

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 28 November 1538 and proved 4 July 1539, of Sir William Kempe (born c.1487, buried 30 January 1539) of Olantigh, Kent, the grandfather of Alice (nee Kempe) Hales Lee (d.1592), the 'Lady Hales' to whom Robert Greene dedicated *Menaphon*.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the Kempe family, see Hitchin-Kemp, Frederick, *A General History of the Kemp and Kempe Families*, (London: The Leadenhall Press, 1902), pp. 25-8 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/generalhistoryof00kemp#page/n41/mode/2up>

It should be noted that page numbers in Hitchen-Kempe begin with 1 in each section of the volume. Section I runs from pp. 1-61, Section II from pp. 1-68, Section III from pp. 1-65, Section IV from pp. 1-37, Section V from pp. 1-29, Section VI from pp. 1-29.

See also Robertson, Herbert, *Stemmata Robertson et Durdin*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1893-95), pp. 105, 224-5 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/stemmatarobertso00robe#page/224/mode/2up>

See also Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, pp. 275-7.

Testator's parents

The testator was the second son of Sir Thomas Kempe (d.1520) and Emeline Chiche, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Valentine Chiche by Philippa Chicheley, daughter and heir of Robert Chicheley. See Hitchin-Kemp, *supra*, pp. 20-3, and *Magna Carta Ancestry*, *supra*, Vol. III, pp. 275-6. For the will of Sir Thomas Kempe, dated 11 January 1519 and proved in the Archdeaconry Court of Canterbury on 7 June 1521, see Canterbury Cathedral Archives PRC 17/14/216 and the transcript at:

<http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~mrawson/genealogy/kemp1521.html>

Testator's siblings

In his will, Sir Thomas Kempe (d.1520) mentions his wife, Emeline, as well as six sons and a daughter:

-Christopher Kempe (1485-1512), who married Mary Guildford (1486-1529), the daughter of Sir Richard Guildford (c.1450-1506), by whom he had a daughter, Mary

Guildford (1508?-1557), who married Lawrence Finch of the Mote, brother of Sir Thomas Finch of Eastwell. See the entry for Mary Kempe at:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=691

See also the will of Sir Richard Guildford, TNA PROB 11/17/381, and the *ODNB* entry. See also Hitchin-Kempe, p. 22 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/generalhistoryof00kemp#page/n35/mode/2up>

Sir Richard Guildford's eldest son, Sir Edward Guildford (c.1479-1534), married Eleanor West, daughter of Thomas West (1472-1554), 8th Baron West, by whom he was the father of Jane Guildford (d. 15 January 1555), whom he married to his ward, John Dudley (1504-1553), Duke of Northumberland, by whom she was the mother of Queen Elizabeth's favourite, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester.

See the *ODNB* entry for John Dudley:

Jane Guildford reached her sixteenth birthday in 1525, and John his twenty-first, and they must have married before the end of the year. By 1528 they had at least two, and probably three children, although the exact dates of birth are not known. Their eight sons included John Dudley, earl of Warwick (1527?-1554), Ambrose Dudley, earl of Warwick (c. 1530-1590), Henry Dudley (1531?-1557), Robert Dudley, earl of Leicester (1532/3-1588; their daughters were Mary Sidney (1530x35-1586) and Katherine Hastings, later countess of Huntingdon (c. 1538-1620).

See the *ODNB* entries for Sir Edward Guildford and Thomas West, 8th Baron West; and the Guildford pedigree in Burke, John and Bernard Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies of England, Ireland and Scotland*, 2nd ed. (London: Scott, 1841), p. 231 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=DqkTAAAYAAJ&pg=PA231>

See also Robertson, Herbert, *Stemmata Robertson et Durdin*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1893-95), pp. 224-5:

<https://archive.org/stream/stemmatarobertso00robe#page/224/mode/2up>

After Christopher Kempe's death, Mary Guildford married Sir William Haute, for whose will, dated 12 January 1539 and proved 16 June 1539, see TNA PROB 11/26/240.

-Sir William Kempe (1487 - 28 January 1539), the testator in the will below.

-Richard Kempe, third son, for whom see Hitchin-Kempe, *supra*, pp. 22-3.

-John Kempe (buried 1541?), fourth son, for whom see Hitchin-Kempe, *supra*, p. 23.

