

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 29 March 1563 and proved 9 February 1564, of Dame Blanche Forman, the sister-in-law of William Watson (d.1559), father of the poet, Thomas Watson (d.1592), who dedicated *Ekatompathia* to Oxford in 1582 (see STC 25118a), and served as a tutor to the son of Sir William Cornwallis (c.1551-1611), who purchased the lease of Oxford's mansion of Fisher's Folly in the parish of St. Botolph's in Bishopsgate. For the will of William Watson (d.1559), see TNA PROB 11/43, ff. 26-7.

The testatrix was born Blanche Stanney, the daughter of Richard Stanney, mercer, of Oswestry, Shropshire. Her sister, Jane (nee Stanney), married, as his second wife, William Watson (d.1559), father of the poet, Thomas Watson (d.1592). Information concerning the Stanney family and a pedigree showing the testatrix' connection with the Watson family can be found in *Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Natural History Society*. See Vol. V, pp. 3, 71, 103.

The testatrix' father, Richard Stanney (d.1540), names in his will his wife, Jane, four sons (Thomas, David, Robert and Richard the younger), and four daughters (Blanche, Jane, Joan and Elizabeth). He makes these bequests to his daughters, from which it can be seen that the testatrix was the eldest:

*Item, I do give and bequeath to Blanche, my eldest daughter and wife to Master Richard Raynolde, citizen of London, my best drinking pot for ale of silver double gilt with a cover, and the least of the two pots double gilt with his cover I give and bequeath to my daughter, Jane, being wife to one Master Watson, citizen of London aforesaid.*

*Item, I give and bequeath to Joan, my daughter, being wife to Icm Lloyd, a white silver salt partly gilt, and half a dozen silver spoons with round heads;*

*Item, I give and in like wise bequeath to my daughter, Elizabeth, being wife to Edward Lloyd, a white silver salt partly gilt, with half a dozen of spoons with rounds heads, so that by the discretion of my executors it be to them equally delivered weight for weight and value for value.*

For the will of the testatrix' father, Richard Stanney, dated 15 November 1539, and proved 15 April 1540, see TNA PROB 11/28, f. 83(?). For the will of the testatrix' brother, David Stanney, dated 1 September 1546 and proved 20 October 1547, see TNA PROB 11/31, ff. 371-2. For the will of the testatrix' brother, Robert Stanney, dated 13 September 1558 and proved 3 February 1559, see TNA PROB 11/42A, ff. 257-8. For the will of the testatrix' brother, Richard Stanney, dated 16 September 1542 and proved 7 December 1542, see TNA PROB 11/29, f. 104.

The terms of the will indicate that all the testatrix' siblings had predeceased her with the exception of her sister, Elizabeth, and, possibly, her sister, Joan. Most of the testatrix's bequests are thus to her siblings' children and their children, including Blanche Watson (d. 23 April 1593), Anne Watson (d. 18 October 1574) and John Watson (d. 19 December

1574), the three children of her sister, Jane (nee Stanney) Watson by her husband, William Watson (d.1559), father of the poet, Thomas Watson (d.1592):

*Item, I give to my niece, Blanche Walton, my flower of diamonds and a ring with a diamond;*

*Also I give unto the said Blanche Walton these parcels of stuff ensuing . . .*

*Item, I will to John Watson, the son of my brother, William Watson, ten pounds;*

*Item, I will to Anne Watson, the daughter of my said brother, ten pounds at the day of her marriage;*

*Item, to John Watson a black gown;*

*Item, to Anne Watson a black cassock;*

At the time of the making of the testatrix' will, the testatrix' niece, Blanche Watson (d. 23 April 1593), was the wife of the London mercer, Dunstan Walton (d. 19 March 1572), after whose death she married the London grocer and mercer, John Lambert (d.1582), whose first wife had been Katherine Pakington, the aunt of Humphrey Martyn, the addressee of the *Langham Letter* which describes Leicester's entertainment of Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575. After John Lambert's death, Blanche (nee Watson) married the London mercer, alderman, and later Lord Mayor, Thomas Skinner (d.1596), who had purchased Castle Camps from Oxford. For Thomas Skinner's fraudulent dealing against Oxford, see BL Lansdowne 68/11, f. 26 and BL Lansdowne 63/76, ff. 191-2. For the will of Dunstan Walton, see TNA PROB 11/54, f. 71. For the will of John Lambert, see TNA PROB 11/64, ff. 21-3. For the will of Thomas Skinner, see TNA PROB 11/89, ff. 394-5. For the inquisition post mortem setting out the relationship between John Lambert (d.1582), his second wife, Blanche (d. 23 April 1593), her father, William Watson (d.1559), and her first husband, Dunstan Walton (d. 19 March 1572), see 'Inquisitions: 1593-4', *Abstracts of Inquisitiones Post Mortem for the City of London*: Part 3 (1908), pp. 171-219, available online at: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=65901>.

The testatrix married three times. Her first husband was Richard Reynolde (d. 6 May 1542). For his will, dated 30 September 1541 and proved 26 May 1543, see TNA PROB 11/29, ff. 159-60. Her second husband was Sir William Forman. For his will, dated 10 January 1547 and proved 12 March 1547, see TNA PROB 11/31, f. 235. Her third husband was Robert Palmer (d. 12 May 1544). For his will, dated 5 May 1544 and proved 24 July 1544, see TNA PROB 11/30, ff. 96-7.

