

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 4 and 5 November and 4 December 1494 and 20 February 1497, confirmed 22 February 1497, and proved 16 November 1497, of John Clopton (c.1422-1497), esquire, of Melford, Suffolk, who escaped execution for the conspiracy in which John de Vere (1408-1462), 12th Earl of Oxford, was executed, and who requested that John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford, be one of the supervisors of his will.

For an earlier transcript of the testator's will, see Howard, Joseph Jackson, *The Visitation of Suffolke*, Vol. I, (Lowestoft: Samuel Tymms, 1866), pp. 34-40 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofsuff01harv#page/34/mode/2up>

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator was the grandson of Sir Thomas Clopton (died c.1382) by his second wife, Katherine Mylde, daughter and heiress of William Mylde of Clare, Suffolk. After the death of Sir Thomas Clopton, Katherine Mylde married secondly Sir William Tendring, by whom she was the mother of Alice Tendring (d. 18 October 1426), who married, as his second wife, Sir John Howard (d. 17 November 1436), by whom she was the ancestor of the Howards, Dukes of Norfolk. By his first wife, Margaret Plaiz (d.1391), Sir John Howard (d. 17 November 1436) was the father of Sir John Howard (1385-1410), who married Joan Walton (d.1425), by whom he was the father of Elizabeth Howard (1411-1473), wife of John de Vere (1408-1462), 12th Earl of Oxford. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 269-70, and the pedigree in Ross, James, *John de Vere Thirteenth Earl of Oxford: 'The Foremost Man of the Kingdom'*, (Woodbridge, Suffolk: The Boydell Press, 2011), p. 25.

According to the Clopton pedigree, the testator's father, (Sir?) William Clopton (d. August 1446), married firstly Margery Drury, the daughter of Sir Roger Drury (d.1420) of Rougham, by whom he had a son and four daughters, the testator's half brother and half sisters:

-William Clopton (d.1420).

-Alice Clopton, who married John Harleston, by whom she had a son, John Harleston, who married Margaret Bardwell. In the will below the testator refers to the aisle in Melford church where 'my sister Harleston lieth', and requests prayers 'for the souls of John Harleston and Alice his wife, and for all their children'. For the marriage of Alice Clopton and John Harleston, see also:

<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~clopton/>

-Katherine Clopton, who married John Denston (d.1473), esquire, by whom she had an only daughter, Anne Denston (d.1481), who married John Broughton (d.1479), son of

John Broughton (d.1489). For the latter's will, see TNA PROB 11/8/396. Sir Robert Broughton (d. August 1506), son of John Broughton (d.1479) and Anne Denston (d.1481), married Katherine de Vere, said to have been an illegitimate daughter of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford. See Ross, *supra*, p. 187, and the will, dated 20 June 1504 and proved 10 July 1507, TNA PROB 11/15/535, of Sir Robert Broughton. Portraits of John Broughton and Anne Denston are preserved in the stained glass windows of Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford. See Delany, Sheila, *Impolitic Bodies: Poetry, Saints, and Society in Fifteenth-Century England: The Work of Osbern Bokenham*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998), pp. 16-18 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=o0Rn0kcns1MC&pg=PA17>

The 'cadaver tomb' of John Denston and Katherine Clopton Denston is in the church of St Nicholas at Denston. See:

<http://www.suffolkchurches.co.uk/denston.htm>

For the stained glass portraits in Long Melford church, see also:

<http://www.therosewindow.com/pilot/LongMelford/table.htm>

-Margery Clopton.

-Anne Clopton.

In the will below, the testator leaves bequests to members of the Drury family:

Also I will that Dame Anne Drury have 6s 8d, and Margaret, daughter to Swayn, 6s 8d.

The testator's father, William Clopton (d.1446), married secondly Margery Francis, sole daughter and heir of Elias Francis, esquire, by whom he had a son and a daughter:

-John Clopton, the testator in the will below.

-Elizabeth Clopton, who married Robert Cavendish, Sergeant at Law.

See Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *The Visitation of Suffolke*, Vol. I, (Lowestoft: Samuel Tymms, 1866), pp. 121, 126-7 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ExI2AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA121>

See also Parker, William, *The History of Long Melford*, (London: Wyman & Sons, 1873), p. 173 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=VsbWA_Q1NR4C&pg=PA173

His lot was cast in troubled times, and being an intriguer of a strong political bias, he narrowly escaped with his life, when on the 22nd of February 1461 [=1462], his fellow-prisoners in the Tower, John de Vere, the 12th Earl of Oxford, his son Aubrey de Vere, John Montgomery, and Sir Thomas Tuddenham, were all beheaded on Tower Hill for their attachment to the Lancastrian party. The Earl and his son were buried in Austin Friars, London. Old John Clopton, however, managed to make his peace, and he lived to the ripe age of 75, and was buried in Melford church, in the Easter tomb.

See also the Clopton pedigrees in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Suffolk*, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1882), p. 16 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=EycAAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA16>

See also the pedigree of Clopton of Kentwell in Muskett, Joseph James, ed., *Evidences of the Winthrops of Groton co. Suffolk, England*, (Privately printed, 1894-1896), p. 143 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=7dYKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA143>

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

The testator married Alice Darcy, the daughter of Robert Darcy, and sister of Sir Robert Darcy (c.1449?). See the pedigree of Clopton of Kentwell in Muskett, *supra*, p. 143.

In the will below, the testator mentions several of his Darcy relations, and appoints two of them, Anne Montgomery and Robert Crane, as executors:

And that my niece Lettice' (?) daughter that dwelleth with my Master Vere, & another that dwelleth [with] my sister [=sister-in-law], Anne Montgomery, each of them have other 10 with a paternoster of the said beads.

