

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 20 March 1488 and proved June 1488, of Sir Edmund Shaa, who as Lord Mayor of London is said to have offered the crown to Richard III.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator is said to have been the son of John Shaa of Dukinfield, Cheshire. He was the brother of Ralph Shaa, notorious for having preached a sermon at Paul's Cross impugning the legitimacy of the sons of Edward IV. See the *ODNB* entries for the testator and his brother, Ralph Shaa.

According to his will the testator had a sister married to Henry Harsnape; a sister married to a husband surnamed Cote [=Henry Coote?]; a sister married to the goldsmith, Thomas Wood (for his will see TNA PROB 11/14/53); a sister married to a husband surnamed Kelke [Stephen Kelke?]; and a sister married to a husband surnamed Harding.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

As indicated in the will, the testator married a wife named Julyan (d. July 1494), by whom he had a son and two daughters:

* **Hugh Shaa**, who died unmarried and without issue, as a result of which the testator's eventual heir was his nephew, Sir John Shaa (died c.1503), Lord Mayor of London.

* **Margaret Shaa**, who married a London mercer, Thomas Rich, the son of John Rich (d. 29 July 1458). For the will of John Rich, proved 4 November 1458, see TNA PROB 11/4/279. By his wife, Isabel Pulter, John Rich had three sons, Richard Rich, Thomas Rich and John Rich, and it seems almost certain that his son, Richard Rich, was the grandfather of Richard Rich (1496/7 – 12 June 1567), 1st Baron Rich and Lord Chancellor of England, by reason of the fact that the Lord Chancellor's residuary legatee was Edward Rich the elder (d.1599) of Horndon, grandson of Margaret Shaa's husband, Thomas Rich. See the will of Richard Rich, 1st Baron Rich, TNA PROB 11/50/176.

Margaret Shaa and her husband, Thomas Rich, had a son, Thomas Rich (d. 3 March 1531) of South Weald, Essex, who married Rachel Newburgh, the daughter of Thomas Newburgh (d.1513), esquire, of Berkley, Somerset. It is said that Margaret Shaa and Thomas Rich also had a daughter, Katherine Rich, who married firstly a husband named Barker, and secondly Sir Ralph Wiseman of Rivenhall, Essex; however this marriage may belong to a later generation, as in his will dated 11 May 1598 Edward Rich the younger (d.1598) mentions 'my sister Wiseman'. See TNA PROB 11/92/27.

Thomas Rich (d. 3 March 1531) and Rachel Newburgh had a son, Edward Rich the elder (d.1599) of Horndon on the Hill, Essex. For the will of Thomas Rich of South Weald,

Essex, dated 3 January 1531 and proved 4 April 1531, in which he mentions his wife, Rachel, his son, Edward, and a daughter, Margaret, see TNA PROB 11/24/36. For the will of Edward Rich the elder of Horndon, said to have been made 30 April 1599, see ERO D/AEW 11/320 at:

http://seax.essexcc.gov.uk/Result_Details.aspx?DocID=902135

After the death of Thomas Rich (d. 3 March 1531), Rachel Newburgh married James Strelley of Nottingham, gentleman. See:

D J Keene and Vanessa Harding, 'St. Mary le Bow 104/12', in *Historical Gazetteer of London Before the Great Fire Cheapside; Parishes of All Hallows Honey Lane, St Martin Pomary, St Mary Le Bow, St Mary Colechurch and St Pancras Soper Lane* (London, 1987), pp. 252-255. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/no-series/london-gazetteer-pre-fire/pp252-255> [accessed 19 September 2018].

In 1541 James Strilley of Nottingham, gentleman, and his wife Rachel, widow of Thomas Riche, gentleman, leased their messuage or tenement with cellars, solars, warehouses and yard adjoining, in Bow churchyard in the parish of St. Mary le Bow to George Robynson, citizen and mercer, for 40 years at £8 rent. The lessors covenanted to repair, maintain, pave and cleanse during the term if Rachel should live so long, and the lessee agreed to pay all quit-rents. In 1543 James Strilley and Rachel, with Edward Riche, gentleman, son and heir of the said Thomas Riche, granted and quitclaimed to Anthony Marker (? recte Marler), citizen and haberdasher, in their messuage in Bow churchyard, in which Marker lived.

It would appear that this is the James Strelley to whom Henry VIII granted the White Friars in Nottingham in 1541. See:

'Henry VIII: November 1541, 21-30', in *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII, Volume 16, 1540-1541*, ed. James Gairdner and R H Brodie (London, 1898), pp. 629-644. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/letters-papers-hen8/vol16/pp629-644> [accessed 19 September 2018].

64. *James Sturley, of Notyngham, Notts Grant, in fee, of the late priory of Whyte Fryers in Notyngham; a garden and other lands in the parish of St. Nicholas; and certain lands in the parish of St. Mary in Notyngham (tenants named). Westm. Palace, 21 Nov. 33 Hen. VIII. Del. Westm., 25 Nov.—P.S. Pat. p. 4, m. 8.*

In 1573 Humphrey Strelley, presumably James Strelley's son, sold the White Friars to Sir John Manners (c.1534 – 4 June 1611), younger son of Thomas Manners, 1st Earl of Rutland. See:

<http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/tts/tts1930/itinerary1930p6.htm>

To return to the Rich family. Edward Rich the elder (d.1599), the son of Thomas Rich (d. 3 March 1531) and Rachel Newburgh, married Joan Saunders, the daughter of Edward Saunders (d.1549), leather seller of London, who lived in Newington and owned property in Southwark (see his will, TNA PROB 11/32/319).

