SUMMARY: The document below is the last will and testament, dated 13 March 1593 and proved 9 February 1594, of Agnes (or Anne) Baxter Prannell, whose husband, Henry Prannell (c.1531 - 22 October 1589), purchased Oxford's manor of Newsells.

The testatrix was the daughter of Edmund Baxter. Her background is otherwise unknown, although it appears her family were members of the gentry since in the will below she bequeaths a ring with her seal of arms. She names only one relative with the surname Baxter in her will, her brother, Richard Baxter.

The testatrix married Henry Prannell, by whom, according to the monument formerly in the south side of the chancel of the church of St Michael le Querne, she had three sons and one daughter. See Stow, John, *The Survey of London*, (London: Elizabeth Purslow, 1633), p. 388 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=UONBAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA388&lpg=PA388&dq=%22Stow%22+%22Survey+of+London%22+%22Baxtar%22&source=bl&ots=Y1rApehYwX&sig=3iTJY-

jERc7Z5vGv3pThvWs8W8k&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwijubDrxYTMAhUVzWMK HYxpA18Q6AEIHTAA#v=onepage&q=%22Stow%22%20%22Survey%20of%20Londo n%22%20%22Baxtar%22&f=false.

Here lyeth buried the body of Henry Prannell, late Citizen and Alderman of London, and free of the Vintners; who deceased the 22. day of October, Ann. Dom. 1589. Anno aetatis suae, 58. He had to wife Anne, the daughter of Edmond Baxtar, and had issue by her, three sonnes and one daughter.

For the will of Henry Prannell, see TNA PROB 11/74/370.

The church of St Michael le Querne was destroyed in 1666 in the Great Fire of London, and it may be that the epitaph was copied incorrectly (likely by Munday; the epitaph is not given in the 1603 edition) since in their wills both the testatrix and her husband name one son and two daughters:

- * Henry Prannell, who in early 1592 married Frances Howard (27 July 1578 8 October 1639), the daughter of Thomas Howard (c.1520 28 January 1582), 1st Viscount Bindon, by his third wife, Mabel Burton (1540-1580), the daughter of Nicholas Burton of Carshalton, Surrey. For the testator's son, see his will, TNA PROB 11/94/506.
- * Joan Prannell, who married Robert Brooke of Copfold, Essex. It appears that she and her brother, Henry, were involved in litigation against each other. See TNA C 2/Eliz/B19/46, and TNA STAC 5/P21/38. Joan Prannell and her husband are said to have been Catholic recusants. See:

http://wwtn.history.gmul.ac.uk/search/csearch.php?uid=BB027.

Modern spelling transcript copyright ©2016 Nina Green All Rights Reserved http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/ * Mary Prannell, who married John Clerke of Lincoln's Inn. See the History of Parliament entry at:

http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/clarke-john.

John Clerke was the son of Francis Clerke, a proctor in the Court of Arches, for whom see the will, TNA PROB 11/75/199, of his brother, Bartholomew Clerke (c.1537-1590), translator of Castiglione's *The Courtier*, to which Oxford contributed a commendatory Latin epistle dated 3 January 1572 (see STC 4782).

For the testatrix' sister-in-law, Margaret Prannell, mentioned in the will below, see the will of Margaret's son, Henry Prannell, proved 22 January 1605, TNA PROB 11/105/54. For the testatrix' nephew, Henry Prannell, as the Queen's agent in Morocco, see De Castries, *Les Sources Inédites de l'Histoire du Maroc*, (Paris: Paul Geuthner, 1925), Vol. III, pp. 196-8 at

See also the Prannell pedigree in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Hertfordshire*, (London: Harleian Society, 1886), Vol. XXII, p. 159 at:

https://archive.org/stream/visitationsofher222732cook#page/n175/mode/2up.

See also:

http://www.prangnell.net/prannel.htm.

See also:

https://www.genealogieonline.nl/en/west-europese-adel/I1073985114.php.

For Oxford's sale of the manor of Newsells to the testatrix' husband, see Page, William, ed., *The Victoria County History of the County of Hertford*, (London: Constable and Company Limited, 1914), Vol. 4, pp. 28-9 at:

https://archive.org/stream/cu31924088434463#page/n65/mode/2up.

For the final concord between Oxford and the testatrix' husband concerning the manor of Newsells, see Brigg, William, ed., *The Herts Genealogist and Antiquary*, (Harpenden: William Brigg, 1897), Vol. II, p. 255 at:

https://archive.org/stream/hertsgenealogist02brig#page/n515/mode/2up.

