

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 22 September 1563 and proved 4 July 1564, of Margaret Saunders Poyntz Skinner, whose sister, Anne Saunders, married Richard Browne, the son of Sir Matthew Browne (d. 6 August 1557) of Betchworth, and uncle of Sir Thomas Browne (d. 9 February 1597), who signed Lady Russell's petition against James Burbage's Blackfriars theatre, and whose son Sir Matthew Browne (died c.1603), was the trustee of Nicholas Brend, owner of the land on which the Globe Theatre was built. See the will of Sir Matthew Browne, TNA PROB 11/39/371.

### ***FAMILY BACKGROUND***

The testatrix was the daughter of Nicholas Saunders (d. 29 August 1553) of Charlwood, Surrey, by Alice Hungate, the daughter of John Hungate of Yorkshire. See the entry for the testatrix at:

[http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page\\_id=707](http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=707)

*Margaret Saunders (1512-c.1563/4) was the daughter of Nicholas Saunders of Charlwood, Surrey (d. August 29, 1553) and Alice Hungate. She married John Poyntz of Alderley, Gloucestershire (c.1487-November 29, 1544), as his second wife. The marriage settlement was dated May 1, 1544, but this appears to have been formalized some years after the actual marriage. He made his will on June 1, 1544, prior to leaving for the invasion of France, making Margaret one of his executors and leaving the care of his eldest son, Henry, age sixteen, to his stepmother. Henry was "not able, by reason of his weakness, to govern himself." Margaret's other young stepchildren were Matthew and Frideswide. Her own children were William (d.1601), Robert (c.1535-1584), Elizabeth, and Alice, all of whom were living at the time of their mother's death. A sketch of Poyntz was done by Hans Holbein, suggesting close ties to court, and it is possible that Margaret was the Mrs. Poyntz who was listed as mother of maids in Queen Mary's household in 1557. Her second husband was James Skinner of Reigate, Surrey (d. July 30, 1558). She was his third wife. He made his will July 28, 1558 and it was proved December 7, 1558. Margaret was appointed sole executor. Her will, dated September 20, 1563, was proved July 4, 1564 and can be found at <http://www.Oxford-Shakespeare.com>.*

### ***Testatrix' siblings***

The testatrix had three brothers and a sister:

**-Sir Thomas Saunders** (c.1505 - 18 August 1565) of Charlwood, Surrey, who married, about 1540, Alice Walsingham, the daughter of Sir Edmund Walsingham (d.1550) and Katherine Gunter (died c.1526), by whom he had three sons and two daughters. See the will of Sir Edmund Walsingham, TNA PROB 11/33/405.

See also the will, dated 7 March 1564 and proved 7 July 1566, of the testatrix' brother, Sir Thomas Saunders, TNA PROB 11/48/525, in which he mentions his wife, Alice Walsingham, his father, Nicholas Saunders, his late brother, Henry Saunders, his three sons, Edmund Saunders, Walsingham Saunders and Thomas White Saunders, and his daughter, Margaret Saunders. His daughter, Elizabeth Saunders, had predeceased him. According to an inscription on a brass gravestone in St Mary's Church in Reigate, Surrey, she died 21 May 1558 (the transcript of the inscription appears to be in error in stating that it was her mother, Alice Walsingham Saunders, who died on that date). See Bannerman, Bruce, ed., *The Visitations of the County of Surrey*, (London: Harleian Society, 1899), Vol. XLIII, p. 110 at:

<https://archive.org/details/visitationsofcou43beno/page/110>

For Sir Thomas Saunders of Charlwood, see also Sanders, Ralph, *Generations; A Thousand-Year Family History*, (Xlibris, 2007), p. 128 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=7LIqjJ4Q3nAC&pg=PA128>

See also the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/saunders-thomas-1513-65>

*In 1543 [Sir Thomas Saunders] took a 21-year lease of a house in the Blackfriars, which presumably became his London residence; from 1550 his landlord there was his Surrey neighbour [Sir Thomas] Cawarden.*

**-Henry Saunders** (d. by 7 March 1564).

**-Richard Saunders** (d. by 7 March 1564?).

**-Anne Saunders**, who married Richard Browne, the son of Sir Matthew Browne (d. 6 August 1557) of Betchworth, and the brother of Elizabeth Browne (see below), the first wife of John Poyntz (c.1485 - 29 November 1544). See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 412-13, and the *ODNB* entry for Robert Poyntz.

