

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 4 November 1545 and proved 6 November 1545, of Thomas Yonge, parson of Croome d'Abitot, whose nephew, George Saunders, was murdered on 25 March 1573 by Oxford's former servant, George Browne. The murder was the subject of a pamphlet by Oxford's uncle, Arthur Golding (1535/6-1606), *Brief Discourse of the Late Murther of Master George Saunders*, and an anonymous play, *A Warning for Fair Women*, performed by the Lord Chamberlain's Men.

For the testator's family background and his relationship to Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham (d.1612x13), see the will of his sister, Dorothy (nee Yonge) Haddon Saunders Dayrell (d. 18 January 1574), TNA PROB 11/56/39.

The testator is mentioned in TNA C 1/948/2.

For the will of the testatrix' brother, Walter Yonge (d.1555) of Aldermanbury, Merchant Taylor of London, see TNA PROB 11/37/449. The testatrix' brother, Edmund Yonge, is said to have been 'slain at London by chance with an arrow'.

LM: T{estamentum} Thome Younge

In the name of God, Amen. In the 37th year of our Sovereign Lord King Henry the 8th the fourth day of November Anno Domini Mill{es}imo quingen{tesim}o xlvtto, I, Thomas Yonge, clerk, whole in mind and sick in body, maketh my will as hereafter followeth:

First I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God, Our Blessed Lady, and all the blessed company in heaven to pray for me;

First I bequeath to my brother, Walter, my barn at Yelvertoft with all my corn and goods therein, and also my house at Yelvertoft with all the goods therein;

Also I bequeath my house at Croome to the said Walter, and he to dispose my goods as he shall see most need;

Also I desire my brother, Walter, to reckon with my sister Dayrell, whom I do owe six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence or else 14 quarters of barley;

Also I give unto my brother, Edmund, my best gown and my jacket that is furred which is at Lillingstone, or else my sister Dayrell to agree with my brother Edmund for it;

Also I give unto Wallgrene, my servant, my bay gelding that is here at London, and furthermore I desire my brother, Walter, to be good unto him;

And thus I commit all things unto my brother, Walter, whom I make my full executor;

Witness to this Edmund Yonge, John Walgrain, Margaret Jeffreyson, with others.

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascripti defuncti Coram D<sup>omi</sup>no Archiep<sup>iscop</sup>o Cant<sup>uariensis</sup> apud London Sexto die mensis Novembris Anno domini Mill<sup>es</sup>imo quingen<sup>tesim</sup>o xlvt<sup>o</sup> Iuramento Walteri Younge executoris cui com<sup>m</sup>issa fuit administracio Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et com<sup>m</sup>issa fuit administracio om<sup>n</sup>i<sup>um</sup> bonor<sup>um</sup> etc prefato executori de b<sup>e</sup>n<sup>e</sup> etc Ac de pleno et fideli Inventario om<sup>n</sup>i<sup>um</sup> et singulor<sup>um</sup> bonor<sup>um</sup> iuriu<sup>m</sup> et creditor<sup>um</sup> h<sup>uius</sup>mo<sup>d</sup>i conficiend<sup>o</sup> citra festum etc exhibend<sup>o</sup> Necnon de plano et vero comp<sup>ot</sup>o inde reddend<sup>o</sup> Ad sancta dei Eu<sup>a</sup>ngelia Iurat<sup>i</sup>

[=The testament of the above-written deceased was proved before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the sixth day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 45th by the oath of Walter Yonge, executor, to whom administration was granted, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all the goods etc. to the forenamed executor, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., and to prepare a full and faithful inventory of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the same [+and?] to exhibit [+it?] before the feast etc., and also to render a plain and true account thereof.]