

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 20 July 1579, together with a codicil dated 24 December 1584, proved 9 March 1587, of Margaret (nee Forster) Bassett Sulyard Aylofffe (d. 5 February 1587), sister-in-law of Alice (nee Cloville) Tyrrell Forster Golding, the wife of Oxford's maternal uncle, Henry Golding (d.1576).

### ***WILLIAM WEBBE***

William Webbe dedicated his *A Discourse of English Poetry* to the testatrix' son, Sir Edward Sulyard (d.1610), and was tutor to Sir Edward Sulyard's sons, Edward and Thomas, two of the principal beneficiaries of the testatrix' will below. For Webbe's dedication to Sir Edward Sulyard, see Arber, Edward, ed., *A Discourse of English Poetry 1586* by William Webbe (London, 1870), pp. 5, 13-16, available online at:

<http://www.archive.org/stream/discourseofengli00webbuoft#page/n5/mode/2up>

Almost nothing is known of William Webbe. From the *ODNB*:

*Webbe, William (fl. 1566?–1591), author, is known chiefly for his A discourse of English poetrie, together with the authors judgment, touching the reformation of our English verse, published in 1586; little is known of his life. A letter by Webbe addressed to Robert Wilmott, prefacing the latter's 1591 printed edition of an Inner Temple play, Tancred and Gismund, implies that Webbe was present at its performance before the queen, probably in 1566. He is probably the William Webbe who graduated BA from St John's College, Cambridge, in 1572/3, in the same year as Edmund Spenser, although from a different college. In A Discourse, Webbe draws extensively and admiringly upon The Shepheardes Calendar (published anonymously in 1579) and demonstrates that he knows the identity of its author. He refers admiringly to the discussion of quantitative metres in the correspondence between Spenser and Gabriel Harvey which appeared as Three Proper and Wittie Familiar Letters and Two other Very Commendable Letters in 1580. However, A Discourse does not suggest any intimate acquaintance between Webbe and Spenser or Harvey.*

*Webbe's Discourse yields some clues about his career. It is dedicated to 'my verie good Master, Ma. Edward Suliard, Esquire' who resided at Flemyngs, a large house in the parish of Runwell, in the hundred of Chelmsford, Essex. Webbe indicates that he was employed as tutor to Sulyard's two sons, Edward and Thomas, and refers on a number of occasions to his manuscript translation into quantitative verse of the Georgics which he presented to Sulyard. By 1591, the date of his letter to Wilmott, Webbe was living, possibly also as a tutor, at Pirgo, in the parish of Havering atte Bower, Essex, a house owned by Henry Grey, a relative by marriage of the Sulyards. Tancred and Gismund was partly dedicated by Wilmott to Lady Anne Grey, wife of Henry Grey. Nothing further is known of Webbe's life.*

Oxford is singled out for praise in Webbe's *Discourse* at p. 33:

*I may not omit the deserved commendations of many honourable and noble lords and gentlemen in her Majesty's court which in the rare devises of poetry have been and yet are most excellent skilful, among whom the right honourable Earl of Oxford may challenge to himself the title of the most excellent among the rest.*

### **FAMILY BACKGROUND**

For the testatrix' family background, see 'A Genealogy Report for William Forster', (5 February 2011), available as a pdf file online at:

[shiresgenealogy.co.uk/doc/William\\_Forster.pdf](http://shiresgenealogy.co.uk/doc/William_Forster.pdf)

The testatrix was the daughter of Robert Forster (d.1545) and Margaret Tendring, the daughter of William Tendring (d.1500), by whom he had five sons and five daughters. See the pedigree of Forster taken in 1561 in Metcalfe, Walter, ed., *The Visitations of Suffolk*, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1882), pp. 29-30 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsofsuf00harvuoft#page/28/mode/2up>

The testatrix was the sister of George Forster (d.1556), and thus the sister-in-law of Alice (nee Cloville) Tyrrell Forster Golding, the wife of Oxford's maternal uncle, Henry Golding (d.1576). The testatrix' sister-in-law, Alice, resided with the testatrix' daughter, Dorothy Bassett Bonham Maxey (d.1602), during the last years of her life. For the will of the testatrix' sister-in-law, Alice (nee Cloville) Tyrrell Forster Golding, see TNA PROB 11/70/187.

Only three of the testatrix' five brothers and four sisters are mentioned in the will below:

*Item, I give and bequeath unto Bridget Forster, the daughter of William Forster of Crowhurst in the county of Surrey, my brother, forty shillings of lawful English money.*

*. . . to Jane Tyrrell, my sister, for and during the term of her natural life, the remainder thereof after her decease to Edward Tyrrell, son of Thomas Tyrrell, gentleman, and of the said Jane, his wife, for and during the term of the natural life of the said Edward.*

*Item, I give and bequeath unto Agnes Foster [=Forster], the daughter of Michael Foster [=Forster], my brother, three pounds six shillings eight pence of good and lawful money of England, to be paid by mine executors within three months next after my decease.*

For the testatrix' siblings, see the will, proved 10 April 1557, of her father, Robert Forster, TNA PROB 11/39/125.

