

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 1 July 1587, with administration granted 4 June 1595, of Sir William Drury (1550-1590), great-grandson of Sir Robert Drury (b. before 1456, d. 1535), lawyer and speaker of the House of Commons, and chief steward and executor to John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford.

The testator was Oxford's associate at court circa 1578-81, and jousted against Oxford in a tournament at Whitehall on 22 January 1581:

An honourable challenge was likewise brought before her Majesty by the Earl of Arundel, calling himself Callophisus, who with his assistant, Sir William Drury, challenged all comers anno 1580 [=1581].

The defenders were the Earl of Oxford, the Lord Windsor, Philip Sidney, Edward Norris, Henry Knollys, Robert Knollys, Fulke Greville, Thomas Knyvet, Thomas Keilway, Ralph Bowes, George Goring, George Gifford, Anthony Cooke, Henry Brouncker, Edward Denny, Richard Ward, Sir Thomas Perrot.

The prize was given to the Earl of Oxford.

See BL Lansdowne 99, ff. 259a-64b, BL Cotton Titus C.6, ff. 5-6, STC 19974.6, and Segar, William, *The Book of Honor and Armes* (New York: Scholars' Facsimiles & Reprints, 1975), p. 95.

The testator married Elizabeth Stafford (d.1600), daughter of Queen Elizabeth's mistress of the robes, Dorothy Stafford (1526-1604). Elizabeth Stafford (d.1600) was herself one of the ladies of the bedchamber from 28 November 1568 until her death, and is referred to in a letter written to Oxford by his estranged wife, Anne Cecil on 12 December 1581: 'For my Lady Drury, I deal as little with her as any can, and care no more for her than you will have me, but I have been driven sometimes for avoiding of malice and envy to do that both with her and others which I would not with my will do' (see BL Lansdowne 104/64, ff. 166-7).

According to the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*:

Sir William Drury (1550–1590) was only just seven when he inherited the family estates. His education followed family tradition, with a brief residence in Cambridge followed by admission to Lincoln's Inn. His marriage to Elizabeth Stafford (d. 1600), daughter of Queen Elizabeth's mistress of the robes and herself one of the ladies of the bedchamber, introduced him into court circles. Their first child, Robert, was born at Durham House, Westminster, on 30 January 1575, followed by two daughters, Frances, born at Hawstead on 13 June 1576, and Elizabeth, born on 4 January 1578, by which date Drury had been knighted. The year 1578 was a momentous one for the young couple. For some time the house at Hawstead had been undergoing considerable refurbishment. Not only had the domestic apartments been altered but the outside walls had been spectacularly

transformed by the insertion of sparkling particles of glass. In short Hawstead Place was ready to receive a royal visit. The queen spent a night in August 1578 there with 'a costly and delicate dinner' (J. Nichols, Progresses of Queen Elizabeth, 1823, 2.117). Tradition maintains that during this visit the queen dropped a silver-handled fan into the moat.

The Drurys were a favoured couple, exchanging new year's gifts with the Queen, but not all Sir William's time was taken up by his attendances at court. . . . Sir William increasingly hankered after a military career, and in 1587 he followed the earl of Leicester to the Netherlands, where he was appointed temporary governor of Bergen-op-Zoom during the absence of its governor, and then given the command of the forts outside the town. His portrait of about this date—depicting him outside a richly decorated tent, half armed and with his helmet and gauntlets at hand against a backdrop of men apparently reconnoitring a walled town—mirrors his self-image. When the Spanish siege of Bergen-op-Zoom was abandoned Sir William returned to England but was almost immediately ordered to re-embark for France as colonel of a thousand men to assist Henri IV. Passing through Bergen-op-Zoom once again he quarrelled with Sir John Borough. In the ensuing duel Sir William received a wound in his arm, which subsequently had to be amputated. He died on 18 January 1590.