## ***MARRIAGES AND ISSUE***

### ***Testatrix' first marriage***

The testatrix married firstly, as his second wife, John Poyntz (c.1485 - 29 November 1544) of Alderley, second son of Sir Robert Poyntz (d. 5 November 1520) of Iron Acton by Margaret Woodville, the illegitimate daughter and only child of Anthony Woodville (c.1440-1483), 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl Rivers, and Gwentlian Stradling. Anthony Woodville was the

brother of Queen Elizabeth Woodville, wife of Edward IV. See the *ODNB* entries for Anthony Woodville and Robert Poyntz; and Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 341 and Vol. III, pp. 286-7. For a portrait of John Poyntz by Holbein see:

<http://www.metmuseum.org/collection/the-collection-online/search/338782>

The testatrix' first husband, John Poyntz, had earlier married, before 1528, Elizabeth Browne, the daughter of Sir Matthew Browne (d. 6 August 1557) of Betchworth, and sister of Richard Browne (see above), by whom he had two sons, Matthew Poyntz (d.1605), and Henry Poyntz, and a daughter, Frideswide Poyntz. In the will below the testatrix refers to one of the sons of John Poyntz by Elizabeth Browne ('Mr Matthew Poyntz, my son-in-law [=stepson]'). See *Magna Carta Ancestry*, *supra*, Vol. III, p. 287; the *ODNB* entry for Robert Poyntz; and Maclean, John, *A Historical and Genealogical Memoir of the Family of Poyntz*, Part II, (Exeter: W. Pollard, 1886), pp. 113-133 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/historicalgeneal02macl#page/116/mode/2up>

By John Poyntz, the testatrix had two sons and two daughters:

\* **Robert Poyntz** (c.1535-1568?), Roman Catholic theologian, for whom see the *ODNB* entry, and Maclean, *supra*, pp. 116-17.

\* **William Poyntz** (d.1601?) of Woodchurch in Reigate, Surrey, who married Elizabeth Newdigate (d.1602?), the daughter and coheir of Thomas Newdigate of Wivelsfield, Sussex, and Katherine Hampden, the daughter of John Hampden. See *Magna Carta Ancestry*, *supra*, Vol. III, pp. 287-8, and Maclean, *supra*, pp. 117, 134-5.

\* **Alice Poyntz**, who married firstly John Skinner (c.1535-1584), great-nephew of the testatrix' second husband, John Skinner (see below). For the testatrix' son-in-law, John Skinner, see the Skinner pedigree in Maclean, *supra*, p. 132 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/historicalgeneal02macl#page/132/mode/2up>

See also the will of John Skinner, TNA PROB 11/67/178, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/skinner-john-1535-84>

See also the entry for Alice Poyntz at:

[http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page\\_id=701](http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=701)

*Alice Poyntz (d.1606?) was the youngest daughter of John Poyntz of Alderley, Gloucestershire (c.1487-November 29, 1544) and his second wife, Margaret Saunders (1512-c.1563/4). Poyntz left £40 to each of his daughters upon their coming of age or*

*their marriage, whichever came first. Alice was brought up by her mother, who married James Skinner of Reigate, Surrey at some point after the death of his first wife in 1549. He was childless. In his will of July 30, 1558, he named his wife sole executrix. His principal heir was his great nephew, John Skinner (c.1535-1584) who, if he was not already wed to her, would soon marry Alice Poyntz. With the death of Alice's father-in-law in 1572, her husband inherited the considerable property in Surrey and was also charged with administering the annuity left to his sister Dorothy, "a woman not most quickest in wit." It is possible Dorothy lived with them, but she is not mentioned in the will John Skinner wrote on May 8, 1584 (proved June 27, 1584). In it, he stated that he had no children and was "not likely to have (God doeth all things for the best)" and left numerous bequests to his wife. She was named sole executrix. On August 12, 1606, a grant of administration was made to Richard Elliot, a great nephew of John Skinner, because Alice, who by that time was married to a man named Palmer, had not carried out her duties as executrix. Several online sources give this as her date of death. Her second husband is sometimes identified as Thomas Palmer or Sir Thomas Palmer, but without any further identification. Thomas Palmer of Angmering, Sussex and Blackwall, Middlesex (1542-c.1616) did have a second wife named Alice. They had no children.*

\* **Elizabeth Poyntz**, who married George Eliot, by whom she had a son, Thomas Eliot, the testatrix' godson.