The testatrix died 8 August 1563.

The surname Stanney is spelled in a variety of ways in the will. It has been regularized to 'Stanney' in the transcript below.

RM: Testamentum domine Blanche fforman

In the name of God, Amen. The Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, three persons and one God in Trinity, to whom be all honour, glory, praise and immortal thanks forever and ever, Amen. The 29<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred threescore and three and 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., I, Dame Blanche Forman, widow, late wife of Sir William Forman, knight and alderman of London, deceased, being now, praised be Almighty God, in good mind, memory and perfect remembrance, knowing most assuredly nothing to be more certain to man or woman than death, yet nothing more uncertain than the hour and time of God's visitation and calling by death, desirous to make a declaration of, for and upon the charitable disposition of such goods as Almighty God of his infinite goodness and liberality hath endued me withal in this miserable vale of this corrupt world, asserting the same to be given and dispended among the poor to God's glory, the wholesome relief of the needy, and for charity, grace and remission of mine offences, which I undoubtedly trust and faithfully believe to obtain by the merits and blood of our Saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, shed once(?) only in his passion for the redemption of me and all mankind, being the most precious and abundant price of our salvation, in eschewment of all worldly contentions that might ensue if I should or did die intestate, I make, declare, ordain and publish this my testament and last will in legacies, gifts, declarations and distributions ensuing, most humbly recommending my soul to the infinite and unspeakable mercy of Almighty God, by whose only mercy I trust to obtain clear remission of my sins, and to be placed among the elect and chosen to be of the company that everlastingly shall enjoy the fruition of the Deity whereto man was first created, and after his fall by sin redeemed by our Saviour, Jesus Christ, to whom for me I most humbly request to be my Mediator and Saviour, dying in the same;

My wretched body I will to be buried in the church of Saint Christopher by the Stocks in the right side of the chancel, as nigh unto my pew at my abode there as may be conveniently if it shall please God to call me to his mercy in London, but if I shall chance to depart this life elsewhere than in London, then my carcass to be buried in such place as to mine executors underwritten shall be thought most expedient;

Item, I will that my funerals shall be done in such order and condition, my degree and vocation considered, as to mine executors shall be thought good, being void of all pomp, excess and vainglory;

I will at my said burial twenty and four gowns to be given to 24 poor people, 12 of them to be men such as been citizens of London brought by God's visitation to indigence, and 12 to be widows of good name and fame, the colour and cloth to be appointed by mine executors as the same shall require, which 24 persons I will to be present at all the suffrages and sermons to be used and made at my burial in such time and places as by

mine executors to them shall be appointed, requesting their charitable prayers for me and all Christian souls;

Item, I bequeath to the relief of poor people in alms at my said burial or shortly after in such sort as the laws and statutes of this realm will permit, ten pounds;

Item, I will one hundred smocks of lockram or canvas to be made and given at my charges to one hundred poor women, widows and wives dwelling in Oswestry in the county of Salop [=Shropshire], to pray for my soul as their charities shall move them;

Mine exequies being done as appertaineth, I will that mine executors shall speedily dispatch by payments all such debts as I shall owe at the time of my death;

Item, I will that the deeds of charity here ensuing shall be done, paid and delivered in as good speed as mine executors undernamed shall be able to execute the same:

First, to the relief of the poor miserable captives and prisoners of the gaols in and about London, I bequeath £6 13s 4d current, to be delivered to every house a portion underwritten in money, victuals or other requisites as my executors shall see most needful and to the poor to be most beneficial, that is to say, to Newgate, 40s; to Ludgate, 20s; to each [+of the] Counters, 20s; to the Marshalsea, 20s; to the Bench, 20s; to the Gatehouse at Westminster, 13s 4d;

Item, I bequeath to Christ's Hospital in London 20 pound in money, and if my suit in Flanders be paid to me or my executors, then I bequeath to the same hospital £40;

Item, I will that if my said suit in Flanders to paid to me or my executors, that then mine executors or their assigns shall yearly for evermore between the first day of December and the feast of Christmas distribute and give to and among the poor people in the parishes of St Christopher's at the Stocks, St George nigh Pudding Lane and St Giles without Cripplegate 3 loads of coals, to be given yearly in the parishes aforesaid forever, that is to say, in the parishes of St Christopher at the Stocks in London for the soul of Richard Reynolde, mercer, late Sheriff of London, and Blanche, his wife, sometime parishioners there, one load of coal of 30 sacks in the month of December every year, thother 2 loads containing 30 sacks in either load within the several parishes of St George nigh Pudding Lane and St Giles without Cripplegate in memory of Sir William Forman, knight, late Mayor of London, and Dame Blanche, his wife, sometime parishioners of St George aforesaid and the said Sir William late being alderman of the ward of Cripplegate aforesaid, and the same coals to be given to the most neediest persons having household and children;