-**Andrew Kempe** (buried 18 February 1558?) fifth son, for whom see Hitchin-Kempe, *supra*, p. 23. It appears he was the Andrew Kempe buried 18 February 1558. See 'Wye, Kent Burials 1551-1600' at:

<http://www.hastingleigh.com/OPR/Wye-Bur-1551-1600.html>

-**Edward Kempe**, sixth son, for whom see Hitchin-Kempe, *supra*, p. 23.

-**George Kempe**, seventh son, for whom see Hitchin-Kempe, *supra*, p. 23.

-**Cecily Kempe** (d. 9 June 1559), who married John Toke (d. 7 November 1565), esquire, of Great Chart, son and heir of John Toke (d.1513), by whom she had seven sons and four daughters. See the Toke pedigree in Hovenden, Robert, ed., *The Visitation of Kent, Taken in the Years 1619-1621*, (London: Harleian Society, 1898), Vol. XLII, p. 154 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofkent00camd#page/154/mode/2up>

See also the Toke effigy at Great Chart in pdf file available online. See also p. 99 at:

<https://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/arch-cant/vol/26/notes-ancient-stained-glass-memorial-brasses-and-altar-slab-church-st-mary-great>

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married Eleanor Browne, the daughter of Robert Browne (d.1509?), esquire, of Luddenham, Kent, a descendant of Robert de Vere, 3rd Earl of Oxford. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 648, and Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 331, 340 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=8JcbV309c5UC&pg=PA331>

See also Scott, James Renat, *Memorials of the Family of Scott of Scot's-Hall in the County of Kent*, (London: J.R. Scott, 1876), pp. lxiv-lxv at:

<https://archive.org/stream/memorialsoffamil00scot#page/n347/mode/2up>

Eleanor Browne was present at the baptism of Elizabeth I in 1533. See Hitchin-Kemp, Frederick, *A General History of the Kemp and Kempe Families*, (London: The Leadenhall Press, 1902), Section IV, Part II, Chapter I, 'Early and Slindon Kempes', p. 21 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/generalhistoryof00kemp#page/n273/mode/2up>

She also served at court for a decade and a half in the households of Queen Katherine Parr and Queen Mary. See:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=646

As Eleanor Kempe, Eleanor served in Katherine Parr's household from 1543-1547 and was one of the longest serving and most loyal of Mary Tudor's ladies. She was part of Mary's household by 1547 and was still there in 1558 when the queen died.

For further particulars of her background and the Browne family's connections to the Blackfriars and Globe theatres, see her will, TNA PROB 11/43/638.

For the first marriage of the testator's wife, Eleanor Browne, to Thomas Fogge (d. 16 August 1512), esquire, Sergeant Porter of Calais, and her two daughters by that marriage, see her will and the will of Thomas Fogge, TNA PROB 11/17/267.

Testator's sons

In the will below the testator mentions seven sons: his eldest son, Thomas, and 'my six younger sons'. Of the testator's seven sons, the names of six (Thomas, Anthony, Francis, Edward, John and George) are known from the will of the testator's wife, Eleanor:

* **Sir Thomas Kempe** (1517 - 7 March 1591), eldest son and heir, who married firstly, before June 1543, Katherine Cheyney (living 1548), daughter of Sir Thomas Cheyney (c.1485-1558), Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. For Sir Thomas Cheyney, see his will, TNA PROB 11/42B/105. For the record of his burial on 22 March 1591, see 'Wye, Kent Burials 1551-1600' at:

<http://www.hastingleigh.com/OPR/Wye-Bur-1551-1600.html>

According to the History of Parliament, Sir Thomas Kempe had five daughters by his first wife, Katherine Cheyney. See the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/kempe-sir-thomas-1517-91>

However only two daughters, Anne Kempe and Alice Kempe, are mentioned in the will, dated 6 December 1558, of Katherine Cheyney's father, Sir Thomas Cheyney, TNA PROB 11/42B/105:

Also I give and bequeath to Anne Kempe and Alice Kempe, my daughter Dame Katherine Kempe's daughters, two hundred pound apiece to either of them, so that the same Anne and Alice and either of them be ordered for their marriages by their father, Sir Thomas Kempe, knight, or by mine executors or the survivors of them.

