

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 7 July 1529 and proved in November 1530, of Thomas Brooke (d. 19 July 1529), 8th Baron Cobham, whose grandson, William Brooke, 10th Baron Cobham, was Lord Chamberlain and patron of the Lord Chamberlain's Men in 1596/7, and whose grandson, Thomas Brooke the younger, wrote verses commemorating the death of Arthur Brooke (d.1563), author of *Romeus and Juliet*, a principal source of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

A pedigree of the Brooke family from the reign of Henry III to 1571 was emblazoned by Robert Glover (1543/4 – 10 April 1588), Somerset Herald, at the request of the testator's grandson, William Brooke (1527-1597), 10th Baron Cobham. See CP 225/1 and McKeen, David, *A Memory of Honour; The Life of William Brooke, Lord Cobham*, (Salzburg: Universitat Salzburg, 1986), 2 vols., pp. 5, 21, 291 at:

<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000901279>

The pedigree contains the statement that William Brooke, 10th Baron Cobham, 'is 'now living in anno 1571', thus providing an approximate date for the blazoning of the pedigree.

It should be noted that the pedigree contains errors, particularly with respect to the testator's second and third marriages.

Testator's grandparents

The testator was the grandson of Edward Brooke (born c.1415 – d. before 7 July 1464), 6th Baron Cobham, and Elizabeth Audley (or Tuchet), the daughter of James Tuchet, 5th Baron Audley.

Testator's parents

The testator was the son of John Brooke (c.1450 – 9 March 1512), 7th Baron Cobham, and Margaret Neville (d. 30 September 1506), daughter of Sir Edward Neville (d. 18 October 1486), Lord Bergavenny, youngest son of Ralph Neville, 1st Earl of Westmorland, and Katherine Howard (living 29 June 1478), daughter of Sir Robert Howard and Margaret Mowbray, daughter of Thomas Howard, 1st Duke of Norfolk. After the death of Margaret Neville, John Brooke, 7th Baron Cobham, married Eleanor Ansty of Suffolk, by whom he had no issue. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 240-1, Vol. III, pp. 529-30.

Brasses in Cobham church depict the testator as one of eighteen children. See McKeen, *supra*, p. 16. The eight sons and ten daughters of John Brooke and Margaret Neville included:

-**Thomas Brooke**, 8th Baron Cobham, the testator in the will below.

-**Sir Edward Brooke**, mentioned in the will below. In the pedigree in CP 225/1, *supra*, he is said to have been of Denton, (Kent?), and to have married a woman of Ireland, by whom he had no issue. He may have been the Edward Brooke, ‘brother to the Lord Cobham’, knighted on 23 May 1514. See ‘The Holinshed Project’, at:

<http://english.nsms.ox.ac.uk/holinshed/>

The .23. of May being Monday. . . . Then to encourage diuers gentlemen ye more earnestly to shew their valiancie, he dubbed them knights, Diuerse Gentlemen Knyghted by the lord Admirall. as fir Edward Brooke, brother to the lord Cobham, fir Griffyth Doune, fir Tho. Windham, fir Tho. Lucy, fir Io. Burdet, fir William Pyrton, fir Henry Shirborn, & fir Stephen Bull.

-**George Brooke**, who married, as her second husband, Elizabeth Peche (d. 16 July 1544), widow of John Hart (d.1507), daughter of Sir William Peche (d. 9 April 1488, aged 63) and sister of Sir John Peche (c.1473 - 1 January 1522). See the will, TNA PROB 11/20/389, of Sir John Peche, whose wife, Elizabeth Scrope (living 1542), was a first cousin of Elizabeth (nee Scrope) Beaumont de Vere (d.1537), Countess of Oxford, second wife of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford. See McKeen, *supra*, p. 701.

By her first husband, John Hart (d.1507), Elizabeth Peche (d. 16 July 1544) had a son and three daughters:

(1) **Sir Percival Hart** (c.1496 – May 1580), who married Frideswide Bray, daughter of Edmund Bray (d. 1539), 1st Baron Bray, and sister of the testator’s daughter-in-law, Anne Bray (c.1510 – 1 November 1558). For the will of Sir Percival Hart, see TNA PROB 11/62/217.

(2) **Elizabeth Hart** (living 31 March 1552), who married the testator as his third wife, and after his death, John Cornwall (see below).

(3) **Anne Hart** (c.1491 – 1557?), who married firstly Edmund Talbot (d. 20 February 1520), by whom she had a son, Sir Thomas Talbot. Anne Hart married secondly, about 1510, Sir James Stanley (c.1496 – May 1562), son of George Stanley (c.1460 - 4 or 5 December 1503), Lord Strange, son of Thomas Stanley (d. 29 July 1504), 1st Earl of Derby, and Eleanor Neville. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, pp. 266-70, and the *ODNB* entry for Thomas Stanley, 1st Earl of Derby.