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**MARRIAGES AND CHILDREN**

According to an inscription in the parish church at Runwell, Essex, the testatrix married three times. See Christy, Miller, W.W. Porteous and E. Bertram Smith, 'Some Interesting Essex Brasses', *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society*, Vol. IX, Part I, New Series, (Colchester, 1903), pp. 22-67, at pp. 35-6:

<https://archive.org/stream/transactionssess01socigoog#page/n55/mode/2up>

*This inscription (7 by 23 ½ inches) commemorates Eustace Sulyard, Esquire, of Flemyngs, in Runwell, and his wife, Margaret [a daughter of Robert Forster, of Little Burch, by Margaret, eldest daughter and heiress of William Tendring, of the same place], who was married, firstly to Gregory Bassett, Esquire, of Bradwell-juxta-Coggeshall (by whom she had a daughter, Dorothe, wife to Anthony Maxey, Esquire); secondly, to the aforesaid Eustace Sulyard (by whom she had Edward, Mary, Margaret, Jane, Anne, and Brigett: he died the 26<sup>th</sup> February 1546-7); and, thirdly, (as his second wife,) to William Aylofffe, Esquire, of Britzens, in Hornchurch (by whom she had no children). She died on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 1586-7.*

For the testatrix' marriages and children, see 'A Genealogy Report', *supra*.

***Testatrix' first marriage***

The testatrix married firstly Gregory Bassett (d.1528) of Bradwell, Essex, by whom she had an only daughter, Dorothy Bassett (d.1602), an heiress who became the ward of Thomas Bonham of Kent (for his will, dated 17 June 1532, see TNA PROB 11/25/90), who married her to his son, Robert Bonham, by whom she had two sons and two daughters:

**-Jeremy Bonham.**

**-Charles Bonham.**

**-Mary Bonham.**

**-Elizabeth Bonham.**

Dorothy Bassett married secondly Anthony Maxey (d.1591), the nephew of George Maxey of Saling, Essex, to whom Oxford and his second wife, Elizabeth Trentham, transferred title to the rectory of Messing on 5 May 1592 (see CP 25/2/135/1725/34ELIZIEASTER, Item 43). For the will of Anthony Maxey, proved 21 December 1591, see TNA PROB 11/78/423.

Dorothy Bassett married thirdly John Babington. See Golding, C., 'Bonham Family' *Notes & Queries*, 7<sup>th</sup> Series VIII (September 28, 1989), p. 252, and Wright, *supra*, pp. 264-5:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=SgQVAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA264>

### *Testatrix' second marriage*

The testatrix married secondly Eustace Sulyard (d. 26 February 1547), by whom, according to his will, TNA PROB 11/31/508, she had three sons, Edward, John and Eustace, as well as five daughters, Mary, Margaret, Jane, Bridget and Anne, all under age and unmarried.

See also Wright, Thomas, *The History and Topography of the County of Essex*, Vol. I, (London: George Virtue, 1836), p. 143:

*Here do lie Eustace Sulyard, esquire, and Margaret Aylofffe, sometime his wife, who had to her first husband Gregory Ballet [sic for 'Bassett'], esquire by whom she had issue Dorothy, her only daughter and heir, and now wife unto Anthony Maxey, esquire, and to her second husband, the said Eustace Sulyard, between whom they had issue Edward Sulyard, esquire, their son and heir, and Mary, Margaret, Jane, Anne and Bridget, their daughters, and to her third and last husband she had William Aylofffe of Bretons, esquire, by whom she had no issue, which said Eustace Sulyard died in February in the first year of King Edward the Sixth, and the said Margaret died the fifth of February the 9 and twentieth year of our Sovereign Queen Elizabeth.*

The will of the testatrix's second husband, Eustace Sulyard, differs from the foregoing inscription in that he mentions three sons, Edward, John and Eustace, as well as his five daughters. It would appear that three of the children mentioned in the will of the testatrix' second husband, John Sulyard, Eustace Sulyard, and Mary Sulyard, predeceased the testatrix, as they are not mentioned in her will below. The surviving children of the testatrix' marriage to Eustace Sulyard (d.1547) at the time the testatrix made her will were:

\* **Sir Edward Sulyard** (d.1610), who married a wife named Anne (surname unknown), and by her had two sons, Edward Sulyard and Thomas Sulyard, and a daughter, Elizabeth. For the will of Sir Edward Sulyard (d.1610), see TNA PROB 11/116/183.

\* **Margaret Sulyard** (1539-1586), who married Thomas Darcy (1538-1586) of Tolleshunt Darcy, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/69/668. He was the son of Thomas Darcy (1511?-1557) of Tolleshunt Darcy and his first wife, Anne Munday, the daughter of the goldsmith and Lord Mayor of London, Sir John Munday (d.1537). For the will of Sir John Munday, see TNA PROB 11/27/118.

