

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 7 March 1564 and proved 7 July 1566, of Sir Thomas Saunders (c.1505 - 18 August 1565) of Charlwood, Surrey, whose sister, Anne Saunders, married Richard Browne, the son of Sir Matthew Browne (d. 6 August 1557) of Betchworth. Richard Browne was the uncle of Sir Thomas Browne (d. 9 February 1597), who signed his kinswoman Lady Russell's petition against James Burbage's Blackfriars theatre, and whose son, Sir Matthew Browne (died c.1603), was the trustee of Nicholas Brend, owner of the land on which the Globe Theatre was built. See the will of Sir Matthew Browne, TNA PROB 11/39/371.

For the testator's property in the Blackfriars, see the will below, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/saunders-thomas-1513-65>

In 1543 [Sir Thomas Saunders] took a 21-year lease of a house in the Blackfriars, which presumably became his London residence; from 1550 his landlord there was his Surrey neighbour [Sir Thomas] Cawarden.

The testator's daughter, Margaret Saunders, was a friend of the poet Michael Drayton. From the *ODNB* entry:

On 16 August 1598 'Mychaell Drayton of London gent of the age of xxxv yeres or therab[ou]tes' was deposed in chancery court in the case of Engelbert <i>v.</i> Saunders (TNA: PRO, C 24/261/28). This was a suit over property, filed by Thomas Goodere's widow, Margaret, now also the widow of her fourth husband, Lawrence Engelbert, against Goodere's youngest brother, William, and Margaret's brother, Edmund Saunders.

The *ODNB* entry also records Drayton's connections to William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon:

. . . . once when down with a tertian fever Drayton was cured by Dr John Hall, Shakespeare's son-in-law

In the small theatre world he would have known Shakespeare, although no written evidence for this remains except an implausible note made around 1662 by John Ward, vicar of Stratford upon Avon, that mentions a 'merry meeting' at which Shakespeare, Drayton, and Jonson 'dranke too hard, for Shakespear died of a feaver there contracted'.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator was the son of Nicholas Saunders (d. 29 August 1553) of Charlwood, Surrey, by Alice Hungate, the daughter of John Hungate of Saxton, Yorkshire.

For the testator's family background, see Sanders, Ralph, *Generations; A Thousand-Year Family History*, (Xlibris, 2007), p. 128 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=7LIqjJ4Q3nAC&pg=PA128>

See also the pedigree of Saunders of Charlwood in Sanders, Ralph, *Sanders Family: A Thousand Year History*, rev. ed., (Xlibris, 2017) at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=VaAMDgAAQBAJ&pg=PT452>

The testator was a second cousin once removed of Sir William Saunders (d.1571), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/53/491. See also Sewill, Ruth and Elizabeth Lane, *The Free Men of Charlwood*, new ed., (Crawley, Sussex, 1980), p. 89, available as a pdf file online.

Testator's siblings

The testator had nine siblings, including:

-Henry Saunders (d. by 7 March 1564).

-Richard Saunders (d. by 7 March 1564?).

-Anne Saunders, who married Richard Browne, the son of Sir Matthew Browne (d. 6 August 1557) of Betchworth, and the brother of Elizabeth Browne (see below), the first wife of John Poyntz (c.1485 - 29 November 1544). See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 412-13, and the *ODNB* entry for Robert Poyntz.

-Margaret Saunders, who married firstly, as his second wife, John Poyntz (c.1485 - 29 November 1544) of Alderley, Gloucestershire, and secondly James Skinner (d. 30 July 1558) of Reigate, Surrey. For her two marriages and children see her will, TNA PROB 11/47/250. See also:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=707

Margaret Saunders (1512-c.1563/4) was the daughter of Nicholas Saunders of Charlwood, Surrey (d. August 29, 1553) and Alice Hungate. She married John Poyntz of Alderley, Gloucestershire (c.1487-November 29, 1544), as his second wife. The marriage settlement was dated May 1, 1544, but this appears to have been formalized some years after the actual marriage. He made his will on June 1, 1544, prior to leaving for the invasion of France, making Margaret one of his executors and leaving the care of his

