

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 12 September 1521 and proved 1 February 1522, of Sir John Raynsford (born c.1461, d.1521?). His daughter, Audrey Raynsford, married Oxford's uncle, Thomas Darcy (1506-1558), 1st Baron Darcy of Chiche, whose son, John Darcy (d.1581), 2nd Baron Darcy of Chiche, was a co-guarantor of Oxford's debt to the Court of Wards.

The testator was an esquire and Knight of the Body to Henry VII.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the Raynsford pedigree, see Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex, Part I*, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), Vol. XIII, p. 96 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsofess1314metc#page/96/mode/2up>

Testator's grandparents

The testator was the grandson of William Raynsford (d.1433), esquire, by Eleanor Brokesbourne (c.1393-1437), daughter and heiress of Edmund Brokesbourne (c.1340-1396/7) of Bradfield, Essex, and his third wife, Idonea Lovey (d. 12 Sept. 1409). For Edmund Brokesbourne, an associate of Thomas de Vere (c. 1336 – September 1371), 8th Earl of Oxford, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1386-1421/member/brokesbourne-edmund-1340-13967>

Edmund was the child of Sir John Brokesbourne's old age. Sir John had produced four sons by his first wife Elizabeth (d.1326) and had sat in Parliament for Essex three times (in 1316, 1327 and 1328) before his marriage to Edmund's mother, Margery Whelnetham. He had procured from Edward II charters of free warren in his lands at Bradfield, Mistley, Wrabness, Ramsey, Dovercourt, Wix and Tendring and for a market and fair at Bradfield, and when he died (in 1342) the heir to these properties was his son Robert, aged over 30. However, in the following year Robert relinquished Bradfield to his stepmother and her son and they later acquired the other estates, too. Margery then married Sir John Sutton† (d.1369) of Wivenhoe, head of one of the most influential families in Essex, and as a consequence Edmund was to be always closely connected with Sutton's sons, Sir John† (d.1393) and Sir Richard (d.1396). It was not until 1385, when Margery died, that Brokesbourne, then aged over 45, obtained full possession of his inheritance, which included his mother's manors of Great Whelnetham and Alpheton in Suffolk.1

[He] had then taken part in Edward III's campaigns in France in 1359-60; and had subsequently followed Thomas de Vere, earl of Oxford, in the duke of Lancaster's army which attempted to seize Harfleur in 1369. . . .

He was much involved in the Suttons' affairs, often witnessing their deeds and joining them in transactions with John, 2nd Lord Bourgchier, whose son Bartholomew married Margaret Sutton (possibly his own half-sister). Brokesbourne's mother and stepfather had both been named as executors of the will of Maud de Vere, countess of Oxford (d.1366), and the younger Sir John Sutton was also connected with the comital family.³ But despite these associations and his own military service under Earl Thomas, rather than joining the circle of the King's favourite, Robert de Vere, Brokesbourne chose to enter the employment of Thomas of Woodstock, then earl of Buckingham. . . .

Brokesbourne continued to act as a trustee of the Sutton estates and as a witness to local conveyances until his death, which occurred at an unknown date between July 1396 and May 1397.⁵ He had married as his third wife Idonea, widow of John Clenhand of London. . . . After Brokesbourne's death Idonea obtained royal confirmation of the charter of 1313 granted to his father, and within a few months she married, as his second wife, Bartholomew, 3rd Lord Bourgchier. She died in 1409, leaving as heir to the Brokesbourne lands her daughter Eleanor (c.1393-1437), then married to John Fitzraufe and later the wife of William Raynford (d.1433), and as heir to the Bourgchier estates her daughter Elizabeth, suo jure Lady Bourgchier.⁶

For Margery Whelnetham (d.1384), who married firstly Sir John Brokesbourne (d.1342), secondly John Cockfield, esquire, and thirdly, Sir John Sutton (d.1369) see the inquisition post mortem taken after her death, TNA C 136/36/13, and:

M. C. B. Dawes, M. R. Devine, H. E. Jones and M. J. Post, 'Inquisitions Post Mortem, Richard II, File 36', in *Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem: Volume 16, Richard II* (London, 1974), pp. 47-61. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/inquis-post-mortem/vol16/pp47-61> [accessed 15 December 2017].

See also Parkin, Charles, *An Essay Towards a Topographical History of the County of Norfolk*, Vol. X, (London: W. Bulmer & Co., 1809), p. 61 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=msHNAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA61>

For Sir John Sutton (d.1393), see the will of Sir William Waldegrave (c.1465 - 30 June 1527), TNA PROB 11/22/294.

