

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 10 May 1556 and proved 6 November 1556, of John Lucas (c.1512-1556), legal counsellor to Oxford's father, John de Vere (1516-1562), 16th Earl of Oxford.

The testator played a role in the Protector Somerset's extortion against the 16th Earl of Oxford, but was specifically exempted from financial repercussions in the private Act of Parliament of 22 or 23 January 1552 by which the 16th Earl's lands were restored to him. See HL/PO/PB/1/1551/5E6n35 and the History of Parliament entry for the testator, *infra*. In connection with the testator's role in the Protector Somerset's extortion against the 16th Earl, see also the testator's mention of the manor of Huish Champflower, which he does not state he purchased from the 16th Earl, but rather says was 'delivered' to him by the Earl:

Item, I leave to descend to the said Thomas, my son, my manor of Huish Champflower in the county of Somerset which th' Earl of Oxenford received from the late King's Majesty Henry th' Eight, and so the same was likewise delivered unto me with the perquisites of courts after the yearly value of £8 and odd money.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the Lucas pedigree, see Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *The Visitation of Suffolke*, (Lowestoft: Samuel Tymms, 1871), Vol. II, pp. 13-14 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=6BoaAAAAIAAJ&pg=PP13>

See also the Lucas pedigree in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Suffolk*, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1882), p. 51 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsofsuf00harvuoft#page/50/mode/2up>

Thomas Lucas of Saxham, county Suffolk, esquire, married Elizabeth, daughter of (blank) Keymes of Wales, by Raglan Castle, and by her hath issue Jasper, son and heir; Henry, second son; John, third son; Anne, married to Sir Thomas Barnardiston in county Suffolk, knight; and Lettice Lucas, sister to Anne, married John Greenfield of Exeter, county Devon, esquire.

See also Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex, Part I*, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), Vol. XIII, pp. 235-6 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsofess13metc#page/234/mode/2up>

For the testator's family, see also Gage, John, *The History and Antiquities of Suffolk: Thingoe Hundred*, (London: Samuel Bentley, 1838), p. 133 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=knVPAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA133>

The testator was the third son of Thomas Lucas (d. 7 July 1531) of Little Saxham, Suffolk, and Elizabeth Kemeys, the daughter of John Kemeys of Raglan, Monmouthshire. Details of his father's career are given in the History of Parliament entry for the testator:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/lucas-john-1512-56>

Thomas Lucas had been secretary to the father of King Henry VII, Jasper Tudor (c.1431–1495), after whom he named his eldest son, who predeceased him. Solicitor-general and member of the Council learned in the law, he was one of the chief agents for the financial exactions of Henry VII, and although he escaped the fate of Sir Richard Empson and Edmund Dudley he seems to have taken no further part in public affairs, apart from remaining on the bench, until his death in 1532.

See also his will, TNA PROB 11/24/319.

The testator had two brothers and three sisters:

-Jasper Lucas (d. 17 February 1530), who predeceased his father. He married Margery Gedding (d. 21 September 1515), only daughter and heir of Robert Gedding, esquire, of Lackford, Suffolk, by whom he had a son, Thomas Lucas.

-Henry Lucas (d. 10 August 1559) of Bury St Edmunds. He is not mentioned in his father's will, but appears to be referred to in the will below as 'my brother Lucas'. He is referred to as deceased in the will of his sister, Anne Lucas, *infra*. According to *The Visitations of Suffolk, supra*, p. 13, he married firstly Mary Greene, the daughter of John Greene of Bury St Edmunds, by whom he had issue, and secondly Alice Bradock, the daughter of Simon Bradock, gentleman, of Horham. See also Gage, John, *The History and Antiquities of Suffolk: Thingoe Hundred*, (London: Samuel Bentley, 1838), p. 133 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=knVPAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA133>

-Lettice Lucas, who married, as his third wife, John Meautys, who is named as a target of the rioters in the anonymous play, *The Book of Sir Thomas More*, and whose grandson, Sir Peter Meautys (buried 8 September 1562), was granted the manor of Bretts, which was later owned by Oxford. For the will of John Meautys, see TNA PROB 11/21/4. After the death of John Meautys, Lettice married secondly John Grenville, brother of Richard Grenville (d. 18 March 1550), Knight Marshal of Calais, grandfather of the naval commander, Sir Richard Grenville (1542-1591), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/33/407. For John Grenville, who was in the service of Sir Thomas More and Lord Chancellor Audley, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/grenville-john-1506-62-or-later>

Lettice Lucas and her second husband, John Grenville, sold land in Chelsea to Sir Thomas More. See:

'Landownership: Other medieval estates and freeholdings', in *A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 12, Chelsea*, ed. Patricia E C Croot (London, 2004), pp. 121-123. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/middx/vol12/pp121-123> [accessed 19 March 2016]

Thomas Keyle also acquired other land in Chelsea: in 1526 a fine was levied by John Greenfield and his wife Lettice to Keyle and others for the manor of Brompton Hall, which included 2 messuages, one tenement, 20 a. land, 4 a. meadow, 22 a. pasture, and 4 a. wood; (fn. 39) within three years Keyle brought a suit against them for detention of the deeds to this property, which included land in Kensington, Chelsea, and Fulham. (fn. 40) Both the Greenfields and Keyle also sold property to Sir Thomas More: (fn. 41) Keyle's property in Chelsea included Butts close of 2½ a. and a house, wharf, and adjoining close, which Sir Thomas More bought from Keyle. (fn. 42) Keyle was also lessee of the medieval manor house in 1519. (fn. 43).

-Anne Lucas (d.1560?), who married Sir Thomas Barnardiston (d.1542) of Kedington, Suffolk. For her will, see TNA PROB 11/43/276. For Sir Thomas Barnardiston, see his will, TNA PROB 11/29/212, and the Barnardiston pedigree at:

http://freepages.family.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~londonaye/barnardiston_family.htm

-Elizabeth Lucas, who is said to have married a husband surnamed Aylofffe.

TESTATOR'S MARRIAGES

The testator married firstly Mary Abell, the daughter of John Abell (d.1524), esquire, of Nayland, Suffolk. For his will, see TNA PROB 11/21/31.