According to Hitchin-Kempe, the five daughters of Sir Thomas Kempe by his first wife, Katherine Cheyney, were:

(1) Anne Kempe (c.1542-1623), who married Sir Thomas Shirley (c.1542-1612), by whom she was the mother of Sir Thomas Shirley (1564–1633/4), who married Frances Vavasour, the sister of Oxford's mistress, Anne Vavasour. For her will, see TNA PROB 11/141/330. For Sir Thomas Shirley (c.1542-1612), see the *ODNB* entry, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/shirley-thomas-i-1542-1612>

In his will proved 5 February 1599, TNA PROB 11/94/3, Anne Kempe's uncle, Anthony Kempe, left his mansion in the Blackfriars to Anne and her husband, Sir Thomas Shirley (c.1542-1612) rent free for a year after his death:

Item, my will is that my nephew, Sir Thomas Shirley, and my niece his wife, shall have and quietly enjoy my mansion house in the Blackfriars for one whole year after my decease, paying nothing for the same house for the said year, and after the end of the said year, my will is that my executors shall not put them out, but use them with all kindness for the rent thereof.

By Sir Thomas Shirley, Anne Kempe had three sons and six daughters. See *Stemmata Chicheleana*, (Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1765), p. 6 at:

<https://archive.org/details/stemmatachichele00buckuoft/page/6>

(2) Alice Kempe (c.1550-1592), to whom Robert Greene dedicated *Menaphon*. She married firstly Sir James Hales (d.1589), grandson of Sir James Hales (d.1554) whose death by drowning is alluded to in the gravedigger's speech in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. See the *ODNB* entry for Sir James Hales (d.1554), and the will of Sir James Hales (d.1589), TNA PROB 11/75/265. She married secondly Sir Richard Lee (d.1608), illegitimate half-brother of Queen Elizabeth's champion, Sir Henry Lee (d.1611). Sir Henry Lee's mistress in his latter years was Oxford's former mistress, Anne Vavasour. See the *ODNB* entries for Anne Vavasour and Sir Henry Lee.

(3) Margaret Kempe (d. before 1 October 1561). According to the History of Parliament, Margaret Kempe was also the daughter of Sir Thomas Kempe by his first wife, Katherine Cheyney, and married, as his first wife, William Cromer (d. 12 May 1598), esquire, of Tunstall, Kent, by whom she had a daughter, Anne Cromer. Margaret Kempe had died by 1 October 1561, when William Cromer married Elizabeth Guildford, the daughter of Sir John Guildford (d. 5 July 1565) and Barbara West, the daughter of Thomas West (c.1457 – 11 October 1525), 8th Lord la Warr. See Richardson, *supra*, Vol. I, p. 327; Vol. II, p. 314, Vol. IV, pp. 320-2; the will of Sir John Guildford, TNA PROB 11/48/216; the Wikipedia entries for Sir John Guildford and Thomas West, 8th

Lord la Warr, edited by the author of this summary; and the History of Parliament entry for Sir John Guildford at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/guildford-john-1508-65>

See also the History of Parliament entry for William Cromer at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/cromer-william-1531-98>

It appears from the will of Sir Thomas Cheyney that a daughter of Sir Thomas Kempe (1517 - 7 March 1591) did marry William Cromer, and had a daughter by him:

Item, I bequeath to William Cromer, esquire, son-in-law to Sir Thomas Kempe, knight, fifty pounds and a horse or a gelding upon condition that the daughter of the said William Cromer by the said Sir Thomas Kempe's daughter had do permit and suffer Richard Daper and his assigns to hold and enjoy her part of the said lands and tenements (blank) South Mimms unto the end of the years contained in the lease that I made, yielding the rent and performing the covenants as aforesaid.

The wording used by Sir Thomas Cheyney to refer to William Cromer's wife ('the said Sir Thomas Kempe's daughter'), although ambiguous, leaves open the possibility that 'Sir Thomas Kempe's daughter', i.e. Margaret Kempe, who married William Cromer, was, in fact, Sir Thomas Cheyney's granddaughter, i.e. the daughter of Sir Thomas Kempe (1517 – 7 March 1591) by his first wife, Katherine Cheyney. If so, this clause in the will of Sir Thomas Cheyney indicates that Margaret Kempe had died before Sir Thomas Cheyney made his will on 6 December 1558.

According to the History of Parliament, Anne Cromer, William Cromer's daughter by Margaret Kempe, married, by 19 September 1577, Sir Thomas Bishopp (1553-1626) of Parham, Sussex, as his first wife, but died without issue. See:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/bishopp-sir-thomas-1553-1626>.