And I make my executors . . . my son, William Clopton, my son, Edward Clopton, my sister [=sister-in-law], Agnes Montgomery, Robert Crane, James Hobert, Clement Heigham th' elder, and Thomas Appleton;

And my sister [=sister-in-law], Anne, for her labour my Agnus Dei with all the relics therein, praying her if it may please her to give it after her day to some of my children or to my children's children, as it please her, for there be many great relics therein.

I give to my brother [=brother-in-law] Crane for his labour my ring with my great turquoise.

Anne Montgomery appears to have been the testator's sister-in-law, Anne Darcy, wife of Sir Thomas Montgomery (d.1495), son of Sir John Montgomery, and brother of John Montgomery, who was executed in 1462 with John de Vere, 12th Earl of Oxford. See Ross, *supra*, pp. 42, 234.

Robert Crane (d. 24 October 1500) of Chilton married, in 1465, Katherine Darcy, daughter of Robert Darcy of Maldon, Essex, by whom he had no issue. He married secondly Anne Ogard (d.1521), the daughter of Sir Andrew Ogard, widow of Sir Renfrey Arundell, by whom he was the father of George Carne (d.1491). See Appleton, William S., *Memorials of the Cranes of Chilton*, (Cambridge: John Wilson and Son, 1868), p. 59 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=p_8HAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA59

Robert Crane (d. 24 October 1500) is also said to have been the father of Elizabeth Crane, Abbess of Bruisyard, and Margery Crane (d. 4 November 1504), who married Thomas Appleton (d. 4 October 1507) of Little Waldingfield, Suffolk. However it appears Elizabeth Crane and Margery Crane were the sisters of Robert Crane (d. 24 October 1500), rather than his daughters. See the will, dated 20 January 1505 and proved 9 February 1509, TNA PROB 11/6/283, of Thomas Appleton.

The testator was an executor of the will of his niece, Margaret Harleston Darcy, wife of Thomas Darcy, esquire, son and heir of Sir Robert Darcy (c.1420 - 2 November 1469) of Maldon, Essex. For her will, dated 9 July 1489 and proved January 1490, see TNA PROB 11/8/289.

See also the undated will, proved 24 January 1507, TNA PROB 11/15/363, of Elizabeth (nee Tyrrell) Darcy Haute, who married firstly Sir Robert Darcy (c.1420 - 2 November 1469) of Maldon, Essex, son of Sir [sic?] Robert Darcy of Maldon, Essex, Keeper of the Writs of the Common Pleas, by his second wife, Alice Filongley, daughter of Henry Filongley of Warwickshire, Serjeant of the Royal Scullery, and secondly Richard Haute (d. 8 April 1487), esquire, of Bishopsbourne, Kent. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 14, and Vol. III, pp. 216-17. For the will of Sir Robert Darcy (d. 2 November 1469), see TNA PROB 11/7/329. For a summary of the will, see King, H.W., 'Ancient Wills', *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society*, Vol. IV, (Colchester: Essex and West Suffolk Gazette, 1869), pp. 1-24 at pp. 11-12:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=aDQGAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA11>

By Alice Darcy, according to the pedigree in Muskett, *supra*, the testator had three sons and two daughters:

* **Sir William Clopton** (1450 – 20 February 1531), for whose will, dated 14 October 1530, see Howard, *supra*, pp. 47-51, and the modern spelling transcript on this website. His son, Francis Clopton, and his younger sons are mentioned in the will below, as are his daughters, Katherine Clopton, Dorothy Clopton and Elizabeth Clopton.

* **Sir Edmund Clopton**, second son, a Knight of Rhodes (called in the Rookwood pedigree 'Rodiorum eques percelebris'). See Almack, Richard, 'Some Account of

Melford Church', *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology, Statistic, and Natural History*, Vol. II, (Lowestoft: Samuel Tymms, 1859), p. 62 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=q-oGAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA62>

* **Edward Clopton** of Glemsford, Suffolk, third son. His wife and son are mentioned in the will below. He is also said to have had a daughter, Elizabeth Clopton, who married Nicholas Wood of Fulbourn, Cambridgeshire. See Howard, *supra*, p. 127.

* **Anne Clopton**, who married Thomas Rookwood (d.1520/1), esquire, of Stanningfield, Suffolk. Her son, John Rookwood, is mentioned in the will below, as are 'Thomas Rookwood and his wife', apparently the testator's son-in-law and his second wife. Thomas Rookwood was the ancestor of Ambrose Rookwood (c.1578-1606), executed for complicity in the Gunpowder Plot. See Almack, *supra*, p. 62.

* **Dorothy Clopton** (d.1511), who married Thomas Curson (d. 8 September 1520) of Billingford. See Howard, *supra*, p. 127. She and her son, John Curson, are mentioned in the will below.

For the testator see also Ross, *supra*, pp. 230-1.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

Sir John Leynham and Dame Margaret Leynham

Sir John Leynham and his wife, Dame Margaret (nee Fray) Leynham, are mentioned frequently in the will below. The testator was an executor of Dame Margaret's will and the will of her mother, Agnes Danvers Baldington Fray Wenlock Say, and it seems likely there was a family connection which has not yet come to light. For Sir John Leynham and Dame Margaret Fray Leynham, see Parker, *supra*, p. 174, and Harris, Barbara J., *English Aristocratic Women 1450-1550*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), pp. 172-3 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=_ooCPPIPqvcC&pg=PA172

In the next generation, one of Dame Say's favourite daughters, Margaret Leynham, wife of Sir John, died childless. Her husband, who had predeceased her, left her almost all his goods, chattels, debts, and land. When she wrote her will three years later, she left her property except her religious bequests to her sisters, their children, and her maternal kin, the Danvers. Most important was the disposition of her land. She left manors with rights of inheritance to her sisters Elizabeth and Katherine and life rights in a manor to one of her nephews, John Brown, and his wife, Agnes. The beneficiaries of her plate, jewelry, and other luxury goods included her sisters Elizabeth and Katherine, her half-sister Alice, Alice's two sons, Elizabeth's son and three daughters, and the sons of her deceased sister Agnes. When her sister Katherine died, she transferred her legacy to

Katherine's daughters. She also bequeathed £10 of goods to one of her Danver uncles and gilt cups to two others.

