

SUMMARY: The document below is the last will and testament, dated 1 August 1529, together with a codicil dated 19 August 1529, proved 4 July 1531, of Sir Robert Clere of Ormesby, great-grandfather of Roger Wigston (c.1537 - 1608), at whose home, Wolston Priory, the last two Marprelate tracts, the *Theses Martinianae* and the *Just Censure and Reproof of Martin Junior*, were printed on a secret press in July 1589.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the Clere pedigree, see:

Francis Blomefield, 'East Flegg Hundred: Ormesby', in *An Essay Towards A Topographical History of the County of Norfolk: Volume 11* (London, 1810), pp. 231-240. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/topographical-hist-norfolk/vol11/pp231-240> [accessed 28 December 2017].

For the Clere pedigree, see also Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *The Visitation of Suffolke, Vol. II*, (Lowestoft: Samuel Tymms, 1871), p. 258 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=LCgAAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA258>

See also the Clere pedigrees in Rye, Walter, ed., *The Visitation of Norffolk*, (London: Harleian Society, 1891), Vol. XXXII, pp. 73-5 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=HS8EAAAIAAJ&pg=PA74>

For the Clere family, see also the pedigree in Burke, John and John Bernard Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies of England*, (London: Scott, Webster and Geary, 1838), p. 118 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=K1kBAAAQAAJ&pg=PA118>

The testator was the son and heir of Robert Clere, esquire, by Elizabeth Uvedale (d.1492), daughter and heiress of Thomas Uvedale, esquire. For Elizabeth Uvedale, see:

Francis Blomefield, 'Hundred of Depwade: Tacolneston', in *An Essay Towards A Topographical History of the County of Norfolk: Volume 5* (London, 1806), pp. 164-171. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/topographical-hist-norfolk/vol5/pp164-171> [accessed 29 December 2017].

. . . for in that year [1434], Robert Clere, Esq. of Ormesby, held his first court for the manor of Tacolneston, D'Ovedale's, jointly with Eliz. his wife, only daughter and heiress of Tho. Uvedale, Esq.; she outlived him, and died in 1492, and was buried by her husband in Norwich cathedral, (see vol. iv. p. 35,) and settled a rent charge out of her manors of Cleydon and Threston or Tharston, for one of the monks to pray for their

souls, and founded two priests to sing before Rees's altar in the collegiate church of St. Mary in the Fields in Norwich, for her own and husband's soul, and those of Will. Rees, Esq. and Margery his wife, her father and mother, who were buried there, (see vol. iv. p. 176,)

The testator appears to have had only one sibling:

-**Margaret Clere** (d. 16 January 1500), who married, as his second wife, Sir Ralph Shelton (c.1431 – 16 July 1497, by whom she had three sons, Sir John Shelton (d. 21 December 1539), Ralph Shelton (buried 25 October 1538), esquire, and Richard Shelton, a cleric, and two daughters, Elizabeth Shelton, and Alice Shelton, who married John Heveningham. Sir John Shelton (d. 21 December 1539), married Anne Boleyn, sister of Alice Boleyn (1487 - 1 November 1538), the testator's second wife (see below).

MARRIAGES AND CHILDREN

First marriage

The testator married firstly, Anne Hopton (d. 23 January 1506), the daughter of Sir William Hopton (d. 7 February 1485) and Margaret Wentworth (d. 20 April 1478). See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 401-2 and Vol. III, p. 354 (hereafter *MCA*), and Rutton, William Loftie, *Three Branches of the Family of Wentworth*, (London: 1891), p. 138 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YhY5AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA138>

By Anne Hopton, the testator had one son and four daughters:

* **William Clere** (d.1501), who married Elizabeth Paston (d.1539), daughter of Sir John Paston the younger, but died without issue. See the Wikipedia entry for Sir John Paston edited by the author of this website:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Paston_\(died_1504\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Paston_(died_1504))

Sir John Paston (1444 – 28 August 1504), was the second son of John Paston and Margaret Mautby. He succeeded his elder brother, Sir John Paston, in 1479. He fought at Barnet and Stoke with John de Vere, 13th Earl of Oxford, served as his deputy when Oxford was appointed Lord High Admiral of England, and was a member of the Earl's council.

For Sir John Paston as a retainer of the 13th Earl of Oxford, see also Ross, James, *John de Vere, Thirteenth Earl of Oxford (1442-1513)*, (Woodbridge, Suffolk: The Boydell Press, 2011), p. 234.

