

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 14 September 1608 and proved 16 February 1609, of Douglas (nee Howard) Sheffield (1542/3–1608), the eldest of the three daughters of William Howard (c.1510–1573), 1st Baron Howard of Effingham (c.1510–1573), and his second wife, Margaret (d. 1581), third daughter of Sir Thomas Gamage of Coety, Glamorgan, and his wife, Margaret. Her elder brother was Charles Howard (1536–1624), 2nd Baron Howard of Effingham and 1st Earl of Nottingham (1536–1624). According to the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, available online, the best explanation for her Christian name is that her godmother was likely Margaret (nee Douglas) Stewart (1515–1578), Countess of Lennox, grandmother of King James I.

According to the entry for the testatrix in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*:

Her father protected her cousin Elizabeth I (1533–1603) in 1554–5, despite being lord high admiral to Mary I. For this service he was appointed lord chamberlain of the household at Elizabeth's accession, and Douglas Howard and her sister Mary (d. 1600) maids of honour by the time of her coronation.

In the autumn of 1560 the testatrix married Oxford's first cousin, John (c.1538–1568), 2nd Baron Sheffield, the son of Edmund (1521–1549), 1st Baron Sheffield, and his wife, Anne de Vere (d.1572), one of the three sisters of John de Vere (1516–1562), 16th Earl of Oxford. For the will of Edmund (1521–1549), 1st Baron Sheffield, see TNA PROB 11/43, ff. 48-9. For the will of John (c.1538–1568), 2nd Baron Sheffield, see TNA PROB 11/51, f. 1. For the Sheffield pedigree, see also Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2004), pp. 647-8.

After the death of her husband in 1568, the testatrix was involved in a notorious scandal with Leicester. From the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*:

In the early 1570s Douglas Sheffield began an affair with Robert Dudley, earl of Leicester (1532/3–1588), courtier and magnate, the fifth son of John Dudley, duke of Northumberland, and his wife, Jane, that came to dominate the rest of her life. There is only one item of reliable evidence for the affair, apart from the circumstances of the birth of their son, Sir Robert Dudley (1574–1649), on 7 August 1574, and gossip at court in May 1573 that Sheffield and her sister Frances (1553/4–1598) were both 'very far in love' with Leicester (LPL, MS 3197, fol. 79). This is the long undated letter Leicester wrote to her at some point before 1574, defending his refusal to marry for fear of Elizabeth's displeasure ('Letter ... to a lady', 14–26). However, in 1584–5 the tract Leicester's Commonwealth broadcast round Europe details of what had been the discreet knowledge of the court. More controversial still were the two depositions Sheffield supplied on 6–7 June 1604 in 'the great cause of Sir Robert Dudley', the court of Star Chamber case arising from his claim to be Leicester's legitimate son, in which she declared under oath that Leicester had formally married her (CKS, U 1475/L 2/3, items 12–13). . . .

The anonymous author of *Leicester's Commonwealth* (1584), charged Leicester with the murder of the testatrix' husband, Oxford's first cousin, John (c.1538–1568), 2nd Baron Sheffield:

Long after this, [Leicester] fell in love with the Lady Sheffield, whom I signified before, & then also had he the same fortune to have her husband die quickly with an extreme rheum in his head (as it was given out), but as other say of an artificial catarrh that stopped his breath.

The author of *Leicester's Commonwealth* also alleged that the testatrix had both a son and a daughter by Leicester:

Now for the second point which I named, touching marriages and contracts with women, you must not marvel though his Lordship be somewhat divers, variable, and inconstant with himself, for that according to his profit or his pleasure, and as his lust and liking shall vary (wherein by the judgment of all men he surpasseth not only Sardanapalus and Nero, but even Heliogabalus himself), so his Lordship also changeth wives and minions by killing the one, denying the other, using the third for a time, and the[n] fawning upon the fourth. And for this cause he hath his terms & pretences (I warrant you) of contracts, pre-contracts, post-contracts, protracts, and retracts, as for example, after he had killed his first wife, and so broken that contract, then forsooth would he needs make himself husband to the Queen's Majesty, and so defeat all other princes by virtue of his pre-contract. But after this, his lust compelling him to another place, he would needs make a post-contract with the Lady Sheffield, and so he did, begetting two children upon her, the one a boy called Robin Sheffield now living, sometime brought up at Newington, and the other a daughter, born (as is known) at Dudley Castle. But yet after, his concupiscence changing again (as it never stayeth), he resolved to make a retract of this post-contract (though it were as surely done, as I have said, as bed and Bible could make the same), & to make a certain new protract (which is a continuation of using her for a time) with the widow of Essex. But yet to stop the mouths of outcriers, and to bury the Synagogue with some honour (for these two wives of Leicester were merrily & wittily called his Old and New Testaments by a person of great excellency within the realm), he was content to assign to the former a thousand pounds in money with other petty considerations (the pitifullest abused that ever was poor lady), and so betake his limbs to the latter, which latter notwithstanding he so useth (as we see), now confessing, now forswearing, now dissembling the marriage, as he will always yet keep a void place for a new surcontract with any other when occasion shall require. . . .

Wherefore to tell you the tale as it fell out, I grew acquainted these months past with a certain minister that now is dead, & was the same man that was used at Dudley Castle for complement of some sacred ceremonies at the birth of my Lord of Leicester's daughter in that place, & the matter was so ordained by the wily wit of him that had sowed the seed that, for the better covering of the harvest & secret delivery of the Lady Sheffield, the goodwife of the castle also (whereby Leicester's appointed gossips might without other suspicion have access to the place) should feign herself to be with child, & after long and sore travail (God wot) to be delivered of a cushion (as she was indeed), & a little after a

fair coffin was buried with a bundle of clouts in show of a child, & the minister caused to use all accustomed prayers and ceremonies for the solemn interring thereof, for which thing afterward, before his death, he had great grief & remorse of conscience, with no small detestation of the most irreligious device of my Lord of Leicester in such a case.

The testatrix' next marriage was also controversial, provoking the ire of her cousin, the Queen. On 28 November 1579 she secretly married Sir Edward Stafford (1552-1605), the first son of the Marian exile Sir William Stafford (b. before 1512, d. 1556) of Chebsey, Staffordshire, and Rochford, Essex, and his second wife and cousin, Dorothy Stafford (1526–1604), daughter of Henry Stafford (1501-1563), 10th Baron Stafford, and granddaughter of both Edward Stafford (1478-1521), 3rd Duke of Buckingham, and George (1449-1478), Duke of Clarence, younger brother of King Edward IV. Sir William Stafford's first wife had been Queen Anne Boleyn's sister, Mary Boleyn (d.1543), whom he married secretly in 1534. As indicated in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, the testatrix' marriage to Sir Edward Stafford was bigamous:

On 28 November 1579 Sheffield secretly married at her house at Blackfriars, London, the gentleman pensioner Edward Stafford (1552–1605), diplomat, of London, first son of Sir William Stafford of Chebsey, Staffordshire, and his second wife, Dorothy. This marriage was in its own way as controversial as her affair with Leicester. Most of what is known of the circumstances comes from Stafford's own lengthy deposition in 1604, which was testimony against Sheffield, for if she had been married to Leicester she had committed bigamy in marrying him (CKS, U 1475/L/2/4, item 3).

Immediately after his marriage, Stafford left for France as Elizabeth's envoy to François, duc d'Anjou. He finally returned to England on 16 February 1580, when he was summoned to a dramatic interview with the queen. After forcing him to admit that he had married Sheffield, Elizabeth claimed to have evidence that she was already married to Leicester. With a mixture of bribery and cajolery she tried through Stafford and others to persuade Sheffield to testify to this effect. Sheffield—almost hysterical—refused to concede any more than breach of contract. Her refusal, Stafford considered, was crucial evidence against the marriage. There is some external confirmation of this phase of the saga. On 8 February the French ambassador, Castelnau de Mauvissière, reported that Elizabeth was angry because Stafford had secretly married a cousin of hers.