See also 'Bishopp of Parham' in *The English Baronetage*, Vol. I, (London: Thomas Wotton, 1741), pp. 416-17 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ciwUAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA416>

For Sir Thomas Cheyney, see also the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/cheyne-sir-thomas-148287-1558>

(4) Frideswide Kempe (baptized 27 December 1544). For the record of her baptism (which does not give her father's name), see 'Wye, Kent Baptisms 1538-1550] at:

<http://www.hastingleigh.com/OPR/Wye-Bapt-before-1550.html>

It appears she predeceased her grandfather, Sir Thomas Cheyney, as she is not mentioned in his will. Sir Thomas Cheyney's first wife was Frideswide Frowyk (1499 – before April 1528), the daughter of Sir Thomas Frowyk (c.1460-1506), and it thus seems likely that Sir Thomas Kempe and his first wife, Katherine Cheyney, might have had a daughter named Frideswide.

(5) Ellen Kempe (d.1548), about whom nothing further is known.

The History of Parliament entry for Sir Thomas Kempe (1517-1591) erroneously states that by his first wife, Katherine Cheyney, he had a daughter, Dorothy Kempe, who married Thomas Chicheley. See:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/kempe-sir-thomas-1517-91>

Four of his five daughters married Elizabethan Members—Thomas Chicheley, William Cromer, Richard Lee and Thomas Shirley I.7

See also the History of Parliament entry for Sir Thomas Chicheley (c.1578-1603) at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/chicheley-thomas-1578-1616>

The History of Parliament entries are clearly an error. Thomas Chicheley married the *granddaughter* of Thomas Kempe (1517 - 7 March 1591), i.e. Dorothy Kempe, the daughter of Sir Thomas Kempe (baptized 7 November 1551, d.1607?) by his second wife, Dorothy Thompson. See Richardson, *supra*, p. 277 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=8JcbV309c5UC&pg=RA2-PA277>

See also the will of Dorothy (nee Thompson) Kempe, dated 14 November 1626 and proved 15 May 1629, TNA PROB 11/155/578.

For the daughters of Sir Thomas Kempe (1517-1591), see also the pedigree in Hitchin-Kempe, *supra*, after p. 46 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/generalhistoryof00kemp#page/n139/mode/2up>

Sir Thomas Kempe married secondly Amy Moyle (buried 27 August 1558), daughter and co-heiress of Sir Thomas Moyle (d. 2 October 1550), Speaker of the House of Commons,

a descendant of Robert de Vere, 3rd, Earl of Oxford. For the record of her burial, see 'Wye, Kent Burials 1551-1600' at:

<http://www.hastingleigh.com/OPR/Wye-Bur-1551-1600.html>

According to the pedigree after p. 46 in Hitchin-Kempe, Sir Thomas Kempe is said to have had seven sons by Amy Moyle. In the will of her father, Sir Thomas Moyle, dated 30 March and 1 August 1560 and proved 14 November 1560, TNA PROB 1143/593, only four sons are mentioned (Sir Thomas Kempe, Reynold Kempe, Moyle Kempe and William Kempe). The children of Sir Thomas Kempe and Amy Moyle for whom baptismal records survive are:

(1) Sir Thomas Kempe (baptized 8 November 1551, buried 2 December 1607). For his baptismal record, see 'Wye, Kent Baptisms 1551-1600' at:

<http://www.hastingleigh.com/OPR/Wye-Bapt-1551-1600.html>

For the record of his burial, see 'Wye, Kent Burials 1601-1650' at:

<http://www.hastingleigh.com/OPR/Wye-Bur-1601-1650.html>

Sir Thomas Kempe married firstly, before 1 October 1586, a wife named Anne whose surname is unknown, by whom he had three children, including a son, Isaac Kempe, and secondly, before 19 June 1589, Dorothy Thompson, daughter of John Thompson, esquire, of London, Auditor of the Exchequer, by whom he had four daughters. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 649-50. He appears to have been the 'Thomas Kempe' who, together with Richard Hardres, Robert Honeywood, John Hales and Charles Hales, esquires, Reynold Kempe, William Kempe and William Hales, gentlemen, brought suit in Chancery in 1594 against Sir Richard Lee (d.1608), second husband of his half sister, Alice Kempe (d.1592), widow of Sir James Hales. See TNA C 2/Eliz/H13/13. See also the will of his widow, Dorothy (nee Thompson) Kempe, proved 15 May 1629, TNA PROB 11/155/578.