The testator married secondly Elizabeth Christmas, the daughter of George Christmas (c.1509-1567), esquire, of Colchester, and granddaughter of the wealthy Colchester alderman, John Christmas. See Higgs, Laquita M., *Godliness and Governance in Tudor Colchester* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1998), p. 133 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=WGPuZG4PRzMC&pg=PA133>

Lucas's second wife was the daughter of George Christmas, son of the wealthy alderman John Christmas; Bindoff mistakenly says that Lucas was married to the daughter of John Christmas.

For George Christmas, see also the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/christmas-george-1509-66>

The 16th Earl of Oxford's trusted servant, Robert Christmas, was another of the sons of the Colchester alderman, John Christmas, and was thus the uncle of the testator's second wife, Elizabeth Christmas. John Christmas was a cousin of Lord Chancellor Thomas Audley (1488-1544), who was born at Earls Colne (one of the principal residences of the Earls of Oxford), served as town clerk of Colchester, and married, as his first wife, Christian Barnardiston (d. 23 January 1538), the daughter of Sir Thomas Barnardiston and Elizabeth Newport, the daughter of George Newport of Brent Pelham, Hertfordshire. See the Barnardiston pedigree, *supra*, and Burke, John and John Bernard Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies*, 2nd ed., (London: John Russell Smith, 1844), p. 40 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=K1kBAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA40>

See also Higgs, *supra*, pp. 25, 32, 50, and the entry for Sir Thomas Audley in the *ODNB*:

Audley, Thomas, Baron Audley of Walden (1487/8–1544), lord chancellor, was born at Hay House, Earls Colne, Essex, the son of Geoffrey Audley, administrator, of Berechurch, Essex. . . . In 1514 Audley became town clerk of Colchester, a post he held jointly for the first year with John Barnaby, and then by himself until he resigned it in 1532. About 1519 he married Christina (d. 1538), daughter of Sir Thomas Barnardiston of Kedington, Suffolk, and his wife, Elizabeth. They had no children.

As noted above, Christian Barnardiston's brother, Sir Thomas Barnardiston (d.1542), married the testator's sister, Anne Lucas. The testator's father-in-law, George Christmas, was also related to the 16th Earl of Oxford's brother-in-law, Henry Golding (d.1576). George Christmas married Bridget Forster, the daughter of Robert Forster and sister of George Forster (d.1556?), the first husband of Alice (nee Cloville) Tyrrell Forster Golding (d.1587), who after George Forster's death married the 16th Earl's brother-in-law, Henry Golding (d.1576). See her will, TNA PROB 11/70/187. See also Walter C. Metcalfe, ed., *The Visitations of Suffolk* (Exeter: William Pollard, 1882), pp. 29-30 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsofsuf00harvuoft#page/28/mode/2up>

See also Reginald M. Glencross, *Administrations in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury*, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1912), p. 77 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/administrationin01chur#page/76/mode/2up>

Even more significantly, Robert Christmas was related by marriage to Queen Elizabeth's favourite, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, through Margaret Audley (1540–1564), one of the daughters of John Christmas' cousin, Lord Chancellor Audley, by his second wife,

who married, firstly, Sir Robert Dudley's brother, Henry Dudley (1531?–1557), and then the 16th Earl of Oxford's nephew, Thomas Howard (1538-1572), 4th Duke of Norfolk.

Connections between the Earls of Oxford and the Christmas family are also indicated by bequests in the will of Elizabeth de Vere (d.1537), Countess of Oxford. See TNA PROB 11/27/144:

Item, I give and bequeath to Muriel Christmas my ring with a diamond like a spear-point.

Item, I give and bequeath to Katherine Christmas, one of my maidens, a pair of beads of crystal gauded with beads of gold.

Nothing further seems to be known of Katherine Christmas, but according to McIntosh, Muriel Christmas served in the privy chamber of Henry VIII's first wife, Catherine of Aragon (1485–1536):

When [Queen Mary] arrived at Colchester a day or so after July 19 [1553], she stayed in the house of her mother's former privy chamber lady, Muriel Christmas, whom Wingfield praised as "scarcely without equal in birth and modest conditions".

See McIntosh, J.L., *From Heads of Households to Heads of State: The Preaccession Households of Mary and Elizabeth Tudor, 1516-1558*, p. 59 at:

<http://www.gutenberg-e.org/mcintosh/index.html>

It would appear that Muriel was the daughter of the wealthy Colchester alderman, John Christmas, and a sister of the testator's father-in-law, George Christmas (d.1567), and the 16th Earl's trusted servant, Robert Christmas.

The testator close relationship to the Earls of Oxford is indicated in a bequest by the testator to his wife:

Item, I bequeath unto her one gilt goblet with a cover that was sometimes mine old Lady of Oxenford's.

For connections between the testator and the 16th Earl of Oxford, see also the History of Parliament entry for the testator, *supra*:

[The testator] is known to have given legal advice to the 15th Earl of Oxford, who died in 1540. By the following year he was steward of the new Earl of Oxford's manor of Harwich and he was to become the earl's trusted counsellor and seemingly his personal friend.

TESTATOR'S CHILDREN

It appears from a clause in his will in which he mentions his sons Thomas and Robert in reference to 'their late mother's lands', that Thomas and Robert were the testator's children by his first wife, Mary Abell, while John, Margaret and Elizabeth were his children by his second wife, Elizabeth Christmas, who survived him.

Three sons and two daughters are mentioned in the will:

* **Sir Thomas Lucas** (d. 29 August 1611), eldest son and heir, of St John, Colchester. For his will, proved 25 November 1611, see TNA PROB 11/118/433. He married Mary Fermor (d. 5 July 1613), the daughter of Sir John Fermor of Easton Neston by Maud Vaux, the daughter of Nicholas Vaux (c.1460–1523), 1st Baron Vaux, by his second wife, Anne Green (c.1489-c.1523), the daughter of Sir Thomas Green (d.1506). For the testator's eldest son, see also the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/lucas-thomas-153031-1611>

By Mary Fermor, Sir Thomas Lucas had two sons and three daughters:

-**Thomas Lucas** (d. 25 September 1625), who married Elizabeth Leighton, the daughter and heir of John Leighton of London, gentleman. For his will, see TNA PROB 11/147/83.