See also ‘Stanley Family’ at:

<https://www.familysearch.org/service/records/storage/das-mem/patron/v2/TH-904-63880-1435-24/dist.txt?ctx=ArtCtxPublic>

For the will of Anne (nee Hart) Talbot Stanley, dated 20 November 1557, which erroneously states in a footnote that she was the *daughter* of Sir Percival Hart, see Piccope, G.J., ed., *Lancashire and Cheshire Wills and Inventories*, (Chetham Society, 1857), Vol. XLII, p. 191 at:

[vhttps://books.google.ca/books?id=gQRBAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA191](https://books.google.ca/books?id=gQRBAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA191)

(4) Cecily Hart, of whom nothing further is known.

See Robertson, Scott, 'Peche of Lullingstone', *Archaeologia Cantiana*, Vol. XVI, 1886, pp. 227-40, available online at:

<https://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/Research/Pub/ArchCant/Vol.016%20-%201886/page%20v%20+%20vi%20%20contents.htm>

-Leonard Brooke.

-Mary Brooke, who married firstly Sir Robert Blagge (d.1522), Baron of the Exchequer, secondly John Barrett, esquire, and thirdly Sir Richard Walden. For Robert Blagge, see the History of Parliament entry for his son, George Blagge, at:

<http://www.histparl.ac.uk/volume/1509-1558/member/blagge-george-151213-51>

For the will of Sir Richard Walden, see:

<https://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/Research/Libr/Wills/Bk09/343.htm>

-Faith Brooke (d.1508). See McKeen, *supra*, p. 6, and *Handbook for Travellers in Kent*, 4th ed., (London: John Murray, 1877), p. 180 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=24EuAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA180>

See also Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, p. 529.

According to the pedigree in CP 225/1, another daughter of John Brooke, 7th Baron Cobham, and Margaret Neville was:

-Dorothy Brooke, who married William Isaac of Kent, esquire, but died without issue.

MARRIAGES AND ISSUE

Testator's first marriage

The testator married firstly Dorothy Heydon (d. by 1515), daughter of Sir Henry Heydon (d.1504) of Baconsthorpe, Norfolk, by Anne Boleyn, daughter of Sir Geoffrey Boleyn, Lord Mayor of London, great-grandfather of Queen Anne Boleyn. See Cokayne, George Edward, *The Complete Peerage*, Vol. III, (London: St Catherine Press, 1913), p. 347. See also the Wikipedia entry for Sir Henry Heydon created by the author of this website at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Heydon

By Dorothy Heydon, the testator is known to have had four sons and three daughters.

-**John Brooke**, eldest son, who died without issue in the lifetime of his father. See McKeen, *supra*, p. 16.

-**George Brooke** (c.1497 – 29 September 1558), 9th Baron Cobham, eldest surviving son and heir, for whom see his will, TNA PROB 11/43/628.

-**William Brooke**, who died in the lifetime of his father. See McKeen, *supra*, p. 16.

-**Thomas Brooke** (d.1547) of Reculver, Kent, youngest surviving son. In the will below he is bequeathed £380. In 1536 he was steward of the household to Archbishop Thomas Cranmer (1489-1556). For a letter from the Archbishop to Cromwell dated 5 October 1536 referring to Thomas Brooke as 'this bearer, Thomas Cobham, brother unto my lord Cobham, and my servant', see Cox, John Edmund, ed., *The Works of Thomas Cranmer*, Vol. II, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1846), p. 330 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=DQw5AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA330>

The Brooke pedigree, CP 225/1, *supra*, has a confused account of Thomas Brooke's alleged two marriages and issue, stating that he married the daughter of Cranmer of Aslockton, by whom he had a son, Thomas Brooke, who died without issue, and that by the widow of Clerke he had another son, Cranmer Brooke.

The Brooke pedigree in Hovenden states that Thomas Brooke married 'Susan, daughter of (blank) Cranmer, widow of Clerke'. See Hovenden, Robert, *The Visitation of Kent Taken in the Years 1619-1621*, (London: Harleian Society, 1898), Vol. XLII, p. 16 at:

<https://archive.org/details/visitationofkent00camd/page/16>

It thus seems from the pedigree in Hovenden that Susan Cranmer was the widow of a husband surnamed Clerke when she married Thomas Brooke. However the possibility cannot be entirely ruled out that the pedigree in CP 225/1 is correct, and that Thomas Brooke married twice, one of his wives being Susan Cranmer, and the other the widow of a husband surnamed Clerke.

