SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament of Oxford's nephew, Frederick Windsor (1559-1585), 4th Baron Windsor, the eldest son of Oxford's brother-in-law, Edward Windsor (1532?-1575), 3rd Baron Windsor, and Oxford's half-sister, Katherine de Vere (1538-1600).

For the will of the testator's father, Edward Windsor, 3rd Baron Windsor, see TNA PROB 11/57/332. For the will of the testator's mother, Oxford's half-sister, Katherine de Vere Windsor (1538-1600), see TNA PROB 11/95/237.

The testator's heir was his brother (also Oxford's nephew), Henry Windsor (1562-1605), 5th Baron Windsor, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/105/359.

Oxford may have been closer to Frederick Windsor than to other members of the Windsor family. A letter from Gilbert Talbot dated 5 March 1579 mentions a device presented before the Queen at Shrovetide by Oxford and his young kinsmen Philip Howard (1557-1595), later 13th Earl of Arundel, and Arundel's younger half brother, Thomas Howard (1561-1626), later 1st Earl of Suffolk, sons of Oxford's recently-executed first cousin, Thomas Howard (1538-1572), 4th Duke of Norfolk, and Oxford's nephew, Frederick Windsor (see Talbot Papers, Vol. F, f. 295), and on 22 January 1581, Oxford and Frederick Windsor were among the defenders in a tournament celebrating Philip Howard's accession as Earl of Arundel. See a note by Oxford's father-in-law, Lord Burghley (CP, xiii, p. 199 (333)):

the Iustes at Westminster where the Erl of Arundel was challanger asisted with Sir William Drury. Erl of Oxford Lord Wyndsor and 14 more defended.

See also Segar, William, *The Book of Honor and Armes* (New York: Scholars' Facsimiles & Reprints, 1975) pp. 95-6, pp. 195-6.

Moreover several of the men named in Lord Windsor's will were members of the circle in which Oxford moved at court, including Lord Windsor's trusted friend, Sir William Cornwallis (c.1551-1611), to whom Oxford sold the lease of his London mansion, Fisher's Folly, in 1588, and Lord Admiral Charles Howard (1536-1624), who appears to have been a close friend of both Oxford's and Lord Windsor's. For the will of Sir William Cornwallis, see TNA PROB 11/118/441.

Lord Windsor mentions in his will a servant with possible literary connections, John Farrant, who may have been a relation of Richard Farrant, who opened the first theatre at the Blackfriars.

RM: T{estamentum} D{omini} ffriderici Windesor d{omi}ni Windesor

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In the name of God, Amen. I, Frederick Windsor, Lord Windsor, being sick in body but of good and perfect memory, God be thanked therefore, do ordain and make my testament in manner and form following, that is to say:

First, I commend my soul unto the hands of my blessed Saviour and Redeemer, hoping of salvation through the merits of his passion, and I will my body be interred with such decent and comely funerals as appertaineth to mine estate according to the discretion of those that shall have to deal therein;

Item, where Sir Edward Windsor, knight, Lord Windsor, my father, deceased, did by his last will and testament give & bequeath divers sums of money and other things to the lady my mother, his children, kinfolk, friends and servants which are not yet paid or discharged accordingly, and where I and my very loving friend John Talbot, esquire, are the surviving executors of my said father, and where of late there passed certain covenants in writing interchangeably executed between us in and by the which I have covenanted and stand bound to him for the performance of my said father's will, and in and by which covenants the said John Talbot, in consideration thereof, hath likewise covenanted that I, mine executors and administrators, shall only have the execution of my said father's will together with all lands, leases and other goods appointed out for the performance of the same, now my will is that my loving brother Harry Windsor, who as(?) yet is mine heir apparent, shall have and take the benefit of the said covenants made to me as aforesaid by John Talbot, to th' intent that he shall conscionably and honourably see my said father's will performed in all respects so far-forth as in law or equity he may be charged thereto;