(2) Reynold Kempe (baptized 18 May 1553 at Eastwell, Kent, buried 31 August 1612), gentleman, who married Mary Argall of East Sutton, daughter of Richard Argall, and sister of John Argall, by whom he had a son, Thomas Kempe, who died without male issue, and three daughters. See *Stemmata Chicheleana*, *supra*, p. 88 at:

<https://archive.org/details/stemmatachichele00buckuoft/page/88>

For the will of Reynold Kempe, dated 2 January 1610 and proved in the Archdeaconry Court of Canterbury on 12 September 1612, see PRC 17/56/88. For the record of his burial, see 'Wye, Kent Burials 1601-1650' at:

<http://www.hastingleigh.com/OPR/Wye-Bur-1601-1650.html>

He appears to have been the Reynold Kempe who was a complainant in the 1594 Chancery suit, *supra*.

(3) Moyle Kempe (baptized 20 August 1554, buried 10 December 1554). For the record of his baptism, see ‘Wye, Kent Baptisms 1551-1600’ at”

<http://www.hastingleigh.com/OPR/Wye-Bapt-1551-1600.html>

For the record of his burial, see ‘Wye, Kent Burials 1551-1600’ at:

<http://www.hastingleigh.com/OPR/Wye-Bur-1551-1600.html>

(4) Moyle Kempe (baptized 13 September 1555, living 1560, buried 17 May 1585?). For the record of his baptism, see ‘Wye, Kent Baptisms 1551-1600’ at:

<http://www.hastingleigh.com/OPR/Wye-Bapt-1551-1600.html>

He appears to be the Moyle Kempe, son of Sir Thomas Kempe, who was buried 17 May 1585. See ‘Wye, Kent Burials 1551-1600’ at:

<http://www.hastingleigh.com/OPR/Wye-Bur-1551-1600.html>

(5) William Kempe (baptized 17 February 1557, buried 20 March 1598). For the record of his baptism, see ‘Wye, Kent Baptisms 1551-1600’ at”

<http://www.hastingleigh.com/OPR/Wye-Bapt-1551-1600.html>

He appears to be the ‘Mr William Kempe’ who was buried 20 March 1598. See ‘Wye, Kent Burials 1551-1600’ at:

<http://www.hastingleigh.com/OPR/Wye-Bur-1551-1600.html>

He also appears to be the ‘William Kempe, gentleman’, whose brother, Reynold Kempe, rendered an account on 5 July 1599. See PRC2/11/83, Archdeaconry Court of Canterbury:

William Kempe, gentleman, deceased, late of Wye. Account made 5 July 1599 by Reynold Kempe, brother of the deceased. Debts of £10 by bond outstanding to Thomas Ashlowe of Wye. Cost of burial 13s. 4d. Goods and chattels valued at £13. Legal fees for inventory and engrossing &c. 12s. Payments made: £18 2s. 9d. of which £5 2s. 9d. was overpaid.

He may also have been the ‘William Kempe’ who was a complainant in the 1594 Chancery suit, *supra*.

(6) George Kempe (baptized 29 January 1558, buried 3 April 1558). For the record of his baptism, see ‘Wye, Kent Baptisms 1551-1600’ at”

<http://www.hastingleigh.com/OPR/Wye-Bapt-1551-1600.html>

For the record of his burial, see ‘Wye, Kent Burials 1551-1600’ at:

<http://www.hastingleigh.com/OPR/Wye-Bur-1551-1600.html>

See also Richardson, *supra*, Vol. III, pp. 216-18, and pp. 275-7.

Sir Thomas Kempe married thirdly, by settlement dated 20 December 1571, as her third husband, Joan Fermor, daughter of Sir Richard Fermor of Easton Neston, Northamptonshire, by Anne Browne, daughter of Sir William Browne.

Joan Fermor married firstly Robert Wilford (d.1545), and secondly Sir John Mordaunt (1508-1571), 2nd Baron Mordaunt.