For Margaret Sutton, who married Bartholomew Bourchier (d. 18 May 1409), 3rd Baron Bourchier, see also Cokayne, George Edward, *The Complete Peerage*, (London: The St Catherine Press, 1912), Vol. II, p. 247, and:

<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/GEN-MEDIEVAL/2004-03/1080097590>

Testator's parents

The testator was the only child of Sir Lawrence Raynsford (c.1419 – 18 September 1490) by his first wife, Elizabeth Fiennes, daughter of Sir James Fiennes (c.1395 – 4 July 1450) and his first wife, Joan.

After the death of the testator's mother, the testator's father married Anne Percy (d. 5 July 1522), widow of Sir Thomas Hungerford, and daughter of Henry Percy (3 February 1393 – 22 May 1455), 2nd Earl of Northumberland, son and heir of 'Hotspur', by Eleanor Neville (died c.1472/3), widow of Richard, Lord Despenser (d.1414), and daughter of Ralph Neville (c.1364-1425), 1st Earl of Westmorland.

See the *ODNB* entries for Henry Percy, 2nd Earl of Northumberland, and Ralph Neville, 1st Earl of Westmorland, and Richardson, *Douglas, Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 598-600, and Vol. III, pp. 11-13.

MARRIAGES AND CHILDREN

The testator married firstly Anne Starkey (d. 22 December 1487), daughter and coheir, with her sister, Elizabeth Starkey (see below), of Sir Humphrey Starkey, by whom he had one son:

* **Sir John Raynsford**, for whom see his will, proved 26 September 1559, TNA PROB 11/42B/484, and the History of Parliament entry at:

[http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/raynsford-\(rainforth\)-sir-john-1482-1559](http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/raynsford-(rainforth)-sir-john-1482-1559)

b. by 1482, o. s. of Sir John Raynsford of Bradfield by Anne, da. and coh. of Sir Humphrey Starkey of Wouldham, Kent. m. (1) by 1503, Elizabeth or Isabel (d.1508), da. and h. of Edward Knyvet of Suff., ?(2) Alice; (2) or (3) Winifred, da. and h. of John Pympe of Nettlestead, Kent, d.s.p. suc. fa. 1521. Kntd. 1 July 1523.1

The testator married secondly, shortly before 3 March 1504, Margaret Ilam (born 1467), the daughter of the London mercer, Thomas Ilam (d.1482), by Jane [Verdon?]. See Thrupp, Sylvia, *The Merchant Class of Medieval London [1300-1500]*, (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan, 1948), p. 366 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=99V2omf9odQC&pg=PA366>

At the time of her marriage to the testator, Margaret Ilam, was the widow of Sir John Shaa (d. 26 December 1503), Lord Mayor of London in 1501, by whom she had three sons and two daughters, none of whom are mentioned in the will below. For the will of Sir John Shaa, see TNA PROB 11/14/156.

See also Richardson, *Douglas, Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 601 and Vol. III, p. 422; and Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 565.

For the marriage of the testator and Margaret Ilam Shaa, see also ‘Kirby-le-Soken’ at:

<https://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/counties/essex/work-in-progress/landownership-sokens>

The estate was apparently next recorded in 1503 when Margaret, lady Shaa, widow of Sir John Shaa, brought lands called Grovehouse in Tendring Hundred to Sir John Raynsford or Rainsford in marriage.⁷² He was succeeded before 1540 by his son of the same name who died without issue in 1560. His heirs, Christopher Edmonds, John Goodwin and Anne wife of John Josselyn, who were descended from his father's first wife's sister, Elizabeth Starkey, apparently sold the manor.⁷³ In 1571 William Waldegrave and Elizabeth his wife sold it to Thomas Bussard

For the testator's marriage to Margaret Ilam Shaa, see also:

<http://www.disnorge.no/slektsforum/viewtopic.php?t=23305>

1503/4 Calendar of Close Rolls 19 Henry VII. Membrane 3d. pp. 134-5.

381. Indenture between John Tate and Bartholomew Reede knights, John Kyngesmelle and Thomas Marowe serjeants at law, Thomas Poyntz esquire, William Shragger clerk and John Mundy goldsmith of London, friends to Margaret lady Shaa, sometime wife of Sir John Shaa knight, and John Raynsford knight for the king's body : Raynsford to marry lady Shaa before St. John Baptist next, if she is agreeable ; and 'for that that it is right well knowen that the seid lady Shaa hath great possessions of londes which were hir late husbandes duryng hir liff and also grete substaunce of goodes,' he will make estate to her for life before Pentecost next of Netherhall, Bradfeldhall, Overhall Fayties in Bradfeld, Michelles, Grovehous and Ramsay co. Essex, with all his lands, franchises markets, fairs, leets, courts etc. in Tendryng hundred, without impeachment of waste except in felling trees of timber ; if she makes any wood-sales, she shall enclose the wood after felling 'for the savegard of the spryng there.'

