

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 1 August 1524 and 12 July 1525, and proved 13 February 1526, of John Josselyn of High Roding, Essex, receiver-general of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford, and one of the executors of the Earl's will. The testator was granted an annuity of £10 in the Earl's will, and held a lease of the Earl's manor of Great Canfield:

Also where I hold to farm of the lease of the late Earl of Oxford the manor of Much Canfield in the county of Essex for term of 19 years, I will and bequeath my said whole lease and interest of and in the same unto the said Philippe, my wife.

The Sir John Vere whom the testator appoints as supervisor of his will, and whom he describes as his master, would appear to have been John de Vere (1482–1540), 15th Earl of Oxford, who within a few months of the testator's death succeeded to the earldom after the death of his second cousin, John de Vere (1499–1526), 14th Earl of Oxford.

The testator's service with the Earls of Oxford is described in Rawcliffe, Carole and Susan Flower, 'English Noblemen and Their Advisers: Consultation and Collaboration in the Later Middle Ages', *Journal of British Studies* 25 (April 1986): 157-177, at p. 160, available online:

John Josselyn, auditor-general and councilor to the de Veres from 1487 until his death thirty-eight years later, was employed successively by the thirteenth earl of Oxford, his widow, and his nephew, the fourteenth earl. The latter's dissolute and spendthrift ways led Cardinal Wolsey himself to impose a strict regime on the earl in 1524, with the intent that he should behave "honourably, prudently and sadly, forswearing all riotous and wild companies, excessive and superfluous apparell: and kindlie intreate and demeane himself towards . . . his wief." The routine management of Oxford's lands, household and person was then consigned to a small council headed by Josselyn in his joint capacity as receiver general, surveyor, and auditor, in which exalted post he ended his days.

The testator married firstly, Cecily Molyneux, the daughter of John Molyneux (d.1473). At her father's death, Cecily was an infant of 9 weeks. As indicated in the testator's will, her wardship was purchased by John Fitzherbert, who married her to his son, after whose death John Fitzherbert sold her wardship to the testator for £100. She is said to have died 7 July 1502, and as mentioned in the will, was buried in the Priory of Hatfield.

The testator's second wife, Philippa, was the sister of Thomas Bradbury (d.1510), mercer and Lord Mayor of London, as indicated in the will, where the testator refers to Thomas Bradbury as his brother-in-law:

Also where my brother-in-law, Thomas Bradbury, late citizen and alderman of London, gave and bequeathed the manor of Manuden in the county of Essex with all the appurtenances, with all other his lands and tenements in Manuden, Stansted Mountfitchet, Ugley, Berden and Farnham and elsewhere in the said county unto Jane Bradbury, late his

wife, for term of her life, the remainder thereof to Thomas Josselyn, my son, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for lack of such issue the remainder thereof to his cousin, William Bradbury, son of his brother, Robert Bradbury, and to his heirs in fee simple, which William for a certain sum of money by me, the said John Josselyn, to him beforehand paid hath bargained and sold all the said reversion to me, the said John Josselyn, and by fine in the King's court hath granted to me, the said John Josselyn, and divers other all the said reversion of the said manor, lands and tenements with the appurtenances, to have to me, the said John Josselyn, and other to th' use of me and of mine heirs forever, as by the said fine more plainly it doth appear

As indicated in the will, the testator had an unmarried daughter, Anne, and a married daughter, Jane. Although Jane's married name is not given in the will, other sources indicate that she was the wife of Sir Nicholas Wentworth (d. 1553) of Lillingstone Lovell, Oxfordshire, chief porter of Calais, and by him the mother of Peter Wentworth (1524–1597) and Paul Wentworth (1534–1594), well known in Queen Elizabeth's reign for their interventions on the issues of parliamentary privilege, freedom of speech, and the succession to the crown. Peter Wentworth (1524–1597) married firstly, Lettice, the daughter of Sir Ralph Lane of Horton, Northamptonshire, first cousin of Queen Katherine Parr, and secondly, Elizabeth Walsingham (d. 1596), sister of Queen Elizabeth's principal secretary, Sir Francis Walsingham (c.1532–1590). For the will of Sir Nicholas Wentworth (d.1553), see TNA PROB 11/39, ff. 144-5.

The testator's only son and heir, Sir Thomas Josselyn (b. 1507, d. 24 October 1562), married Dorothy Gates (d.1583), the daughter of Sir Geoffrey Gates (d. 1526) and his wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Clopton. Sir Geoffrey Gates' son and heir, Sir John Gates (1504–1553), was named as an executor in the 1552 will of Oxford's father, the 16th Earl. However Gates was replaced as executor by a codicil dated January 28, 1554, having been executed on 22 August 1553 along with John Dudley (1504-1553), Duke of Northumberland, as a result of Northumberland's failed attempt to put his daughter-in-law, Lady Jane Grey, on the throne after the death of Edward VI (see BL Stowe Charter 633-4). Sir Geoffrey Gates' daughter, Anne Gates, married Thomas Darcy, the uncle of Thomas (1506-1558), 1st Baron Darcy of Chiche, Vice-Chamberlain of King Edward VI's household, and brother-in-law of the 16th Earl of Oxford. For the will of Thomas (1506-1558), 1st Baron Darcy of Chiche, see TNA PROB 11/44, ff. 75-6. For the will of Sir Thomas Josselyn (b. 1507, d. 24 October 1562), see TNA PROB 11/47, ff. 213-14. For the will of Dorothy (nee Gates) Josselyn (d.1583), see TNA PROB 11/54, ff. 79-80.

