

SUMMARY: The document below is the last will and testament, dated 10 June 1597 and proved 11 December 1599, of Henry Prannell (d. 10 November 1599), gentleman, of the Middle Temple, whose father purchased Oxford's manor of Newsells, and who himself owned Newsells at his death and left it to his wife, Frances (nee Howard), daughter of Thomas Howard (c.1520 - 28 January 1582), 1st Viscount Bindon.

The testator was the son and heir of the London alderman, Henry Prannell (d. 22 October 1589), and Anne Baxter (d.1593?), the daughter of Edmund Baxter. According to the monument formerly in the south side of the chancel of the church of St Michael le Querne, the testator's parents had three sons and one daughter. See Stow, John, *The Survey of London*, (London: Elizabeth Purslow, 1633), p. 388 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=UONBAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA388&lpg=PA388&dq=%22Stow%22+%22Survey+of+London%22+%22Baxter%22&source=bl&ots=Y1rApehYwX&sig=3iTJY-jERc7Z5vGv3pThvWs8W8k&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwIjubDrxYTMAhUVzWMKHYPx18Q6AEIHTAA#v=onepage&q=%22Stow%22%20%22Survey%20of%20Londn%22%20%22Baxter%22&f=false>

Here lyeth buried the body of Henry Prannell, late Citizen and Alderman of London, and free of the Vintners, who deceased the 22. day of October, Ann. Dom. 1589. Anno aetatis suae, 58. He had to wife Anne, the daughter of Edmond Baxter; and had issue by her, three sonnes and one daughter.

Nothing further is known of the testator's mother's family apart from the fact that in her will she mentions a brother, Richard Baxter. For the wills of the testator's parents, see TNA PROB 11/74/370 and TNA PROB 11/83/132.

The church of St Michael le Querne was destroyed in 1666 in the Great Fire of London, and it may be that the epitaph was copied incorrectly (likely by Munday; the epitaph is not given in the 1603 edition) since in their wills the testator's parents name only one son and two daughters. It thus appears that despite the wording of the epitaph, the testator was the only son (or perhaps the only surviving son), and that he had two sisters, not one:

* Joan Prannell, who married Robert Brooke of Copfold, Essex. She is not mentioned in the will below, and it appears she and the testator had been involved in litigation against each other. See TNA C 2/Eliz/B19/46, and TNA STAC 5/P21/38. It is also said that Joan Prannell and her husband were Catholic recusants. See:

<http://wwtn.history.qmul.ac.uk/search/csearch.php?uid=BB027>.

* Mary Prannell, who married John Clerke of Lincoln's Inn. See the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/clarke-john>.

John Clerke was the son of Francis Clerke, a proctor in the Court of Arches, for whom see the will, TNA PROB 11/75/199, of his brother, Bartholomew Clerke (c.1537-1590), translator of Castiglione's *The Courtier*, to which Oxford contributed a commendatory Latin epistle dated 3 January 1572 (see STC 4782).

For the testator's education, see:

<http://www.prangnell.net/prannel.htm>.

[The testator] had a good education at Shrewsbury and Greyfriars Schools and was admitted to Caius College Cambridge in 1581 at the age of 15 and to the Middle Temple in 1584.

For the testator see also:

<https://www.genealogieonline.nl/en/west-europese-adel/I1073985114.php>.

See also the pedigree of Prannell in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Hertfordshire*, (London: Harleian Society, 1886), Vol. XXII, p. 159 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsofher222732cook#page/n175/mode/2up>.

For the testator's cousin, also named Henry Prannell, see his will, TNA PROB 11/105/54.

In early 1592 the testator married Frances Howard (27 July 1578 – 8 October 1639), the daughter of Thomas Howard, 1st Viscount Bindon, by his third wife, Mabel Burton (1540-1580), the daughter of Nicholas Burton of Carshalton, Surrey. In the will below the testator appoints as overseer his 'very good friend', Nicholas Burton, who appears to have been the brother of Mabel Burton; he is also mentioned in the will of Richard Burton (d.1588?), TNA PROB 11/74/460. For the Burton family, see also 'Burton and Fowle' at:

<https://mprobb.wordpress.com/2015/11/16/burton-and-fowle/>.