For the will of Sir John Leynham alias Plomer, proved 16 November 1478, see TNA PROB 11/6/486.

For the will of Margaret Fray Leynham, proved 12 September 1482, see TNA PROB 11/7/90.

See also the History of Parliament entry for Margaret Leynham's father, Sir John Fray (d.1461) at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1386-1421/member/fray-john-1461>

The testator was an executor of the will of Margaret Leynham's mother, Agnes Danvers Baldington Fray Wenlock Say. See Parker, *supra*, p. 174, and a transcript of the will at:

<http://users.trytel.com/tristan/towns/florilegium/lifecycle/lcdth18.html>

Margaret Stafford

She was the daughter of Humphrey Stafford (executed at Tyburn 8 July 1486) by Katherine Fray (born c.1447, d. 12 May 1482), the second daughter of Sir John Fray (d.1461) and Agnes Danvers Baldington Wenlock Fray Say (see above). Margaret Stafford married John Archer. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 223-4.

Lady Latimer

Anne Stafford, sister of Margaret Stafford (see above). She married Richard Neville (c.1467-1530), 2nd Baron Latimer, and by him was the mother of John Neville (17 November 1493 – 2 March 1543), 3rd Baron Latimer, who married Dorothy de Vere (d. 7 February 1527), daughter of Sir George Vere and Margaret Stafford, and sister and co-heir of John de Vere (14 August 1499 - 14 July 1526), 14th Earl of Oxford. See Richardson, *supra*, Vol. II, pp. 224, 386, and the will of John Neville, 3rd Baron Latimer, TNA PROB 11/29/303.

'my Master Vere'

His identity is unclear. However it seems possible he was John de Vere (c.1482 – 21 March 1540), the future 15th Earl of Oxford.

'my Lord of Oxenford'

The testator requests that John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford, be one of the supervisors of his will.

Thomas Appleton

See above. Thomas Appleton (d. 4 October 1507) was the uncle of the wealthy clothier, Thomas Spring III (1457?-1523) of Lavenham, who together with John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford, was a major benefactor of the Church of St Peter and St Paul in Lavenham. See:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/church_gallery_03.shtml

Clement Heigham th' elder

For Clement Heigham and his wife, Joan Cotton, daughter of William Cotton of Lanwade, Cambridgeshire, see the pedigree of Heigham of Giffords Hall in Wickhambrook, Suffolk, in Howard, *supra*, p. 283 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=LCgAAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA322>

As noted in the will, their daughter, Elizabeth, married the testator's grandson, John Rookwood. William Heigham (d. 17 October 1558) of Hempstead, Essex, second son and heir of Clement Heigham by Joan Cotton, married Elizabeth Mordaunt, the daughter of William Mordaunt by Anne Huntingdon, daughter and coheir of Thomas Huntingdon. For the Mordaunt family, see the will, dated 2 October 1567 and proved 26 January 1568, TNA PROB 11/50/19, of Joan Farrington Booth Beconsall Browne, widow of Sir Anthony Browne (d. 16 May 1567), Justice of the Common Pleas. See also the pedigree of Heigham of Giffords in Burke, John and John Bernard Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain & Ireland*, Vol. III, (London: Henry Colburn, 1850), p. 159 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=9NDTAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA159>

Sir James Hobart

For the testator's executor, Sir James Hobart (1436-1517), who was also later an executor of the will of John de Vere, 13th Earl of Oxford, see Ross, *supra*, p. 233.

Geoffrey Gates

According to the Gates pedigree, the testator's ward, Geoffrey Gates, was the only son of William Gates, esquire, and Mabel Capdow, daughter and heir of Thomas Capdow of High Easter, Essex, by Anne Fleming of Essex, and the grandson of Sir Geoffrey Gates (d.1477), Marshal of Calais and Captain of the Isle of Wight, who died in the time of Edward IV, by Agnes Baldington (c.1427-1487), the daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Baldington (d. 22 August 1435) of Adderbury, Oxfordshire. See Maclean, John and W.C. Heane, eds., *The Visitation of the County of Gloucester Taken in the Year 1623*, (London: Harleian Society, 1885), Vol. XXI, p. 65 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=zSgEAAAIAAJ&pg=PA65>

Sir Thomas Baldington was the first husband of Agnes Danvers Baldington Fray Wenlock Say (see above), and by her had three daughters, Agnes Baldington (c.1427-1487), Alice Baldington (b.1434?) and Isabel Baldington (b.1435?). Agnes Baldington is said to have married five times, her known husbands being firstly William Browne, secondly Sir Geoffrey Gates, and thirdly William Bramlac. Alice Baldington married Sir Henry Tracy (died c.1506), and is said to have married secondly John Wakehurst. See the will of Alice Baldington's daughter, Elizabeth Tracy Langley Baynham (d. 19 October 1526), TNA PROB 11/22/255.