The testatrix' husband, Sir Edmund Stafford, may have been related to Oxford. Sir George Vere, a younger brother of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford, and a grandson of Richard de Vere (1385?-1416/7), 11th Earl of Oxford and his wife, Alice Sergeaux (d.1452), married Margaret Stafford, the daughter of Sir William Stafford of Bishops Frome, Herefordshire, and Elizabeth, the daughter of Hugh Wrottesley. Although the connection has not yet been firmly established, it appears that the testatrix' husband, Edmund Stafford, was a descendant of the same family of Staffords into which Sir George Vere married. For the will of Sir George Vere, see TNA PROB 11/13, f. 182.

As indicated in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, there are a number of unresolved questions concerning the testatrix' marriage to Sir Edward Stafford:

When the discrepancy between her testimony and her husband's was put to Sheffield in 1604 she claimed that she had believed that since Leicester had remarried she was free to do so as well. Thanks to intimidation by Leicester—and after his death by his widow and her son, Robert Devereux, second earl of Essex—she had been afraid ever to mention their marriage again. This, however, is not the only unresolved question. How did Elizabeth find out about Sheffield's marriages? It is possible that the famous revelation to her by Jean de Simier, Anjou's agent, was not just that Leicester was married to the dowager countess of Essex, but that he was already married to Sheffield as well. A second issue is whether Leicester actually arranged Sheffield's marriage to Stafford, as Mauvissière was informed. She and Stafford vehemently denied this and made much of their hatred of Leicester when questioned at length on the subject in 1604. In his opening statement Sir Robert Dudley described Stafford as 'a man very adverse' to Leicester (Hawarde, 199). Yet Stafford and Leicester were on good terms before 1579. Last there is the issue of the young Robert Dudley himself. Sheffield deposed in 1604 that Leicester offered her £1000 for the custody of their son, but she refused. In fact custody appears to have been settled quite amicably. By 1580 Robert Dudley was 'being then brought upp at the Lord Northes'—with Leicester's close friend Roger North, second Baron North—yet he also had 'leave to see the said ladie [Sheffield]' (CKS, U 1475/L/2/4, item 3, fol. 36).

By autumn 1580 Sheffield was 'great with child' and ultimately she and Stafford had two sons, but both predeceased their parents and little is known about them (CKS, U 1475/L2/4. item 3, fol. 33). Marriage brought her no financial advantages, for Stafford was notoriously poor and admitted in 1583 that he was dependent on her jointure income from the Sheffield estate. In October of that year he was appointed ambassador to the French court and she accompanied him. Thanks to her place at Elizabeth's court and her command of French, Sheffield was the most socially successful of all the wives of the Elizabethan ambassadors in France. Not only did she get on famously with Catherine de' Medici, but she also made a significant contribution to the administration of the Valois court. At the beginning of 1585 Henri III promulgated a new series of household ordinances intended to give him greater privacy. These, Jacques de Thou later recorded, were based on discussions he had had with Sheffield about Elizabeth's practice.

Edmund Stafford died on 5 February 1605. As noted in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, the testatrix indirectly requested to be buried near him:

[Lady Sheffield] requested burial either in Reigate, Surrey, with her parents or in St Margaret's, Westminster, 'by my sister', Lady Dudley, not mentioning that Stafford, who had died on 5 February 1605, was buried there as well (Greenfield, 368–70). Her executor was 'my friend' William Crashaw, a puritan preacher then closely associated with Lord Sheffield (Adams, 'Protestant cause', 434). She died in Westminster at the beginning of December 1608, and was buried in St Margaret's on the 11th. No monument to her or to Stafford was erected.

