misses & of every p[ar]t thereof, And also all the state, right, title, interest, p[ro]perty claym & demand wh[a]tsoever of the said Anne Bettris of, in, or to the same, or any p[ar]t thereof, By the name of one Messuage w[i]th thappurtenance or such other name or names as shalbe thought fitting. And It is also hereby declared & agreed by & between the said p[ar]ties to these p[re]sents That the said fine so or in any other manner to be had or levied of the p[re]misses & all other fines, conveyances or Assurances in the Law wh[a]tsoever already had, made or levied, or hereafter to be had, made or levied, by or between the said p[ar]ties to these p[re]sents or any of them or whereunto they of any of them
- [25] is, are have bin or shalbe either p[ar]tie or privie shalbe & enure, And by all the said p[ar]ties to these p[re]sents are hereby declared to be & enure As for & concerning the p[re]misses aforesaid To & for thonly use & behoof of the said Anne Bettris & of her Heyrs & Assignes for ever, And to & for noe other use, intent or purpose w[ha]tsoever. In Witness whereof the said p[ar]ties to these p[re]sent Indentures have hereunto putt their hands & Seales the day & year first above written.

Ann Bettris [signature]

Francis Holloway [signature]

### 10. Court Decree issued by the Court of Common Pleas, Westminster, London in the name Ann Bettris (dated 1 May 1690)



[Text]

hec est finalis concordia fact[a] in Curi[a] D[omi]ni Regis & D[omi]nae Reginae Apud Westm[onistarium] A die Pasche in unu[m] mensem Anno regnor[um] Gulielmi & Marie Deo



gra[tia] Angli[e],  
 Scotie, Franc[iae] & Hib[er]niae] Regis & Reginae Fidei defensor[um] et a conques[to]  
 s[e]c[un]do coram Henr[ico] Pollexfen, Joh[ann]e Powell, Thoma Rokeby, & Peyton[e]  
 Ventris  
 Justic[iariis] & Aliis D[omi]n[i] Regis & D[omi]nae Reginae fidelibus tunc ibi p[re]sentibus Int[er]  
 Joh[ann]em Bishopp & Franciscum Holloway quer[entes] et Annam Bettris viduam,  
 deforc[iantem] de uno mesuagio cum p[er]t[ic]in[enciis] in parochia Sancti Petris in Ballivo in  
 Civitate Oxon unde P[la]citu[m] convent[i]o[n]is summ[onitum] fuit int[er] eos in eadem  
 [5] Curi[a] Scil[icet] q[uo]d p[re]d[ic]ta Anna recogn[ovit] p[re]d[ic]tu[m] mesuagiu[m] cum  
 p[er]t[ic]in[enciis] esse ius ip[s]ius Joh[ann]is ut ill[ud] quod iidem Joh[ann]es & Franciscus  
 h[abu]e[ru]nt de dono p[re]d[ic]te  
 Anne et ill[ud] remisit & quiet[um] clam[avit] de se & hered[ibus] suis p[re]d[ic]tis Joh[ann]i &  
 Francisco & hered[ibus] ip[s]ius Joh[ann]is imp[er]p[et]u[um] et p[re]t[er]ea eadem Anna  
 concessit p[ro]  
 se & hered[ibus] suis q[uo]d ips[a] War[r]ant[izabit] p[re]d[ic]tis Joh[ann]i & Francisco &  
 hered[ibus] ip[s]ius Joh[ann]is p[re]d[ic]tu[m] mesuagiu[m] cum p[er]t[ic]in[enciis] cont[ra]  
 p[re]d[ic]tam Annam & hered[es] suos  
 imp[er]p[et]u[um] et p[ro] hac recogn[icione] remissione quiet[am] clam[atione] War[r]antia fine &  
 concordia iidem Joh[ann]es & Franciscus deder[unt] p[re]d[ic]te Anne centum libr[as]  
 sterlingor[um]