*Sealed 3 March, 19 Henry VII. English
Memorandum of acknowledgment, 17 May.*

By Margaret Ilam Shaa, the testator had two daughters:

* **Audrey Raynsford**, who married the testator's ward, Thomas Darcy (1506-1558), 1st Baron Darcy of Chiche, whose son, John Darcy (d.1581), 2nd Baron Darcy of Chiche, was a co-guarantor of Oxford's debt to the Court of Wards. See the will of Thomas Darcy, 1st Baron Darcy of Chiche, TNA PROB 11/37/466, and the *ODNB*:

Darcy, Thomas, first Baron Darcy of Chiche (1506–1558), courtier and administrator, was born on 4 December 1506, the only son of Roger Darcy (d. 1508) of Danbury, Essex, and Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Henry Wentworth of Nettlestead, Suffolk. His father, who had been an esquire of the body to Henry VII, died before Darcy was two, and his wardship was granted to Sir John Raynsford of Bradfield, Essex. By September 1521, as soon as he had attained the minimum legal age for cohabitation, Raynsford married Darcy to his daughter Audrey. Nothing is known of his upbringing, but he seems to have been destined for a career as a soldier and courtier. Audrey died soon after Darcy achieved his majority in 1527, and they appear to have had no children. By 1532 he had married Elizabeth, the daughter of John de Vere, fifteenth earl of Oxford

For Roger Darcy (d. 30 September 1508) and Elizabeth Wentworth, see the will of Roger Darcy's grandmother, Elizabeth (nee Tyrrell) Darcy Haute, TNA PROB 11/15/363.

* **Julian Raynsford**, who married Sir William Waldegrave (d. 12 December 1554), by whom she was the mother of Sir William Waldegrave (c.1540 – 25 August 1613), co-guarantor of Oxford's debt to the Court of Wards. See the will of Sir William Waldegrave (d. 12 December 1554), TNA PROB 11/37/466.

The marriages of the testator's two daughters establish that there was a close family relationship between the two co-guarantors of Oxford's debt to the Court of Wards.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

For Sir Edward Poynings (1459–1521), see the *ODNB* entry, and the Wikipedia article edited by the author of this website.

For Cuthbert Tunstall (1474–1559), Bishop of Durham, see the *ODNB* entry.

RM: Test{amentu}m d{omi}ni Ioh{ann}is Raynesford Milit{is}

In Dei nomine Amen. I, Sir John Raynsford, knight, in good and perfect mind being, thanks be to Almighty God, perceiving and considering the uncertainty and unstableness of this wretched life, and that there is nothing so certain to any creature living in this world as the departure from the same, and nothing so uncertain as the time and hour of death, do therefore by these presents revoke, renounce and forsake all testaments and wills heretofore by me made, and make and ordain this to be my very testament and last will the 12th day of September in the year of Our Lord God 1500 and 21 and in the 13th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Henry the 8th in manner and form as hereafter doth follow:

First I give and bequeath my soul unto the infinite mercy of Almighty God, Maker and Redeemer of the same, to the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, his mother, Saint John the

Baptist, and to all the holy company of heaven, most humble beseeching my said Maker and Redeemer that he by the mediation and intercession of his said Most Blessed Mother may have mercy and pity upon the same, and by his grace to provide that after the departure thereof out of my mortal body it may be directed and conveyed towards the way of everlasting salvation;

And if it fortune me to depart this present life within the realm of England within fifty miles of the town of Colchester, then I will that my body be buried within the monastery of Saint John's of Colchester [f. 159v] before said within Our Lady chapel of the said monastery where my father lieth buried in such place of the said chapel, and mine obsequies to be done under such manner as shall be thought most convenient by the discretion of the more part of mine executors;

And if it happen me to depart this present life more than fifty miles distant from the said town of Colchester, then I will my body be buried in some holy place where it shall happen me so to decease, and mine obsequies there to be done by the discretion of the more part of mine executors;

And wheresoever it shall happen me to be buried, I will mine executors at my cost and charge shall make a tomb over me for a remembrance as shall seem most convenient by their discretion or the discretion of the more part of them;

And I give to the abbot of the said monastery of Saint John's and to the convent of the same for the breaking of the ground there, if it happen me there to be buried, to the intent it may like them to pray the more heartlier for me, 100s;

And I will that the said abbot and convent according to the will of my father shall have yearly forever the 40s out of the lands and tenements called Michelles which my father purchased as they have had in times past, to the intent they shall yearly keep an obit yearly for my said father according to his said last will;

And I will and bequeath unto the high altar of the church of Bradfield for my tithes and offerings negligently forgotten 40s;

And I bequeath £13 6s 8d to th' intent that mine executors shall buy a cross of silver of the said value, and the same deliver to the use of the said church of Bradfield for a memory and a remembrance of me forever;

And I will that my executors as soon after my departure as they may do give to every poor household dwelling within the said town of Bradfield 3s 4d by their discretions;