In her will the testatrix mentions her two sons, Edmund, 3rd Lord Sheffield, and Sir Robert Dudley, and three 'daughters', Elizabeth Swift, Frances Fairfax and Marie

Sheffield, who were in fact the daughters of her son, Edmund, 3rd Lord Sheffield, and thus her granddaughters. They are identified, as are some of the other persons mentioned in the will, in Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., 'Abstract of the Last Will of Lady Douglas Sheffield, the Repudiated Wife of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester', *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, Vol. III, New Series, (London: Hamilton Adams, 1880), pp. 368-70, available online at:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=s2BIAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA370&lpg=PA370&dq=%22sir+edward+swift%22+%2Bfairfax&source=bl&ots=uEIdE3bT3j&sig=S6sh1vogqWBkiEvqiQbKYc11T9A&hl=en&ei=zdaRTuKEJuuCsgLC24iiAQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&sqi=2&ved=0CB0Q6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22sir%20edward%20swift%22%20%2Bfairfax&f=false.

By her first husband the testatrix had a daughter, Elizabeth Sheffield (d.1600), who married Thomas Butler (1531-1614), 10th Earl of Ormond and 3rd Earl of Ossory, and predeceased the testatrix. From the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*:

On 1 September 1582 Lady Ormond died at Bristol. Ormond was free to remarry and did so with indecent haste. He took out a marriage licence on 9 November. His second wife was Elizabeth (d. 1600), daughter of John Sheffield, Baron Sheffield, and his wife, Douglas Sheffield. After a court wedding he returned to Ireland on 22 January 1583. Ormond and his second wife had one son, James Butler, Viscount Thurles (1583–1590), and a daughter, Elizabeth (c.1585–1628).

The testatrix' executor, William Crashawe (bap. 1572, d. 1625/6), was chaplain to the testatrix's son, Edmund Sheffield (1565-1646), 3rd Baron Sheffield and 1st Earl of Mulgrave, in 1604, was appointed preacher at the Inner and Middle Temples in 1605, and invested in the Virginia Company:

*In 1604 he became chaplain to Edmund Sheffield, Baron Sheffield, president of the council of the north. . . . On 10 February 1605 Crashawe obtained the post of preacher to the Inner and Middle Temples in London, where he was to lecture each Sunday and Thursday for the sum of £10 per term from either house. There he found 'the most comfortable and delightfull company for a scholler, that (out of the Universities) this kingdome yeelds' (W. Crashawe, *Romish Forgeries and Falsifications*, 1606, sig. ¶13). The connections that he now formed with influential people in various walks of life are witnessed by the sometimes multiple dedications of his printed tracts and by surviving letters to Sir Robert Cotton, James Ussher, Thomas James, and Sir Julius Caesar. He shared the enthusiasm of his fellow Templars for colonial expansion and invested in the Virginia Company, delivering on 21 February 1610 a farewell sermon at Lord De La Warr's departure that was printed without his leave as *A Sermon Preached in London (1610)* and later helping to publicize the discovery of the Bermudas.*

See the entry for William Crashawe in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, available online.

The testatrix' 'beloved friend, the Lady Waller', is unidentified. However it should be noted that a Lady Waller is also mentioned in the will of Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth (nee Trentham) de Vere (d.1613), Countess of Oxford. For her will, see TNA PROB 11/121, ff. 74-5.