Item, my mind and intent is and I will that if my suit in Flanders be paid to me or my executors as aforesaid, that then my said executors within one year next after my decease, or so soon as they conveniently may or shall devise and conclude by good order of assurance by their counsel learned to and with the bailiffs, jurats, officers and commonalty of the borough town of Oswestry where I was born, that with one hundred

pounds of money to be delivered to them by my executors upon and after good surety between my executors and them to be made and fully concluded, to th' intent that the same hundred pounds shall be forever delivered unto five honest young men, householders or young beginners in any feat of merchandises or manual craft within the said town, that is to say, to every of the said five honest young men £20 for three years by them to be freely occupied next ensuing the delivery thereof without any interest to be taken or in any wise given for the same, they and every of them that shall so receive and occupy the same at the receipt thereof putting in sufficient sureties or pawns for the faithful repayment of the said £20 at and in th' end of the said 3 years, and after the same 3 years ended and repayment made of the said £100, I will that the said hundred pound shall be with as convenient speed as may be likewise paid and delivered unto five other like honest young men householders or young beginners dwelling and inhabiting within the said borough or town of Oswestry for other three years next ensuing the delivery thereof, they and every of them putting in sufficient sureties or pawns for the faithful payment thereof at th' end of the same 3 years, and this order I will by God's grace to have continuance within the said borough of Oswestry from 3 years to 3 years for evermore;

And I will that no person or persons shall have the said sum of 20 pounds or any part thereof, parcel of the said sum of one hundred pounds, in his or their custody or occupying but only for 3 years as abovesaid, and no lenger in any wise;

Item, I will and charge my said executors that they take such order concerning the delivery of the said hundred pounds to the bailiffs, jurats, officers and commonalty of Oswestry in manner and form abovesaid so as the same my said devise may take effect according to my true meaning forever, and that the said money shall always run in occupying in 5 such persons' hands, qualified as above, as will require it, which they shall receive freely, save only for paying 2s unto the clerk or officer that shall make the obligations or other assurance for the repayment of the said money;

Provided always and my will is that such of my kin as shall be poor people and occupiers inhabiting within the said borough, if any such be, shall have the preferment of occupying of the said money from time to time after the rate aforesaid, that is to say, £20 a man, to have the same in form aforesaid so that such my kinfolks will and do put in sureties or pawns for the faithful repayment thereof in manner and form aforesaid, and I desire every such person as shall have any part of the said benefit to have me in remembrance;

Provided always that if the bailiffs, jurats and commonalty of Oswestry aforesaid within two years next ensuing that my said executors shall be able to accomplish this my legacy will not conclude and determine with mine executors, their executors or assigns, for the sure establishment and accomplishment of this my bequest and devise effectually to be executed and observed according to the true meaning of this my last will, then I will and my mind is that this my legacy of a hundred pounds to cease and become utterly void towards the said town, bailiffs, jurats and commonalty to all intents and purposes, willing then the said sum of one hundred pounds be given by mine executors or their executors to

the poor people of the same town in alms-deeds, having always respect unto my poor kindred there;

Item, I do remit, pardon and forgive unto Roger Stanney, my brother's son, all such sums of money as he oweth me;

Item, I do give unto my cousin, John Stanney, and to Blanche, his wife, all that my house lying at Stratford in the county of Middlesex, to have and to hold the same to the said John Stanney and Blanche and their assigns until Thomas Stanney, which was born in my house in London by the said Blanche, shall come unto his full age of 21 years, and from and after that time that the said Thomas shall accomplish his said age of 21 years, I give and bequeath the said house situate at Bowe aforesaid unto the said Thomas Stanney and his heirs forever;

Item, I give to my niece, Blanche Walton, my flower of diamonds and a ring with a diamond;

Also I give unto the said Blanche Walton these parcels of stuff ensuing, that is to say: first, a tester for a bed with valence of blue and yellow damask and 5 curtains to the same; item, 2 cushions long, one of white damask and the other being of cloth of gold, being the best; item, 2 cushions of needlework wrought with silk; item, 5 Turkey carpets of 2 yards the piece long, whereof 2 white, being of the best, and the other of mine own; item, the best covering of the history of Abraham, being 4 yards long; item, the best hangings of branches, which was for the great chamber; item, one of the best featherbeds with a bolster; item, one of the best cypress chests; item, 2 copper andirons that was in the great chamber; item, 2 cushions of the best of needlework wrought with crewel; item, 3 cushions of pomegranates and roses; item, a cupboard cloth wrought with black silk and 3 square platters of the greatest sort; item, a great plain charger; item, a dozen of great platters; item, half a dozen of dishes and half a dozen of middle sort platters; item, a truckle-bed under the painted bedstead; item, 2 salad dishes; item, 3 pottingers; item, 2 plates; item, 3 bow pots; item, a wine gallon pot; item, one dozen of saucers; item, a new chair of walnut-tree covered with cloth of gold; item, 2 new stools, one covered with crimson velvet, one other of cloth of gold; item, a painted wainscot bedstead in my own chamber; item, a bed of down that I lie on, with the bolster; item, a damask tablecloth of great branches of 8 yards long, with a damask towel of great branches of 16 yards long; item, 2 ewery towels of damask; item, one cupboard cloth of damask; item, 2 cupboard panes edged with gold and golden buttons, being damask; item, 2 cambric pillow-beres; item, one fine rail, purled and stitched; item, my best Turkey carpet, being new and for the long table in the hall; item, a strong wainscot chest that stood in the great chamber over the new parlour; item, a press of wainscot that stood in the long chamber; item, a bird-cage that stood in the hall, being the best; item, a great cauldron; item, a Flanders pan for the hot weather, to stand in the hall; item, one great brass pan, and one middle sort pan; item, one of the best chafers; item, one of the greatest brazen pots;