William Clere's widow married secondly Sir John Fyneux (d.1525), Chief Justice of the King's Bench. See the *ODNB* entry:

At the time of Fyneux's death, on 17 November 1525, his only surviving son, and thus his heir, was William (d. 1557), the child of Fyneux's second wife, also Elizabeth (d. 1539), daughter of Sir John Paston and widow of William Clere.

For the marriage of William Clere (d.1501) and Elizabeth Paston (d.1539), see also TNA C 1/490/33.

* **Elizabeth Clere**, who married firstly John Bedingfield. See *MCA, supra*, Vol. III, p. 354. He may have been a son of Sir Edmund Bedingfield (1443-1496), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/11/6. In her will dated 13 January 1492 and proved 6 March 1492, the testatrix' grandmother, Elizabeth Uvedale Clere, refers to the testatrix as Elizabeth Bedingfield, and bequeaths to the testatrix' sister, Audrey Clere, 500 marks owed by Sir Edmund Bedingfield. See Blomefield, *supra*, at:

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/topographical-hist-norfolk/vol11/pp231-240>

Elizabeth Clere married secondly Sir Robert Peyton (d. 18 March 1518) of Isleham, Cambridgeshire, a descendant of Robert de Vere, 3rd Earl of Oxford. For his will, see TNA PROB 11/19/81. By Sir Robert Peyton, Elizabeth Clere was the grandmother of Roger Wigston (c.1537 - 1608), at whose home, Wolston Priory, the last two Marprelate tracts, the *Theses Martinianae* and the *Just Censure and Reproof of Martin Junior*, were printed on a secret press in July 1589 (see above). For the will of Elizabeth Clere Peyton, see TNA PROB 11/31/102.

* **Audrey Clere**, who married William Jenney (d.1518/19), esquire, eldest son of Sir Edmund Jenney (d.1523/4). See the Jenney pedigree in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Suffolk*, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1882), p. 45 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=EycAAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA45>

See also 'Knottishall Parish' at:

http://www.bigenealogy.com/suffolk/knottishall_parish.htm

Sir Edmund Jenney, Knt., eldest son to the Judge, succeeded; and married Catherine, daughter and heir of Robert Bois, Esq. He died in the 15th of King Henry VIII., and left his possessions to Francis his grandson, son of William Jenney, Esq., who deceased in the 10th of that reign, leaving the said Francis a minor.

* **Anne Clere**, a nun at Denny. She is the only child of the testator's first marriage mentioned in the will below.

* **Dorothy Clere**, who married Sir Robert Cotton (c.1477 - 18 July 1517) of Landwade, Cambridgeshire, eldest son and heir of Sir Thomas Cotton (d. 30 July 1499) of Landwade by his second wife, Joan Sharpe (d.1496), daughter and heir of Nicholas Sharpe. Sir Thomas Cotton's first wife was Margaret Wentworth (d. 28 April 1479), daughter of Sir Philip Wentworth (c.1424 - 18 May 1464). See the will of Sir Henry Wentworth (c.1448 - August 1499) of Nettlestead, TNA PROB 11/12/265; the inquisition post mortem taken after the death of Sir Robert Cotton, TNA C 142/33/25; his will, dated 17 July 1517 and proved 19 August 1517, TNA PROB 11/18/539; and *The English Baronetage*, Vol. II, (London: Thomas Wotton, 1741), p. 197 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=SY9cAAAACAAJ&pg=PA197>

See also the inquisition post mortem taken after the death of Sir Thomas Cotton at:

Maskelyne and H. C. Maxwell Lyte, 'Inquisitions Post Mortem, Henry VII, Entries 301-350', in *Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem: Series 2, Volume 2, Henry VII* (London, 1915), pp. 197-223. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/inquis-post-mortem/series2-vol2/pp197-223> [accessed 24 December 2017].

See also Rutton, *supra*, p. 138 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YhY5AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA138>

Second marriage

The testator married secondly Alice Boleyn (1487 - 1 November 1538), the daughter of Sir William Boleyn (c.1451-1505?) and Margaret Butler (d. before 20 March 1540), the youngest daughter and co-heiress of Thomas Butler (d. 3 August 1515), 7th Earl of Ormond, by his first wife, Anne Hankford. Alice Boleyn Clere was the aunt of Queen Anne Boleyn. For her will, see TNA PROB 11/27/398.