On his deathbed Sir William begged Sir Francis Walsingham to entreat the queen 'to be good to his wife and children, and for his eldest sone to leave him to his wife or grandmother' (Campling, 55). His will, drawn up in 1587, contained the appropriate bequests to secure the dower of his wife and the upbringing of his children, and to provide generous marriage portions for his four daughters. He left the plate and household furnishings from Drury House to his wife, and property in Bury St Edmunds to his second son, Charles. Most of the estate, including the mansion house at Hawstead and all the silver plate 'by Inventory remayninge in the butlers charge there' (TNA: PRO, PROB 11/86, fol. 11r), was inherited by his fifteen-year-old son Robert. Such bequests give a misleading impression of opulence. Sir William owed £3000 to the exchequer and another £3000 in private debts. Despite his dying appeal to the queen the entire Drury estate was seized by the crown in 1591 as surety for the debt to the exchequer, and probate of his will was not granted until 1595. Sir William himself was not buried until 6 May 1593, more than four years after his death.

The young Sir Robert Drury (1575–1615) inherited a heavily burdened estate. His guardianship and that of his younger brothers and sisters was in the hands of his mother, who in 1590 married Sir John Scott of Nettlestead, Kent.

Another source, quoting the inquisition post mortem taken after his death, states that the testator died on 8 January 1590, rather than 18 January 1590, and that his eldest son, and heir, Robert Drury (1575-1615), was 15 years 4 months 16 days of age at the time of the testator's death. See *Great Whelnetham Parish Registers 1561 to 1850, Little Whelnetham Parish Registers 1557 to 1850*, Suffolk Green Books, No. XV, (Bury St. Edmunds: Paul & Matthew, 1910), pp. 299-300.

The testator's son and heir, Robert Drury (1575-1615), married Anne Bacon (1572-1624), the daughter of Sir Nicholas Bacon of Redgrave, on 30 January 1592. Robert Drury (1575-1615), was a friend of the poet, John Donne (1572-1631), who commemorated the death of his daughter, Elizabeth Drury, in 1610. From the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*:

[I]n mid-August 1610, with Lady Drury and their daughter Elizabeth, he began an extended journey to Spa and then to Paris. In December, after their return to London, Elizabeth Drury suddenly died. Her funeral was held in St Clement's Church and on 17 December she was buried in Hawstead church. Elizabeth's death was a devastating blow to her parents. Not only did it mean the end of the line of Drurys of Hawstead but she was recognized to be a girl of great charm who had been considered as a possible bride for Henry, prince of Wales. The Latin epitaph on her tomb at Hawstead is reputedly by John Donne; certainly his poems 'A Funerall Elegie' presented to her parents and 'The Anniversaries' commemorating Elizabeth Drury's death mark an increasingly close relationship with the Drurys. Between 1611 and 1612 he travelled with the Drurys on the continent, in the Low Countries and Germany, partly as congenial companion, partly as amanuensis, and on their return to London brought his wife to one of Sir Robert's new houses adjoining Drury House.

For information in the foregoing paragraphs, see entries for the Drury family, Dorothy Stafford, and John Donne in the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*, and Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2004), p. 276.

RM: Testamentum domini Willelmi Drury

In the name of God, Amen. The first day of July in the year of Our Lord God one thousand five hundred fourscore and seven and in the 29th year of the reign of our most gracious Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., I, Sir William Drury of Hawstead in the county of Suffolk, knight, calling to mind the uncertainty of man's life in this transitory world, and seeing of late divers of my familiar friends to be suddenly called by death to God's mercy, am thereby admonished to think of th' end of this my mortal life, and to th' intent I would have all my debts well and truly paid and discharged and that sundry persons should have such legacies of my gift and bequest as hereafter in these presents are declared which I would likewise should be truly contented and satisfied, do revoke and utterly renounce all manner of former wills, testaments and devises whatsoever by me at any time heretofore made, published or pronounced, and do make, ordain and constitute this my present writing to be mine only last will and testament, as well touching and concerning the disposition of all and singular my manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments with th' appurtenances, as also touching my goods, plate, jewels and chattels whatsoever, in manner and form following, that is to say:

First and most principally I will and bequeath my soul unto Almighty God, my heavenly Father, trusting by and through the death and passion of Jesus Christ, his Son, who once offered his body upon the cross as a sacrifice for the redemption of me and all mankind, to be saved and received into his kingdom, there to remain with his elect flock forever and ever;

My body to be buried in the earth either within the parish church or chancel of Hawstead aforesaid or else in such other parish as it shall please Almighty God to call me to his mercy, to be bestowed according to the discretion of my executors and other my friends then being about me;

And as touching my lands, tenements and hereditaments, my intent and meaning is and I do declare & signify my mind to be in that behalf that my manor of Whepstead with th' appurtenances in Whepstead or elsewhere in the county of Suffolk (except the several words [sic] of the said manor), all that my manor or farm with th' appurtenances called Hencote(?) Grange and the sheep's course to the same belonging in the said county of Suffolk, my manor called Hoorees with th' appurtenances (except the several woods of the said manor of Hoorees in the said county), all that my annuity or yearly rent of four pounds due or issuable out of the manor of Lawshall in the said county, and also all and singular those my gardens being near unto my mansion house called Drury House in the parish of St Clements Without the Bars of the New Temple in London not assured already to my wife, shall descend after my death to my heir according to the course of the laws of this realm as a full third part of all my manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments within the realm of England;

And I will and bequeath to my executors hereafter named towards the payment of my debts and performing of this my last will and testament my manors of Hawstead cum Backinghams alias Talmagies with th' appurtenances in Hawstead aforesaid or elsewhere in the said county of Suffolk, all that piece or parcel of land in Hawstead called Brickle Lees with th' appurtenances containing by estimation two acres, and twelve acres of land with th' appurtenances thereunto near adjoining, ten acres of land lying in (blank), parcel of Inghams, and one piece of land with th' appurtenances in Flowton in the said county of Suffolk, all that my manor called Pickares with th' appurtenances in Rede in the said county of Suffolk, and all and singular my woods and underwoods before in these presents excepted, to have and to hold the same unto my said executors and to the survivor of them from the day of the death of me, the said Sir William Drury, knight, unto the full end and term of nine years from thence next ensuing and fully to be complete and ended;

And I will also that my said executors or the survivors or survivor of them at their or his will and pleasure during the said term shall fell, sell and carry away such seasonable woods being under th' age of twenty years as to them before in these presents I have willed and bequeathed unto them;

And also I will that my said executors shall yearly and every year for and during the said term of nine years make a true and perfect account of all and singular their receipts and

payments of the issues, profits and revenues of the said premises to them before bequeathed unto the supervisors of this my last will and testament hereafter likewise named and assigned, and that they, my said executors and supervisors, shall keep several books of accounts, thone book remaining in the hands of my executors and thother in the hands of my supervisors, and that they, my said executors, shall at th' end and expiration of the said term of nine years make a like true and perfect account of all their aforesaid receipts and payments unto my next heir male that shall be then living, and that th' arrearages which shall be remaining or due upon the said last account shall be by my said executors or the survivor of them or th' executors of such survivor, my debts being paid, my funeral expenses discharged, and the gifts and legacies mentioned in this my last will and testament distributed, well and truly contented and paid unto my said heir male then living;

Also I will that my said mansion house at Hawstead and all and singular other the manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments with th' appurtenances heretofore bequeathed or limited to my executors shall from and after th' end and determination of the said term of nine years wholly remain unto Robert Drury, my son and heir apparent, and to th' heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for want of such issue unto the use and behoof of the second son of the body of me, the said Sir William Drury, lawfully begotten or to be begotten and to th' heirs males of the body of the second son lawfully begotten or to be begotten, and for want of such issue to th' use of the third son of the body of me, the said Sir William, lawfully begotten and to be begotten and of th' heirs males of the body of the said third son lawfully begotten or to be begotten, and for want of such issue to the fourth and fifth sons of me, the said Sir William, lawfully begotten or to be begotten and to th' heirs males of the bodies of the said fourth and fifth sons of the body of me, the said Sir William, and for want of such issue to the use and behoof of Thomas Drury, my brother, and of th' heirs males of his body lawfully begotten and to be begotten, and for want of such issue to the use of my cousin, Henry Drury of Lawshall, and to th' heirs males of his body lawfully begotten and to be begotten, and for want of such issue to the use and behoof of th' heirs males of the body of Sir William Drury, knight, my grandfather, deceased, lawfully begotten or to be begotten, and for want of such issue to the use and behoof of the right heirs of me, the said Sir William, Drury, knight, forever;