RM: T{estamentum} Douglass D{omi}ne Sheffield

In the name of God, Amen. I Douglas, Lady Sheffield etc., though I be in health of body and perfect memory, yet considering the uncertainty of this my mortal life, being wholly in the hand of God and not at all in mine own, and obeying the commandment and will of my God, which is that we must set our houses in order before we die, therefore and to th' end that I may be the better prepared for heavenly cogitations in my sickness, having beforehand discharged my mind of worldly matters, I do here make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

And first of all, for my soul, I profess myself in life and death a Christian, and above all things in the world do desire and hope and joy to be the servant of God in Jesus Christ. I renounce atheism, Turkism, Judaism, popery and all heresies condemned by God's church according to the scriptures. I believe there is one only true God, one in substance, three in person. I believe the holy scriptures to be the revealed will and word of God, and that they set down the way and contain the means and all things needful for man's salvation. I believe all things therein contained to be true, and namely and especially that the second person, the Son of God, was made man, and for the love he bare to mankind took our flesh upon him and was born of the Virgin Mary, being perfect God and perfect man, and I believe that [-that] Jesus of Nazareth is the only true Messiah promised in the Old Testament and only Saviour of the world, and that he came to take away the sins of all believers, to which end he was born, lived, died, was buried, rose again, and ascended, and all this not for himself but for us. I believe that he saveth none but such to whom he giveth faith and repentance, which he worketh in them by his spirit, and that spirit he conveyeth into them in the ministry of his holy word and two sacraments, and by this means he calleth to grace and justifieth and sanctifieth all whom he saveth. And I believe that whosoever do truly believe in him and do repent are sure to be saved. And I believe that all he did & suffered was for the benefit of all his elect without respect of persons, sex, age or quality. I believe there is a holy and catholic church of God which consisteth of the elect, and I believe that I am one of that number, and one of that church, and therefore that forgiveness of sins & everlasting life belong unto me, and the reasons of that faith of mine are first, because God made me heathen Turk nor Jew, but in mercy hath made me a Christian. Secondly, because in great mercy he hath revealed his will unto me, and taught me to know him and myself in some measure, and for this cause hath vouchsafed me the use of his holy word and sacraments. Thirdly, because he hath yet in greater mercy not taken me away in the sins of my youth, my ignorance and my vanity, but showed me and given me time of repentance, for which I praise his holy name on the bended knees of my heart. Lastly, for that in the greatest mercy of all he hath vouchsafed me some measure of his holy grace, giving me some sight and sense of my life past, some

sorrow [~~CROSSED OUT~~: of] for my sins, some care and desire to honour God and serve him better than I have done. These graces he giveth to none but his children, and therefore I believe that I am one of his children by Christ Jesus, and herein is my joy and only stay and confidence of my heart, and herein is the hope of my salvation, and though I am and so do most freely and heartily confess myself to be a grievous sinner in God's sight, and deserved damnation, yet I know that God so loved the world that he gave his only Son to th' end that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish but have life everlasting, and upon this promise do I build my faith, and do look for at God's hands forgiveness of my sins and life everlasting for the virtue and merits of Christ his death and passion and of him alone. And all merits of saints and all other means of salvation I utterly renounce but only the bloodshedding of Jesus Christ, and I do hope and firmly believe that my God and Father will, for the worthiness of the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, forgive my sins and save my soul, and in this faith by his grace I will live and die. Therefore into the hands of his mercy I commend my soul, even into the hands of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, my Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier, and him I beseech for Jesus Christ his sake to have mercy upon me, to receive my soul, to deliver it from hell, and to crown it with glory and life eternal;

And for my body, which is no better than the prison of my soul, I leave it to the earth whence it came, to be buried either at Reigate with my father and mother, or in the parish church of Westminster by my sister Dudley, as shall seem good to my children and my executor, to whom and whose discretion I wholly refer my burial and all the circumstances thereof both for the place and manner of it, only charging them with this, that if it be possible it be in the daytime and that there be a sermon and alms given to the poor, but otherwise without pomp and with as little charge as may be;

And for the temporal goods which God hath lent me, my will is that first of all out of my whole estate order to be taken by my executor for the payment of my due and lawful debts, namely those which in a schedule are annexed to this my will and subscribed with my hand;