According to the *ODNB*, the testator's marriage 'was celebrated by Jo. M. with a tract called *Phillipes Venus* (1591)'. See:

<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/eebo2/A06687.0001.001?view=toc>.

In his will (TNA PROB 11/65/112), the 1st Viscount Bindon entrusted his daughter to the custody of his sister-in-law, Mary (nee Burton) Fowle, or alternatively, his brother-in-law, Richard Burton. He bequeathed her a dowry of £2000 to be supervised by Lord Burghley, and requested that she be preferred to the Queen's service, and that her marriage be at the Queen's disposal. None of these provisions appears to have taken effect. A document in the Calendar of Patent Rolls dated 10 December 1590 states that

‘not one penny’ of Frances Howard’s dowry had by that date been forwarded to Lord Burghley as stipulated by the 1st Viscount’s will. See:

<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/GEN-MEDIEVAL/2005-10/1129668058>.

See also Foster, *infra*, pp. 74-5; TNA SP 46/15/131; TNA SP 46/18/194; TNA SP 46/38/fo199; and the entries at:

<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/GEN-MEDIEVAL/2004-12/1102546107>.
See TNA PROB 11/65/112.

Although her relationship to the Queen (her father was the Queen’s first cousin once removed) was such that Frances Howard’s marriage to the testator constituted disparagement, in a letter to Lord Burghley endorsed 8 February 1592 the testator excused himself on the grounds that the marriage had been encouraged by Frances’ friends, and would benefit her since she had no other means of support and he would assure her a large jointure, including Oxford’s former manor of Newsells. See Ellis, Henry, *Original Letters, Illustrative of English History*, 3rd series, (London: Richard Bentley, 1846), Vol. IV, pp. 91-5:

<https://archive.org/stream/originallettersn3s04elliuft#page/90/mode/2up>.

For Oxford’s sale of the manor of Newsells to the testator’s father, see also Page, William, ed., *The Victoria County History of the County of Hertford*, (London: Constable and Company Limited, 1914), Vol. 4, pp. 28-9 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/cu31924088434463#page/n65/mode/2up>.

For the final concord between Oxford and the testator’s father concerning the manor of Newsells, see Brigg, William, ed., *The Herts Genealogist and Antiquary*, (Harpenden: William Brigg, 1897), Vol. II, p. 255 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/hertsgenealogist02brig#page/n515/mode/2up>.

According to the *ODNB*, during the testator’s lifetime Frances Howard was enamoured of Henry Wriothesley (1573-1624), 3rd Earl of Southampton, to whom Shakespeare dedicated *Venus and Adonis* and *The Rape of Lucrece*:

From the *ODNB*:

Beginning in May 1597 Mrs Prannell regularly visited Dr Simon Forman, a London physician and astrologer of mixed fame, to learn whether her husband would return from sea, and if not, whether she might marry her ‘love’, Henry Wriothesley, the earl of Southampton; also, to learn by giving water (in July and August) whether she were pregnant. Forman predicted that Frances would ‘change her estat 3 times’, and found that the stars shone favourably on her desired match, despite her ‘woman enimie’,

Elizabeth Vernon (Bodl. Oxf., MS Ashmole 226). Upon returning home, Henry Prannell was honoured with Leon Battista Alberti's Hecatonphila: the Arte of Love (1598, registered 20 December 1597) in an anonymous translation by Anthony Munday. In Munday's treatment, dedicated to Henry, Frances is transparently figured as 'Hecatonphila', the mistress of one hundred loves, yet an affectionate and faithful wife during her husband's absence, Penelope-like.

For *Hecatonphila*, published with commendatory verses by Francis Meres (1565/6–1647), author of *Palladis Tamia*, see Tomita, Soko, *A Bibliographical Catalogue of Italian Books Printed in England 1558-1603*, (Farnham, Surrey: Ashgate Publishing Company, 2009), p. 412 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=DoblLc9iPUsC&pg=PA412&lpg=PA412&dq=%22Henry+Prannell%22+%22dedicated&source=bl&ots=_6mtfR0Z-u&sig=Fb9rTT0fvVijMiV1nYPDz_5Wwck&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjT0ez7qPPLAhUIrJQKHfBuChEQ6AEIITAB#v=onepage&q=%22Henry%20Prannell%22%20%22dedicated&f=false.