*[Translation]*

- [10] This is the final agreement made in the Court of the Lord King and Lady Queen held at  
 Westminster on the court day within one month of Easter in the second year after the conquest  
 of the reigns of Lord and Lady William and Mary, by the grace of God King and Queen of  
 England,  
 Scotland, France, and Ireland, defenders of the faith, before Henry Pollexfen,<sup>106</sup> John Powell,<sup>107</sup>  
 Thomas Rokeby,<sup>108</sup> & Peyton Ventris,<sup>109</sup>  
 Justices, & Other faithful subjects of the Lord King and the Lady Queen then there present;  
 Between John Bishopp & Francis Holloway, plaintiffs, and Anna Bettris, widow,  
 deforciant, concerning one dwelling with appurtenances in the parish of St Peter in the Bailey in  
 the City of Oxford, concerning which a plea of covenant had been summoned between them in  
 the same  
 court, Namely that the aforesaid Anne acknowledged the aforesaid dwelling with appurtenances to  
 be the right of the same John, as being that which the same John and Francis had of the gift of  
 the aforesaid
- [15] Anne and that she has remised and quitclaimed it for herself and her heirs in favour of the  
 aforesaid John and Francis and the heirs of the same John forever; and furthermore the same  
 Anne granted on behalf of  
 herself and her heirs that she will warrant to the aforesaid John and Francis and to the heirs of the  
 same John the aforesaid dwelling with appurtenances against the aforesaid Anne and her heirs  
 forever, and for this acknowledgement, remise, quitclaim, warrant, fine & agreement the same  
 John and Francis gave to the aforesaid Anne one hundred pounds  
 sterling.

<sup>106</sup> Henry Pollexfen (1632-1691) was appointed chief justice of the Court of Common Pleas on 16 March 1689.

<sup>107</sup> John Powell (1632/3-1696) was appointed a justice of the Court of Common Pleas on 18 March 1689.

<sup>108</sup> Thomas Rokeby (1631-1699) was appointed a justice of the Court of Common Pleas on 8 May 1689. He was knighted later in the year.

<sup>109</sup> Peyton Ventris (1645-1691) was appointed a justice of the Court of Common Pleas on 4 May 1689. He was knighted on 31 October 1689. Ventris is perhaps best known for his two-volume work entitled *The Reports of Sir Peyton Ventris, Knight* (1696), an important source for law proceedings during the Restoration period.

**11. Anne Bettris's Last Will and Testament (original will dated 3 June 1693, with codicils added on 7 June 1694 and 7 September 1694; supplementary codicils dated 12 October 1694 and 15 May 1705 are attached to the main will)<sup>110</sup>**

In the name of God, amen. I, Anne Bettris of Oxford, Widow, the relict of Edward Bettris, Chirurgion, deceased, being at present weak in body but of good and perfect memory and understanding, blessed be his name therefore, Do make and Ordain this my last will and Testam[en]t in man[n]er following recom[m]ending my Soul into the mercifull hands of Almighty God and hoping for Salvation through the only meritts of my Saviour, And desiring to be decently buried according to direction of my Executors hereafter named, And as for that worldly Estate it hath pleased God to bless me with, I dispose thereof as follows (Vizt) Whereas by Indentures of Lease and release bearing date the day before and the day of the date of this my Will for the considerat[i]on therein ment[i]oned, I have conveyed and assured unto Doctor Thomas Bayly,<sup>111</sup> Principal of New Inn Hall, Richard Taylor,<sup>112</sup> Bachelor of Divinity, Fellow of Corpus Christi College in the University of Oxford, and William [5] Howell<sup>113</sup> of Ewelme in the County of Oxon, Clerke, their Heires and Assignes for ever, All that new erected messuage or Tenem[en]t w[i]th the Garden ground and all other appurtenances to the said messuage or Tenem[en]t belonging or in any wise appurteining, scituate and being in the parish of St Peter in the Bayly in the City of Oxford bounded as in the said Indentures is expressed To the use of myselfe for and dureing the terme of my natural life without impeachm[en]t of weist. And from and after my decease to the use of my daughter Anna Bettris and of the Heires of her body lawfully to be begotten and for want of such Issue to such uses as my said daughter shall limitt or appoint by her will or any deed or writeing only to be executed by her in the p[re]sence of three or more Credible Witnesses, And for want of such Limitat[i]on or appointm[en]t to several other uses in the said Indenture of Release p[ar]ticularly ment[i]oned as by the same may at large appear. Now I, the said Anne Bettris, do by this my Will Ratifie and confirme the said deed and the uses therein ment[i]oned. And whereas I did lately pay unto their Ma[jes]ties Exchequer the sume of One hundred pounds upon the order of a late Act of Parliam[en]t made in the fourth yeare [10] of their Ma[jes]ties reigne for granting certaine rates and duties of Excise to their Ma[jes]ties upon Beare, Ale, &c for secureing certain Advantages to such persons as should advance One hundred Thousand pounds towards carrying on the Warr ag[ainst] France, for which I am to receive Fourteen Pounds p[er] ann[um] dureing the life of my said daughter Anna Bettris, I do hereby give and bequeath All my interest and Estate therein to my said daughter Anna Bettris. Item: I give to my Neighbor Hannah Yates, Widow, Twenty shillings to buy her a Ring. Item: I constitute and appoint Thomas Hinton,<sup>114</sup> Master of Arts of New Inn Hall aforesaid, and the said Mr William Howell of Ewelme, Joint Executors of this my Will in trust and for the use and benefitt and dureing the Minority of my said daughter Anna Bettris. And I do nominate and appoint the said Dr Thomas Bayly and Mr Richard Taylor Overseers of this my Will. And I do hereby Impower and Authorize them in the moneth of May next after my decease and in every succeeding Moneth of May yearly dureing the Minority of my said daughter Anna to take an Accompt from my said Executors of [15] all their receipts and disbursements and of my Estate which shall come to their hands as Executors, And of what shalbe due to my Estate at the time of such accompt made. And my will is that my said Overseers yearly signing and approving of their accompts shalbe a discharge to my said Executors. And my Will and meaning