Item, I will, give and bequeath to my niece, Jane Sowthewycke [=Southworth?], these parcels of stuff ensuing, that is to say: first, a cushion of green velvet embroidered with

gold round about, being a long one; item, a cushion of needlework wrought with silk; item, a small Turkey carpet about 2 yards and a half long; item, a carpet of checked work of 5 yards long which was for the table in the little parlour for Sundays; item, a covering of 3 kings of Oulten(?) containing 4 yards and a half; item, a chair of purple velvet; item, 3 cushions of needlework wrought with crewel of the best; item, 3 cushions of pomegranates and roses; item, a tablecloth of damask containing 3 yards long; item, more, a double towel of damask to the same; item, half a dozen of diaper napkins; item, one dozen of damask napkins; item, 2 square platters of the greatest sort; item, half a dozen of middle sort platters; item, half a dozen dishes; item, 2 salad dishes; item, 3 pottingers; item, 3 plates; item, 3 bowe pots; item, one pottle ale-pot; item, 2 ale quart pots and 2 pint pots; item, one good featherbed with a bolster and two pillows; item half a dozen of great platters, one dozen of saucers; item one wine pint pot and an ale pint pot; item, one small stool covered with crimson velvet; item, my old hangings of tapestry in mine own chamber; item, a mattress which was under my bed; item, a bedstead with vells(?) that was in the great chamber, with 4 curtains of say, red and green; item, 2 Spanish blankets; item, one old mantel and a painted cupboard in my chamber, with a carpet thereto; item, one foot-pace that was in the chamber; item, a lapping table, with an old Turkey carpet to the same; item, 2 curtains of red and green say in the windows in my chamber; item, one old Turkey carpet in the window in my chamber; item, 2 little cushions in my own chamber window, 2 andirons, 2 creepers of iron; item, a little chair covered with tawny velvet; item, a tablecloth of the Holy Ghost, with a double towel to the same; item, one ewery towel of damask; item, one dozen of damask napkins; item one cupboard cloth of damask; item, one long coucher of 8 yards; item, one fine sheet, purled and stitched; item, 2 fine sheets, one of 2 leaves and one of 3 leaves; item, 2 fine pillow-beres; item, 2 cupboard panes of damask, one of golden buttons with edging of gold, and one plain one of damask; item, one fine rail, purled and stitched; item, a great cypress chest that stood in my chamber; item, a wainscot press standing in the little chamber over the yard; item, 2 new pewter candlesticks; item, one wainscot chest that stood in Thomas' chamber; item, a frame with a Dansk table that was in the new parlour; item, 2 forms and one carving-cupboard; item, a bird-cage that was in the little parlour; item, a pair of great andirons of copper with creepers that was in the little parlour; item, a steel glass that was in the little parlour; item, a pair of tongs with a fire-shovel; item, a cappe pan; item, one great brass pan; item, 2 pans more, one of middle sort, one of the lesser sort; item, one settle and a chafer; item, a scummer and a brazen ladle; item, one brazen pot; item one chafing-dish, one spit;

Item, I bequeath to the said John Stanney, my cousin, these parcels of stuff ensuing, that is to say: first, a tester with valence of checked silk, being red and green; item, a long cushion of white damask; item, a small Turkey carpet of 2 yards long; item, a changeable quilt of red and green silk of 3 yards long; item, a cypress chest; item, a dozen of damask napkins; item, two square platters; item, half a dozen of middle sort platters; item, half a dozen of dishes; item, 2 salad dishes; item, 3 pottingers; item, 2 plates; item, one Dansk wine pottle pot; item, 2 small stools covered with velvet; item, a damask tablecloth with a double towel to the same; item, one ewery towel of damask; item, one dozen of damask napkins; item, one fine sheet, purled and stitched; item, 2 cupboard panes of damask,

whereof the one edged with gold and the other being plain; item, a fine rail, purled and stitched; item, a featherbed;

Item, I give unto Blanche Brygges [=Bridges?] these parcels of stuff ensuing, that is to say: first, a covering of small flowers containing 4 yards; item, the hangings of the great chamber of red say and green; item, 2 cushions of needlework wrought with crewel; item, 3 cushions of pomegranates and roses; item, one tablecloth and a towel of diaper; item, half a dozen of diaper napkins; item, 2 square platters; item, half a dozen of great platters; item, half a dozen of middle sort platters; item, half a dozen of dishes; item, 2 salad dishes; item, 3 pottingers; item, 2 plates; item, 3 bowe pots; item, one ale pottle pot; item, one wine pottle pot; item, one dozen of saucers; item, one wine pint pot; item, an ale pint pot; item, one mattress, one featherbed with a bolster to the same; item, one tester of checkered camlet in my own chamber; item, 2 blankets; item, one foot-pace that was in my chamber, with a mantel; item, a little cypress chest that is in my chamber of a yard long; item, one ewery towel of damask; item, one dozen of damask napkins; item, one cup board cloth of damask; item, one plain coucher of 8 yards; item, 2 sheets, one of 2 leaves and the other of 3 leaves; item, 2 fine pillow-beres; item, one cupboard pane of diaper; item, a wainscot chest that stood in the chamber next my own chamber; item, a painted bedstead that standeth in the great chamber over the new parlour, with the hangings of the said chamber; item, a great cypress chest; item, an old cupboard that stood in the great chamber over the new parlour; item, 2 foot-paces belonging to the bedstead; item, 2 new pewter candlesticks; item, 4 curtains of blue and yellow sarsenet; item, 2 old Turkey carpets and the old carpet in the hall; item, one cappe pan; item, one cupboard pane of damask; item, one great brass pan; item, 2 pans more, one middle sort and one lesser sort; item, a kettle and a chafer; item, one brass pot; item, one chafing-dish; item, one spit;

