

SUMMARY: The document below is the will, dated 30 April 1578 and proved 31 May 1578, of Sir Ambrose Nicholas, Lord Mayor of London. The testator mentions his purchase of Oxford's mansion near London Stone, and directs that the property be sold by his executrix and overseers. Oxford sold the mansion to Sir Ambrose Nicholas in 1573, as evidenced by a recognizance for purposes of indemnification given by Oxford to Nicholas in that year in the amount of £2000 (see TNA PRO 30/34/14 and TNA C 54/922, Part 27). Sir John Harte (d.1604) may have purchased the mansion from the executors of Sir Ambrose Nicholas, or there may have been intermediate purchasers. Both men kept their mayoralties there, Sir Ambrose Nicholas in 1575-6, and Sir John Harte in 1589-90::

On the north side of this church [=St Swithins] and churchyard is one fair and large built house, sometime pertaining to the prior of Tortington in Sussex, since to the Earls of Oxford, and now to Sir John Harte, alderman, which house hath a fair garden belonging thereunto, lying on the west side thereof. On the back side of two other fair houses in Walbrook, in the reign of Henry VII, Sir Richard Empson, knight, chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, dwelt in the one of them, and Edmond Dudley, esquire, in the other; either of them had door of intercourse into this garden, wherein they met and consulted of matters at their pleasures. In this Oxford place Sir Ambrose Nicholas kept his mayoralty, and since him the said Sir John Harte.

See Thoms, William J., ed., *A Survey of London written in the year 1598 by John Stow* (London: Whittaker, 1842), p. 84. For Sir John Harte's will, in which he leaves a life estate in the mansion to his second wife Anne (d.1625), see TNA PROB 11/103, ff. 1-7.

For the will of the testator's widow, Elizabeth (nee Shakerley), dated 24 January 1583 and proved 13 September 1583, see TNA PROB 11/65, ff. 347-50. It appears from her will that Elizabeth was Sir Ambrose Nicholas' second wife, and that of the four children whom the testator describes in the will below as his 'natural children' (John, Daniel, Anne and Elizabeth), his two sons and daughter Elizabeth were the children of an earlier marriage. The testator also refers to a deceased daughter, Susan, the wife of William Turner, and it may be that she was also a child by his first wife. The name of his first wife is not known. The testator and his second wife, Elizabeth Shakerley were married by 9 March 1565, as evidence by the fact that in his will of that date her father, Rowland Shakerley (1520-1564) refers to his daughter 'Elizabeth Nicholas' (see TNA PROB 11/48, ff. 74-5).

Records of the testator's eldest son and heir, John Nicholas, are few. In TNA E 136/116/2 he is referred to as John Nicholas, son and heir of Ambrose Nicholas'.

The testator's second son, Daniel Nicholas, was a witnesses in the *Belott v Mountjoy* lawsuit, and is stated therein to have had a personal conversation with William Shakespeare (1564-1616) of Stratford upon Avon (see TNA REQ 4/1/3 on this website). See also Nicholl, Charles, *The Lodger Shakespeare; His Life on Silver Street* (New York: Viking, 2008), p. 64:

Sir Ambrose Nicholas, a salter by trade, served as Lord Mayor in 1575-6. He died a couple of years later, so Shakespeare would not have known him, but he certainly knew his son, Daniel Nicholas (born about 1560). This was the friend of Stephen Belott, who testified in 1612 that he had visited Shakespeare 'to understand the truth' about the disputed dowry.

The testator's daughter, Elizabeth Nicholas, married John Gilborne (d.1602). In his will, dated 20 March 1601 and proved 7 September 1602, John Gilborne leaves £3 to 'my brother Daniel Nicholas' (see TNA PROB 11/100, ff. 145-6).