Also I will that all my debts sufficiently proved to be due by me by any writing or otherwise to any person be truly contented and paid by mine executors in as convenient time after my said departure as it can be brought about;

And in like wise I will that unto all persons duly and sufficiently proving that I have injured or wronged them, or taken any goods wrongfully from them against reason or good conscience, that there be made recompense and restitution or else agreed withal by the more part of mine executors in as convenient time as they may after my decease;

Also I will that where I was named and appointed executor unto one William Andrews of Bradfield, deceased, as in the last will of the same William Andrewe more plainly appeareth, that mine executors do perform, execute and fulfil the will and testament of the said William Andrewe according to the tenor thereof in every behalf and to the most discharge of my conscience by the discretions of my said executors;

And in like wise where I was named and appointed executor unto one Robert Frere of Little Clacton, gentleman, deceased, whose will and testament come [=came] never yet to my hands forasmuch as one John Eustace of Saint Osyth's promised to perform the said will, and that to do took upon him the oath and charge, and yet was none of th' executors of the said William Frere, that in discharge of my conscience in this behalf I will that mine executors shall make and repair the highway between Little Clacton church and the dwelling-house that was the said William Frere[*'s*], for that to be done I know right well amongst other was his very last will;

And over this, where the said William Frere by his said will appointed certain lands to have therewith a perpetual obit to be kept in the said church of Clacton, so it is that Thomas Christmas of Colchester hath purchased the said lands and is bound to see the said obit kept accordingly, as it appeareth by an indenture made thereof between me and the said Thomas Christmas;

Also I will that all this my stuff of household following, that is to say, beddings, sparvers, hangings, cushions, counterpoints, pots, pans, dishes, spits, tablecloths, towels, napery and all other mine usual stuff of household that I have or shall have at the time of my decease whatsoever it be except all my plate, spoons, ornaments of my chapel and other jewels shall be evenly and equally by the hands, order and discretion of the more part of mine executors divided between Dame Margaret, my wife, and my son, John Raynsford, in as convenient time as may be after my decease;

And if it happen my said son to decease in my lifetime and have heir male living at the time of my decease, then I will that the same heir male shall have all that part of my said stuff of household before given to my said son, John, to be delivered to the same heir male at such time as it shall come to the age of 20 year;

And if my said son, John, die in my life without issue male, or happen to have issue male which dieth before it cometh to the said age of 20 year, then I will that my daughter, Audrey, shall have all the said stuff of household before appointed and bequeathed unto the said John, the same stuff to be delivered unto my said daughter, Audrey, when she cometh to the age of 20 years and not before;

And if my said daughter, Audrey, decease before she come to the age of 20 years and have any heir of her own body, then I will her heir of her own body shall have all the same part of stuff to be delivered to the said heir at such time as it shall come to the age of 20 years;

And if my said daughter, Audrey, die without issue of her own body before the said age of 20 years, or happen to have any heir of her own body and she and that heir die before the said age of 20 years, then I will that the same stuff be to my daughter, Julian, to be delivered to her at her age of 20 years and not before;

And if my said daughter, Julian, die before the said age of 20 years and have heir of her own body, then I will the same heir have the same stuff at such time as it shall come to the age of 20 years;

And if the same Julian happen to decease before the said age of 20 years, without such heirs or happen to have such heirs and she and that heir also dieth before their said ages of 20 years, then I will all the said stuff of household before to my said son and daughters bequeathed as is beforesaid shall be disposed in deeds of charity, that is to say, in priests singing, finding of poor scholars to school, and amendment of highways by the discretion of the more part of mine executors;

Also I give and bequeath unto the said Dame Margaret, my wife, all and every such her own apparel and jewels that belong to her own body, that is to say, rings, beads, chains, ouches, collars and all other jewels and ornaments appertaining to her own [f. 160r] usual wearing and apparel for her person;

And over that so much of my household plate such thereof as she will choose as shall be clearly worth £100 of lawful money of England;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my said son, John Raynsford, all my harness and bows, arrows and bills and all other weapons of war, he to dispose therewith his free will;

And also I give unto the said John the moiety and halfendeal of mine apparel, that is to say, of my gowns, jackets and doublets, and to Thomas Darcy the other moiety and halfendeal thereof, to be divided and delivered by the discretion of mine executors;

Also I will that mine executors shall perceive and take all the issues, revenues, profits and commodities of all the manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments which I have or hereafter shall have in custody by reason of the nonage of Thomas Darcy, my ward, during all the time that I am or shall be entitled to the same, and the same issues, revenues and profits employ, dispose and put in manner and form following, that is to say, first and especial [=especially] above all earthly things to the payments of my debts and restitution of wrongs in form above remembered, and to the performance of this my testament and last will by the discretion of the more part of my said executors;