See also *MCA*, *supra*, Vol. I, pp. 6-7, 385-7, and Vol. II, pp. 401-2, and the entry for Alice Boleyn in 'A Who's Who of Tudor Women' at:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=646

ALICE BOLEYN (1487-November 1, 1538)

Alice Boleyn was the daughter of Sir William Boleyn (1447-October 10, 1505) and Margaret Butler (1465-1539/40), daughter of the earl of Ormond, and married Sir Robert Clere of Ormesby St. Margaret, Norfolk (c.1453-August 10, 1529), as his second wife, in 1506. They had three sons, Sir John (c.1511-1557), Richard (d. before 1538), and Sir Thomas (d. April 14, 1545). In 1520 she was at the Field of Cloth of Gold. Around 1528, Thomas Cromwell defended her in an action for debt. On her husband's death, most of the estate went to his first wife's son but Alice received nearly twenty manors, most on the east coast of Norfolk, for life. His will, dated August 1, 1529, was proved July

4, 1531. In 1533, Princess Elizabeth was given a household at Hatfield with her half sister Mary as a lady in waiting. Lady Clere, who was Anne Boleyn's aunt, was made governess to the Lady Mary, as the king's out-of-favor elder daughter was then known. She is reputed to have befriended Mary. Her sister Anne, Lady Shelton, was in charge of the joint household. Alice made her will on October 28, 1538. It was proved January 23, 1538/9. She was buried in the church of St. Margaret, Ormesby.

By Alice Boleyn, the testator had three sons:

* **Sir John Clere** (c.1511-1557), who married Anne Tyrrell (buried 14 May 1576?), daughter of Sir Thomas Tyrrell (1472?-1551) of Gipping, Suffolk, Master of the Horse, by his first wife, Margaret Willoughby, daughter of Christopher Willoughby, de jure 10th Lord Willoughby de Eresby. See the will of Sir John Clere, TNA PROB 11/39/381, and the will of Sir Thomas Tyrrell, TNA PROB 11/34/309. See also the History of Parliament entry for Sir John Clere at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/clere-sir-john-1511-57>

The first son of his father's second marriage, John Clere benefited little from the succession because part of the Clere estate was held by his half-brother's widow and most of the remainder stayed with his mother during her life. . . .

Clere's position improved in 1538, when on his mother's death he gained possession of nearly 20 manors, mainly on the east coast of Norfolk

* **Richard Clere**, second son, who according to his mother's will died without issue before the age of 22.

* **Thomas Clere** (d. 14 April 1545), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/30/376. He was slain at the siege of Montreuil while attempting to save the life of Oxford's uncle, Henry Howard (1516/17–1547), Earl of Surrey. He was buried in the parish church of St Mary, Lambeth, where there is a monumental brass in his memory which formerly exhibited a tablet with an epitaph by the Earl of Surrey. Thomas Clere was also one of Surrey's companions, and 'was one of a group around Surrey arrested during the second session of the Parliament of 1542 for eating flesh in Lent'.

See *MCA*, *supra*, Vol. I, pp. 6-7 and Vol. II, p. 402; and Waters, Robert Edmond Chester, *Genealogical Memoirs of the Extinct Family of Chester of Chicheley*, Vol. I, (London: Robson and Sons, 1878), pp. 206-7 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/genealogicalmem01wategoog#page/n244/mode/2up>

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

For the testator's brother-in-law, Sir James Boleyn (c.1480-1561), see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/boleyn-%28bullen%29-sir-james-1480-1561>

In February 1540 he received a grant of livery as heir male to his brother Thomas, Earl of Wiltshire, and two years later he was granted all the goods left at Blickling by Lady Rochford, whose husband, his nephew George, had been beheaded in 1536 and who herself suffered the same fate as an accomplice of Catherine Howard. This addition to the lands his marriage had brought him made Sir James Boleyn a considerable landowner and in March 1540 he consolidated his possessions by exchanging with the King his brother's manors in Kent for six manors and other lands in Norfolk. During the next few years he sold a number of manors and in 1553 settled many of his other lands so that they would fall on his death and that of his wife to his great-niece, Princess Elizabeth, and his nephew, Sir John Clere.

For the testator's supervisor, Thomas Howard (1473–1554), 3rd Duke of Norfolk, see the *ODNB* entry.

For the testator's supervisor, George Boleyn (c.1504-1536), Viscount Rochford, see the *ODNB* entry.

