SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 26 October 1584 and proved 3 July 1585 of Francis Saunders (d. 20 June 1585), the brother 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.

In his will below, the testator mentions the four children (Walter, Elizabeth, Thomas and George), of his late brother, George Saunders, and his wife, Anne (nee Newdigate) Saunders. Anne (nee Newdigate) Saunders was hanged for the murder, as were George Browne, Anne Drury, and Roger Clement. For the identification of the testator's sister-in-law, wife of the murdered George Saunders, as Anne Newdigate, the daughter of John Newdigate of Harefield, Middlesex, see Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 453; the pedigree of Saunders in Howard, Joseph Jackson and George John Armytage, eds., *The Visitation of London in the Year 1568*, (London: Harleian Society, 1869), p. 34; the pedigree of Newdigate in Crisp, Frederick Arthur, ed., *Visitation of England and Wales*, Vol. 7, (1907), p. 41, where it is stated that Anne Newdigate married George Saunders at Harefield on 10 February 1559/60, and that she was administratrix to her uncle, Anthony Newdigate, 12 July 1568; Joseph H. Marshburn, "'A Cruell Murder Done In Kent' and Its Literary Manifestations," *Studies in Philology* 46 (1949), 131-40; Orlin, Lena Cowen, *Locating Privacy in Tudor London,* (Oxford University Press, 2007), pp. 206-9; *Analytical Index to the Series of Records Known as the Remembrancia*, (London: E.J. Francis & Co., 1878), p. 309, which references letters between the Lord Mayor of London and Anne (nee Stanhope) Seymour (c.1510-1587), Duchess of Somerset, in which the Duchess states that the custody of Elizabeth Saunders, the daughter and orphan of George Saunders, deceased, had been committed to the custody of her uncle, Francis Newdigate (1519-1582), the Duchess' late husband; and the will of Francis Newdigate (1519-1582), TNA PROB 11/65/321, in which he requests that the Duchess 'do see my niece, Bess Saunders, brought up and bestowed'. For Francis Newdigate see also the History of Parliament biography at:

http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/newdigate-francis-1519-82.

Francis Saunders, the testator in the will below and the brother of the murdered George Saunders, was the son of William Saunders (d.1541), and his second wife, Dorothy (nee Yonge), the daughter of John Yonge of Croome d'Abitot, Worcestershire, and widow of William Haddon of Buckinghamshire; she later married Paul Dayrell (d.1555/6). The testator was the stepbrother of Walter Haddon (1514/15-1571), for whom see the entry in the *ODNB*, and his will, TNA PROB 11/53/63. 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 father, William Saunders (d. 1541), see TNA PROB 11/28/488. For the will of the testator's stepfather, Paul Dayrell (d. 1555/6), see TNA PROB 11/38/54. See

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also the pedigree of Saunders of Little Bowden in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Northamptonshire*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1887), p. 44 at:

https://archive.org/stream/visitationsofnor00harvrich#page/44/mode/2up.

See also the pedigree in Winchester, Barbara, *Tudor Family Portrait*, (London: Jonathan Cape, 1955), p. 17.

See also Agutter, Doreen, 'Edward Saunders of Harrington and Rothwell, Northamptonshire', *Monumental Brass Society*, Bulletin 115, (September 2010), pp. 288-9, at:

http://www.mbs-brasses.co.uk/Bulletin.html.

In the will below the testator mentions two of his three wives, Eleanor (d.1569) and Frances Pope. His first wife was Elizabeth, the daughter of George Carew (d.1538) of Stoodleigh and Camerton, for whose background see the will of the testator's first cousin, Sir Edward Saunders (1506-1576), TNA PROB 11/58/517. In brief, Sir Edward Saunders (1506-1576) married, as his first wife, Margaret Englefield (d.1563), the widow of George Carew (d.1538), and the testator married, as his first wife, Elizabeth Carew, the daughter of Margaret Englefield (d.1563) and George Carew (d.1538).

For the testator's three marriages, see also:

'Parishes: Faxton', *A History of the County of Northampton: Volume 4* (1937), pp. 167-172. URL: http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=66341;

and:

http://flickeflu.com/image/7296466342;

and:

http://www.flickr.com/photos/52219527@N00/6816321962/;

See also the History of Parliament biographies of Eleanor Chaloner's brother, Sir Thomas Chaloner (1521-1565), and Eleanor Chaloner's first husband, Thomas Farnham (c.1527-1562) at:

http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/chaloner-thomas-1521-65

http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/farnham-thomas-1527-62

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The testator mentions his son and heir, Edward, and three other sons, William, Matthew, and Francis, as well as a married daughter, Elizabeth (wife of Thomas Tyringham of Nether Winchendon), and three unmarried daughters, Frances, Dorothy and Susan.

