

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 13 July 1494 and proved 20 July 1494 of Julyan Shaa. The testatrix states in the will below that she was christened in the church of Our Lady in Colchester, but nothing further is known of her origins. It appears from the will that she was literate, as she bequeaths an illuminated book to a friend.

As indicated in the will, the testatrix married Sir Edmund Shaa (d.1488), Lord Mayor of London, by whom she had a son, Hugh Shaa, who predeceased her, and two daughters, Margaret Shaa, who married the London mercer, Thomas Riche, and Katherine Shaa, who 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 Longdendale*, (Hyde: Fred Higham, 1906), pp. 49-54, and 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, both available online.

For the will of the testatrix' husband, Sir Edmund Shaa, see TNA PROB 11/8/187. For the will of the testatrix' son, Hugh Shaa, see TNA PROB 11/8/657. For the will of the testatrix' son-in-law, Sir William Browne (d. 3 June 1514), see TNA PROB 11/17/567. The testatrix' son-in-law, Thomas Riche, was living in 1506, but nothing further is known of him.

The new National Archives reference for the testatrix' will is 11/10/214.

In dei nomine amen. The 13th day of the month of July the year of Our Lord 1494 and the 9th year of the reign of King Henry the 7th, I, Julyan Shaa, widow, late the wife of Sir Edmund Shaa, knight, citizen while he lived, goldsmith and alderman of the City of London, though I be visited with sickness, nevertheless being of whole mind and in good memory, laud and praising be unto Almighty God, remembering myself that I must needs depart out of this mortal life and that nothing is more incertain than is death, and nothing more uncertain than the hour thereof, and intending with God's grace not to depart intestate out of this miserable life, make and ordain this my present testament in the manner and form following, that is to wit:

First, I bequeath and recommend my soul to Almighty God, my Maker and Saviour, and to the most glorious Virgin, his mother, Our Lady Saint Mary, and to the celestial court of his saints in heaven, and my body to be buried in the chapel being late made at the cost of my said late husband set in the body of the church of Saint Thomas of Acres in London whereas the bodies of my said late husband and of Hugh, his son and mine, lyen buried;

And after my body be so buried, then I will that all the duties the which I owe to any manner of person of right or of conscience be first and foremost and most principally before all other things well and truly paid;

Item, I will that mine executors anon after my decease do ordain 24 honest torches to convey my body after my decease fro [=from] my house unto my parish church of Saint Peter's at Cross in Cheap, and there the same 24 torches and also 4 honest tapers to burn about my body as the manner is for dead people during all the time of mine exequies to be done for my soul there;

And after my body be so conveyed to my said parish church and after the exequies so done, then the said 24 torches to help for to convey my said body fro my said parish church to the said church of Saint Thomas of Acres to my burying there;

And I will that mine executors do provide 28 poor persons for to hold the said 24 torches and 4 tapers about my body in the time of mine exequies to be done for my soul as well at my burying as at my month's mind;

And after my said exequies be done for me at my burying, I will that every of the said 28 poor persons have for his labour at that time to pray for my soul 8d, and in like wise I will that the 28 persons the which shall hold the said torches and tapers at my month's mind in the time of mine exequies then to be done for my soul shall in like wise have every of them for their such labour and to pray for my soul 8d;

Item, I will that mine executors do ordain after my decease 6 honest persons of the craft of goldsmiths of London and of the livery of the same craft for to bear my body after my decease fro my house into my said parish church and from thence unto the said church of Saint Thomas of Acres to my burying, and I will that every of the same 6 persons have for his such labour to be had in that behalf to pray for my soul 6s 8d;

And after my said month's mind be done, I bequeath the said 24 torches to be disposed by mine executors for my soul and for the souls of the said Sir Edmund, late my husband, and of the said Hugh, late our son, in the form suing, that is to wit, thereof 4 torches to my said parish church of Saint Peter's at Cross, and other 4 torches to the said parish church of Saint Thomas of Acres, and 2 torches to the parish church of Our Lady of Colchester in the which parish church I was christened, and 2 torches to the parish church of Saint Michael's in Hog Lane, and 2 torches to the parish church of Saint Mary Staining of London, and a torch to the parish church of Saint Alban's in Wood Street of London, and one other torch to the parish church of Saint Alphage within Cripplegate of London, and one other torch to the parish church of Saint Gile[s] without Cripplegate of London, and one other torch to the parish church of Saint John Zachary of London, and one other torch to the parish church of Saint Leonard's in Foster Lane of London, and one other torch to the parish church of Saint Faustinus(?) of London, and one other torch to the parish church of Saint Olave in the Jewry of London, and one other torch to the parish church of Saint Olave in Silver Street of London, and 2 torches to the parish

church of Horndon on the Hill in the county of Essex, and one torch to the poor parish church of Merton beside Merton Abbey in the county of Surrey;

