

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 28 October 1538 and proved 23 January 1539, of Alice Boleyn Clere (c.1487 - 1 November 1538), whose grandson, Sir Edward Clere (15 June 1536 – 8 June 1606), purchased Oxford's manor of Weybourne.

### ***FAMILY BACKGROUND***

For the Boleyn family, see:

Francis Blomefield, 'Hundred of South Erpingham: Blickling', in *An Essay Towards A Topographical History of the County of Norfolk: Volume 6* (London, 1807), pp. 381-409. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/topographical-history-norfolk/vol6/pp381-409> [accessed 30 December 2017].

The testatrix was the daughter of Sir William Boleyn (c.1451-1505) and Margaret Butler (d. before 20 March 1540), younger daughter and co-heiress of Thomas Butler (d. 3 August 1515), 7th Earl of Ormond, by his first wife, Anne Hankford (1431 – 13 November 1485), daughter and co-heiress of Sir Richard Hankford by his second wife, Anne Montagu, eldest daughter of John de Montagu, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Salisbury. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 455-7 (hereafter *PA*).

The testatrix is said to have had six brothers and four sisters:

**-Thomas Boleyn** (c.1477 – 12 March 1539), Earl of Wiltshire and Ormond, who married Elizabeth Howard (d.1538), eldest daughter of Thomas Howard (1443-1524), 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Norfolk, by his first wife, Elizabeth Tilney (d. 3 April 1538), daughter and heiress of Frederick Tilney, esquire, by whom he was the father of three sons, Henry Boleyn, Thomas Boleyn, George Boleyn (c.1504-1536), Viscount Rochford, and two daughters, Mary Boleyn and Queen Anne Boleyn, mother of Elizabeth I. See *PA*, *supra*, p. 459.

**-William Boleyn** (buried 6 February 1552), Archdeacon of Winchester. See 'The Last Boleyn, Part I' at:

<http://onthetudortrail.com/Blog/2012/03/23/the-last-boleyn-part-1/>

**-Sir James Boleyn** (buried 6 September 1561), who married, before 1520, Elizabeth Wood, daughter and coheir of John Wood of East Barsham, Norfolk, by whom he had no issue. See his will, proved 21 November 1561, TNA PROB 11/44/387, and 'Sir James Boleyn' at:

<http://onthetudortrail.com/Blog/2012/03/31/sir-james-boleyn-2/>

See also 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.*

**-Sir Edward Boleyn** (c.1496-1530), who married, by 1520, Anne Tempest, daughter and co-heiress of Sir John Tempest, son of Robert Tempest (d. 23 April 1509), esquire, by Katherine Welles (d. 8 November 1505), daughter and coheir of Lionel Welles (c.1406 – 29 March 1461), 6<sup>th</sup> Baron Welles, by his first wife, Joan Waterton. See *PA, supra*, Vol. III, pp. 458-62; TNA SP 46/183/fo200; Blomefield, *supra*; and ‘Three Lady Boleyns at Court’ at:

<https://erenow.com/modern/theboleynwomenelizabethnorton/5.html>

See also the entry in ‘A Who’s Who of Tudor Women’ at:

[http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page\\_id=709](http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=709)

*ANNE TEMPEST (February 2, 1505-1536+)*

*Anne Tempest, daughter of Sir John Tempest of Great Houghton, Yorkshire (1472-January 4, 1509) and Joan Roos (1487-March 8, 1537), married Sir Edward Boleyn (c.1496-1530) in 1515 or 1516, thus making her Queen Anne Boleyn's aunt. As Lady Boleyn, she was at the Field of Cloth of Gold in 1520. . . .*

**-John Boleyn** (d.1484), buried at Blickling. See Blomefield, *supra*.

**-Anthony Boleyn** (d. 30 September 1493), buried at Blickling. See Blomefield, *supra*.

**-Margaret Boleyn**, unmarried when her father made his will. She married, before 1507, as his first wife, John Sackville (before 17 March 1484 - 27 September 1557), esquire, son and heir of Richard Sackville, esquire, by Isabel Digges, daughter of John Digges, esquire. See *PA, supra*; the Wikipedia article edited by the author of this website, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/sackville-john-i-1484-1557>

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<http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/>

-**Anne Boleyn** (d. 31 October 1479?), buried at Blickling. See Blomefield, *supra*.