The testator's son, Sir Matthew Saunders (d.1623), married Margaret Skipwith (d.1605), the daughter of Henry Skipwith (d. 15 August 1588) and Jane Hall (d. 11 May 1598), sister of the translator, Arthur Hall (1539-1605). By this marriage the testator's son, Sir Matthew Saunders, was the brother-in-law of Lord Burghley's niece, Margaret Cave (d.1594), who married Margaret Skipwith's brother, the poet and politician Sir William Skipwith (d. 3 May 1610). See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, p. 220, the entry for Sir William Skipwith in the *ODNB*, and the will of Jane Hall's father, Francis Hall, TNA PROB 11/43/610.

For the testator's daughter Elizabeth Saunders' marriage to Thomas Tyringham, the second son of Thomas Tyringham and his wife Parnell, daughter of John Goodwin of Winchendon, Buckinghamshire, and sister of Sir John Goodwyn mentioned in the will below, see *The Topographer for the Year 1789*, Vol. I, (London: Robson and Clarke, 1789), p. 498, available online.

The testator's first cousin, Alice Saunders, married William Hatton (d.1547) of Holdenby, Northamptonshire, and was the mother of Queen Elizabeth's Chancellor, Sir Christopher Hatton (c.1540-1591). See the pedigree of Saunders of Harington in the *Visitations of Northamptonshire,* p. 45 and the entry for Sir Christopher Hatton in the *ODNB*. In the will below the testator mentions his 'cousin Hatton'.

For the monument to the testator in the church at Welford which incorporates the Latin verses specified in the will below, see:

http://www.mbs-brasses.co.uk/Brass%20of%20the%20month%20December%202009.html.

As mentioned on the above-noted website, the Latin verses on the tomb of the testator, Francis Saunders, are identical to those found on the tomb of William Throckmorton (d.1536), Doctor of the Laws, at Shottesbrooke, Berkshire, a fact which suggests kinship between the testator, Francis Saunders, and the Throckmorton family. William Throckmorton (d.1536), Doctor of the Laws, was the son of Sir Thomas Throckmorton (c.1412-1472) and Margaret Olney, and the brother of Sir Robert Throckmorton (c.1451-1518); he was the co-executor of the will of his sister, Goditha (nee Throckmorton) Peyto (d.1530/1). Sir Robert Throckmorton's daughter, Elizabeth Throckmorton, married Sir Thomas Englefield (1488-1537), and was the mother of Margaret Englefield (d.1563), who married the testator's first cousin, Sir Edward Saunders (1506-1576) (see below). For the will of Sir Robert Throckmorton, see TNA PROB 11/20/25. For the will of Goditha (nee Throckmorton) Peyto (d.1530/1), see TNA PROB 11/24/11. For the will of William Throckmorton (d.1536), see TNA PROB 11/27/63. For the will of Elizabeth (nee Throckmorton) Englefield, see TNA PROB 11/30/47. For Sir William Throckmorton's tomb at Shottesbrooke, see Ditchfield, P.H. and John Hautenville Cope,

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eds., *The Berks, Bucks & Oxon Archaeological Journal*, Vol. 24, No. 1 (April and July 1918), p. 12, available online at:

http://archive.org/details/nsberkshirearcha24berkuoft

For the testator's manor of Brixworth, see:

'Parishes: Brixworth', *A History of the County of Northampton: Volume 4* (1937), pp. 150-157. URL: http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=66338.

For the testator's manor of Shangton, see:

http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=22070.

For the testator's manor of Welford, see Whellan, Francis, *History, Topography and Directory of Northamptonshire*, (London: Whittaker and Co., 1874), p. 370, which states that George Hastings (1486/7-1544), son of Edward Hastings (c.1465-1506), 2nd Baron Hastings, son of the executed William Hastings (c.1430-1483) 1st Baron Hastings, sold the manor of Welford to William Saunders, esquire, third son of Edward Saunders of Harrington, between whom and George Hastings (1486/7-1544), 1st Earl of Huntingdon, a fine was levied of it in 32 Henry VIII (1541).