See Macnamara, F.N., *Memorials of the Danvers Family*, (London: Hardy & Page, 1895), pp. 103, 143 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=rdYKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA143>

For the testator's ward, Sir Geoffrey Gates (1484 - 7 May 1526), see also Ross, *supra*, p. 232. He married the testator's granddaughter, Elizabeth Clopton, by whom he was the father of three sons and a daughter:

-Sir John Gates (1504-1553), executor of John de Vere, 16th Earl of Oxford, for whom see the *ODNB* entry, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/gates-john-1504-53>

-Geoffrey Gates, for whose will, dated 12 August 1550 and proved 17 December 1554, see TNA PROB 11/37/210.

-Sir Henry Gates (c.1523-1589), for whom see his will, TNA PROB 11/73/531, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/gates-henry-1523-89>

-Dorothy Gates (d.1583?), who married Sir Thomas Josselyn (b. 1507, d. 24 October 1562). For her will, see TNA PROB 11/65/111.

Anne Gates

She is identified in the will below as the sister of the testator's ward, Geoffrey Gates. She married Thomas Darcy, the uncle of Thomas Darcy (1506-1558), 1st Baron Darcy of Chiche, Vice-Chamberlain of King Edward VI's household, and brother-in-law of John de Vere (1516-1562), 16th Earl of Oxford, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/44/115.

William Pykenham

For William Pykenham, rector of Hadleigh, Suffolk, see Parker, *supra*, p. 177.

TESTATOR'S LANDS

For the manor of Bower Hall in Pentlow, Essex, see White, William, *History, Gazetteer and Directory of Suffolk*, 3rd ed., (Sheffield: William White, 1874), p. 187 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=A1syAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA187>

CLOPTON PORTRAITS IN MELFORD CHURCH

For the painted glass portraits put up in Melford church by the testator about 1485, see Howard, *supra*, p. 24 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ExI2AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA24>

[f. 142r]

In dei nomine Amen, by whom all kings reign and all princes have domination and every creature liveth, I, John Clopton, knowing myself mortal, remembering also and daily having in mind the uncertain [=sic for 'uncertainty?'] of this transitory life, and that death is certain to me and to all mankind, and the hour of it is most uncertain, willing therefore that [if] death cometh suddenly as a thief [he] find me not unpurveyed to die, therefore beseeching the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, of whom almighty wisdom and grace proceedeth, at this time to give me grace and wisdom to make my testament to the pleasure of God, and my discharge of the goods of fortune that he hath given me, and that it may take such effect to my merit that when I depart out of this present pilgrimage and the unstable life, that I may come to the heavenly bliss where I may give laud, honour, worship and praising to my Maker and Redeemer in perpetuity.

In the name of Almighty God, I, John Clopton, esquire, of Melford in the county of Suffolk, being in health of body and in restful peace in my soul, make my testament the fourth day of the months of November in the 10th year of King Henry the 7th and in the year of Our Lord God 1494 touching my loose goods, all other by me testaments before made annulled and dampned;

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, Our Lady Saint Mary, and to all the blessed company of heaven, and my body to be buried in the little chapel in Melford Church there [=where= my grave is ready made, even by my wife;

And I bequeath to the high altar of the said church 40s in recompense of my tithes forgotten, praying my curate to forgive me if I be indebted any more to him for my said privy tithes;

Also I will that the parson have my best horse at his election for his mortuary according to the laudable custom of the town;

Also I will that all my debts be truly content and paid, which as far as I can remember me I have made of them a bill, they be not much;

Nevertheless if it can be truly proved that I have forgot any of my debts, that it be paid by the discretion of mine executors;

Also as far as it can be truly and lawfully proved that I have wronged or hurt any person, that it my be restored by the discretion of my executors;

Howbeit, as far as I can remember, I am clear of all wrongs done to any person;

And forasmuch as I know well that prayers is a singular remedy for the deliverance of souls in Purgatory, and specially the offering of the Blessed Sacrament of Our Lord's body, therefore I will that there be disposed for me and Dame Margaret Leynham within a month next after my decease 50 marks for 2 thousand Masses and dirges under this form following:

First I will that the father of Syon have 6s 8d, praying him to remember in 20 of his Masses my soul, the souls of my wife, my father and my mother, mine ancestors and my children, and of Sir John Leynham and Dame Margaret, his wife, and for all the souls that the said John Clopton is bound or in debt to pray for, and all Christian souls;

Also I will that every priest in Syon, Sheen and the Charterhouse of London, that each of them have 20d, praying them to remember the said souls in 10 of their [f. 142v] Masses;

Also I will that the house of Syon have 13s 4d, and that they say dirge and a Mass for me according to their grant, considering that I am a brother of the place;

Also I will that Dame Anne Drury have 6s 8d, and Margaret, daughter to Swayn, 6s 8d;

Also I will that the Cha[r]terhouse of London have 13s 4d, praying them to say a dirge and a Mass for me according to their grant of the brotherhood;

Also I will that every brother that is not a priest being within Syon, Sheen and the Cha[r]terhouse of London have 12d apiece, praying them to say 6 dirges for me and my wife and for the said souls;

Also that every priest in Hounslow have 20d, praying them to remember the said souls in 5 of their Masses, and I bequeath to the said house 10s, praying them to say a dirge and a Mass for me according to their grant of brotherhood;

Also I will that every friar that is in the Minories to have 12d to remember the said souls in three of their Masses, and th' abbess of the said place have 3s 4d, and my niece, Mary Tyrrell, 3s 4d, and that every nun of the said place have 20d, praying each of them to say 10 dirges for me;

Also I bequeath to the house 10s, praying them to say a dirge and Mass for me according to their grant of brotherhood;