-**Anne Boleyn**, who married Sir John Shelton (d. 21 December 1539), the son of Sir Ralph Shelton (c.1431 – 16 July 1497) and his second wife, Margaret Clere (d. 16 January 1500), the daughter of Robert Clere, esquire, of Ormesby by Elizabeth Uvedale (d.1492), daughter of Sir Thomas Uvedale, esquire. See the will of Sir Robert Clere, TNA PROB 11/24/84; Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 391 (hereafter *MCA*); the *ODNB* entry for the Shelton family; and ‘A Who’s Who of Tudor Women’ at:

[http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page\\_id=646](http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=646)

*ANNE BOLEYN (c.1475-December 1556)*

*Anne Boleyn was the daughter of Sir William Boleyn (1447-October 10, 1505) and Margaret Butler (1465-1539/40), daughter of the earl of Ormond. Wikipedia gives her life dates as November 28, 1475-January 6, 1555/6. She married Sir John Shelton of Shelton, Norfolk (c.1472-December 21, 1539) and was the mother of Sir John (1503-November 15, 1558), Sir Ralph (d. September 26, 1561), Anne (d. December 1563), Gabrielle, a nun at Barking (d. October 1558), Elizabeth (d.1561+), Margaret (d. before September 11, 1583), Thomas, Mary (1512?-January 1571), Emma (d.1556+), and Amy (d. November 1579). In 1533, she was put in charge of King Henry VIII's daughters, the baby Elizabeth and Mary, who had been declared illegitimate. . . . Lady Shelton's will, dated December 19, 1556, was proved on January 8, 1557.*

-**Amata or Amy (or Jane?) Boleyn** (c.1485-c.1543?). There is considerable confusion as to whether her name was Amata or Jane. Neither she nor her husband are mentioned in her father's will dated 7 October 1505. She is said to have married Sir Philip Calthorpe (1480 – 7 April 1549) of Erwarton, Suffolk, on 4 November 1518. Unfortunately he makes no mention of a wife, either living or deceased, in his will, dated 3 April 1549, TNA PROB 11/35/71.

It seems possible that the wives of Sir Philip Calthorpe (d.1535) and his son, Sir Philip Calthorpe (1480 - & April 1549), have been conflated, since the second wife of Sir Philip Calthorpe (d.1535), was *Jane* Blennerhasset. See the Calthorpe pedigree in Lee-Warner, James, ‘The Calthorps of Burnham’, *Norfolk Archaeology*, Vol. IX, (Norwich: A.H. Goose & Co., 1884), pp. 1-19 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=imhIAAAAYAAJ&pg=PP1>

It thus seems likely that the wife of Sir Philip Calthorpe (1480 – 7 April 1549) of Erwarton was *Amy or Amata* Boleyn, not ‘Jane’.

On the other hand, a pedigree compiled by J. Hawker, Richmond Herald, states that *Anne* Boleyn married Sir *Thomas* Calthorpe. See *Memoirs of the Life of Anne Boleyn*, (Philadelphia: Abraham Small, 1822), p. 384 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=CmVHDAVDMB4C&pg=PA384>

In any event, it seems clear that a sister of the testatrix did marry a husband surnamed Calthorpe since the testatrix leaves a bequest to her niece, Elizabeth Calthorpe, in the will below:

*Item, I give to my niece, Elizabeth Calthorpe, my pomander of gold.*

See also *The English Baronetage*, Vol. III, Part I, (London: Thomas Wotton, 1741), p. 321 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=aY9cAAAACAAJ&pg=PA321>

*The said Sir Henry Parker, knight of the Bath, married, secondly, Elizabeth, daughter and sole heir of Sir Philip Calthorpe, of Erwarton, in Suffolk, Knt. (by Amata, his wife, daughter of Sir William Bolleyn, and aunt to Queen Anne Bolleyn, mother to Queen Elizabeth,) son of Sir Philip Calthorpe (b), by Mary, sister and heir of Sir William Say, son of Sir John Calthorpe, by Elizabeth, daughter of Roger Wentworth, of Nettledsted, who was son of Sir William Calthorpe, by Elizabeth, his first wife, daughter of Reginald, lord Grey, of Ruthen . . . .*

See also Copinger, W.A., *The Manors of Suffolk*, Vol. 3, (Manchester: Taylor, Garnett, Evans & Co. Ltd., 1909), p. 236 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/cu31924092579568#page/n249/mode/2up/>