-**John Lucas**, who in the Lucas pedigree is said to have died unmarried 4 September 1651, although this appears to be contradicted in the will of Thomas Lucas (d. 25 September 1625).

-**Anne Lucas**, who married Sir Arthur Throckmorton (1557?-1626), brother of Sir Walter Raleigh's wife, Elizabeth Throckmorton. Sir Arthur Throckmorton was a personal friend of Oxford's; his diary contains a number of entries mentioning Oxford, including an entry on 27 January 1580: 'my lord Oxford writ a challenge to Philip Sidney', and another on 28 January 1580: 'I supped with my lord Oxford'. See Rowse, A.L., *Raleigh and the Throckmortons*, (London: Macmillan, 1962), pp. 78, 99.

For the will of Sir Arthur Throckmorton (1557?-1626), see:

<http://reocities.com/Heartland/fields/1759/volthree/vol3.121.htm>

-**Constance Lucas**, who married Sir Rowland Lacye of Shipton-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire. See Turner, William Henry, ed., *The Visitations of the County of Oxford*, (London: Harleian Society, 1871), Vol. V, p. 268 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=f6wKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA268>

-**Mary Lucas**, who married Sir Gawin Harvey of Romford, Essex, for whom see *The Visitation of Suffolk, supra*, pp. 172-3 at

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsuffo00howagoog#page/n204/mode/2up/search/Gawin>

* **Robert Lucas**, second son, he is said to have died without issue.

* **John Lucas** (d. 27 May 1599) of Ramsey, the testator's son by his second wife. He married the testator's ward, Mary Roydon, daughter and heir of Christopher Roydon (d. 6 October 1543), esquire, of Roydon Hall in Essex. The testator, 'a great gamester', is said to have won Mary Roydon's wardship from the 16th Earl of Oxford at dice. See *The Visitations of Essex, supra*, p. 236 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsofess13metc#page/236/mode/2up>

John Lucas, Master of the Request[s], who being a great gamester won of the Earl of Oxford the wardship of Roydon at dice, with whom he matched his youngest son.

For Mary Roydon, see the pedigree, p. 32, and pp. 62-7 in Royden, E.B., *Three Roydon Families*, (Edinburgh, R. 7 R. Clark Ltd., 1924) at:

<https://archive.org/stream/threeroydonfamil00royd#page/n61/mode/2up>

* **Margaret Lucas** (d. 13 November 1587), who married Thomas Penny (c.1530–1589), for whom see the *ODNB* entry.

* **Elizabeth Lucas**, who died unmarried.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

In the will below the testator bequeaths a ring of gold to Anthony Stapleton, who, like the testator, acted as legal counsel to the 16th Earl of Oxford. See the will of Anthony Stapleton, Borthwick Institute V19 F690. The testator also makes bequests to 'Mr Henry Stapleton', who appears to have been Henry Stapleton (d.1586), a younger brother of Anthony Stapleton.

In the will below the testator mentions 'my pretty bay gelding that I had of Mr Barnaby'. This would appear to be John Barnaby, who had been town clerk of Colchester. See the *ODNB* entry for Lord Chancellor Audley, *supra*.

In the will below the testator bequeaths rings to Edmund Markaunt and his wife, for whom see the pedigree in Appleton, *infra*, p. 35, which states that Edmund Markaunt of Colchester married Elizabeth Crane, the third daughter of Robert Crane (d.1551) of

Chilton by his second wife, Jane White. Elizabeth Crane was thus the half sister of the testator's friend and executor, Anthony Crane (see below).

For the testator's friend and executor, Guy Wade (d.1557), see his will, TNA PROB 11/39/463, and the will of his father, Robert Wade (d.1529), TNA PROB 11/23/135.

For the testator's friend and executor, Anthony Crane (d.1583), see his will, TNA PROB 11/65/507, and the pedigree of Crane in Appleton, William S., *Memorials of the Cranes of Chilton*, (Cambridge: John Wilson and Son, 1868), pp. 21, 23, 60 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=p_8HAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA60

It was at East Molesey, the home of Anthony Crane's widow, 'Mistress Crane', that Martin's *Epistle*, the first of the Marprelate tracts, was printed on a secret press in October 1588.

For the testator's friend and executor, Roger Amyce, father of Oxford's servant, Israel Amyce (1542-1603), see his will, TNA PROB 11/56/394.

TESTATOR'S MANORS

For the testator's manor of Crudwell, see:

A P Baggs, Jane Freeman and Janet H Stevenson, 'Parishes: Crudwell', in *A History of the County of Wiltshire: Volume 14, Malmesbury Hundred*, ed. D A Crowley (London, 1991), pp. 51-65. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/wilts/vol14/pp51-65> [accessed 19 April 2016]

In 1544 the Crown granted CRUDWELL manor, including land at Chelworth, Eastcourt, and Murcott, and later called the manor of Crudwell with Eastcourt, to John de Vere, earl of Oxford, and his wife Dorothy. (fn. 84) The earl sold it in 1552 to John Lucas (fn. 85) (d. 1556) from whom it passed to his son Thomas (fn. 86) (knighted 1571, (fn. 87) d. 1611).

RM: Test{amentu}m Joh{ann}is Lucas Armig{e}r

[f. 137r] In the name of God, Amen. The tenth day of May in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred fifty and six and in the second and third years of the reign of our Sovereign Lord and Lady Philip and Mary by the grace of God King and Queen of England, France, Naples, Jerusalem and Ireland etc., I, John Lucas of London, esquire, sick of body but whole of mind and of good memory (thanks be given unto Almighty God), do make and ordain this my last will and testament as well touching the disposition of all my goods and chattels, plate, jewels, implements, debts and other things personal

and chattels real, as also concerning the disposition of all and singular my manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances whatsoever and wheresoever they lie and be within the realm of England:

First I give and bequeath my soul unto Almighty God and to his mercy, trusting that by his grace and the merits of Jesus Christ his most precious death and passion I have and shall have full and clear remission of all my sins etc.;

My mortal body I give and bequeath to the earth from whence it came, the same to be buried therein in such convenient place in Christian burial as to the discretion of mine executors shall be thought meet and convenient;