Also I will that mine executors with the same issues and profits do find in as convenient time as may be after my decease 2 honest priests to sing for my soul, my wife's soul, my father and mother[‘s] souls, and all Christian souls by the space of 7 years, whereof one of them I will shall sing in some place at an altar of Scala Caeli by discretion of mine executors and he to have for his salary 10 marks and a gown by the year, and the other to sing in the church or place where it shall happen me to be buried, and he to have for his labour 10 marks by year;

And furthermore I will that the said Thomas Darcy and Audrey, his wife, after my decease shall be at and in the rule and order of the more part of my executors unto such time as the same Thomas shall come to his full age, and that mine executors shall yearly employ and bestow in and about the keeping and finding of the said Thomas and his wife during the nonage of the said Thomas of the said issues and profits to grow and come of his inheritance £40;

And the residue and overplus of the said issues and profits to come and grow of the inheritance of the said Thomas Darcy during his nonage, after my debts paid, my wrongs recompensed and this my testament and last will in all things therewith fulfilled in every behalf, I will five hundred marks thereof shall be employed and bestowed to and for the marriage of my daughter, Julian, by the discretion of the more part of mine executors if it will or may grow and extend to the said sum, and if not, then my said daughter, Julian, to have for the advancement of her marriage so much thereof as it will extend and amount unto by the discretion of the more part of my said executors;

And I will also that if the said issues and profits to come and grow of the inheritance of the said Thomas Darcy during his nonage will extend and amount to the sum of £100 over, above and besides the said five hundred marks, and also sufficient sums of money to pay my debts, recompense my wrongs and to fulfil my legacies in this my testament contained, and that also the said Thomas Darcy and Audrey, his wife, live both together till the said Thomas shall come to his full age of 21 years, and he then will and do make assure [=assurance] unto his said wife, my daughter, in the name of her jointure for term of her life in such wise as shall be advised by the more part of mine executors manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments parcel of his inheritance other that [=than?] she is entitled to have dower of to the clear yearly value of 100 marks, then I will mine executors shall pay and deliver unto the said Thomas the said £100, and if the said Thomas this refuse to do, then I will mine executors put the said £100 towards the performance of this my present testament and last will by their discretions;

Item, I will that mine executors of the said issues and profits pay and distribute to every such person as is and shall be my waiting household menservants at the time of my decease wages for one year next to follow after my decease;

Item, I will that my said executors shall deliver unto Julian, my daughter, at such time as she shall come to her age of 20 years, if she so long live, all such my household plate which I have or shall have at the time of my decease except such thereof as I have before bequeathed unto my said wife;

Provided alway that if the said Thomas Darcy decease before the delivery of the said plate and employing of the said five hundred marks in and about the advancement of the marriage of my said daughter, Julian, and that my said daughter, Audrey, now being married unto the said Thomas, by his death be not entitled and preferred to dower or other surety of the inheritance of the said Thomas for term of her life to the yearly value of 100 marks over all charges, that then my very last will is that mine executors by their wisdoms shall have respect to the advancement and preferment of [sic for 'which?'] my said daughter, Audrey, shall happen to have by the death of the same Thomas, and if it seem to my said executors that the legacies and bequests by me given to mine other daughter as is beforesaid be above the advancement that my said daughter, Audrey, so married to the said Thomas shall happen to have by his death, then I will my said executors, after my debts paid and my will fulfilled, shall order, dispose and distribute unto my said daughter, Audrey, so married unto the said Thomas and not advanced or little preferred by his death as is beforesaid, so much of my said plate and of the said 500 marks before appointed for the marriage of my said daughter, Julian, as they shall seem most convenient by their discretions or the discretions of the most part of them to make equality of advancement between my said daughters if they can, the marriage before had with the said Thomas by my said daughter, Audrey, if she be not advanced as is beforesaid, notwithstanding, ne the gift of the same plate and five hundred marks to my said daughter, Julian, if it be not delivered and employed for her marriage as is beforesaid, in no wise letting the said plate always to be delivered at their ages of 20 years as is beforesaid and not before;

And if one die before that age, the other living to that age, she so overliving to have the whole;

And if it happen both my said daughters to decease before their said age of 20 years and before the said 500 marks to grow of the same issues, revenues and profits be employed, delivered and put to and about the preferment of their marriages or the marriage of one of them in such manner and form as is beforesaid, then I will that John Raynsford, my son, if he then be alive, shall have all my said plate before appointed for the marriage of my said [f. 160v] daughters;

And if he then be not living, then I will the same plate be put to the performance of this my present will and disposed in deeds of charity for the weal of my soul by the discretion of mine executors or the more part of them;

And that then mine executors or the executors of them with 2 parts of the said five hundred marks before appointed and bequeathed for the marriages of my said daughters or of one of them as is beforesaid do buy and purchase manors, lands and tenements, so many as the said 2 parts will amount and extend unto, to the use of the heirs males of my body lawfully begotten and of the heirs males of their bodies lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to the use of the heirs of my body lawfully begotten and of the heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue then to the use and intent to be sold by mine executors or the executors of mine executors or the executors of them, and the money thereof coming disposed in deeds of charity in manner and form above remembered;