*On Sir Oliver Calthorpe's death, the manor [Brome Hall] passed to his son and heir, Sir William Calthorpe, who married Eleanor, daughter of Sir John Mantly, and died in 1420, when the manor descended to his son and heir, Sir John Calthorpe, who married Amy, daughter and heir of Sir John Wythe, and on his death the manor passed to his son and heir, Sir William Calthorpe, who, dying in 1494, left by Elizabeth, his first wife, daughter of Reginald, Lord Grey of Ruthyn, a son, Sir John Calthorpe, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Roger Wentworth, of Nettlestead, and died in his father's lifetime, and on Sir William's death the manor passed to his grandson and heir, the son of Sir John, Sir Philip Calthorpe, who married 1<sup>st</sup> Mary, sister and heir of Sir William Say, and 2<sup>nd</sup>ly Jane, daughter of John Blenerhasset, and dying in 1535 the manor passed to his son and heir by his first wife, Sir Philip Calthorpe. He married Jane (? Amata or Amy), daughter of Sir William Boleyn, of Blickley, in Norfolk, and aunt of Queen Anne Boleyn, and died 7<sup>th</sup> April 1549, leaving an only daughter and heir, Elizabeth, married to Sir Henry Parker, K.B., son and heir of Lord Morley, who sold the manor in 1550 to Robert Hyde, from whom it passed to Sir Thomas Cornwallis, eldest son of Sir John Cornwallis.*

For the will of Sir Thomas Cornwallis (1518/19 – 24 December 1604), whose eldest son and heir purchased Oxford's lease of the mansion of Fisher's Folly, see TNA PROB 11/105/106.

See also Brydges, Egerton, *Collins's Peerage of England*, Vol. VII, (London: F.C. and J. Rivington, 1812), p. 388 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=zvQ6AAAAIAAJ&pg=PA388>

See also 'A Who's Who of Tudor Women' at:

[http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page\\_id=646](http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=646)

*AMATA BOLEYN (c.1485-1543+)*

*Amata or Amy Boleyn (sometimes called Jane) 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 Philip Calthorpe of Ewerton, Suffolk (1480-April 7, 1549) on November 4, 1518. They had one daughter, Elizabeth (1521-May 26, 1578). In mid-October 1521, when Mary Tudor was five years old, Lady Calthorpe replaced Lady Bryan as her governess and Sir Philip was put in charge of the household at joint wages of £40 per annum. In 1525, when Mary set up her household at Ludlow as Princess of Wales, Calthorpe was her vice-chamberlain and his wife was one of her gentlewomen. She sent Mary a New Year's gift in 1542/3.*

See also the History of Parliament entry for Sir Dru Drury at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/drury-dru-1527-1617>

See also:

<http://www.drewry.net/Drury/indiI371.html>

**MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN**

The testatrix was unmarried when her father made his will. She married, as his second wife, Sir Robert Clere. For Sir Robert Clere's first wife, Anne Hopton (d. 23 January 1506), and their children, see his will, TNA PROB 11/24/84, and *PA, supra*, pp. 95-6.

The 'Lady Peyton' to whom the testatrix leaves a rosary in the will below may have been Elizabeth Clere Peyton, daughter of Sir Robert Clere by his first wife, Anne Hopton, and widow of Sir Robert Peyton (d. 18 March 1518). Elizabeth Clere Peyton 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. For the will of Elizabeth Clere Peyton, see TNA PROB 11/31/102.

For the testatrix' step-daughter, Elizabeth Clere Peyton, see also 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>

By Sir Robert Clere, the testatrix had three sons:

\* **Sir John Clere** (c.1511-1557), who married, before 19 August 1529, 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 *PA*, *supra*, p. 96, and 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. . . .*

By Anne Tyrrell, Sir John Clere had three sons, Robert, Thomas and Sir Edward, and two daughters, Margaret and Elizabeth. See *PA*, *supra*, pp. 96-7. Sir Edward Clere (15 June 1536 – 8 June 1606) purchased Oxford's manor of Weybourne. For his will, see TNA PROB 11/108/169.

\***Richard Clere**, who according to the will below 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 also *MCA*, *supra*, Vol. I, pp. 6-7, 385-7, and Vol. II, pp. 401-2, and the entry for the testatrix in 'A Who's Who of Tudor Women' at:

[http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page\\_id=646](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.*

***TESTATRIX' EXECUTORS***

The testatrix' executor, Sir Edmund Knyvet (c.1508 - 1 May 1551), married the testatrix' niece, Anne Shelton, the daughter of Sir John Shelton (d. 21 December 1539) of Carrow, Norfolk. See the Wikipedia article on Sir Edmund Knyvet edited by the author of this website; the *ODNB* entries for Sir Edmund Knyvet and Sir John Shelton; and the will of Sir Edmund Knyvet, TNA PROB 11/34/421. Two years after the testatrix' death, her executor, Sir Edmund Knyvet, was sentenced to lose his right hand for striking the testatrix' son, Thomas Clere, at court. From the *ODNB*:

*Late in April 1541 Knyvet again showed his hotheadedness, when he was charged with striking Thomas Clere, a servant of Henry Howard, earl of Surrey, within the king's tennis court. A recent statute had stated that anyone guilty of such violence at court should have his right hand struck off, and arrangements were made to inflict the penalty—the statute specified in detail how this should be done, the king's master cook wielding the knife and the sergeant of the poultry providing a cock to test its sharpness. Possibly because Knyvet begged to have his left hand amputated instead, so that his right might still do the king good service, he received a pardon before the blow could be struck.*

For the testatrix' executor, Sir Nicholas Hare (d. 31 October 1557), see the *ODNB*, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/hare-nicholas-1495-1557>

***TESTATRIX' LANDS***

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For the testatrix' manor of Wythertons see:

<http://list.historicengland.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1019972>

LM: Test{amentu}m D{omi}ne Alicie Clere vidue

[f. 190v] In dei nomine amen. The 28<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred 38, I, Dame Alice Clere, widow, being of whole mind and perfect remembrance, make my testament in manner and form following:

First, I commend my soul to Almighty God and to Our Saviour, Jesus Christ, by the merits of whose passion I hope and believe faithfully that I am and shall be saved forever, and my body to be buried in the Church of Saint Margaret of Ormesby next the place where my husband was buried, towards the reparation of which church I give 20s;

And I will have bestowed at my burial and alms to poor people twenty pounds after the discretion of mine executors;

Item I will have an hundred ells of canvas, and to be made in sheets, shirts and smocks and distributed to poor folks in the towns where I have had my living within one month next after my decease;

Item, I will have an honest priest of good and sufficient learning to preach the Word of God by the space of one year next after my decease at such due times and places as shall be appointed by mine executors;

Item, I will have these sums of money underwritten distributed in alms to poor folks in these towns following, that is to say, in Ormesby Saint Margaret and Ormesby Saint Michael, 6s 8d; in Burgh, 5s; in Stokesby, 2s; in Winterton and Somerton, 3s 4d; in Freethorpe, Limpenhoe and Sowood [=Southwood?], 5s; in Frettenham, 2s; and in Tacolneston, 2s;

Item, I give to the reparation of the parish Church of Tacolneston 26s 8d;

Item, I will that Mother Hubbard shall have yearly paid to her ten shillings for term of her life;

Item, I will that Dernys wife shall have paid to her yearly ten shillings by the space of four years next after my decease toward the bringing up of the child which she gave me;

Item, I will that Dewys wife of Wymondham shall have ten shillings a year by the space of four years next after my decease toward the keeping of the child which she gave me;



Item, I give to my son, John Clere, a bed of blue damask and yellow, and to his wife a canopy of tawny tinsel and green velvet, a white frontlet of white satin embroidered with acorns;

Item, I give to my said son, John Clere, an heart of gold with a large diamond in it, a pair of beads of gold having fifty aves and eight paternosters;

Item, I give and bequeath to my son, Thomas [f. 191r] Clere, seven hundred pounds sterlings, to be paid as it may be gathered of my debts, therewith to buy a ward for his preferment or to purchase land for him by the wisdom and discretion of mine executors;

And if the said Thomas Clere shall fortune to depart this world before the purchasing of the said land or ward for him, then I will that of the same seven hundred pounds shall be given and divided amongst the five children of my son, John Clere, five hundred marks, that is to say, to every of them one hundred marks, and the residue of the said sum of seven hundred pounds I give and bequeath to my son, John Clere;

Also I give to my said son, Thomas, threescore pounds worth of plate, my gilt plate to be valued at 4s the ounce and the parcel gilt at 3s 4d the ounce, and also a salt of gold with a cover having a rose in the knop, and a pair of beads of gold which Queen Anne gave me with divers precious stones in them;

Item, I give to my niece Knyvet a tablet of gold with the picture of the Salutation of Our Lady in it with 8 rubies and 24 pearls in the same;

And to my niece, Elizabeth Shelton, my ring with the emerald in it;

Also I give to my said son, Thomas Clere, a bed of russet satin and my bed of black damask with Jesus in it, and a bed of crimson velvet and black velvet embroidered;