For the *History of Parliament* biography of the testator see:

http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/saunders-francis-151314-85.

The testator was a legatee in the will of his first cousin, Sir Edward Saunders (1506-1576). From the *ODNB*:

Saunders, Sir Edward (1506–1576), judge, was born on 4 April 1506, the eldest surviving son of Thomas Saunders (d. 1528) of Sibbertoft, Northamptonshire, and Margaret, daughter of Richard Cave of Stanford in that county. . . . Saunders died on 12 November 1576 and was buried in accordance with his testamentary directions at Weston under Wetherley, Warwickshire, where there is a crude kneeling effigy wearing a mantle over armour. . . . He left one daughter (Mary) by his first wife, Margaret (d. 1563), who was the daughter of Sir Thomas Englefield, justice of the common pleas, and widow of George Carew (d. 1538) of Suffolk. His second wife, Agnes Hussey, survived him. To his kinsman Francis Saunders (d. 1585), bencher of the Middle Temple, he left a silver-gilt ewer with the arms of Saunders, 'my circuite gowne of London russett faced with martyn, my greatest byble beinge at Sherborne, my abridgmentes of Fitzherbert being also there', and £160.

The ewer bequeathed to the testator by his first cousin, Sir Edward Saunders (1506-1576), was bequeathed by the testator in the will below to his son and heir, Edward Saunders:

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And I give to my eldest son, Edward Saunders, my basin and ewer of silver with the arms of Englefield and Saunders thereon.

The testator's widow, Frances (nee Pope) Saunders, died 21 December 1594. See Nichols, John, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester*, Vol. II, Pt. II, (London, 1798), p. 794, available online at:

http://cdm16445.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/p15407coll6/id/5418/rec/1.

LM: T{estamentum} ffrancisci Saunders generos{i}

[f. 273v] In the name of Almighty God, Amen. I, Francis Saunders of Welford in the county of Northampton, gentleman, being now in good health and memory (thanked be Our Lord God therefore), do now by this present writing declare, made and ordain my last will and testament in manner and form hereafter following, that is to say:

First I commend and bequeath my soul and all that I am and shall be to the exceeding greatest mercy and goodness of Our Lord God, most humbly praying and beseeching that the mediation, merits and benefits of our most merciful Redeemer and Saviour Jesus Christ's humanity, passion and death be imparted ever more and more infinitely to my soul & me;

And I will my body and carcase be buried in such place and order as it shall seem convenient to the executor of this my last will and testament hereafter in these presents named;

And I will that these Latin words, viz., *E terra in vilem resoluto corpore terram Sanctam expecto Dei misericordis opem Expecto et nitidum rediuiuae carnis amictum et tandem excelsi regna beata poli*, with my name subscribed, be fair and legibly graven in a marble stone in Roman letters, the same stone to be set in the wall next to the place where I shall happen to be buried in some convenient place of the same wall;

Also I will that within convenient time after my decease there be given and distributed by my executor [f. 274r] or by others by his appointment amongst the most needy poor people of the towns hereafter named, that is to say, Welford, Brixworth, Yelvertoft and Cold Ashby in the county of Northampton, and in Shangton in the county of Leicester, ten pounds of lawful English money in the whole, that is to say, in every of the said towns of Welford, Brixworth, Yelvertoft and Cold Ashby forty shillings amongst the poor, and in Shangton aforesaid forty shillings;

Also I will and devise that with such convenient speed as may be after my decease there be a true and full inventory taken and made of all my goods, chattels and debts

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whatsoever or wheresoever they shall be, and the goods and chattels to be mentioned in the same to be duly and indifferently prised (except my goods and chattels in London);

Also I will that mine executor as well pay such debts as I duly do owe to any person or persons at such days and times as the same ought to be paid, as also that he make sufficient recompense and satisfaction for such wrongs (if any such happen to be) as can and shall be duly proved to be done by me at any time heretofore, and no amends therefore by me being heretofore made;

Also I will and declare that those legacies and things yet to be performed, paid or done which be mentioned or contained in the last will or testament of my late mother, Dorothy Dayrell, widow, lately deceased, and which been yet to be performed, paid or done, shall be well, truly and justly performed, paid and done according to her last will and testament whereof she made me sole executor;