As mentioned above, Edward Rich the elder (d.1599), grandson of Thomas Rich and Margaret Shaa, was the residuary legatee of Richard Rich (d. 12 June 1567), 1st Baron Rich and Lord Chancellor of England. As indicated above, his son, Edward Rich the younger, predeceased him; see his will, *supra*.

To return to Margaret Shaa and her husband, Thomas Rich. He was living in 1506, but had died by 1513; in the will of Margaret's brother-in-law, Sir William Browne, dated 29 May 1513, she is described as 'Margaret Riche, widow'. It is not known whether she remarried.

For the foregoing discussion of the Shaa and Rich families, see Collins, Arthur, *The Peerage of England*, 3rd ed., (London: W. Innys and J. Richardson, 1756), Vol. II, pp. 233-5 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=QIkUAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA233>

For the wills of Richard Rich and Thomas Rich, see also Nicolas, Nicholas Harris, *Testamenta Vetusta*, Vol. I, (London: Nichols and Son, 1826), pp. 299, 339 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/testamentavetust01nico#page/298>

See also Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 55; and the Rich pedigree in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex*, Vol. XIII, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), pp. 276-7 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/visitationsofess1314metc#page/276/mode/2up>

[It should be noted, however, that the pedigree of Riche in Metcalfe, *supra*, erroneously states that 'Robert' Rich of Weald, Essex, was the husband of Rachel Newburgh.]

* **Katherine Shaa**, who was unmarried at the time the testator made his will. After the testator's death she married Sir William Browne (d. 3 June 1514), Lord Mayor of London in 1513, son and heir of Sir John Browne, Lord Mayor of London in 1480, and nephew of Sir William Browne, Lord Mayor of London in 1507. See Brown, James Roberts, 'Jno. and Wm. Browne, Sheriffs and Lord Mayors of London', *Notes and Queries*, Vol. V, 7th Series, (London: John C. Francis, 1888), pp. 151-3 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=wWkEAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA151>

See also Middleton, Thomas, 'Sir Edmund Shaa', *Legends of Longdenale*, (Hyde: Fred Higham, 1906), pp. 49-54 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/legendsoflongden00midd#page/48/mode/2up>

See also Sharpe, Reginald R., *Calendar of Wills Proved and Enrolled in the Court of Husting, London, A.D. 1258 - A.D. 1688, Part II*, (London: John Francis, 1890), pp. 611-12, 617, 639-41 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/calendarofwillsp02lond#page/612/mode/2up>

The testator died 20 April 1488, and was buried in the church of St Thomas of Acres in London.

For the will of Dame Julyan Shaa, see TNA PROB 11/10/214. For the will of Hugh Shaa, see TNA PROB 11/8/657. For the will of Sir John Shaa, see TNA PROB 11/14/156.

As executors, the testator appointed his wife, Julyan, his friend, Sir Reginald Bray, his cousin, Geoffrey Downes, his son-in-law, Thomas Rich, and his nephew and eventual heir, John Shaa. Sir Reginald Bray had a lengthy career in the service of Henry VII and his mother, Margaret Beaufort. By 1506 the testator's son-in-law, Thomas Rich, was the testator's only surviving executor. See:

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=7086>

It is said that Shaa, as mayor of London, offered the crown to Richard III. He appears in that role in Shakespeare's *Richard III*.

RM: Test{amentu}m Edmundi Shaa

In the name of God be it, Amen. The 20th day of the month of March the year of Our Lord after th' account of the Church of England 1487th and the 3rd year of the reign of King Henry the 7th, I, Edmund Shaa, knight, Citizen and Goldsmith and Alderman and late Mayor of the City of London, though I be visited with sickness of the visitation of Our Lord Jesus Christ, nevertheless being of whole mind and in good memoir [=memory], not willing, with the help of God, in as much as in me is to depart intestate out of this mortal life, make and ordain this my present testament in the form that followeth:

First I bequeath and recommend my soul to my Lord Jesus Christ, my Maker and my Redeemer, to the most glorious Virgin, his Mother, Our Lady Saint Mary, to the full glorious Confessor, Saint Dunstan, and to the holy company of heaven;

And my body to be buried in the body of the church of Saint Thomas of Acres in London, that is to say, between the pillar of the same church whereupon the image of Saint

Michael th' Archangel standeth before the altar there called Saint Thomas' altar, and the nether end of the same church, that is to wit, as nigh the same pillar as my body there reasonably may be laid;

And in consideration that I have borne th' office of mayoralty of the said City, I will for the honour of the same City that my body be brought from my house to the parish church of Saint Peter's in Cheap where I am a parishen, as the manner is, and from thence to my burying at Saint Thomas of Acres aforesaid in discreet and honest wise without pomp of the world, and I will have 24 honest torches to be borne by 24 poor persons to convey my body from mine house to my said parish church, as the manner is, and so to my burying aforesaid, and will have the same 24 torches [f. 95v] and 4 honest tapers to be holden in like wise by 4 poor persons to burn at mine exequies to be done for my soul, as well at my burying as at my month's mind to be done for me, and I will that every of the torch-bearers and taper-holders have for their such labours to pray for my soul after all my said exequies full done 20d;