Thomas Josselyn (b. 1507, d. 24 October 1562) and his wife Dorothy Gates (d.1583), had a daughter, Jane Josselyn, who married Oxford's receiver, Richard Kelton (d.1578). After Richard Kelton's death, Jane (nee Josselyn) Kelton married Roger Harlakenden (d.1603), who defrauded Oxford in the sale of Colne Priory. Roger Harlakenden's marriage into the family of the testator, who had been a trusted servant of the Earls of Oxford, may have facilitated his fraud. For the will of Roger Harlakenden (d.1603), see TNA PROB 11/101, ff. 392-3.

RM: Testamentum Iohannis Josselyn

In the name of God, Amen. I, John Josselyn of High Roding in the county of Essex, esquire, being in good health of body and of good mind and memory, thanked be God, the first day of the month of August the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred and 24, and in the 16 year of the reign of King Henry the 8th, ordain that all wills and testaments whatsoever they be heretofore made concerning my goods and lands or any of them shall be void and of none effect, and now make, ordain and declare this my present last will and testament as well touching my moveable goods as all my manors, lands and tenements, rents, services, pastures, woods, mills, annuities, reversions and other hereditaments with their appurtenances in the counties of Essex and Hertford and elsewhere in the realm of England in manner and form following, that is to say:

First I will that all and every person and persons that now stand or be enfeoffed or hereafter shall be enfeoffed to th' use of me and of mine heirs of and in all or any of my said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments and other the premises with their appurtenances shall stand and be feoffees to the performance of this my present last will and testament in manner and form as hereafter doth follow;

And I bequeath unto Philippe, now my wife, my chief manor and dwelling-place of old time called Davyes and now called Newhall Josselyn in High Roding in the county of Essex with the appurtenances, with all those my meses, lands, tenements, rents, services, reversions, annuities, mills, woods, meadows, ditches, ways, paths and liberties with all and singular their appurtenances as well free as copy lying in the towns, fields and parishes of High Roding aforesaid, Kings Hatfield [=Hatfield Broad Oak] and Much Canfield, and all that tenement called Bacons and also another tenement in Canfield aforesaid and Much Dunmow called Mayes and Saunders with all the lands, meadows, woods and pastures in any wise appertaining to the said tenements, whereof one of the said tenements called Bacons is now in the tenure and farm of William Bryges, and the other tenement called Mayes and Saunders is now in the tenure and farm of Thomas Lorkyn, and also two hoppets of mede and pasture within Aythorpe Roding called Bradbrichehopes holden by copy of the court roll of the Earl of Essex as of his manor of Aythorpe Roding in the said county of Essex, and also a free meadow or a pasture called Churchhope lying in Aythorpe Roding aforesaid with th' appurtenances in the county of Essex holden freely by charter;

And also I will and bequeath to mine executors all that my part of my manor of Merkes in Tillingham and other towns, places and parishes in the hundred of Denyes [=Dengie?] in the said county of Essex to th' intent that they shall sell it, and the money thereof coming to dispose and order to the performance and execution of this my last will and testament by their discretions;

And whereas of late my will was that my said wife should have my part of my said manor of Merkes for term of her life, I will now that my said wife in recompense thereof

shall have during her life all those my two parts of the manor of Olyves and Midlinges in Much Dunmow which I lately purchased and bought of (blank) Lloyde and (blank) Heverden;

Also I give and bequeath to my said wife a yearly rent of 26s 8d going out of a mese, lands and tenements in Little Canfield called Hodynges in the said county of Essex late by me, the said John Josselyn, purchased and bought of one John Colle th' elder of Little Canfield aforesaid;

To have and to hold all the said manor, chief dwelling-place, mese, lands, tenements, rents, services, reversions and all other the premises with their appurtenances and commodities to the said Philippe, my wife and to her assigns for term of her life natural in full recompense and full satisfaction of all jointure and dowry that to her behoveth, affereth, may or ought to belong by order of the law or by reason of any former grant by me, the said John, to the said Philippe or to any other person or persons for her, in her name or to her use beforetime made;

Provided always that certain lands and tenements in Hatfield beforesaid, parcel of the premises called Phelpottes and Roberdes, always to be charged with an yearly rent of 26s 8d for the keeping of mine obit in such form as hereafter shall be declared;

And I will that the said Philippe, my wife, shall repair, maintain and keep all the said manors, lands and tenements and other the premises to her bequeathed in good reparation without voluntary waste doing in felling of timber and letting fall of houses, timber convenient for the building and reparation of the said houses only except;