\* **Jane Sulyard** (b.1545), who married William Aylofffe (c.1535-1584), the son of the testatrix's third husband, William Aylofffe (d.1569). For the will of William Aylofffe (d.1584), see TNA PROB 11/67/475.

\* **Bridget Sulyard**, whose husband, according to the testatrix's will below, was surnamed Watts.

\* **Anne Sulyard** (born c.1546), who married, firstly, John King of Althorne, Essex, for whose will, dated 17 May 1576 and proved 22 November 1580, see Gilbert, William, 'A Digest of Essex Wills', *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, Vol. XL, No. 3, (New York: New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 1909), pp. 155-9, at p. 158:

<https://archive.org/stream/newyorkgenealog040newy#page/158/mode/2up>

Anne Sulyard married secondly, John Glascock (d.1595) of Roxwell, Essex, for whose will, which mentions his late wife's son, Thomas King, see TNA PROB 11/85/53.

For the testatrix' children by Eustace Sulyard, see also 'Genealogy Report', *supra*, p. 16.

### ***Testatrix' third marriage***

The testatrix married thirdly William Aylofffe (d.1569), of Bretons in Hornchurch, by whom she had no issue. For his will, see TNA PROB 11/51/50. William Aylofffe's son and heir, the testatrix's son-in-law, Justice William Aylofffe (c.1535-1584), knew Oxford personally, and is mentioned in two documents which directly concern Oxford (see CP 159/110-11 and CP 9/91). For his will, see TNA PROB 11/67/475.

### ***TESTATRIX' EXECUTORS***

The testatrix appoints as executors her sons-in-law, Anthony Maxey (d.1591) and John Glascock (d.1595) of Roxwell. As noted above, John Glascock was the second husband of the testatrix' daughter, Anne Sulyard (born c.1546). See his will, *supra*.

The Catholic sympathies of the Sulyard family are indicated by the fact that the testatrix' sister, Bridget Forster, the last prioress of a nunnery at Runwell, resided with Sir Edward Sulyard (d.1610) and his wife. Robert Dureden recorded a visit to Runwell on 18 July 1602 (see <http://www.andrewcollins.com/page/articles/Runwell.htm>).

*The nunnerie house of timber and plaister is dwelled inne by Sr Edwd. Sulliard his bay liffe, to whom I did also that same daie at Flemings paie my respectes ere I did go home. Atte the manoir is lodged by Sr Edwd and hys Ladye, Mistresse Bridgette Forster hys auntt, though Sr Edwed avowes that she be aged fulle ninety and foure yeres. Thys Mistresse Bridgett be the laste heade or prioresse of the nunnes house and hathe even*

*yette her pensionne of our soveraigne ladge rge Queen, albeitr a recusante and stiffe in Papystrie.*

RM: T{estamentum} Margarete Aylofffe

In the name of God, Amen. The twentieth day of July in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred seventy-nine and in the one and twentieth year of the reign of our most gracious sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith etc., I, Margaret Aylofffe of Runwell in the county of Essex, widow, late the wife of William Aylofffe, esquire, deceased, being in good health and in perfect mind and memory, revoking all other former wills heretofore by me made, do now make and pronounce this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First, I commend my soul to the mercy of Almighty God, trusting assuredly to be saved by the death and passion of Jesus Christ, my only Saviour and Redeemer, and my body to be buried in the parish church of Runwell aforesaid, or else where it shall please God to call me to his mercy, by the discretion of mine executors;

And as touching the order and disposition of my lands and goods:

First I will and devise my tenement or messuage with the appurtenances called Joyners situate, lying and being in the town and fields of South Hanningfield, Runwell, Ramsden Bellhouse and elsewhere in the said county of Essex, with all and singular the lands, meadows, pastures, feedings, commons, woods and underwoods thereunto belonging or otherwise now or late being in the tenure, farm or occupation of one Thomas Harris or of his assigns which I late purchased to me and to mine heirs of one Arthur Clarke, gentleman, to Jane Tyrrell, my sister, for and during the term of her natural life, the remainder thereof after her decease to Edward Tyrrell, son of Thomas Tyrrell, gentleman, and of the said Jane, his wife, for and during the term of the natural life of the said Edward;

And after the several deceases of the said Jane and Edward, I give and will the said tenement or messuage and all and singular other the premises with th' appurtenances as aforesaid to Edward Sulyard, my grandchild, son of the said Edward Sulyard, my son, and to the heirs of the said Edward, my grandchild, forever, provided always and I will that if the said Edward Sulyard, my grandchild, shall fortune to decease and depart this life before the said Jane Tyrrell and the said Edward Tyrrell, her son, without any issue of his body lawfully begotten and to be begotten, then I will the said tenement or messuage and all the said lands, meadows, pastures and feedings with all and singular the appurtenances and other the premises shall wholly (after the several deceases of the said Jane and Edward) remain unto the right heirs of me, the said Margaret, forever;