And whereas th' usage is in the City of London at burying of the body of a man that hath borne th' office of mayoralty of the same City, and at his month mind, for the Mayor, Aldermen, Recorders and other worshipful and honest commoners of this City for to be present in their proper persons, therefore to th' intent that they may understand that I was a true loving brother of theirs, and am in perfect charity with them and with every of them, if it will like the Mayor and his brethren the Aldermen and the Recorder of the City of London for to be at my dirge and Mass of Requiem to be done for me at my month's mind, I would tenderly desire them, after the said Mass of Requiem done, for to take such a repast as mine executors by the sufferance of Our Lord God shall provide for them and in place to them to be limited, and I will that every of the said Mayor, Alderman and Recorder so being present at my said dirge and Mass of Requiem, after their such repast finished, have of my gift by the hands of my said executors to remember my soul among their devout meditations, inasmuch as I was a brother amongst them, 6s 8d;

And I will that the Chamberlain of London, Master William Dunthorne, Town Clerk, the Mayor's sword-bearer, the two Under-Sheriffs of London, the Water-Bailie of London and Cameracy, the Sergeant, being present in like wise at my said dirge and Mass of Requiem and repast, have every of them 5s to have my soul in semblable remembrance;

And I will that every of the remnant of the Mayor's Sergeants and every of the 4 Clerks of the Mayor's Court, and the Under-Chamberlain of London, being present under like form have 3s 4d to have my soul in like remembrance;

I will also that every of the yeomen attending upon the Mayor called the Mayor's Yeomen, and of the Yeomen of the Chamber of London, have in like wise to pray for my soul 2s 6d;

Also I will that the Wardens and Fellowship of the whole clothing of my craft of Goldsmiths, or other persons Wardens of other honest crafts of this City, as many as shall be thought by the discretions of mine executors to be had coming to my said dirge and

Mass of Requiem at my month's mind, after that Mass so done, have an honest repast at my cost and charge for their such labour to be had in that behalf;

Also I will that mine executors ordain discreet [-discreet] persons, such and as many as they shall seem expedient, for to distribute among poor people at my month's mind the day that my Mass of Requiem shall be done upon, £20 or little more or little less, giving to every poor creature as they shall seem needful after their wise discretions, that is to wit, to some person being aged and feeble 2d, and to every person at the least 1d, as far as the said sum of £20 or little more or little less will extend unto;

And I will that 4 honest persons of my said craft, being in the livery of the Fellowship of my same craft, bear my body from my house to my said parish church, and from thence to Saint Thomas of Acres to my burying, and I will that every of them have for his such labour 6s 8d;

And after all my said exequies be full done, then I bequeath the said 24 torches to be disposed by mine executors for my soul in the form suing, that is to wit, 4 of the best of them to my said parish church of Saint Peter's in Cheap, and other 4 torches of them to the said church of Saint Thomas of Acres in London, and all the remnant of the said torches to be distributed by mine executors to other churches as well within the City of London as without whereas they by their wise discretions shall seem most needful to be done for the weal of my soul;

And after all my said funerals, expenses and charges aforesaid be full done in all degrees as they owen [=ought] to be done, then I will that all such duties as shall be found due and owing by me to any person or persons of right or conscience, if any such by due examination had can be found, be first and foremost and before all other things well and truly paid;

And in especial I will have restitution made by mine executors of wrongs by me done after my conceit for the discharge of my conscience thereof as soon as they may goodly after my decease, that is to wit, I had to do in my dues with Master Radclif, sometime Dean of Paul's, whose soul God assoil, in certain businesses whereof my conscience grudgeth me that I wronged him to the value of £14 or little more or little less, wherefore I will that restitution be made by mine executors to Master Radclyff, his brother and executor, of the said sum of £14 under this form, I will that mine executors show unto him the said grudge of my conscience and how I have assigned unto him by my testament as executor to his said brother £14 of restitution, entreating him that sithen the said money cometh unto him as executor to his said brother of gree, that it would like him to take the one half thereof and dispose it for them that it came of after his own pleasure, and the other half that it will like him of his charity [f. 96r] to assign it to be bestowed by mine executors in amending of foul and noxious ways lying about Horndon in the county of Essex for the souls of them that it grew of, if he will agree so to do, the which if he refuse to do, then I will that he have the whole £14 to dispose it as it shall please him, and he to discharge my conscience thereof afore Almighty God;

Item, whereas there remaineth in mine hands at this day of the goods of John A' Monmouth that is dead, sometime servant with the Lord Herbert that is dead, the value of 5 marks, and my conscience giveth me to make restitution thereof to such one as may discharge me thereof, wherefore I will that mine executors, as soon as they may goodly after my decease, forasmuch as the said John neither left executors nor administrators of his goods after him, that they do inquire what child or children of his or any other kinsfolk of his be left alive, as late he had a daughter in the City which then was simply guided, and with God's gree if she be alive she may be well reformed, and if she so be, then I would she had the said 5 mark and pray specially for her father's soul and the souls of such friends as it came of;

And if she be not alive or that she live and be not well guided, and that she have none other kinsfolk to have it, then I will that mine executors take good advice of some sad Doctors of Divinity what is best to do with the said 5 mark for the weal of the soul of the said John A' Monmouth and for the discharge of mine conscience, and then mine executors to perform the same;