Also I will that every priest in the friars of Sudbury, the friars of Clare, the friars of Babwell, the Grey Friars of Colchester, the White Friars of Maldon, the Black Friars of Chelmsford, the Black Friars of Thetford and the Austins [=Augustinians] there, each priest to have 12d, and the young friars that are no priests, each of them 6d, praying the priests to remember me and the said souls in 6 of their Masses and to say 3 dirges for me and the said souls, and the young friars to say 6 dirges for me;

Also I will that Master Goddard have 6s 8d, and I will that Master Breteyn have 13s 4d, and Master Chapman 6s 8d, praying them to remember my soul and my wife's and Sir John Leynham and Dame Margaret, his wife, in their sermons a year after my decease, and that they will remember me and tho [=those] that I am bound to in their Masses as it pleaseth them;

Also I will that Friar Stoke have 13s 4d to remember me in his sermons, and my wife, and Sir John Leynham and Dame Margaret, his wife, a year after my decease, and in his Mass as it pleaseth him;

Also I will that every monk in Bury have 12d, and the abbot, the prior, the sexton, the cellarer, the hospitaller, each of them 3s 4d, praying them to say a dirge and a Mass for me;

Also I will that the house of Sudbury have of me 20s, the house of Clare 20s, the house of Babwell 13s 4d, praying each of them to say a dirge and a Mass according to their grant of brotherhood;

Also the parson of Weston 10s to say a trental for me;

And to Sir John Lolatt, Cockett's priest, 10s to say a trental for me;

Also I will that the nuns of Thetford have 13s 4d;

The nuns of Hodington 10s;

Also I will that the anchor of Bishopsgate and each of the anchors of Norwich have 6s 8d;

Also I will that Dame Joan Lampett, anchoress of Carewe [=Carrow?], have 3s 4d to pray for me and for the said souls;

Also I will that Master Gutteller and Master Horneby, each of them 13s 4d to remember me a year after my decease in their sermons, my soul and my wife, Sir John Leynham and Dame Margaret, his wife, and also to remember in 20 Masses the foresaid souls;

Also I will have no great ado at my burying nor at my month day, save every priest that is at my burying and at the Mass upon the morrow have 8d, and every clerk of the most stature have 2d, and of the least stature 1d, and every poor man that cometh at my burying have 1d;

And at my month day I will have none ado save only a sermon and a dinner for this [sic] men of Melford and for strangers that cometh, but in recompense I will that every priest in Melford have 6s 8d so that there be kept a dirge and a Mass daily during all my month till my month day be past be [=by] note in Melford church;

And I will that the sexton and the(?) parish clerks, every of them have 5s to help them, and that there be chosen other 4 clerks to help them, every of them [to] have 3s 4d;

And when the sermon shall be done, on the same day I will there shall be disposed amongst each of the poor householders in Melford a piece of beef and a loaf of bread, and in money 40s;

And I will that the same day that my month day is, there shall be a dirge overnight by note, and upon the morrow a Mass in the churches following, even as it shall be at Melford: in Lavenham church, Saint Gregory's, Saint Peter's and in All Hallows in Sudbury, in Glemsford church, Cavendish, Boxted, Hertoft [=Hartest], Shimpling, Lawshall, Hawstead, Alpheton, Stanstead, Acton, Waldingfield the Less and the More, Chilton, Liston, Foxearth and Clare;

And I bequeath to every priest of the same churches that shall be at the said dirges and at the said Mass 4d, and every of the parish clerks and the sexton 2d apiece, and the sexton 6d to ring but one peal when the dirge is, and at the Mass;

And I will that there be disposed to poor householders the same day, to Sudbury 40s; to Lavenham [f. 143r] 26s 8d, to Glemsford 10s, to Cavendish 10s, to Boxted and to Hartest 6s 8d, to Shimpling 6s 8d, to Lawshall 5s, to Hawstead 13s 4d, to Alpheton 5s, to Cockfield 5s, Acton 5s, Waldingfield the More and Chilton 6s 8d, Waldingfield the Less 5s, Liston and Foxearth 6s 8d, to Clare 13s 4d, to Stamfelde [=Stansfield?] 3s 4d;

Also I will that there be disposed among the poor householders [in] Poslingford, Chipley, Stamfelde [=Stansfield?], Wickhambrook and Cowlinge 40s;

And 40s I will shall be disposed at Ashdon to poor people;

Also I will that Shimpling church shall have 40s to pray for Debenham's soul;

I will that Hawstead church have 5 marks to pray for Sir Gilbard Milde, and for Longe's soul of Lawshall that was slain with thunder;

Also I will that if the parson of Alpheton will pray for my father and me all the Sundays in the year next after my decease, I will that there be spent in the same church 26s 8d for some good memorial;

Also I will that all my servants shall be rewarded as I have made a bill of mine own hand;

Also I will that my daughter Curson have my primer which was her mother's;

Also I will that she shall have my great goblet which my father [=father-in-law] Darcy gave it unto her mother;

Also I will that John Curson, her son and also my godson, have 40 of my sheep, desiring his father and his mother to put them to increase as well as fortune will;

Also I will that John Rookwood, my godson, have other 40 sheep, desiring Clement Heigham and Joan, his wife, whose daughter, with God's grace, the said John shall wed, and that they will put it to increase to him as fortune will;

Also I bequeath to Thomas Rookwood and to his wife my black note [=nut?] of silver and gilt that Dane [sic for 'Dame?'] William [sic?] Babington gave me;

Also I will that all the residue of my sheep besides tho [=those] that be bequeathen and tho that shall be spent at my burying-day and at my month's day, and within the month to keep the household, be egally divided between the younger sons of my son, William, and Katherine, Dorothy and Elizabeth, daughter [sic for 'daughters?'] of the said William, [-and] their father, and to Edward's son, to put it in proument(?) to their profit & use;