And whereas I have conveyed heretofore unto the Lady Elizabeth, my wife, for and in recompense and consideration of her jointure for and during the term of her natural life divers and sundry manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments with th' appurtenances, viz., Brockley, Wifeldes, Chedburgh and Hanningfield in the said county of Suffolk and other places, my will and meaning is that if it shall happen my said wife to depart this mortal life, my heir male at the time of her death being within th' age of 21 years, that immediately from and after the death of my said wife my said executors shall likewise have all and singular the said manors, lands and tenements so to her assured for and towards this my last will and testament for and until such time as my said heir male shall accomplish his full age of twenty and one years, and shall in the meantime make like accounts thereof unto my supervisors as before is mentioned that they should do for thother lands to them devised, and shall also make account and payment of th' arrearages,

if any shall be, unto my said heir male at his full age of twenty and one years as is likewise before mentioned;

Also I will, give and bequeath unto the said Lady Elizabeth, my wife, forever all that my parcel gilt plate which now is commonly occupied and used or at the time of my death shall be remaining in my said house called Drury House or elsewhere, and also all that plain silver plate which she occupieth and continually remaineth with her upon the cupboard in her chamber, and also I will and bequeath unto my said wife and to her assigns forever all and singular such stuff, linen, hangings, bedding and implements of household whatsoever as shall be at the time of my death remaining in or about the said house called Drury House, and all her chains, jewels and apparel, linen, and two hundred pounds in money, and also my coach and coach-horses with all their furniture, my double gelding with the pillion and furniture of velvet [RM: her own velvet saddle and the furniture of velvet] to the same, and two other good geldings fit to serve for yeomen to attend upon her;

And whereas before in this my present will it is mentioned that divers manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments were heretofore conveyed unto the said Lady Elizabeth, my wife, for and in consideration of her jointure, and for that the manor of Marlesford, being parcel of the lands so conveyed for her jointure, is sithence by me bargained and sold away, my will and meaning is and I do give and bequeath in recompense thereof unto my said wife for and during her natural life all that my manor of Cobdoes alias Copdoes with th' appurtenances which I lately purchased of Philip Strelley, esquire, to have and to hold the same unto my said wife and her assignee for and during her natural life as aforesaid;

Also I will and bequeath unto my son, Robert Drury, all my silver plate which I now have or commonly use in my house at Hawstead as by an inventory remaining in the butler's charge there it doth more plainly appear, and all my chains, jewels, stuff and implements of household whatsoever which at the time of my death shall be at my said house at Hawstead or elsewhere by me herein not before bequeathed, willed or given and which I shall not give away or otherwise dispose in my lifetime, to be safely delivered according to this my gift unto my said heir by my executors by an inventory indented at the time of his full age of one and twenty years, and my will and meaning is that my executors shall in the meantime safely keep and preserve the same and every part thereof, so much as in them lieth, unto the use of my said son, Robert;

And if my said son, Robert, shall die before that age having issue male of his body lawfully begotten, then I will the said plate, jewels and household stuff last before mentioned shall be and remain to th' eldest issue male of the body of my said son, Robert, begotten at the like full age of 21 years of the same issue male, to be delivered as aforesaid, and so by way of substitution or remainder from heir male to heir male to the next heir male of the body of the said Robert that shall first accomplish the said age of 21 years, to be delivered at the same age in manner and form aforesaid;