Item, I will and devise to Edward Sulyard, my son, and to his heirs forever all that my messuage or tenement in South Hanningfield aforesaid, and all and singular the lands, meadows, pastures, feedings, woods, underwoods, possessions and hereditaments to the said messuage or tenement belonging or otherwise now or late being in the tenure, farm or occupation of one John Watson or his assigns which I purchased to me and to my heirs of one John Towle, yeoman;

Item, I will & devise unto Edward Sulyard, my grandchild, all that my messuage or tenement with th' appurtenances called or known by the name of Markes situate and being in the parish of Rettendon in the said county of Essex, with all and singular the lands, tenements, meadows, pastures, feedings, woods, underwoods, possessions and hereditaments to the said messuage or tenement belonging or appertaining or therewithal used, occupied or demised, together with all and singular other lands, tenements and hereditaments with all and singular th' appurtenances which I late purchased of Sir Henry Tyrrell, knight, and Thomas Tyrrell, esquire, son and heir apparent of the said Sir Henry or of any of them or otherwise now being in the tenure or occupation of one Robert Stretes or his assigns, to have and to hold all the said messuage or tenement and all and singular the premises last before recited to the said Edward Sulyard, my grandchild, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, the remainder thereof for want of such issue to Thomas Sulyard, brother to the said Edward, and to the heirs males of the body of the said Thomas lawfully begotten, the remainder thereof for default of such issue to the right heirs of the said Edward, my son, forever;

Item, I will notwithstanding that my said son, Edward, his executors or assigns, shall have the letting and setting to the best proof, and also perceive and take all the revenues, issues and profits of all and singular the premises last before recited to the only use of the said Edward, my grandchild, until his full age of one and twenty years, and then I will that my said son, Edward, his executors, administrators or assigns, shall of the said issues, revenues and profits make a true and perfect account to the said Edward, my grandchild, and I will that within one month next after the said account that the said Edward, my son, his executors, administrators or assigns, shall make payment to the said Edward, my grandchild, of so much money as upon the said account shall appear to be by my said son, his executors or assigns or any of them received, without any fraud or further delay;

And if the said Edward, my grandchild, shall happen to depart this life before his said age of one and twenty years having issue one or moe sons of his body lawfully begotten, then I will that my said son, Edward, his executors or assigns, shall take the issues and profits of the same premises until any of the said son or sons shall first attain his full age of one and twenty years, and then to make the like account and payment to the said son of the said Edward, my grandchild, which shall so first attain his said full age of one and twenty years in such manner and form as my said son, Edward, his executors, administrators or assigns or any of them should have done to the said Edward, my grandchild, if he had lived to his said age of one and twenty years;

And if the said Edward my grandchild, shall happen to depart this life without any issue male of his body lawfully begotten having issue one or more daughters, then I will that the premises forthwith after the decease of the said Edward, my grandchild, without issue male shall remain to the said Edward Sulyard, my son, and his heirs forever, upon condition notwithstanding and I will that the said Edward, my son, his heirs, executors or assigns, shall pay or cause to be paid the sum of two hundred pounds of lawful English money to the daughters of the said Edward, my grandchild (if he shall then happen to have any) at the several ages of every of the said daughters of eighteen years, indifferently to be divided between them;

And if any of the said daughters shall happen to decease before their said age, then I will that the part of her or them so deceasing shall be indifferently divided amongst the survivors or survivor of the said daughters;

And if the said Edward, my grandchild, shall at the time of his decease have but one daughter, then I will that the said daughter shall have the said whole sum of two hundred pounds, to be paid her at her full age of eighteen years;

And if the said Edward, my grandchild, shall happen to decease without any issue male of his body lawfully begotten having then no issue female, so that the said Edward, my son, his heirs, executors nor assigns shall any wise be charged with the payment of the said sum of two hundred pounds or any part thereof in form aforesaid, then I will that the said Thomas, my grandchild, shall have all and singular the premises last before recited with the appurtenances to him, the said Thomas, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for want of such issue, I will that the same shall remain to the said Edward, my son, and his heirs forever, upon condition likewise that if the said Thomas, my grandchild, deceasing without any issue male shall at the time of his decease have any issue female or females, that then I will the said Edward, my son, his heirs, executors or assigns, shall pay or cause to be paid the said sum of two hundred pounds to the daughters of the said Thomas, my grandchild, at the several ages of every of the said daughters of eighteen years indifferently to be divided between them;

And if any of them shall happen to decease before her said age, then I will that the part of her or them so deceasing shall be indifferently divided amongst the said daughters of the said Thomas then surviving;

And if the said Thomas, my grandchild, shall at the time of his decease have but one daughter, then I will that the said daughter shall have the whole sum of two hundred pounds to be paid her at her full age of eighteen years;