Thomas Brooke's connection to the Clerke family is evident in his will, in which he refers to his 'kinswoman', Joan Clerke, and to 'certain writings' made between himself and James Clerke of Wrotham, Kent. For the Clerke family, see Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 482; and *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, 1920, Vol. LXXIV, pp. 74-5 at:

<https://archive.org/details/newenglandhistor74wate/page/74>

Thomas Brooke's wife, Susan Cranmer, was the daughter of John Cranmer, esquire, of Aslockton, Nottinghamshire, by his second wife, Margaret Fitzwilliam, the daughter of John Fitzwilliam, esquire, of Sprotbrough, Yorkshire. See Collins, Arthur, *A Supplement to the Four Volumes of the Peerage of England*, Vol. I, (London: W. Innys, 1750), p. 239 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=4tBCAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA239>

John Fitzwilliam of Sprotbrough and Haddlesey, esquire, son and heir of Ralph, married Margery, daughter of John Clarevaux of Croft Hall, esquire, and had issue John, William and Margaret, who was married to John Cranmer of Aslockton, esquire, by whom she had issue Susan, first married to Thomas Brooke, esquire, brother to George, Lord Cobham, by whom she had issue Thomas Brooke of Chislet Park, and after to Anthony Vaughan, esquire, son and heir of Sir Hugh Vaughan of Littleton, by whom she had issue Hugh and Alice.

Susan Cranmer was the niece of Thomas Cranmer (1489-1556), Archbishop of Canterbury, and was also the niece of Edmund Cranmer, Archdeacon of Canterbury (see below), and Agnes Cranmer (d. 18 August 1556), who married Edmund Cartwright, gentleman, of Ossington, Nottinghamshire. See the Cranmer pedigrees in Waters, Robert Edmond Chester, *Genealogical Memoirs of the Extinct Family of Chester of Chicheley*, Vol. II, (London: Robson and Sons, 1878), pp. 444-9 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=nqFCAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA444>

For the Cranmer family, see also the will of Hugh Cartwright, TNA PROB 11/54/317.

Thomas Brooke (d.1547) left a will, PRC 32/21/72, which is confusingly dated 5 January 1544, 35 Henry VIII. A date of 5 January 1544 in a will of this period is usually Old Style, and should be converted to 5 January 1545 New Style; however the statement that the will was made on 5 January in the 35th year of the reign of Henry VIII indicates that it was, in fact, made 5 January 1544.

For an abstract of the will, see:

<https://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/Research/Pub/ArchCant/Vol.032%20-%201917/03/093.htm>

In his will Thomas Brooke (d.1547) mentions his wife, Susan, and the two sons who are named in the pedigree in CP 225/1, *supra*:

(1) Cranmer Brooke (living 1573), eldest son, who married Abell Fogge, sister of Sir John Fogge (d.1564). Sir John Fogge (d.1564) married, after 7 July 1529, the testator's daughter, Margaret Brooke, by whom he had a son, Edward Fogge (buried 11 November 1573), who died without issue. See the will of Sir John Fogge, TNA PROB 11/47/303, and the Fogge pedigree in T.G.F., 'Family Chronicle of Richard Fogge of Danes Court in Tilmanstone', *Archaeologia Cantiana*, (Kent Archaeological Society, 1863), Vol. V, p. 125 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/archaeologiacant05kent#page/n189/mode/1up>

Cranmer Brooke is mentioned in the 1573 will of the testator's grandson, Edward Fogge, PRC 17/42/276.

According to the pedigree in Hovenden, *supra*, p. 16, by Abell Fogge, Cranmer Brooke had a son, William Brooke, esquire, of Hartlip, Kent, who is mentioned in the 1564 will, TNA PROB 11/47/303, of his uncle, Sir John Fogge:

Item, I will to William Brooke, Abell's son, 2 two yearling heifers to be delivered within half a year after my decease.

William Brooke of Hartlip married Jane Tenacre, the daughter of John Tenacre of Boughton-under-Blean, Kent, by whom he had a daughter, Mary Brooke. For the Tenacre family, see Boodle, John Adolphus, trans., *The Registers of Boughton-under-Blean Co. Kent*, (London: Parish Register Society, 1903), at:

<https://archive.org/details/registersofbough49boug/page/n5>

(2) Thomas Brooke, youngest son. In the pedigree in CP 225/1, he is said to have died without issue. Collins, *supra*, refers to him as 'Thomas Brooke of Chislet Park'. He can perhaps be identified with Thomas Brooke who, with his wife, Elizabeth, broke into the house of William Brooke of Hartlip, gentleman. See QM/SI/1606/9/7, dated 25 July 1606.