The testator's daughter, Anne Nicholas married firstly, William Dutton (d.1618), esquire, of Sherborne, by licence dated 2 October 1583, and by him had seven sons and seven daughters. She married secondly, on 19 August 1619 at St James Clerkenwell, Sir Paul Tracy (d.1626). She was buried 10 August 1625 in Sherborne, Dorset. See Burke, John, and John Bernard Burke, eds., *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies of England, Ireland and Scotland*, 2nd ed., (London: Scott, Webster and Geary, 1841), p. 178, available online.

The testator leaves a bequest to 'my brother Ralph Bouchier'. Sir Ralph Bouchier, who died intestate on 11 June 1598, married firstly Elizabeth Hall, the daughter of Francis Hall of Grantham, Lincolnshire. They had two sons, William, esquire, and Sir John, and four daughters, Ursula (wife of Sir Richard Molyneux and Sir Richard Trewe), Bridget, Lucy and Katherine. Sir Ralph Bouchier married secondly, by licence dated 29 November 1577 at St. Bennet, Gracechurch, London, Christian Shakerley, widow of John Harding, esquire, alderman of London, and daughter of Rowland Shakerley, of London (see Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing, 2004), p. 143, available online). Christian Shakerley was the sister of the testator's second wife, Elizabeth Shakerley. See the will of their father, Rowland Shakerley (1520-1564), TNA PROB 11/48, ff. 74-5, in which he refers to his daughters Elizabeth Nicholas and Christian Harding.

RM: T{estamentum} d{omi}ni Ambrosij Nicholas militis [=Will of Sir Ambrose Nicholas, knight]

In the name of God, Amen. The last day of April in the year of our Lord God 1578 and in the 20th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the [+grace of God] Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., I, Sir Ambrose Nicholas, knight, citizen and alderman of London, being sick of body and of good and perfect mind and memory, laud and praise be given to Almighty God therefore, do make, ordain and declare this my present testament containing herein my last will in manner and form following, that is to say;

First and principally I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God, my maker and creator, and to his dearly beloved son, Jesus Christ, my only Saviour and Redeemer, in whom and by the merits of whose most precious death and passion I hope and steadfastly believe to have and obtain full and clear remission, pardon and forgiveness of all my sins and offences, and my body to the earth to be buried within the parish church of St. Mildred's in Bread Street within the city of London where I am now a parishioner in some convenient place within the same parish church at the discretion and appointment of my executrix hereafter named;

Item, I will that all such debts, duties, sum and sums of money whatsoever as I shall be indebted in or owe of right or in conscience to any person or persons shall be well and truly answered, satisfied and paid by my executrix hereafter named within as short time and space after my decease as conveniently may be;

Item, I will that all and singular my goods, chattels, plate, jewels, ready money, household stuff, debts, thing and things whatsoever remaining at my decease after my debts paid and my funeral expenses fully discharged shall be indifferently parted and divided into three equal parts and portions;

One equal third part or portion whereof I do wholly give, will and bequeath unto my Dame Elizabeth, my well-beloved wife, for her part and portion of and in my said goods and chattels to her due and belonging by the laudable use and custom of the city of London;

One other equal third part or portion whereof I do wholly give, will and bequeath unto John Nicholas, Daniel Nicholas, Anne Nicholas and Elizabeth Nicholas, my natural children, for their third part and portion of and in my said goods and chattels to them due and belonging by the laudable use and custom of the city of London aforesaid, equally amongst them to be divided part and part like, which portions of my said two sons I will to be paid unto them as soon as it may conveniently be gotten in, had and made of my said goods, chattels or debts, and my said daughters' portions to be paid unto them when and as they shall severally accomplish their several ages of one and twenty years or else be married, and if it shall happen either of my said two daughters aforesaid to die or depart this mortal life before she shall accomplish her age or marriage aforesaid, then I do give, will and bequeath the part and portion of her so deceased unto the survivor of them, to be paid and delivered unto the same survivor at her lawful age or marriage as aforesaid, and if it shall fortune both my said daughters to die and depart this mortal life before one of them shall accomplish her said age or marriage aforesaid, then I give, will and bequeath their said parts and portions unto and amongst the rest and residue of the children of me, the said Sir Ambrose, that shall then be living, equally amongst them to be divided part and part like;