And also I will that my said wife during her life with the foresaid yearly rent of 26s 8d to go out of the said lands and tenements called Philpottes and Roberdes in Hatfield beforesaid shall keep mine obit and the obit of Cecily, late my wife, and for the souls of my father and mother, and all my children's souls, in the Priory of Hatfield beforesaid upon the day it shall happen me to decease, and keep two lights in the chapel of Our Lady in the said Priory, the one before the image of Our Lady and the other before the image of Saint John Baptist, and she to expend and distribute the said yearly rent of 26s 8d amongst priests, clerks, bead-roll, poor folks, 2 lights aforesaid and other lights convenient by her discretion for my said obit and other things necessary for the same;

Provided always that if the said Philippe, my wife, after my decease pretend, or any other person or persons in her name and for her to her use, claim, shall have and attain any other of my manors, lands and tenements in Dunmow beforesaid or elsewhere in the counties and Essex and Hertford by reason of any grant by me before to her or to any other to her use made by title of jointure or dowry or otherwise, then I will that as much in value as she or any other claimeth, hath and attaineth to her use to be abated of the said lands and tenements in the said towns, fields and parishes of High Roding, Kings Hatfield, Much Canfield, Aythorpe Roding and Dunmow to her given by this my present will and testament by the sight of mine executors and the more part of them;

Also I will that after the decease of the said Philippe Josselyn, my said wife, that all my said manors, lands and tenements, rents and services and other the premises with their appurtenances before assigned and bequeathed to my said wife shall go and remain to the right heirs of the body of me, the said John Josselyn, lawfully begotten and to the heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten, and for lack of such issue I will that all the said premises shall remain to the heirs males of the body of my brother, Ralph Josselyn, lawfully begotten and to the heirs males of their bodies lawfully begotten, and for lack of such heirs males then the said manors, lands and tenements and other the premises with their appurtenances shall remain unto my cousin, Ralph Josselyn, son of John Josselyn, late of Sheering, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and if the said Ralph Josselyn, my cousin, die without issue male of his body lawfully begotten, then the said manors, lands and tenements and other the premises shall remain unto Philip Josselyn, brother unto the said Ralph, my said cousin, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and if the said Philip Josselyn, my cousin, die without issue male of his body lawfully begotten, then the said premises shall remain unto Geoffrey Josselyn, brother unto the said Ralph and Philip, my cousins, and to the heirs males of the body of the said Geoffrey lawfully begotten, and if the said Geoffrey die without issue male of his body lawfully begotten, then the said manors, lands and tenements with other the premises shall remain unto the right heirs of me, the said John Josselyn, forevermore;

Also I will that after the decease of the said Philippe, my wife, my son, Thomas, and his heirs of his body lawfully begotten and all other which hereafter shall fortune to have my said lands and tenements in Kings Hatfield aforesaid called Philpottes and Roberdes with all th' appurtenances as it now lieth shall yearly keep my said obit solemnly in the Priory of Hatfield aforesaid upon the day it shall happen me to decease for my soul, my wives' souls, Cecily and Philippe, my children, my father and mother's souls, Thomas Bradbury's soul, George Bradbury's soul, Robert Fitzherbert's soul and Elizabeth, his wife, and all Christian souls, and to expend about the same yearly forever of the revenues of the same lands 26s 8d amongst priests, clerks, lights, poor people and other things necessary for the same, and also with the same to maintain two lights of wax weighing a pound apiece burning in the chapel of Our Lady in the said Priory, the one before Our Lady and the other before Saint John Baptist as is beforesaid, and over that to pay the curate of the parish church there 16d yearly for the remembrance of my soul in his bead-roll, my wives' souls, my children's souls, my father and mother's souls after the manner as it was done in my lifetime;

And if and as often as it shall happen my said wife and heirs or any other that shall enjoy the said lands called Philpottes and Roberdes by this my present will to be remiss and keep not my said obit, lights and bead-roll as is aforesaid, then as often I will that the Prior of the Priory of Hatfield aforesaid for the time being shall enter and distrain in the foresaid lands and tenements called Philpottes and Roberdes for 26s 8d, and the distress to retain unto the time that he be thereof satisfied, and with the same 26s 8d the said Prior for that time being to keep the same obit, lights and bead-roll according to my will afore rehearsed;

Also I will that all and every person and persons and their heirs that now be or stand feoffees of trust of and in the manor of Shellow Bowells with the advowson of the church of Shellow Bowells in the said county of Essex, and of and in all other my lands, tenements and hereditaments in Shellow Bowells aforesaid, and also of and in all that mese or manor with th' appurtenances called Wallrames in Much Dunmow in the said county, and of and in all those 3 parts of the manor of Shyngilhalle otherwise called Olyves and Midlynges in Much Dunmow aforesaid and elsewhere in the said county of Essex shall be and stand feoffees of trust to such uses and intents as is agreed and covenanted between Sir Geoffrey Gate, knight, of the one party, and me, the said John Josselyn, of the other party, in and upon the marriage had and accomplished between Thomas Josselyn, my son and heir apparent, and Dorothy, daughter of the said Sir Geoffrey, as by an indenture made between me, the said John, of the one party and the said Sir Geoffrey of the other party bearing date the 18th day of June in the 16th year [=18 June 1524] of King Henry the 8th more plainly is expressed;

