

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 1 April 1585 and proved 17 March 1586, of Francis Southwell.

### **CONNECTIONS TO OXFORD**

The testator was at one time a close friend of Oxford's, but was involved with Oxford's first cousin, Lord Henry Howard (1540-1614), and Charles Arundel (d.1587) in allegations against Oxford in late 1580 and 1581. See BL Cotton Titus C.6, ff. 5-8; Archivo General de Simancas Leg. 835, f. 6; and TNA SP 12/151/47, ff. 105-8.

The testator refers to Oxford in the will below:

*. . . a quietus est and full quittance from the Lord of Oxford for such trifles as have passed betwixt him and me. . . .*

The testator's sister, Anne Southwell, was the sister-in-law of Thomas Bedingfield, who dedicated his translation of *Cardanus' Comfort* to Oxford.

The testator was a residuary legatee in the will, TNA PROB 11/64/81, of his uncle, Francis Southwell (c.1510 – 19 November 1581) of Hertingfordbury, Hertfordshire, and Islington, Norfolk, whose eldest son and heir, Miles Southwell (b.1563?), married Margaret Vavasour, the sister of Oxford's mistress, Anne Vavasour:

*Item, if it shall please Almighty God to take all my children to his mercy before they have received their legacies before in this my last will to them and every of them given and bequeathed, then my will is that my executors or their executors or assigns shall pay, of such goods, money, plate and jewels as shall be in their hands after my decease and the decease of my said children, one moiety of the said money, plate and jewels to my nephew, Francis Southwell, one of Sir Robert Southwell his children then living.*

### **FAMILY BACKGROUND**

For the Southwell family, see Miller, Terry and Mary Miller, 'The Southwells of Woodrising, Norfolk' (2011), formerly available at:

<http://apling.freesevers.com/Woodrising/Chapter1.htm>

Unfortunately this website is no longer accessible online.

See also the Southwell pedigree in Dashwood, G.H., ed., *The Visitation of Norfolk in the Year 1563*, (Norwich: Miller & Leavins, 1878), p. 124 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=qkpFAAAAYAAJ&pg=RA4-PP14>

See also the Southwell pedigree in Gunn, Steven, *Henry VII's New Men and the Making of Tudor England*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016), p. xx at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=q4LADAAAQBAJ&pg=PR20>

### ***Testator's great-grandparents***

The testator was the great-grandson of Richard Southwell and Amy Wichingham. For further details see the will of the testator's father, TNA PROB 11/43/577, and the pedigrees in Dashwood, *supra*, pp. 124-5, and Gunn, *supra*, p. xx.

### ***Testator's grandparents***

The testator was the grandson of Francis Southwell (d.1512) and Dorothy Tendring. For further details, see the will of the testator's father, TNA PROB 11/43/577, and the pedigrees in Dashwood, *supra*, p. 125, and Gunn, *supra*, p. xx.

### ***Testator's parents***

The testator was a younger son of Sir Robert Southwell (c.1506-1559), for whom see the *ODNB* entry:

*Southwell, Sir Robert (c.1506–1559), lawyer and member of parliament, was the second son of Francis Southwell (d. 1512) of Norfolk, and Dorothy, daughter and coheir of William Tendring of Little Birch, Essex. He was a younger brother of Sir Richard Southwell (1502/3–1564), the privy councillor. His uncle Sir Robert Southwell (d. 1514), of Woodrising, Norfolk, was an auditor of the exchequer and, like Francis, a member of Lincoln's Inn. By coincidence another Robert Southwell died in 1514; he was a bencher of Gray's Inn who lived in Suffolk.*

See also the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/southwell-robert-1506-59>

See also Miller, *supra*, 'Master of the Rolls, Sir Robert Southwell, 1506-1559, The Southwells of Woodrising, Norfolk', (2011) at:

<http://apling.freesevers.com/Woodrising/Chapter4.htm>

As noted above, unfortunately this website is no longer accessible online.