The History of Parliament suggests that he was Thomas Brooke (by 1513-1555 or later) of Calais. See:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/broke-thomas-1513-55-or-later>

b. by 1513, poss. yr. s. of Thomas Brooke alias Cobham of Reculver, Kent by Susan. m. by Dec. 1534, at least 2 ch.3

However the History of Parliament appears to be in error since Thomas Brooke (by 1513-1555) was already a member of Parliament in 1539, five years before Thomas Brooke (d.1547) made his will, and in his will Thomas Brooke (d.1547) states that his *eldest* son, Cranmer Brooke, was under 18 years of age in 1544.

The Brooke pedigree in Hovenden, *supra*, differs from both the pedigree in CP 225/1, *supra*, and the will of Thomas Brooke (d.1547) in stating that his second son was:

(2) Edward Brooke, 'killed in battle'. Although the pedigree in Hovenden, *supra*, appears to be based on good authority in that the information was provided to the heralds by William Brooke, son of Cranmer Brooke, the statement that Thomas Brooke (d.1547) and Susan Cranmer had a son, Sir Edward Brooke, killed in battle, seems doubtful in light of the pedigree in CP 225/1, *supra*, and the will of Thomas Brooke (d.1547).

The Sir Edward Brooke mentioned in the pedigree in Hovenden can likely be identified with Sir Edward Brooke who served in the Low Counties in 1588 and was killed at the siege of Groningen on 18 June 1594. See Markham, Clements R., *The Fighting Veres*, (London: Sampson Low, 1888), pp. 193-4:

Sir Francis Vere, with his English contingent, worked side by side in the trenches with the regiments of Friesland and Zeeland On the 18th of June [1594] Sir Edward Brooke was slain; "a gentleman," wrote Vere, "if it had pleased God to spare him, would have done her Majesty good service."

He is referred to as 'a kinsman of Lord Cobham' in a letter dated 8 September 1588 from the Privy Council to Peregrine Willoughby, Lord Willoughby d'Eresby. See:

'Elizabeth: September 1588, 1-10', in *Calendar of State Papers Foreign: Elizabeth, Volume 22, July-December 1588*, ed. Richard Bruce Wernham (London, 1936), pp. 178-195. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/cal-state-papers/foreign/vol22/pp178-195> [accessed 14 September 2019].

The Sir Edward Brooke slain at Groningen may be the Sir Edward Brooke for whom Shaw gives alternate dates of knighthood (1591 and 1598). See Shaw, William A., *The Knights of England*, Vol. II, (London: Sherratt and Hughes, 1906), p. 98 at:

<https://archive.org/details/knightsofengland02shawuoft/page/n107>

If it is assumed that Sir Edward Brooke (d. 18 June 1594) was about thirty years of age when he served in the Low Countries in 1588, he would have been born about 1558, too late to have been the son of Thomas Brooke (d.1547).

If it is assumed he was about twenty years of age when he served in the Low Countries in 1588, he would have been born about 1568, and could have been a younger son of Cranmer Brooke.

McKeen states that Thomas Brooke (d.1547) had three sons. For the possibility that after he made his will on 5 January 1544 Thomas Brooke (d.1547) and Susan Cranmer had a third son, Arthur Brooke, author of *Romeus and Juliet*, see below.

For Thomas Brooke (d.1547) and Susan Cranmer, see also Waters, *supra*, pp. 373-4 at:

<https://archive.org/details/genealogicalmemo02wate/page/372>

After Thomas Brooke's death, Susan Cranmer married Anthony Vaughan, another of Archbishop Cranmer's servants. See MacCulloch, Diarmaid, *Thomas Cranmer: A Life*, (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1996), p. 271 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=y4DD4mAYipUC&pg=PA271>

Anthony Vaughan is said to have been the illegitimate, but acknowledged, son of Sir Hugh Vaughan (d.1536) of Littleton, Middlesex. See Waters, *supra*, p. 374, and the pedigree in 'Birch, Walter de Gray, 'The Lady Anne Percy's Portrait in Stained Glass at Long Melford', *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, (London, 1884), pp. 400-408 at p. 407:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=QhQpAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA407>

For Hugh Vaughan (d.1607), Susan Cranmer's son by Anthony Vaughan, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/vaughan-hugh-1607>

-Margaret Brooke, referred to in the will below as unmarried. As noted above, she later married, as his first wife, Sir John Fogge (d.1564), brother of Abell Fogge. See the pedigree in CP 225/1, *supra*; the will of Sir John Fogge, TNA PROB 11/47/303; and Waller, J.G., 'The Lords of Cobham, Their Monuments, and the Church', *Archaeologia Cantiana*, Vol. XI, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1877), pp. 49-112 at p. 112:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=794GAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA112>

By Sir John Fogge (d.1564), Margaret Brooke had one son:

(1) Edward Fogge (buried 11 November 1573), who died without issue. His heir was his uncle, George Fogge (died c.1592). According to the pedigree in CP 225/1, *supra*, Edward Fogge married 'the widow of Ellys of Kennington in the county of Kent'.