eldest son, Henry, age sixteen, to his stepmother. Henry was “not able, by reason of his weakness, to govern himself.” Margaret’s other young stepchildren were Matthew and Frideswide. Her own children were William (d.1601), Robert (c.1535-1584), Elizabeth, and Alice, all of whom were living at the time of their mother’s death. A sketch of Poyntz was done by Hans Holbein, suggesting close ties to court, and it is possible that Margaret was the Mrs. Poyntz who was listed as mother of maids in Queen Mary’s household in 1557. Her second husband was James Skinner of Reigate, Surrey (d. July 30, 1558). She was his third wife. He made his will July 28, 1558 and it was proved December 7, 1558. Margaret was appointed sole executor. Her will, dated September 20, 1563, was proved July 4, 1564 and can be found at <http://www.Oxford-Shakespeare.com>.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married, about 1540, Alice Walsingham, the daughter of Sir Edmund Walsingham (d.1550) and Katherine Gunter (died c.1526), by whom he had three sons and two daughters. See the will of Sir Edmund Walsingham, TNA PROB 11/33/405.

By Alice Walsingham, the testator had three sons and two daughters:

* **Edmund Saunders** (b.1541), a student at the Inner Temple in 1561. He married Philippa Gage, the daughter of Sir Edward Gage (d. 26 December 1567) and Elizabeth Parker, the daughter of John Parker of Rotton in Willingdon, Sussex. For Elizabeth Parker’s brother, Thomas Parker (by 1527-1580), see the History of Parliament entry at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/parker-thomas-ii-1527-80>

Edmund Saunders’ father-in-law, Sir Edward Gage (d. 26 December 1567), a Catholic recusant, was the eldest son and heir of the courtier and military administrator, Sir John Gage (1479–1556), for whom see the *ODNB* entry and the History of Parliament entry at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/gage-sir-john-1479-1556>

See also ‘The Gage Family’ at:

<https://firlle.com/house-visits/the-family/>

By Philippa Gage, Edmund Saunders had two sons, Thomas Saunders (c.1570-1623) and Philip Saunders (d.1581?), and five daughters, Anne Saunders, who married John Drury of Essex; Elizabeth Saunders, about whom nothing further is known; Dorothy Saunders, who married Sir John Throckmorton; Alice Saunders, who married Thomas Amyce of Essex; and Jane Saunders, who married Thomas Josselyn of Horsley, Essex. See the pedigree of the Gage family of Firlle, Sussex, in Questier, Michael C., *Catholicism and*

Community in Early Modern England, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006), p. 524. See also *Sanders Family*, *supra*, at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=VaAMDgAAQBAJ&pg=PT452>

See also the Saunders pedigree in *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, Vol. VI, (London: Bolworth & Co. Limited, 1893), at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=_MIxAQAAIAAJ&pg=RA1-PA5

* **Walsingham Saunders** (d.1587). He is mentioned in the will of his grandfather, Sir Edmund Walsingham. In the Inner Temple records of 1577 he is named as a Catholic recusant. See Inderwick, F.A., ed., *A Calendar of the Inner Temple Records*, Vol. I, (London, 1896), p. liv at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=RhIwAAAAYAAJ&pg=PR54>

For Walsingham Saunders' recusancy, see also Hyland, St. George, *A Century of Persecution*, (London: Kegan Paul, 1920), p. 326 at:

<https://archive.org/details/cu31924005752054/page/n347>

For his will, in which he describes himself as a servant of Oxford's kinsman, John Lumley (c.1533–1609), 1st Baron Lumley, see TNA PROB 11/71/198.

* **Thomas White Saunders**, who appears to have been named after the testator's brother-in-law, Sir Thomas White (1492-1567), for whom see:

<http://www.berkshirehistory.com/bios/twhite.html>

White died a poor man. Much of what he had intended for his college never reached it and the provisions of his will in regard both to his property and the college would have been still less fully carried out but for the astute management ('partly by pious persuasions, and partly by judicious delays') of his executor, Sir William Cordell, Master of the Rolls. White was a man of sane judgment and genuine piety. He has rarely, if ever, been surpassed among merchants as a benefactor to education and to civic bodies.

Sir Thomas was twice married. His first wife, Avice, whose surname is unknown, died on 26th February 1558 and was buried in the parish of St. Mary Aldermary. On 25th November of the same year, he married Joan, daughter and co-heiress of John Lake of London, and widow of Sir Ralph Warren. He had no issue.