The testator's mother was Margaret Neville (d.1575), the daughter and heir apparent of Sir Thomas Neville (c.1484-1542), lawyer and speaker of the House of Commons, the fifth son of George Neville (1436–1492), 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Bergavenny, and his first wife, Margaret Fenne (d.1485), the daughter of Hugh Fenne. Sir Thomas Neville married firstly Katherine Dacre, daughter of Humphrey Dacre, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Dacre of Gilsland, and widow of George FitzHugh, 7<sup>th</sup> Baron Fitzhugh, by whom he had his only child, Margaret Neville (d.1575), and secondly, on 28 August 1532, Elizabeth, widow of Robert Amadas (d. 7 April 1532), a London goldsmith who supplied plate and jewels to the royal court. See the *ODNB* entry for Sir Thomas Neville, and his will, TNA PROB 11/29/193. For the will of Robert Amadas, see TNA PROB 11/25/85.

Margaret Neville's uncle, George Neville (c.1469-1535), 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Bergavenny, and his third wife, Mary Stafford, daughter of Edward Stafford (1478-1521), 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke of Buckingham, were the parents of Dorothy Neville (d.1559), the first wife of William Brooke (1527-1597), Lord Cobham. Lord Cobham was further linked to this branch of the Neville family by the marriage of the testator's eldest brother, Thomas Southwell (d.1568) of Woodrising, to Nazareth Newton (c.1541 - 16 April 1583), the youngest sister of Lord Cobham's second wife, Frances Newton (d.1592). See the *ODNB* entries for William Brooke and Frances Newton.

After the death of the testator's father, the testator's mother married secondly, at Fulham on 13 November 1561, William Plumbe (d. 9 February 1593), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/83/218.

For the identification of the testator as the son of Sir Robert Southwell and Margaret Neville, see also Nelson, Alan H., *Monstrous Adversary*, (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2003), p. 57 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=WcfiqlOjEKoC&pg=PA57>

The testator's will was first noticed in 'The Southwells of Woodrising', *supra*, by Terry and Mary Miller, whose discussion of the testator's allegations against Oxford and of the testator's will are reprinted here since their webpage is no longer available online, although it should be noted that the discussion of the will contains several errors:

*Francis Southwell does not appear to have individually submitted any accusations but did add to the list which Howard had smuggled to him. He confirmed that he had heard Oxford uttering blasphemy and railing against the Queen, English Catholics and the late Duke of Norfolk, but he denied knowledge of buggery by Oxford. He added that, "I cannot particularly charge my Lord with pederasty [pederasty], but with open lewdness of his speeches ...." He also replied to Howard, "By my intelligence I hear the Queen's Majesty hath clearly forgiven him, and therefore let us wisely and safely disable him." He also wrote, "I hear by you that Mr. Charles [Arundel] is my dear friend. In faith, my Lord, it is not best, for if the Earl could get one man to aver anything, we were utterly overthrown." He was obviously very concerned about his own circumstances, and appears somewhat reluctant to get too deeply involved in the accusations against Oxford.*

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*He was not prepared to accuse Oxford of homosexual acts but only of being foul mouthed. He also seems to be trying to distance himself from Charles Arundel.*

*The main source of evidence to Oxford's alleged homosexuality was the Venetian choirboy, Orazio Cogno, who spent eleven months in Oxford's house before returning home. Howard claimed that "touching buggery" Cogno "complained how horribly my Lord [Oxford] had abused him." Arundel claimed it was the reason for Congo's return to Italy. Back in Venice in an interview by the Venetian Inquisition Cogno did not say anything about homosexuality; however, this may have little significance as it was probably not something that he would have been keen to reveal.*

*In spite of all the accusations Oxford managed to survive and was mostly forgiven. How many of the charges were true is difficult to judge. It seems likely that within his loudmouthed promiscuous behaviour he had indulged to some degree in homosexuality. For some years after he lived on a meagre royal pension until his second marriage in 1591. The charges against Arundel, Howard and Southwell were not substantiated and they were released. Arundel and Howard were involved in a further plot in 1583. Howard was again imprisoned and Arundel fled to France.*

*Francis Southwell hereafter retires to a reclusive life at Gimingham in Norfolk. Francis at no time appears as a strong forthright character. He never married and may possibly have been of a homosexual nature. In his will, dated 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1585, he certainly shows remorse for his past behaviour. He leaves his sinful soul into the hands of Almighty God and appeals for the benefits of his great mercy and that he will "forgive and remitt me a most penitent synner the follyes of my youth and synnefullife by past as for my most miserable carcas as one ashamed to speak of it." He appears to have latterly led a lonely life, shunned by society. He asks to be buried "without pompe and ceremony only this much to doe for me to laye a convenient stone over me with mine armes and some friendly inscription what I was. This I doe require upon no foolish and arrogant vanity so God judge me but only that the reader being honest and well given may have a good thought and remembrance of me in his passage."*