For the testator's mother, Elizabeth Uvedale Clere (d.1492), and her will, mentioned in the will below, see Blomefield, *supra*, at:

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/topographical-hist-norfolk/vol11/pp231-240>

(f) Robert, son of John, married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Thomas Owydale, or Dovedale, Esq. of Incolneston, by Margaret his wife, daughter and heir of William Reeves and of Margery his wife, daughter and heir of - - - - - Rusteyn, by his will made at Ormesby, August 3, A^o. 24 Henry VI. and proved August 12, 1446, to be buried in the church of Ormesby St. Margaret; (fn. 6) he gives all his manors to Elizabeth his wife for life, and Ormesby to William, his son, after her decease, with Frethorp, Winterton manor, and the advowson; to Thomas his second son, he gave his manor of Stratton Streless; and to Robert his third son, his manor of Kesewick, which Robert afterward succeeded as heir; William and Thomas his two elder brothers both dying without issue.

Elizabeth, widow of Robert, by her testament dated January 13, 1492, to be buried in the cathedral church of Norwich, and gives to that priory an annuity of 3l. 6s. 8d. issuing out of her manors of Therston in Norfolk and Cleydon in Suffolk; to every house of friars in Norfolk 20s. &c. to every nunnery in Norfolk 6s. 8d. and legacies to every hospital in Norwich and Yarmouth; benefactions to the repairs of many churches in Norfolk; to St. Margaret of Ormesby 10l. to the making the steeple, and to St. Michael's church of Ormesby 20s.—to every poor tenant in Ormesby holding lands wholly of her, 4 bushels of malt or barley, or 12d. in money; and to every one holding in part of her, 2 bushels, or

6d. and the same gift in all her lordships; and to be sent to them without charges within 30 days after her burial, and as much quarterly, till 200 marks were distributed among them;—200 marks to the finding 2 children at Cambridge, till 24 years of age, to be of her kyn, or of her tenants, or if none, then to 6 poor maydens marriage of Norfolk, and Suffolk 20l.— 100 marks to mending the highways in her lordships in Norfolk;— to Robert Clere her son 40l. and to Audrey and Dorothy his daughters each 200l.—to Anne, daughter of her son Robert, a nun at Denny, a legacy;—to John Shelton, son of Sir Ralph Shelton, Knt. a goblet;—to Ralph and Richard, second and third sons, each 10l. and a goblet;—to her daughter dame Margaret Shelton, a pair of beads for life,—then to Alice Hevengham, the daughter of the said dame Margaret Shelton;—her son Robert, to have all her jewels, plate, &c. all her goods at Norwich, and in Tacolneston;—to Elizabeth Bedingfeld, daughter of her son Robert, several goods;—to Audrey, her son Robert's daughter, 500 marks, owing by Sir Edmund Bedingfeld, Knt to her, and her son Robert, if she be married with her father's consent;—to Catherine, wife of Richard Southwell, a piece of plate, and to many servants legacies, Sir Ralph Shelton, (who was her son in law) and Richard Southwell, Esq. executors, to have each 40l. and Robert her son, supervisor, proved 6th of March 1492.

TESTATOR'S MANORS

For the testator's manor of Tharston, see:

Francis Blomefield, 'Hundred of Depwade: Tharston', in *An Essay Towards A Topographical History of the County of Norfolk: Volume 5* (London, 1806), pp. 303-308. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/topographical-hist-norfolk/vol5/pp303-308> [accessed 28 December 2017].

. . . purchased by Sir Robert Clere, Knt. who held it in 1432, and it passed in that family as Keswick, at p. 44. In 1549, Sir John Clere was lord, and the manors were valued at 30l. but he manumised much, and died Aug. 21, 1557, leaving Sir Edward his son and heir, then 25 years old

RM: T{estamentum} Roberti Clere milit{is}

In Dei nomine Amen. I, Sir Robert Clere, knight, in the year of Our Lord 1529 and in the 21st year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Henry the 8th the first day of August, being of whole mind and perfect remembrance, annulling, setting aside and clearly revoking all former wills & testaments by me, the said Sir Robert Clere, before made or written into [=unto?] this day, God willing, now & an [sic for 'on'?] this day before rehearsed devise and make this my last will and testament in the manner and form as it shall appear ensuing:

First, with all humble subjection and godly meekness, putting my full confidence and trust in the tender mercy of my Lord God and Maker and in the comfortable merits of the passion of Christ, my Redeemer and Saviour, I bequeath my soul to Almighty God and Maker, my Saviour Christ, to Our Lady, and to all the holy, glorious company of heaven, and my body to be buried in the chancel of Saint Margaret's in Ormesby if God dispose for me there to depart this transitory world, or in any place in Norfolk or elsewhere as for the time it shall be devised and seen by me or by mine executors at my departing;