It seems possible that Sir Thomas White's first wife was Avice Walsingham. For Sir Thomas White's second wife, Joan Lake (d. 8 October 1573), see the will of Richard Warren (d 25 March 1597), TNA PROB 11/89/249.

The testator's son, Thomas White Saunders, married a wife surnamed Haynes, by whom he had two sons, William Saunders and Thomas Saunders (who may have been the father of Edward Saunders of Virginia), and two daughters, Christian Saunders and Philippa Saunders, who married a husband surnamed Cooke.

See also:

'Parishes: Warlingham', in *A History of the County of Surrey: Volume 4*, ed. H E Malden (London, 1912), pp. 334-338. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/surrey/vol4/pp334-338> [accessed 20 October 2018].

In 1589 Edmund [Saunders] conveyed this estate to his younger brother Thomas White Saunders of Estcombe, (fn. 41)

See also LR 14/929, a grant to the Queen in 1594/5 by Thomas White Sander of London, gentleman.

* **Margaret Saunders** (born c.1544?), who married firstly Francis Mering, gentleman, of South Collingham, Nottinghamshire, only son of Francis Mering (d. December 1573), esquire, probably of Mering Hall, Girton, a few miles from Collingham. Margaret Saunders married secondly, about 1574, Thomas Goodyere (born after 1534, buried 5 January 1585), esquire, the second son of Francis Goodyere of Polesworth and Ursula Rowlett, the daughter of Ralph Rowlett of St Alban's. She married thirdly, on 9 January 1586 at South Collingham, John Price, gentleman, and fourthly Lawrence Englebert, gentleman, of London, who died at her house in the Blackfriars in 1598.

Margaret Saunders was a friend of the poet Michael Drayton (1563-1631). See the *ODNB* entry, and Tillotson, Kathleen, 'Drayton and the Gooderes', *The Modern Language Review*, Vol. 35, No. 3, (July 1940), pp. 341-9 at:

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/3716630>

See also TNA C 24/261/28, a Chancery suit brought by Margaret Saunders in 1597, and TNA C 78/114/1, a Chancery decree dated 28 November 1609 in which she is described as 'Margaret Englebert of Collingham, Nottinghamshire, widow of Thomas Goodyere esq, deceased and of Lawrence Englebert of London, gent, deceased'.

See also the History of Parliament entry for Francis Goodyere (by 1514-1546) at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/goodere-francis-1514-46>

As noted above, Margaret Saunders' second husband, Thomas Goodyere, was the son of Ursula Rowlett, the daughter of Ralph Rowlett (d. 4 March 1543), father-in-law of Lady Burghley's sister, Margaret (nee Cooke) Rowlett (d. 3 August 1558). See the History of Parliament entry for Sir Ralph Rowlett (by 1513-1571) at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/rowlett-sir-ralph-1513-71>

b. by 1513, 1st s. of Ralph Rowlett of London and St. Albans by 1st w. Jane Knight. educ. ?G. Inn, adm. 1533. m. (1) by 1544, Dorothy (d.1557), da. of John Bowles of Wallington, Herts., (2) 27 June 1558 Margaret (d. 3 Aug. 1558), da. of Sir Anthony Cooke of Gidea Hall, Essex, s.p. suc. fa. 4 Mar. 1543. Kntd. by 23 Sept. 1547.1

See also the Rowlett pedigree in Smith, Daniel Starza, *John Donne and the Conway Papers*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014), p. 312 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=UxrVBAAAQBAJ&pg=PA312>

* **Elizabeth Saunders**, who predeceased the testator. According to Sewill, she died on 29 May 1553. See Sewill, Ruth and Elizabeth Lane, *The Free Men of Charlwood*, new ed., (Crawley, Sussex, 1980), p. 67, available as a pdf file online at:

<http://www.charlwoodsociety.co.uk/.../The%20Free%20Men%20of%20Charlwood.pdf>

However according to an inscription on a memorial brass in St Mary's Church in Reigate, Surrey, she died on 21 May 1558 (the transcript of the inscription appears to be in error in stating that it was her mother, Alice Walsingham Saunders, who died on that date, since Alice Walsingham survived the testator, and proved his will). See Bannerman, Bruce, ed., *The Visitations of the County of Surrey*, (London: Harleian Society, 1899), Vol. XLIII, p. 110 at:

<https://archive.org/details/visitationsofcou43beno/page/110>

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

For the testator's friend, John Caryll (c.1505-1566) of Warnham, Sussex, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/caryll-%28carrell%29-john-1505-66>