<sup>110</sup> A copy of the will and the various codices is contained in the Bodleian Library.

<sup>111</sup> Thomas Bayly (1656-1714) was a student of Christ Church and took his BA in 1670, and his MA from New Inn Hall in 1673. He was principal of New Inn Hall from 1684-1709.

<sup>112</sup> Richard Thomas was a student of Corpus Christi College and took his BA in 1674, his MA in 1678, and his BD in 1687. He went on to become rector of Tunworth in Hampshire in 1699.

<sup>113</sup> William Howell (1656-1714) was a student of New Inn Hall and took his BA in 1674, his MA in 1676. He became a schoolmaster and curate in Ewelme, Oxfordshire.

<sup>114</sup> Thomas Hinton was a student of New Inn Hall and took his BA in 1678, his MA in 1681.

is, and I do hereby declare, that if both or either of my said Executors with the consent of both or either of my said Overseers shall have power from time to time at their discretions to call in any moneys lent out by me at Interest and secured either by mortgages or otherwise. And the like power to place out the same or any other of my moneys againe at Interest according to the best of their discretions. And my Will and meaning is that in case any moneys already placed out by me or to be placed out by my said Executors and Overseers as aforesaid shall become desperate or in danger to be lost, Ten my said Executors using their best endeavours for the recovery thereof shall be discharged and indemnified of and from such losses and casualties as aforesaid. Item: I give to my said Executors and

[20] Overseers Twenty shillings a piece to buy them Rings. And my further Will and meaning is that when my said daughter shall come to her age of One and Twenty yeares or be married, which shall first happen, my said Executors makeing a true Accompt upon Oath in Writeing before a Master Extraordinary in Chancery or before a Magistrate of all their receipts and disbursements dureing their said Executorships, and paying to my said daughter or her husband shat shall appeare to be justly due upon such Accompt, And then likewise delivering all Writeings, Goods and effects of mine which shall be in their hands or Custody, my said daughter or her said husband shall discharge the said Thomas Hinton and William Howell of and from all Actions, debts and Accompts relateing to their said Executorship. And in case it shall please God that my said daughter Anna Bettris shall die sole and unmarried and under the age of One and Twenty yeares, Then I give and devise the sume of Two Hundred pounds to buy Lands or houses the clear yearely rents and profitts of which

[25] Lands or houses so to be purchased my express Will and meaning is shall be for ever paid to a Divine of the Church of England who shall be resident and a member of New Inn Hall aforesaid and from time to time nominated by the Principal of that Hall for the time being who shall yearly preach a sermon in the Church of St Peter in the Bayley aforesaid on the day on which I shall happen to die. And shall also read the Com[m]on Prayers according to the Liturgy in the same every Sunday, Wednesday, Friday and Holyday throughout the yeare; and in case that the person so to be nominated by the said Principal shall not be accepted of by the Bishopp of the Diocese or approved of by him, then I give the sume either to the binding out of Apprentices or to such other Charitie as the Vice Chancellor of the Univ[er]sity of Oxford and the Principal of New Inn Hall aforesaid for the time being shall think most fitting. And in case my said daughter Anne shall die under the age of One and Twenty yeares and unmarried as aforesaid, then and in such case I give to the said