And I do clearly and utterly revoke all & every former last will, testament, legacy and devise at any time by me before the making hereof devised, made, bequeathed, spoken or in any wise set forth, and this my present last will and testament concerning all matters above-rehearsed I do clearly affirm, ordain and constitute, make and confirm to remain and continue forever for mine only last will and testament and none other;

First, I will that the day of my burial there be disposed amongst poor people (if I die in St Peter's the Poor) coming for the same, 100s after the rate of two pence the piece;

Item, I will to and amongst the poor inhabitants of the town of Colchester and the suburbs thereof, being no common nor valiant beggars, 60s after the rate of 4d the piece;

Item, I will to and among the poor inhabiting in the town of Much Horkesley in the county of Essex in like wise 20s;

Item, to the poor inhabitants of Boxsted likewise 20s;

Item, in like wise to the poor inhabitants of Fordham 20s;

Item, in like manner to the poor inhabitants of Sible Hedingham, 20s;

Item, to and amongst the poor prisoners of the King's Bench, the Marshalsea and Newgate, and prisoners being in any notable prison within the said city and suburbs thereof, 100s to be paid and delivered according to the discretion of mine executors in convenient time after my decease;

Item, I bequeath to Elizabeth, my wife, one hundred pounds in ready money, to be paid her within 6 weeks next after my decease;

Also I give and bequeath unto her all her apparel, jewels, brooches, rings and suchlike which I have suffered her to have in her custody and to wear;

Item, I bequeath unto her of this year's crop now sown ten seam of wheat and six seam of rye;

Item, I bequeath unto my said wife my pretty bay gelding that I had of Mr Barnaby, and my black gelding which trotteeth, and two other of my geldings which I lately spake to Edward to take out of Bullock Wood, amongst other, to break;

Item, I bequeath to my said wife my two salt-cellars gilt silver within, with a cover to one of the same salts;

Item, I give and bequeath to my said wife my best gilt cup;

Item, I bequeath unto her the third of my best gilt cups which served for beer and ale with the cover to the same belonging;

Item, I bequeath unto her two white goblets parcel gilt which were sometime Mrs Abell's of Nayland;

Item, I bequeath unto her one gilt goblet with a cover that was sometimes mine old Lady of Oxenford's;

Item, I bequeath unto her my third best featherbed with the bedstead and hanging paned with black velvet and the silk that I bought of Mr Tuke;

Item, I bequeath unto her two other featherbeds, not being the best nor the second, with the bedsteads and hangings paned with yellow damask, and another bedstead with hangings paned with crimson damask and black damask;

Item, I bequeath unto her two other beds and bedsteads meet for her servants;

Item, I bequeath unto her one garnish of pewter vessel, two brass pots, whereof one of the best, a pair of racks, four spits, two dripping-pans, and a trivet;

Item, I bequeath unto her two pair of fustians, three pair of other blankets, four mattresses, two counterpoints of the best, my green damask being one of them;

Item, she to have three coverlets and three Irish rugs;

Item, I give and bequeath to my said wife five pillows of down & 4 bolsters;

[f. 137v] Item, I bequeath to my said wife two fair tables with frames, three joined forms, 8 joined stools, one chair, my best carpet save one, another Turkey carpet upon the board in my chamber at London, and one other Turkey carpet for a cupboard;

Item, ten cushions, part of them being crewel and part of Turkey of English making;

Item, I give to my said wife eight silver spoons, some of the best, save the gilt, and some of the meaner, according to the discretion of mine executors;

Item, I bequeath to my said wife five honest chests, to be delivered her according to the discretion of mine executors;

Item, I give unto my said wife my hangings that hang in the chamber over my bedchamber in St John's besides Colchester;

Item, the hangings of and for another chamber of yellow and blue say; another hangings for another chamber of red & green;

Item, I give and bequeath to my said wife my second long diaper tablecloth, two of my long plain tablecloths, one plain tablecloth for a middle table, and my second best towel of diaper;

Item, my best long plain towel, and two other towels plain for short boards;

Item, one dozen of my diaper napkins of the second sort next the best, 6 of the finest of my plain napkins, and one dozen and a half of my coarser plain napkins, and the four fine napkins of diaper, three diaper cupboard cloths and one of the plain cupboard cloths, one diaper tablecloth for a square board;

Item, two of the new plain tablecloths and one of th' old for a square board;

Item, two tablecloths of canvas for servants' boards;

Item, a pair of fine sheets and a pair of my coarser Holland sheets, four pair of canvas sheets, two pair of pillow-beres, one pair of the best and thother of the second sort;

Item, I give to my said wife my best basin and ewer of pewter;

Item, one pair of fair andirons, another paid of small andirons, two pair of tongs, one of the best, another of the worser, two pair of creepers, two fire-shovels, one of the best and another of the worser;

Item, two chamber-pots of pewter, one pottle livery pot of pewter, one quart pot and two pint livery pots of pewter, one chafing-dish and six candlesticks of latten;

Item, to her one great chair of green cloth and another smaller of green cloth;

Item, two cupboards;

Item, to my said wife one chair and a little stool of silk;

Item, I require my said wife to finish and make an end of the bed that she is now in hand withal, and if there be any silk or other stuff more to be bought for the same and for the fringe, I will that Thomas, my son, shall pay for the same, and she to deliver him the bed

before mine executors, declaring unto him that my will & commandment is that he keep the same without alienation thereof, and to leave it after his decease unto mine heir, giving him like charge;

Item, I will to the said Thomas, my son, my bedstead with the tester and curtains thereof, which tester is paned with cloth of tissue and crimson satin;

Item, to him I bequeath another tester all of crimson and grayne [=grey?] damask mixed with gold;

Item, to him my green damask counterpoint and three other coverings for beds of the best next my wife's;

Item, to him the rest of all my pewter and kitchen stuff before not bequeathed to my said wife;

Item, mine andirons, fire-shovels, tongs and creepers;

Item, I bequeath to him my basin and ewer of silver, with my great salt-cellar of silver all gilt that I bought of the Prior of Colne, with my nest of gilt goblets, two ale or beer pots with the covers of silver gilt, and the rest of my silver spoons before not bequeathed;

Item, to him the rest of my fustians, rugs and other woollen blankets before to my said wife not bequeathed;