Caryll had inherited Warnham and other lands, mainly in Sussex, from his father, but he added greatly to his patrimony by purchase during the years following the Dissolution. He died in London on 10 Mar. 1566, one day after making his will. His heir was his grandson John and his descendants were to be recusant.7

For the testator's overseer, Sir Walter Mildmay (1520/1-1589), who on 25 May 1546 married Mary Walsingham (1527/8–1577), the daughter of William Walsingham (b. after

1480, d.1534) of Scadbury in Chislehurst, Kent, and sister of Sir Francis Walsingham (c.1532-1590), see the *ODNB* entry.

For John Skinner (c.1535-1584) the younger, see the will of the testator's sister, Margaret Saunders, *supra*.

RM: T{estamentum} Thome Sawnder Milit{is}

In the name of God, Amen. I, Thomas Saunders of Charlwood in the county of Surrey, knight, at this present whole of body and perfect of mind and memory, lauded be God, being the 7th day of March a thousand five hundred threescore and three and in the fifth year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, upon good advisement and deliberation with myself do ordain and make this my present last will and testament in manner and form following, revoking all former wills and testaments at any time before made:

First I bequeath my soul to Our Lord Jesus Christ, my only Maker and Saviour, and my body to be buried in Christian burial without funeral pomp in the parish church of Charlwood before my pew there if it shall please God I shall die there or nearer to it, or else wheresoever it shall please God to sever the soul and body asunder by the discretion of mine executors and overseers;

Item, for my tithes negligently forgotten I give to the parson of Charlwood 6s 8d;

And towards the clerk's wages of Charlwood which will take some pains to teach children in the parish of Charlwood aforesaid and playeth at the organs in service time to th' honour of God as in my time hath been weakly used and exercised, I give and bequeath to the churchwardens aforesaid all the whole rent and yearly profits of all my lands called Lorkyns [=Larkins] in Charlwood now in the tenure and occupation of Richard Cottingham, paying now twenty shillings(?) by the year, (illegible) which lands I would should be at th' only order, rule, letting and setting always of my executors and overseers, and after their deceases at th' order, rule, letting and setting of my right heirs when they or any of them shall be of full age and of sufficient discretion to make the most yearly advantage for the churchwardens aforesaid to th' use and profit of such a clerk's wages as is aforesaid;

And in the meantime, until such a clerk may be gotten, I will th' whole profits annual of the premises to be received yearly by the churchwardens for the time being, and the same or part thereof to be employed to the maintenance of all such indigent and poor people of the same parish by the discretion of mine heir and the parson of Charlwood and parishioners of the same for the time being;

Item, I will and bequeath to the poor householders' box in Charlwood church 13s 4d current money of England yearly to be paid and equally divided amongst them for the term of threescore years by the discretion of my heir and executors and according to the

godly Act of Parliament made and ordained in that behalf hereafter coming, growing and to be taken yearly out of my lands in Charlwood aforesaid called the New Warren at two several times of the year, that is to say, between the feasts of All Saints and Christmas yearly 6s 8d during the time aforesaid, and other six shillings eight pence yearly during the said term between the first Sunday in Clean Lent & Palms [sic?] Sunday in Lent as my good and godly father, Nicholas Saunders, used to do in his lifetime;

And in default of payment of the said sum of 13s 4d as is aforesaid, I will that the parson and churchwardens of Charlwood aforesaid for the time being shall lawfully enter into my lands and hereditaments called the New Warren where the lodge is builded, and the same retain from my heir and executors with the profits of the same until the said sum of 13s 4d and every parcel thereof be to them yearly and truly divided, contented and paid according to my true meaning and intent in form before declared and according to the true meaning of the said godly Act of Parliament made and provided for the poor inhabitants in every parish;

Item, I will that the late wife of Henry Saunders, my brother, deceased, be truly paid of ten pound annuity by the year within a 6 days next after the feast of Pentecost and All Saints during her life natural coming out of John Mylles' farm of Horley by even portions to be divided as I have used to pay the same to her beforetime, now being John Lawrence' widow of Essex, deceased;