And after the death of the said Thomas, my son, and Dorothy, and of the heirs of the body of my said son lawfully begotten, then I will that the said manor of Shellow Bowells with the advowson of the church there and all other the premises in Shellow Bowells beforesaid, and all that mese or manor with th' appurtenances called Walrames, and those three parts of the said manor called Shyngilhall otherwise called Olyves and Midlynges with their appurtenances shall remain to the heirs of my body lawfully begotten and to the heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten, and for lack of such issue to remain to the heirs males of the body of my said brother, Ralph Josselyn, lawfully begotten and to the heirs males of their bodies lawfully begotten, and for lack of such issue to remain to my said cousin, Ralph Josselyn, son of John Josselyn, late of Sheering, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for lack of such issue to remain unto the said Philip Josselyn, brother unto the said Ralph, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for lack of such issue to remain to the said Geoffrey Josselyn and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for lack of such issue to remain to the right heirs of me, the said John Josselyn, forever;

Also I will that mine executors in this my present testament named and their executors shall have the rule, order and disposition of all those my manors of Keers [=Keeres?] and Highame with their appurtenances in the said county of Essex, and of the manor of Hyde Hall with th' appurtenances in the county of Hertford, and of all those my meses, lands and tenements with their appurtenances called FitzJohns in Much Waltham and Wrightes in Little Hallingbury in the county of Essex, and of all other my manors, meses, lands and tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances wheresoever they lie within the realm of England, except such as is before bequeathed to my said wife and such as is appointed to my said son, Thomas, and Dorothy, his wife, to have and to hold the said manor, meses, lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances, except before except, unto my said executors and to their executors during the term of 8 years next to come after my decease, and with the issues and profits thereof together with my goods not bequeathed pay my debts, restore my wrongs, if any can be within three years next after my decease lawfully proved, and satisfy my legacies and perform therewith this

my present testament and last will in everything in manner and form as hereafter shall be declared more at large;

And after the said 8 years, then I will that all the same manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments so appointed to mine executors to th' use and intent abovesaid shall remain unto the heirs of the body of me, the said John Josselyn, lawfully begotten, and for lack of such issue to remain to the heirs males of my brother, Ralph Josselyn, lawfully begotten and to the heirs males of their bodies lawfully begotten, and for lack of such issue to remain unto my cousin, Ralph Josselyn, son of John Josselyn, late of Sheering, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for lack of such issue to remain unto Philip Josselyn brother unto the said Ralph, my said cousin, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for lack of such issue to remain to Geoffrey Josselyn, brother unto the said Ralph and Philip, my cousins, and to the heirs males of the body of the said Geoffrey lawfully begotten, and for lack of such issue to remain to the right heirs of me, the said John Josselyn, forevermore;

Also I will that George Josselyn shall have immediately after my decease yearly till such time as he be preferred to a benefice or benefices, prebend, free chapel or other spiritual promotion, for term of his life of the yearly value of 20 marks an annuity or a yearly rent of 106s 8d out of my said manor of Hyde Hall so that he be kind and loving unto my said wife and to Thomas, my son;

And if the said George any time hereafter disturb, vex or trouble my said wife, my said son, Thomas, mine executors, mine feoffees or the heirs of my body or any of them in and for taking and perceiving of th' issues and profits of the said manor of Hyde Hall and the said tenement called Wrightes and other the premises in Sabbysford [=Sawbridgeworth?] or Hallingbury beforesaid or in any of them contrary to the tenor of this my last will and testament or anything contained in the same, then I will from that time forward that this my said will and testament concerning my bequest of the said annuity of 106s 8d be to the said George Josselyn so offending void and of none effect;

Also where my brother-in-law, Thomas Bradbury, late citizen and alderman of London, gave and bequeathed the manor of Manuden in the county of Essex with all the appurtenances, with all other his lands and tenements in Manuden, Stansted Mountfitchet, Ugley, Berden and Farnham and elsewhere in the said county unto Jane Bradbury, late his wife, for term of her life, the remainder thereof to Thomas Josselyn, my son, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for lack of such issue the remainder thereof to his cousin, William Bradbury, son of his brother, Robert Bradbury, and to his heirs in fee simple, which William for a certain sum of money by me, the said John Josselyn, to him beforehand paid hath bargained and sold all the said reversion to me, the said John Josselyn, and by fine in the King's court hath granted to me, the said John Josselyn, and divers other all the said reversion of the said manor, lands and tenements with the appurtenances, to have to me, the said John Josselyn, and other to th' use of me and of mine heirs forever, as by the said fine more plainly it doth appear, I, the said John Josselyn, will that if the said Thomas, my son, die without issue of his body lawfully begotten, as God forbid, that then the use and possession of all the said reversion

of the said manor, lands and tenements with their appurtenances shall remain to the heirs of the body of me, the said John Josselyn, lawfully begotten and to the heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten, and for lack of such issue the said manor, lands and tenements with th' appurtenances to be sold by mine executors or the executors of mine executors or their executors, and dispose it in deeds of charity, that is to say, in reparation of poor churches and highways, singing of priests and poor people for to pray for my soul, my wives' souls, our father and mother's souls, Thomas Bradbury's soul, Robert Fitzherbert's soul and Elizabeth, his wife, and all other our friends' souls afore rehearsed, and all Christian souls;