*He still retained links to his family, and appointed as his executors his "cheiffest and dearest friends", Thomas Bradbury, the husband of his sister Dorothy and his nephew Robert Southwell, the Vice Admiral. Most of his estate was left to his sister and her family. He left the Gimingham property and a hundred pounds a year to his brother Robert and Robert's eldest son who were both in Italy. He was also concerned about his private papers that included his sister Martha's marriage settlement and the papers regarding his discharge in the Oxford Affair. These papers were to be delivered to his executors by his servant Robert Grene as they were privately in his casket. It is interesting that Francis, presumably like most of the gentry of the period, had armour and an appropriate horse. His best armour and his best horse with its furniture and his best sword he left to his nephew Robert; his second set, second sword and second horse went to his brother-in-law, Thomas Bradbury. His sister Martha's husband Nicholas Langford received several parcels of land in north Norfolk. Martha had his silver jug with the arms on the lid, which weighed ten pounds and his "sett of golde buttons called*

*Trophes being six dozen and eight buttons for which I paid twenty five pounds." Dorothy had his furniture and his three best hangings of arras; and his nephew Robert had his "rappe of velvet with the goldn buttons the cheyne wreathed abowte it and a brooche of an Antique of an Amatist [Amethyst?]."*

*Francis died early in the year after writing his will, which was proved on 16<sup>th</sup> March 1586. His date of birth and hence his age at his death are not known, but he was probably in his fifties. His father was born in 1506 and died in 1559. His elder brother had died in 1567. His sister Anne had been born in 1534 and had probably predeceased him as she does not feature in his will; her husband Edmund Bedingfield died in 1585. If Francis was buried at Gimingham, either his desire to have his passing marked with a tombstone was ignored or the memorial has since been lost.*

### ***Testator's siblings***

The testator had three brothers and three sisters:

**-Thomas Southwell** (d.1568) of Woodrising, Norfolk, eldest son and heir, said to have been born 24 March 1537. For his will, see TNA PROB 11/50/204. He was heir to his uncle, Sir Richard Southwell, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/47/231.

Thomas Southwell's son and daughter, the testator's nephew and niece, are mentioned in the will below:

(1) **Sir Robert Southwell** (1563-1598), named by the testator as one of his executors. He married Elizabeth Howard, the daughter of Charles Howard (1536–1624), 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Nottingham and Lord Admiral, and served as Rear Admiral under his father-in-law in the battle against the Spanish Armada in 1588. See his will, TNA PROB 11/92/228, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/southwell-sir-robert-1563-98>

(2) **Elizabeth Southwell** (1569-1602+), Maid of Honour to Elizabeth I. In 1591 she had an illegitimate son, Walter (1591-c.1641), who was raised by Lettice (nee Knollys) Devereux Dudley, Countess of Leicester. Sir Thomas Vavasour (1560-1620) claimed paternity, but in May 1595 the Queen discovered that the boy's real father was Robert Devereux (1565-1601), 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Essex. By 1600 Elizabeth Southwell had married Sir Barentine Moleyns of Clapcot near Wallingford in Berkshire. See the will of Sir Thomas Vavasour, TNA PROB 11/136/511; Anthony Standen's letter dated May 1595, Lambeth Palace Library MS 651, f. 122; Hammer, Paul E., *The Polarisation of Elizabethan Politics*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999), p. 95; and the entry for Elizabeth Southwell at:

<http://www.tudorwomen.com/>

**-Robert Southwell.** He and his eldest son, Henry Southwell, are left bequests in the will below. It appears from the will that they were both in Italy in 1585, presumably as Catholic exiles.

**-Henry Southwell,** said to have been born 4 September 1543. He is not mentioned in the will below, and likely predeceased the testator.