Item, I will unto Anne Lloyd, my servant, £20 in money and these parcels of stuff ensuing, that is to say: first, 2 cushions of needlework wrought with crewel; item, a tablecloth and a towel of diaper; item, half a dozen of napkins of diaper; item, one square platter; item, 3 great platters; item, 3 middle sort platters; item, 3 dishes; item, one salad dish; item, 3 pottingers; item, one plate; item, one ale pottle pot; item, one wine pottle pot; item, half a dozen of saucers; item, one ewery towel of damask; item, half a dozen of damask napkins; item, one cupboard pane of damask; item, a featherbed and a bolster; item, an old covering of tapestry and 2 blankets; item, 2 new pewter candlesticks; item, one old Turkey carpet; item, one great brass pan; item, one spit;

Item, I will unto Roger Lloyd, when he cometh out of his years, £10 and a featherbed with a bolster, and a bedstead that was in the little chamber next the churchyard; item, a pair of sheets and one pair of blankets, and an old covering; item, a long cushion of crimson velvet paned with cloth of gold round about; item, a small Turkey carpet about 2 yards and a half long; item, a covering of old imagery of 4 yards long; item, a cypress chest; item, a damask tablecloth with little flowers; item, more, a towel of the same; item, a damask tablecloth called The Roses containing 8 yards or thereabout, with a double towel to the same; item, one ewery towel of damask; item, one dozen of damask napkins; item, one of the best plain cupboard panes of damask; item, one fine rail, purled and



stitched; and if my suit in Flanders be paid to me or my executors, then I bequeath him a hundred pounds;

Item, I will to Katherine Draper, late servant with Mistress Woodcocke, these parcels of stuff ensuing: first, 3 cushions of old arder, being small; item, one square platter; item, 3 great platters; item, 3 middle sort platters; item, 3 dishes; item, 2 salad dishes; item, 3 pottingers; item, one plate; item, one pottle ale pot; item, half a dozen of saucers; item, one ewery towel of damask; item, half a dozen of damask napkins; item, one sheet of 2 leaves with a seam of black silk; item, one fine pillow-bere; item, one cupboard pane of damask; item, a featherbed and a bolster; item, one great brass pan; item, 2 pans more, one middle sort and one lesser sort, and one brass pot;

Item, I give and bequeath to Roger Stanney these parcels of stuff ensuing: first, a covering of great branches containing 5 yards long; item, a cypress chest; item, 3 cushions of pomegranates and roses; item, one tablecloth of drawghte work [=drawn-work?] with a towel; item, 2 square platters; item, half a dozen of middle sort platters; item, half a dozen of dishes; item, 2 salad dishes; item, 3 pottingers; item 2 plates; item, one ale pottle pot; item, one Dansk wine pottle pot; item, one tablecloth of the Holy Ghost, with a double towel to the same; item, one towel of damask of 8 yards long; item, one ewery towel of damask; item, one dozen of damask napkins; item, 2 sheets, one of 2 leaves and the other of 3 leaves; item, one covering of diaper; item, one fine rail, purled and stitched;

Item, I give to little Jane Lloyd the younger, now dwelling with me, forty pounds in money and these parcels of stuff ensuing: first, 3 old cushions of arder; item, 2 square platters; item, 3 great platters; item, 3 middle sort platters; item, 3 dishes; item, 2 salad dishes; item, 3 pottingers; item, 2 plates; item, one ale pottle pot; item, 2 ale pottle pottle [sic] pots, and 2 pint pots; item, half a dozen of saucers; item, a wine pint pot and an ale pint pot; item a quilt of red silk; item a mattress, a featherbed, a bolster, a blanket, one old red covering, one ewery towel of damask; item, one dozen of damask napkins; item, 2 fine pillow-beres; item, one cupboard pane of damask; item, a wainscot bedstead with a tester of red say and yellow standing in the chamber next mine own chamber; item, the hangings of the same chamber of red say and green; item, one old Turkey carpet; item, one cupboard; item, 2 new pewter candlesticks; item, an old carpet upon the long table in the little parlour; item, one great brass pan; item, 2 pans more, item, one middle sort and one lesser sort; item, a kettle and a chafer; item, one brass pot, one chafing-dish; item, one spit;

Item, I give and bequeath to Elizabeth Lloyd, my sister, these parcels of stuff ensuing: first, a tablecloth of drawghte work [=drawn-work?] with a towel; item, a tablecloth of diaper; item, half a dozen of diaper napkins; item, one square platter; item, half a dozen of middle sort platters; item, half a dozen dishes; item, 2 salad dishes; item, one plate; item, one ale pottle pot; item, one quart wine pot of Dansk; item, half a dozen of saucers; item, one ewery towel of damask; item half a dozen of damask napkins; item, 2 fine sheets, one of 2 leaves and one of 3 leaves; item, one cupboard pane of diaper; item, one cupboard pane of damask;