### ***Testatrix' second marriage***

After John Poyntz' death, the testatrix married, as his third wife, James Skinner (d. 30 July 1558) of Reigate. As noted in the History of Parliament entry, James Skinner died childless, and his heir was his great-nephew, the testatrix' son-in-law, John Skinner (1535-1584). See the Skinner pedigree in Maclean, *supra*, p. 132; the will of James Skinner, proved 7 December 1558, TNA PROB 11/42A/68; and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/skinner-james-1489-1558>

### ***OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL***

For the testatrix' overseer, John Skinner the elder (d. 16 November 1571), servant of Sir Anthony Browne (c.1500-1548), see his will, proved 16 February 1572, TNA PROB 11/54/79, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/skinner-john-ii-1509-71>

LM: T{estamentum} Margarete Skynner

[f. 170v] In the name of God, Amen. I, Margaret Skinner of Reigate in the county of Surrey, widow, whole and perfect of mind and memory, lauded be God, upon good deliberate advice of my friends do ordain and make this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, the only Maker, Redeemer and Saviour of the whole world, and my body to be buried in decent and convenient order for my degree without funeral pomp in the aisle where I did usually sit in the parish church of Reigate while I lived, and the same [f. 171r] to be done by th' advice and discretion of mine executors and overseers;

Item, to John Skinner, my son-in-law, and my daughter, Alice, his wife, I give and bequeath all the hangings, tables, trestles, forms, stools, chairs, cupboards, bankers, cushions, carpets of Turkey work, andirons, pictures and other implements belonging to the great parlour and the hall, one table of needlework of my husband Poyntz' arms, and one picture of Christ hanging on the cross, with one picture of Queen Mary only excepted and forprised out of the said gift and legacy, which said tables I give to Robert Poyntz, my son;

Item, to Robert and William Poyntz, my sons, I give two great featherbeds and bolsters with their pillows, blankets and coverlets as they stand and be in the great chamber over the great parlour, and to every of them 4 pair of sheets and each of them a pair of pillow beres, the one half of the sheets fine and the other of the meaner sort;

And to the same Robert and William I do also give 2 cushions of green satin with garters set on them, and 4 fine cushions of fine verdures, 2 cushions of tawny velvet, equally to be divided amongst them by the discretion of mine executors and overseers;

And to my said son, Robert Poyntz, I do further give and bequeath a little standing cup with a cover all gilt with a flower-de-luce in the midst thereof;

And to the said William Poyntz I give and bequeath a silver salt-cellar with a cover all gilt, and twenty pounds in ready money;

And to every of my said sons I do give a trussing coffer covered with leather and bound with iron, and 4 silver spoons gilt at the broad ends, to be divided between them, and each of them one silver spoon all gilded over;

And further I give to the said John Skinner and my daughter, Alice, his wife, all the hangings, bedding and all the implements in the servants' chamber next adjoining to his own lodging in the parsonage wholly as it standeth;

Item, I do also give and bequeath to the said John [-John] Skinner and my daughter, Alice, his wife, my great bedstead, featherbed, bolsters, pillows, curtains, testers, hangings of old arras, chairs, cupboards and stools, with all other hangings, bedding and

implements within the great chamber within the gallery and the servants' inner chamber there, and two featherbeds in my maidens' chamber with all manner of things belonging to them excepting and forprising the greatest cushion of crimson satin and cloth of gold, which cushion I do freely give and bequeath to Elizabeth Eliot, my daughter, with two featherbeds and bolsters, pillows and blankets as they be now and usually have been in the chambers next the little parlour there;

And further I do give and bequeath to the said John Skinner and my daughter, Alice, his wife, one basin and ewer parcel gilt, a nest of goblets with a cover gilt, one great standing silver pot with the Skinners' arms, and 2 gilt salts with a cover and the Skinners' arms on them, and one dozen of silver spoons with knops at th' ends of them gilt;

And to the said John Skinner, my son, and my daughter, Alice, his wife, I give all my pewter vessel of silver fashion marked with an I[=J] and S, with 3 great candlesticks of latten;

Item, I give to my son Skinner's father (if he overlive me) one standing pot of silver with the Skinners' arms upon it;

Item, the residue of all my brass, pewter, latten, spits of iron, pots and pans, with all my pewter vessel not before given nor bequeathed, I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth Eliot and Alice Skinner, my loving daughters, equally to be divided between them by the discretion of my executors and overseers;

And all my linen not before given I also give and bequeath to my said two daughters, Alice Skinner and Elizabeth Eliot, equally to be divided between them by the discretion of my executors and overseers;

And to my daughter Skinner I give and bequeath a little ewer all gilted, and to my son Skinner and her I give two spoons of silver gilted over all;

Item, to my daughter Eliot and Thomas Eliot, my godson, I give and bequeath one salt gilt without a cover, with one trussing coffer covered with leather;

And to my said daughter Eliot I give a little flat piece of silver sometimes Mr John Poyntz her father's deceased;

And to my said godson I do further give and bequeath two silver spoons gilt at the broad ends;