For the will of Edward Fogge, dated 30 October 1573 and proved 6 May 1576, in which he mentions his wife, Margaret, his cousin, Henry Brooke alias Cobham, and his kinsman, Cranmer Brooke, see PRC 17/42/276 at:

<https://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/Research/01/ASH/04/01f.htm>

See also the Fogge pedigree in 'Family Chronicle', *supra*, p. 125 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/archaeologiacant05kent#page/n189/mode/1up>

-Faith Brooke (d. 1 December 1574), who married William Ockendon of Hoo, Kent. She is mentioned in the will of the testator's daughter-in-law, Anne (nee Bray) Brooke. See CP 198/100. According to McKeen, *supra*, pp. 68-9, the funeral certificate of Faith Ockendon, widow, is MS Ashmol. 836, f. 365.

-Elizabeth Brooke (d.1560), who married firstly the poet Sir Thomas Wyatt (1503 - 10 October 1542), son and heir of Sir Henry Wyatt and Anne Skinner, daughter of John Skinner of Reigate, Surrey. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, p. 531, and the *ODNB* entry:

By about 1520 Wyatt had married Elizabeth (d. 1560), daughter of Thomas Brooke, eighth Baron Cobham, thereby consolidating his father's position among the Kentish gentry. Thomas Wyatt the younger was born in or before 1521. The marriage was unhappy, and, if the Spanish ambassador (writing on 27 March 1541) is to be believed, the pair were estranged by the second half of the 1520s. By 1537 Elizabeth's brother George, ninth Baron Cobham, begged Cromwell to ensure that Wyatt made provision for his wife, which he was evidently failing to do.

After the death of Sir Thomas Wyatt, Elizabeth Brooke married secondly, before 27 February 1560, Sir Edward Warner (1511 – 9 November 1565), by whom she had no surviving issue. For Sir Edward Warner, see *Plantagenet Ancestry*, *supra*, and the *ODNB* entry.

For the testator's children, see also Waller, *supra*, p. 112 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=794GAAAYAAJ&pg=PA112>

See also the Brooke pedigree in McKeen, *supra*, pp. 701-2 at:

<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000901279>

Testator's second marriage

The testator married secondly Elizabeth Calthorpe (d. before 1518), widow of Sir Robert Southwell (d. 31 March 1514), and daughter of Sir Philip Calthorpe (d.1464-1535). See TNA C 1/452/8; the will of Sir Robert Southwell, TNA PROB 11/18/38; and:

<https://lists.rootsweb.com/hyperkitty/list/gen-medieval.rootsweb.com/thread/568234/>

See also the entry for Elizabeth Calthorpe at:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=667

Elizabeth Calthorpe was the daughter of Sir Philip Calthorpe of Burnham Thorpe, Norfolk (c.1464-1535) and his first wife, Mary Saye (1464-1501). Her first husband was Sir Robert Southwell (d. March 31, 1514). She was his second wife. They were married c.1511 and had no children. In 1515, she became the second of three wives of Thomas Brooke, 8th baron Cobham (d. July 19, 1529). Her name is sometimes mistakenly given as Dorothy Southwell. A lawsuit in 1516 in the court of Common Pleas, identifies Lady Cobham as the widow of Sir Robert Southwell. She and her husband were at that time acting as co-executors of the Southwell estate. Elizabeth had no children from her second marriage and died before 1518.

See also the Calthorpe pedigree in Lee-Warner, James, 'The Calthorps of Burnham', *Norfolk Archaeology*, Vol. IX, (Norwich: A.H. Goose & Co., 1884), pp. 1-19 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=imhIAAAAYAAJ&pg=PP1>

In the pedigree in CP 225/1, *supra*, her Christian name is erroneously given as Dorothy.