Moreover above all things if any person, man or woman, sufficiently can prove or show that I have hindered them or against conscience wronged them in their temporal goods and worldly substance, such complaints so heard and so reasonably proved, I will, require and charge mine executors to do or cause to be done unto them agreeable restitution;

Item, I bequeath to the high altar of Saint Margaret's in Ormesby aforesaid for my burial in the chancel 6s 8d;

Item, to the same altar for my tithes forgotten 6s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to the reparation of the said church of Saint Margaret's in Ormesby and to the new stoling of the same £5;

Item, to Saint Margaret's guild in Ormesby foresaid 6s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to the reparation of Saint Michael's Ormesby 5s;

Item, to the reparation of Winterton church 6s 8d;

Item, to the reparation of the guns, bulwarks and for gunpowder in the defence of the said town of Winterton 20s, requiring them of the said town to cause a dirge with a Mass of Requiem to be said for me and my friends;

Item, to East Somerton church 3s 4d;

Item, to the church of Saint Mary Borough 6s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to Tharston church 5s;

Item, I bequeath to Stratton church by Buxton 6s 8d;

Item, to the reparation of Keswick church 10s;

Item, to the reparation of Tacolneston church 6s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to Saint Edmund church in Norwich 10s;

Item, as soon as it may conveniently [+be?] after my decease I will have a hundred Masses of the 5 Wounds to be said for me at the discretion of mine executors, and every of the said priests in the said Masses praying for me to have for his charitable labour 4d;

Item, to the prior of the Cathedral Church in Norwich and his religious obediencers for their charitable labours in solemnly singing of a dirge, with Mass of Requiem following upon the same, 40s to be divided to the prior and among his convent and by the discretion of mine executors;

Item, I bequeath to the reparation of the said Church Cathedral of the Trinity 20s;

Item, I will that each of the 3 orders of friars in Yarmouth within 30 days next after my departing have 6s 8d, and to sing or each of them to say a dirge with Mass of Requiem for me and my friends departed fro [=from] this world;

Item, I bequeath to the Austin Friars at the Southton(?), desiring them to sing dirge with Mass of Requiem as is before rehearsed, 13s 4d;

Item, I bequeath to the 3 orders of friars in Norwich, that is to say, the Grey Friars, the Austin and Black, to each of them 6s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to the White Friars in Norwich 20s, requiring them to sing for me a dirge with Mass of Requiem;

Item, I bequeath to the sisters of the hospital in Yarmouth 2s;

Item, to the sick men and women at the North Gates in Yarmouth 20d;

Item, to every sick man's holof(?) at the gates of Norwich 20d;

Item, to every of the sisters of Starmans(?) in Norwich 8d;

Item, I bequeath to the prisoners in the Castle and Guildhall in Norwich, to each of them 20d;

Item, I will have an honest priest to [-to] be provided for me to pray for my soul, my wives, Dame Anne and Dame Alice Clere, my father and my mother with all other my friends as I am bound to remember, continually to sing by the space of 5 years, and he to have of mine executors yearly for his stipend and wages 9 marks, and this sung to be songen at Ormesby in Saint Margaret's church or else where it shall please God my body to be buried;

Item, I bequeath to the abbot of Wymondham, if I fortune to depart there, 13s 4d and [-and] to each of his brothers that be priests 6s 8d, and to the cellarer there 10s, and to every novice there 3s 4d, and to each of the clerks being in the said abbey 12d, praying them to keep dirge for my soul with a Mass of Requiem and other observances;

Item, I will have a dirge and a Mass of Requiem for my soul in the parish church of Wymondham at the which I will have distributed 26s 8d among the priests, clerks and poor people by the discretion of mine executors;

Item, I will have in the day of my burial a 100 marks to be distributed in this manner following:

First at Ormesby, to give there to poor people, man, woman and child, to each of them on my burial day at a dole 2d;

Item, I bequeath to every church and town between the place there it shall fortune me to depart and Ormesby through the which my body shall be carried, if they do receive me, 6s 8d, of the which 3s 4d shall the curate with other priests and clerks have for dirge and Mass of Requiem, and the other 3s 4d to the reparation of the church;

Item, I will with parcel of the said 100 marks black cloth to be bought for gowns for my wife and my children and all my servants and for my cousins, Thomas and Edmund Clere, and for each of them a servant, and for 12 poor men;

Item, I will a hundred coombs of malt to be given and distributed among [f. 36v] my poor tenants in Ormesby, Scrowbye [=Scratby?], East Somerton, Winterton, Burgh Mary and Margaret and in other towns to the poor people and specially to my poor tenants in East and West Flegg as it shall be seen by the discretion of mine executors;