Item, I do give and bequeath to my said brother Harry all and all manner my chattels, leases, utensils, household stuff and implements of house whatsoever, my plate, jewels, apparel, armour, horses, mares, geldings, furniture of horses and geldings whatsoever, and debts owing to me, and all other my goods and chattels by what name or names soever they be called lying or being within the realm of England, upon especial hope and confidence in him reposed for the brotherly love which I do and always have borne him, and to th 'intent that he will and shall truly and faithfully pay and discharge all such debts as are owing by me, as well to the Queen's most excellent Majesty as also to divers other persons, whether the same debts grow due by matter of record, especialty, merchants' books, accounts, or by any other ways or means whatsoever, and also to see my will in this declared to be in all points performed and executed, persuading myself that my former bequests made to my said brother will be fully sufficient to satisfy the same;

Item, in acknowledgment of my most bounden duty and thankfulness to the Queen's Majesty for the most gracious favours at sundry times bestowed upon me, I will that there be delivered to her Majesty not only the cross of diamonds willed and bequeathed to her Majesty by my said father, but also one other jewel fully as good or better, as a token from me of my loyalty and affection to her Majesty, with these words engraved in the same, *Dator non Donum*, wishing that mine ability might extend to a greater gift, which notwithstanding I most humbly beseech her Majesty to accept, and the same to be presented unto her Majesty by my very loving friend, Mr William Cornwallis;

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Item, I will that there be paid to my servants and to every of them within six months after my decease all such money as are due unto them or any of them for wages, board-wages, or money expended or laid out for my service or affairs;

Item, I will there be paid to my servants hereafter named, as well in respect of former service as of the great pains which they have taken with me in the time of this my sickness, such sums of money as are hereafter expressed, that is to say, to John Kingston, ten pounds, Thomas Lytherland, ten pounds, Richard Wakeman, thirty pounds, Humphrey Bolton, ten pounds, Edward Bolton, ten pounds, Rowland Flood, ten pounds, John Farrant, ten pounds, Richard Carpenter, ten pounds, Robert Bristowe, ten pounds, Harry Cooke, ten pounds, Robert Moore, ten pounds, all my footmen, five pounds thirteen shillings four pence, Tovy(?) and the two grooms of my stable, to every one of them three pounds six shillings eight pence;

Item, I give to my two servants, John Wakeman and Francis Johnson, to every of them fourscore pounds;

Item, I will that my said brother Harry shall make a good and sufficient grant of a rent-charge to my brother Edward Windsor for term of his life of fifty pounds of lawful money of England yearly to be issuing out of my manor of South Mimms in the county of Middlesex, payable at the feasts of th' Annunciation of our Blessed Lady, Saint Mary the Virgin, and of St Michael th' Archangel by equal portions;

Item, I will that my said brother shall make a like grant to my brother Andrew Windsor for term of his life of fifty pounds thirteen shillings four pence yearly to be issuing out of the said manor of South Mimms, payable as before;

Item, I will that my said brother shall give to either of my sisters Margaret and Katherine the sum of two hundred marks of lawful money of England to buy them jewels at the time of their marriage, most heartily requesting my said brother to have a brotherly care of them, and to augment the portions given by my said father to them as far-forth as conveniently he may, which I myself have purposed, if God shall lend me life, to do;

Item, I will that my said brother shall cause a basin and ewer of silver to be made of the price of fifty pounds which I will that he shall give and deliver to my most loving and dear mother within one year next after my decease as a token of my dutiful affection to her Ladyship;

Item, I will that my said brother shall give to the right honourable and my very good lord, the Lord Admiral of England, a nest of bowls of silver and gilt worth twenty pounds or better as a token of my thankfulness for all his friendship;

Item, I give to my Lord of Cumberland the best hawk which I have, which I think to be the haggard;

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Item, I give to George Fermor, esquire, my next best hawk;

Item, I give to my Lord Thomas Howard my white jennet;