Item, I will that if my said grandchild, Edward, shall happen to depart this life before the said age of one and twenty years without any issue of his body lawfully begotten, that then all the said issues, revenues and profits to be taken of all and singular the premises last before recited by my said son, Edward, his executors, administrators and assigns, shall be to the only use of the said Thomas, my grandchild;



And I will that the said Edward, my son, his executors, administrators or assigns, shall of the said issues, revenues and profits make a true and perfect account to the said Thomas, my grandchild, at his full age of one and twenty years, and then to make payment to the said Thomas, my grandchild, of so much money as upon the said account shall appear to be by my said son, his executors or assigns or any of them received, without any fraud or further delay;

And if the said Thomas, my grandchild, shall depart this life before the said age of one and twenty years having issue one or more sons of his body lawfully begotten, then I will that my said son, Edward, his executors or assigns, shall take the issue and profits of the same premises until any of the said son or sons shall first attain his full age of one and twenty years, and then to make the like account and payment to the said son of the said Thomas, my grandchild which shall first attain to his said full age of one and twenty years in such manner and form as is before limited and appointed to be made by the said Edward, my son, his executors or assigns, to the issue male of the said Edward my grandchild, without any fraud or delay;

Provided always and I will notwithstanding that my said son, Edward, shall not after my decease take the said issues, revenues and profits of the premises last before recited nor have any intermeddling with the same premises or any part thereof except he, the said Edward, my son, shall within two months next after my decease by his sufficient writing obligatory stand and become bound to my executors herein named in the sum of (blank) for the true performing and fulfilling of this my last will and testament on the behalf of him, the said Edward, my son, his heirs, executors or assigns, to be performed and fulfilled according unto my true meaning herein expressed as shall be by mine executors or their learned counsel reasonably advised, devised or required;

And if my said son, Edward, shall refuse to become bound to my said executors in form aforesaid, then I will that my said executors shall forthwith after any such refusal perceive and take all the said issues, revenues and profits of all and singular the premises last before recited with the appurtenances, and to be accountable and make payment of the same to such and the same uses and intents and in like manner and form as is hereinbefore limited and appointed to the said Edward, my son, his executors or assigns;

Item, I will that my said executors within three months next after my decease shall dispose and give to twenty poor folks inhabiting and dwelling within the towns and parishes of Runwell, South Hanningfield and Ramsden aforesaid and Downham in the said county twenty good and able milch kine, to every of them one cow, or else to every of the said poor folks the sum of forty shillings of lawful English money in recompense of every of the said kine at the discretion of my said executors, {RM: and I will that the said number of twenty poor folks shall be appointed by and at the like discretion of mine said executors];

Item, I give unto John Bicarstaffe, my gardener and servant, ten pounds of lawful English money, to be paid him by mine executors within one month next after my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Thome Decesse, Frenchman, my butler, ten pounds of lawful English money, to be paid him by my executors within one month next after my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath to my servant, Margaret Clifte, six pounds thirteen shillings four pence, to be paid unto her within one month next after my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath [+to] Mary Withie, alias Potter, my servant, six pounds thirteen shillings four pence, to be paid unto her by mine executors within one month next after my decease;

And I give to John Wade, my servant, six pounds thirteen shillings four pence, to be paid unto him by mine executors as is last aforesaid;

Item, I give and bequeath to Anne Darcy, daughter of Thomas Darcy of Tolleshunt Darcy in the said county of Essex, ten pounds of lawful English money and to Margaret Darcy, daughter of the said Thomas Darcy, five pounds of like lawful money;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Bridget Forster, the daughter of William Forster of Crowhurst in the county of Surrey, my brother, forty shillings of lawful English money;

Item, I will and bequeath unto Edward Sulyard, my grandchild, my tablet of gold, to the use of the said Edward Sulyard, my grandchild, until he shall accomplish his age of two and twenty years;

Item, I give and bequeath to Anne Sulyard, my daughter-in-law, the wife of Edward Sulyard, my son, my table wherein an unicorn horn with a rabye [=ruby?] and a diamond are set, and also my ring with a turkes [=turquoise] graven with a face;

And I will that the said Edward Sulyard, my son, and his wife and the survivor of them shall have the custody of six of my silver plates during their two natural lives, and after their several deceases, I give and bequeath the said six silver plates to the said Edward Sulyard, my grandchild;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Dorothy Maxey, my daughter, my gilt bowl with the cover weighing (blank) ounces;

Item, I give and bequeath to Eustace Darcy, my grandchild, my gilt standing pot with a cover weighing (blank) ounces;

And I give and bequeath to Anne Glascock, my daughter, my gilt salt with a cover weighing (blank) ounces;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Jane Aylofffe, my daughter, four of my silver spoons gilt;

