

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 7 April 1597, of George Sneyd, maternal uncle of Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham. He names as his executrix his wife, Anne, and as one of his overseers his brother, Ralph Sneyd, Oxford's trustee in several documents entered into after Oxford's marriage to Elizabeth Trentham.

RM: Testamentum Georgij Sneyde

In the name of God, Amen. The seventh day of April anno regni Regine Elizabethhe & tricesimo nono [=1597], I, George Sneyd of Newcastle-under-Lyme in the county of Stafford, gentleman, being sick in body yet of good and perfect memory and understanding, thanks be to God, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in writing in manner and form following, that is to say:

First, I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my Maker and Redeemer, hoping and verily believing though the merits and passion of our Saviour Jesus Christ to enjoy the blessing of everlasting life in his kingdom, and my body to the earth in such place as my wife and overseers of this my last will shall think convenient;

And as concerning my lands, tenements and temporal possessions, I give and bequeath to Anne, my wife, the use, possession and occupation of all my lands whatsoever for and during the term and space of her natural life;

Item, my will is and I give and bequeath unto the said Anne, my wife, full power and authority to demise, grant and let to farm all my said lands whatsoever at any time during the time and space of her natural life for the term, time and space of threescore years from and after the day of the natural death and decease of the said Anne, reserving the yearly rent of ten shillings out of the said lands to my heirs, provided always that if my said wife do at any time hereafter grant or let to farm the said premises or any part thereof to any person or persons but to some one of my sons or daughters (if they or any of them be living), that then her power and authority by virtue of this my said will for demising and granting of the same utterly to cease;

Item I give and bequeath unto Ralph, my eldest son, the reversion and reversions of all my lands and tenements whatsoever, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for want of issue of the body of the said Ralph, I give the said reversion of my said lands and tenements unto George, my second son, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for want of issue of the said George, I give all the said reversion and reversions of the said premises to William, my youngest son, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for want of issue of the body of the said William, I give the said reversions of my said lands to Mary, my eldest daughter, and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten, and for want of issue of the body of the said Mary, I give and bequeath

the reversions of my said lands and tenements to Anne, my youngest daughter, and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten, and for want of issue of the body of the said Anne, to the right heirs of me, the said George Sneyd forever;

Item I give and bequeath to the said George, my second son, the leases and terms which I have in one burgage or tenement called the Old Cock in Newcastle aforesaid, and the lands thereunto belonging, and two closes and one meadow called Dawsons hay, and all my term and interest therein;

Item, I give unto William, my youngest son, forty pounds;

Item, I give unto Mary and Anne, my said two daughters, either of them a hundred marks, to be paid them at their preferment in marriage if they marry with consent and good liking of my wife and my overseers of this my last will;

Item, I give unto the said Ralph, my eldest son, all my term and interest for three lives of and in all grounds I hold by copy of court roll from Ranulph Boothes of Penkhull, with the money due for the same if it be redeemed by the said Boothes;

Item, I give further unto the said Ralph the sum of ten pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the said Anne, my wife, all my goods, chattels and cattles whatsoever not in this my present will before given and bequeathed, for the payment of my debts and legacies and discharging of my funeral expenses;

Item, my will is that my said wife shall have the keeping and bringing up of all my said children and their several portions until such time as they severally do accomplish th' age of one and twenty years;

Item, I do nominate and appoint for mine executrix, to see my last will and testament executed and performed, the said Anne, my said wife, and for overseers thereof my good brother, Ralph Sneyd, esquire, and my cousin Mr William Sneyd, his son, these being witnesses: Thomas Keeling, Ranulph Lovatt, John Turner alias Kerver.

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram Venerabili Viro Magistro Willelmo Lewyn Legum Doctore Curie Prerogative Cantuariensis magistro Custode siue Comissario Ultimo die mensis Aprilis Anno Domini Millesimo Quingentesimo Nonogesimo Septimo Iuramento Thome Browne notarij publici Procuratoris Anne Sneyde Relicte Executricis in huiusmodi Testamento nominate Cui comissa fuit administratio Bonorum Iurium et Creditorum dicti Defuncti De Bene et fideliter administrando &c Ad sancta dei Evangelia Iurate Examinatus

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[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Lewin, Doctor of the Laws, Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the last day of the month of April in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred ninety-seventh by the oath of Thomas Browne, notary public, proctor of Anne Sneyd, relict, executrix appointed in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer etc. Examined.]