And for want [+of] such issue male and after the decease of my said son, Robert, then to Charles, my son, at his like age of one and twenty years, to be delivered in manner and

form abovesaid, and if it shall happen my said son, Charles, shall die before that age having issue male of his body lawfully begotten, then I will the said plate, jewels and household stuff last before mentioned shall be and remain to the eldest issue male of the body of my said son, Charles, begotten at the like full age of one and twenty years of the same issue male, to be delivered as aforesaid;

And for want of such issue male of my body and after the deceases of the said Robert and Charles without issue male as aforesaid, then to my brother, Thomas Drury, if he be then living, and if it shall happen the same Thomas before that time to be deceased having issue male living of his body lawfully begotten, then to the next heir male of the said Thomas lawfully begotten that shall first happen to the said age of twenty and one years;

And for want of such issue male and after the deceases of my said sons and brother without issue male as aforesaid, then I will, give and bequeath the said plate, jewels and household stuff to be parted and divided equally to and amongst all my daughters that then shall be living by my executors, and in the meantime while and until the time shall be accomplished for the delivery of the said plate, jewels and household stuff according to my meaning abovesaid, I will and my meaning is that my executors and th' executors of my executors shall have the safe custody of all and singular the said plate, jewels and household stuff;

Also I do will and bequeath unto Frances Drury, my daughter, one thousand pounds; to Elizabeth Drury, one other of my daughters, one thousand marks; to Diana Drury, one other of my daughters, one thousand marks; and to Susanna, one other of my daughters, one thousand marks if they shall have a brother living at the time of my death, to be paid unto every of them by my executors as they shall accomplish thre [sic] several ages of one and twenty years or at the time of their several marriages, which shall first come and happen next after my decease, and if it shall happen any of my said daughters to die before they or any one of them so dying shall accomplish her or their full age of twenty and one years or before her or their marriage or marriages as aforesaid, then my will and meaning is that the portion or portions of her or them so departing this life shall be equally divided and parted amongst so many of my said daughters as shall then be living for the increasing of their portions hereinbefore bequeathed;

And if it shall happen that they shall have no brother living at the time of my decease nor issue male of their or either of their two bodies lawfully begotten as before is specified, then my will and meaning is for the more sure performance of the several portions and every of them for and towards the augmentation of the before-mentioned portions and every of them which herein I shall further give and bequeath unto my said daughters and to every of them that shall be unmarried at the time of my decease, that after all the issues males of my body spent and extinct, then I will and appoint that such other person or persons to whom my said manors, lands, tenenements [sic] and hereditaments or any of them shall remain or come according to my will and meaning before expressed shall out of the same pay and discharge to every of my said daughters that shall be as aforesaid unmarried at the time of my death for and toward the preferment and advancement of them and every of them that shall be so unmarried as aforesaid the full sum of one

thousand marks at the several times or ages before limited or within one whole year next after every of the said times or ages at my now dwelling-house or place in Hawstead aforesaid, and for default of the same payments of the said legacies and portions or any of them in manner and form as before I have appointed, then I will and my meaning is that his and their estate and estates at [sic?] my said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments shall cease and be void and determined, and then I will and my true meaning is that all my said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments shall wholly and immediately remain to my right heirs forever, any other remainders or other things before herein contained to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding;

Also I do will, give and bequeath unto my son, Charles, all that my reversion and term of years which I have of, in and to (blank) Barnes in Bury called or known by the name of the Aumers(?) Barnes, now in the tenure or occupation of one Anthony Payne, and of, in and to all her profits and commodities whatsoever hereunto belonging by virtue of the Queen's Majesty's grant thereof to me made, the said Charles, my son, to have the same my gift when he shall accomplish the age of twenty and one years, and my will and meaning is that if at the time of my death the said Charles shall not have accomplished the said years and age as aforesaid, then that my executors shall take, receive and perceive all and singular the profits, commodities and advantages whatsoever of the same arising, coming and growing, and the same and every part and parcel of them employ and convert to the best advantage of the said Charles, and the same to be redelivered to the said Charles wh[e]n he shall accomplish the age aforesaid;

