

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 20 August 1587 and proved 9 October 1587, of Walsingham Saunders, whose aunt, Anne Saunders, married Richard Browne, the son of Sir Matthew Browne (d. 6 August 1557) of Betchworth, Surrey. 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.

The testator's sister, 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

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>

Testator's parents

The testator was the son of Sir Thomas Saunders (c.1505 - 18 August 1565) of Charlwood, Surrey, and Alice Walsingham (living 20 August 1587), the daughter of Sir Edmund Walsingham (d.1550). The testator is mentioned in the will of his grandfather, Sir Edmund Walsingham, TNA PROB 11/33/405. For the testator's father, see his will, TNA PROB 11/48/525, and the History of Parliament entry at:

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

Testator's siblings

The testator had two brothers and two sisters:

-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 Ratton 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://firle.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, who appears to be the Elizabeth Saunders who is left a bequest in the will below; 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 Firle, 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

-**Thomas White Saunders**, who appears to have been named after the testator's uncle, 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.

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.

As noted above, 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 Margaret (nee Cooke) Rowlett (d. 3 August 1558), sister of Lady Burghley, Lady Bacon and Lady Russell. 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 the testator's mother, Alice Walsingham Saunders, who died on that date, since she was living in 1587 when the testator made 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

Lord Lumley

In the will below the testator describes himself as a servant of John Lumley (c.1533–1609), 1st Baron Lumley, the only son of George Lumley, executed on 2 June 1537 for his part in the Pilgrimage of Grace, and Jane Knightley, one of the five daughters and coheirs of Sir Richard Knightley (d. 30 March 1538). For the will of Sir Richard Knightley, dated 29 March 1537 and proved 14 July 1540, see TNA PROB 11/28/156.

By a settlement made after his father's attainder, Lumley was heir to his grandfather, John Lumley, 5th Baron Lumley, at the latter's death in 1545, and in 1547 was restored in blood. He married firstly, about 1550, Jane Fitzalan (1537-1577), the eldest child of Henry Fitzalan (1512-1580), 12th Earl of Arundel, by Katherine Grey (d.1542), the daughter of Thomas Grey, 2nd Marquess of Dorset, by whom he had two sons and a daughter who died young.

When Lumley's father-in-law died on 24 February 1580, Lumley inherited his 'huge arrears in debt'. According to the *ODNB*:

The greatest single amount owed was the so-called 'Florentine debt'. This was a loan of £11,000 owed to Henry VIII by a group of Florentine merchants. Arundel and Lumley were given responsibility in 1564 for repaying the money, now owed to Elizabeth; they hoped to make money on the deal but were unable to fulfil their promise. Lumley began to negotiate terms for the payment of the debt in 1590 and in 1592 it was agreed that he would give Nonsuch to the queen but remain resident as keeper. He was allowed a lease on the great park and was excused from paying after a few years.

On 20 June 1583 Oxford requested that Lord Burghley intercede in the matter of Lord Lumley's payments to the Queen. See BL Lansdowne 38/62, ff. 158-9.

Oxford states in the letter that Lumley had 'matched with a near kinswoman of mine to whose father I always was beholding unto for his assured and kind disposition unto me'. Oxford's 'near kinswoman' was Lumley's second wife, Elizabeth Darcy (d.1617), whose father, Oxford's first cousin John Darcy, 2nd Baron Darcy of Chiche, had guaranteed

Oxford's debt to the Court of Wards, along with Sir William Waldegrave, when Oxford sued his livery in 1572. Lord Darcy and Sir William Waldegrave jointly entered into guarantees amounting to £5000 on Oxford's behalf (see TNA C 2/Eliz/T6/48). For the will, dated 3 February 1581 and proved 14 March 1581, of John Darcy, 2nd Baron Darcy of Chiche, see TNA PROB 11/63/135. For the will of John Lumley, 1st Baron Lumley, proved 22 April 1609, see TNA PROB 11/113/308.

In the will below the testator leaves a bequest to Lord Lumley's wife, Elizabeth Darcy. For her will, proved 8 February 1617, see TNA PROB 11/129/144.

George Keynes

The testator's executor, George Keynes, later became a Jesuit, and was from 1595 professor of moral theology in the English seminary in St Omer, where he died in 1611. See Goulding, Gill K., *A Church of Passion and Hope*, at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=mfxdCgAAQBAJ&pg=PT137>

Edward Gage of Bentley

Edward Gage (d.1614) of Bentley, Sussex, son of James Gage (d.1573), was a first cousin of Philippa Gage, wife of the testator's elder brother, Edmund Saunders (b.1541).

Edward Gage (d.1614) of Bentley was imprisoned for recusancy. In 1581, he was allowed out of prison at the behest of his first cousin, Anthony Browne (1528–1592), 1st Viscount Montagu, to 'see to the affairs of the recently-deceased Henry Wriothesley, second Earl of Southampton (Montague's son-in-law), to whom Gage was also an executor'. A decade later, in 1592, the privy council released him from house arrest to attend to matters connected with the funeral of Viscount Montague himself, and in 1597 the 3rd Earl of Southampton turned over the administration of his financial affairs to Edward Gage and two others. See Questier, Michael C., *Catholicism and Community in Early Modern England*, (Cambridge University Press, 2006), p. 81; Akrigg, G.P.V., *Shakespeare and the Earl of Southampton* (Harvard University Press, 1968) pp. 58, 69; and the monumental brass to Edward Gage (d.1614) and his wife, Margaret Shelley (d.1624), at Framfield, Sussex:

<http://www.mbs-brasses.co.uk/botmapril2015.html>

'my good cousin Sanders' wife the elder of Ewell'

This appears to be Margaret Bostock (living 1599), the widow of Richard Blount (d.1575), illegitimate son of Sir John Leigh, and Jasper Fisher (d. 28 February 1579). For further details of her family background and marriages, and her lease to Oxford of the

mansion of Fisher's Folly, see the will of her first husband, Richard Blount, TNA PROB 11/57/612, and the will of her second husband, Jasper Fisher, TNA PROB 11/61/541. In 1582 Margaret Bostock married thirdly, as his second wife, Nicholas Saunders (c.1532 – 17 December 1587) of Ewell, Catholic recusant, and father of Sir Nicholas Saunders (1563 – 9 February 1649) of Ewell, the dedicatee of *Greene's Vision* (1592), a work, according to the title-page, written 'at the instant' of Robert Greene's death.

RECUSANCY

In the Inner Temple records of 1577 the testator 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 the testator's recusancy, see also Hyland, St. George, *A Century of Persecution*, (London: Kegan Paul, 1920), p. 326 at:

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

In the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, I, Walsingham Sander, whole and sound of mind, I humbly thank Our Lord, though weak and sick of body, do ordain and make this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

Imprimis, I bequeath my soul into the merciful hands of the glorious and Blessed Trinity, my body to be honestly buried in Christian burial according to the discretion of my executor;

And for the disposition of my goods, my debts and funerals discharged:

Imprimis I give to my brother Sander my best suit of apparel, viz., my new gown, my velvet jerkin, my satin doublet and my velvet hose;

The choice of the residue of all my apparel I give only to my executor;

And after he hath made his choice thereof, he to bestow one suit upon my man convenient for him, furnished in all points, in respect of his good service and pains, and one whole year's wages after my death;

The residue remaining to be sold, and the money thereof distributed to the poor;

Item, to my good sister Sander I do give my tablet which I usually wear, my clock, and my jewel in Sussex which I have told Mr Keyns [=Keynes] of;

Item, I will that my nephew, Thomas, be quarterly during my years of my term to come in the parsonage of Lye be quarterly yearly answered and duly paid by my executor ten pounds towards the maintenance of him at learning;

And that ten pounds more out of the same parsonage be quarterly and yearly paid in consideration of some reckoning during the same years between Mr Edward Gage of Bentley and me;

The residue, the Queen's rent deducted, I would have the one moiety to be bestowed yearly upon the poor of Lye and Charlwood, and the other moiety I would have run towards the necessary reparations of the same parsonage;

Item, to all my brother Saunders' youngest daughters I give and bequeath to be employed to their best uses in stock forty shilling apiece to buy each of them a cow or ewes, which of them may be most profit unto them, and if any of them happen to decease, then the said stock with the increase to run to the benefit of the survivors;

But to my niece, Elizabeth, I give and bequeath forty pounds to be bestowed in stock forthwith to her best profit;

Item, to my mother I give the use during her life of my bedstead and all the furniture of bedding therein at London;

And after her decease I give it to my sister Sander;

For the disposition of all such lands and tenements which I have in possession I give and bequeath for term of his life only unto my brother, Thomas White Sander;

And after his decease I give the inheritance of the same absolutely unto my nephew, Thomas, and his heirs upon condition he shall not alien any part thereof, but suffer the same to descend as shall please God to appoint;

Item, to the right honourable and my very good Lord, in respect of negligent accounts or reckonings haply passed over by me in his service, I give and bequeath ten pounds in gold;

The residue of all my goods and chattels remaining, excepting my law books to be bestowed upon my brother Sander, I wholly give and bequeath to Mr George Keynes, whom I do make, constitute and ordain to this my last will and testament my sole and absolute executor;

Item, whereas my brother, Thomas, is indebted unto me in the sum of eight or nine pounds, I do acquit and discharge him by these presents of the moiety of the said debt, neither will I have my brother Sander any way impeached by any means upon or by reason of his [f. 189r] obligation made unto me;

In witness whereof I have set to my hand and seal to this my said last will and testament the twentieth of August 1587;

And overseer to my said will I have humbly required my said very good Lord, the Lord Lumley etc.;

Item, to my good cousin Sanders' wife the elder of Evill [=Ewell], I give for a remembrance my double hoop ring;

Item, to every servant of my brother's S[aunder's] house that hath taken any pains with me six shillings eight pence apiece;

Item, to my Lady L[umley] I give my little ring of rubies and diamonds.

Per me Walsingham Sander. Sealed and delivered in the presence of us, Edward Sander, Henry Bristowe.

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram venerabili viro m{agist}ro Will{el}mo Drury Legum Doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cant{uariensis} Mag{ist}ro Custode siue Com{m}issario etc Nono Die mens{is} Octobris Anno D{omi}ni Mill{es}imo Quingentesimo Octogesimo Septimo Iuramento Christoferi Smith Notarij publici procuratoris Georgij Keynes executoris in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento nominat{i} Cui commissa fuit administrac{i}o etc De bene et fidel{ite}r administrand{o} Ad sancta dei Evangelia Iurat{o}

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Drury, Doctor of the Laws, Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury etc., on the ninth day of the month of October in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred eighty-seventh by the oath of Christopher Smith, notary public, proctor of George Keynes, executor named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer etc.]