And where I stand and am now lawfully seised in my demesne as of fee of an estate in fee simple, amongst other manors, messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments, of and in the manors of Shangton and Hardwick with their rights, members & appurtenances in the said county of Leicester, and of and in divers messuages, cottages, lands, tenements, meadows, leasows and pastures being situate, lying and being in Shangton and Hardwick in the said county of Leicester, and also of and in my manor or manors of Brixworth and of and in divers messuages, cottages, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments in Brixworth in the said county of Northampton, and of and in my manor of Yelvertoft alias Elvertoft in the said county of Northampton, and of and in divers lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments in Yelvertoft alias Elvertoft in the said county of Northampton, as in and by a fine thereof levied by me to Thomas Morison and Robert Bishop in the term commonly called Hilary term in the ninth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, and by one indenture quadripartite dated the tenth day of January in the same ninth year [=10 January 1567] and made between me, the said Francis, and Eleanor, then my wife, on the first part, Thomas Morison, esquire, John Bowyer, gentleman, and Robert Bishop, yeoman, on the second party, & Sir John Goodwyn, now knight, then esquire, Thomas Morgan, esquire, on the third part, and George Saunders, my late brother, deceased, then on the fourth part, and also by one other writing indented quadripartite signed and sealed with my hand and seal bearing date the fifth day of June in the fifteenth year [=5 June 1573] of the reign of our said Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth and enrolled in the Court of Common Pleas of our said Sovereign Lady in Trinity term in the same fifteenth year, amongst divers other things in the said fine, indenture and writing indented mentioned more at large it doth and may appear, and where I am now seised in my demesne as of fee simple of and in the manor of Welford with th' appurtenances in the said county of Northampton, and of and in divers lands, tenements and hereditaments with th' appurtenances in Welford aforesaid;

I, the said Francis, do now by this my present last will and testament devise and dispose unto my well-beloved now wife, Frances, for term of her natural life my manors of Shangton and Hardwick aforesaid with their appurtenances, and all my messuages, lands,

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tenements and hereditaments in Shangton and Hardwick in the said county of Leicester, to have and to hold the same manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments and other the premises in Shangton and Hardwick aforesaid unto my said well-beloved wife, Frances, for and during her natural life;

The remainder of the same manors of Shangton and Hardwick with their appurtenances and of the messuages, lands, tenements, hereditaments and other the premises in Shangton and Hardwick aforesaid immediately after the decease of my said wife, Frances, unto my son, Matthew Saunders, and to his heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such heirs males of the body of the same Matthew lawfully begotten, the remainder thereof unto my son, William Saunders, and to th' heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

The remainder thereof for lack of such issue to my eldest son, Edward Saunders, and unto his heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such heirs, the remainder thereof unto Francis, my son, and to his heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such heirs, the remainder thereof to the heirs of the body of me, the said Francis, the testator, lawfully begotten;

And I will that if my said wife do within three months next after my decease cause or procure three sufficient sureties to be bound by recognizance unto my executor in the sum of five hundred pounds that my said wife at the time of her decease shall leave lawfully and sufficiently assured unto my said son, Matthew, or in case he happen to decease before my said wife, that then my said wife at the time of her decease shall leave lawfully and sufficiently assured unto my said son, William, and such other person or persons as by this my last will shall be intituled to have the said manors of Shangton and Hardwick [f. 274v] and other the premises in Shangton and Hardwick aforesaid next after her decease, so many and as good in value or more and better of sheep, kine, oxen, horses, mares, ploughs, carts, wains, gears and hovels and hovel timber as shall happen to be of mine at or in Shangton aforesaid at the time of my decease, then I will and devise that my said well-beloved wife shall have the use, occupation and profit of such sheep, kine, oxen, horses, mares, ploughs, carts, wains, gears and hovels and hovel timber as shall happen to be of mine at Shangton aforesaid at the time of my decease for and during so many years as she shall happen to live, she leaving at the time of her decease according to my true intent and meaning for the stock, store and occupying of such of the premises as shall be occupied by me or to my use at the time of my decease so many and as good in value or more and better of sheep, kine, oxen, horses, mares, ploughs, carts, wains, gears and hovels and hovel timber as shall happen to be of mine at or in Shangton aforesaid at the time of my decease;

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Also I give and bequeath to my said wife one hundred pounds of lawful English money, to be paid to her within three months next after my decease by mine executor;

Also I give her those cups of silver which my cousin Hatton sent her;

And I give her those rings and chains which she commonly weareth, and that best horse or gelding of mine besides, which she will chose, with the usual furniture of saddle and bridle for the same gelding;