And with the third part of the said residue and overplus of the same issues and profits I will my said executors do perform this my will and testament by their discretions in manner and form before rehearsed;

And if all the issue of my body happen to be extincted before any such manors, lands and tenements be purchased as is beforesaid, then I will that two parts of the said 500 marks with the which the said manors, lands and tenements should have be[en] bought be employed and put by the discretion of mine executors or the executors of them to and about priests singing, finding of scholars to school, reparations of highways and other deeds of charity by the discretion of mine executors or their executors;

Provided alway that notwithstanding my said daughter, Audrey, happen to be preferred for term of her life to the yearly value of 100 marks by the death of the said Thomas Darcy as is beforesaid, yet nevertheless my will is that if my said son, John Raynsford, die in the life of my said daughter, Julian, before she cometh to her age of 20 years, and that after him my said daughter, Julian, die before the same age and before the said five hundred marks be employed by mine executors for her marriage, that then my said daughter, Audrey, after my debts paid and this my present testament and last will in all things fulfilled, shall have all the said plate and also £200 parcel of the said 500 marks only to her own use, anything before declared in this my present testament in no wise letting ne withstanding;

And in case that the said John and Julian die before the said plate be delivered and employing of the said 500 marks in form above rehearsed, and that the said Thomas Darcy and Audrey, his wife, live both together till the said Thomas shall come to his full age of 21 years, then I will if the said Thomas do make sure unto his said wife by the advice of mine executors in the name of her jointure for term of her life manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments to the yearly value of £100 over all charges such as she is not entitled to be endowed of, that then mine executors shall deliver unto the said Thomas and Audrey, his wife, the said plate and the said £200, parcel of the said 500 marks, for recompense thereof;

And if the said Thomas refuse this to do, then I will the said plate and the said £200 shall be ordered and disposed to the performance of this my last will and buying of lands in manner and form above remembered by the discretion of the more part of mine executors;

Item, I will that if the said Thomas Darcy and Audrey, his wife, live both together unto the full age of the said Thomas of 21 years, that then the same Thomas at his said full age shall have all my said lease and term of years which I have by the King's letters patents or otherwise of and in the honour of Rayle [=Raleigh?] and the hundred of Rochford and

of the manors and lordships parcel of the said honour comprised in the said letters patents, except and saved alway to every person such term and lease as I have made or granted by word or writing of any parcel thereof, which persons I will shall enjoy their said lease according to my promise and grant, paying therefore the farm thereof to the said Thomas Darcy after his said full age;

To have and to hold all the said honour and other the premises, except before except, unto the said Thomas Darcy during so many years as shall happen to be to come of the term comprised in the said letters patents after the full age of the said Thomas, paying such farm to our said Sovereign Lord as in the said letters patents is specified;

Provided alway that Thomas Stephen shall hold in farm the manor of Thundersley for so many years as I have in it, if the same Thomas Stephen so long live, paying the farm therefore as he doth now;

Item, my very mind and last will is that if the said Thomas Darcy happen to decease within so short time after my decease or that mine executors happen to be interrupted of the possessions of his inheritance during his nonage, so that my said executors may not quietly and clearly perceive and take [+of?] the issues and profits of his inheritance so many sums of money as will clearly extend and amount to pay my debts, recompense my wrongs, discharge my funeral expenses and distributions and legacies to churches and poor people and paying of my servants' wages for one year and finding of 2 priests for 7 years in manner and form above declared, and over that the sum of £200 in ready money to and for the marriage of my said daughter, Julian, and also £200 to be employed for the advancement of my said daughter, Audrey, if the said Thomas Darcy die and she not advanced by his death to the yearly value of 100 marks for term of her life in form abovesaid, that then in default of all or any parcel of the sums aforesaid I will that mine executors or their executors or the executors of them shall sell all those my lands and tenements called Freshe Pyttes lying in the Soken, and all mine yearly rent of 17s 4d going out of Wynterbornes, which rent I bought of my cousin, John Saint Clere, esquire, and all that my rent and worys(?) with the appurtenances in Harwich, and all those my lands and tenements with their appurtenances called Ragmershe, and all those my lands and tenements which I bought of John Brewer in Bradfield, and all those my lands & tenements with their appurtenances called Sawcers in Ardleigh or elsewhere, and the reversion of my lands and tenements in Ulting after the decease of John Cokke, or such or so much thereof as they shall think most convenient by their discretions as will and shall clearly extend and amount to make up and supply all such sums of money as they shall lack and want to perceive of the inheritance of the said Thomas Darcy, as well for the marriages and advancement of my said daughters in manner and form next abovesaid as to the payment of my debts, recompensing my wrongs, discharging of my funeral expenses, distributions and legacies to churches and poor people and paying my servants' wages for one year and finding of 2 priests for 7 years in manner and form above remembered in every behalf by the discretion of mine executors or th' executors of them;