Item, I give to my good friend William Cornwallis, esquire, my grey courser;

Item, I give to my good friend, John Pakington, esquire, my best brown-bay horse;

Lastly, I do make my said brother Henry executor of this my last will & testament, desiring him to see the same performed, and for that the bequests which I have given him herein may not perchance be sufficient (as I think they will), I do give and devise unto my said brother towards the performance of this my said will all the manors, lands, tenements, rents & hereditaments whatsoever which I have in fee simple to me and my heirs lying or being in the counties of Middlesex and Southampton or either of them, to have and to hold to him and his heirs forever;

And if my said brother Harry shall refuse to take upon him the execution of this my last will and testament, or shall not enter into the proving of the same within one month next after my decease, then I will all my former bequests made unto him either of goods, chattels and debts or suchlike, or of the manors, lands, tenements, rents and hereditaments aforesaid, shall be utterly void, and that then my said brother shall not be mine executor, but that then I will that all the bequests and gifts before willed or given to my said brother Harry shall be to my loving friend William Cornwallis, esquire, my brother Edward Windsor, and my servants John Wakeman and Francis Johnson, whom I make the executors of this my last will and testament, to whom also towards the performance thereof I devise and give all my said manors, lands, tenements, rents and hereditaments in the counties of Middlesex and Southampton before mentioned, to have and to hold to them for term of 31 years next and immediately following after my decease;

And to th' intent the estate, certainty and value of my goods may be the better known, I will that my brother, Edward Windsor, with my servants William Umberville, John Wakeman & Francis Johnson, or as many of them as can be present, shall within twenty days after my decease take an inventory indented of all my leases, apparel, utensils, jewels, chattels, debts and all other my goods whatsoever within the realm of England, and the same to price or cause to be priced at indifferent values, and the one part of the said inventory indented to deliver to my said brother Harry, and the other to be kept with themselves;

And I will further that my said executors named in default of my said brother Harry shall yearly yield an account before two such persons as my heirs shall appoint at an indifferent place within the city of London of the revenues and profits which they shall receive of my said manors, lands, tenements & hereditaments aforesaid or any of them;

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And that my said executors and the survivor of them shall be allowed of and for their reasonable expenses and charges to be disbursed in or about the performance of this my last will and testament;

And when that this my will shall or may be performed with my said goods and the profits and revenues of my said manors and other the premises before by these presents devised, then I will that my heirs shall have again the same manors and other the premises, and that then the devise made thereof to [ ] shall be utterly void and cease;

Item, I give to Mistress Chamberlain for her pains taken with me twenty pounds;

Item, I give to Henry Beale 20 marks;

Item, I give to William Umberville twenty marks;

In witness whereof I have hereto set my hand and seal of arms the second day of December in the year of Our Lord God one thousand five hundred fourscore and five. F. Windsor.

Item, I make my overseer my very good lord, the Lord Sandes, and William Cornwallis, esquire, overseers of this my last will;

Item, I will that my executors pay to my Lord Sandes fifteen pounds which I think I owe him upon a reckoning.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum apud London coram venerabili viro mag{ist}ro Will{el}mo Drury legum Doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cantuarien{sis} m{agist}ro Custode siue Com{m}issario &c vicesimo secondo die mensis Decembris anno Domini mill{es}imo quingentesimo octogesimo quinto Iuramento Cr{ist}oferi Smith notarij publici procuratoris Domini Henrici Windesor Domini windesor executoris &c Cui com{m}issa fuit administrac{i}o bonorum &c De bene etc. Iurat{o}

[=The above-written will was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Drury, Doctor of the Laws, Master Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury etc. on the twenty-second day of the month of December in the year of the Lord one thousand five hundred eighty-five by the oath of Christopher Smith, notary public, proxy of Lord Henry, Lord Windsor, executor etc., to whom administration was granted of the goods etc., to well etc. Sworn.]

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