Also I will that if there be any of my name or kin able to buy the same, that he or they that is next of my blood to have the preferment thereof £20 within the price after twenty years' purchase;

Provided always that my feoffees that be now enfeoffed or hereafter shall be enfeoffed of and in all my foresaid manors, lands and tenements with all their appurtenances to th' use of the performance of this my said will and testament shall stand and continue in feoffment without any estate making thereof, saving always that my said feoffees shall stand feoffees from time to time to th' use of jointure of the wife or wives of my said issue male and of all other that shall happen to have the premises by this my present will for term of life or lives of his or their wives after such grant or grants of jointure to be made as shall be thought most profitable and convenient by them for the advancement of their marriage;

Also I will and specially desire that when it shall happen my said feoffees to decease to the number of 3 or 2 of them, that then the said 3 or 2 so overliving shall make estate to two honest persons of all the said lands & tenements in fee to th' intent and upon condition that the said persons jointly shall refoff the said three or two feoffees and their heirs with 18 other good honest persons and to their heirs to the performance of this my said will and testament according as it is by me declared;

Provided also that if any issue of my body lawfully begotten or any other of my blood to whom any of my said lands shall happen to continue in heritage make any alienation, feoffment, grant or otherwise discontinue the same but only for jointure of their wives for term of their lives, that then the next of my blood to whom the use and possession of the said lands and tenements afore rehearsed by my said will should remain or come to shall lawfully enter, have and enjoy the use and possession of all the said lands and tenements so contrary to my said will aliened and discontinued, this will or anything contained in the same notwithstanding, and them to have, hold and enjoy in use and possession according to this my will afore declared as if the said alienor or discontinuer had died without issue of his body;

And also in like wise if it so fortune that I die without heir of my body lawfully begotten so that the fee simple come to my next heir of the premises or any part of them, that if he alien, sell or put away the said premises or any part of them, that then his estate of that part so by him aliened to surcease and to be utterly void, and that then his next heir

apparent to enter into the said manor, lands or tenements so by him aliened, and to have, hold and enjoy unto him and his heirs forever in likewise manner and form as the same should have descended unto him if that he that so aliened had died, and so forth in like manner from heir to heir as often as it shall fortune them or any of them so to alien or discontinue;

Also I will that all such men whose names be in a codicil hereunto annexed shall have all such fees and sums of money as upon their names in the said codicil is declared upon condition that they be kind, loving and helping my said wife and my children, and also for th' execution of this my said will and testament as much as in them is, and the same fees and money to be levied, perceived and paid of the issues and profits of the manors, lands and tenements before appointed for the execution of this my present testament and last will;

Also I will if any man or woman can show within 3 years next after my decease that I have wronged them, so that he or she can lawfully prove the same wrong or wrongs, I will that mine executors agree with them for the same and law as conscience will require in discharge of my soul.

And as to the declaration of this my testament, first I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my Creator and Saviour, and to the Blessed Virgin, his Mother, Our Lady Saint Mary, and to all the holy company of heaven, my body to be buried in the Priory of Kings Hatfield in the chapel of Our Blessed Lady there by my late wife, Cecily, before Our Lady if it happen me to decease within 40 miles of the same town by the licence of the Prior and Convent there for the time being, and mine executors to spend upon my funerals 40 or fifty pounds besides my tomb or stone, and if it happen me to decease without the space of 40 miles from the said Priory, then I will that my body be buried in the parish church there where it shall happen me to decease by the discretion of mine executors;

Also I will that after my burying and funeral charges done and paid, that mine executors with the issue and profits of my said lands and with my goods and chattels not bequeathed pay all my debts;

Also I give and bequeath to the high altar of the parish church of High Roding foresaid for my tithes and offerings negligently withdrawn and forgotten 20s;

Also I bequeath to the reparations of the same church of High Roding 40s;

Also I bequeath and give to the reparations of the chapel of Our Blessed Lady in the Priory of Hatfield or elsewhere in the said church of the Priory where most need shall require where I purpose with God's grace to be buried the sum of £20 sterlings, to be disposed there by the discretion of mine executors of the issues and profits of my said lands to them appointed;

Also I bequeath of the said issues and profits to the finding of a lamp burning before Our Lady in the said chapel in the foresaid Priory of Hatfield 40s as long as the money will serve for the same;

Also I bequeath to the reparations of the same church where it shall fortune me to be buried if it be not within the said Priory of Hatfield 40s, and to the curate there being present at my burying 6s 8d;

Also I give to the Priory and Convent of Thremhall towards the reparations of the church of the same Priory and for their prayers 46s 8d;