And also I give her the best featherbed of mine, which she will choose, and the best coverlet, the best pair of blankets, and six pair of fine flaxen sheets, and my bed of yellow and blue satin embroidered, and two of my best coffers, which she will chose, except my iron coffers;

Which said manors of Shangton and Hardwick and other the premises in Shangton and Hardwick aforesaid, and the use, occupation and profit of such sheep, cattle and other things aforesaid as shall be of mine at Shangton aforesaid at the time of my decease, I will and devise the same for term of her life to my said wife in full recompense and satisfaction of such dower or third part as to her after my decease may affyer(?) or belong of any my manors, lands, tenements or hereditaments, provided always and my will is that if my said wife after my decease at any time or any other in her right or title or by her assent, mean or procurement do at any time hereafter challenge, claim or demand by any action or suit any dower or third part of any my manors, lands, tenements or hereditaments in the county of Northampton, that then and from thence, that is to say, from the time of such challenge, claim and demand by any action or suit made, the estate, title, right, interest, use and occupation of the said Frances, my wife, of, in and to the said manors of Shangton and Hardwick and of, in and to other the premises in Shangton and Hardwick aforesaid, and of, in and to the sheep, kine, oxen, horses, mares, ploughs, carts, wains, gears and hovels aforesaid shall cease, be void and of none effect, and in such case my legacy to her made of the same manors of Shangton and Hardwick and other the premises in Shangton and Hardwick aforesaid and of the use, occupation and profit of the sheep, cattle and other things in Shangton aforesaid by her to be taken shall be void and of none effect as to her, and nevertheless the benefit thereof in such case shall wholly come and be to the said Matthew Saunders, in case he be living, and if he be then deceased, then to such other person and persons and of such estates respectively as by the true intent and meaning of this my last will is lawfully intituled to have the said manors and other the premises in Shangton and Hardwick aforesaid next after the decease of my said wife;

And I will and devise my said manor or manors of Brixworth and all my messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments in Brixworth aforesaid to my said executor for the term of ten years next ensuing after my decease for and towards the fulfilling and performance of this my last will and testament;

The remainder thereof after those ten years ended unto my son, Edward Saunders, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully coming;

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The remainder thereof for default of such issue unto my said son, Matthew, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such heirs, the remainder thereof to the heirs of my body lawfully begotten;

And I, the said Frances, will, devise and bequeath unto my said son, Edward Saunders, all such term and interest as I have to come in a close situate, lying and being in Brixworth aforesaid called the Lynche;

Also I will and devise unto my said son, William Saunders, my said manor of Welford with th' appurtenances, and all my lands, tenements and hereditaments in Welford aforesaid, to have unto him until my debts paid and legacies performed to and for that use, and after that to have the same to him and to his heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue, the remainder thereof over unto my son, Francis, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue, the remainder thereof unto my son, Matthew, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue, the remainder thereof over unto the right heirs of me, the said Francis, the testator, forever;

And also I will and devise that such right, interest and term or terms for years as I, the said Francis, now have of, in or to such lands, [f. 275r] tenements, pastures and commons in Welford aforesaid whereof the reversion or freehold belongeth or lately did belong to the Queen's Highness that now is, shall come and be to such person and persons and to every such heir male as my manor of Welford is limited unto for the use aforesaid;

And I will and bequeath all that close, field or pasture with th' appurtenances lying and being in Sulby in the said county of Northampton commonly called Butchers field, with such hay as I ought to have yearly in Sulby aforesaid (the mere property and interest of which premises in Sulby for the years yet to come in the same granted by John Lane, gentleman, to my late brother, George Saunders, is now lawfully in me for so much as I answer the value thereof unto the children of my said late brother, as by certain writings thereof, amongst other things, made between me on the one part and my friends, Mr George Gascoigne and Mr William Rudde, now deceased, may appear), to my said son, William Saunders, to have and to hold the premises in Sulby aforesaid and all my said right, title, interest, term and terms for years in the same yet to come to my said son, William Saunders, and to his executors, administrators and assigns;

And whereas heretofore I have paid into the Chamber of London to the uses of the children and orphans of my said late brother, George Saunders, six hundred pounds of

