

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 3 November 1547 and proved 19 December 1547, of Richard Pranke, chaplain to Anne (nee Howard) de Vere (d.1558/9), Dowager Countess of Oxford, widow of John de Vere (1499-1526), 14th Earl of Oxford. The testator appoints the Countess as his sole executrix and makes her the sole beneficiary of his will, expressing the hope that she will care for his brother, Thomas Pranke, and his brother's children. It would appear from the terms of the will that the Countess resided at Castle Campes during her widowhood.

LM: Testamentum Richardi prank clerici(?)

In the name of God, Amen. The third day of November in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred forty and seven, I, Richard Pranke, parson of Castle Campes in the diocese of Ely and chaplain to the right honourable Lady Anne, Countess of Oxenford, widow, being of whole mind and perfect remembrance, thanks be to God, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First, I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, and my body to be buried in the church of Castle Campes;

Also I will, give and bequeath all my goods and substance, whatsoever they be, how much soever they be, wheresoever they be ovly(?), with all my debts now due to me at this present time or that shall be due to me hereafter by any manner of covenant of writing or bill heretofore made, I wholly and totally give and bequeath to the said honourable Lady, whom I do ordain and make my sole executrix of this my last will and testament, desiring her Ladyship for God's love to be good to my brother Thomas Pranke's children, and to my brother, Thomas, himself, as her Ladyship shall think best, and she to see my debts paid;

These being witness whose names be written with their own hands, with other mo: William Hache, Lucas Tailor.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum coram domini Cantuariensis Archiepiscopi apud London xixo die Decembris Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo xlvijo Iuramento Willelmi Walker procuratoris domine Anne Commitisse Oxonie executoris in huiusmodi testamento nominate Cui commissa fuit administracio omnium bonorum &c dicti defuncti &c De bene &c Ad sancta dei &c in persona dicti(?) procuratoris Iurati

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the 19th day of December in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 47th by the oath of William Walker, proctor of Lady Anne, Countess of Oxford, executor named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all the goods etc. of

the said deceased etc., sworn on the Holy [+Gospels] etc. in the person of the said proctor, to well etc.]