Also I will that my said executors with the said issues and profits of my lands to them appointed shall ordain and provide an honest priest to sing in the chapel of Our Blessed Lady in the said Priory where Cecily, late my wife, lieth buried or elsewhere in any other place by the assignment of my wife during her widowhood by the space of 8 years next immediately following after my decease, there to sing and pray for my soul, the soul of Cecily, late my wife, the soul of Philippe, now my wife, our grandfathers' souls, our grandmothers' souls, our fathers' souls, our mothers' souls, the souls of Thomas Bradbury, George Bradbury, Robert Fitzherbert and Elizabeth, his wife, and all Christian souls, and the said secular priest which shall happen to sing in the said chapel or church for the said souls shall weekly one day in the week during all the said 8 years say placebo and dirge on the even, and Mass of Requiem on the morrow, for the souls aforesaid, and that mine executors shall pay and content to the said secular priest so singing for the said souls £6 by year and every second year a gown, and if the Prior of the said Priory for the time being refuse and will not suffer the said priest to sing in the said chapel as is aforesaid, that then I will that the said priest shall sing in the parish church of Hatfield beforesaid by the licence of the curate there for the term of the said eight years for the souls aforesaid if my wife continuing in her widowhood do not appoint him to sing in such place where she shall be, and the said priest to have for his salary and wages yearly £6 and every second year his gown;

Also I will that mine executors immediately after my decease cause 7 trentals of Masses to be said for my soul and for the souls afore-rehearsed, whereof I will 4 of them be said by the 4 orders of friars in London, the 5th to be said by the Crutched Friars in London, the 6th of them by the Friars of Chelmsford in the shire of Essex, and the 7th to be said at Westminster in the Chapel of Seala Celi or Savoy by the monks there, or else by secular priests by the discretion of mine executors as they can have them;

Also I bequeath weekly during the term of 8 years next after my decease 7d of the said issues and profits of my lands to be divided amongst 7 poor men and women, that is to say, of High Roding 2, of Hatfield 3, and of Sabbesford [=Sawbridgeworth?] 2, that is to say, every of them weekly 1d;

Item, to every of the said poor folks being of good conversation yearly during the term of 8 years a gown of frieze, a bonnet, and a shirt or a smock of canvas to the value in all of

5s 4d for every person yearly besides the foresaid penny weekly, to pray for my soul, the soul of Cecily, late my wife, our fathers' and mothers' souls, our grandfathers' souls, our grandmothers' souls and for [+the] soul of Philippe, now my wife, when it shall fortune God to call her to his mercy, our brethren and sisters' souls, our children's souls, for the souls of Thomas Bradbury, George Bradbury, Thomas Rame, Robert Fitzherbert and Elizabeth, his wife, and all Christian souls;

Also I will that mine executors shall spend and pay towards the making of highways between my mansion place and Hatfield £20, beginning at the poplars in High Roding and between Hatfield heath and Sabbysford [=Sawbridgeworth?] £20 by the discretion of mine executors where most need shall require;

Also I will that Philippe, my wife, shall have £20 in money and all such plate and stuff as she brought to me at her coming at our marriage and were her own before, as well gilted as otherwise, as it appeareth by my book of plate, with all her apparel and other jewels that I gave to her before our said marriage and after without any diminution of lessing of them or any part of them;

And over that I will and bequeath to my said wife 2 gilt salts of mine own plate 8-square pounced with one covering weighing 35 ounces, 3 flat bowls with one cover parcel gilt weighing fourscore and one ounce, with a basin and an ewer of silver plain parcel gilt and mine arms in the cover of the ewer and in the bottom of the basin by me lately made weighing 76 ounces & dimidium, 12 spoons of silver with slips gilted on the ends which I have new made and doubled in weight weighing 23 ounces, and a greater pot and a nut of ivy garnished with silver and gilt weighing together (blank) ounces;

Also I give and bequeath to my said wife my best bed of blue velvet and yellow damask with the coverlet, featherbed and bolster and a pair of fustians to the same belonging, and the hanging of red and yellow say as it now hangeth over my parlour at High Roding, 2 carpets;

Also I give and bequeath to my said wife 6 best horses, 2 carts and a plough with all their apparel belonging to the same, 12 kine and a bull, 6 yearlings and 60 sheep of the best, and all manner my grain growing or in my barn and garner at the time of my death except such as shall be spent thereof at my burial and month day and for the finding of my house by the space of half a year next after my decease;

Also I will that my wife shall have th' occupation of mine implements of household being within my mansion or dwelling-place called Newhall Josselyn, as well all such as be fixed in the said house as other, that is to say, leads, brewing vessels, troughs, table, dornicks(?), spits, cupboards, forms, stools, presses, chairs, my principal great chests, 2 of them bound with iron, and after her decease the said implements to remain and abide in the said house as heirlooms to the heirs of the said house forevermore;

Also I will that my wife shall have the rule and governance of all my chalices, vestments and books during the time of her widowhood, and after her marriage or also after her

departure, I bequeath the said chalice, vestments, books to my son, Thomas, and to his heirs forever;

Also I will that my son, Thomas, at his full age of 24 years or before by the discretion of mine executors shall have the sparver of crimson and green damask, my best covering with 2 pair of sheets of 3 bredes, a pair of fustians and a featherbed, 2 pillows of down, with all other apparel to the same sparver and bed belonging, and the hanging of green and red say which sometime did hang in the said chamber over the parlour, and also the stained bed and celure with the 3 Kings of Cologne and hangings that doth now hang in the middle chamber over the scriptory, with all the apparel thereto belonging, with 3 of my best carpets and 6 of my best cushions;

And over that I will that the said Thomas, my son, after the decease of my wife shall have the bed in the great chamber over the hall with fustians and all the best apparel thereto belonging;