And I give to Bridget Watts, my daughter, my gilt salt without a cover;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the said Edward, my grandchild, my gilt tankard, and I will that his father shall have the custody of the said tankard until the said Edward shall accomplish his said age of one and twenty years;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the said Jane Aylofffe, my daughter, my ring set with a sapphire;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Jane Tyrrell, my sister, my little gilt salt with a cover, and my silver salt with a cover, and also my little pepperbox with the cover;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Henry Maxey, my grandchild, my silver tankard, and I will that his father or mother shall have the custody of the same tankard until the said Henry shall accomplish his full age of one and twenty years;

Item, I do give and bequeath unto Edward Tyrrell, my sister's son, one annuity of forty shillings a year during the term of forty years next ensuing after my decease if Jane Tyrrell, mother of the said Edward, shall so long live, and the said annuity of forty shillings a year to be paid yearly by mine executors or the executors of the survivors of them to the said Edward Tyrrell or his assigns during the term of the natural life of his said mother at two usual terms in the year, that is to say, at the feast of St Michael th' Archangel and the Annunciation of Our Lady by even and equal portions;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Thomas Darcy, my son-in-law, and to Margaret Darcy, the wife of the said Thomas, my tester of a bed paned or guarded with purple velvet, with all things to the same bed belonging as they now be or lately were in the custody and keeping of the said Thomas Darcy;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the said Edward Sulyard, my son, all my implements and utensils of household and household stuff and all manner of my cattle, corn and grain of what kind or nature soever they be, as well within the house as without, not given and bequeathed in this my last will and testament, upon condition that the said Edward Sulyard, my son, his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, shall well and truly content and pay or cause to be contented and paid to my executors or to the survivor of them or to th' executors of the survivor of them the sum of one hundred and ten pounds of lawful English money towards the performance of this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to weet, the said sum of ten pounds I will shall be paid the day next after my decease to be bestowed of my funerals according to the discretion of mine executors, and the said sum of one hundred pounds last before expressed I will it to be paid within one year next after my decease;

Provided always and I will that if it shall happen the said Edward Sulyard, my grandchild, to depart this life without any issue of his body lawfully begotten before his said age of one of [sic] twenty years, then I give and bequeath all such goods and chattels, legacies and bequests as heretofore in this my last will and testament I have given to the said Edward, my grandchild, to the said Thomas Sulyard, my grandchild, and

if the said Edward, my grandchild, shall at the time of his decease have any child or children, then I will that the said child or children of the said Edward my grandchild, shall have the said goods and chattels and other bequests before given unto the said Edward, my grandchild, to be paid and equally distributed amongst them at their several ages of twenty years;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Katherine Breder(?), my sister, six pounds which I lately lent her;

And I give and bequeath unto Henry Veniall, my godson, five pounds, to be paid by mine executors within one half year next after my decease;

Item, I will and bequeath to every of my grandchildren in this my last will and testament not before remembered one ring of gold of the value of twenty shillings, to be delivered by mine executors within one half year next after my decease, and to every of my godchildren not being of my kin, six shillings eight pence of lawful English money to be likewise delivered and paid within one half year next after my decease;

Item, I will that mine executors shall procure and cause twenty sermons to be preached in Runwell church aforesaid by some discreet and well learned preacher man, and I will that every of the said preachers shall have for his pains six shillings eight pence of lawful English money for every sermon so to be made, and further I will that my said executors shall distribute or deal at every of the said sermons five shillings of lawful English money to the poor people inhabiting within the parish of Runwell aforesaid which my executors shall think to have most need;

Provided always and I will that all the persons before named to whom I have willed the custody of any legacy hereinbefore expressed shall have the custody of the same upon condition hereafter expressed and not otherwise, videlicet, upon condition that they, the said persons, shall within eight days next after reasonable request made to them by mine executors or any of them stand and become bound to my said executors in such reasonable sum and sums of money as shall be by them named and reasonably devised and required for the true delivery of all the said legacies according to the true intent and meaning of this my last will;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Agnes Foster [=Forster], the daughter of Michael Foster [=Forster], my brother, three pounds six shillings eight pence of good and lawful money of England, to be paid by mine executors within three months next after my decease;

Provided always I will and my mind is that my son, Edward Sulyard, shall perceive and take the issues, revenues and profits of all my said last-recited tenement or messuage called or known by the name of Markes, with all and singular the appurtenances thereto belonging or appertaining in the parish of Rettendon in the county of Essex, to the finding of Edward Sulyard, my grandchild, to school, to the bringing of him up in learning until the said Edward shall accomplish the age of one and twenty years;