Item, I will that mine executors do ordain placebo and dirge with Mass of Requiem solemnly by note to be done daily by a month next suing after my decease in the said parish of Saint Peter's at Cross in Cheap by the parson there or his deputy priests and clerks of the same church for my soul, the soul of the said Sir Edmund Shaa, late my husband, and of the said Hugh Shaa, late his son and mine, the souls of our fathers and mothers, and of all our good-doers, and for all Christian souls;

And I bequeath to every of the said parson or his deputy there priests and clerks of the [f. 170v] same church being and helping daily by the same month at the said exequies to be done for my soul and the other souls aforesaid in the same church 10s;

Item, I bequeath to every house of Friars of the 4 Orders of Friars of the City of London, that is to wit Minors, Preachers, Augustines and Carmes, 20s, under the condition that followeth, that is to wit, that the convent of every of the said houses as soon as they can have notice after my decease of my departing out of this mortal life do a trental of Masses in their convent churches of their said houses for my soul, the souls of the said Sir Edmund, late mine husband, and of the said Hugh, late our son, and for the other souls aforesaid;

And over that that every convent of the said 4 houses of Friars help to convey my body fro my dwelling-house unto the said parish church of Saint Peter's at Cross and from thence to the said church of Saint Thomas of Acres to my burying as they beeth used to do for honest dead people;

And furthermore that every convent of the said 4 houses of Friars, as soon after that as they may goodly, sing placebo, dirge and Mass of Requiem solemnly by note in their convent churches of the said 4 houses for my soul and the souls of my said husband and of the said Hugh, late our son, and for other souls afore rehearsed, that is to wit, placebo and dirge every even by note, and Mass of Requiem by note on the morrow following;

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 for the brethren and sisters thereof to pray for my soul 20s;

Item, I bequeath to the high altar of the said church of Saint Peter's at Cross in Cheap for my tithes and oblations withholden or forgotten in discharging of my soul 40s;

Item, I bequeath to the works of the body of the same church the £20 which the wardens of there owe unto me;

Item, I bequeath 20s for bread, good and wholesome, to be bought therewith at several times and to be disposed among the poor prisoners being detained in the prison of

Newgate of London at such several times as by mine executors it shall be thought necessary to be done;

Item, I bequeath other 20s for like bread to be bought therewith and to be disposed under like form among the poor prisoners being detained in the prison of Ludgate in London;

Item, I bequeath 10s for like bread to be bought therewith and to be disposed under like form among the poor prisoners being detained in the prison of the King's Bench in Southwark;

Item, I bequeath other 10s for like bread to be bought therewith and to be disposed under like form among the poor prisoners being detained in the prison of the Marshalsea of our Sovereign Lord the King;

Item, I bequeath 13s 4d for like bread to be bought therewith and to be disposed under like form among the prisoners being convict to the Abbot's prison of Westminster;

Item, I bequeath 100s by mine executors after my decease to be disposed in ready money by their wise discretions among poor householders dwelling within the ward of Cripplegate, as well without the gate as within the gate;

Item, I bequeath 100s for coals therewith to be bought by mine executors against the next winter season that shall fall after my decease and in the same winter to be disposed among the poor people then dwelling in the said Cripplegate ward, as well without as within, whereas mine executors shall seem most expedient to be done, and namely among the poor people then dwelling in Wood Street in the parish of Saint Peter's aforesaid;

Item, I bequeath to every house of lepers being within 3 miles about the City of London to the use of the lepers in the same houses 3s 4d;

Item, I bequeath £20 to be disposed by mine executors by their wise discretions after my decease to the marriage of poor maidens of good name and fame and of honest conversation dwelling within the City of London and suburbs thereof or within 24 miles about the same City;

Item, I bequeath to the prior and convent of the Charterhouse beside Sheen to pray for my soul 40s;

Item, I bequeath to the prior and convent of the house called Charterhouse beside London to pray for my soul 40s;