[30] Doctor Thomas Bayley, Mr Richard Taylor, Mr William Howell and Hannah Yates, Widow, Twenty pounds a piece. And to my maid servant Anne Hanes, Five pounds. And in case my said daughter die unmarried and under age as aforesaid I do hereby give power to my Executors to pay any sume not exceeding Forty pounds to such person or persons as my said daughter shall by any writeing under her hand give the same. And all the rest and residue of any personall Estate I give in such case to the said Mr Thomas Hinton, one of my Executors, the paying and dischargeing the funerall of my said daughter. In witness whereof to each sheet of this my Will being written on two sheetes of Paper I have sett my hand and seale this third day of June in the yeare of our Lord One Thousand Six Hundred Ninety and Three, Ann Bettris. Signed, sealed, published and declared by the said Anne Bettris, Widow, in the p[re]sence of us Thomas Ledwell, Richard Crogley, Stephen Kibbewhite. Memorandum: I, the before named Anne Bettris, Widow,

[35] the Testatrix in the Will to which this Codicill is annexed, for divers good causes and considerat[i]ons me hereunto moveing, have revoaked, annulled and made voyd, and do hereby do absolutely annull and make voyd, All and every the Legacies and bequests by me given by this my Will to Hannah Yates, Widow. And I do hereby discharge my Executors from the paym[en]t of the same. Witness my hand and seale

the seaventh day of June An[n]o D[omi]ni 1694.  
 And I do declare that this Codicill shalbe accepted and taken as part of my Will. Ann Bettris  
 Signed, sealed, and published in the p[re]sence of us. Sarah Herbert Lucy Nicholes  
 A further Codicill to be annexed unto and taken as part of the last Will and Testament of Ann  
 Bettris of Oxford, Widow, Whereas by my said Will and Testament I have given unto Mr  
 Thomas Hinton  
 therein named All my personall Estate which shall remaine after my debts, legacies and funerall  
 expenses shall be payd in case Anna Bettris my daughter shall die unmarried and under the age  
 of One and Twenty  
 [40] yeares. Now my Will and meaning is and I do hereby give and bequeath unto Mr William  
 Howell within named the sume of Fifty pounds in case my daughter shall dye unmarried and  
 before she  
 shall attaine the age of One and Twenty yeares. And I do in such case appoynt the said Thomas  
 Hinton to pay the same accordingly. Item: I do direct and appoynt my Executors in my said  
 Will named  
 to allow unto my said daughter untill she shall marry or attaine the age of One and Twenty yeares  
 so much money yearly our of the interest of my personall Estate as together w[i]th the cleer  
 rent of  
 the house wherein I now dwell shall amount unto the cleer yearly sume of Thirty pounds for her  
 maintenance. Item: I do direct my said Executors to putt into the Custody of my said daughter  
 all my Books,  
 and manuscripts and also to lett my daughter have such of my goods and household stuff as shall  
 be fit for her use. And I do appoint my said Executors sell all my Plate and the rest of my  
 household goods  
 [45] (Except my lin[n]en) and to putt out to Interest the moneys for which the same shall be sold in  
 such man[n]er and for such purposes as in my said Will is directed concerning the rest of my  
 personall Estate. In witness  
 whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seale this seaventh day of September in the yeare of our  
 Lord One thousand six hundred Ninety and four. Ann Bettris Signed, sealed and published in  
 the p[re]sence of Will[iam] Wright, Steph[en] Bishop, Lucy Nicholes.