And also I do will and bequeath to my said son, Charles, one parcel gilt basin and ewer, and my greatest agate which I commonly wear, to be likewise delivered him at the age aforesaid;

Also I will, give and grant unto my brother, Thomas Drury, for and during his natural life one annuity or yearly rent of twenty pounds issuing out of my manor of Hawstead at the feasts of the Annunciation of Our Lady and St Michael th' Archangel by even and equal portions, the first payment thereof to begin at the feast of th' Annunciation of Our Lady or of St Michael the Archangel which shall first come and happen next after the full age of my heir male, and that if default shall be made of the said annuity of twenty pounds in part or in all at any of the said days of payment, that then it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Thomas Drury and the assigns of him to enter into the said manor of Hawstead or any part thereof, and there to distrain for the said annuity and arrearages of the same, if any shall happen to be, as for a rentcharge;

And also I do will, give and bequeath to my said brother one hundred pounds in money and one good ambling gelding;

And I do give and bequeath unto the Lady Dorothy Stafford, my mother-in-law, my double gilt basin and ewer as a token of my goodwill;

And I do give and bequeath unto my sister, Audrey Drury, towards her marriage, if she be not married before my death, the sum of two hundred marks and one of the fairest suit of

gold buttons with pearl which I shall have at the time of my decease, and to every of my sisters that shall be married and in life at the time of my decease one standing cup gilt to the value of six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence a cup, which legacies so bequeathed to my sisters shall be paid and delivered by my executors, and the said cups by them also to be bought, provided and delivered with my arms graven upon every such cup;

Also I do will, give and bequeath unto my well-beloved friend, Anthony Gawey [sic], esquire, for a remembrance of me my best ambling gelding which is for mine own saddle, and the best furniture of velvet which I shall then use to ride in before the time of my death, and also one of my best trotting horses with the furniture to such a horse belonging, and a fair gilt bowl with a cover which hath a branch of rosemary in the top of it and the bowl set about the brim with agates;

And I do give and bequeath to my loving cousin, John Jermyn of Debden, esquire, one ewer of silver double gilt, to be made and provided by my executors for him to the value of twenty pounds with my arms graven thereupon, and the fairest brooch which I shall then at my decease have, to wear in his hat for a remembrance of me;

Also I do will, give and bequeath to my servant, George Parker, one of my best cloaks of velvet, one pair of my best velvet hose, with a pair of my best silk stocks, and my best satin doublet which at the time of my decease I shall then have, and fifty pounds in money;

Also I do give and grant unto William Mynne, my nephew and godson, for and during his natural life one annuity or yearly rent of twenty nobles issuing out of my manor of Hawstead at the feasts of St Michael th' Archangel and th' Annunciation of Our Lady by even and equal portions, the first payment thereof to begin at the feast of St. Michael th' Archangel or th' Annunciation of Our Lady which shall first come and happen next after my decease, and if default shall be made of the said annuity of twenty nobles in part or in all at any of the said days of payment, that then it shall and may be lawful to and for the said William Mynne and the assigns of him to enter into the said manor of Hawstead or any part thereof to distrain for the said annuity and arrearages of the same, if any shall happen to be, as for a rentcharge;

And I do give, grant and bequeath to Peter Lyly [=Lyly], my trusty servant, for and during his natural life one annuity or yearly rent of five marks issuing out of my said manor of Hawstead at the like feasts last above remembered, and the first payment thereof to begin and be in all things to the said Peter as th' annuity before granted to my nephew, William Mynne, is;

Also I do will, give and bequeath the most part and the worst of my apparel to be equally divided amongst such of my servants as do daily wait, attend and take pains about me, and also I do give unto every one of my servants that shall be towards me and in wages at the time of my death one whole year's wages over and above all such wages as shall be then due unto them;