For Robert Wilford, son of the London merchant and alderman, James Wilford, (d.1526), see the will of James Wilford, TNA PROB 11/22/6, and the History of Parliament entry for Robert Wilford’s younger brother, Nicholas Wilford (c.1495-1551), at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/wilford-nicholas-1495-1551>

For John Mordaunt, 2nd Baron Mordaunt, see his will, dated 16 April 1571 and proved 19 October 1571, TNA PROB 11/53/462, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/mordaunt-sir-john-1508-71>

For Joan Fermor Wilford Mordaunt Kempe, see her will, dated 6 October 1591 and proved 5 April 1592, TNA PROB 11/79/239, and Emerson at:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=675

Joan Fermor (1516 – April 1592) was the daughter of Sir Richard Fermor of Easton Neston, Northamptonshire (1482-November 17, 1551) and Anne Browne (d.1551+). At some point before 1536, she was a maid of honor to Princess Mary. In that year, she married Robert Wilford (d. September 1545), a merchant tailor and London alderman. They had at least one child, a daughter. On December 3, 1545, she married Sir John Mordaunt (1508-1571), son and heir of the 1st baron Mordaunt, as his second wife. At an unspecified date after that, Sir John’s son and heir, Lewis Mordaunt, who was only around seven years old when his father remarried, compromised his stepsister, Joan’s daughter. Joan insisted that they marry and her husband supported her in this, but Lord Mordaunt, the boy’s grandfather, objected. He took Lewis in and disinherited his own

son when Sir John threatened to bar Lewis from succeeding to his mother's lands. They were apparently reconciled before Mordaunt died on August 18, 1562. Lewis married someone else the following year. Joan married Sir Thomas Kempe of Ollantigh, Wye, Kent (1517-March 7, 1591) by a settlement dated December 20, 1571, as his third wife. They had no children. They were recusants and in 1578 the couple was noted for not receiving communion. In 1583, he was charged with absenting himself from church. According to his entry in the *History of Parliament*, Lady Kempe was "a hindrance to true religion [who] refuseth stubbornly to communicate." In her third widowhood, Joan lived with her stepson, Moyle Kempe, in Cornwall. She left a will proved April 5, 1592. Portrait: effigy on the Mordaunt tomb in All Saints Church, Turvey.

For Sir Thomas Kempe, see also the *History of Parliament* entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/kempe-sir-thomas-1517-91>

* **Anthony Kempe** (c.1529-1597) of Slindon, Sussex, who married firstly Anne Conyers, daughter and coheir of John Conyers (d. June 1557), 3rd Lord Conyers, and secondly Margaret Gage, daughter of Sir Edward Gage (d. December 1568) of Firle. Anthony Kempe is said to have been 'something of a court favourite', and present at 'most of the court ceremonies of his times; see Hitchin-Kemp, *supra*, pp. 20-1, and Questier, Michael C., *Catholicism and Community in Early Modern England*, (Cambridge University Press, 2006), pp. 112, 524. See also Cokayne, G.E., *The Complete Peerage*, (London: St Catharine Press, 1913), Vol. III, p. 405. See also the will of Anthony Kempe, dated 16 March 1598 and proved 5 February 1599, TNA PROB 11/94/3, and the *History of Parliament* entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/kempe-anthony-1529-97>

See also East Sussex Record Office SAS/G21/55A on the National Archives online website.

* **Francis Kempe** (c.1534-c.1597), Clerk of the Hanaper and Attorney of the Court of Chancery, who married Eleanor Carew, daughter and coheir of Henry Carew, brother of Wymond Carew of Anthony in Cornwall, by whom he had two daughters, but left no male issue. See the *History of Parliament* entry for Francis Kempe at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/kempe-francis-1534-97-or-later>

* **Edward Kempe** (d. 7 March 1606?), gentleman, of Gins in Beaulieu, Hampshire, who married, after 1558, Elizabeth Wilmot, the daughter of Edward Wilmot, esquire, of Witney, Oxfordshire, by Christian Bustard, the daughter of John Bustard, esquire, of Adderbury, Oxfordshire. For the will of Edward Wilmot, proved 10 December 1558, see TNA PROB 11/42A/87.

See also Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 331 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=8JcbV309c5UC&pg=PA331>

See also *Stemmata Chicheleana*, (Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1765), p. 10 at:

<https://archive.org/details/stemmatachichele00buckuoft/page/10>

See also Hitchin-Kemp, *supra*, pp. 27, 32 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/generalhistoryof00kemp#page/32/mode/2up>

* **John Kempe** (buried 30 July 1598?) esquire, of Wye, who married a wife named Jane. See Hitchin-Kemp, *supra*, pp. 26-7. For his will, dated 27 November 1598 and proved 2 August 1599 in the Archdeaconry Court of Canterbury, see Canterbury Cathedral Archives, PRC 17/51/360, and the transcript at:

<http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~mrawson/genealogy/kemp1599.html>

In his will, John Kempe mentions his wife (deceased); two brothers (Sir Thomas Kempe, deceased, and Francis Kempe), and several nieces and nephews.