For the testatrix' overseer, Sir Cuthbert Buckle (1533-1594), Lord Mayor of London, see the Buckle papers at:

http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/rd/4c575b55-5c8c-43a3-b4f4-24ff50ff0a8a.

Modern spelling transcript copyright ©2016 Nina Green All Rights Reserved http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/

For the testatrix' overseer, the vintner, Edward Bagshaw (d.1597), and his wife, Mary Heming, see his will, TNA PROB 11/90/300, and the *ODNB* entry for his father:

Bagshaw, Edward (1589/90–1662), lawyer, was born in London, the second son of the London vintner Edward Bagshaw, whose family originated in Derbyshire, and his wife, probably named Mary Heming. Bagshaw's father died in 1597, and his mother then married the prominent Northamptonshire lawyer Augustine Nicholls.

For the testatrix' lease of the Cardinal's Hat in Lombard Street, see Burn, Jacob Henry, *A Descriptive Catalogue of the London Traders, Tavern and Coffee–House Tokens*, 2nd ed., (London: 1855), p. 156 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=vEMGAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA156&lpg=PA156&dq=% 22London%22+%22Cardinal%27s+Hat%22&source=bl&ots=i0lQJbAnHj&sig=wtg1Sx Au8sQaxL8DcM2_adV2Yn8&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi4x52j0oXMAhVQ2mMK HcPcDmMQ6AEIRjAK#v=onepage&q=%22London%22%20%22Cardinal%27s%20Hat %22&f=false.

The estate of inheritance which the testatrix requested the Company of Vintners to provide for her daughter, Mary Clerke, appears to have been the manor of Vann:

'Parishes: Godalming', in *A History of the County of Surrey: Volume 3*, ed. H E Malden (London, 1911), pp. 24-42. *British History Online* http://www.britishhistory.ac.uk/vch/surrey/vol3/pp24-42 [accessed 10 April 2016].

In 1608 [John Hollinshed and Richard Sheppard] conveyed [the manor of Vann] to the Vintners' Company for the use of Mary Clarke wife of John Clarke of Battle in Sussex, and her son Francis and her other sons in succession.

RM: T{estamentum} Agnetis Prannell

[f. 92r] In the name of God, Amen. The thirteenth day of March in the year of Our Lord God one thousand five hundred ninety and two and in the five and thirtieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the [+Faith?] etc., I, Agnes Prannell, of the parish of St Michael in the Querne with[in] the city of London, widow, late wife of Henry Prannell, late citizen and vintner of London and alderman of the same city, deceased, being whole of mind and of perfect memory, laud and praise be given unto Almighty God, do ordain and make this my present last will and testament in manner and form hereafter following:

First and principally I commend my soul unto the omnipotent God, my Creator, and to Jesus Christ, my Redeemer, by whose precious death and bloodshedding only I trust to be

saved, and my body to buried within the parish church of St Michael aforesaid in the vault where my said husband's body was laid;

And as touching the disposition of all my worldly goods and substance wherewith it hath pleased God to endue me, my will and mind is as hereafter followeth, that is to say:

First, my will is that all debts, sums of money and other duties whatsoever which I in right and good conscience shall owe at the time of my decease be within convenient time after paid [f. 92v] and discharged;

Item, I give and bequeath unto forty poor women, to every one of them a gown of twenty shillings apiece price, of which forty my will is that the twelve poor almswomen of the Company of the Vintners in London and Mother Heuer of Wickley in the county of Surrey and Mother Hammond of Barkway be part, and the rest to be old impotent persons past labour such as my executor and overseers shall think meet to be relieved;

And I do further give and bequeath to every of the said poor women belonging to the Vintners, and to Mother Heuer and Mother Hammond, three shillings four pence apiece in money;

Item, I give and bequeath to the five prisons hereafter named to the use of the poor in them, viz., the two Counters, Newgate and Ludgate in London, and to the Gatehouse prison in Westminster, to every of them five pounds apiece;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Christ's Hospital in London to the use of the poor children there five pounds;

Item, I will that there be distributed at my burial to such poor people as shall come thither five pounds in money or bread, at the discretion of my executor and overseers to be bestowed;

Item, I give and bequeath to the parson of the parish church of St Michael's aforesaid a mourning gown of sixteen shillings the yard;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my son-in-law, John Clarke, and Mary, his wife, to either of them a mourning gown of twenty shillings the yard;

Item I give and bequeath unto Mr Alderman Buckle and his wife, to either of them a mourning gown of twenty shillings the yard;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Edward Bagshaw and his wife, to either of them a mourning gown of twenty shillings the yard;