Item, I will that Dame Alice Clere, my wife, have in plate at her own election & choice to the value of 60 pounds, prised every ounce of the same if it be gilt whole, 4s, and the white plate and parcel gilt at 3s 4d the ounce;

Item, I bequeath to John Clere, my son, my great chain of gold to be delivered him at th' age of 22 years or at the farthest before the full age of 25 years upon this condition, that he avoid riot and great gaming as shall be seen and approved by the discretion of my wife, his mother's, and my executors;

The residue of all my plate and every parcel of the same unbequeathed except twain parcels bequeathed to my sons, Richard and Thomas Clere, as hereafter doth appear, I give and bequeath to the said John Clere, my son, to be delivered to him at th' age as is before rehearsed for the delivery of the chain;

But if the said John Clere die without issue male before the age of 25 years as is before rehearsed, that [sic for 'then'?] I will the plate to be divided by even like portions to my sons, Richard and Thomas;

Moreover in the mean season before the deliverance of the plate bequeathed to my son, John Clere, I require and will that it remain in the keeping of his mother, my wife, so long as she keep herself sole and in the state of widowhead;

But if she do marry again, then in avoiding trouble and variance before the solemnization of marriage I will the money, plate and jewels bequeathed to my children, as to John, Richard and Thomas, by the wisdom and discretion of my executors be kept in some trusty place to the behoof and use of my said children;

Item, I bequeath to my son, Richard Clere, a standing cup of silver all gilt with a knop, and an eagle on it;

Item, I will my son, Richard, shall have my lesser chain of gold with the cross appending upon the same, and to be delivered to him in like manner as is before rehearsed to my son, John Clere;

Item, I bequeath to my son, Thomas Clere, a gilt cup with the cover and a rose upon the knop of the same, to be delivered to him as is rehearsed before to my sons, John and Richard;

Item, I bequeath to my daughter Anne of Denny 4 marks with the favour of her abbess to be delivered to my said daughter to her relief and comfort;

Item, I will all my stuff of household, as hangings, beddings, pewter, brass, latten, featherbeds, mattresses, sheets, blankets, coverings, napery, linen, woollen, with all other utensils belonging to household unbequeathed be indifferently divided by even portions;

And so the one half I bequeath to Dame Alice Clere, my wife, and the other half I bequeath and give to my son, John Clere, to be delivered to him by my wife, his mother, and mine executors at the years before rehearsed, except I will the hangings of my hall at Ormesby of the 12 months in the year that my wife shall have it term of her life, and after to my son, John Clere, in manner before rehearsed;

Item, I will my wife to have a sufficient stock with the manor of Ormesby in all manner of things for the profitable occupation of the same, as in horse, neat, sheep, horse harness, carts, ploughs, barrows, wheat, oats, peas, barley and swine as is declared and specified in the indentures between me on the one party and Cappes and John Hay on the other part for the farm of Ormesby;

And after my wife's decease I will the said stock to remain to my heirs with the manor of Ormesby in like manner and form as my said wife, Dame Alice Clere, received it of her farmers, Cappes and John Hay, or any other that shall have the said stock hereafter;

Item, if John Clere decease having none heirs male before the age of 25 years, then I will my great chain to remain to Richard Clere and my lesser chain with the cross to remain to my son, Thomas Clere;

Item, I bequeath to my son, Richard Clere, six hundred marks for to purchase lands for him by the discretion and wisdom of mine executors, or else to buy some ward to his preferment as it shall be seen to their discretions and wisdoms;

Item, I bequeath to the said Richard Clere £10 that my executors may therewith buy for him a bed and bedding accordingly to the same and hangings to his chamber to the value of the said £10;

Item, I bequeath to my son, Thomas Clere, 400 marks to purchase lands for him by mine executors or else some ward for his preferment as it shall be seen to their discretions and wisdoms;

And as for bedding and hangings for a chamber, I will my son, Thomas, to have in like manner as before is rehearsed [+to?] my son, Richard, his brother;

Item, I will the survivor of either of my twain sons, Richard and Thomas, shall be heir one to the other in all manner of legacies, jewels and bequests if any of them twain without lawful issue die before the other before th' age of 22 years upon this condition, they be ruled and agreeable by the advice of my wife, their mother, and mine executors;

Item, I will that all the legacies bequested to my sons, Richard and Thomas, be in my wife's keeping as long as she keep herself sole and not married, but if she marry again I will by the discretions of my executors the said money and jewels to be kept in some trusty place;