Testator's third marriage

The testator married thirdly Elizabeth Hart (living 31 March 1552), the daughter of John Hart (c.1450-1507) and Elizabeth Peche (d. 16 July 1544). For the Peche pedigree, see Robertson, Scott, 'Peche of Lullingstone', *Archaeologia Cantiana*, Vol. XVI, 1886, pp. 227-40, available online at:

<https://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/Research/Pub/ArchCant/Vol.016%20-%201886/page%20v%20+%20vi%20%20contents.htm>

See also McKeen, *supra*, p. 701, Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, p. 530, and the entry for Elizabeth Hart at:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=685

Elizabeth Hart (d. March 1552) was the daughter of John Hart of Westmill, Hertfordshire (c.1450-1507) and Elizabeth Peche (1452-July 15, 1544). She became the third wife of Thomas Brooke, 8th baron Cobham (d. July 19, 1539) in about 1518. She had a jointure worth 100 marks a year and his will left her Cobham Hall for life, together with all his moveable goods. Her second husband was a widower, John Cornwall. Elizabeth was still living when her stepson, George Brooke, 9th baron, wrote a will dated March 31, 1551/2.

It should be noted that the pedigree in CP 225/1, *supra*, is in error in stating that the testator's third wife, Elizabeth Hart, was the daughter of *Thomas* Hart, but does state correctly that she was the sister of Sir Percival Hart (c.1496-1580).

Elizabeth Hart's second husband, John Cornwall, was the brother of Barbara Cornwall (d.1579), who married firstly Francis Berners (d.1560/1) of Finchingfield, Essex, and secondly Oxford's uncle, Robert Vere. For Robert Vere, see his will, TNA PROB 11/91/503, and TNA C 3/251/104, a Chancery suit brought by Robert Vere in which he mentions his wife, Barbara:

Barbara, then wife of your said orator & widow of one Barnish [=Berners] at a house in Finchingfield in the county of Essex which was the jointure of the said Barbara, until that about fourteen years past [=1579] the said Barbara deceased. . . .

See also the will of John Berners (d.1540), father of Francis Berners, TNA PROB 11/28/18, and the Cornwall and Berners pedigrees in Foljambe, Cecil George Savile and Compton Reade, *The House of Cornwall*, (Hereford: Jakeman and Carver, 1908), pp. 164-5 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/houseofcornwall00live#page/n207/mode/2up>

According to a pedigree taken in 1552, John Cornwall and Elizabeth (nee Hart) Brooke had a son, Giles Cornwall, and a daughter, Mary Cornwall, both of whom died without issue, and after the death of Elizabeth (nee Hart) Brooke, John Cornwall married secondly 'the daughter of Stubbes, relict of Verney', by whom he had a daughter, Jane Cornwall. See Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex*, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), Vol. XIII, p. 7 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=hqwKAAAYAAJ&pg=PA7>

See also the Berners pedigree in Chauncy, Henry, *The Historical Antiquities of Hertfordshire*, (London: J.M. Mullinger, 1836), Vol. I, p. 317 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/historicalantiq03chaugoog#page/n383/mode/2up>

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

For the testator's executor, Sir Christopher Hales (d.1541), see the *ODNB* entry.

For the testator's feoffee, Sir John Norton (d. 22 February 1547), see the History of Parliament entry for his son at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/norton-sir-john-1512-57>

For the testator's feoffee, Sir Edward Wotton (1489?-1551), see the *ODNB* entry.

For the testator's feoffee, John Hales (1469/70-1540?), Baron of the Exchequer, cousin of Sir Christopher Hales, see the *ODNB* entry.

For the testator's feoffee, Sir William Kempe (d.1539), whose daughter married George Fogge (died c.1592), heir to the testator's grandson, Edward Fogge (buried 11 November 1573), see his will, TNA PROB 11/27/500.

The testator's feoffee, Sir Percival Hart (c.1496-1580), was the son of Elizabeth (nee Peche) Hart (d.1543), and her first husband, John Hart (d.1507). He was heir to his uncle, Sir John Peche (c.1473-1521/2), whose wife, Elizabeth (nee Scrope) Peche (living 1542), was a first cousin of Elizabeth (nee Scrope) Beaumont de Vere (d.1537), Countess of Oxford, second wife of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford.

For the testator's feoffee, Sir Walter Hendley, see his will, TNA PROB 11/33/459.

In the name of God, Amen. The 7th day of July in the 21st year of the reign of King Henry the 8th, I, Thomas Brooke, knight, Lord Cobham, in good mind being, thanked be God, make this my present testament and last will in form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my body to be buried in the church of Cobham among mine ancestors;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Dame Elizabeth, my wife, all my movable goods, that is to say, money, jewels, plate, hangings, beddings, bed-stuff, chapel stuff, corn, cattle and all other implements of household, debts, and all other my movable goods and chattels, whatsoever they be, to have to her and her assigns to her proper use and her pleasure, she giving to my son, Thomas, and to my daughter, Margaret, somewhat towards their chambers as she thinketh best by her discretion;

Item, I give and bequeath to Thomas Brooke, my younger son, £380;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my daughter, Margaret, 200 marks;

Item, I ordain and make the same Dame Elizabeth, my wife, executrice, and the said Thomas Brooke, my younger son, and Christopher Hales, esquire, Attorney-General to the King's Grace, executors of this my present testament and last will.