And those being discharged, I then give to the poor of the City of Westminster, if I be there buried, twenty pounds, ten pounds to be distributed at my burial to the poor then living, with respect to be had of them that dwelt nearest unto me and best frequented the church, and the other ten pounds to be given to the stock of the poor of that said parish, provided that if there be no good employment of the stock for the poor there so as to my executor and supervisors shall be thought fit, then to be distributed to other good uses as they shall think convenient, and if I be buried elsewhere, then my will is that the first ten pounds be distributed to the poor of that place and parish, and the other ten pounds to be disposed as afore;

Item, I give and bequeath to the poor of the town and parish of Kenilworth the sum of five pounds, and to Timothy Delayne, the now preacher there, if he be then living there, four pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath to my beloved son, the right honourable Edmund, Lord Sheffield, one great silk needlework chair wrought with a fountain, and one other great chair of the like wrought [-wrought] with a shepherd and his sheep, and two Spanish chairs, the one with pawnces [=pansies], the other with thwarts, and a lesser Spanish chair with roses, and a silk needlework form wrought with some gold in it, and a carpet of tawny velvet with a border of needlework about it, and two long stools wrought with roses, and two silk needlework long cushions, the one wrought with roses, the other with variety of work, and six high stools of needlework wrought with several kinds of work;

Item, I give and bequeath to my honourable and beloved son, Sir Robert Dudley, knight etc., my bed of black velvet embroidered with needlework of thwarts, with bedstead and curtains and the three chairs of the same work and same ground suitable to the bed, and the black leather gilded hanging;

Item, I give and bequeath to my honourable daughter-in-law, the Lady Ursula Sheffield, my wrought velvet gown with great buttons of pearl;

Item, I give and bequeath to my beloved daughter, the Lady Elizabeth Swift, whom I brought up from her infancy, one great chair and a long cushion of needlework of pansies and eglantines, and two chairs with backs, the one with cypress, the other with flames, and two other little French chairs, and four little stools of needlework bordered with velvet and lace, and a little footstool of Irish stitch, and another lesser chair of eglantines, and two carpets of crewel needlework, the one greater, the other less, and one carpet of orange velvet, and one whole suit, that is, a high chair, a strole [sic?] chair, a low stool and six high stools of tuftaffety orange and green;

Item, I give unto her, my said daughter Swift, five pieces of arras hangings lined through with canvas, and two chairs of white and tawny thin satin;

Item, I give unto her a bed of hair-coloured cloth of gold, the curtains of orange damask with a quilt of orange rich taffety together with the feather bed and blankets to it, and a Spanish chair of orange tuftaffety, and a great pallet bed belonging to the said bed, with the rug and blankets to it;

Item, to her two other featherbeds with blankets to them;

Item, to her one pair of fine Holland sheets of three breadths, and one pair of wrought pillow-beres, and two parts of all my other napery linen excepting that belonging to my body, and two parts of all my pewter and of all kitchen furniture and of all other implements of household stuff;

Item, I give unto her one great chair, one lesser chair, and two long cushions of fugort [=figured] satin dressed with gold and silver;

Item, to her a dozen of Turkey work stools, eight higher and four lower;

Item, I give and bequeath to my beloved daughter, Mrs Frances Fairfax, one great chair of Irish stitch and two French chairs of the same, and two low stools of needlework, and a pair of fine Holland sheets of three breadths, and a pair of pillow-beres wrought with black and green and gold;

Item, I give and bequeath to my beloved daughter, Mrs Marie Sheffield, a border of gold, pearl and stone of seventeen pieces, whereof eight be rubies and diamonds and pearls, or else one of my great pearls;

Item, I give and bequeath to my beloved friend, the Lady Waller, my hatband set with [+a?] great pearl, or the same pearl upon whatsoever the same shall then be;

Item, I give and bequeath to my good and loving friend, Mr Crashawe, preacher at the Temple, who hath taken great pains with me both in preaching God's word and other ways, one bed and bedstead of red stammel cloth, with all the furniture thereto belonging of featherbed, covering, blankets etc., and one chair and a long cushion of crimson fugart [=figured] satin, and one silver tankard and one silver dish, and my little standing clock of brass;