And to my said daughter Eliot and my said godson I do further give and bequeath to each of them one silver spoon gilted overall;

Item, where I have two other salts gilt not before given nor bequeathed, I give and bequeath the one of the same salts with a cover to my sister Browne and her daughter, and the other salt without cover I give to my cousin Skinner, vicar of Reigate;

And to my said sister Browne I give and bequeath 2 cassocks of cloth, two kirtles, and my best hood [sic?] and all that belongeth to it, with the bedding, coverlets, blankets, pillows and tester of say, curtains of buckram and two pair of sheets which I do usually lie upon;

And to my niece, Alice Gosticke, I give and bequeath twenty pounds which Thomas Kynstrott(?) of Gloucestershire oweth me, with my cassock with fringe, a kirtle of black camlet;

And to my niece, Anne Eliot, I bequeath ten pounds towards her marriage;

And for a small remembrance, to Sir Thomas Saunders, my brother, [f. 171v] for his pains taken always about my business, I give and bequeath to the said Sir Thomas and Thomas White Saunders, his son, a little salt of beryl glass set in silver and gilt;

And all such evidences, writings, escripts and muniments as do in any wise appertain or belong to Mr Matthew Poyntz, my son-in-law [=stepson], or to the said Robert Poyntz, my son, or to any of them which be now in my custody and keeping within the parsonage house of Reigate aforesaid, I will shall be truly delivered to the said Matthew and Robert, their heirs and assigns, by my executors and overseers for the better discharge of my conscience therein;

Item, to all my household servants which shall happen to be with me at the time of my death, I give and bequeath to every of them half a year's wages over and besides their wages then due;

And all my corn and cattle remaining after my funerals, debts and legacies paid and discharged, I will shall be equally divided amongst my said children;

Item, to every of my bigger maids as much wool as will make every of them a petticoat;

And to Alice Costicke and Kathrine Bodle [-to] I give a piece of red for petticoats;

And to my daughter Skinner I give my best gown of damask;

And to Alice Gosticke a gown of russels;

Item, my will is farther that where my husband Skinner willed thirty pounds to be bestowed amongst the poor of his kin, whereof there is fifteen pounds paid by my cousin Skinner of the Dodds and myself, the other fifteen pounds I would should be bestowed as hereafter followeth, that is to Alice Costick and her two sisters six pounds, to Henry Kenerege forty shillings, and to Katherine Geynishe other forty shillings, and the rest of the said fifteen pounds to be equally bestowed amongst Kitchin's children;

Item, to Katherine Bodell twenty shillings and a gown;

Item, to my daughter Eliot an old cassock of tawny damask;

The residue of all my goods and chattels not before given or bequeathed whatsoever they be, my funerals, debts and legacies paid and discharged, and after equal division had and made between my said children, I leave wholly to be disposed and employed in deeds of charity amongst the poor by the discretion of John Skinner, my son-in-law, and Robert Poyntz, my son, and Thomas Saunders, my brother, in the absence of my son, Robert Poyntz, whom I do ordain and make executors of this my present last will and testament;

And overseers thereof I make and ordain my said well-beloved brother, Sir Thomas Saunders, knight, and my cousin, John Skinner of Reigate th' elder, esquire, requiring them to be aiding and assisting in the true performance of this my last will and testament;

And if any ambiguity or doubt shall happen to arise and be made upon any clause, sentence, article or word contained in this testament, that then my mind and express will is that the same shall be expounded and declared by the said Thomas Saunders and John Skinner th' elder, with such as they shall call to counsel for the same;

In witness whereof I, the said Margaret Skinner, have subscribed this my present last will and testament the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September in the fifth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., and in the year of Our Lord God 1563. Margaret Skinner. Witness: Sir Thomas Saunders, knight, with other.

Probatum fuit fuit [sic] suprascriptu{m} testamentu{m} coram Mag{ist}ro Waltero Haddon Legu{m} Doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cantu{ariensis} Com{m}issari{o} apud London iiijo die mensis Iulij Anno Domini Mill{es}imo Quingentesimo sexagesimo quarto Iuramento Iohannis Skynner et Roberti Poyntz executoru{m} in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}at{orum} Quibus commissa fuit administracio omniu{m} bonoru{m} &c De bene &c Ac de pleno et fideli Inventario &c Necnon de plano &c Iurat{is}

[The above-written testament was proved before Master Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixty-fourth by the oath of John Skinner and Robert Poyntz, executors named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all the goods etc., sworn to well etc., and [+to prepare] a full and faithful inventory etc., and also [+to render] a plain [+and true account] etc.]