[f. 191v]

This is the last will of me, the said Thomas Brooke, knight, Lord Cobham, made in the day and year above-written as touching all my manors, lands and tenements and all other my hereditaments:

First I will that Dame Elizabeth, my wife, shall have my manor of Cobham otherwise called Cobham Hall with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging, that is to say, all my manors, lordships, lands and tenements, rents and services with th' appurtenances lying and being in the parishes of Cobham, Cockestone [=Cuxton?], Luddesdon and Sherne [=Shorne?] in the county of Kent and also the manors of Bincknoll and Chesbury with the members of the same manors or either of them, and all lands, tenements, rents, reversions and services with their appurtenances to them or any of them belonging lying and being in the county of Wiltshire or being reputed, called, deemed or esteemed to be part or parcel of either of the same manors;

To have and to hold all the said manors of Cobham Hall, Bincknoll and Chesbury with all manors, lands and tenements and other premises with their appurtenances to the said Dame Elizabeth, my wife, and her assigns during her life natural;

And after her decease all the said manors, lands and tenements and other the premises with their appurtenances wholly [+to?] remain to the right heirs of me, the said Thomas Brooke, Lord Cobham;

And also I will that Sir John Norton, knight, Edward Wotton, knight, John Hales, one of the Barons of the King's Exchequer, William Kempe, Percival Hart, Christopher Hales, William Roper, Edward Boughton, esquires, Walter Hendley and Edmund Page, my feoffers to the use of the performance of my last will and testament of and in my manors of Colmworth and Knotting otherwise called Notting in the county of Bedford, shall make immediately after my decease a sufficient grant to Lyonell Ansty, gentleman, of an yearly rentcharge of three pounds six shillings eight pence yearly to be taken and perceived to him and his assigns during his life of and in the manor of Colmworth with th' appurtenances in the county of Bedford with clause of distress sufficient made in the law;

Also I will that my said feoffers shall make another like grant to John Millarde, my servant, of an yearly rentcharge of three pounds six shillings eight pence yearly to be taken and perceived to him and his assigns during his life of and in the said manor of Colmworth with like clause of distress for non-payment of the same rent;

Item, I will my said feoffers shall make like grant of five pound of yearly rentcharge to the said Christopher Hales out of my said manor of Colmworth, to be made as sure as he will devise to him for term of his life;

And I will that the said Dame Elizabeth, my wife, and Christopher Hales shall have the residue of the issues and profits of the said manor of Colmworth towards payment of my debts and legacies unto such time as my said debts and bequests shall be fully paid;

Item, I will that my said manor of Knotting with th' appurtenances shall be sold by the said Dame Elizabeth, my wife, and Christopher Hales and by the overliver of them and by th' executors of the overliver of them as soon after my decease as conveniently may be, and with the money thereof coming I will that my debts as well specialty as without specialty contained in a schedule hereunto annexed and all other my debts and my bequests above-written shall be paid;

And if Sir George Brooke, knight, my son and heir, be disposed to buy the said manor of Knotting, then I will that my said son shall have the preferment of the sale thereof so that he pay or cause to be paid therefore to the said Dame Elizabeth and Christopher Hales eight hundred four score pounds of lawful money of England in form following, that is to say:

At the feast of All Saints next coming one hundred pounds sterling;

Item, at the feast of the Annunciation of Our Lady then next following a hundred pounds;

And at the feast of the Nativity of Our Lord God four score pounds;

And at the feasts of Saint Michael and the Annunciation of Our Lady, at every of them a hundred pounds yearly till the sum of eight hundred four score pounds be to the said Dame Elizabeth and Christopher fully contented and paid to th' intent and because that my foresaid debts and legacies may be paid with the same money thereof coming;

And if so fortune that my said son, Sir George, do not pay or cause to be paid to the said Dame Elizabeth and Christopher Hales for the said manor of Knotting the said sum of £880 above-written, then I will that my said feoffers shall stand and be seised of and in the same manor of Knotting with the appurtenances to th' use of the said Christopher Hales, esquire, Attorney General to the King's Grace, and of his heirs forever upon condition that the same Christopher or his heirs or assigns do pay or cause to be paid my said debts and legacies within the time of payment of the said sum of eight hundred four score pounds above-written;

Also I will that mine executors shall take and receive all issues and profits of my manor of Knotting with th' appurtenances towards the payment of my debts and bequests unto such time as it is sold as is above-written;