Item, to Dame Alice Saunders, my well-beloved wife, I give the usage and lawful occupation of all my household stuff and implements of household with brass, pewter, hangings, beddings, ceilings and other things now in my house at the Blackfriars in London which the same Dame Alice holdeth for term of her life with condition and assured trust she will make no waste nor spoil or any other disorder thereof from the same house, garden and stable or any part thereof, all which stuff of household with the premises my full mind is she shall have the lawful use and free occupation thereof during her natural life upon condition aforesaid;

And if it happen the same Dame Alice to marry, that then afore marriage she with her husband that then shall happen to be shall put in sureties sufficient in writing obligatory to mine heir and executors well and truly without fraud or delay to perform the premises according to my true meaning or else this legacy to be to her void and frustrate to all intents as [+if?] it never had been made or written, any[thing] to the contrary notwithstanding;

Note well that by this my present testament and last [f. 389v] will I do give and grant to Margaret Saunders, my daughter, all my lands, tenements, hereditaments and leases within the Blackfriars to the said Margaret, her heirs and assigns forever after her mother's decease together with all manner of household stuff and other things within the same which standeth me in above a thousand marks, with condition and proviso she shall not marry without her mother's goodwill and assent nor yet without a sufficient assurance of a good jointure of one hundred marks by year at the least in possession and fifty marks in reversion by the advice of mine heirs and executors or else this legacy to be void

towards her, her heirs, executors and assigns forever according to my true meaning and intent;

And to the same Margaret upon like condition and proviso I give the whole profit of the next sale and fall of my great wood at the Frith called Wykewood, reserving sufficient standards and preserving the springs after the felling thereof;

And if the said Margaret happen to decease without children of her body lawfully begotten, than then and from thenceforth the said lands before given to her and her heirs with all other the premises shall wholly remain, come and be to Walsingham Saunders and Thomas White Saunders, my younger sons, and their heirs if they be then alive and have any children alive, or else the same lands to be sold to the most advantage to purchase as much other lands and certainty for my heirs to be disposed to them and their heirs forever, and for the maintenance of enlargement of wages for an honest parish clerk at Charlwood also that can keep and play of the organs there and teach children there for the maintenance of God's service to the better ensample of the people whilst the world endureth, and to some relief of the poor people's box there according to the said godly Act of Parliament if it happen to be sold;

In defect whereof, if it so happen to come to pass, I will that the parson and churchwardens of Charlwood aforesaid shall after the sale of my lands in London enter into my old manor of Charlwood where Thomas Ellis now dwelleth and retain the rents and profits thereof from mine heir until this be duly and truly yearly executed and performed to the poor and to the parish clerk aforesaid so maintaining and keeping the choir with the organs to th' honour of God and teaching the children with better diligence than of late time hath been used to be done, or else the same legacy to the clerk to be void which after the said sale I would should be made to him of the yearly value of £5 by the year over and besides the box for the poor which I would should be made 40s by the year of the profits aforesaid whensoever it shall happen to come to pass after the deceases aforesaid and sale of lands aforesaid;

Provided always and it is my full expressed mind, will and intent that if the parishioners and churchwardens of Charlwood aforesaid or any of them shall happen to diminish any of their benevolence or any part of th' usual wages or habitation to the clerk when this legacy shall come to pass, then my mind is upon such defalcation or restraint of any former wages or houserom to their parish clerk made, this legacy shall be void and of none effect, anything herein present in writing to the contrary notwithstanding;

And to the said Dame Alice, my wife, I leave all my household stuff and implements of household at her house at Flanchford to use and occupy there during her life natural without spoil, waste or removing thence at her pleasure, all which household stuff & implements of household after her decease I give and bequeath to my two sons, Walsingham and Thomas White Saunders, equally to be divided amongst and between them both by the discretion of my executors and overseers, excepting and reserving always to my next heir after the said Walsingham and Thomas' deceases and the longer liver of them all my tables, forms, stools, brewing vessels, tubs, kilderkins, barrels,

servants' bedsteads, and one of the best bedsteads painted with my arms of wainscot, and 2 other bedsteads over the hall and over the parlour, and the clothes-presses in the same house with the painted hangings of the same house and two bedsteads in my father's chamber and inner chamber;