For the text of *Hecatonphila*, see:

<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/eebo/A15427.0001.001?view=toc>.

For William Leake, publisher of *Hecatonphila* in 1598 and Shakespeare's *Venus and Adonis* in 1599, see also Erne, Lucas, *Shakespeare and the Book Trade*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013), p. 149 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=vi8WBQAAQBAJ&pg=PA149&lpg=PA149&dq=%22Hecatonphila%22&source=bl&ots=uSawUNTcQA&sig=z23GJ23OWUGT0NrxT93W9E0Dsgk&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwis5ovsqPDLAhWikoMKHSsBA1k4FBDoAQg5MAc#v=onepage&q=%22Hecatonphila%22&f=false>.

For *Hecatonphila*, dedicated to the testator, see also Scott, Mary Augusta, *English Translations from the Italian*, (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1916), p. 473 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/elizabethantrans00scotiala#page/472/mode/2up>.

For the testator's chambers in the Middle Temple, see Hopwood, Charles Henry, ed., *Middle Temple Records*, 3 vols., (London: 1904), p. 353 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/middletemplerec00englgoog#page/n392/mode/2up>.

For an indenture dated 2 December 1585 between the Queen and Leicester in which Henry Prannell is named among those to whom Leicester was to pay certain sums, see *Two Hundred and Fifty Manuscripts, Books and Autographs*, pp. 82-4 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/twohundredfiftym00jpea#page/82/mode/2up>

The testator is mentioned in a deposition sworn by Justice William Gardiner on 27 November 1595. See Hotson, Leslie, *Shakespeare Versus Shallow*, (London: The Nonesuch Press, 1931), p. 309 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=k1xINwDRKt8C&pg=PA309&lpg=PA309&dq=%22Prannell%22+%22Middle+Temple%22&source=bl&ots=U7PjrlGIBM&sig=NcrJo2pHe6mqgaBxvS0EgNUZz24&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjfi_qUv_vLAhUDw2MKHVES A74Q6AEIJDAD#v=onepage&q=%22Prannell%22%20%22Middle%20Temple%22&f=false

The testator and his wife are mentioned in the will of Richard Bowser, who purchased Oxford's manor of Sheriffs. See TNA PROB 11/70/86:

Item, I give & bequeath to Henry Prannell, vintner, and to his wife, to each of them a mourning gown of fine cloth of sixteen shinges [sic] a yard.

After the testator's death, Frances Howard married secondly, on 27 May 1601, as his third wife, Edward Seymour (1539? – 6 April 1621), 1st Earl of Hertford, whose first wife was Queen Elizabeth's first cousin once removed, Lady Katherine Grey (1540?-1568), heir to the throne under Henry VIII's will, and whose second wife was Frances Howard (d. 14 May 1598), one of the Queen's Maids of Honour, and the daughter of William Howard (c.1510-1573), 1st Baron Howard of Effingham. Frances Howard (d. 14 May 1598) was another of the Queen's cousins once removed, but of the half blood. See the *ODNB* entry for Edward Seymour, and the Wikipedia article on Thomas Howard, 2nd Duke of Norfolk, edited by the author of this website at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Howard,_2nd_Duke_of_Norfolk.

Frances Howard married thirdly, on 16 June 1621, as his third wife, Ludovick Stuart (1574 - 16 February 1624), 2nd Duke of Lennox and Duke of Richmond.

For the will of Frances Howard, in which Oxford's granddaughter, Lady Anne Stanley, Countess of Ancrum, is mentioned, and in which Oxford's former manor of Newsells is also mentioned, see 'Six Wills Relating to Cobham Hall', *Archaeologia Cantiana*, Vol. 11, 1877, pp. 225-50 at pp. 238 and 240:

<http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/Research/Pub/ArchCant/Vol.011%20-%201877/page%20v%20+%20vi.htm>.