And the third equal third part and portion thereof I reserve wholly unto myself, therewith to pay, perform and discharge all and singular my legacies, gifts and bequests hereafter in this my last will and testament limited and declared, that is to say;

First I give, will and bequeath unto Thomas Boxe [=Bokes?], citizen and grocer of London, my son-in-law, the full sum of four hundred threescore six pounds thirteen shillings and fourpence of lawful money of England as the rest and residue and in full satisfaction and payment of all the sum of one thousand marks which I promised to give and pay unto him in marriage with Jane, my daughter, now his wife, whereof such debt, duty and sums of money as he shall owe unto me at the time of my decease to be accounted and taken as in part of payment of the said one thousand marks;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my son John Nicholas a black gown, and to either of Anne Nicholas and Elizabeth Nicholas a black gown apiece;

Item, I give, will and bequeath unto either of John Gilborne, citizen and draper of London, and Elizabeth his wife, my daughter, a black gown, and to the said Elizabeth Gilborne, my daughter, one hundred pounds in money;

Item, I do give, will and bequeath to my daughter Jane Boxe a black gown, and to Elizabeth Boxe, her daughter, a black gown and twenty pounds in money, the same £20 to be paid and delivered unto her, the same Elizabeth Boxe, at her lawful age of 21 years or day of marriage, which shall first happen;

Item, I give and bequeath to Mistress Young, the wife of Richard Young, grocer, a black gown;

Item, I give, will and bequeath unto every one of the children of the said John Gilborne and Elizabeth, his wife, my said daughter, that be now living £20 apiece in money, and to every one of the same children being men children a black coat, and to the women children of them a black gown, and if any of the same three children shall fortune to die or depart this mortal life before my said legacy shall be paid unto them, then I will that the part or portion, parts or portions, of him, her or them so deceased shall go and remain to and amongst the survivors or survivor of them equally to be divided and paid part and part like;

Item, I give, will and bequeath unto Peter Baker, citizen and scrivener of London, a black gown and 53s and 4d in money;

Item, I give, will and bequeath unto every one of Ambrose Turner, Nicholas Turner, Thomas Turner and Jane Turner, children of William Turner and Susan his late wife, my daughter, deceased, twenty pounds apiece, the said Ambrose, Nicholas and Thomas Turner to have their said several portions of £20 apiece paid unto them at their several ages of 21 years, and the said Jane Turner to have her said portion of £20 paid unto her at her said age of 21 years or day of marriage, which of them shall first happen, and if it shall fortune the said four children of the said William Turner or any of them to die or depart this mortal life before their several lawful ages or marriage aforesaid, then I will that the part or portion, parts or portions, of him, her or them so deceased shall go and remain unto and amongst the survivors or survivor of them equally to be divided and paid part and part like;

Item, I also give, will and bequeath unto the said Ambrose Turner, Nicholas Turner and Thomas Turner a black coat, and unto the said Jane Turner a black cassock;

Item, I give, will and bequeath unto Ambrose Gillett, my sister's son, forty pounds in money and a black gown, and to Ellen Gillett, his sister, £10 in money, to Robert Gillett 40s in money, to John Gillett 40s in money, and to Anne Gillett 40s in money, and if any of them die before his, her or their said legacy shall or ought to be paid and delivered unto him, her or them, then I will that the part or portion, parts or portions, of him, her or them so deceased shall go and remain unto and amongst the survivors of them equally between them to be divided part and part like;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my sister Ivett 40s in money;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Edward Nicholas 20s in money;

Item, I give, will and bequeath towards the relief and succour of the poor, sick, sore and diseased people within St Bartholomew's Hospital in London one hundred marks in money;

Item, I give, will and bequeath towards the relief and comfort of the poor people of the parish of Holywell and Needingworth in the county of Huntingdon where I was born £5 in money;