Also I will that my said son, Thomas, at his full age of 24 years shall have two salts, 6-square gilt weighing 41 ounces, 12 spoons round with knops pounced on the ends gilt weighing ounces, and my nut of ivy garnished with silver all gilt weighing (blank) ounces, 2 other little beer-pots of silver plain parcel gilt with two covers weighing 25 ounces dimidium, and a standing cup of silver all gilt pounced chevron-wise weighing (blank) ounces, 3 goblets with one cover parcel gilt pounced like pens weighing 57 ounces, 2 featherbeds, 3 peillettes, 6 pillows of down with all th' apparel thereto belonging over and besides three beds before bequeathed, 6 cushions of carpet-work the which were new made in mine own house, 3 pots of brass, 2 brass pans and 3 spits of iron with the racks of iron, with other kitchen stuff by the discretion of my wife and other mine executors, to be delivered to him at the full age of 24 years or before by the discretion of my said executors;

Also I will that mine executors with the issues and profits of my said manors & lands to them appointed shall keep and find Anne, my daughter, meat, drink and clothing convenient for her apparel till she be married or otherwise preferred;

Also I will and bequeath to my said daughter, Anne Josselyn, to her marriage, to be taken of the issues and profits of my said lands appointed to mine executors and of my goods and chattels not bequeathed, three hundred marks sterlings to be paid within three years next after her said marriage if she be ruled in her marriage by the discretion of Philippe, my wife, and if the said Anne decease before her said marriage, which God forbid, then I will that two hundred marks, parcel of the said three hundred marks, to be paid and delivered by my said executors to my son, Thomas, toward the setting up and finding of his house, and one hundred marks, the residue, I will shall be disposed in the marrying of my poor kinswomen being maidens if they be ordered in their marriages by the advice of mine executors or the more part of them, and also in the marrying of other poor maidens, in making of copes and vestments to be given to poor churches, and other deeds of charity by the discretion of mine executors;

Also I give and bequeath to the said Anne, my daughter, 12 spoons of silver weighing (blank) ounces, two salts with a cover of silver parcel gilt with knots in the top of the cover 6-square weighing 26 ounces dimidium which I occupy daily, 2 featherbeds with their bolsters, a pair of fustians, 4 pillows of down, to be delivered to her at her marriage by my wife, and if she die before her said marriage, which God forbid, then I will the said plate and stuff to her bequeathed to be sold by mine executors and the money thereof coming to be disposed in highways and poor folks and other good deeds according to the discretion of my said executors;

Also I give and bequeath to Jane, my daughter, and to my son, her husband, two featherbeds with their bolsters, 4 pillows of down, and a pair of fustians with 2 coverlets by the discretion of mine executors to them to be delivered;

Also I give and bequeath to my said son, Thomas, at his full age of 24 years to begin with household, to be bestowed in stuff of household as shall be most need to be bought by the discretion of my said executors, the sum of twenty pounds to be levied, had and perceived of th' issues and profits of the said manors, lands and tenements appointed to the performance of this my said testament and last will as is before said;

Also where one Richard Boldye, gentleman, and Thomas Hofte stood and were feoffees and seised by fine levied in the King's court at Westminster of and in the moiety or half of the manor of Chipping Campden with the advowson of the chapel of Saint Katherine thereto belonging with the appurtenances in the county of Gloucester, and of the manor of Pyrryehall [=Perry Hall?] with th' appurtenances in the county of Stafford and Warwick to th' use of me, the said John Josselyn, for term of my life and 7 years after my decease of the gift of Cecily, late my wife, as in the said fine thereof made more plainly it doth appear, in and for recompense of such costs and charges that I, the said John Josselyn, have borne and sustained for the said Cecily in suing to the King for a special livery of her lands before the marriage between her and me, and otherwise for one hundred pounds sterlings to John Fitzherbert for my said wife paid without law or conscience, seeing that she was first wedded to the son of the said John Fitzherbert, having nothing by him, and afterward sold her again to me for the said hundred pounds, and of late Master John Young, Doctor of the Law and Master of the Rolls now dead, with other divers persons with him stand and be feoffees of and in the said moiety and manors with their appurtenances to th' use of me, the said John Josselyn, for term of my life and 7 years after to th' intent that the issues and profits coming of the said manor shall be to me during my life and the said 7 years after to the performance of this my said last will and testament, whereupon I, the said John Josselyn, will and declare that mine executors after my decease shall receive and take the yearly profits and issues as well of the said moiety of the manor of Campden in the county of Gloucester as of the manor of Pyrryehall [=Perry Hall?] in the counties of Stafford and Warwick, and the money thereof coming during the said 7 years to be disposed in form following, that is to say, the issues and profits of the same lands to go to the performance of this my said will and testament and other deeds of charity by th discretion of my said executors;

Also I will that where I hold to farm of the Prior and Convent of Hatfield all such tithes of an endware of Hatfield called Brounoecende, I will and bequeath all the lease of the same unto Philippe, my wife, discharging me against the said Prior and Convent of Hatfield for the farm of the same during my years;