And to my well-beloved wife I leave also the upper end of all my house at Charlwood and the gallery & closet thereto adjoining with the whole stuff thereto belonging in every place from the hall upwards, to use and occupy there during her life natural without waste, spoil or disorder, with liberty of hall, buttery, pantry, cellar, kitchen, gardens, stable, brewhouse and other places together with her son and mine [f. 390r] for the time of her abode there and not otherwise when he cometh to th' age of 24 years with the use of brass, pewter and other things with her son, Edmund, all which household stuff at the said upper end of my said house after my wife's decease I give to Edmund Saunders, my son, if he be obedient and please his mother well, or else to him or them that then shall happen to be my next heir;

The residue of all my household stuff and implements of household with linen and napery at Charlwood aforesaid at the time of my death I give wholly to the said Edmund, my son, if he please his mother well, and to such other heir as shall succeed and be my next heir after him;

And all my quick cattle being at Flanchford at the time of my death I give wholly to my wife with all my hackneys and usual riding nags and geldings elsewhere, excepting two or three geldings or nags for her son, Edmund, and mine, and Walsingham Saunders;

And her jewels and apparel I give her to use at her pleasure;

Item, I will that my wife shall receive the profits of all my leases until Edmund, mine oldest son or any other that shall happen to be my next heir shall accomplish th' age of 24 years towards the finding of my children to learning, over and besides the profits of Thomas Ellis and John Cottingham's farms in Charlwood whereof I have made an estate to th' use of finding my three sons to the learning of the common law which in any wise I would have them fulfil and perform;

And after that my son, Edmund, or such other of my children which shall happen to be my nest [sic?] heir shall accomplish the said age of 24 years, if then he shall be thought by his mother and other of my executors to be of discretion and honesty sufficient, then I will all my leases and farms to the said Edmund or such as shall be my next heir, paying the rent reserved upon the same leases to the owners and yielding his mother the moiety of tithe corn at Lye yearly while she liveth;

And furthermore I give and grant unto my wife all my lands in Reigate which I bought of Pope for term of her life, and all my other lands in Horley and Charlwood lying on the north side of Collenden Lane now in the tenure and occupation of Humphrey Morton and others called Jervis lands and Collenden now being of the yearly value of £13 6s 8d lying on the north side of Collenden Lane which I do also give unto her for term of her life,

over and besides all my lands and tenements at Walton, Betchworth, Woodmansterne, Chipstead, Ewell, if they may be recovered against my release after the assurance, and Buckland to her assured for life in possession and reversion, all which lands and tenements in possession and reversion I do give to her as is aforesaid for her life upon condition and faithful promise she hath made to me upon good advisement that she will favour and preserve all my woods, young and old, growing upon the premises, as well ashes as all other kinds of woods, and also permit and suffer me to declare this my last will and testament of all the coppiced woods growing upon the premises or any other parcel of her jointure elsewhere to and for the preferment and the advancement of her daughter & mine, Margaret Saunders, in marriage without let and disturbance of my wife or any for her and in her name and right, any estate to her use executed to the contrary notwithstanding, according to both our true meanings therein at this present, trusting that she will from time to time take good order for the maintenance of all the springs with good strong closure to be always made for the same, leaving always sufficient standards upon every acre thereof during her life;

Provided always and it is fully agreed between my well-beloved wife and me upon good advice and consultation had between us both that she shall demise and let her lands called Tolvett(?) lands, Skewls lands and Rudlee(?) lands to my next heir upon the old rent if she do not dwell a[t] Charlwood;

And also that whensoever she mind to marry with any man and be fully concluded and resolved thereon, that then my mind, will and intent is that soon after such resolution had with any person or persons at any time hereafter she shall give knowledge thereof and of her full resolution therein fifteen days before marriage to the residue of my executors and overseers of this my last will and testament and to my next heir also if he be then of lawful age and discretion to this end and purpose, that he that at any time shall happen hereafter to marry with my said wife and be her husband shall before marriage had and solemnized between them be surely bound to my executors and overseers with two good sufficient and lawful sureties with him in several bonds sufficient in the law, every of them severally to be bound in £200 apiece to my said executors and overseers with condition annexed to the same bonds to mine heir, executors and overseers as often as marriage shall happen, that he that so shall happen hereafter to marry my entirely-beloved wife shall permit and suffer this my last will and testament to stand, remain and abide in full strength and force to all intents and purposes according to my true meaning and my wife's agreement with [f. 390v] me whilst I lived on earth without let, interruption of him or any other in his name for him or by his consent, procurement and agreement, and quietly and peaceably to permit and suffer all my children and all other persons claiming any benefit or profit thereby to enjoy the same as time and occasion shall best serve therefore by the discretion of my executors and overseers;