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lawful English money in ready money, as by several acquittances made thereof to me by George Heton, late Chamberlain of London and by sundry books concerning the receipts of the said Chamberlain it doth and may appear, and where also my mother, lately deceased, in her lifetime, and also I, the said Francis, heretofore have also delivered unto Edward Osborne, citizen and alderman of London, and to Laurence Mellowe, citizen and cloth-worker of London, goods and chattels, amongst others, amounting to the clear value of other six hundred pounds to the use of the orphans aforesaid, whereupon the said Laurence Mellowe, together with three other persons, standen bounden by recognizance to pay to the Chamberlain of London for the time being to the uses of the said orphans other six hundred pounds and twenty marks yearly towards their finding, as it doth appear in the Orphans' Court, and where Walter Saunders sithence his full age of one and twenty years hath received his full part and portion due to him, as by an acquittance indented made between me on thone part and the said Walter on the other part bearing date the five and twentieth day of May last past [=25 May 1584], and by the inventory of the goods of the said George Saunders, deceased, and by the account of me, and other books and writings more at large amongst other things it doth and may appear, I give and bequeath to such of the same orphans as yet be within age, viz., to Elizabeth, Thomas and George, to every of them fifty-four pounds apiece, to be paid unto them at their several ages of one and twenty years, the same fifty and four pounds apiece to be to the said orphans, viz., to the said Elizabeth, Thomas and George, in full satisfaction and payment of all such sums of money as they or any of them, or th' executors, administrators or assigns of them or of any of them may by any way or mean claim, challenge or demand of me, my heirs, executor or administrators, provided always that if any of the said orphans, viz., Elizabeth, Thomas or George, or any other person or persons by the procurement or means of them or any of them, or th' executors, administrators or assigns of them or of any of them ,or any other person or person by the procurement or mean of the executors, administrators or assigns aforesaid do at any time hereafter by any action, bill or suit molest, vex or trouble my heir or my executor or administrators for any sum of money, matter, duty or demand other than the said fifty-four pounds apiece bequeathed by me to the said orphans as is above-mentioned, that then my said gift, legacy and bequest of the same fifty-four pounds apiece shall be utterly void and of none effect, any thing or matter herein mentioned to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding;

Also I give and bequeath unto the children of Richard Brett, deceased, amongst them to be equally divided, forty shillings of lawful English money in recompense and satisfaction of the forty shillings which my late wife, Eleanor, as it is said, did borrow of the same children's parts;

And also I give and bequeath to my said now well-beloved wife, Frances, a jug of silver;

And I give to my eldest son, Edward Saunders, my basin and ewer of silver with the arms of Englefield and Saunders thereon, and the lesser of my two iron chests, that is to say, that which now is at Welford;

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And I give my greater iron chest, now being at Shangton, unto my said son, William Saunders, requiring either of my said sons to leave the same chests to their several heirs as heirlooms;

And I will my said son, William, have good care and circumspection that he pay or cause to be paid the rents which shall be due for the premises to him bequeathed which I now hold by lease or leases at the times when the same ought to be paid, and that they foresee that no act or acts, thing or things, by non-payment of rent, waste doing, forfeiture or otherwise be committed or done whereby or by reason whereof any of the leases aforesaid may be forfeited, lost or made void;

Also I bequeath to my said son, William Saunders, all my books, charging him, if God send him learning, as my father charged me by his will;

Also I give my said son, William, my coffers in my chamber in the Temple [f. 275v] and all things that is in them, and the bedding and bedsteads there, saving I will he shall deliver all evidences and deeds to whom the same shall appertain;

Also I will and bequeath to every of my three daughters, that is to say, Frances, Dorothy & Susan, five hundred marks apiece to them severally, to be paid either at their several ages of twenty and one years or at their several marriages, which of them shall first happen;

Also I will and bequeath to my daughter Tirringham [=Tyringham] twenty pounds, to be paid within one year after my decease;

Also where I, the said Francis Saunders, the testator, and Edward Saunders, my son, and the said William Saunders, my son, now be the administrators of the goods, chattels and debts of one Clere Haddon, deceased, by mean whereof we be lawfully intituled to have and enjoy as assigns to the same Clere such term and interest for years as Walter Haddon, late one of the Masters of Requests, had of, in and to the manor of Hatcham Barnes in the counties of Surrey and Kent of the demise and lease of our Sovereign Lady the Queen's Highness made to the said Walter Haddon, which lease is to begin upon the death of the Duchess of Somerset and after the death of the now Lady Cobham which was the wife of the said Walter Haddon at the time of the decease of the said Walter, which term and interest was conveyed to Peter Osborne, esquire, and others upon trust and confidence in them reposed by the said Walter, as by writings thereof made more plainly it doth appear, I will and devise that my said son, William, and Francis, my son, shall have only to them the said interest and term for years to the use of them, their executors and administrators and assigns, and I will that upon request made unto the said Edward, my said son Edward shall from time to time do all such act and acts, devise and devises for the assuring and conveying of the said interest and term to the said William and Francis discharged of all encumbrances made or done by him as shall be reasonably devised or advised by the counsel learned in the law of my said sons, William and Francis;