**-Anne Southwell,** said to have been born 18 March 1540. She married Edmund Bedingfield (d.1585), the brother of Thomas Bedingfield (d.1613), who dedicated his translation of *Cardanus' Comfort* to Oxford. For the will of Edmund Bedingfield (d.1585), see TNA PROB 11/69/96. For the will of Thomas Bedingfield (d.1613), see TNA PROB 11/122/124. For Thomas Bedingfield's dedication of his translation of *Cardanus' Comfort* to Oxford, see STC 4607 on this website.

Anne Southwell is not mentioned in the will below, and likely predeceased the testator.

**-Dorothy Southwell,** said to have been born 21 September 1542. According to the will below, she married Thomas Bradbury, by whom she had two sons, Cordell Bradbury and Philip Bradbury. For the marriage of Dorothy Southwell and Thomas Bradbury, see also Allen, Raymond F., *The Allens*, (Walton, New York: The Reporter Company, Inc., 1958), p. 60 at:

<https://archive.org/details/allensfromwillia00alle/page/60/mode/2up>

For Cordell Bradbury, see also TNA C 7/49/21.

**-Martha Southwell** (d. 24 October 1594), who married, as his second wife, the Catholic recusant, Nicholas Longford (c.1533-1610), son of Sir Ralph Longford (d. 23 September 1544) and Dorothy Fitzherbert, daughter of Sir Anthony Fitzherbert (d.1538) of Norbury. After the death of Sir Ralph Longford, Dorothy Fitzherbert married, as his second wife, her second cousin, Sir John Port (d.1557) of Etwall. See the will of Sir John Port, TNA PROB 11/39/245, and Bevan, Rosie, 'A Study of a Medieval Knightly Family: The Longfords of Derbyshire', Parts 1 and 2, *Foundation for Medieval Genealogy*, p. 360 at:

<https://fmg.ac/publications/journal/vol-1/file/209-longford2>

For the marriage of Martha Southwell and Nicholas Longford, see Bevan, *supra*, Part 2, p. 362. There were no issue of the marriage, and before her death, Martha 'sold her reversionary rights for £500 to Sir William Hatton, who had sold them on to Cecil for £2660'. See Bevan, Part 2, *supra*, p. 365.

## ***ISSUE***

Although it appears the testator never married, he may have had an illegitimate son, referred to as his godson in the will below.

### ***TESTATOR'S LANDS***

The testator's father bequeathed him a lease in Kent. See his will, TNA PROB 11/43/577:

*Item, I give also by this my will to Francis, my son, my lease and farm of Todington in Kent with all the woods thereunto [f. 410r] belonging, lying and being in Aylesford, Alyngton [=Allington?], Banham and Chetham [=Chatham?] in the said county of Kent, and I bequeath to the said Francis, my son, one hundred pounds in current money.*

The term of the lease may have expired or been sold, as it is not mentioned in the will below.

RM: T{estamentum} ffrancisci Southwell

In the name of Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, I, Francis Southwell the elder of Gimingham in the county of Norfolk, being, I thank God, of good and perfect memory at the writing of these presents the first day of April 1585 and the twenty-seven year of the reign of our most Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth etc., have here, for the discharge of my duty and conscience and for a better order and quiet hereafter among such my kinsmen and friends as I am most willing to bestow the poor things I leave in the world after my death, set down with mine own handwriting the day and year above-mentioned my true declaration and intent that this present is and shall be mine only last will and testament for the bestowing of such poor substance as I leave behind me;

But first of all, leaving aside all earthly things, I commend with all penitence and contrition of heart my most sinful soul into the hands of Almighty God, still humbly appealing without either despair or presumptions unto the innumerable benefits of his great mercy, and so faithfully believing and hoping in the greatness of his compassion and in the redemption of our most excellent Lord, Jesus Christ, his Son, that he will forgive and remit me, a most penitent sinner, the follies of my youth and sinful life bypast;

As for my most miserable carcass, as one ashamed to speak of it, I will entreat those whom I put in trust with the execution of this my last will to cause it to be buried in some such [-sort] church of [sic?] parish my fortune shall be to die in without pomp or ceremony, only this much to do for me, to lay a convenient stone on me with mine arms and some friendly inscription what I was;