. . . with my affectionate wishes to the Countes of Ancrom whoe is borne of the blood on both sides ffather and Mother which I love hartely

All the little land I have in the Countie of Hertford, the Mannor of Newsill alias Newsills with the appurtenaunces thereof

For Frances Howard, see also the *ODNB* entry, and Foster, Donald W., ‘ “Against the perjured falsehood of your tongues”: Frances Howard on the Course of Love’, *English Literary Renaissance*, 24 (1994), pp. 72-103, available online at:

people.usm.maine.edu/rabrams/FrancesHoward.pdf.

For a portrait of Frances Howard by Marcus Gheeraerts, see:

<http://www.christies.com/lotfinder/paintings/marcus-gheeraerts-ii-portrait-of-frances-howard-5460651-details.aspx>.

For the testator’s executor, Francis Ashley of the Middle Temple, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/ashley-francis-1569-1635>.

LM: T{estamentum} Henrici Prnell

[f. 363v] In the name of God, Amen. The tenth day of June in the year of Our Lord God one thousand five hundred ninety-seven and in the nine and thirtieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., I, Henry Prnell of the Middle Temple, London, gentleman, being whole of body and of perfect mind and memory, glory and praise be given to Almighty God, do make, ordain and declare this my present testament containing herein my last will in manner and form following, that is to say:

First and principally I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God, my Maker and Creator, and to his dearly-beloved Son, Jesus Christ, my only Saviour and Redeemer, in whom and by the merits of whose most precious death and passion I hope and steadfastly believe to have full and clear remission, pardon and forgiveness of all my sins and offences, and my body to the earth from whence it came to be buried at the discretion and appointment of mine executrix hereafter named;

Item, I will that all such debts, duty and sums of money whatsoever as I shall be indebted in or owe of right or in conscience unto any person or persons at the time of my decease shall be well and truly answered, satisfied and paid by my executrix hereafter named as shortly after my decease as conveniently may be;

Item, whereas heretofore by certain indentures tripartite bearing date the fourteenth day of May in the nine and thirtieth year [=14 May 1597] of the reign of the Queen’s Majesty that now is I have conveyed and assured all those my manors of Rokey and Water Andrews and the manors of Newsill alias Newsells and Barkway, [+and?] the manor of Barwick with th’ appurtenances to those and every of those aforesaid manors [f. 364r]

belonging, as also my capital messuage commonly called or known by the name of Rushdenwell with all lands and tenements thereunto belonging, all which said manors and tenements with their appurtenances are situate, lying and being in the parish of Barkway in the county of Hertford;

And whereas also by the said deed indented I conveyed all other my lands and messuages in the said county of Hertford as well as those aforesaid manors and capital messuage with their appurtenances to th' use of myself and Frances, the daughter of Thomas, Lord Howard, Viscount Howard of Bindon, my well-beloved wife, and to the heirs of our two bodies lawfully begotten and to be begotten;

And for default of such issue then to the use of myself and the heirs of my body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to the use of the said Frances and the heirs of the body of the said Frances lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to the use of the right heirs of the said Frances forever more;

Which conveyance and assurance so made was intended and meant for a jointure and maintenance of living to and for her, my said wife, after my decease;

All which notwithstanding, by a proviso and condition in the same indentures contained it doth appear that I have reserved unto myself absolute power and authority to dispose and alter the said estate and uses in the same deeds contained at my will and pleasure during my life;

Now do I hereby testify and declare and my will and meaning is that the uses, estates, limitations and appointments of the uses and estates in the said deeds indented specified and declared shall stand and remain without alteration, diminution or abridgment and that my said wife, Frances, shall and may have and enjoy those my aforesaid manors, capital messuage and other lands with all and every of their appurtenances in the said county of Hertford to her and the heirs of her body, and for default of such issue to her right heirs forever more;

Item, I will and bequeath all my lands and tenements situate and being in the city of London to my well-beloved wife, Frances, for and during her natural life;

And after her decease then to remain to my well-beloved sister, Mary Clerke, the wife of John Clerke of Lincoln's Inn, gentleman, for the term of her life;

And after her decease then to remain to Henry Clerke, the son of the said Mary and John, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue, the remainder to John Clerke, one other younger son of the said Mary and John, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue, the remainder to Bartholomew Clerke, one other younger son of the said Mary and John, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue, the remainder to Francis Clerke, the eldest son of the said Mary and John, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue, the remainder to the heirs of the body of the said Mary Clerke, my well-beloved sister;