Item, whereas a kinsman of mine called Richard Shaa caused me 40 winter[s] past and more to go with him to a man's ground in the Peak in Derbyshire to take a distress there, and so we took for a distress there two oxen and drave them thence, the which I am sure came never again to his possession that ought them, and because that deed was done in my wanton days when I lacked discretion, therefore I have a remorse thereof now in these days being better advised, wherefore I will that mine executors as soon as they may goodly after my decease do inquire after that man that so was distrained in the Peak, whether he be alive or dead, and if he be dead to have a[n] understanding who beeth his executors or his kinsfolk next of his blood, and if mine executors can find any such, then I will that mine executors restore to that man, and he be alive, or to his executors or kinsfolk aforesaid 20s for the hurts that he hath sustained by the losing of the said two oxen, they to do it for his soul as God may be best pleased, and I think that Thomas Aleyn dwelling in a town called Whetstone in Derbyshire can best make enquiry what man that was that so was distrained and where he dwelled, for it is not readily now in my remembrance, and if that man be dead, I hope that the said Thurston [sic?] shall give knowledge to mine executors who beeth his executors or administrators, if any be, and if none be found, then who beeth his next kinsfolk, if any such be, and if none such can be found, then I will that mine executors take good advice of some sad Doctors of Divinity to understand what is best to do with the said 20s for the weal of the soul of the said man that was distrained and for the discharge of my conscience, and then mine executors to perform the same;

Item, I bequeath to the high altar of the said parish church of Saint Peter's in Cheap for my tithes or oblations withholden or forgotten, if any such be, as I know no such for to be, yet for the discharge of my soul thereof to th' intent that the curate there pray specially for my soul and give me a plain absolution of all such negligence whatsoever it be, 10s;

Item, I desire the parson, priests and clerks of the said parish church of Saint Peter's to do placebo, dirge and Mass of Requiem devoutly by note in the same parish church of Saint Peter's by the space of an whole month next suing after my decease, that is to wit, doing over eve placebo and dirge by note and on the morrow Mass of Requiem by note, and I bequeath to every of the said parson, priests and clerks for his such labour to be had in that behalf 6s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to every house of the 4 Orders of Friars of the City of London, that is to wit, Minors, Preachers, Austens [=Augustinians] and Carmes [=Carmelites] called White Friars, 20s, to th' intent that as soon as they may goodly after notice be brought unto them of my departing out of this mortal life, every convent of every of the said houses do a trental of Masses for my soul in their own convent church, and in every of their such Masses pray specially and devoutly for my said soul, and over that, that the convent of every of the said houses help to convey my body to my parish church as they beeth used to do for honest dead bodies, and also that every convent of every of their said houses do placebo, dirge and Mass of Requiem solemnly by note in their own convent church for my soul and for all Christian souls as soon as they may goodly after my decease;

Item, I bequeath to the sustentation of the Fraternity of Saint Gile[s] founded in the parish church of Saint Gile[s] without Cripplegate of London where I am a brother 20s;

Item, I bequeath to be distributed in bread among the poor prisoners of Newgate of London as soon as mine executors shall seem expedient time after my decease 20s, and in like wise among the prisoners of Ludgate 20s, and in like wise in the King's Bench 10s, and in the Marshalsea other 10s, and in like sum among the prisoners convict in th' Abbot's prison of Westminster [f. 96v] 23s 4d;

Item, I bequeath to be distributed by mine executors by their wise discretions as soon as they may goodly after my decease among poor householders of the Ward of Cripplegate, as well within as without, in ready money £5;

Item, I bequeath to be distributed among the most poor people of the same ward, as well within as without, by the discretions of mine executors in coals the next winter falling after my decease 10s;

Item, I bequeath to be distributed by mine executors by their wise discretions to the marriage of poor maidens of good name and fame dwelling in the City of London within 24 miles about the same City £20, provide alway that none of the maidens to their such marriages exceed the sum of 40s;

Item, I bequeath to the making of highways lying about Horndon in the county of Essex and also of a foul highway lying by Godstone's place on this side Alvethlee [=Aveley?] in the same county £20, of the which £20 I have 5 marks toward the making thereof of Sir Thomas Hill's goods, of the disposition of which £20 about the highways I will and desire Thomas Hotoft of Orsett in the county of Essex for his good disposition to have the oversight;

Item, I will that mine executors as soon as they may goodly after my decease do buy as much Welsh frieze, half white and half black or gray, and thereof do make at my cost 200 parti-gowns, and the 200 parti-gowns and 12d in money with every gown I will be given to 200 poor persons dwelling in the parish of Stopford [=Stockport] in the county of Chester whereas my father and my mother Iyen buried, and within the parishes of Cheadle and Mottram in the same county, and in the parishes of Manchester, Ashton [=Ashton-under-Lyne?], Oldham and Saddleworth in the county of Lancaster by the counsels and advices of the curates of all the said parishes where there beeth good and discreet curates, and else where such curates lack, by the counsels and good advices of the saddest men dwelling in the parishes where such discreet curates lack, to th' intent that the poor persons there should have them which had most need unto them;

Item, I bequeath to the parish church of Stockport aforesaid as good a suit of vestments of blue velvet as by the wisdoms of mine executors may be bought with the sum of 40 marks;

Item, I bequeath to the parish church of Ashton aforesaid another suit of vestments of blue velvet as good as by the discretions of my said executors may be bought with a like sum of 40 marks;

Item, I bequeath to be spent of my goods upon the making of the steeple of the parish church of Mottram aforesaid, if it be not made at my decease, and also upon other works or ornaments such as were most necessary to be had for the same church 40 marks;

Item, I bequeath to every daughter of Henry Harsnap being alive at my decease and unmarried towards their marriages £20;

Item, I bequeath to Edmund Harsnap £20;