This I do require upon no foolish and arrogant vanity, so God judge me, but only that the reader, being honest and well given, may have a good thought and remembrance of me in his passage;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my brother, Robert Southwell, and to Harry Southwell, his son, the years and term I have in lease from the Queen's Majesty of the demesnes of Gimingham in as ample sort as I have the same upon this condition, that the Queen's Majesty's rent discharged, half yearly he shall pay out of it thirty pounds yearly, that is at the feast of th' Annunciation of Our Lady half and the other at St Michael following by even portions unto my sister, Dorothy Bradbury, and after her death unto my nephew, Cordell Bradbury, her eldest son, during the said term and years of the said lease;

Moreover upon condition that he, the said Robert, my brother, shall pay out of the said lease twenty nobles yearly unto a godson I have in Essex at one Eve's in Rainham of the Reede during the life of the said godson if he chance to live so long, these things and payments to be made without fraud and collusion, but faithfully as mine intent is;

And yet the Queen's Majesty being answered, and the parties I spake of before, I leave a good hundred pounds a year of the surplusage of the rent as it is and ever will be let for unto my said brother, Robert, and to [f. 95v] Harry Southwell, his eldest son, in Italy;

If it chance so that my said brothers [sic] nor his son can come into England, and so thereby not possess their right, my request is and will is that my nephew, Robert Southwell of Woodrising, shall enter into my said term and lease of Gimingham upon condition that the Queen's Majesty discharged, my sister, Dorothy, and Cordell, her son, and my godson at Eve's in Essex of these sums and portions I have given them and with such limitations as are set down, he, my said nephew, Robert Southwell, shall yearly and half yearly as best and conveniently he may, relieve and send over the overplus and surplusage of the revenue of the said lease of Gimingham during the said terms of years unto my brother, Robert, and he failing or dying, unto his son, Harry Southwell, for the better relief and sustenance;

And if my said nephew shall think me cumbersome to employ him thus far, but shall refuse it, then my will is that my brother [=brother-in-law] Bradbury will take upon him the charge of the same with such and the very like condition I required my said nephew, and that it will please my said nephew, whom I ordain and make my principal executor, and my brother Bradbury in like sort another executor, to oversee the faithful dealings in these actions of my last request, and will that if my said nephew will take no pains himself, to see that my brother Bradbury may do it, whom I put no small confidence in;

And for my nephew's pains herein I give him my best horse, my best armour with the furniture, and my best sword;

To my brother Bradbury my second armour with the appurtenances, my second horse, and the like sword;



If either of these twain shall refuse thus much for me, then I make mine only executor my brother [=brother-in-law] Longford of the county of Derby with like conditions and limitations I have done unto my said nephew, Robert Southwell, and my brother Bradbury;

If all these three shall refuse the same, I wholly bequeath the said lease and term of years of Gimingham with my whole substance unto my foresaid godson in Essex at one Eve's in Rainham of the Reede;

And whereas there is a certain herbage ground comprised within my grand lease and yet no part of the same, paying yearly unto the Queen's Majesty five pounds five shillings, my meaning also is that my brother, Robert, shall not enjoy my said lease of Gimingham but with this condition, in like sort shall all the rest unto whom my said lease of Gimingham shall fall and wherein this foresaid herbage is contained, *id est*, suffer quietly and without fraud and as my true meaning is:

First my nephew, Cordell, eldest son unto my sister Bradbury, to have and to enjoy the whole term of years I have to come in the herbage of a close called Sistrom wood which one William Clerk holdeth of me for five years to come, and one other inclose(?) called Reper wood which one Braye hath in lease of me for the like years;

Item, my nephew, Philip, second son to my said sister, Dorothy, to possess and enjoy the remnant of the years I have of the herbage called Caston in the occupation of the widow Gryme of Gimingham and a certain ground of herbage called Alders with one acre and half in Trunch in the occupation of one Samuel Herbert for five years to come;

Item, my servant, Edward Grene, for his true painful service in like sort to possess and enjoy my term of years to come of the herbage of a close called Maye wood in the occupation of one William Clerk of Trimmingham for five years and certain other herbage lands in Sistrond called Yelde Hogges in the occupation of one Harry at my will and pleasure;