Item, I give, will and bequeath towards the relief and comfort of the poor people of the town of Saint Ives in the county of Huntingdon 40s in money;

Item, I give, will and bequeath unto Ellen Harding of Elsworth in the county of Cambridge 20s in money;

Item, I give, will and bequeath unto the Keepers or Wardens and Commonalty of the art and mystery of Salters of the city of London and to their successors, Keepers or Wardens and Commonalty of the said art or mystery for the time being, one hundred pounds of lawful money of England forever, to be paid and delivered unto them by mine executrix hereafter named within the time and space of one year next after my decease upon condition for the intent that the said Keepers or Wardens and Commonalty of the said mystery for the time being or their assigns shall within one month next after the receipt thereof disburse, pay and deliver or cause to be disbursed, paid and delivered by their discretions to two poor young men to [sic?] the said art or mystery of Salters, being of honest name and fame, occupiers of the said art or mystery, and inhabitants within the said city of London and freemen of the said art or mystery of Salters, to be named, appointed and chosen from time to time by the Keepers or Wardens and Commonalty of the said art or mystery or the most part of them, the said sum of one hundred pounds in good and lawful money of England, viz., to either of the same two poor young men fifty pounds apiece;

To have and to occupy the same hundred pounds from the time of the deliverance thereof for and during the term of two years then next following to their most profit, commodity and advantage without anything giving or paying for the loan, interest, use or occupying thereof other than two loads of great coals, accounting thirty lawful sacks of great coals well filled to every load thereof, yearly during the said two years by the said two poor young men equally between them to be bought and provided, and to be equally distributed yearly against the feast of the birth of our Lord God unto and amongst the twelve poor men or poor women who for the time being shall be the alms-folks, yearly against the feast aforesaid five sacks of coals apiece, so as the said two poor young men who for the time being that shall have the use and occupying of the said one hundred pounds between them as aforesaid do dwell within the said city of London or the suburbs of the same during the space of two years next after the receipt of the same hundred pounds, they and either of them finding and putting into the said Keepers or Wardens and Commonalty of Salters for the time being sufficient sureties or sufficient pawn as well for the true payment of the said sum of one hundred pounds at th' end of the said two years as also for the deliverance of the said two loads of coals yearly during the said two years in manner and form afore declared;

RM: Alms-folks within my 12 alms-houses in Monkwell Street in the parish of St. Olave within Cripplegate of London, that is to say, to every one of the same [+a?] 12 part.

To th' intent and upon condition the said Keepers or Wardens and Commonalty of the said art or mystery of Salters for the time being, their successors or assigns, shall upon the receipt of the said hundred pounds in th' end of the said two years deliver the said sum of £100 to two other poor young men, occupiers of the said art or mystery and inhabitants of the said city of London, freemen of the said art or mystery, to be named, appointed and chosen as is aforesaid viz., to either of them fifty pounds apiece, to have and to occupy the same for other two years next ensuing the receipt thereof, they and either of them finding first sufficient sureties or sufficient pawn for the true repayment of the said £100 in th' end of the said two years as aforesaid, without anything giving, yielding or paying for the loan, interest, use or occupying thereof other than the said two loads of great coals yearly to the use and in manner and form before declared;

And after every two years the same sum of one hundred pounds to be received and delivered by the Keepers or Wardens and Commonalty of the said art or mystery for the time being, their successors or assigns, to two other poor young men of honest name and fame, occupiers of the said art and inhabitants within the said city of London, and freemen of the said art or mystery, to be named and appointed as is beforesaid, to have and to occupy the same for their most profit and advantage during the term of two years next after the receipt thereof in manner and form afore rehearsed upon the consideration aforesaid;

And this manner of delivery of the said sum of £100 to two poor young men as is aforesaid of the said art or mystery of Salters to occupy for two years, and so from two years to two years, to have continuance in the said Company of Salters upon the consideration aforesaid, by God's help, forever;