Item, to my said son, Thomas, the rest of my diaper and plain fine tablecloths, and two canvas tablecloths for servants;

Item, to him three tablecloths for a square board;

Item, to him my double towel of diaper, and the rest of mine other towels and napkins before not bequeathed the which been meet to serve and be used;

Item, to him the rest of my tables, trestles, forms, stools, chairs, cupboards, cushions, sheets, pillows, pillow-beres, and carpets before not given or bequeathed;

Item, to him 6 chests and coffers, whereof mine iron chests to be none except he will buy them of mine executors, and my meaning is that he shall have that chest the which is bound with iron standing in my study at St John's for one of his appointed number;

Item, I will that mine executors shall meddle with no manner of ceiling, cupboards, presses or portals, doors, windows and suchlike in any my houses, nor that they shall meddle with any of my vessels, implements, utensils or other things of or belonging to my brewhouse, bakehouse, bolting-house, larder, kitchen, mill-house, malting house or dairy-house at St John's aforesaid;

Item, I will and charge mine executors to see all and singular my debts paid which I do owe to any person or persons in such convenient time as they may and as the same do grow to be paid, and all such trespasses and injuries as shall be duly proved before them that I have done and committed to see recompensed;

Item, I will to Robert, my second son, toward a convenient stock, two hundred pounds of good and lawful money of England, to be delivered unto him at his age of 28 years, being of th' age of 21 years the 6 day of April last past, and if the said Robert, my [-my] son, do happen to die before he attain the said age of 28 years, then I will the said sum of two hundred pounds to be evenly divided and paid to Thomas [f. 138r] and John, my sons, and if one of them happen to die within the said time, then the whole to be paid to the survivor of them, which said sum of two hundred pounds I will shall remain in the hands of mine executors, desiring them to deliver the same with a convenient increase according to the meaning of this my last will;

Item, I bequeath to either of my daughters, Margaret & Elizabeth, towards their marriage, the sum of four hundred marks of good and lawful money of England, the same to be paid to either of them on the day of her marriage or else when she shall come to th' age of 21 years; if any of them shall happen to die before the time of payment aforesaid, then the survivor of them to have th' whole sum of eight hundred marks to be paid as before is limited, and if both my said daughters shall happen to decease before the time of the payment aforesaid, then the said whole sum of 800 marks to be paid to John, my said son, to his proper use;

And I will that my said executors, after they shall or may levy so much money as shall pay my debts and the said two hundred pounds bequeathed to my said son, Robert, shall at every half year content and pay unto th' hands of my said wife so much as they may conveniently levy of and for the said marriage money, she finding sufficient surety to mine executors truly to content and pay the said marriage money according to the true meaning of this my last will and testament;

And I will that my said wife shall have the custody and ordering of my said two daughters, and to find them from and after the first payment to her made by my said executors of the marriage money, and I will that mine executors shall content and pay unto my said wife for and towards the finding of my said two daughters until the first payment of the said marriage money shall be paid, £6 13s 4d ;

Item, I give & bequeath to my Lady Barnardiston, my sister, my casting-bottle of silver and all gilt;

Item, I will & bequeath to my brother Lucas one ring of gold, price ten pounds;

To my sister Grenefeld [=Grenville] another ring of gold, price 100s;

To Mr Anthony Stapleton a ring of gold, price 100s;

And where I am unpaid of the yearly fees of office of steward of the right honourable my Lord Darcy's lands by the space of three years at Michaelmas last, save 100s which I then stopped in my hand of Mr Tyrrell's half year's fee which he hath of me, and that by the commandment of Mr Henry Stapleton, I will and bequeath the first year's rents and fees for the said office due in the first year of the Queen's Majesty's most noble reign to the said Henry Stapleton to have of my free gift, and the rest of the said fees being behind I will be paid to mine executors, and I am contented if there be a sufficient acquittance made and delivered for the said 100s that the said 100s be deducted out of the rest of the said arrearages;

Item, I bequeath to the said Mr Henry Stapleton one ring, price 60s;

Item, I bequeath to Robert Patche and William Hilles, my servants, every of them 20s;

And where I have the custody, wardship and marriage of Mary Roydon, and of a certain yearly rent of 40s called Frestones rent, and of one field or close lying in Lenge^ame [=Langham] in the county of Suffolk called Little Rampseys of the clear yearly value of £4, and of certain lands lying in Coggeshall and Feering being of the yearly value of 16s until the said Mary accomplish certain years yet to expire, and where also I lately purchased to me and mine assigns of Richard Sandes and Katherine, his wife, by fine by them levied in the King's court the manor of Ramsey called Roydon Hall with th' appurtenances during the whole life and estate of the said Katherine, I will and bequeath unto John, my son, and to his assigns all and singular the said custody, wardship, marriage, lands, tenements and manor with th' appurtenances during all my whole interest, estate and term therein and in every part thereof, yet nevertheless I will the said John, Mary and all other the premises to be in the order, rule and custody of my said wife, and she to take the profits of the premises to th' intent to find and bring up virtuously the said John and Mary until the said John, my son, shall accomplish his age of 21 years;

And I will and bequeath unto Thomas Lucas, my son, for and toward the payment of his livery, in ready money one hundred pounds, to the intent that he may the better spare his woods and keep himself out of debt so much as may be;

Item, I will to my loving friend, Mr Tey, a ring of gold, price 60s;

Item, to Edmund Mercaunt [=Markaunt?] one ring, price 53s 4d, and to his wife one other ring, price 26s 8d;

Item, I give to my niece, Mrs Clerke, a ring of gold, price 53s 4d;

Item, to Thomas Walton, esquire, a ring, price 40s;

Item, I give to Thomas Parke a ring of gold, price 20s;

Item, I bequeath to Lewys Kempe, sometime my servant, 40s in money;

Item, I bequeath to William Chapman, 20s;

Item, to the late wife of Thomas Colvile [=Cloville?], to bring up mine daughter, 40s;

Item, to Edward Griffith in ready money 40s and [+a] black coat;

To Geoffrey Pipe, my servant, in money 40s and a black coat;

To William Mercaunte [=Markaunt?] in money twenty marks & a black coat, upon condition that he shall require no old debts of me save such as he hath laid out for my household and me during the time of my late sickness;