And I will that mine executors and their executors shall perceive & take [f. 161r] after my decease the issues, revenues and profits of all the said lands and tenements with their

appurtenances and the same order and dispose by their discretions till such time as this my present testament and last will in all things be wholly performed and executed as is beforesaid, so that I will that in no wise mine heirs nor any other person or persons shall intronit, enter or meddle with the said lands and tenements or any part thereof till such time as this my testament and last will be performed by the discretion of my said executors or their executors in manner and form above specified in every behalf;

Also I will that all persons now being seised to mine use or that hereafter shall be seised of and in all my manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances within the county of Essex, except all the lands, tenements and hereditaments beforesaid appointed to be sold and employed to the intent before rehearsed, shall stand and be seised of the premises with the appurtenances, except before except, to the use of my said wife for term of her life;

And after her decease I will all the said persons and their heirs shall stand feoffees of trust and be seised of and in all my said manors, lands and tenements with their appurtenances in the county of Essex, except before except, to the use of the heirs of my body lawfully begotten and of their heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to the use of my right heirs forever;

And I will that if mine executors may quietly and peaceably perceive and take sufficient sums of money of the inheritance of the said Thomas Darcy by reason of the said King's letters patents to me of the wardship and custody of the body and lands of the said Thomas Darcy granted, as well to content and pay my debts, restore my wrongs and perform this my present testament in every behalf as to advance my said daughters to and for their marriages in manner and form above rehearsed, that then all such feoffees and their heirs as now stand seised of and in all the said lands and tenements appointed to be sold, after my will performed, my debts paid and my daughters advanced to marriages in form above declared, shall from thenceforth be and stand feoffees thereof to the use of my said wife during her life;

And after her decease to the use of the heirs of my body lawfully begotten and of their heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to the use of my right heirs forever;

And if any default be of such sufficient sums of money to grow by the inheritance of the said Thomas as is beforesaid in part or in all, then I will the said feoffees of and in the said lands, tenements and hereditaments before appointed to be sold shall always be and stand feoffees of trust thereof to the intent they shall be sold and employed to the use and performance of this my present testament in form above declared;

And I will that the said default and lack of such sufficient sums of money shall be declared, tried and adjudged by the conscience of the more part of mine executors or their

executors, and their declaration I will shall bind mine heirs and feoffees of the premises without any further proof or trial thereof to be had;

Also I will that all such my feoffees and recoverers and their heirs of and in all those my manors, lands and tenements with their appurtenances in Whelnetham and Alpheton and elsewhere in the county of Suffolk immediately after my decease shall stand feoffees and be seised thereof to the use of my said son, John Raynsford, and of his heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue then to the use of mine heirs of my body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue then to the use of my right heirs forever;

Item, I will that all and every such person and persons which now be and stand feoffees of trust of and in all my said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances or in any part thereof within the said shires of Essex and Suffolk, except such thereof as are before appointed to be ordered sold and employed by mine executors as is before said, shall in no wise execute, suffer or make any estate or estates in possession to any person or persons which shall happen to be inheritable or entitled to the same or to any part thereof by reason of this my present will or testament during the term of 6 score years next to come after my decease, but that the same feoffees and their heirs and assigns shall still continue feoffees of trust of all the premises, except before except, to the use and intents above declared;

Provided alway and my very last will is that all and every of mine heirs which shall happen to enjoy and take profits of the said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments or any parcel thereof after my decease shall have full liberty, good power and authority from time to time as well to make jointure or jointures to their wife or wives for term of their said wives' lives as to declare their wills of and in all or any of the premises, except before except, for the marriages of their children and payment of their debts for the term of 4 years next after their deceases, and that my said feoffees, their heirs and assigns, shall be seised and stand feoffees of the premises, except before except, to all and every such uses and intents, anything in this my said testament and last will declared in no wise letting;

And I will and require that all such persons as be and stand feoffees of and in my said lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances before appointed to be sold, employed and ordered by mine executors, from time to time at the reasonable request, costs and charges of mine executors or their executors, shall do, suffer and cause to be done all and every thing and things that shall be advised by mine executors or their executors of, in or upon the same lands, tenements and hereditaments for the true execution and accomplishment of this my said testament and last will in every behalf by the discretion of mine executors or their executors in manner and form above remembered;

Also I will that Mary Wyndover, my servant, shall have and enjoy to her for term of her life the annuity or yearly rent of £4 to her by me granted going out of all my said lands and tenements called Sawcers in Ardleigh according to the tenor of my said grant in every behalf, anything of the same lands before declared notwithstanding;