Provided always and my will, mind, meaning and intent is that none of the two poor young men that shall once have had the benefit of the use and occupation of the said £100 or any part thereof for two years shall be admitted or allowed to have the same again at any time hereafter;

Item, I give, will and bequeath to the said Keepers or Wardens and Commonalty of Salters aforesaid for a recreation or dinner to be had and made amongst them at the day of my burial ten pounds in money;

Item, I give and bequeath to the relief and maintenance of the poor children in Christ's Hospital in London 20 marks in money;

Item, I give and bequeath to the relief of the poor people in the ward of Bread Street in London £10 in money;

Item, I give and bequeath to the relief of the poor people within the ward of Portsoken in London 40s in money;

Item, I give and bequeath to the relief of the poor people within the ward of Walbrook in London 40s in money;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the honourable Thomas Ramsey, at the present Lord Mayor of the city of London, a black gown;

Item, I give and bequeath unto William Fleetwood, esquire, now Recorder of the city of London, and to the sword-bearers of the same city, a black gown apiece;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Mr Alderman Boxe, Mr Alderman Osborne, Mr Alderman Dixie, the Lady Martyn and Mistress Dane(?), to every one of them a black gown apiece;

Item, I bequeath unto Mr Thomas Marmion a black gown if he be in London at my burial;

Item, I bequeath to every one of Mr Danyell [+and] Mr Ellis, gentlemen of Gray's Inn, Mr Scott, salter, and his wife, Mr William Albany and his wife, Mr Powell and his wife, Thomas Harding, salter, and Grace, his wife that shall be, and to Mr Simon Harding, salter, and to Mr Archdeacon Walker, young Mistress Gamage, and to the parson of St. Mildred's in Bread Street that now is, a black gown apiece;

Item, I give and bequeath to every one of my men servants being serving-men a black coat apiece, and also I bequeath to every one of my other servants and apprentices a black coat and a cloak apiece by the discretion of my executrix;

Item, I give and bequeath to every one of my twelve poor almsmen and women that be dwelling within my alms-houses in Monkwell Street in London, and to as many more

other poor men and women of the Company of Salters as with my said almsmen and women shall be in all of the whole number of threescore persons, a black gown apiece by the discretion of mine executrix;

Item, I bequeath to every one of my god-children 6s 8d apiece in ready money;

Item, I give and bequeath to every one of John Jackson, pewterer, William Griffin, vintner, and John Salton, salter, a black gown;

Item, I bequeath to Mary Hatton a black gown and 20s in money;

Item, I give and bequeath to every one of John Ireland, Thomas Barber, William Carter and Thomas Thornton, my late servants, a black gown apiece;

Item, I give and bequeath to Nicholas Hyron, beadle of the ward of Bread Street in London, and Dorothy, now his wife, to either of them a black gown apiece;

Item, I bequeath to my brother Ralph Bouchier and his wife, either of them a black gown, and to William Gamage, ironmonger, a black gown;

The residue of all and singular my goods, chattels, household stuff, plate, jewels, ready money, debts, thing and things moveable whatsoever unbequeathed in and by this my present last will and testament, my debts and funeral expenses first paid and discharged, I wholly give, limit, will and bequeath unto the said Dame Elizabeth, my well-beloved wife, whom of this my present last will and testament I do make, ordain and constitute my sole and alone executrix;

And for the good and perfect execution to be had, made and done of this same my present last will and testament I do make, ordain and constitute my son-in-law Thomas Boxe, grocer, and my trusty and well-beloved friends Richard Young, grocer, Robert Sole and Thomas Hall, salters, citizens of London, overseers of this same my present last will and testament, most heartily praying and requiring them and every of them to see, cause and procure this my present testament and last will to be well and truly performed and executed in all things according to the tenor hereof and my true intent and meaning herein declared;

And I do give and bequeath unto the said Richard Young for his pains to be taken, as well therein as in the bargaining, selling and doing away of my great messuage or house called Oxford House and premises hereafter mentioned lying in the parish of St. Swithin near London Stone in London by me appointed to be clearly sold away by this my last will and testament, £10 in money and a black gown, and to every of the said Thomas Boxe, Robert Sole and Thomas Hall four marks in money and a black gown apiece for their like pains to be taken in the premises;