Item, I give and bequeath to William Lenthall, my old servant, my silver candlestick, and I have a silver basin and porringer of his;

Item, I give and bequeath to Mrs Salisbury a gown of tuftaffety and any one other stuff gown which I shall leave, and a petticoat of crimson damask, besides her part of my linen;

Item, to Marie Morton, my woman, I give all my small orient pearls, my gown of waved satin, and my kirtle [+and?] my petticoat of orange velvet, and my will is that my body linen shall be divided to her, Mistress Savile and Mistress Salisbury & my two maids on this manner, all to be divided into four equal parts at the sight & discretion of my executor, and then one part of them I will shall be given to Marie Morton, another to Savile, and the other two to be divided amongst Mistress Salisbury and my two maids;

Item, I give and bequeath to Humphrey Browne, my servant, for his honest and faithful service, besides his wages and whatever any way shall be due unto him, twenty pounds;

And to the rest of all my servants who have no legacies, men and women serving me till then, half a year's wages besides their wages then due unto them;

Item, I give and bequeath to my woman Savile a (blank) and kirtle of black satin furred with sables, and a petticoat of orange and white taffety;

Item, to Marie Turner, my ancient servant, a pair of sheets of my own making for my own bed, a pair of new(?) pallet sheets, two pair of household sheets, a long tablecloth, a lesser square tablecloth, and a dozen of table napkins of my own making;

And whereas I have certain jewels and other goods of good value mortgaged to Lenthall or to some for his use and by his appointment, my will is that if they be not redeemed by me before my death, that then my executor shall tender and deliver to the said Lenthall so much money as shall then appear by the bills to be due unto him for them, and my executor to dispose of the said jewels and goods as he shall be directed, either in my will or as he shall receive instruction from me either in word or writing and according to the trust by me reposed in him;

The rest of all my goods and chattels of all sorts, my debts paid, my legacies and funerals discharged, I give unto William Crawshawe, preacher at the Temple, whom I make my full and sole executor of this my last will and testament, to be by him used & disposed according to that trust I have reposed in him, and as he shall have particular direction from me, and I charge him to see this my will performed according to my appointment, but especially and first of all as much of it as concerneth conscience and charity;

And I make the right honourable Edmund, Lord Sheffield, my dear son, and Sir Edward Swift, knight, supervisors of this my will;

In witness whereof to this my will, written in my own sight and presence and according to my own particular direction, I have set my hand and seal the fourteenth day of September one thousand six hundred & eight. Douglas Sheffield.

Item, I give and bequeath unto my beloved niece, Mistress Diana Drury, a carcanet with rubies, diamonds and pearls which is in Lenthall's hands. Douglas Sheffield.

Probatum fuit Testamentu{m} suprascriptu{m} apud London coram venerabili viro D{omi}no Iohanne Benett milite legum doctore Curie Prerogative Cantuarien{sis} mag{ist}ro Custode sive Com{m}issario l{egi}time constituto decimo sexto die Mensis ffebruarij Anno D{omi}ni iuxta cursum et computac{i}o{n}em Ecclesie Anglicane Millesimo sexcentesimo octavo Iuramento Will{el}mi Crawshawe Exequutoris [sic] in huiusmodi testamento no{m}i{n}ati Cui commissa fuit administratio omniu{m} et sing{u}lorum bonor{um} Iurium et Creditorum d{i}c{t}e defuncte De bene et fidel{ite}r administrando eadem Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia &c iurat{i} ex{aminatur}

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Sir John Bennett, knight, Doctor of the Laws, lawfully constituted Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the sixteenth day of the month of February in the year of the Lord according to the course and reckoning of the English Church the thousand six hundred eighth by the oath of William Crashawe, executor named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same etc. Examined.]