And where the sum of two hundred pounds of good and lawful money of England, for the true payment of the which two hundred pounds the said Edward Sulyard, my son, stand and is become bound to me, the said Margaret Aylofffe, his mother, in two several bonds of two hundred pounds apiece for the true payment of the said two hundred pounds to me, the said Margaret, my executors and assigns, as by the said two several obligations with their several conditions endorsed in defeasance of the same more at large it appeareth, which said two obligations I, the said Margaret Aylofffe, have delivered in trust to my well beloved and trusty friend, Anthony Maxey of Bradwell in the county aforesaid, esquire, my son-in-law, to the use of me, the said, Margaret, for and towards the true performance of this my last will and testament, I will and my mind further is that my executors or the survivor of them, or the executors of the survivor of them, shall perceive and take of the said Edward Sulyard, my said son, within one year next after my decease, the said sum of two hundred pounds, and within one year after that with the said two hundred pounds to buy and purchase lands and tenements within the said county of Essex or elsewhere my executors shall think meet, which lands and tenements so purchased I will that my said executors or the survivor of them shall assure and convey or cause to be assured and conveyed unto Edward Sulyard, my said grandchild, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, with the remainder over for want of such issue to my said son, Edward Sulyard, and his heirs forever;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Martin Angledewe, my servant, four pounds of good and lawful money of England, to be paid to the said Martin or his assigns within one quarter of a year after my decease;

Item, I do give to Edmond Bettes, my servant and virginal player, ten pounds of good and lawful money of England, to be paid to the said Edmond within one quarter of a year after my decease;

Item, I do give and bequeath unto John Whoode [=Hood?], my cook, forty shillings of good and lawful money of England, to be paid to the said John within one quarter of a year after my decease;

Item, I do give and bequeath unto Sara Silvester, my girl, ten pounds of good and lawful money, to be paid to the said Sara within one quarter of a year after my decease;

Item, I will and my mind is that these legacies, gifts and bequests go out and be received and levied of the money that shall grow of the annuity of ten pounds which I did purchase to me and to my assigns for the term of fifty and five years of Richard Cannon of Rettendon in the said county of Essex, gentleman;

Item, I will that after the said legacies and bequests be paid and discharged, that then my executors and the survivor of them, and the executors of the survivor of them, shall of the said annuity and of the arrearages thereof during the residue of the said term of fifty-five years which shall remain and to be to continue after my said legacies and bequests is discharged as is aforesaid, bestow and defray yearly the sum of six pounds thirteen shillings four pence toward the finding of one scholar in the university of Cambridge;

And I will that my said executors and the survivor of them, and the executors of the survivor of them, shall yearly during so many years of the said term of fifty-six [sic] years as shall remain and be to expire after the said legacies and bequests be paid and discharged as aforesaid, pay and distribute the residue of the said annuity of forty [sic?] pounds, being three pounds six shillings eight pence, amongst the poor people inhabiting in Runwell aforesaid and within other towns within two miles next adjoining to the said town of Runwell;

Item I do give and bequeath unto Edward Sulyard, my son, these parcels of plate following, viz., first, one basin of silver with an ewer of silver weighing fourscore and three ounces; also, two quart pots of silver, parcel gilt, weighing threescore two ounces and a half or thereabouts; also, three silver bowls, parcel gilt, weighing in all a hundred one ounces and half; also, one salt with a cover, gilt, weighing five and twenty ounces; also, one dozen of silver spoons, whereof three of them are gilt, weighing five and twenty ounces and one quarter; also, an old casting-bottle of silver, parcel gilt, to be delivered to my said son within three months next after my decease, upon condition notwithstanding that the said Edward Sulyard, my son, shall upon the delivery of the said parcels of plate in consideration thereof well and truly content and pay or cause to be paid to my executors or to any of them which shall make delivery thereof the sum of threescore and ten pounds of good and lawful money of England without any further delay towards the performance of this my will, and if my said son, Edward, shall refuse to pay or cause to be paid the said threescore and ten pounds as is aforesaid, then I will and my mind is that my executors or the executors of them shall sell all those parcels of plate above-mentioned given to the said Edward Sulyard, my son, to the best profit, and to bestow the money coming of the said plate towards the performance of this my last will and testament;

And of this my present testament and last will I do ordain, make and constitute Anthony Maxey of Bradwell near Coggleshall in the county of Essex, esquire, my son-in-law, and also I do make my executor John Glascock of Roxwell, my son-in-law, my executors, and I do give and bequeath to either of them for their pains and travail to be taken about the execution of this my last will and testament the sum of ten pounds of good and lawful money of England.

This schedule made the four and twenty day of December in the twenty and seventh year [=24 December 1584] of the reign of our most gracious Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., containing a part of my last will and testament, witnesseth that I, Margaret Aylofffe of Runwell in the county of Essex, widow, late the wife of William Aylofffe of Runwell in the county of Essex, deceased, do moreover and beside all the gifts, bequests and devises before in and by my last will and testament made, given and devised, by these presents give and devise to Edward Sulyard, my grandchild, all that my messuage or farm, lands, meadows, pastures, feedings, woods, underwoods, rents and services, reversions and

hereditaments, with all and singular their appurtenances situate, lying and being in Downham, Ramsden, Wickford, South Hanningfield and Runwell in the said county or in any of them called or known by the name of Sudburyes or by any other name or names whatsoever now or late being in the tenure or occupation of one Robert Prentise [=Prentice?] or his assigns which I, the said Margaret, lately purchased to me and my heirs of William Nutbrowne th' elder of Barking in the said county, esquire, as by a certain pair of indentures made between the said William Nutbrowne of the one party and the said Margaret Aylofffe of thother party bearing date the second day of November in the twenty and sixth year of the reign of our said Sovereign Lady the Queen's Majesty that now is more at large it appeareth, to have and to hold all the said messuage and farm, lands, meadows, pastures, feeding[s], woods, underwoods, rents, reversions and services and all other the premises with th' appurtenances to the said Edward Sulyard, my grandchild, and his heirs forever;