And I do utterly revoke and annul all and every former testaments, wills, legacies and bequests, executors and overseers by me in any wise before this time had, made, named,

ordained, constituted, appointed, willed or bequeathed [+ and this my present last will and testament?] shall stand, remain and perpetually abide as and for my present last will and testament and none other nor otherwise;

And as touching the disposition and limitation of all and singular my messuages, lands, tenements, gardens, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments with all and singular their appurtenances whatsoever situate, lying and being, coming, growing and renewing, as well within the city of London aforesaid as elsewhere within the realm of England, other than such messuages, lands, tenements, gardens, alms-houses and hereditaments with their appurtenances which I have already by my last will and testament in writing bearing date the 28th day of this month of April given, willed and bequeathed unto the Keepers or Wardens and Commonalty of the art or mystery of Salters of the city of London and to their successors forever to and for certain uses, purposes and intents therein limited, expressed and declared, this is the last will and testament of me, the said Sir Ambrose Nicholas, knight;

Item, I give, will, limit, bequeath and dispose the same and every of them (except before excepted) in manner and form following;

First I will, and my mind and intent is, that all the great capital messuage or mansion-house wherein I do now inhabit and dwell, sometime or of late commonly called or known by the name of Oxenforth Place, with all and singular cellars, solars, warehouses, watercourses, yards, courts, void grounds, gardens, chambers, rooms, lights, easements, profits, commodities and appurtenances whatsoever to the same great capital messuage or mansion-house incident, belonging or in any wise appertaining now in the tenure or occupation of me, the said Sir Ambrose Nicholas, situate, lying, and being in the parish of St Swithin near unto London Stone aforesaid, together with the advowson or right of patronage of the parish church of St. Swithin aforesaid, all which I lately purchased and bought to me, my heirs and assigns, forever of the right honourable Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxenforth, and whereof I, the said Sir Ambrose Nicholas, do intend to make a feoffment of to the aforesaid Richard Young, Thomas Boxe, Robert Sole and Thomas Hall to the use of my last will and testament, shall by this my last will and testament, as shortly after my decease as conveniently may be and as a convenient chapman can be gotten for the same, be bargained, sold, conveyed, put to sale and done away by the foresaid Dame Elizabeth, my wife, Richard Young, Thomas Boxe, Robert Sole and Thomas Hall, or by three of them whereof the said Richard Young to be one, for the most profit, commodity or advantage that can or may be made thereof to such person or persons as shall or will buy, purchase and have the same and give most therefore;

RM: Within the city of London, and all and singular other my messuages, lands, tenements, yards, gardens, void grounds and hereditaments with all and singular their lights, easements, profits, commodities and appurtenances whatsoever situate, lying and being in the said parish of St. Swithin near unto London Stone.

And to that intent and purpose I do by this my present last will and testament give and grant unto the said Dame Elizabeth, my wife, Richard Young, Thomas Boxe, Robert Sole

and Thomas Hall, or to three of them whereof the said Richard Young to be one, full power, strength, liberty and authority to bargain, sell, grant, convey, make sale of and do away the said great capital messuage or mansion-house with th' appurtenances and all and singular other my said messuages, lands, tenements, houses, gardens, advowson or right of patronage of the parish church of St. Swithin aforesaid, and all and singular other the premises with their appurtenances whatsoever in the parish of St. Swithin aforesaid, and also all and singular letters patents, deeds, evidences, charters, writings and muniments concerning the premises or any part or parcel thereof, for the most profit, gain and advantage that can or may be made thereof to any manner of person or persons whatsoever, as also for the better assurance thereof to such person or persons as shall happen to buy the same, that they, the said Dame Elizabeth, my wife, Richard Young, Thomas Boxe, Robert Sole and Thomas Hall, or three of them whereof the said Richard Young to be one as aforesaid, shall or may make, seal, subscribe and deliver all and all manner of indentures, deeds, writings, conveyances and assurances whatsoever meet, requisite, necessary or expedient to be had, made or done in, for or about the bargain and sale thereof or any part or parcel thereof;