*[Codicil of 12 October 1694 – Text]*

- Tenore presentium Nos Jacobus Dux Marchio & Comes de Ormond<sup>115</sup> & necnon Univ[er]sitatis Oxon Cancellarius notum facimus univ[er]sis Quod duodecimo die mensis Octobris An[n]o D[omi]ni Millesimo Sexte[n]t[es]imo nonogesimo quarto apud Oxon Coram ven[erabi]li viro Henrico Aldrich<sup>116</sup> S[acrosanctae] T[heologiae] P[rofessore] d[ic]tae Universitatis Oxon Vice Cancellar[io]
- [50] p[ro]bat[um] approbat[um] et insinuat[um] fuit et est Te[stame]ntum sive ult[ima] vol[un]tas cum Codicillis annex[is] Annae Bettris vid[uae] Edwardi Bettris nup[er] de Univ[er]sitat[e] Oxon p[re]dict[a] Chyrurg[i] def[unct]i p[re]sentib[us] annex[is] Com[m]isa fuit et est Admi[n]istrat[i]o o[mn]ium et singulor[um] bonor[um] jur[um] sive Creditor[um] et Cattalor[um] d[ic]tae def[unct]ae et ejus Te[stame]ntum p[re]dictum qual[ite]rcumq[ue] concernent[um] Thomae Hinton & Gul[ielmo] Howell Artiu[m] resp[ectiv]e Mag[ist]ris et conjunctim Ex[ecu]toribus fiduciariis in d[ic]to Te[stame]nto d[ic]tae def[unct]ae nominat[is] Primitus de veritate dict[i] Te[stame]nti sive ult[imae] vol[un]tatis cum Codicillis annex[is] necnon Te[stame]ntu[m] cum Codicillis p[re]dict[is] bene et fideliter p[er]implendo ac de solvendo debita dict[ae] defunct[ae] et Legata in hu[us]mo[d]i Te[stame]nto
- [55] cum Codicillis p[re]dict[o] donat[a] juxta veru[m] valore[m] bonor[um] p[re]dict[orum] ac Iuris in hac p[ar]te exigentia[m] deque vero et p[er]fecto Inv[entari]o o[mn]iu[m] et singulor[um] bonor[um] iur[um] sive Creditor[um] et Catallor[um] dict[ae] defunct[ae] per ipsos exhibend[o] Necnon de justo pleno ac plano Comp[ut]o Calculo sive Rac[i]o[ci]nio de ac sup[er] Admin[istrat]ion[e] vestra in Bonis p[re]dictis Cum ad id congrue fuer[int] requisit[i] p[er] ipsos reddend[o] Ad S[an]cta Dei Evangelia in debita iuris forma rite Jurat[is] (salvo Jure cujuscumq[ue]) Dat[um] sub sigillo Officii n[ost]ri p[re]dicti die mensis An[n]o D[omi]ni et loco supra expressis.

Jos[eph] Woodward Reg[ist]rarius

*[Codicil of 12 October 1694 – Translation]*

- [60] By means of these presents, we, James, Duke, Marquis and Earl of Ormond &c, and also Chancellor of the University of Oxford, make known to all, That on the twelfth day of the month of October, in the Year of the Lord One Thousand Six hundred and ninety-four, at Oxford in the presence of the venerable Henry Aldrich Professor of Sacred Theology, Vice-Chancellor of the said University of Oxford, There was examined, approved and scrutinized the Testament or last will, together with appended Codicils of Anne Bettris, widow of Edward Bettris, he formerly of the aforesaid University of Oxford, surgeon, deceased. By these appended presents was and is Committed the Administration of all and every goods, rights or Credits, and Chattels of the said deceased woman, insofar as these relate to her aforesaid Testament, to Thomas Hinton & William Howell, both Masters of Arts
- [65] and jointly named Executors in trust in the said Testament of the said deceased woman, They first having taken an oath concerning the veracity of the said Testament or last will with appended codicils, and the good and faithful carrying out of the Testament with aforesaid Codicils, that they would pay the debts of the said deceased woman and Legacies granted in this Testament with aforesaid Codicils, according to the true value of the aforesaid goods and the

<sup>115</sup> James Butler, the Second Duke of Ormond (1665-1745), was the Chancellor of the University of Oxford from 1688-1715.

<sup>116</sup> Henry Aldrich (1648-1710) was Dean of Christ Church and Vice-Chancellor of the University from 1692-1695.

requirements of law in this matter, and that they themselves would exhibit a true and perfect Inventory of all and singular goods, rights or credits, and chattels of the said deceased woman, also that they themselves would render a correct, full and clear computation, calculation or reckoning all about your Administration of the aforesaid goods, when it is fitting that they are required so to do. [They swore] on the Holy Gospels of God in the prescribed legal format and procedure (preserving the right of whomsoever). Given under the seal of our aforesaid Office on the day of the month, in the Year of the Lord, and in the place stated above.