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Also I will and bequeath to my son, Francis Saunders, my manor of Yelvertoft alias Elvertoft within the said county of Northampton with the rights, members and appurtenances of the same, and all my messuages, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments whatsoever situate, lying or being in Yelvertoft alias Elvertoft in the said county of Northampton, to have and hold the said manor, messuages, lands, tenements, hereditaments and other the premises of or in Yelvertoft alias Elvertoft aforesaid to the same Francis, my son, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten and to be begotten;

The remainder thereof for default of such heirs to the said William, my son, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

The remainder thereof for lack of such heirs to my said son, Edward Saunders, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten,

The remainder thereof for default of such heirs to my said son, Matthew, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such heirs, the remainder thereof to the heirs of the body of me, the said Francis, lawfully begotten;

The remainder thereof to my right heirs forever;

Also I will and bequeath to Robert Bishop five pounds, to Robert Campion five marks, to Johun [=John?] Farmer, forty shillings, and to every other of my menservants which shall be serving-men commonly called yeomen and in yearly wages with me at the time of my decease twenty shillings, and to every of my shepherds in wages with me at the time of my decease twenty shillings, and to my miller and to every such manservant of husbandry commonly called hinds as shall be in wages with me at the time of my decease ten shillings apiece;

And I give to every of my women servants ten shillings apiece such as shall be in wages with me at the time of my decease;

And I give to Robert Gesinges forty shillings, requiring him to be dutiful and friendly to my wife and children, provided always and in consideration of the pains that he hath taken for me and for his service done to me I will and declare that he shall have and hold that farm and land in Shangton aforesaid which he now occupieth for the term of forty years next ensuing my decease, if he so long live, paying th' accustomed rent therefore yearly, and if it fortune that the third part be evicted from him, so as he cannot or may not lawfully enjoy the same, then I will and declare that he shall have and hold in lieu and place of that third part so evicted during the said term of forty years, if he so long happen to live, so much of the two parts of my lands in Shangton remaining as shall make up and amount unto the said third part so evicted, paying therefore yearly rent rateably according to the third part, any thing or matter to the contrary thereof notwithstanding;

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Also I will and declare that all such leases or demises as I have made in writing to my tenants or to any of them, that they shall enjoy them according to the purport, intent and true meaning of the same, they paying, doing and performing such rents and other things on their parts as by the same writings they ought to pay and do, and if any person or persons which is to take benefit by virtue of this my last will do or cause or assent to be done any act or thing contrary to this my last will, then my will is that all and every such benefit shall be void and of none effect only touching such as do offend after notice had of this my last will and testament;

Also I will and declare that my said son, Edward, and his heirs at the request, cost and charges of my said wife and of my said son, William, or of either or any of them from time to time and at all times by the space of seven years next after my decease shall do, knowledge, make and suffer to be done, knowledged and made all and every such act and [f. 276r] acts, thing and things, devise and devises in the law for the assurance and sure making of the said manors of Shangton and Hardwick aforesaid, and also of Welford and Yelvertoft alias Elvertoft, and of the lands, tenements, meadows, leasows, pastures and hereditaments aforesaid in Shangton and Hardwick, Welford and Yelvertoft alias Elvertoft aforesaid, that is to say, of the manors of Shangton and Hardwick and other the premises in Shangton and Hardwick aforesaid unto the said Frances, now my wife, for term of her natural life, and after her decease the remainder thereof to my said son, Matthew, and his heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue the remainder thereof over in such manner & form as is above-mentioned and declared, and of the said manors of Welford and Yelvertoft alias Elvertoft aforesaid and other the premises in Welford and Yelvertoft alias Elvertoft aforesaid severally to my said son, William, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and to my said son, Francis, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, with remainders over according to the true intent and meaning of this my last will and testament as by the counsel learned in the law of my said wife, Frances, and of my said sons, Matthew, William and Francis, or of any of them shall be reasonably advised, devised and required;