To John Bailif, if he be living at my decease, in ready money 20s;

Item, to Johane, my maid in ready money 26s 8d;

[f. 138v] Item, to Mrs Luke in ready money, 10s;

Item, to Mr Stephen Tenant for to preach a sermon about the time of my burial, ten shillings;

Item, to every other of my servants dwelling in my house here in London I bequeath in ready money 13s 4d;

And as to the disposition of my said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments, first I leave to descend unto my said son, Thomas Lucas, the third part of the clear yearly value and a good deal more of all the same, most humbly beseeching the King & Queen's most royal Majesties to accept the same for the full, whole and third part of the yearly value of all the premises for the which my said son is bounden to sue his livery;

In primis, I do leave to descend unto my said son, Thomas, and to his heirs the seat of the late Monastery of St John's besides Colchester, with the lands there called the demesne lands to the same belonging, and with the marsh there called Salt Marsh, worth by year £20;

Item, the meadow there now in the lease of Richard Godfrey, for the which he payeth yearly £4;

Item, another mead there called Mawdleyne Mead in the farm of Benjamin Clerke, alderman of Colchester, for the which he payeth by year 53s 4d;

Item, the White Harte, and a little mead in the farm of Richard Cosyn, for which he payeth yearly £4;

Item, the tenements without Headgate of Colchester, which payeth yearly 20s and more;

Item, the tenements called Rovers Tye in the farm of Robert Wayelande, for which he payeth yearly 106s 8d;

Item, my tenement and land adjoining to Bullock Wood, which is worth by year 40s;

I leave also to descend to my said son, Thomas Lucas, my manor of Fordham and Argentyne [=Archentines] with the lands which I late purchased of Mr Bonhame lying in Fordham, and with a little meadow lying in a meadow there called the King's Meadow, all which are clearly worth by year £21;

Item, I leave to descend unto him my tenement and land called Bulbeckes in the farm of the widow Symon, for the which she payeth yearly clear £6 13s 4d;

Item, I leave to descend to the said Thomas, my son, my manor of Huish Champflower in the county of Somerset which th' Earl of Oxenford received from the late King's Majesty Henry th' Eight, and so the same was likewise delivered unto me with the perquisites of courts after the yearly value of £8 and odd money;

I leave to descend unto my said son, Thomas, my lands & tenements lying in Chertsey in the county of Surrey, being of the clear yearly value of £16;

Item, I leave likewise to descend one meadow lying by Lexden mill in the county of Essex which is worth clearly by year 20s, and one parcel of ground called Much Quedmere lying in Much Horkesley, being of the clear yearly value of 33s 4d, and my salt-house in Harwich of the clear yearly value of 20s;

Item, my house called the Chantry House in Wivenhoe with th' appurtenances in the said county of the clear yearly value of 26s 8d;

Item, I leave to descend to my said son, Thomas, my manor of Stratfield Mortimer in the county of Berkshire, being of the clear yearly value of £4 16s, together with my right of patronages to the church of Much Horkesley and Fordham in the said county of Essex;

Item, I bequeath to my said wife, in full recompense and satisfaction of all dower which she can claim by or from me in any wise, my manor of Mile End besides Colchester in the county of Essex, and all my lands and tenements with th' appurtenances call Dalbrige (except the wood called Old Land Grove now in the farm of one (blank) Hogge), and to my said wife my tenement adjoining to St John's Green with the house that Father Hall dwelled in and the barn and backside thereof lying in Ladders Lane, and all & singular buildings parcel of the said first tenement with the backsides, gardens, orchards and dovehouses lying over the backside there, with all my lands and commodities lying within the pale there called Monkdowne and Planteynes, and all my little tenements adjoining to the said Planteynes, save I will when great extremity requireth, that my son, Thomas, and his heirs shall have a recourse to one of the ponds of Planteynes to water their cattle feeding upon the demesnes of St John's;

And because my said son, Thomas, shall and may have commodity by reason of the premises in my said wife's land, I will therefore that my said wife during her life, so often and so long as it shall be her pleasure, shall have her abiding in and upon the said site of St John's, and to have there three such convenient chambers, one for herself, the second for her maids, and the third for her men, as by mine executors or the more part of them shall be appointed and named;

And as well she, my said wife, and her said servants, as other payment unto her, from time to time and at all times during her abode there shall and may have free egress & regress into and from the said chambers, and she and such as she will appoint to walk for her pleasure as well within the said site as in the said demesnes, and she to have a plot for a garden during her life within the said site by th' assignment of my said executors or the more part of them to be appointed;

And my said wife to have during her said life her commodity, use and easement of all such brewing vessel, coppers and lead within my brewhouse at St John's for the necessary brewing of her drink, and also of all ovens, boards and other implements that are either in the bakehouse and bolting-house adjoining at Saint John's, and of the pastry house and ovens there for baking of her bread, pies, pasties and such other things, and my said wife to have yearly during her said life three milch beasts depasturing and feeding upon the said demesne, and to have the commodity of the milkhouse within the said site for the making of her cheese, butter and suchlike, and also my said wife to have liberty to grind her corn within the said site, and to have the lying and bestowing of her corn in the garnators(?) of the same site, and convenient stable room for four geldings within the said site, and my said wife to have water [f. 139r] at all seasons at the well within the said site, and gate and goings for three swine within the said site by all the said time;

All these premises last before rehearsed for my said wife I will she shall have and enjoy during all her life, not granting the same nor any part thereof to any other person and persons, without let, challenge or disturbance of my said son, Thomas, or of his heirs or of any others by his or their mean or procurement;

Item, I will and bequeath to my said wife during her said life all that my field and close called the Harp lying in Colchester, and all the site of the manor and demesnes of Greenham in the county of Berkshire now in the farm of John Winchcombe th' elder, esquire, and my meaning and intent is that my said wife shall keep & maintain or cause to be kept and maintained the reparations of the premises, and to bear all such charges due and going out of the same during her said estate and term;

Item, I bequeath to my said wife during her life th' advowson of the patronage(?) of Mile End aforesaid, with the yearly pension(?) belonging thereunto, and if she cannot maintain her *quare impedit* therefore, then I will that mine executors shall perceive(?) the same with effect, and the same being recovered, to present such one as my said wife shall appoint, and to grant the said advowson and pension(?) unto her during her life;