Item, I bequeath to Margaret Lloyd, dwelling with Thomas Lloyd at Westminster, twenty pounds in money and these parcels of stuff ensuing: first, one square platter; item, to the said Margaret, 3 great platters; item, 3 middle sort platters; item, 3 dishes; item, one plate; item, one ale pottle pot; item, one wine pottle pot; item, half a dozen of saucers; item; one ewery towel of damask; item, half a dozen of damask napkins; item, one cupboard pane of damask; item, a wainscot bedstead with a tester of green say and yellow; item, to the same Margaret, a bed and a bolster which standeth in the little chamber over the yard; item, more, in the same chamber 2 blankets, and one coverlet of tapestry; item, more, the hangings of the same chamber, being of red say and yellow; item, the great brass pan and one middle sort pan; item, one brass pot; item, one spit;

Item, I will to David Draper, late my servant, five pounds;

Item, I will to John Watson, the son of my brother, William Watson, ten pounds;

Item, I will to Anne Watson, the daughter of my said brother, ten pounds at the day of her marriage;

Item, I will to Eleanor Johns of Oswestry 30 shillings in money;

Item, I give to Mr Hussye when my suit in Flanders shall be paid to me, my executors or assigns, forty pounds;

Item, I bequeath to John, my kitchen boy, five pounds;

Item, my will, mind and intent is that when my suit in Flanders shall be paid to me or my executors or their assigns, that then my said executors or their assigns shall, as shortly after as they can, give to the maintenance of the free school in the town of Oswestry fifty pound, and the same to be employed that it may be a continual memory of me as mine executors shall order the same;

Item, I will to Margaret Lloyd, daughter of Evin Lloyd, yearly as long as she liveth, 20 shillings a year when my suit in Flanders shall be paid unto me or my executors or their assigns;

Item, I will to and among the children of Robert Brygges [=Bridges?] and Cicely, his wife, one hundred pounds, and if any die, then the other to have it;

Item, I bequeath to every of the said Robert Lloyd's children, son of David Lloyd, to whom I have not given or bequeathed anything unto by this my will, forty shillings apiece, to be paid to them and every of them when they shall come to and accomplish their several ages of 21 years or marriage, and if any of them die before their said several ages or marriages as aforesaid, that then I will that the part and portion of him, her or them so deceasing shall be equally divided among the residue surviving, and if my suit in Flanders be paid to me or my executors, then I bequeath to every of his children twenty pounds;

Item, I will to Jane Lloyd, my half-sister, ten pound, and if my suit in Flanders be paid to me or my executors, then I bequeath to her forty pound;

Item, I do remit and forgive to Thomas Lloyd twenty pound which he oweth me, so and upon condition that he pay to every of his children 40 shillings apiece at their several ages of twenty and one years or day of marriage;

Item, I give to every of the children of the said Thomas Lloyd's forty shillings apiece, and if any of them die before the said ages or marriages, that then I will that the part and portion of him, her or them deceasing shall be equally divided among the rest surviving;

Item, I will to my cousin, Dowse Gyttons, a ring of gold worth forty shillings, or else 40s in money, and to each of her children that I have not heretofore given anything unto, forty shillings apiece, to be paid to them and every of them at their several ages of 21 years or marriages, and if any of them die before their said ages or marriages, that then the part or portion of him, her or them so deceasing to remain to the other living, equally among them to be divided;

And I will, give and bequeath to every such of my godchildren, being wives and maidens, that are christened by my name as be now alive or shall be alive within a year next after my decease 20s, and I give to Blanche Byrtche dwelling in Lancashire and being one of the same number, forty shillings, and to every other of my godchildren 6s 8d;

Item, I will to Mistress Woodcocke, widow, if my suit in Flanders be paid to me or my executors, five pound in money;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Mary Lambert ten pound in money, and if my suit in Flanders be paid to me or my executors as aforesaid, then I bequeath to her twenty pounds;

Item, I bequeath to Thomas Hasellfoote five pound in money, and if my suit in Flanders be paid to me or my executors as aforesaid, then I bequeath to him twenty pounds;

Provided always that if I shall fortune at any time hereafter during my life to give to any person any bequest, gift or legacy to them or any of them by this my last will given or bequeathed, that then I will that the same legacy and bequest that I shall so fortune to pay during my life shall be utterly void, frustrate and of none effect as though the same were not mentioned ne specified in this my last will and testament;

And further I will that such legacies as I have given to any person or persons by this my last will and testament, after my said suit in Flanders shall be finished and ended and the sums of money thereupon recovered paid to me or my executors or their assigns shall be truly paid to them by my executors if the same sum so to be recovered as aforesaid will in all things perform, fulfil and pay the legacies by me bequeathed in this my last will and

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testament, otherwise not, but the same to be paid to them truly as far as it will amount unto, and that according to the discretion of mine executors;

Item, I give to every of John Stanney's children to whom I have not given any legacy unto forty shillings apiece, to be paid to them when they shall severally accomplish their several ages of twenty and one years or marriage, and if any of them die before their said age or marriage, that then I will that the part and portion of him, her or them so deceasing shall be equally divided among the other living;

Item, I give and bequeath to every of Robert Stanney's children to whom I have not given any legacy unto forty shillings apiece, to be paid to them when they shall severally accomplish their ages of twenty and one years or marriage, and if any of them die before their age or marriage, then I will that the part and portion of him, her or them so deceasing shall be equally divided among the other surviving;

