

SUMMARY: The document below is the last will and testament, dated 21 January 1571 and proved 6 February 1571 of Walter Haddon (1514/15-1571), the stepbrother of George Saunders, murdered on 25 March 1573 by Oxford's former servant, George Browne. The murder was the subject of a pamphlet by Oxford's uncle, Arthur Golding (1535/6-1606), *Brief Discourse of the Late Murther of Master George Saunders*, and an anonymous play, *A Warning for Fair Women*, performed by the Lord Chamberlain's Men.

According to the *ODNB*, the testator was the son of William Haddon of Buckinghamshire and Dorothy Yonge, the daughter of John Yonge of Croome D'Abitot, Worcestershire. Dorothy Yonge's brother, Humphrey Yonge, married Dorothy Underhill, the great-aunt of William Underhill (d.1597), who sold New Place to William Shakespeare of Stratford. For the will of William Underhill, see TNA PROB 11/52/126.

After the death of the testator's father, the testator's mother, Dorothy Yonge, married secondly William Saunders (d.1541), and thirdly Paul Dayrell (d.1555/6).

The testator was predeceased by his brother, James Haddon, evangelical divine, for whom see the entry in the *ODNB*.

For the will of the testator's mother, Dorothy (nee Yonge) Haddon Saunders Dayrell, see TNA PROB 11/56/39. For the will of the testator's stepfather, William Saunders (d. 1541), see TNA PROB 11/28/488. For the will of the testator's stepbrother, Francis Saunders (d.1584/5), in which he mentions the children of his late brother, George Saunders, see TNA PROB 11/68/442. For the will of the testator's stepfather, Paul Dayrell (d. 1555/6), see TNA PROB 11/38/54. See also the pedigree of Saunders of Little Bowden in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Northamptonshire*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1887), p. 44.

The testator's first wife was Margaret Clere, daughter of Sir John Clere (c.1511-1557) of Ormesby, Norfolk, a first cousin of Queen Anne Boleyn. Oxford sold his manor of Weybourne in Norfolk to Sir John Clere's son, Edward Clere (1536-1606). For the will of Sir John Clere, see TNA PROB 11/39/381. By Margaret Clare the testator is said to have had two sons and two daughters. However the only child mentioned in the testator's will below is a son, Clere Haddon, who drowned in the River Cam shortly after the testator's death.

On 17 December 1567 the testator married, as his second wife, Anne Sutton (d. 1611/12), the daughter of Sir Henry Sutton of Nottinghamshire.

The testator died in London on 21 January 1571. On 27 January 1573 his widow, Anne, married Sir Henry Brooke (1537-1592), the fifth surviving son of George Brooke (c.1497-1558), 9th Baron Cobham, and brother of William Brooke (1527-1597), 10th Baron Cobham. They had three sons and two daughters, one of whom Philippa (c.1579-1613), married Walter Calverley (d.1605), said to have been a ward of William Brooke

(1527-1597), 10th Baron Cobham. See the ODNB entry for Sir Henry Brooke (1537-1592). Walter Calverley's murder of his children was dramatized in *A Yorkshire Tragedy*, attributed on the title page to Shakespeare.

One of the witnesses to the testator's will below, Blase Saunders (d.1581?), was a first cousin of the murdered George Saunders. For the will of Blase Saunders (d.1581?), see TNA PROB 11/63/486.

RM: T{estamentum} mag{ist}ri Wateri Haddon Legu{m} doctoris Curie prerogatiue Cant{uariensis} Custodi(?) siue Comissarij

In the name of God, Amen. I, Walter Haddon, being in health of body and of perfect memory, thanks be to God, make my last will and testament in form following, that is to say:

First I bequeath my soul and spirit unto the hands of Almighty God, my heavenly Father, by whom I trust to be received into eternal rest through the death of my Saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, in whose precious blood I set the whole and only hope of my salvation;

My wretched body I bequeath to the earth, to be buried with such charges and ceremony and in such place as my dear wife, Anne Haddon, shall think good, whom I make and ordain to be my only executrix of this my last will and testament, willing and desiring her to provide a sermon and to distribute some alms amongst the poor, and to cut off other superfluous charges as much as she can;

And I will my said executrix shall by her discretion give some token of remembrance to Mr Peter Osborne and likewise to his wife, and to my godmother;

Further I bequeath to the Hospital of Christ's Church forty shilling[s];

Further I give my son, Clere Haddon, all my books towards the furtherance of his study, and I give and bequeath to my said son, Clere Haddon, two hundred pounds of good and lawful English money, to be paid to him and his assigns out of my goods and chattels in manner and form following, that is to say, twenty pounds yearly at the feasts of th' Annunciation of Saint Mary the Virgin, the Nativity of Saint John Baptist, Saint Michael th' Archangel and the Birth of Our Lord God by even portions until the said sum be fully paid, the first payment [-payment] thereof to begin at that feast of the feasts aforesaid that first shall come after my decease;

Also I give and bequeath to my said son, Clere Haddon, my chain of gold being about the value of (blank) of lawful money of England, to be delivered to the said Clere Haddon within the space of six years next after my decease;

The residue of all and singular my goods, chattels and debts whatsoever I give and bequeath to my said wife, Anne Haddon, desiring her in the name of God and for the knot of love that hath been fastened between us to see my debts truly paid and to be a very mother to my said son;

And in witness hereof I have subscribed these presents with my own hand, and thereto also set my seal this present 21st day of January Anno Domini 1570 and in the 13th year of the reign of our most gracious Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith etc. Walter Haddon. Witnesses John Symynges, Blase Saunders and Richard Scott.

Probatum fuit h{uius}mo{d}i Testamentu{m} cora{m} Domino Cant{uariensis} Archiep{iscop}o apud London sexto die mens{is} ffebruarij Anno d{omi}ni mill{es}imo qui{n}gen{tesimo} lxxo Iurament{o} M{agist}ri Ioh{ann}is Lewys Notarij p{ubli}ci procuratoris noie(?) Ex{ecutricis} in h{uius}mo{d}i Testament{o} no{m}i{n}ate Cui com{m}issa fuit Administrac{i}o o{mn}i{u}m bonor{um} d{i}c{t}i defuncti de bene &c Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{i}

[=The same testament was proved before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the sixth day of the month of February in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred seventieth by the oath of Master John Lewis, notary public, proctor of [] executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all the goods etc. of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc.]