Item, I bequeath to John Harsnap £20 under the condition that he well and truly serve out his terms of apprenticeship, and after he come out of his terms be of good condition and of good bearing;

Item, I bequeath to Jonet, my servant, with that she abide with my wife and dwell with her and be guided after her as well in her marriage as otherwise, £20;

Item, I bequeath to Edith, my servant, 10 marks;

Item, I bequeath £200 to be bestowed in buying or purchasing of livelihood good and sufficient by the discretions of mine executors with th' advice of Thomas Wode, Goldsmith, and I will that the same livelihood be amortised and made sure according to the law to the parson and churchwardens of the parish church of Saint Peter's in Cheap for the time being and to their successors for evermore, or else unto other persons such as by the discretions and advice aforesaid shall be thought most surely to be made unto, to thin [sic?] intent that with the revenues coming yearly of the same livelihood the charges

following may be observed and kept in manner and form following, that is to wit, that mine intent is with the advice and consent had of the said Thomas Wode that quotidian service shall daily and perpetually be kept by note in the said parish church of Saint Peter's from the time of the purchasing of the said livelihood forward for evermore by the curate there or by his deputy and by the priests and clerks of the same church for the time being in like manner and form as divine service quotidian is used to be kept in the parish church of Saint Laurence in the Jewry of London or in any other parish church of the same City, and I will that the curate there or his deputy and every priest and every clerk of the same parish church of Saint Peter's have yearly for evermore [f. 97r] [-for evermore] for a reward for his such labour to be had about the said quotidian service over his salary and wages accustomed of the revenues coming of the said livelihood 14s 4d;

Also mine intent is with the advice and consent had of the said Thomas Wode to have a Mass of Our Lady solemnly and daily for evermore kept by note in the said parish church of Saint Peter's by a cunning clerk and his children to be hired thereto for such wages yearly as he can be hired withal, to be had of the yearly revenues coming of the said livelihood;

Also mine intent is with th' advice and consent had of the said Thomas Woode to have an honest obit yearly for evermore to be kept solemnly by note in the said parish church of Saint Peter's, upon a certain day by th' advice of the said Thomas Woode to be limited, by the curate or his deputy and the priests and clerks of the same parish church doing over eve placebo and dirge by note and on the morrow following Mass of Requiem by note for the soul of me, the said E[d]mund Shaa and for the soul of Robert Botteler, Goldsmith, sometime my Master, and for the soul of the said Thomas Wode, and for all Christian souls;

And I will that there be spent yearly for evermore of the revenues coming of the said livelihood in the said obit so to be kept £4 in the form suing, that is to wit, a certain portion thereof to serve to the curate or his deputy there and the other priests and clerks of the said parish church for their labour had in helping of the said obit, and another portion thereof to serve the lights to burn and ringing of bells in the said obit, and another portion thereof to serve for bread, ale, cheese, spices and wine or otherwise as the season of the year shall give it to be provided for and spent in the same obit among the said curate or his deputy, priests and clerks of the said parish church and other persons as the parishens there and other of the Fellowship of my craft resorting to the said obit, and another certain portion thereof to serve for certain coals to be bought therewith and to be distributed among the poor people of the parish there and of other parishes adjoining within the Ward of Cripplegate of London upon the finishing of the said obit, and another certain portion thereof to serve for the churchwardens of the said parish church of Saint Peter's for the time being for their labour to be had in attending upon the keeping of the said obit, and in disposing the said £4 after the form aforesaid in the said obit, and for their labour in gathering of the farms and revenues yearly coming of the said livelihood, and for their labour in overseeing the reparations done upon the said livelihood, and for their charges above rehearsed by them yearly to be charged withal upon the revenues of the said livelihood for evermore;

And of all these matters and charges aforesaid comprised in the article of buying of the said livelihood I have had ripe communication with the said Thomas Wodde and he is well agreeable unto all the same, and forasmuch as the same Thomas Wodde understandeth right well that the said livelihood to be purchased with the said £200 will not extend to bear out yearly all the charges above-rehearsed therewithal, therefore he is agreed with me that he will put him in devoir for to perform as much more livelihood thereto as with the said livelihood to be purchased with the said £200 shall reasonably suffice to support all the said charges;

Yet nevertheless I will not that the said Thomas Woode for all my said rehearsal be any further charged by mine executors in that behalf for divers considerations moving me than he can right well be agreeable unto, but this I will, that if the said charges may be mannerly brought about and performed with such help as the said Thomas can be agreeable to put thereto, I will that they be so performed though they cost me of my good £20 or £40 and rather more above the £200 above rehearsed;

Item, forasmuch as I have before assigned my body to be buried in the said church of Saint Thomas of Acres in a place there above rehearsed, therefore I will have an honest marble stone to be provided by mine executors after my decease for to be laid upon my sepulture there, and I will also have there made at the same pillar by mine executors at my cost and charge a convenable altar for a priest to sing thereat, and also a convenable closure of iron well and workmanly wrought to close in the said altar in manner of a chapel of such mannerly room as a priest may easily stand within that room to say his Mass at the said altar there and to have one within forth with him to help him say his Mass, and I will have that closure to be made with a cleanly door of iron for to open and shut to when need shall require, and to stand locked still after that Mass be done, and I will have a priest to be found at the cost and charge of the Master and Brethren of the said place and of their successors, be he a brother of their said place whom I had lievest have at mine election, or else that he be a secular priest of good conversation at their election for to sing his Mass daily for evermore at the said altar being within [f. 97v] the said closet of iron at such a convenable hour as shall be thought convenient by the said Master and Brethren and by their successors, and pray specially for my soul and for the soul of Julyan, my best-beloved wife, when God shall call her unto his grace, the souls of my father and my mother, my children, my brethren and sisters, and also for the soul of the most excellent Prince, King Edward the 4th, the soul of his noble sister, Dame (blank), late Duchess of Exeter, the soul of Sir (blank), late Lord Herbert, and for all the souls that I am bound to pray for, and for all Christian souls;