Provided always and my mind and will is that if it shall fortune the said Edward Sulyard to depart this world before he shall accomplish his full age of twenty and one years without issue of his body lawfully begotten, then I will & devise my said messuage or farm with all and singular the said lands, meadows, pastures, feedings and all other the premises with their appurtenances before given and devised to the said Edward Sulyard to Thomas Sulyard, my grandchild, brother of the said Edward, and to the heirs of the body of the said Thomas lawfully begotten and to be begotten;

And if it shall happen the said Thomas Sulyard to depart this life without issue of his body lawfully begotten, then I will and my full intent and meaning is that the said messuage and farm lands and all other the premises before in and by these presents devised with their appurtenances shall wholly remain and come to the right heirs of me, the said Margaret Aylofffe, forever;

And moreover provided always that where I, the said Margaret, by my last will and testament have given and bequeathed one annuity or yearly rent of ten pounds of lawful English money towards the discharge of certain gifts and bequests given and bequeathed in and by my said last will and testament, which annuity or yearly rent I have to me and my assigns of the grant of one Richard Cannon of Rettendon in the said county, gentleman, for the term of fifty and five years from the day of the date of a certain deed thereof made by the said Richard to me, the said Margaret, as by the said deed bearing date the (blank) day of (blank) in the (blank) year of the reign of our said Sovereign Lady more at large it appeareth, and if it shall happen the said annuity or yearly rent of ten pounds or any part thereof to be detained, withholden and not paid in such manner and form as it ought to be, so as my executors or any of them cannot by any lawful ways or means attain and come by the same towards the discharge of the gifts and bequests given and bequeathed in and by my last will and testament according to my true intent and meaning therein expressed, then I will and devise to my executors and to the executors of the survivor of them one annual rent of ten pounds of lawful English money to be yearly issuing and going out of the said messuage or farm lands called or known by the name of Sudburyes and all other the premises before given and devised to the said Edward Sulyard, my grandchild, in form aforesaid at two usual feasts in the year, that is to say, at

the feasts of the Annunciation of Our Lady and St Michael the Archangel, by even portions to be perceived and taken by my said executors or the executors of the survivor of them for and towards the performance of my said last will and testament during all such time and in such manner and form to such uses and intents as my said executors should have perceived and taken the said former annuity or yearly rent of ten pounds if my said executors might have received the same, and not otherwise;

And if it shall happen the said annual rent of ten pounds to be issuing and going out of my lands last before recited to be behind and unpaid in part or in all at any of the said feasts of payment in which the same ought to be paid as aforesaid, that then and so often it shall and may be lawful to my said executors or the executors of the survivor of them into the said messuage or farm lands called or known by the name of Sudburyes and into all and singular other the premises before given and devised to the said Edward Sulyard, my grandchild, to enter and there to distrain, and the distress and distresses there so had and taken to lead, drive and carry away, and the same to impark and detain until such time as the said annual rent and every part and parcel thereof, together with the arrearages of the same if any shall be, be to my said executors or to the executors of the survivor of them fully satisfied and paid;

Witness to this schedule, being part and parcel of the will of Margaret Aylofffe above-written: Anthony Alderson, Michael Forster, the one and twenty day of June in the eight and twentieth year [=21 June 1586] of the reign of Queen Elizabeth etc. M. Aylofffe. Anthony Alderson, Michael Forster, Michael Forster [sic?].

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum unacum Codicillo suprascripto apud London coram magistro Willmo Mowse Legum doctore Surrogato Venerabilis viri magistri Willmi Drury Legum Doctoris Curie Prerogatiue Cantuar{iensis} magistri custodis siue Commissar{ij} &c nono die mensis Marcij Anno d{omi}ni iuxta cursum et computac{io}nem eccl{es}ie anglicane mill{es}imo quingentesimo octogesimo sexto Iuramento Lawrencij Swinborne notarij publici procuratoris Anthonij Maxey et Iohannis Glascocke executor{um} in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento nominat{orum} Quibus Commissa fuit administracio &c de bene et fideliter administrand{o} &c Ad sancta dei Evangelia Iurat{orum}

[=The above-written testament, together with the above-written codicil, was proved at London before Master William Mowse, Doctor of the Laws, Surrogate of the worshipful Master William Drury, Doctor of the Laws, Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury etc., on the ninth 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-sixth by the oath of Lawrence Swinborne, notary public, proctor of Anthony Maxey and John Glascock, executors named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer etc. ]