Item, I give and bequeath to my brother, Richard Baxter, a mourning gown of thirteen shillings four pence the yard;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my brother [=brother-in-law], Robert Prannell, and his wife, to either of them a mourning gown of sixteen shillings the yard;

Item, I give and bequeath unto every of my maidservants dwelling with me at my decease a mourning gown, and to every of my menservants dwelling likewise then with me a mourning cloak;

And unto Nicholas, the Welshman, a mourning cloak;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the four children of my said son-in-law, John Clerke, viz., Francis Clerke, his son, Anne Clerke, Frances Clerke and Mary Clerke, his daughters, to every of them twenty pounds over and above my said husband's gift;

And if it fortune any of the said four children of my said son Clarke to decease before they shall accomplish the age of twenty and one years or be married, then my will and mind is the said legacy or legacies so to them given shall come and remain to the rest of the said children surviving to be equally divided amongst them;

And my further will and mind is that the said legacies and sums of money given to the said children of my said son-in-law, John Clerke, shall be paid and delivered by my executor within three months next after my decease unto the Master and Wardens of the said Company of the Vintners for the time being at Vintners' Hall at a Court of Assistance there to be holden for the same Company, to be put forth and disposed for and to the use of the said children by and at the discretion of the said Master and Wardens and Assistance of the said Company for such reasonable profit and increase as upon good and sufficient bond or other security by them to be taken for the same portions may be thereof conveniently made until the said children shall severally accomplish the age of twenty and one years or be married, when my will and mind also is that their several portions shall be paid unto them together with such profit and gain as after the rate of their several portions hath in the meantime been thereof made;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my sister [=sister-in-law], Margaret Prannell, ten pounds, and unto her son, George Prannell, ten pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my said brother, Richard Baxter, twenty pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the said Master, Wardens, freemen and commonalty of the Vintners the sum of one hundred pounds of lawful English money to this intent and purpose, that is to say, to be put forth and lent unto four young men, free of the said Company, whereof two to be merchants, by twenty and five pounds a man to be lent unto them for the space of three years together, and so from three years to three years forever;

[f. 93r] And my will is that the young men to whom the said several sums of twenty and five pounds shall be put forth and lent as aforesaid do become bound unto the said Master, Wardens, freemen and commonalty of the said Company of the Vintners in good

and sufficient bond with two able and sufficient sureties, being other than such as be free of the said Company, for the payment thereof at the end of three years;

And that every young man shall allow yearly for the use of the said twenty and five pounds so to him to be lent and delivered thirteen shillings and four pence, which amounting in the whole to four marks, my will and mind is shall be employed and bestowed by the Master and Wardens of the said Company for the time being towards the maintenance and relief of the poor of the said Company, and to be distributed in money, coals or frieze to clothe them yearly before Christmas at the discretion of the said Master and Wardens of the same Company;

And my will and meaning is that my son, Henry Prannell, Mr Alderman Buckle and Edward Bagshaw or the survivors or survivor of them shall during their natural lives nominate and appoint the four young men that shall have the use of the said hundred pounds, and upon the decease of any of the said three persons that the place or places of him or them so dying be supplied in the said appointment in form following, that is to say, for the place of the first so dying to be supplied by the Master of the same Company of the Vintners for the time being, and of the next so dying by the Upper Warden of the said Company, and of the third by the next Warden of the same Company, and after the deceases of all the said three persons, to be nominated and appointed by the Master, Wardens and Assistances of the said Company of the Vintners for the time being;

And I do will and appoint that my executor shall pay the said one hundred pounds to the said Master, Wardens and freeman and commonalty of the said Company at the feast of the Birth of Our Lord God which shall next happen after my decease, to be by them put forth and lent as aforesaid within as short time after as conveniently can be;

Item, I give and bequeath to the said Company of the Vintners to be spent amongst them upon a dinner or recreation on the day of my funeral six pounds thirteen shillings four pence;

Item, more I give and bequeath unto the said Master, Wardens and freemen and commonalty of the Vintners my second basin and ewer parcel gilt;

Item, I give and bequeath to Giles Miles one hundred pounds of lawful English money to be paid unto him within six months next after my decease upon condition that the said Giles Myles at the receipt thereof do clearly discharge my executor of one annuity or yearly rent of five pounds given unto him by my said husband's will during his life;

Item, whereas I do hold of the aforesaid Company of the Vintners one messuage or tenement set and being in Botolph Lane in the parish of St Andrews in Eastcheap within the city of London for the term of twenty and one years, my will and mind is and I do will, bequeath and appoint the use, commodity and occupying of the same tenement unto my said brother Baxter and his now wife during the natural lives of them and the survivor of them, they paying the rent and performing the covenants specified in the indenture of lease concerning the same tenement;