Item, I will the chalice of silver, cruets, jewels, books, with other ornament of my chapel in Ormesby be at the commandment and disposition of Dame Alice Clere, my wife, for term of her life if she keep herself sole, and after her decease to leave them to my son, John Clere, and his heirs;

Item, I will that all my servants that be with me in service at my departing shall have a quarter wages of me by mine executors after my decease;

Item, I bequeath to Dame Alice, my wife, all my stuff in my place at Norwich there being in the day of making of this my last will except all napery remaining there in a chest to be divided egally between my wife, Dame Alice, and my son, John Clere, by the oversight of mine executors;

Item, I give to John Clere, my son, all my harness, bows, arrows, bills, axes and all other as they be at Ormesby or elsewhere;

Item, I give to my son, John Clere, my gown of black velvet furred with foins and my gown of black damask lined with tawny velvet to be delivered to him immediately after my decease;

Item, I give my gown of crimson velvet to Saint Margaret's church in Ormesby to make with a cope;

Item, I give to my son, Richard Clere, my gown of black damask furred with budge, and to my son, Thomas Clere, my gown of black camlet furred with martens, to be delivered to them as is before rehearsed for my soul [sic for 'son?'] [Interlined: & my son], John Clere;

The residue of all my goods not bequeathed I put them to the discretion and ordering of my executors that they will dispose them in deeds of charity as shall be to the [f. 37r] most pleasure of God, discharging of their conscience, and to the wealth of my soul, whom for the trust that I have to them I do ordain, make and name to be mine executors Dame Alice, my wife, my brother-in-law, Sir James Boleyn, knight, William Warner, Clerk, Doctor of Divinity, and Sir Robert Payntour, clerk;

And also I ordain and make my right honourable Lord, the Duke of Norfolk, and my Lord of Rochford to be supervisors, beseeching them to take the pain to see that this my last will and testament may be performed and executed according to the true meaning thereof;

And for their pain to be had about the premises, I will and bequeath to each of them a cup or some other jewel to be bought or made by mine executors to the value of £12(?), and to my said wife for her labour I give £10, to the said Sir James Boleyn 10 marks, and to either of the said Doctor Warner and Sir Robert Payntour £5;

These being witnesses: Richard Baynard, gentleman, Robert Ensyng, gentleman, John Sherman, John Havel, and other.

Vltima Voluntas eiusd{e}m Roberti

This is the last will of me, the foresaid Sir Robert Clere, made and declared the day and year above-written concerning my manors, lands and tenements:

First I will and declare that the foresaid Dame Alice, my wife, shall have and hold term of her life all such manors, lands and tenements with their appurtenances as heretofore feoffments have be[en] made jointly to her and me and to [+the?] lenger liver of us both for assurance of her jointure, with all the purchased lands in the said manors and towns and every of them;

And after her decease to remain to my son, John Clere, and to [+the?] heirs males of his body lawfully coming;

And for default of such heirs males to remain to my son, Richard Clere, and to his heirs males of his body lawfully coming;

And for default of such heirs males to remain to my son, Thomas Clere, and to his heirs males;

And for default of such heirs males to remain to my right heirs;

Item, I will that the same Dame Alice, my wife, shall have for term of her life my manor of Winterton and East Somerton and other towns adjoining with their purtenances;

And after her decease to remain to my son, John Clere, and to his [+heirs?] males;

And for default of such heirs males the remainder thereof I give to my son, Richard Clere, and to his heirs male;

And for default of such issue to remain to my son, Thomas Clere, and to his heirs males;

And for default of such heirs to my right heirs;

Item, I will that the same Dame Alice, my wife, shall have for term of her life my place in Saint Edmund parish in Norwich with the advowson of the church of the said Saint Edmund's;

And I will her executors shall have the said place in Saint Edmund's to her use a year after her decease;

And after to remain to my son, John Clere, and to his heirs males;

And for default of such heirs males the remainder thereof I will to my sons, Richard and Thomas, in the manner and form before rehearsed;

Item, I will and declare that my feoffees which be seised and enfeoffed of and in my manor of Claydon in Suffolk and of and in all other my lands and tenements in Claydon and other towns adjoining in the said county of Suffolk shall stand and be seised of and in the same manor, lands and tenements with their appurtenances to th' use and behoof of mine executors and the lenger [+liver?] of them and th' executors [+of them?] and the lenger liver of them for the term of ten years next and immediately ensuing my decease to th' intent that they, my said executors and their executors of the lenger liver of them shall levy, take and perceive th' issues, revenues and profits of the same manor, lands and tenements during the said term in part of the performance and execution of my foresaid testament;