I will also that the said priest, when he shall go unto the lavatory after th' offertory done of his Mass, shall turn his face unto the people afore him, and for my soul and the souls aforesaid he shall openly say the psalm *De profundis* with the versicules and collect thereto accustomed after Salisbury use;

Furthermore, I will that at every common assembly to be made in the said church of Saint Thomas of Acres of the Mayor, Aldermen and Commons of this City at such solemn

seasons of the year as of laudable custom they have used and yet use to walk solemnly unto Paul's, that the Master and Brethren of the said place for the time being cause the said closet door of the said altar to be unlocked and opened to th' intent that the priest or priests of the Fellowship of my craft, if they or any of them be present there, or else in absence of all the priests, that the priest singing there for my soul, be he a brother of the said place or other may stand within that closet at the said altar and say evensong of the day afore the Wardens and Fellowship of my said craft there then being present if they require it to be said, to the end that my said Fellowship among their devout meditations there may remember the poor soul of my body lying there interred;

Also I will that the said Master and Brethren and their successors yearly for evermore hold and keep mine obit solemnly by note in their said church of Saint Thomas of Acres on the day that it shall fortune me to depart out of this mortal life if it may that day reasonably be holden, and else be it holden on some other day that it may best be holden within 3 days next afore that day or else within 3 days next after that day, that is to wit, doing over eve placebo and dirge by note and on the morrow after Mass of Requiem by note for my soul and the soul of the said Julyan, my wife, when God shall call her from this world, and for the souls of my father and my mother and my friends' souls, and for all Christian souls;

And I will that the Master of the said place for the time being in every such obit there to be holden dispose yearly the sum of 10s sterlings in the form suing, that is to wit, thereof taking unto himself if he be present at the said obit 12d, and distributing to every brother of the place there being present at the same obit 6d, and to every secular priest and clerk of the same place under like form 4d, and in bread, cheese and ale to be ordained for their recreation after dirge done within the same place if the season of the year will suffer it, and for light to burn at my said sepulture in the said obit time, all the remnant of the said sum of 10s, and for all these charges afore rehearsed by the said Master and Brethren and their successors thus yearly for evermore there to be kept, and for my said sepulture there to be had, I will that the said Master and Brethren shall have to them and to their successors in perpetuity of my gift good and sufficient livelihood within the City of London and franchise of the same to be amortised unto them at my cost and charge in perpetuity as much as shall extend to the very value of 25 marks by year over all reprises, and rather more than less;

Nevertheless it is my will that if it fortune the said Master and Brethren or their successors any year hereafter, after time the said livelihood of 25 marks by year or more be amortised unto them, to make default in the finding of the said priests, or that the same priest cease of his singing at the said altar by an whole quarter of a year together, they having no reasonable cause of excuse thereof, or else that they make default in keeping of my said obit in any year after the said livelihood be amortised unto them by the space of a quarter of a year together after the day of my said obit by me above assigned to be kept upon, and have no cause reasonable of their excuse thereof, or else after they have the said livelihood amortised unto them keep not the said livelihood from time to time in sufficient reparation as they owen to do, but let it or suffer it to renne [=run?] unrepaired and so likely to fall in decay through their default, then I will that the estate and right the

which the said Master and Brethren or their successors should then have of and in the said livelihood by force of the said amortisement to them thereof made by my said assignment shall then cease and be of none effect;

But then I will that the same livelihood shall then remain to the Wardens and Fellowship of my said craft [f. 98r] of Goldsmiths of London, and I will that it shall be leeful then to the Wardens of the said craft of Goldsmiths at that time being, as well in their own name as in the name of the Fellowship of the same craft at that time being, freely for to enter into the said livelihood and thereof to put out the said Master and his Brethren and their successors for evermore, and then the same Wardens and Fellowship to have the same livelihood to them and to their successors for evermore to this intent, that if and whensoever it shall happen the said livelihood to come unto their hands or possession, then I will that the Wardens of my said Fellowship for the time being and their successors for evermore shall yearly for evermore with part of the revenues then yearly coming of the same livelihood support and sustain 3 honest persons of the said craft of Goldsmiths by infortune of the world fallen into poverty, giving to every of them weekly during his life 14d;

Provided alway that if it fortune any person or persons of the clothing of the said Fellowship or craft of goldsmiths to fall into the said poverty, then I will that he and they so fallen into that poverty be preferred to the said Amesse Wokely before any other person or persons of the same craft;