Also my will and meaning is that no part of the household stuff, of what kind soever the same be of, being or remaining at or within the house of Hawstead aforesaid, whereof there remain divers parts of inventories indented now in my study at Hawstead, the other parts with them to whom the charge of the same now is, shall be removed from thence, but that the same and every part and parcel thereof shall be safely kept, maintained and preserved by my executors to th' use of my heir male, and that the same shall be safely delivered unto him by my executors by inventory indented at such time as he shall fully accomplish his said age of one and twenty years;

And lastly I do will, give and bequeath unto my well-beloved in Christ the right honourable Robert, Lord Rich, my best suit of diamond buttons for a cap-band, whereof six of them are with great diamonds and other six of them with two great pearls apiece in them, and one of my best stoned horse[s] with the best furniture that at the time of my death I shall then have;

And to the right worshipful John Clenche, one of the Justices of her Majesty's Bench, one of my best ambling or trotting geldings which I shall have at the time of my death, the choice thereof to be in himself, and also to him one of the fairest standing gilt cups of silver which I shall then have;

And to Mr Edward Cooke [=Coke], counsellor, one of my best ambling geldings and one of the fairest gilt bowls or cup[s] of silver which I shall then have to the value of twenty pounds;

And all the residue of my goods, chattels, plate, jewels, movables, corn and leases heretofore in this my present last will and testament not given, willed or bequeathed, I will shall be employed to the true performance of this my last will;

And I do make, ordain, name, appoint and constitute my dear and well-beloved wife, the Lady Elizabeth Drury, my cousin, John Jermyn, esquire, my good and ancient friend, Anthony Gawdy, esquire, and George Parker, my servant, to be my executors, desiring them to take upon them the execution of this my present last will and testament;

And I do likewise make and constitute the foresaid Lord Rich, John Clenche and Edward Cooke supervisors of this my said last will and testament, trusting they will, and beseeching them most friendly to call upon my said executors for the true performance and execution of this my present last will and testament according to the intent and true meaning of the same, and also yearly to take accounts of my said executors for such sums of money as shall come unto their hands, and furthermore to aid, help and assist them in all manner of doubts and such other things meet and necessary as shall be needful and requisite for or about the due execution and performance of this my present last will and testament;

In witness whereof I, the said Sir William Drury, knight, to this my present last will and testament have subscribed my name and signed the same with my seal of arms the day and year first above-written. W. Drury.

And that this last will and testament of Sir William Drury containeth fifteen leaves of paper written, and to every leaf he hath set to his hand, whereof in the fourth, sixteenth [sic?] and fourteenth leaves there are interlinings, and in the fifth and thirteenth leaves are divers words blotted out, and so sealed, subscribed, delivered and pronounced as his last will in the presence of Thomas Goodrich, George Parker, Jasper Taverner, John Tonny(?).

Quarto Die mensis Iunij Anno domini millesimo quingentesimo Nonagesimo quinto emanavit comissio Roberto Drury militi filio naturali et legitimo dicti defuncti ad administranda bona Iura et Credita dicti defuncti iuxta tenorem testamenti suprascripti pro ea quod Domina Elizabetha Drury relicta dicti defuncti Iohannes Jermyn et Anthonius Gawdy arminger et Georgius Parker generosus executores in dicto Testamento Nominati ex certis causis eos et animos suos in ea parte moventibus oneri executionis dicti testamenti expresse renunciauerunt De bene etc in persona Thome Browne notarij publici procuratoris sui in hac parte constituti iurati examinatum

On the fourth day of the month of June in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred ninety-fifth a grant issued to Robert Drury, knight, natural and legitimate son of the said deceased, to administer the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased according to the tenor of the above-written testament because Lady Elizabeth Drury, relict of the said deceased, John Jermyn and Anthony Gawdy, esquire, and George Parker, gentleman, executors named in the said testament, for certain causes them and their minds moving in that respect, expressly renounced the burden of the execution of the said testament, sworn to well etc., in the person of Thomas Browne, notary public, his proctor constituted in that behalf. Examined.]