And I will that my son William's wife have my ouche with the 3 pearls and 3 stones and a great stone in the middest which was my father's, desiring her to leave it to Francis, her

son, if he live after her day, or to some issue male of my son William's so that it may continue in the blood of Cloptons;

Also I give and bequeath my son Edward's wife an ouche with a heart;

Also I bequeath and give to Anne Poley my blue heart of gold with certain pearls;

Also I will that such cloths of velvet with all manner branches [and] flowers, and all manner other stuff that I have set about the sepulture at Easter over my grave, as well the green as the red, I give and bequeath it always to the same use of the sepulture;

And I will that the black vestment and that longeth to deacon and subdeacon that I have at home be given to Melford church, that it may be kept for obit days;

Also I will that the monster [sic for 'monstrance'?] that I have made to bear in the Sacrament be given to Melford church;

Also I give the red velvet vestment to Saint Anne's altar in Melford church to pray for my brother [=brother-in-law] Harleston and his wife;

Also a black vestment of velvet with leaves of gold which Elizabeth hath to keep, I give it to serve at the altar of my chapel in Melford church;

Also I will that the 3 heavy goblets that were my Lady Leynham's be surely kept, and £25 in money for Margaret, the daughter of Humphrey Stafford, according to the will of my said Lady Leynham, and she live till she be married I will the said Margaret have the ouche of Saint George that was my said Lady's;

And if the said Margaret die or [=ere] than she come to her full age or to be married, that then the said goblets and ouche to be sold and for to be disposed for my said Lady Leynham's soul;

Provided always that if my Lady Latimer, her sister, will have the said goblets for the same £25 that she should have by the will of my said Lady Leynham if the said Margaret, her sister, died within age, she to have the goblets and to make my executors a discharge of the said £25;

Also I will that the 6 children that my nephew Lewis had by my niece Alice, each of them have 10 with a paternoster of my beads of gold;

And the 4 children of my niece, Margaret Darcy, each of them have 10 with a paternoster of the said beads;

And that my niece Lettice' (?) daughter that dwelleth with my Master Vere, & another that dwelleth [with] my sister [=sister-in-law], Anne Montgomery, each of them have other 10 with a paternoster of the said beads;

Also I will that the prior of Colne have 20d, and every monk that is a priest 12d, and the nuns 8d to say a dirge and a Mass for me;

And specially I will and require my executors that all ready money that I have at the day of my death be delivered to Sir William Rigton be [=by] bill indented between my executors and him, and the residue of my plate by me not given to my sons by my life nor in my testament assigned, to this intent, that it may be sold and go to the execution of my testament, save I will if any of my sons will buy any thereof, that they shall have it for 40d an ounce to be paid in ready money; it is not much plate;

Also the said Sir William Rigton shall receive up all my debts, except all my debts that all my tenants of Chipley oweth me I give them to William, and all my debts that my tenants owe me in Cowlinge I give them [to] Edward;

And all the remnant of my debts I will that Sir William shall receive them & keep it within my place in his chamber with my ready money, and then to execute my will and testament;

And the residue that shall remain over this my will and testament performed shall be divided in 4 parts, whereof 2 parts to go to sad priests and virtuous to sing a trental for me & [f. 143v] to find virtuous scholars to school;

And the third part to buy with frieze & linen cloth for gowns, shirts & smocks and for peasen [=peas], herring and coals for to help the poor people hereabout in Lenten season;

And the fourth part shall go to the mending of highways betwixt this town and Bury, except I will that the friars of Sudbury, the friars of Clare, each of the houses shall have a barrel of herring in Lenten, and 40 stock-fishes, and the novice[s] of the said houses, each house a cade of sparling [=smelt];

And I will and charge my executors that, within 3 or 4 days after my month day, that they take a clear reckoning of the said Sir William what is spent & what remaineth (I doubt not but that he will be ready), and then my executors to make him a book what shall be done in the year following, and once in the year [+or?] as many times as my executors will come & take his accounts and that remaineth to assign what shall be done withal the next year after;

And that every executor shall have for his coming to take accounts 6s 8d;

And the said Sir William to have for every accounts making 13s 4d;

And I charge my son upon my blessing that they see this ready money and debts be truly executed for the wealth of my soul, considering that I have kept no more for the weal of my soul but that I have given them all the residue of my goods over my will and testament performed;

Also I will that the anchor of Bury have 20s for 2 trentals;

And Master Sir Thomas Grene that is with my cousin Grene have 10s for to sing a trental for me;

Also I will that immediately after my decease my godson, Sir John Turnour, have 20s for to sing 2 trentals for me and for Sir John Leynham & Dame Margaret, his wife;

And that master Cooke's brother and Sir William canon the canon [sic for 'Sir William, the canon?'] of Hethengham [=Hedingham?], each of them have 10s for to sing a trental for me;

And I will that after my accounts made after the month day, and all my servants with all other that is in my testament above-written be paid, & if there leave any reasonable sum, that they give it to the parson of Weston, Master Thomas, with my cousin Grene, with my master cellarer, with the aunsyr [sic for 'almoner?'] in th' abbey, Sir William that was parish priest of Melford, Sir John Thomson, my son William's priest, each of them 10s to sing a trental for me and Sir John Leynham and for Dame Margaret, his wife, and all tho [=those] that the said John is bound to pray for;

And all the residue of all my goods and chattels over the plate and stuff of household which I have given to my sons in my life, and this my testament and will performed, I give freely to my son, William, and to my son, Edward, the third part it is of no great value;