Item, my servant, Robert Snelling, for his painful and most faithful service to possess and quietly to enjoy the whole term of years I have to come of the herbage called Clapping Dampe with the appurtenances and the acre in Northrepps, now both in the occupation of one Hierome [=Jerome?] Chawston(?) of Southrepps;

And for the rest of the herbage, my will is it shall follow the great lease with the limitations therein, reserved and excepted always my former conditions and the Queen's Majesty's rents yearly and truly discharged;

If my brother, Robert, will not perform herein faithfully my meaning, nor my said executors nor my brother, Nicholas Longford, then as I said before I give and bequeath all unto my foresaid godson at Eve's in Essex, whom my servant, Robert, or Grene, my man, shall inform the world of;

Item, I require my said executors to deliver unto my brother, Robert, the writing passed between him and me for the sale of his annuity in Carbrooke upon condition that if my said brother, Robert, survived me he should have it again and possess it in as ample sort as mine old uncle, Sir Richard Southwell gave it him at first;

Item, I give unto my sister, Dorothy Bradbury, my best bed with all the furniture and my best three hangings of arras, being three pieces;

Item, I give unto my sister, Martha Longford, my silver jug weighing ten pounds with mine arms on the lid of it;

Item, I give unto my said sister, Martha, my set of gold buttons called Trophes, being six dozen and eight buttons, for which I paid twenty-two pounds;

Item, I give unto my niece, Elizabeth Southwell, sister unto my nephew, Robert of Woodrising, my cap of velvet with the golden buttons, the chain wreathed about it, and a brooch of an antique [=antic?] of an amatist [=amethyst];

Item, my request is that my said executors shall safely keep my sister Martha's jointure for her, which I leave them, during(?) other writings and specialty, a *quietus est* and full quittance from the Lord of Oxford for such trifles as have passed betwixt him and me; my servant Robert, or Grene, shall deliver it, for it is privately in my casket; this is specially to be regarded;

Item, my debts be not above five pounds, and therefore you may be bolder to venture upon these pains;

Thus much I pray you to bestow on my servants such convenient apparel of mine as shall be fit for them;

And to my said godson in Essex as your good considerations shall allow of;

Beseeching you that William Foldestone, my servant, may have given him forty shillings of money at his departure from you;

And that my nephew, Robert, will vouchsafe to take mine old servant, Robert, into his service for he will both do him good service and also faithfully inform you of all my dealings and substance I leave behind me, and so can Edward Grene, my man;

For the true execution and performance of all this I do make my nephew, [f. 96r] Robert Southwell, and my brother Bradbury, my chiefest and dearest friends, mine executors of this my last will and testament;

Subscribed and sealed with mine own hand and seal and in the presence of these witnesses whose names are hereunderneath set down the day and the year above-mentioned. Lord have mercy on me. By me, Francis Southwell the elder of Gimingham.

And if it happen at the day of my death I leave behind me not so much ready money as will serve or satisfy the charges of this my last will and testament, then my will is and it shall be lawful for mine executors to sell such things and stuff as is not given and bequeathed for the better performance of the same my last will and testament. By me, Francis Southwell the elder.

Item, I will and [+my?] special request is that my brother, Robert Southwell, or mine executors shall yearly pay unto my old servant, Robert Snelling, five marks of good and lawful money out of my said lease of Gimmingham during his life if he live so long as my said term, and this I bequeath him with these conditions as are rehearsed in my will before, as well for my sister as others. Robert Snelling. Edmond A Grene. William Foldswyn. Francis Southwell.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram venerabili viro magistro Willmo Drury Legum doctore Curie Prerogative Cantuariensis Magistro Custode siue Commissario decimo septimo die mensis Martij Anno Domini iuxta cursum et computacionem ecclesie Anglicane Millesimo Quingentesimo Octogesimo Quinto Iuramento Petri Johnson notarij publici procuratoris Roberti Southwell et (blank) Bradburye executorum in huiusmodi testamento nominatorum Quibus commissa fuit administracio &c De bene et fideliter administrandis &c Ad sancta Dei Euangelia Iurat

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Drury, Doctor of the Laws, Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the seventeenth day of the month of March in the year of the Lord according to the course and reckoning of the English Church the thousand five hundred eighty-fifth by the oath of Peter Johnson, notary public, proctor of Robert Southwell and (blank) Bradbury, executors named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer etc.]