And after their decease, then my will is that the estate, term of years and interest of and in the said messuage or tenement then to come and unexpired shall be and remain unto the children of my said brother Baxter and his said now wife, and to be employed and bestowed for and towards their advancement indifferently amongst them;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my old servant, Christian Orrell, ten pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath to my two daughters, Frances Prannell and Mary Clerke, my chain of gold weighing twenty-four ounces and an half, to be equally divided between them;

Item, more I give and bequeath unto my said daughter, Mary Clerke, two gold rings, the one a table diamond and the other a green emerald;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my said daughter [=daughter-in-law], Frances Prannell, my damask gown and my velvet kirtle;

All the residue of my apparel, be it velvet, silk, cloth or any other [f. 93v] kind of stuff, and all my hoods, with all my linen belonging to my body or anything thereunto appertaining, together with the said chest wherein my said linen lieth, I give and bequeath to my said daughter, Mary Clerke;

Item, I give and bequeath to my son, Henry Prannell, my best pointed diamond set in a ring of gold, and my tablet of gold;

Item, whereas I lately purchased and bought of Nicholas Brooke, gentleman, brother to my son-in-law, Robert Brooke, a lease granted from the Dean and Chapter of St Peter's, Westminster, of the manor of Leuesbarne in the county of Hertford, which lease cost me the full sum of eight hundred pounds of lawful money of England, I do by this my last will and testament express and declare that I have heretofore conveyed, assigned and set over the same lease and my right, title, interest and term of years of, in and to the same to the use, benefit and behoof of my daughter, Joan Brooke, and of her said children, so that her said husband, Robert Brooke, and his said brother, Nicholas Brooke, do perform such covenants and articles as are between me and them set down in writing and agreed upon;

Item, more I give and bequeath to my said daughter, Joan Brooke, such linen as I have already delivered unto her, which I do esteem to be in value twenty pounds;

Item, I do also by this my last will and testament express and declare that I have heretofore conveyed, assigned and set over to the use, benefit and behoof of my said daughter, Mary Clerke, and of her children the lease of the messuage or tavern called the Cardinal's Hat set and being in Lombard Street in London, and all my right, title, interest and term of years of, in and to the same, which lease was valued to me at two hundred pounds;

Item, more I give and bequeath unto my said daughter, Mary Clerke, certain parcels of plate in value thirty and seven pounds, and certain linen in value twenty pounds, and also carpets, cushions and other household stuff in value ten pounds which I have already delivered unto her;

Item, my further mind and will is that my executor hereunder named shall within one year next after my decease pay or cause to be paid unto the Master and Wardens of the Company of the Vintners within the city of London for the time being at their common hall the sum of five hundred pounds of lawful English money, to be paid at a Court of Assistance for the said Company, which sum of five hundred pounds my will and mind is and I do will and appoint the same so to be paid to the use and benefit of my said daughter, Mary Clerke, and to and for that end and purpose to be employed and bestowed in manner and form hereafter following, that is to say, in or about the purchase of an estate of inheritance or for years in lands, tenements or hereditaments to the full value of the said sum of five hundred pounds, and to be conveyed, being an estate of inheritance, unto my said daughter, Mary Clerke, and her heirs with the assent of the said Master and Wardens of the said Company of the Vintners for the time being and the Assistants of the same in such manner and form and under such condition and proviso, so far-forth as law will permit, as my son-in-law, John Clerke, her now husband, or any other after-taken husband, if my said daughter shall happen to survive her said now husband, John Clerke, shall not alter or convey the same from my said daughter or her children contrary to my meaning, which is wholly for the advancement of her and her children and for some stay of living to be for her and them had:

The like and the same is my will and meaning touching the purchase and conveying of an estate for years if it shall be though[t] to the said Master and Wardens and Assistants of the said Company of the Vintners for the time being to be a more likely and better advancement and relief to my said daughter, Mary, and her children;

And my will and meaning is that in the meanwhile until such purchase either of an estate of inheritance or for years may be conveniently had and made, that the said Master and Wardens of the said Company of the Vintners, with the consent of the Assistants of the said Company, do put forth the said sum of five hundred pounds to the best and assurest profit they can, which profit I will shall be paid unto [f. 94r] my said daughter, Mary Clerke, if she shall be then living, towards the relief of her and her children;

And if my said daughter, Mary, shall be then dead, my will and mind is the same shall be employed and bestowed in and about the maintenance and bringing up of her children in learning;