Item, I will, give and bequeath unto Geoffrey Pipe th' office of bailiwick of my manor of Huish Champflower afore-named, and of my manors of Crudwell, Eastcourt, Fulleswike [=Fowlswick?] and Ewrige in the county of Wiltshire, and of the said site and demesnes of the manor of Greenham in the said county of Berkshire, with one yearly fee for the exercising of the said office of three pounds to be paid unto him at two several feasts in the year by even portions, to have and to hold the said office and fee to the said Geoffrey during his life, to be paid him by the holders and tenants named the lords of the said manors of Crudwell, Eastcourt, Fulleswike and Ewrige, and for non-payment thereof the said Geoffrey to distrain in any of the said four manors, provided that the said Geoffrey shall not alien the said office and fee nor any part thereof without consent of the lords and owners of the said manors of Crudwell, Eastcourt, Fullesw[i]cke and Ewrige, and my meaning and will is that such reasonable costs, charges and expenses as the said Geoffrey shall be at in the fetching and safe conveying of the revenues of those manors and premises whereof he is appointed bailiff shall be allowed & indifferently borne by the lords of the said manors of Crudwell and Eastcourt;

And I will and bequeath unto mine executors hereafter named taking upon them the charge and administration of this my last will and testament, or else to as many of them as shall take upon them th' administration thereof, all and singular the said manors of Crudwell, Eastcourt, Fulleswike and Ewrige with their appurtenances in the said county of Wiltshire, and th' advowson of the parish church of Crudwell, to hold to them and the survivor of them and to th' executors of the survivors of them from the day of my decease during and by the space of six years then next following and fully to be complete, and in case my said executors, by reason of any collateral debt or matter which I do not now know nor call to remembrance, happen to be charged by th' order of the law whereby the said revenues of the said manors of Crudwell, Eastcourt, Fulleswike and Ewrige will not extend to satisfy the same and to perform my debts and legacies before-written in this my said last will and testament, that then the same mine executors and the survivors of them or their executors taking upon them th' administration as is aforesaid, to have and hold the said manors of Crudwell, Eastcourt, Fulleswike & Ewrige so long and by such time as they may without fraud or collusion satisfy and perform my said debts and legacies and thother collateral debt and matter;

And I will and bequeath unto the said Thomas Lucas, my son, my woods called Bullock and Sonne(?) Wood, and the said wood called Old Land Grove, my messuages, lands and tenements called the Hostage in Sible Hedingham in the farm of George Nicholson, and all and singular the manor of Mile End and other the premises appointed to my said wife after her decease, and all and singular the said manors and premises appointed to my said executors after their interest therein determined, and the manor of Porters with th' appurtenances and certain lands and tenements lying in Barking and Dagenham, the fee simple whereof I lately obtained to me and mine heirs of Robert Tyrrell, esquire, after the decease of Dame Julyan Norwich, widow, and of the same Robert Tyrrell, and of (blank) his wife, and after the death of the survivor of them, and also the manor of Shynfeld [=Shenfield?] with th' appurtenances and th' advowson of the parish church of Shynfeld with their appurtenances, the fee simple whereof I lately obtained after the decease of the mother of the said Robert Tyrrell and of the same Robert and of his said wife and after

the decease of the survivor of them, to have and to hold my said woods called Bullock and Sonne Wood and the Old Land Grove, and the said tenement and premises in the farm of the said George Nicholson, and the said manors and other the premises appointed to my said wife for term of her [f. 139v] life after her decease, and the said manors and premises appointed to my said executors after their interest therein determined, and the said manor of Porters and premises in Barking and Dagenham after the said lives therein determined, and the said manor of Shynfeld & th' advowson of the parish church of Shynfeld after the said lives therein determined, unto the said Thomas Lucas, my son, and to th' heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such heir male the remainder thereof to the said Robert Lucas, my son, and to his heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue the remainder thereof to the said John Lucas, my son, and th' heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue the remainder thereof to my right heirs forever;

Provided alway that if the said Thomas Lucas, my son, or any other which shall inherit, have or be seised of or in the said manors and other the premises or any of them entailed as is abovesaid by virtue of this my last will and testament, shall of them or of any of them at any time hereafter suffer any recovery against them or any of them as tenant in deed or in law, that then immediately from and after such writ purchased wherein any such recovery shall be had or suffered of or in the said manors and other the premises above entailed or of any of them, the same person, his heirs and assigns, against whom any such recovery shall be pretended to be had, and all and singular other person and persons which shall be then seised or possessed of and in the said hereditament or hereditaments entailed so recovered, their heirs and assigns, shall stand and be seised of and in the said hereditament or hereditaments so recovered to the only use of the person who should or ought inherit to the said tail by virtue of this my present last will and testament next after the decease of him against whom any such recovery shall be had or suffered and of th' heirs males of the body of the said person, the remainder over as is above, this condition to hold and continue from one to another unto the last and final end of the said entails;

Item, I give and bequeath to Thomas, my said son, all my lands and tenements parcel of the late chantry of Much Horkesley in the said county of Essex;

Item, I give and bequeath to the said John Lucas, my son, and Mary Roydon, if they do marry together, and if not, then to the said John, my son, all those my lands and tenements called Barwickes lying in Ramsey aforesaid in the farm of Reginald Mervyn at £7 by year, and my land and tenement lying in Sible Hedingham aforesaid called Hurraunts(?) in the farm of the widow Hurrell, to have to him and to the said Mary after their marriage, or else to the said John if no such marriage be had, for term of their lives and the lenger liver of them & to th' heirs males of the body of the said John lawfully begotten, the remainder over to the said Thomas Lucas, my son, and to th' heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to the said Robert, my son, and to th' heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, with like condition to every of them and to every of their heirs males of their bodies lawfully begotten as is above rehearsed;

And my will and meaning is that my said wife shall have and take the profits of the said lands and tenements to the said John bequeathed unto [=until] the same John come to th' age of 21 years towards his and the said Mary's finding;