Item, I will that all my carpets, all my sheets and napery, all mine apparel, and all my jewels in this my testament not bequeathed be equally divided, parted and given to my said sons, John and Thomas;

Item, I give to Master Nicholas Hare a pot of silver and gilt which I lately bought;

Item, I give to my niece, Elizabeth Calthorpe, my pomander of gold;

Item, I give to William Clere 40s;

Item, I give to every one of my son John Clere his children ten pounds;

Item, I give to my Lady Peyton my beads of anettes(?) with paternosters of gold;

And where Sir Robert Clere, knight, my late husband, by his testament and last will give and bequeathed to Richard Clere, his son and mine, six hundred marks, and to the said

Thomas Clere four hundred marks, to such use, intent and purpose as is in the said testament of my said husband contained, and further it is contained in the same testament that if either of the said Richard and Thomas should fortune to depart this world before thother without issue and before the age of 22 years, that then the survivor of them should have the part and portion of that legacy of him that so should die, which Richard Clere died without issue and before he came to the age of 22 years, by reason whereof the said sum of six hundred marks given and bequeathed to the said Richard was the duty and ought to be paid to the said Thomas, my son, in full recompense and satisfaction of which sum of six hundred marks given to the said Richard and by surviving due to the said Thomas, and also of the said sum of four hundred marks given to the said Thomas, which amount in the whole to the sum of a thousand marks, and in full recompense and satisfaction of all other bequests [+and] legacies given and bequeathed or in any wise to the said Thomas Clere by the said testament and last will of my said husband, I have already given by deed of feoffment to the said Thomas Clere my manor of Frettenham with th' appurtenances and all my lands, tenements, rents, services and all other hereditaments in Frettenham aforesaid and other towns adjoining, to have and to hold the said manor, lands, tenements and other the premises after my decease to the said Thomas and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And also my manor of Wythertons [=Wetherden?] with the appurtenances and all my lands, tenements and hereditaments in Hitcham, Ketylberton [=Kettlebaston?] and Brettenham in the county of Suffolk, to have and to hold the same manor, lands, tenements and other the premise after my decease to the said Thomas, my son, and to his heirs forever;

All the residue of my goods and chattels before not bequeathed, with my debts to me owing, I wholly commit to the good order and disposition of Master Edmund Knyvet, esquire, and Master Nicholas Hare, whom I ordain and make executors of this my testament, they to dispose them to the pleasure of God;

And I give him [sic?] for his pains in execution (?) of this my testament ten pounds;

And further I will that if my goods, chattels, money, plate and 'sperate debts at the time of my decease will not suffice to perform this my testament, then by this my testament I do authorize and give power to my said executors to abate, abridge and minish such legacy and legacies in this my testament as by their conscience and discretion shall be thought meet, except only the said legacy and bequest of seven hundred pounds before given to my son, Thomas, for that legacy I will in no wise have diminished.

Vicesimo tercio die mensis Ianuarij Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingen{tesi}mo xxxvijio Edmundus Knevet vnus executorum no{m}i{n}at{orum} in test{amen}to prescript{e} defuncte in eccl{es}ia Cath{edra}li diui Pauli London renu{n}ciauit oneri &c et xxvijio die eiusdem mens{is} Ianuarij Nichol{a}us Hare alter execut{or} In p{er}sona Roberti Goodwyn procur{atoris} sui &c renu{n}ciauit quas

r{e}nu{n}ciac{i}o{n}es d{omin}us acceptauit et decreuit defunctam ad viam intestat{i} de{u}enisse Et com{m}issa fuit admi{ni}stracio o{mn}i{u}m & singulorum bonorum Iuriu{m} et creditorum dict{e} defuncte Ioann{i} Clere filio &c De b{e}n{e} et fidel{iter} admi{ni}strand{o} Ac de pleno et fideli In{uenta}rio secundo die post festum Ascenc{i}o{n}is D{omi}ni prox{imum} futur{um} exhibend{o} Necnon de plano et vero compoto reddend{o} Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{o}

[=On the twenty-third day of the month of January in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 38<sup>th</sup> in the Cathedral Church of St Paul, London, Edmund Knyvet, one of the executors named in the testament of the foresaid deceased, renounced the burden etc., and on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of the same month of January Nicholas Hare, the other executor, in the person of Robert Goodwyn, his proctor etc., renounced, which renunciations the Lord accepted, and decreed the deceased to have died intestate, and a grant of administration of all & singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased issued to John Clere, son etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full and faithful inventory on the second day after the feast of the Ascension of the Lord next to come, and also to render a plain and true account.]