And also that he or they such husbands shall neither permit ne suffer any spoil or waste in or upon any lands, tenements and hereditaments of any manner woods, underwoods or coppiced woods growing in and upon any lands, tenements and hereditaments appointed in jointure or otherwise to the said Alice for term of her life;

And also shall strongly and sufficiently maintain and keep the springs and closures of all the coppiced woods growing upon any the premises after the felling of them or any of them for the term of seven years next after every fall, and keep the springs thereof from the bite of all cattle during the life natural of the said Alice, my wife;

And if he or they that hereafter shall happen so to marry with my said wife do refuse and deny to be bound to my executors and overseers with sureties and conditions as is aforesaid before marriage had, then my express mind, will and intent is that all gifts, grants of lands and tenements, legacies and bequests of all and singular the premises before declared and appointed to my wife by this my testament over and besides her jointure shall be utterly void and [+of?] none effect, anything therein written to the contrary notwithstanding;

And that upon the same refusal I will all the same goods and chattels appointed to my wife to be received and taken by my executors and overseers to th' use and profit of Walsingham Saunders and Thomas White Saunders, my sons, and Margaret, my daughter, equally to be imparted and divided between them by the discretion of my executors and overseers, and the profits of the same lands over and besides her jointure to be also likewise received to their equal uses, profits and commodities during their mother's life;

And after her decease the same lands of her jointure to remain wholly to my next heir if he be then of full age or of 24 years, or else to be kept to his use by my executors and overseers whom I make the receivers thereof to their uses;

And to Edmund I give my best velvet gown furred with martens and my best damask gown and my tablet of gold and my ring with my arms, my books of law to him and Walsingham, my son, not yet given if they will study the law, or else to Thomas, my son, if he will study the law, and my books of humanity and stories in Latin or French I will shall be divided amongst my three sons and children;

Item, to Walsingham Saunders, my second son, I give my farm of the Frith after the decease of his mother for term of his life natural over and besides the lands assured to him at Chipstead, Woodmansterne and Ewell after his mother's decease if it may be obtained against a release thereof made by me in haste with warranty to James Skinner after I had departed with the land;

And to the same Walsingham I give my tawny velvet gown and a damask gown with my best coat or jacket of velvet and two of my doublets of silk and my whistle of gold and a gold ring with a red stone and one silver purse ring;

Item, to Thomas White Saunders, my son, I give a ring of gold with a parted stone to seal with and my best pouch ring of silver;

And to the same Thomas White Saunders, my son, I give the residue of the best of my apparel with a ring of gold with a Turk's [=turquoise?] stone therein;

The residue of my apparel to be divided amongst my sister Browne's children and my uncle Saunders' poor children, to whom I give £10 also to be divided among the poorest of them;

And further my very mind and last will is that all such servants as shall happen to be in wages with me at my death shall be honestly used in meat, drink and lodging for the space of two months after my death, if they will take it, till they may be better provided of masters, and to have their wages truly paid and something to everyone in reward to be given by the discretion of my executors and overseers;

The residue of all my goods and chattels in Charlwood aforesaid or elsewhere within the realm of England not before given, willed or appointed otherwise by this my testament I would should be sold to their best value for the payment of my debts, legacies and other charges belonging to the same testament, one basin and ewer parcel gilt and one nest of goblets to be reserved to my wife for life, and after to Edmund Saunders;

Note that I will my wife shall have th' use of all my plate during her life, and after her decease I give my basin and ewer of silver with a nest of goblets parcel gilt, one tankard of silver and one salt with a cover silver and gilt, a Maudlin box and a little ale cup clean gilt and six spoons of silver [+to Edmund?], and [f. 391r] the residue of all my plate not before bequeathed I give to the rest of my children equally to be divided between them by the discretion of my executors and overseers;

In witness and testimony whereof I, the said Thomas Saunders, knight, have written this my own last will and testament with my own proper hand and to the same subscribed my name and put to my seal the day and year first above-written;

Executors of which my said last will and testament I ordain, constitute and make my dear-beloved wife, Dame Alice Saunders, Thomas Walsingham, esquire, her brother, and mine old assured faithful friend and brother-in-law, Sir Thomas White, knight, and Edmund Saunders, my son;