Provided alway and my very will and meaning is that if the said Thomas and Robert, my sons, or either of them shall at any time hereafter vex, sue, molest, inquiet and disturb my said executors or any of them for or concerning any manner matter or cause touching or pertaining unto me, their father, except it be for the legacies to them herein bequeathed, or if they shall infringe or procure to make frustrate or void any lease or leases made by me of any their late mother's lands, or shall molest or trouble any of the farmers thereof contrary to the lease or leases by me to them made, that then he of the said Thomas and Robert the which shall so vex, sue, molest, inquiet or disturb my said executors or any of them, or shall infringe or procure to make frustrate or void any the said lease or leases, or shall molest or trouble any of the said farmers of the same contrary to their said lease which they have of me, shall forfeit and lose all and singular their said legacies personal by me before to them bequeathed, and I will the forfeiture thereof to go and be paid to the said John Lucas, my son, to his proper use;

Item, I will my said wife shall have her remain and abode in this house wherein I do lie and now inhabit by the space of six weeks next after my decease;

And forasmuch as I would have no variance between my said sons, Thomas and Robert, at any time hereafter to ensue or grow, and for a final peace to be had between them touching their mother's lands from henceforth, I therefore will and charge the said Thomas upon pain of loss of my blessing that he on this side and before the feast of Easter next ensuing shall by his deed enfeofft sufficiently in the law the said Robert, my son, of and in the lands and tenements lying in Stoke next Nayland in the county of Suffolk called Mannockes, and of and in the free lands and tenements called Avarners lying in Boxsted in the said county of Essex, to hold to the said Robert and to his heirs and assigns forever to their proper use;

And I will and charge upon like pain the said Robert, my son, that he, the said Robert, at or before the feast of Easter aforesaid shall surrender into th' hands of the lord according to the custom of the same manor all and singular the customary lands lying in Much Horkesley aforesaid to th' use of the said Thomas, my son, and of his heirs and assigns forever to their proper use, the charges and fines of which surrender to be borne and paid by the said Thomas;

And I will and give [f. 140r] authority to my said executors which shall take upon them th' administration hereof to have free ingress and regress at all reasonable times hereafter during the space of four whole years next after my decease, as well by themselves as by others by them to be appointed, either by foot, horse or cart in convenient wise in and unto the said site and buildings of St John's, and from thence to have, transport and carry away at their free choice and pleasure all and singular such my goods & chattels, stuff of household, implements, corn, grain, cattle, stone, timber, glass, lead, geldings & such

other things as at the time of my decease do remain of mine in and upon the said site & demesne lands to the same site belonging without any manner interruption;

And all the residue of my goods and chattels, debts, leases for years, corn, grain, as well in the barn as growing on the ground, stuff of household, plate, implements, apparel, stone, timber, board and suchlike things before not bequeathed, I do leave unto my said executors which shall take upon them the charge of administration hereof, to th' intent that they therewith and with the profits of my said lands and other the premises to them before bequeathed shall truly and fully satisfy and pay my debts and injuries, and perform this my present testament;

And I will and require them which so shall take upon them th' administration hereof, and being alive, shall once yearly during the time that the said manors and premises to them appointed by virtue hereof remain and be in their hands and possession, assemble themselves together, and then and there make a plain account and full declaration in writing as well of all and singular the revenues and profits coming and growing of the said manors and other the premises to them appointed by these presents as of all and all manner sums of money by them or any of them made or had of and for any bargain and sale of any my goods and chattels, stone, timber and suchlike from the day of my decease for one whole year then next following, and so from year to year as long as the said manors and other the premises shall remain and be in their governance as before it is limited, and the same yearly account and declaration so made and determined to subscribe and sign with their signs manual from year to year;

And all such money as shall be found due upon the determination of every of the said accounts and declarations to make thereof in delayed(?) payment from time to time towards the satisfaction of my said debts and performance of this my said last will and testament;

And if it shall happen any overplus to remain or be found in th' hands of my said executors upon the determination of the last accounts and declarations over and besides all my debts and legacies paid and performed at which time as the said manors and premises before appointed to my said executors shall owe to remain and come to my said son, Thomas, then I will that the said overplus shall go and be equally divided amongst my said executors or to such of them as at that time shall be on live and have taken upon them the charge and administration hereof to their proper use;

And th' executors of this my present last will and testament I do ordain, constitute and make my sister, my Lady Barnardiston, to whom for her pains herein I bequeath twenty marks, beseeching her Ladyship to be good lady to my wife and my children, and my well-beloved friends, Mr Guy Wade, Anthony Crane and Roger Amyce, esquires, and do give each of them for their pains herein to be taken ten pounds;

In witness whereof I have subscribed this my present last will and testament with mine own hand the day and year abovesaid.

Probatum fuit testamentu{m} Coram Mag{ist}ro Will{el}mo Cooke legum doctor{e} Curie Prerogatiue Reuerendissimi in xpo patris et d{omi}ni n{ost}ri Reginaldi Cantuar{iensis} Archiep{iscop}o Custode siue Comissario Sexto die Mens{is} Nouembris Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingentesimo quinquagesimo sexto Iuramento d{omi}ne Anne Barnardeston Guidonis Wade Anthonij Crane et Rogeri Amice Armig{e}r{orum} Executoru{m} in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}ator{um} viz dicta d{omi}na Barna{r}deston in p{er}sona Edmundi Brudenell no{ta}rij pu{bli}ci procur{atoris} sui l{egi}time constituti et reliquis executorib{u}s personal{ite}r p{rese}ntibus Quibus com{m}issa fuit admi{n}istrac{i}o om{n}i{um} bonoru{m} &c d{ic}t{i} defunct{i} p{re}fat{is} Ex{ecutori}{b}us De bene &c Ac de pleno Inuentario &c exhibend{o} Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{is}

[=The testament was proved before Master William Cooke, Doctor of the Laws, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of the Most Reverend Father in Christ and our Lord, Reginald, Archbishop of Canterbury, on the sixth day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-sixth by the oath of Lady Anne Barnardiston, Guy Wade, Anthony Crane and Roger Amyce, esquires, executors named in the same testament, viz., by the said Lady Barnardiston in the person of Edmund Brudenell, notary public, her lawfully constituted proctor, and by the rest of the executors personally present, to whom administration was granted of all the goods etc. of the said deceased to the forenamed executors, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., and to exhibit a full inventory etc.]