And I will and charge my said son, Edward, that he quietly permit and suffer my said now wife during her life, and after her decease my said son, Matthew, and his heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and my said son, William, and the heirs of his body, and my said son, Francis, and the said heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and such others to whom the same been willed or devised, to have, hold and enjoy the said manors of Shangton, Hardwick, Welford, Yelvertoft alias Elvertoft, and all other my said messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments in Shangton, Hardwick, Welford and Yelvertoft alias Elvertoft aforesaid according to this my will;

Provided always that if my said son, Edward, or any other by his assent or means do at any time, contrary to my will, by entry, suit or action molest or disturb by himself or by any other by him thereto procured my said now wife at any time during her life, or my said son, William, or any heir of his body lawfully begotten, or my said son, Matthew, or any heir male of his body lawfully begotten, or my said son, Francis, or his said heirs males of his body lawfully begotten from, in or about the having, holding or enjoying the said manors of Shangton and Hardwick, Welford and Yelvertoft alias Elvertoft or the

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messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments in Shangton and Hardwick, Welford and Yelvertoft alias Elvertoft aforesaid or any of them or any part or parcel of the same, that then my said son, Edward, shall take no benefit of this my last will nor shall take any benefit of any legacy, gift or bequest in the same, but that then in such case or if the same Edward do not according as I before have willed he shall do concerning the assurance of the said manors of Shangton and Hardwick, Welford and Yelvertoft alias Elvertoft and other the lands, tenements and hereditaments in Shangton and Hardwick, Welford and Yelvertoft alias Elvertoft aforesaid and the said manor of Hatcham Barnes and other the premises in Hatcham Barnes aforesaid in such manner and form as is above-mentioned, then I will that my said son, Edward, shall lose all such benefits, gifts, legacies and bequests as by these presents are limited, given or appointed to the said Edward, and then and in such case I will and devise that my said manor of Brixworth and all my lands, tenements and hereditaments in Brixworth shall come and be to my said sons, Matthew, William and Francis, severally one after another, and to their several heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten, anything herein mentioned to the contrary hereof notwithstanding;

The residue of all my goods, chattels and debts not before bequeathed (my funerals done and debts and legacies paid and discharged) I will shall be divided in three equal parts in value, whereof I will one part to my well-beloved wife, one other part to my said sons, Edward and William, and the other part to Matthew and Francis, my sons, amongst them to be equally divided, and if it fortune any of my said sons to depart this life afore such time as he shall have received his part, then I will that the part or parts of the deceased shall go and be to the survivors or survivor of them;

And I will and declare that my son, William Saunders, shall be the sole executor of this my last will and testament;

And the supervisors thereof I desire to be my brother-in-law, Thomas Morgan, esquire, and my good friend, George Gascoigne of the Middle Temple, esquire, and I give to my said brother Morgan five pounds, and to Mr George Gascoigne ten pounds of lawful English money, desiring their friendly assistance and counsel towards th' execution of this my last will, willing and charging the said William Saunders, my executor aforesaid, to bear their charges and consider their travail with convenient recompense when they or any of them take or taketh pains in furtherance of the execution of this my last will;

In witness whereof hereunto I have put my seal and subscribed my name with mine own hand the six and twentieth day of October in the year of Our Lord God one thousand five hundred and fourscore and four and in the six and twentieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady [f. 276v] Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc. Francis Saunders.

Memorandum: That Mr Francis Saunders, esquire, did declare and affirm unto us whose names are hereupon written that herein is contained his last will and testament, and required us to be witnesses thereunto the twelfth day of May one thousand five hundred eighty three [sic?]. John Walker, scrivener, Henry Best, servant to the same John Walker, scrivener.

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Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum apud London coram venerabili viro magistro Will{el}imo Drury legum doctore curie prerogatiue cantuarien{sis} commissario etc Tertio die mensis Iulij Anno Domini mill{es}imo quingentesimo octagesimo quinto Iuramento Iohannis Theker(?) notarij publici procuratoris Will{el}mi Saunders filij executoris etc Cui commissa fuit administracio bonorum etc De bene etc Iurat{i}

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Drury, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury etc., on the third day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred eighty-fifth by the oath of John Theker, notary public, proctor of William Saunders, son [+and] executor etc., to whom administration was granted of the goods etc., sworn to well etc.]

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