And overseers thereof Sir Walter Mildmay, knight, and my old assured friend, John Caryll of Warnham, esquire, and John Skinner of Reigate the younger, gentleman, and Nicholas Saunders, gentleman, desiring them all and every of them to be aiding and assisting to my executors in seeing this my last will to be truly performed according to my true meaning and intent in discharge of my conscience and theirs;

And for their friendship, good counsel and pains therein to be had from time to time I will and give to every sundry executor named besides my wife forty shillings apiece and as much to every overseer of this my testament, trusting for their good counsel and good advice to be had to my wife and children in their need and tender age yet being for their comfort and better education in virtue and learning;

And if any ambiguity, doubt or question happen to grow and arise upon any word, clause, article, sentence, reason or meaning of this my testament and last will, then I would the same should be expounded and declared by the said Sir Thomas White and Master Caryll or any of them during their lives to the most strongliest and the most advantage of my true meaning therein, and for the benefit and profit of my wife and children indifferently and all other to whom I have given anything within the same testament, and after their deceases to be expounded by th' advice of my overseers then living. Per me Thomam Sawnder manu propria.

Item, now I give at this time to my son Walsingham and Thomas White Saunders, my younger sons, after their good mother's decease my house and land of Flanchford in Reigate and Buckland with the house and land at Hartswood belonging to the same and the profit of the mill there, to have and hold to them for term of their lives natural;

Provided and upon this condition, that they and every of them and their assigns shall well and truly from time to time without delay keep and amend all manner reparations of housing, hedging & dyking of the premises at seasonable times of the year and permit and suffer their older brother, Edmund, and his heirs to grind at Flanchford mill toll-free all his corn truly to be expended in his house at Charlwood or elsewhere;

Provided always that the said Walsingham and Thomas and their assigns shall neither fell nor cut any tree upon the premises or any parcel thereof without licence by writing, ne shall lop and top any trees for fuel but for hedge-bote only and not otherwise, and that to be done at seasonable times of the year and not otherwise;

And further my will and mind is that Margaret Saunders after the decease of her mother shall have all my lands in Walton and Betchworth for term of her life if she marry to her mother's mind with such jointure made as before is declared at the least;

And to Thomas White Saunders I give all my lands in Buckland called Chamberlayns after his mother's decease for term of his life. Per me Thoma{m} Sawnder septimo die mens{is} Martij 1563.

Probatum fuit h{uius}mo{d}i testamentu{m} coram Mag{ist}ro Waltero Haddon Legu{m} doctore curie Prerogatiue Cant{uariensis} custode siue Com{m}issario apud London Septimo Iulij Anno D{omi}ni Mill{es}imo Qui{n}gentesimo Sexagesimo sexto Iuramento d{omi}ne Alicie Rel{ic}te et Edmundi Sawnder Armigeri ex{ecuto}r{um} Quib{us} com{m}issa fuit administrac{i}o o{mn}i{u}m et sing{u}lor{um} bonor{um} iuriu{m} et creditor{um} d{i}c{t}i(?) def{uncti} De bene &c Ac de pleno inventario Necnon de plano et vero Comp{ot}o Reddend{o} Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{is} Res{er}uata p{otes}tate alijs executorib{us} cum venerint

[=The same testament was proved before Master Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the seventh of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixty-sixth by the oath of the Lady Alice, relict, and Edmund Saunders, esquire, executors, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., and [+to exhibit?] a full inventory, and also to render a plain and true account, with power reserved to the other executors when they shall have come.]

RM: primo die mensis february Anno Domini iuxta &c 1629 emanavit commissio Edmundo Sander proximo consanguineo dicti defuncti Ad administrandum bona iura et credita dicti Domini Thome Sander Militis defuncti iuxta tenorem testamenti huiusmodi per Domnam Aliceam Sander relictam et Edmundum Sander filium eiusdem defuncti et executores iam etiam defunctos non plene administrata De bene &c iuratio

[=On the first day of the month of February in the year of the Lord according etc. 1629 a grant issued to Edmund Saunders, next cousin of the said deceased, to administer the goods, rights and credits of the said Sir Thomas Saunders, knight, according to the tenor of the same testament by the Lady Alice Saunders, relict, and Edmund Saunders, son of the same deceased, [-and] executors, now also deceased, not fully administered, sworn to well etc.]