*[Codicil of 15 May 1705 – Text]*

Tenore presentium Nos Jacobus Dux Marchio & Comes  
de Ormond &c necnon Univ[er]sitat[is] Oxon Cancellarius notum facimus universis quod  
decimo quinto  
die mensis Maii An[n]o D[omi]ni Mill[es]imo Septing[en]tesimo quinto apud Oxon coram  
ven[erabi]li viro Guil[uelmo] Delaune<sup>117</sup>  
S[acrosanctae] T[heologiae] P[ro]fessore et Universitat[is] Oxon Vicecancellario probat[um]  
approbat[um] et insinuat[um] fuit et est Testamentum sive  
[75] ult[im]a voluntas Annae Bettris, vid[ua] Edw[ardi] Bettris nup[er] de Universitate Oxon  
p[re]dict[a] Chirurgi, def[unct]i, p[re]sentib[us]  
annex[is] com[m]isq[ue] fuit et est Administratio omnium et singulorum bonorum  
jurium Catal[orum] et Creditor[um]  
dict[ae] defunct[ae] et ejus Testamentum p[re]dict[um] qualitercumq[ue] concernent[um]  
Annae Bettris filiae et Executricis  
in hu[ius]mo[d]i Te[stame]nto Primitus de veritate dicti Testamenti idemq[ue] et fideliter  
perimplendo ac de solvendo  
debita dict[ae] defunct[ae] et Legata in eodem Testamento donat[a] juxta verum valorem

<sup>117</sup> William Delaune (1659-1728) was President of St John's College, Oxford from 1697-1728. He served as Vice-Chancellor of the University from 1702-5.

[80] bonor[um] jurium et  
Creditor[um] p[re]dict[orum] ac Iuris in hac parte exigentiam deq[ue] vero et perfecto  
Inventario omnium et singuloru[m]  
bonor[um] iuriu[m] Catal[lorum] et Creditor[um] dict[ae] defunct[ae] per ipsam exhibend[o]  
Necnon de justo pleno ac plano computo  
calculo sive ratiocinio de ac super Administratione sua in bonis p[re]dict[is] cum ad id  
congrue fuerit requisit[us] p[er]  
ipsam reddend[o] Ad Sancta Dei Evangelia in debita juris forma rite Jurat[ae] Salvo Jure  
cujuscumq[ue]  
Dat[um] sub sigillo Officii nostri praedict[i] die Mensis Anno D[omi]ni et Loco supra  
expressis.

[85] Jos[eph] Woodward Reg[istra]rius

*[Codicil of 15 May 1705 – Translation]*

By means of these presents, we, James, Duke, Marquis and Earl  
of Ormond &c, and also Chancellor of the University of Oxford, make known to all, That on  
the fifteenth  
day of the month of May, in the Year of the Lord One Thousand Seven hundred and five, at  
Oxford in the presence of the venerable William Delaune,  
Professor of Sacred Theology, and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, There was  
examined, approved and scrutinized the Testament or  
[90] last will of Anne Bettris, widow of Edward Bettris, he formerly of the aforesaid University of  
Oxford, surgeon, deceased. By these appended presents  
was and is Committed the Administration of all and every goods, rights, Chattels and Credits,  
of the said deceased woman, insofar as these relate to her aforesaid Testament,  
to Anna Bettris daughter and Executrix  
of this Testament, She first having taken an oath concerning the veracity of the said  
Testament, and the good and faithful carrying out of the same, that she  
would pay  
the debts of the said deceased woman and Legacies granted in the same Testament, according  
to the true value of the aforesaid goods, rights and  
[95] Credits and the requirements of law in this matter, and that she herself would exhibit a true  
and perfect Inventory of all and singular  
goods, rights, Chattels and Credits of the said deceased woman, also that she herself would  
render a correct, full and clear computation,  
calculation or reckoning all about her Administration of the aforesaid goods, when it is fitting  
that she is required so to do.  
[She swore] on the Holy Gospels of God in the prescribed legal format and procedure  
(preserving the right of whomsoever).  
Given under the seal of our aforesaid Office on the day of the Month, in the Year of the Lord,  
and in the Place stated above.

[100] Joseph Woodward Registrar

# The Family Tree of Richard Bettris