Item, I give and bequeath to every of the children of my sister, Dowce Stanney, to whom I have not given any legacy by this my will unto forty shillings apiece, to be paid at their several ages of twenty and one years or marriages, and if any of them die before the said age or marriage, that then the part or portion of them so deceasing shall be equally divided among the other surviving;

Item, I give and bequeath to every of the children of Richard Stanney to whom I have not given any legacy unto by this my will forty shillings apiece, to be paid at their several ages of 21 years or marriage, and if any of them die before the said age or marriage, that then the part and portion of them so deceasing shall be equally divided among the other surviving;

Item, I give and bequeath to every of the children of my sister, Joan, to whom I have not given any legacy unto by this my last will forty shillings apiece, to be paid at their several ages of 21 years or marriages, and if any of them die before the said age or marriage, that then the part and portion of them so deceasing shall be equally divided among the other surviving;

Item, I give to every of the children of Sir Richard Kyffyns [=Kyffyn] to whom I have not given any legacy unto by this my will forty shillings apiece, to be paid at their several ages of 21 years or marriage, and if any of them die before the said age or marriage, that then the part and portion of them so deceasing shall be equally divided among the other surviving;

Item, I give and bequeath to every of the children of my sister, Elizabeth Lloyd, to whom I have not given any legacy unto by this my will 40s apiece, to be paid at their several ages of twenty and one years or marriage, and if any of them die before the said age or marriage, that then the part and portion of them so deceasing to be equally divided among the other surviving;

Item, I give and bequeath to every of the children of Richard Lloyd to whom I have not given any legacy unto by this my will forty shillings apiece, to be paid at their several ages of 21 years or marriage, and if any of them die before the said age or marriage that then the part and portion of them so deceasing to be equally divided among the other surviving;

Item, I give and bequeath to every of the children of Margaret Lloyd unto whom I have not given any legacy unto by this my will forty shillings apiece, to be paid at their several ages of 21 years or marriage, and if any of them die before the said age or marriage, that then I will the part and portion of them so deceasing to be equally divided among the other surviving;

Item, I give and bequeath to every of the children of Eleanor Lloyd to whom I have not given any legacy unto by this my will forty shillings apiece, to be paid to them at their several ages of 21 years or marriage, and if any of them die before the said age or marriage, that then I will the part and portion of them so deceasing to be equally divided among the other surviving;

Item, I give and bequeath to every of the children of Sir Robert Stanney's to whom I have not given any legacy unto by this my will forty shillings apiece, to be paid at their several ages of 21 years or marriage, and if any of them die before the said age or marriage, that then I will the part and portion of them so deceasing to be equally divided among the other surviving;

Item, I give to every of the children of Edward Draper to whom I have not given any legacy unto by this my will forty shillings apiece, to be paid at their several ages of 21 years or marriage, and if any of them die, that then I will the part and portion of them so deceasing to be equally divided among the other surviving;

Item, I give and bequeath to every of the children of Richard Draper's unto whom I have not given any legacy unto by this my will forty shillings apiece, to be paid at their several ages of 21 years or marriage, and if any of them die before the said age or marriage, that then I will the part and portion of them so deceasing to be equally divided among the other surviving;

Item, I bequeath to Robert George forty shillings in money;

Item, I give and bequeath to and among the Company of Haberdashers of the City of London if they come to my burial six pound 13s 4d;

Item, I bequeath to and among my cousin John Stanney's children when my suit in Flanders shall be paid to me or my executors or their assigns the sum of fifty pounds in money;

Item, I give and bequeath to Roger Stanney, my cousin John Stanney's brother, when my suit in Flanders shall be paid to me or my executors as is aforesaid, fifty pound in money;

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Item, I give and bequeath to and among the children of John Graffam, to every of them forty shillings apiece if my said suit in Flanders shall be paid to me or my executors as is aforesaid;

Item, I likewise give to every of the children of (blank) Kyrkeham forty shillings apiece when my suit in Flanders shall be paid to me or my executors as is aforesaid;

Item, I give and bequeath to Sir Thomas Chamberlayne, knight, when my suit in Flanders shall be paid to me or my executors as aforesaid fifty pounds in money;

Item, I further give and bequeath to the said Blanche Byrche when my suit in Flanders shall be paid to me or my executors as is aforesaid twenty pounds in money;

Item, I will, give and bequeath to Mr Sturgeon, the Upper Chamberlain, a black gown;

Item, I give and bequeath to Sir Thomas Chamberlayne a black gown, and to my Lady, his wife, a black cassock;

Item, I give to Dunstan Walton a black gown, and to his wife a black cassock;

Item, to John Stanney a black gown, and to his wife a black cassock;

Item, I likewise give to Edward Sowthewycke [=Southworth?] a black gown, and to his wife a black cassock;

Item, to all my household, blacks at the discretion of my executors;

Item, to Roger Stanney of Oswestry a black gown, and his wife a black cassock;

Item, to Robert George a black coat;

Item, to Mr Hussye a black gown;

Item, to John Watson a black gown;

Item, to Anne Watson a black cassock;

Item, to Mistress Draper, widow, a black cassock;

Item, to Mistress Woodcocke, widow, a black cassock;

Item, to John Graffam a black gown, and his wife a black cassock;

Item, to Francis Lambert a black gown;

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Item, to Thomas Haselfote a black gown, and his wife a black cassock;

Item to Robert Twysell a black gown, and to his wife a black cassock;