Item, I will and command my said son, Sir George, upon God's blessing and mine, that he pay to my brother, Sir Edward Brooke, knight, and his assigns every year yearly during his life twenty marks to be taken and perceived of and in my manors, lands and tenements lying and being in Somersetshire and Dorsetshire according to the commandment of my Lord, my father;

Also I will that if the said Sir George, my son, at any time hereafter my decease do in any wise disturb, inquiet or trouble my said executors or any of them of or in their execution of any part of this my present testament and last will, or do, take, receive or possede any

of my goods or chattels or in any wise intromit or meddle after my decease with any of the same goods or chattels contrary to the will, pleasure and assent of the same Dame Elizabeth, my wife, or if the said Sir George in any wise after my decease disturb or let the same Dame Elizabeth of or in her receipts, having or enjoying of the issues and profits of the said manors, lands and tenements to her by me willed for term of her life or any part or parcel thereof and which heretofore I have caused and suffered to be recovered before the King's justices to the use of the same Dame Elizabeth, or if the said Sir George or his assigns at any time hereafter my decease do anything by any mean, or deny, let or gainsay anything to be done whereby this my present testament & last will or any of them or any part of either of them [f. 192r] cannot take whole and full effect in all thing[s] in manner and form above-written, then I will that the said Sir George shall not have the preferment of the buying and purchasing of the said manor of Knotting in manner and form as is above-written in this my present will, but then I will that the said manor of Knotting with th' appurtenances shall succeed, remain and be immediately after my decease to the use of the said Christopher Hales and his heirs as is above-written, anything in this my last will written notwithstanding;

In witness whereof I, the said Thomas Brooke, Lord Cobham, to this my present testament and last will in two volumes have set my seal of arms the day and year above-written.

Debts due by me, Lord Cobham, to divers persons the 8th day of July anno vicesimo primo as followeth:

Item, to Sir Richard Walden, knight, four score pounds.

Item, to the parson of Halstowe £3 6s 8d.

Item, to Edmund Page twenty marks.

Item, to George Payn £16.

Item, to John Yerdley £11.

Item, to the parson of Cooling forty shillings.

Item, to Thomas Parker ten pounds.

Item, to Robert Gray four pound.

Item, to Richard Kelsham three pound.

Item, to Thomas Somer 33s 4d.

Item, to John Pottett four pounds thirteen shillings and four pence.

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- Item, to Thorpe twenty shillings.
- Item, to Nicholas Jermyn 44s.
- Item, to John Sharp 2s 8d.
- Item, to John Reynold 8s.
- Item, to Edward Fymer(?) 5s;
- Item, to John Hamon four and twenty pound.
- Item, to Ralph Warren sixteen pounds.
- Item, to Mr Gaynesborow £6.
- Item, to (blank) Shakerley £5.
- Item, to Adington ten pound.
- Item, to Thomas Turnbull four pounds.
- Item, to Fowle, pewterer, thirteen shillings four pence.
- Item, to another pewterer 53s 4d.
- Item, to William Clerke 53s 4d.
- Item, to Walter Hendley ten pounds.
- Item, to Audeley for debts of my old Lord £6.
- Item, to another merchant for my old Lord £4(?).
- Item, to (blank) Maynard three pound.
- Item, to Lionell Ansty £12.
- Item, to Gilbert Orneston, clerk, forty shillings.
- Item, to John Bridges ten pound thirteen shillings 4d.
- Item, to John Mullarde five pounds thirteen shillings four pence.
- Item, to Ralph Pedley four pound 17s 4d.

Item, to Richard Hamlett 21s 4d.

Item, to William Wilson (blank).

Item, to William Alforde four pound five shillings ten pence.

Item, to William Rysbye 17s 4d.

Item, to John Harman 55s 4d.

Item, to Edward Molle 9s 4d.

Item, to John Denny sixteen pound.

Item, to John West seventeen shillings six pence and his livery.

Item, to Walter Warren (blank).

Item, to John Woodier fifteen shillings.

Item, to Clement Serey two and twenty shillings 4d.

Item, to John Harper 6s 8d.

Item, to Thomas Metgate ten shillings.

Item, to John Grey(?) 13s 4d.

Item, to William Cartwright 6s 8d.

Item, to Thomas Comber 17 shillings 6d.

Item, to Edward Stevenson 43s.

Item, to Thomas Clifford twenty shillings.

Item, to Richard Haynesworth 6s 3d.

Item, to Robert Hutt(?) 8s 4d.

Item, to Richard Carter 4s.

Item, to Richard Hay 20s.

Item, to William Sleeper 15s.

Item, to (blank) Blancke £12 6s 8d.

Item, to John Welshman's widow 4s.

[Probatum clause lacking]