Provided always and for the performance and execution of this my present last will and testament according to my good meaning herein expressed, my will and mind is that my said son-in-law, John Clerke, together with my said daughter, Mary, his wife, immediately upon payment and delivery made unto them or either of them or their assigns of the sum and sums of money, plate, jewels, household stuff, linen, apparel and legacies given and bequeathed unto them in this my last will, and of so much as shall be

behind and unpaid or delivered unto them at the time of my decease of the gift or bequest of my said late husband and mentioned in his last will and testament, shall make, seal and deliver as their deed or deeds unto my executor a good, sufficient and lawful acquittance and discharge of and for all and all manner sum and sums of money, child's parts, portions, duties and demands whatsoever due or belonging to them or either of them or to be due or belonging unto them or either of them, either by the custom of the city of London or otherwise howsoever of, for or by reason of any the goods, cattle(?), chattels, plate, jewels, ready money or debts of my said husband's or mine, which if my said sonin-law and his wife shall not do, or if they or either of them shall practise or go about to molest, sue or encumber my executor for or by reason of any further or other part or portion thereof than is or shall be due or belonging unto them or either of them, either by this my said last will and testament or by the last will and testament of my said husband, then my will and mind is concerning him, her [=or?] them that shall not make such release as aforesaid or shall practise to go about to molest, sue and encumber my executor contrary to my meaning herein expressed, that this my present devise, will, gift and bequest as well touching the payment and delivery of the said sum of five hundred pounds unto the said Master and Wardens of the Company of the Vintners to be employed and bestowed as aforesaid to and for the benefit and advancement of my said daughter, Mary Clerke, and her children, as also of all other sum and sums of money, goods, chattels, plate, jewels or other things whatsoever to him or her given or bequeathed shall be utterly void and of none effect, and shall be deemed and taken for him, her or them so offending against this my good meaning as if he, she or they had not in this my last will and testament been named, spoken of, or otherwise remembered;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Mrs Buckle, Mr Alderman's Buckle's wife, my ring of gold with my seal of arms in it in token of my goodwill;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Joan Pickering, the wife of Morris Pickering of Westminster, forty shillings to make her a ring;

The residue of all and singular my goods movable and unmovable, plate, ready money, jewels and debts whatsoever unbequeathed, my debts which I in right shall owe at my decease being paid, my funeral expenses discharged, and the legacies and bequests in this my present testament contained being fulfilled, paid and performed, I do wholly give and bequeath unto my said son, Henry Prannell;

And I do make, ordain and appoint the said Henry Prannell, my son, my sole executor of this my present last will and testament, commanding him in the name of Almighty God to perform and execute the same duly and faithfully according to my meaning herein expressed, and that as he will on peril of his soul answer his default and negligence therein;

And I make and appoint the said Mr Alderman Buckle and Edward Bagshaw overseers of the same, desiring them to be aiding and assisting unto my said son, and what in them shall lie to see all the premises faithfully performed, and I do give and bequeath unto either of them five pounds apiece to make each of them a ring;

Modern spelling transcript copyright ©2016 Nina Green All Rights Reserved http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/ And I leave the order and charge of my funeral expenses to the good discretion of my executor and overseers;

And I utterly revoke and annul all former wills, gifts and bequests whatsoever, and will this to stand for my last will and testament, and none [f. 94v] other or otherwise;

In witness whereof I, the said Agnes Prannell, have to this my present last will and testament set my hand and seal the day and years first above-written. A. P.

Sealed and delivered as the last will and testament of the within-named Agnes Prannell in the presence of us, William Cobb, Giles Miles and Robert Sharpe.

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum apud London Coram venerabili viro mag{ist}ro Will{el}mo Lewin legum doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cantuar{iensis} Mag{ist}ro Custode siue Commissario Nono die mensis februarij Anno Domini iuxta cursum et computationem Eccl{es}ie A{n}glicane millesimo quingentesimo nonagesimo tertio Iuramento Ioh{an}nis Theker notarij publici procuratoris Henrici Pranell filij et executoris in huiusmodi testamento nominat{i} Cui commissa fuit Administracio bonorum iurium et creditorum dicti defuncti de bene et fideliter Administra{n}d{o} ect Ad sancta Dei euangelia Iurat{o}

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Lewin, Doctor of the Laws, Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the ninth day of the month of February in the year of the Lord according to the course and reckoning of the English church the thousand five hundred ninety-third by the oath of John Theker, notary public, proctor of Henry Prannell, son and executor named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer etc.]