And for default of such issue, the remainder to the right heirs of my well-beloved wife, Frances, forever more;

Also further my will and mind is that if my said sister, Mary Clerke, or her said husband or any of her children aforesaid or either of them, or any other for them or either of them or in the right or behoof of them or of either of them, or by their or either of their procurement or consent, shall vex, molest and sue my said beloved wife, Frances, or her heirs or assigns or any of them for any other right or estate in any my manors, lands and tenements wheresoever within the realm of England or for any further part and portion of my goods and chattels other than such as is to them or either of them by this my last will bequeathed, that then all gifts and legacies of goods and chattels and all gifts and remainders of lands and tenements in this my present last will and testament given, limited or appointed to her, the said Mary, or to her children or any of them shall be void [f. 364v] and frustrate to all intents and purposes as though they had never been named in this my last will and testament, nor any gift, bequest or remainder herein had ever been made or limited unto her, them or any of them;

And immediately after such vexing, molesting or suing as is last before rehearsed, my will and mind is that all my lands and tenements within the city of London shall go and remain to the right heirs of my well-beloved wife, Frances, forever more;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my servant, John Hosier, one annuity of twenty nobles to be paid him yearly during his life at the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel out of all my houses and tenements in Hart Street in London, and my will and mind is that the said John Hosier for and during his life shall or may enter into my said lands and tenements in Hart Street or into any part or parcel thereof, there to distrain from time to time for the said annuity or yearly rent and arrearages thereof, if any be, when and as often as the same annuity or any part thereof shall happen to be behind and unpaid by the space of thirty days after the said feast-day of Saint Michael;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my servant, Thomas Harris, ten pounds of good and lawful money of England to be paid unto him within three months next after my decease;

Item, I give [+and?] bequeath unto my servant, Thomas Fellis, the like sum of ten pounds of good and lawful money of England to be paid unto him within three months next after my decease;

Item, I give unto my servant, Robert Baker, five pounds of good and lawful money of England to be paid unto him within three months next after my decease;

Item I give and bequeath to my maidservant, Christian Orwell, one yearly exhibition of forty shillings, which I desire my well-beloved wife, Frances, to see paid unto her, and to keep and maintain her during her life;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my servant, Francis Turnelye, the sum of ten pounds of good and lawful money of England which my mind and intent is shall not be paid until within one month after his apprenticeship ended;

In the meantime, I would have him kept by my said wife Frances, or else to be put forth by her unto some one of trade of whom the said Turnelye may learn an occupation whereby to get his living;

Item, whereas I did bestow upon my servant, James Lockier, in consideration of his good and faithful service a lease of a certain house and ground lying in Barkway aforesaid during certain years, as by the indenture of lease signed and sealed with mine own hand doth and my appear, my mind is that this my present last will and testament be a confirmation of the said lease unto the said James Lockier according to the grant in the said indenture contained;

And my desire is that my well-beloved wife, Frances, be an aide and assistance unto the said James Lockier for the quiet holding, enjoying and possessing of the said tenement called the Antelope in Barkway and the said land commonly called Coytes close in the parish of Barkway aforesaid according to my grant in the said indentures contained;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the poor inhabitants of Barkway six pounds of good and lawful money of England to be paid [+and?] distributed among them within one month after my decease at the discretion and appointment of my well-beloved wife, Frances;

Item, whereas my loving friend, Mr John West, one of the attorneys of Mr Fanshawe's office in the Exchequer, is with my consent and good liking admitted expectant upon trust I have reposed in him into my chamber in the Middle Temple, now my will and mind is that immediately after my decease the said John West do enjoy the said chamber by virtue of my present bequest entirely(?) and absolutely unto himself, discharged of all trust and confidence by me heretofore reposed in [f. 365r] him, as a gift and legacy bestowed upon him by me in this my last will and testament;

Item, I give to my brother [=brother-in-law], John Clerke, all my law-books and my wearing apparel that is black;