Item, it is my will to have as much other livelihood to be purchased by mine executors as soon as they may goodly after my decease to be amortised into my Fellowship of the said craft of Goldsmiths of London in perpetuity, of [sic] they will agree to have it, to th' intent here underwritten, or else if they refuse so to have it, then to be amortised into some other substantial Fellowship of some other honest craft of this City as by the discretions of mine executors it shall seem best to be done that will agree to have it, as my said Fellowship of the said craft of Goldsmiths if they like to have it, or else at any other Fellowship aforesaid that will agree to have it will be content withal for to bear out thereof and of all other livelihood pertaining to the Fellowship of that craft that so will agree to have it, an annual and quit-rent of £17 by the year of lawful money of England therewith to support and sustain yearly for evermore the charges hereunder expressed, that is to wit, I will that the Wardens and Fellowship of the clothing of my craft of Goldsmiths of the City of London for the time being yearly after my decease for evermore come in their livery of the same craft, as the manner is, to mine obit yearly for evermore to be kept and holden in the said church of Saint Thomas of Acres, that is to wit, to placebo and dirge to be done there over eve, and to the Mass of Requiem to be done there on the morrow following, and that they offer there yearly at the same Mass in like wise as they beeth used to do at Mass of Requiem in other obits used to be holden for men of the said craft, and I will that the Wardens of the said craft for the time being every year against the time of the holding of the said obit ordain at Goldsmiths' Hall in London bread, ale, cheese, spices and wine or otherwise as the season of the year will give it for to serve with the Wardens and Fellowship of the said craft there honestly and conveniently after they have been at dirge done in my said obit;

I will also that the said Wardens for the time being in every such obit to be holden ordain a convenient repast at the said Goldsmiths' Hall for themselves and such other of the Fellowship as they will call unto them to be occupied after they have offered at Saint Thomas of Acres at my Mass of Requiem;

And if my said obit be kept in the summer season, then I will that the said Wardens of my said craft at every such obit of mine so to be holden dispose for my soul to 12 poor men of the said craft most needy after their wise discretions 12s in money, that is to say, to every such poor man 12d to pray for my soul;

And if my said obit be kept in the winter then I will that the said disposition of the said 12s for the said 12 poor men be spared, but then I will that the said Wardens for the time being at every my such obit so holden in winter provide and buy a cart-load of coals, and do them to be distributed among poor people dwelling in the Ward of Cripplegate, as well within as without, where it shall seem most need to be done;

And I will that every of [-of] the said 4 Wardens shall have yearly for his such labour and business to be had in the time of my said obit so to be holden 3s 4d, that is to wit, among them 13s 4d;

And for to bear out all the said charges withal yearly at the time of my said obit so to be holden, I will that the said Wardens for the time being have of the said annual and quit-rent of £17 yearly 53s 4d;

Item, with the residue of the said annual and [f. 98v] quit-rent of £17, amounting £14 6s 8d, I will have two honest priests founded perpetually, that one of them to sing his Mass and say his other divine service in a chapel that I have made in Longdendale in the county of Chester, and pray specially for my soul and for the souls etc., and I will that he have for his salary yearly for evermore of the said £14 6s 8d, residue of the said annual and quit-rent of £17, the sum of £4 6s 8d;

And I will that the other honest priest be a discreet man and cunning in grammar, and be able of cunning to teach grammar, and I will that he sing his Mass and say his other divine service in the parish of Stockport in the said county of Chester at such an altar there as can be thought convenient for him, and to pray specially for my soul and the souls etc., and I will that the same cunning priest keep a grammar school continually in the said town of Stockport as long as he shall continue there in the said service, and that he freely, without any wages or salary asking or taking of any person except only my salary hereunder specified, shall touch [sic] all manner persons' children and other that will come to him to learn, as well of the said town of Stockport as of other towns thereabout, the science of grammar as far as lieth in him for to do into the time that they be convenably instruct in grammar by him after their capacity that God will give them;

And I will that the same cunning priest with all his scholars with him that he shall have for the time shall two days in every week as long as he shall abide in that service there,

that is to wit, Wednesday and Friday, come into the said church of Stockport unto the grave there where the bodies of my father and my mother lyen buried, and there say togethers the psalm of *De profundis* with the versicules and collects thereto accustomed after Salisbury use, and pray specially for my soul and for the souls of my father and my mother, and for all Christian souls;

And I will that the same priest teaching grammar there shall have for his salary yearly as long as he abide in that service there £10 of the said £14 6s 8d, residue of the said annual and quit-rent of £17;

And for to courage my said Fellowship of the said craft of Goldsmiths or else that other Fellowship the which will agree to bear the charge of the said annual and quit-rent of £17 to be the better willed to the supportation of the same charge for evermore, I will that the same Fellowship shall have for evermore the presentment, nomination and admission of the said two priests of the said two services, and the removing and putting out of them and admitting of other into the same services for causes reasonable as often as the case so shall require;

Item, whereas certain Fellowships of this City which have made certain portions of the walls of this City have had lime and sand founden unto them to make mortar thereof for to make up the said works withal, it is my full will that forasmuch as the Fellowship of my craft of Goldsmiths have made a certain quantity or portion of the wall of this City standing on the west side of the gate called Cripplegate, that therefore if the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of this City can be contented and agreeable that for the honour and comfort of this City I do cause mine executors to do make the said gate of new in mannerly wise, so that I or mine executors may have the old stuff coming of the old gate there now standing, and do provide me lime and sand as much as shall be necessary to the same work for to make mortar thereof convenient therefore, then I will that mine executors, as soon as they can find time convenient after that, do take down the said old gate, and of the stuff of the same as far as it may serve and of other stuff such as my said executors by their wisdoms shall make provision of, I will that they shall set up there a new, substantial and mannerly gate of stone to the honour of Almighty God and worship of this City, and to the making of the same gate I bequeath 400 marks or little more or little less to be spent thereupon as the case shall require, so that for somewhat more by the discretions of mine executors to be laid thereto I will not that they leave the making thereof in case that the said Mayor, Aldermen and Common Council of this City will give their assents thereto, and if they so do, then I will that mine executors do set up mine arms and th' arms of the Fellowship of my craft of Goldsmiths upon the said gate of new to be made in such places thereof as they shall seem most expedient so to be done by their wise discretions;