Also where I hold to farm of the lease of the late Earl of Oxford the manor of Much Canfield in the county of Essex for term of 19 years, I will and bequeath my said whole lease and interest of and in the same unto the said Philippe, my wife;

Item, I will and bequeath that Sir Thomas Tyrrell, knight, Humphrey Browne, serjeant at the law, and John Fitzlewis, esquires, feoffees with other in all my lands for the performance of this my last will, have every of them a doublet of cloth of velvet or else a ring of fine gold with Saint John Baptist graved, price 40s, for the same;

Item, I bequeath that John Tyrrell, Humphrey Fitzherbert, William Bradbury and Sigismond Coton, esquires, also feoffees in my said lands with other, have every of them a doublet of fine black satin or 26s 8d for the same, desiring them to be loving and kind to my said wife, my son, Thomas, and my said executors, and to be aiding and assisting to the true execution of this my present testament and last will;

Also I bequeath to my cousins, George Josselyn, Gabriel Josselyn and John Josselyn, every of them a black gown and 40s in money to pray for my soul;

Item, I will and bequeath in like wise that Philip Josselyn and Geoffrey Josselyn, my cousins, have every of them 40s in money and every of them a black gown in reward;

Item, in like wise to Robert Loveday and Richard Norwoode, every of them 20s in money and a black gown;

Item, I bequeath to my friend Paver a doublet of satin, and to Master Crafford a doublet of satin;

Item, to my brother Gates a black gown;

Item, I bequeath to Sir Roger Wentworth, knight, John Wentworth, his son and heir, and to my cousin Anne, his wife, every of them a black gown;

Item, I will that mine executors with the said issues and profits of my lands to them appointed provide and give unto 6 churches, that is to say, the Priory church of Hatfield, where I purpose with God's grace to be buried, a whole suit of vestments, price 18 or £20 with mine arms in the same;

Item, to the churches of Shellow Bowells, Aythorpe Roding, West Tilbury and Much Canfield, every of them a vestment of blue or white satin of Bruges with mine arms in every of them, with all th' apparel thereto belonging, price every of them 30s, summa £6;

Item, I bequeath to the Church of Sabbisford [=Sawbridgeworth] where I was born one suit of vestments, price £20, with mine arms in the midst of them;

Also I will that mine executors keep my household after my burial half a year, with meat and drink and wages to my servants and their whole livery for their reward, and to every of them 20d in money over and besides their wages, to pray for my soul and all Christian souls;

The residue of my goods and chattels not bequeathed I give mine executors towards the performance of this my said will and testament and to be by them distributed among my children and in other deeds of charity as they shall seem best, always by the discretion of the more part of mine executors, and ordain and make the said Philippe, my wife, my principal executrix, with Robert Norwich, the King's serjeant at the law, Thomas Audley, Benjamin Digby, gentlemen, and John Wiseman;

Also I do give and bequeath to every of my said executors above-named 100s;

Also I ordain and make the supervisor of this my testament and last will my most special good master, Sir John Vere, knight, beseeching him to be good master unto my said wife, my children and mine executors in helping them forwards in the fulfilling and executing of this my said last will and testament, to whom I give for his pain and labour to be taken in this behalf a laver [=laver?] of silver and gilt pounced with roses;

Also I will that if there be any ambiguity or doubt in this my said will and testament, or anything omitted or left out the which ought to be for the wealth of my soul or plain declaration of mine intent, then I will that the same doubt or ambiguity be interpreted and determined by all my said executors of the more part of them, calling to them my supervisor of this my said will and testament, and such interpretation and determination as they shall happen to make from time to time I will shall stand as my last will, anything in this my said testament and last will before declared notwithstanding, and all the said premises to be done at my costs and charges;

In witness whereof to this my present last will and testament I have subscribed with my hand the 12th day of July in the 17th year of the reign of King Henry the 8th in the presence of Sir Geoffrey Gate, knight, Guy Crayford, gentleman, Dame Joan Bradbury, widow, Henry Susshe [=Zouche?], with divers other.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascripti defuncti Coram prefatis Commissarijs in ecclesia Cathedrali diui(?) Pauli London xiiij Die mensis ffebruarij Anno Domini Millesimo quingentesimo vicesimo quinto Iuramento Relicte & executricis in huiusmodi testamento nominate Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et commissa fuit administracio auctoritate prefatorum Reuerendissimorum patrium omnium & singulorum bonorum Iurium & creditorum dicti defuncti prefate executrici De bene & fideliter administrando Ac de pleno et fideli Inuentario secundo die post festum nonas(?) domini proximum futurum

exhibendo Necnon de plano et vero compoto reddendo Ad sancta dei Euangelia Iurate Reseruata potestate alijs executoribus in huiusmodi testamento nominatis cum venerint &c

[=The testament of the above-written deceased was proved before the forenamed Commissioners in the Cathedral Church of Saint(?) Paul, London, on the 13th day of the month of February in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred twenty-fifth by the oath of the relict & executrix named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all & singular the goods, rights & credits of the said deceased to the forenamed executrix, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well & faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full and faithful inventory on the second day after the feast of [] of the Lord next to come, and also to render a plain and true account, with power reserved to the other executors named in the same testament when they shall have come etc.]