Item, I bequeath 53s 4d to be distributed by mine executors soon after my decease among poor householders being to goodman(?), wife and children, or man or wife together without children, or man single or woman sole dwelling in the parishes of Saint Peter's at Cross and Saint Michael's in Hog Lane, that is to say, to some 12d, some 8d, and some

less and some more, as they beeth of age, charged with children, or visited with sickness, as it shall seem best to be done by the discretions of mine executors to pray for my soul;

Item, I bequeath £40 toward the reparation of noyous and cumbrous highways lying about the City of London where most need shall be found by the discretions of mine executors;

Item, I bequeath toward the reparation [f. 171r] of foul and noyous highways lying about the town of Horndon on the Hill and other towns thereabout whereas most need shall be found by the discretions of mine executors £20;

Item, I bequeath to Sir John (blank), my priest, 40s, and I will that the same Sir John sing and say his Mass and his other divine service in the said parish church of Saint Peter's at Cross in Cheap and pray specially for my soul, the souls of my said late husband and late son, and for the other souls aforesaid, and for all Christian souls by the space of 4 years next after my decease;

And I will that he have of my goods for his salary every year of the same term 10 mark at 4 terms of the year usuals in the City of London by even portions;

Item, I bequeath to every servant of mine, as well male as female, dwelling with me the day of my decease to pray for my soul 20s;

Item, I bequeath to the wife of Richard Gadde, fustian-shearer, my large primer illumined with letters of gold, the image of Saint John Baptist standing next after the calendar with a prayer under his foot beginning with a large letter G of gold, *Gaude Iohannes Bapt{ist}a*;

Item, I bequeath to every child born of the body of Joan, the wife of William Dalton of Leicester, being alive at my decease 40s;

Item, I bequeath unto the wife of Richard Fuller to pray for my soul 53s 4d;

Item, I bequeath toward the sustentation of the reparation of the livelihood belonging to the church of Saint Peter's in Cornhill of London 10 mark;

Item, I bequeath toward the new making of the conduits of the City of London 5 fothers of lead;

Item, whereas there be divers legacies and charges comprehended severally in the several testaments of my said late husband and of the said late Hugh, our son, it [sic?] to be performed after the tenor of the same testaments, to the performance of the which legacies and charges I have put me in my true devoir as far as a woman could do without any aid had of any other persons that owed [=ought] to have been aiding thereto with me sithen de [sic] deceases of my said late husband and late son hitherunto, and I intend by the gree of God in as much as may be possible unto me to do that I can to see the legacies

and charges performed in my life if God give me life so to do, and if it fortune so that I cannot perform them myself, then I require and charge mine executors hereunder written that they, as they will answer afore God at the dreadful Day of Judgment, put themselves in their true devoirs to perform the legacies and charges as speedily as they can by reasonable possibility after my decease according to the tenors of the same testaments for the discharging of my soul against Almighty God;

And the residue of all my goods, chattels and debts, whatsoever they be, after such debts be paid that I owe to any persons, and after the legacies and charges comprised as well in this my present testament as in the said testaments of my said late husband and my said late son truly preformed as they owen to doon, and after all other charges borne and done that owen to be done for me, I bequeath and give wholly to Thomas Riche and William Browne, my sons-in-law and mine executors hereunder written, to be evenly divided between them two as it ought to be done by them two loving brethren;

And of this my present testament I make and ordain mine executors my said two sons-in-law, Thomas Riche, mercer, and William Browne, the son of Sir John Browne, knight, citizen of London.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum Coram &c Apud Lambeth xxo die Mensis Iulij anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo CCCC nonagesimo quarto Iuramento Mag{ist}ri Iohannis Breton sacre theologie professoris et Iohannis Parker scriptoris &c Ac approbatum etc Et commissa fuit admi{ni}stracio omniu{m} et singulorum bonoru{m} et debitorum dicte defuncte executoribus in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}at{is} &c De bene et fidelit{er} &c ac de pleno et fideli Inuentario &c cit{ra} festum sancti Barth{olome}i proximo futur{o} &c Necnon de plano & vero compoto &c ad sancta Dei eu{a}ngelia Iurat{is}

[=The above-written testament was proved before etc. at Lambeth on the 20th day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand 400 ninety-fourth by the oath of Master John Breton, Doctor of Divinity, and John Parker, scribe, etc., and probated etc., and administration was granted of all and singular the goods and debts of the said deceased to the executors named in the same testament etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully etc., and to [+prepare] a full and faithful inventory etc. before the feast of Saint Bartholomew next to come etc., and also a plain & true account etc.]