Alway providing that my son, William, and my son, Edward, upon my blessing take no profits of all such money, plate and debts that I have assigned in Sir William Rigton's hands, nor that they meddle not therewith, save only to th' execution of my testament & will and the residue to do for the profit of my soul;

And I make my executors to see this my will and testament performed and that shall be in Sir William Rigton's hands to be truly disposed, my son, William Clopton, my son, Edward Clopton, my sister [=sister-in-law], Agnes Montgomery, Robert Crane, James Hobert, Clement Heigham th' elder, and Thomas Appleton;

And I give William for his labour my relic of the peler(?) of Our Lord, desiring him to leave it alway in the blood;

And I give Edward for his labour my Jesus with all the relics therein;

And my sister [=sister-in-law], Anne, for her labour my Agnus Dei with all the relics therein, praying her if it may please her to give it after her day to some of my children or to my children's children, as it please her, for there be many great relics therein;

I give to my brother [=brother-in-law] Crane for his labour my ring with my great turquoise;

& I give James Hobert for his labour a great ring that Seliard [Sulyard?] gave me when he was made Sergeant, and my ring with saints that I wear daily;

And I give Clement Heigham my great hoop of gold that I wear daily with a sheaf of wheat graved therein;

& I give Thomas Appleton another hoop of gold with Saint Johannes' head graved therein;

Lowly beseeching my most assured good Lord, my Lord of Oxenford, and my especial good Master William Pykenham, that they will be supervisors of this my last testament, and to see that my executors perform my will, and if any man will wrong them, to help them and comfort them;

And I give my Lord of Oxenford for a poor remembrance a pair of carving knives, the hafts gilt and enamelled, and a ring of gold wherein is set a great counterfeit diamond;

& I give to Master Pikenham my Bible in English.

Memorandum: This is the last will and testament of me, John Clopton, subscribed with my own hand the 5th day of November the year above-written;

And I give to the parson of Melford my beads of amber of 10;

Also I pray and beseech my master, the cellarer of Bury, to say the service at my month day, wherefore I will he shall have 40s;

Memorandum: That I, John Clopton read over this my testament the 22 day of February the 12 year of King Henry the 7, which I will shall stand in every point;

Also the said John Clopton will that, whereas by the judgment of the parson of Melford and by th' assent of th' executors of John Hill the said John Clopton shall have 100 marks for to release his interest that he and his feoffees have in the manor of Bower Hall in Pentley [=Pentlow], the said John Clopton will that the said 100 marks be spent on the garnishing of Our Lady chapel and of the cloister thereabout that the said John Clopton hath done new made in Melford churchyard, and that there be made a special remembrance for to pray for the soul of the said John Hill, & for the soul of the said John Clopton, and for the souls that both the said Hill and John Clopton are most bound to pray for;

Also I will that the chalice with Harleston's arms be given to Melford church, and to serve the priests that shall sing at the altar in my heele [=aisle?] there [=where] I sit and there [=where] my sister Harleston lieth, and that the priest that shall sing at the said altar pray for the souls of John Harleston and Alice his wife, and for all their children.

These be the rewards that I, John Clopton, will that my servants have after my decease:

First I will that Richard Botiller have 20s in money beside his annuity of 20s yearly during his life out of my manor of Wodehous, and 13s 4d during 7 year out of Geoffrey Gates' lands if Geoffrey live [f. 144r] so long, in recompense of that which I owe him of his hire;

Item, in like wise I will that Elizabeth Machyn have 20s in money beside her annuity of 20s that she hath out of the manor of Wodehous term of her life, and of Geoffrey Gates' lands during 7 year 13s 4d, if she live so long, in recompense for her hire that I owe her;

Item, I will that John Man have 20 quarters of great measure of good malt, and the horn that was Piper's, which he may keep as a jewel, and 13s 4d in money;

Item, I will that Coudde and William Audley, each of them have 20s;

Item, I will that More have 26s 8d;

Item, I will that Thomas Elice, if he dwell with me when I die, have 20s;

Item, I will that William Hunte have 20s;

And Culpeper have 20s;

And Thomas Staple 13s 4d;

And as to the residue of my servants that dwelleth with me the day of my death, I will that each of them have 6s 8d;

Written with my own hand the 4th day of December anno decimo Henrici septimj

RM: ultima voluntas Joh{an}nis Clopton

This is the declaration of me, John Clopton, esquire, of my will made the 20th day of February in the 12 year of King Henry the 7 for Geoffrey Gates' lands and for his marriage, which I have of the grant of the King during his nonage, which is a 9 year to come:

First I will that he shall marry with Elizabeth, one of the daughters of my son, William, if she live;

And if she die, if he will marry with any of my said son's daughters, I hold me content;

And if he will not, then my executors to sell his marriage to some good blood, and to give to the said Geoffrey of his marriage money a hundred nobles, and that it may be disposed for his most profit to pray for me, always providing that my executors to dispose the profits of the lands as hereafter shall follow;

Always provided that if case be that the said Geoffrey die within age, as God defend, then I will that his sister, Anne, do marry with William the eldest son [sic for 'with William's eldest son?'], whosoever he be, or else with some of his youngest children;

And as for the disposition of the profits of his lands, I will that Geoffrey shall be found to school and to court honestly during his nonage, and in case be that he marry with any of my son's William [sic for 'my son William's?'] daughters, I will that all the profits of his lands shall be kept 2 year afore or [=ere] that he come unto his full age (and the reparations reasonable [=reasonably] kept, and over his reasonable finding) to buy him therewith stuff of household against that he come to his full age;

And if it hap the said Elizabeth die, if he will not marry with none of my said William son's [sic for 'my son William's?'] daughters, then if he will marry with my son's [sic for 'son?'] Rookwood's daughter, my daughter's daughter, or else with any of the daughters of my daughter, Dorothy Cursons, I hold me content that he shall have the said profits of the said 2 years;