Item, to Kyrkam a black gown, and to his wife a black cassock;

Item, to Thomas Otterburye a black gown, and his wife a black cassock;

Item, to Jane Lloyd a cassock;

Item, to Mary Lambert a cassock;

Item, I bequeath to William Peerson, scrivener, a black gown, and his wife a black cassock;

Item, to Thomas Lloyd of the Guard a black gown, and his wife a black cassock;

Item, to Richard Cragge a black gown, and his wife a black cassock;

Item, I bequeath to Mr Pelter, ale-brewer, a black gown;

Item, I will and bequeath that certain rings of gold with some device shall be made at my costs and charges, to be delivered as tokens of remembrance to my friends named particularly in the schedule annexed to this my last will, the value of every ring in gold besides the fashion to be of such quantity and goodness as shall be noted upon every of their names;

Item, my whole mind and intent is that if any doubt, ambiguity, obscurity of sentences, clauses or words contained within this my testament shall rise or grow by mistaking, misunderstanding or doubtfully understanding of my will and mind in any legacy, sentence, devise, clause or disposition comprised under any word within this my will, I will and expressly declare my will and mind to be that the same shall be interpreted, declared, expounded and understood [=understood] only in such sort, condition and meaning as my executors, who know my whole mind, will, purpose and intent, shall of their conscience declare, expound and understand the same, to whose only declaration and exposition I will all my legataries and all other having benefit by this my will or testament shall simply stand to obey and quietly follow and perform the same without any further matter or question of contention to be moved or attempted, as they and every of them will eschew the peril, very lack and forfeiture of his or their several legacies, from the which I will him and them utterly to be excluded that shall at any time impeach, trouble, convent or vex my said executors or any of them by suit in the law, supplication or petition or other remedy ordinary or extraordinary;

Finally, I revoke, disannul, utterly annihilate and accept for void all other wills, testaments, devises, gifts and legacies by me to any other person heretofore made, willed, given or devised, willing this my testament and last will wholly and solely to stand, abide

and remain for my last will and testament made advisedly and deliberately in my good mind and memory;

And the residue of my goods and chattels, whatsoever it shall be, I put it to the order of mine executors to distribute the same to and among the children of Robert Lloyd and William Brygges [=Bridges?] and the poorest of my kin;

And for many urgent causes and considerations me moving, having my singular trust and confidence fixed in the pureness of the conscience of my nephew, Dunstan Walton, and Edward Sowthewycke [=Southworth?], I make, name, ordain and constitute the said Dunstan Walton and Edward Sowthewycke my only executors of this my present testament and last will, praying them to travail in execution of the same according to mine expectation and sincerity of their conscience, and I give to either of them for their pains ten pound apiece to be sustained and taken in that behalf, requiring my cousin, John Stanney, and William Peerson to be mine overseers of this my will, and I give to either of them for their pains in that behalf to be taken ten pounds apiece;

In witness of all which premises to this my present last will and testament I have subscribed my own name with my proper hand, delivering the same for my last will in act and deed in the presence of the witnesses hereafter ensuing by me specially called to witness and testify the same, that is to say: by me, Alexander Best; by me, John Rytche, Thomas Haselfoote.

In this codicil are the names of them to whom rings or jewels be bequeathed, with the several values of them.

First, to John Stanney a ring of gold with a diamond that was last set;

Item, to Dunstan Walton a ring of gold with a ruby which was last set;

Item, to Goodwife James of ffyche [=Fish?] Street, a ring of gold of the value of 26s 8d;

Item, to Margaret Graffam a ring of gold worth 40s;

Item, to William Peerson, scrivener, a ring of gold worth £3;

Item, to either of Roger Stanney and his wife, a ring of gold of 40s, summa four pound;

By me, Alexander Best. By me, John Rytche, Thomas Hasellfootes.

I, John Phylpott, clerk, do testify that I was present and heard my Lady Forman within-written the seventh of this instant of August 1563, being Saturday, confess and effectually affirm this present will to be her last will and testament, whereunto she



referred herself. Written by me the 7<sup>th</sup> of August before mentioned, per me Iohannem Philpotum

Probatum fuit huiusmodi Testamentum coram magistro Waltero Haddon legum Doctore Curie prerogative Cantuariensis Commissario apud London Nono die Mensis february Anno Domini iuxta cursum et computationem Ecclesie Anglicane Millesimo Quingentesimo Sexagesimo Tertio Iuramento Edwardi Sowthewycke Executoris &c Cui comissa fuit Administratio de bene &c Ac de vero Inventario Necnon de vero et plano Computo reddendo ad sancta dei Evangelia in [sic?] iurati Dunstano Walton altero executori expresse renuntianti

[=The same testament was proved before Master Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the ninth day of the month of February in the year of the Lord according to the course and reckoning of the English Church the thousand five hundred sixty-third by the oath of Edward Southworth, executor, etc., to whom administration was granted, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., and to [+prepare] a true inventory, and also to render a true and plain account, Dunstan Walton, the other executor, expressly renouncing.]

RM: xvjo Aprilis 1573 emanavit Commissio Janne Sowthworth relicte Edwardi Sowthworth executoris &c ad administranda bona &c non administrata per executorem &c

[=On the 16<sup>th</sup> day of April 1573 a grant issued to Jane Southworth, relict of Edward Southworth, executor etc., to administer the goods etc. not administered by the [+said] executor etc.]