And after the said ten years be expired and determined, then I will the said manor, lands and tenements shall remain to my foresaid son, John Clere, and to his heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue, the remainder thereof I bequeath to Richard, my son, and to his heirs males of his body coming;

And for default of such issue I will the remainder thereof to my son, Thomas Clere, and to his heirs males of his body coming;

And for default of such issue I will that the said manor, lands and tenements in Claydon and other towns adjoining with th' appurtenances shall remain to Ralph Shelton, second son of Sir Ralph Shelton, knight, and to his heirs males of his body lawfully begotten according to the last will of my mother, Elizabeth Clere;

Item, I will that the 2 tenements that I bought in Yarmouth of Christopher May and also the house that I bought there of Henry Bemond be sold by mine executors and the money thereof coming to go to the performance of my foresaid testament;

Item, I will and declare that those feoffees which be seised and enfeoffed of and in my manor of Tharston and of all other my lands and tenements in Tharston and other towns adjoining shall stand and be seised of and in the same manor, lands and tenements with th' appurtenances to the behoof and use of mine executors till my son, John Clere, come to th' age of 21 years for the finding of my children, that is to say, my said son, John Clere, shall have of mine executors £20 yearly of th' issues, revenues & profits of the said manor of Tharston till he cometh to the said age of 21 years, and the residue to go to the finding of my sons, Richard and Thomas Clere;

And after the said John Clere cometh to th' age of 21 years, I will he have the said manor of Tharston, lands and tenements with th' appurtenances to him and to his heirs males;

And for default of such heirs I will it remain to my son, Richard Clere, and to his heirs males;

And for default of such heirs I will it remain to my son, Thomas Clere, and to his heirs males;

And for default of such heirs males I will the said manor to remain to Ralph Shelton, the second son of Sir Ralph Shelton, knight, according to the will of my mother, Elizabeth Clere.

RM: Codicellus eiusd{e}m Roberti

This schedule made the 19th day of August in the 21st year of the reign of King Henry the 8th in the presence of Robert Ensyng, John Sherman and John Hawell testifieth that Sir Robert Clere, [f. 37v] knight, willed and declared in the presence of the persons aforenamed that if Sir Thomas Tyrrell, knight, well and truly content and pay unto th' executors of the said Sir Robert four hundred marks of lawful money of England according to the purport [=purport] and intent mentioned and specified in certain indentures drawn between the said Sir Robert of thone party and the said Sir Thomas of

the other party concerning the marriage of John Clere, son and heir apparent of the said Sir Robert, to one Anne, daughter of the said Sir Thomas, and also according to the purpart of certain obligations remaining in th' hands of Doctor Warner wherein the said Sir Thomas with other standeth bounden, that then all such legacies and bequests as the said Sir Robert hath willed & bequeathed by his last will and testament unto the said John Clere shall be truly content, delivered and paid, and if the said Sir Thomas or his executors make default of payment of the said sum of four hundred marks contrary to the purpart of the said indentures and obligations, then all the said legacies and bequests to the said John Clere assigned and bequeathed by the said last will and testament shall be employed and put to the fulfilling & performance of the residue of the foresaid last will and testament.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testame{ntum} vna cum vltima voluntate et Codicello eiusdem cora{m} Domino apud Lambeth quarto die mens{is} Iulij Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingen{tesim}o xxxj Iuramento Alicie Relicte et executric{is} in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}at{e} Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et com{m}issa fuit admi{ni}strac{i}o o{mn}i{u}m et singulor{um} bonorum iurium et creditor{um} dicti defuncti prefate executrici De bene et fideli{te}r admi{ni}strand{o} eadem Ac de pleno et fideli Inventario conficiend{o} Necnon de plano et vero compoto reddend{o} Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia iurat{e} Res{er}uata p{otes}tate si{mi}lem com{m}issio{n}em faciend{i} alijs executorib{us} in h{uius}mo{d}i testame{nto} no{m}i{n}at{is} cum ven{er}unt &c

[=The above-written testament together with the last will and codicil of the same was proved before the Lord at Lambeth on the fourth day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 31 by the oath of Alice, relict and executrix named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased to the forenamed executrix, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to prepare a full and faithful inventory, and also to render a plain and true account, with power reserved for a similar grant to be made to the other executors named in the same testament when they shall have come etc.]