And I will, and my mind and intent is, that all the money that shall come and be made of, by and with the sale and doing away of the said capital messuage called Oxenforth House and of all other the premises by me herein willed to be bargained, sold and done away shall go and be employed and bestowed to the payment of my debts and to the payments of my legacies herein contained and to and for the performance of this my last will and testament in all things according to my true intent and plain meaning therein with as much convenient expedition as may be by the discretions of the said Dame Elizabeth and Richard Young after such sale made and as near to the limitation and appointment made and disposed by this my last will for the distributions of the sums of money as I have herein limited, given and bequeathed;

Item, I give, will and bequeath unto the said Dame Elizabeth, my wife, and to her assigns for and during her life natural as well all that my mansion-house or tenement with shops, cellars, solars, warehouses, yards, lights, easements and appurtenances which I do hold and have now in my own occupation set, lying and being in Bread Street in the parish of St. Mildred in Bread Street within the city of London, as also all that my other messuage or tenement with th' appurtenances being a corner house lying and adjoining next unto my said mansion-house in Bread Street afore specified, to have and to hold the said two messuages or tenements with th' appurtenances in Bread Street aforesaid unto the same Dame Elizabeth, my wife, and to her assigns for and during her said life natural;

And from and after the decease of the same Dame Elizabeth, I give, will and bequeath the said two messuages or tenements with their appurtenances set and being in Bread Street aforesaid unto the said John Nicholas, my son, and to th' heirs of his body lawfully begotten and to be begotten, and for default of such issue I give, will and bequeath all the same two messuages or tenements with th' appurtenances unto the foresaid Daniel Nicholas, my son, and to th' heirs of his body lawfully begotten and to be begotten, and for default of such issue I will that the same two messuages or tenements with th'

appurtenances set and being in Bread Street aforesaid shall wholly remain, descend and come unto the right heirs of me, the said Sir Ambrose Nicholas, knight, forever;

Item, I bequeath to the Master of the Rolls a black gown [LM: and to Mr Seighbrite a black gown], to Thomas Warren, Mary Woodward and nurse Johnson, to every one of them a black gown apiece, and I bequeath to my cousin Mr Doctor Matthew a black gown;

In witness whereof to this my present testament and last will containing fifteen sheets of paper I, the said Sir Ambrose Nicholas, have hereunto set my hand and seal in the presence of those persons who have hereunder subscribed their names, given the day and year first above-written.

Ambrose Nicholas, alderman

By me, Walter Plummer as witness

By me, Francis Bradburn, witness

By me, Edward Bankworth, witness

Per me Ioh{ann}em Harris, witness

Toby Matthew

Teste me Petro Baker

Thomas Thornton as witness

Thomas Marmion

William Fleetwood, recorder

Probatum fuit suprascriptu{m} testamentum apud London{iam} coram venerabili viro m{agist}ro Will{el}mo Drury Legu{m} doctore curie prerogatiue Cant{uariensis} mag{ist}ro custode siue com{m}issario vltimo die mensis Maij Anno D{omi}ni mill{es}imo quingentesimo septuagesimo octauo &c Iuramento m{agist}ri Will{el}mi Babham notarij publici procur{ator}is D{omi}ne Elizabete Nicholas relicte dicti defunct{i} et executrici in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}at{e} Cui com{m}issa fuit administrac{i}o &c De bene &c Ad sancta dei Evangelia &c Iurat{i}

[=The above-written will was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Drury, Doctor of Laws, Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the last day of the month of May in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred seventy-eighth etc., by the oath of Master William Babham, notary public, proctor of the Lady Elizabeth Nicholas, relict of the said deceased and executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully etc.]