Item, I give to my sister, Mary Clerke, twenty marks of good and lawful money of England to buy her a border withal of gold, which said sum of money I will my wife, Frances, pay unto her within one month next after my decease or else give my said sister one border of gold of her own amounting to that value;

Item, I give unto my loving cousin, Mr Francis Clerke, one of the proctors of the Arches and father unto my aforesaid brother, John Clerke, my great picture of Christ taken down from the Cross usually hanging in the great hall of my house in London to use during his life, and after his decease to my said sister, Mary Clerke;

Item, I give to my well-beloved friend, Mr Thomas Jones of Ratcliffe, my seal-ring of gold and my picture which Mr John Decreet{es} [=John de Critz?] last drew for me;

Item, I give to my loving friend, Mr James Stonehouse, my black armour lent unto him and one of my Spanish pikes, and also all my books of music and instruments except my great virginals and my chrest [sic for 'chest?'] of viols;

Item, I give to my loving friend, Mr William Bonham, dwelling at the Castle in Paternoster Row, my branch of candlesticks hanging in the midst of the great hall of my house in London;

Item, I give to my very friend, Mr Thomas Roberts, my armour and Spanish pike which I carry with me to sea;

Item, I give unto my poor nurse, Anne(?) Sallett, forty shillings a year during her life which I desire my said wife, Frances, to pay unto her yearly;

Item, I give to my loving cousin, Mr Francis Afley [sic for Ashley?], all my books of histories whatsoever;

The residue of all and singular my goods, chattels, plate, implements and household stuff whatsoever, after my debts paid and my funeral charges (which I refer to the discretion of mine executrix) borne and sustained, I wholly give and bequeath the same unto the said Frances, my well-beloved wife, whom I make and ordain my sole and only executrix of this my last will and testament;

And I do make and ordain my very good friends Mr Nicholas Burton of Carshalton in the county of Surrey, gentleman, and Mr Francis Ashley of the Middle Temple, London, gentleman, my overseers of this my said will, and I give and bequeath unto either of them for their pains five pounds apiece;

And I do hereby revoke all former or other wills by me heretofore made or executors whosoever in the said former wills named, and I will that this my present testament shall stand and be for my only last will;

In witness whereof I have hereunto put my hand and seal, given the day and year first above-written. Henry Prannell.

This will containeth fifteen sheets of paper without any interlining but only in the third line of the third sheet or leaf these words, viz., ‘in the said county of Hertford’, and in the second line of the seventh sheet or leaf these words, viz., ‘or his heirs or assigns or any of them’, and in the six line of the eighth sheet or leaf these words, viz., ‘at the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel’, and in the first line of the thirteenth sheet or leaf these words, viz., ‘to use during his life and after his decease to my said sister, Mary Clerke’, whereunto the hand and name of Henry Prannell is subscribed to every leaf, and the same Henry Prannell did seal, acknowledge and declare this present to be his last will and testament in the presence of us, Richard Dastone [=Daston?], William Cutt{es}, Robert Jacob, Walter Moyle, Edward Warde.

Probatum fuit Testamentum h{uius}mo{d}i coram venerabili viro mag{ist}ro Iohanne Hone legum doctore Surrogat{o} venerabilis viri mag{ist}ri Iohannis Gibson legum etiam doctoris Curie Prerogat{iue} Cant{uariensis} mag{ist}ri Custodis siue Commissarij I{egi}time constituti vndecimo die mens{is} Decembris anno D{omi}ni Millesimo quingentesimo nonagesimo nono Iuramento m{agist}ri Thome Browne notarij publici procuratoris honorande femine ffrancisci Prannell relict{e} et executricis dicti defuncti in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento nominat{e} Cui Commissa fuit administracio bonorum Iurium et creditorum dicti defuncti de bene et fideliter administrand{o} &c Ad sancta Dei Euangelia Iurat{e}

[=The same testament was proved before the worshipful Master John Hone, Doctor of the Laws, Surrogate of the worshipful Master John Gibson, also Doctor of the Laws, lawfully constituted Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the eleventh day of the month of December in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred ninety-ninth by the oath of Master Thomas Browne, notary public, proctor of the honourable Frances Prannell, relict and executrix of the said deceased named 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.]