Item, I will that mine executors as soon as they may goodly after my decease do make at my cost 16 rings of fine gold to be graven with the well of pity, the well of mercy, and the well of everlasting life, and with all other images and other things concerning the same like as John Shaa and Ralph Lathim understand right well the making of them, and the rings I will that mine executors distribute unto my lovers here ensuing, praying them

tenderly to have my soul in their good [f. 99r] remembrances, that is to wit, unto Dame Anne Browne one; to Dame Elizabeth Hill another; to my Gossip Cosen another; to my sister Cote(?) another; to my sister Wode another; to my sister Kelke another; to my sister Harding another; to my daughter Margaret another; to my cousin Margaret, the wife of John Shaa, another; to my cousin Katherine Goodyer another; to my cousin John Dilton another; to Elizabeth Blakwall another; to Sir Thomas Fitzwilliam, knight, Recorder of London, another; to Master William Dunthorn, Town Clerk, another; to Thomas Salle, one of the Under-Sheriffs of London, another; and to (blank) Higham, another Under-Sheriff of London, another;

Item, I bequeath to Thomas Alumby, Steward to the Mayors [sic?] of London, to have remembrance on my soul, a signet of gold to the value of 40s;

Item, I bequeath to Sir John, the priest that useth to say matins and Mass afore me, 20s;

Item, I bequeath to Henry Harsnap [=Harsnape?], and to my sister, his wife, £10;

Item, I bequeath to my servant, John Harys, to pray for my soul, 26 8d;

Item, I bequeath to my servant, Philip Browne, in like wise 26s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to my servant, William Povy, in like wise 26s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to John Hudde, my servant in the kitchen, to pray for my soul 20s;

Item, I bequeath to John Copet, my child in the kitchen, with that he be of good rule and well guided and abide in service with my wife, 20s;

Item, I bequeath unto Julyan, my true, my most dear and my best-beloved wife, in the name of her part to her belonging of my movable goods, chattels and debts after the custom of the City of London, £2000, she to have of the same sum part in ready money, part in plate such as I have that she will chose at such price as I have so valued them;

And over that I bequeath to the same Julyan, my true wife, if she after my decease keep herself a sole widow and unmarried during her life, all my stuff of household the which I have at this day, as well in the City of London as elsewhere within the realm of England, except and reserved to mine executors toward the performance of mine other legacies comprised in this my present testament all my plate and jewels of goldsmith's work and all my stuff and tool[s] belonging to my shop and warehouse or working houses of mine occupation;

Item, I bequeath to Hugh Shaa, my well-beloved son, God's blessing and mine, and in money, plate and jewels such as I have at such prices as I have so valued them, the sum of £1000, he to hold him contented therewith as for his part to him belonging of my movable goods, chattels and debts after the custom of the City of London as my trust is verily in him that he so will do;

Item, I bequeath to my right well-beloved daughter, Katherine Shaa, God's blessing and mine, and in money, plate and jewels such as I have at such prices as I have so valued them the sum of £1000, she to hold her contented therewith as for her part to her belonging of my movable goods, chattels and debts after the custom of the said City of London, as my very trust is in her that she so will do;

Item, I bequeath to my right especial and tender loving friend, Sir Raynold Bray, knight, to th' intent that it will like him to take upon him the charge of th' execution of this my present testament and of my last will, £100, and I tenderly desire the same Sir Raynold Bray for the tender zeal that he at this time beareth and at all times afore this of his great kindness hath borne towards me, that of the said £100 it will like him to bestow 20 marks or 25 marks upon a goodly cup covered of silver and gilt with some token to be made thereupon that it came from a Goldsmith of his acquaintance, and to be occupied by him and by my good Lady, his wife, at such seasons as may best please them to th' intent that by the sight thereof it may cause them to have my soul the tenderlier in their remembrances;

Item, I bequeath to my cousin, Geoffrey Downes, gentleman, to th' intent that it will like him to take upon himself the charge of th' execution of this my present testament and last will 50 marks, desiring him that he will do make of part thereof another cup covered of like value or less, as it shall please him, and some token to be made thereupon that it came from a Goldsmith of his acquaintance and ally, and to be occupied by him and by my good Lady Ingaldesthorp, in whose tender devotion I have great confidence, at such time as shall like her, she to have my soul the more tenderly in her good remembrances and his;

Item, I bequeath to my son, Thomas Riche, Mercer of London, to th' intent that he will take upon him also the charge of th' execution of this my present testament and of my last will £100, desiring him to do make a like cup covered of silver and gilt and as of like value as he shall seem good to serve for him and my daughter, Margaret, his wife, for to have me the better in their remembrances upon the sight thereof;

Item, I bequeath to my cousin, John Shaa, Goldsmith, under the same form and to like intent as for his part in all degrees £100;

And of this my present testament I make and ordain mine executors my most dear and my most best-beloved wife, Julyan, my right especial friend, Sir Rainold Bray, knight, my cousin, Geoffrey Downes, gentleman, my son [=son-in-law] Thomas Riche, mercer, and my cousin, John Shaa, Goldsmith, citizens of London;

In witness of all the premises to this my present testament I have set my seal the day and year above rehearsed.

Probatum [=proved].