And if he will not marry with none of them, then his marriage to be sold as I have declared before, the lands always reserved unto my executors over his reasonable finding, and my executors shall take up all the profits till he come to his lawful age of the said lands, and to dispose them yearly as I shall after declare:

First I will that with the parcels of the said profits that Anne Gates, his sister, be found honestly till she be married or come to 21 year of age, so that she be with my son, William, or with my son, Edward, and will be ruled by my executors;

And if the said Geoffrey live till he come to his full age, I will that she shall have 50 marks unto her marriage of the said profits;

And I will that Margery Este shall have of the said profits yearly during his nonage, if she live so long, 40s in recompense of her annuity that she should have out of the manor of Hanstede Weynellis and Mansters;

And if she live longer, or else the lands go out of hands, she to have the said 40s out of the said manor of Hansted as I have made my will thereof;

Also I will that of the said profits that the nuns of Sopwell of Saint Albans have yearly a seete [=suit?] of fruit of figs and raisins and a cade of sprot [=smelt];

And all the residue of the profits over the reasonable finding of the said Geoffrey and Anne & the reparations kept, I will that Margery, the daughter of Humphrey Stafford, have £25 that Dame Margaret Leynham bequeathed her;

& of the residue of the profits during 7 year I will yearly that George Polleis [=Poley?] have 13s 4d if he will go to Cambridge to school;

Also I will that of the said profits yearly that young William Clopton and Robert Clopton, each of them 12d a week so that they will go to grammar school still, for their board;

Also I will that 39s yearly during 7 year of Geoffrey Gates' life be spent in Saint Mary's church and Saint James' church in Bury, at Hadleigh church, at Lavenham church, at Melford, at Saint Gregory's in Sudbury, Saint Peter's, All Hallows, and Clare, each of the curates 3s 4d to remember in their beads bidding every Sunday in the year the souls of Sir John Leynham and Dame Margaret, his wife, John Clopton and Alice, his wife, and for all the souls that the said John Clopton is bound to pray for;

And I will that during the said 7 year, if the said Geoffrey live, that there be disposed in Shalforde [=Shelford?], Highstern [=Harston?] and Longbernes 40s in Lenten in herring and peasen to the poor householders, and to buy 20s worth of frieze and to dispose it in gowns and petticoats in the same towns;

Also I will that if my son, Edward, will dwell at Garnettes [=Great Garnetts?] during the nonage of the said Geoffrey, than then he to have his 5 mark yearly within the price, so that he see the reparations surely kept, and to the helping as much to Geoffrey Gates as he can, as I verily deem that he will;

Also I will during the said years that if Figge will keep the courts and receive all the rents of the said lands and bring it home to Melford and make yearly a true accounts to my executors, I will that he have his fee of 4 marks still;

And I will that Henry Robson have 6s 8d yearly during the said term of 7 year;

And that Elizabeth Mathon have 13s 4d beside her annuity of 20s that I have granted her out of Wodehous;

And in like wise during the said term of 7 years that Richard Buttiller have 13s 4d besides his annuity of Wodehous;

Also I will that Jane, Elizabeth Mathone's daughter, have 5 mark of the said profits to her use;

And all the residue of the profits that shall grow in the said 7 years, all the premises abovesaid performed, I will yearly it shall be brought to Melford to Sir William Rigton, to have the keeping thereof in his chamber as he shall have of my own, and at th' end of 7 year I will it shall be egally divided betwixt William Clopton's younger children and Edward's then alive except tho [=those] that be married.

shall keep the lands during the nonage of the said Geoffrey except his reasonable finding, and my said executors *ut supra*

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum Coram D{omi}no Apud Lamethith decimo sexto die Mensis [f. 144v] Nouembris Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo CCCCo Nonagesimo Septimo Iuramento Will{el}mi Clopton et Thome Clopton executor{um} Ac approbatum et insinuatum &c Et com{m}issa fuit admi{ni}stracio o{mn}i{u}m et singulorum bonorum et debitorum d{ic}ti defuncti d{ic}tis execut{oribus} in huiusmodi testamento no{m}i{n}at{is} De b{en}e et fideliter ac sub unanimi consensu et assensu admi{ni}strand{o} eadem Ac de pleno et fidei Inuentario &c Citra festum s{an}c{t}i Andree Ap{osto}li p{ro}x{imum} futurum exhibend{o} Necnon de plano et vero compoto &c Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia &c Reseruata potestate similem com{m}iss{i}o{ne}m faciendi Agneti Mongom{er}y Roberto Crane Iacobo Hobert et clementi High{a}m sen{iori} executorib{us} etiam in huiusmodi testamento no{m}i{n}at{is} cum venerint & Edwardo Clopton Alio executori &c expresse refutan{te} Dat{um} die Mensis &c N{ost}re q{ue} Translacionis Anno duodecimo

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord at Lambeth on the sixteenth day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand 400 ninety-seventh by the oath of William Clopton and Thomas Clopton, executors, and probated and entered etc., and administration was granted of all and singular the goods and debts of the said deceased to the said executors named in the same testament, {+sworn?} on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully and with unanimous consent and assent administer the same, and to exhibit a full inventory etc. before the feast of Saint Andrew the Apostle next to come, and also a plain and true account etc., with power reserved for a similar grant to be made to Agnes Montgomery, Robert Crane, James Hobert and Clement Heigham the elder when they shall have come etc., Edward Clopton, the other executor etc. having expressly refused, dated the day, month etc., and of our translation(?) in the twelfth year.]