Also I will and charge my said son, John Raynsford, upon my blessing that he strive not with my said wife nor with mine executors nor with any of them for anything contained in this my present testament and last will, nor in no wise interrupt or break anything comprised in the same;

And if my said son or my said wife or any of them do [f. 161v] strive either with other, or if they or any of them or any other person or persons to whom I have given any legacy or bequest do strive or trouble with my said executors or with any of them, or do interrupt and will not suffer this my last will and testament and everything therein and in either of them contained or expressed to be performed according to the true meaning of the same and discretion of mine executors, then I will that such of them as so do and be thereof convict by the judgment and discretion of the more part of mine executors for every such default lose and forfeit all my foresaid devises, bequests and gifts above appointed to them, and shall take none advantage ne benefit of this my present testament and last will, but that then their said bequests, gifts and legacies, whatsoever they be, shall be ordered and disposed by the discretion of the more part of mine executors, anything in this my present testament and last will declared notwithstanding;

The residue of all my goods, chattels, money, jewels, debts and all other things I bequeath and commit wholly to the rule, order and disposition of mine executors, whom I make and ordain Sir Edward Poynings, knight, Treasurer of the King's Household, Doctor Tunstall, Master of the Rolls, Thomas Audley and John Strangman, gentlemen;

And I will that as many of my said executors as of their charity will take upon them to see the execution and performance of this my present testament and last will shall have for their labours as hereafter followeth, that is to say, to every of the said Master Poynings and Master Tunstall taking upon them the charge or cure thereof £20, and to every of the said other of mine executors that will take upon them the said charge £10;

And if my said executors or any of them refuse to take the charge of my said testament, then I will that they or such of them as do refuse shall have nothing for their labours, nor intromit or meddle anything in this my said will and testament, but be utterly excluded thereof and taken and reputed for none of mine executors;

Also I will that if any ambiguity, doubt or variance do happen to arise or be moved in and upon the interpretation or exposition of any article, clause, sentence or word in this present testament and last will or in any of them contained, that then the interpretation, order, declaration and exposition thereof, as often as any such happeneth, shall be done, made, interpret [=interpreted] and declared by mine executors, if they all agree, and if not by the more part of them, wherein I will alway, my conscience in all things discharged, that my said executors lean and favour in their said exposition and interpretation, if any

such happen, for the most advancement of my children, and their interpretation, exposition and declaration I will shall stand and be my very last will and testament, and be as good and effectual as though I had expressed, interpret and declared it myself in every behalf;

In witness whereof to this my present testament and last will I have subscribed my name with mine own hand.

Memorandum: That this present testament was read unto the said Sir John Raynsford the 17th day of September in the 13 year of King Henry the 8th, at which time he ratified, approved and confirmed the same to be his last will and testament, these witnesses being present: Sir Giles Wright, parson of Much Stambridge and vicar of Bradfield, Sir Henry Fitzwilliam, parson of Saint Lawrence, Sir Edward Duxfeld, vicar of Hatfield Peverel, John Pirton, gentleman, and other. In witness whereof the said witnesses hath subscribed this book with their hands.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascripti defuncti Coram d{omi}no apud Lamethith Primo Die mensis ffebruarij Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingentesimo xxjo Iurament{o} Thome Audeley et Ioh{ann}is Strangman Executor{um} in h{uius}mo{d}i test{ament}o no{m}i{n}at{orum} Ac approbatum & insinuat{um} Et com{m}issa fuit admi{n}istracio o{mn}i{u}m & sing{u}lor{um} bonoru{m} & debitor{um} d{ic}t{i} defuncti p{re}fat{is} executorib{us} De b{e}n{e} & fidel{ite}r admi{n}istrand{o} Ac de pleno & fideli In{uenta}rio citra festum s{an}c{t}i gregorij pape prox{imum} futur{um} exhi{ben}d{o} Necnon de plano & vero compoto reddend{o} Ad s{an}c{t}a dei Eu{a}ng{elia} Iurat{orum} Res{er}uat{a} potestate simile{m} com{m}issione{m} faciend{i} ven{er}abili viro mag{ist}ro Cutberto Tunstall Cl{er}ico executor{i} eciam in h{uius}mo{d}i test{ament}o no{m}i{n}at{o} cum venerit &c

[=The testament of the above-named deceased was proved before the Lord at Lambeth on the first day of the month of February in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 21st by the oath of Thomas Audley and John Strangman, executors named in the same testament, and probated & entered, and administration was granted of all & singular the goods & debts of the said deceased to the forenamed executors, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well & faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full & faithful inventory before the feast of Saint Gregory the Pope next to come, and also to render a plain & true account, with power reserved for a similar grant to be made to the worshipful Master Cuthbert Tunstall, clerk, executor also named in the same testament, when he shall have come etc.]