* **George Kempe** (died c.1588), gentleman, of London, for whose will, dated 28 February 1568 and proved 30 May 1588, in which he mentions his brothers, Edward, Anthony and Francis, see TNA PROB 11/72/479.

Testator's daughters

By Eleanor Browne the testator had five daughters, four of whom were unmarried at the time he made his will, and one of whom, Margaret, was then a nun:

* **Emmeline Kempe** (d. before 1542), who married, before 1537, as his first wife, Sir Reynold Scott (c.1511 - 16 December 1554) of Scott's Hall in Smeeth, Kent. See the will of Sir Reynold Scott, TNA PROB 11/37/539, and *Memorials of the Family of Scott*, *supra*, pp. 179-84 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/memorialsoffamil00scot#page/184/mode/2up>

By Reynold Scott, Emmeline Kempe was the mother of Sir Thomas Scott (c.1537 – 30 December 1594), who married Elizabeth Baker, daughter of Sir John Baker (c.1489–1558), Speaker of the House of Commons, and two daughters, Katherine Scott, who married John Baker (c.1531-c.1604), son of Sir John Baker (c.1489–1558), Speaker of the House of Commons, by whom she was the mother of the chronicler, Sir Richard Baker (c.1568–1645), and Anne Scott, who married Walter Mayney (d.1577) of Spilsill

manor, Staplehurst, Kent. Emmeline Kempe died before 1542, at which date Sir Reynold Scott married secondly, Mary Tuke, the daughter of Sir Brian Tuke (d.1545) of Layer Marney, Essex, by Grissel Boughton (d.1538), daughter of Nicholas Boughton of Woolwich. See *Magna Carta Ancestry, supra*, Vol. IV, pp. 1-3; the *ODNB* entries for Sir John Baker (c.1489-1558), Sir Richard Baker (c.1568-1645), and Sir Brian Tuke; and the History of Parliament entry for John Baker (c.1531-c.1604) at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/baker-john-ii-1531-16046>

For Walter Mayney, see also:

<http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/928022>

* **Cecily Kempe**, who married firstly, before 1558, William Latham, and secondly William Strangman (d. 17 December 1573) of Hadleigh Castle, Essex, for whom see his will, TNA PROB 11/56/319; and King, H.W., 'James Strangman, Esq., of Hadleigh, an Eminent Essex Antiquary of the time of Queen Elizabeth and James I', *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society*, (Cocheater, 1863), Vol. II, pp. 139-46 at p. 143:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=_hY5AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA143

For William Strangman, see also Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex*, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), Vol. XIII, pp. 52, 104, 292 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsofess13metc#page/292/mode/2up>

* **Faith Kempe**, who married Francis Neale (or Nayler) of Lancashire.

* **Mary Kempe** (living 1559), who married Nicholas Boughton (d.1560?), esquire, son of Sir Edward Boughton (d.1550) of Plumstead, Kent, and Anne Scott, the daughter of Sir William Scott (d. 24 August 1524). See the will of Sir William Scott, TNA PROB 11/21/272, the will of Sir Edward Boughton, TNA PROB/11/94/104, and the will of Nicholas Boughton, TNA PROB 11/43/127.

* **Margaret Kempe**, a nun at the time the testator the will below. She later married, as his first wife, George Fogge (died c.1592) of Braborne and Repton. See the will of Sir John Fogge (d.1564), TNA PROB 11/47/303, and T.G.F., 'Family Chronicle of Richard Fogge of Danes Court in Tilmanstone', *Archaeologia Cantiana*, (Kent Archaeological Society, 1863), Vol. V, pp. 116, 125 at:

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

By George Fogge, Margaret Kempe had two sons and two daughters, including:

-Richard Fogge (d.1598), who married Anne Sackville (born 1555), the daughter of Sir Christopher Sackville and Constance Culpeper, the daughter of Thomas Culpeper of Bedgebury, Kent. See T.G.F., 'Family Chronicle of Richard Fogge of Danes Court in Tilmanstone', *Archaeologia Cantiana*, (Kent Archaeological Society, 1863), Vol. V, pp. 114, 125 at:

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

See also Robertson, Herbert, *Stemmata Robertson et Durdin*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1893-95), p. 209 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/stemmatarobertso00robe#page/208/mode/2up>

-Ezekias Fogge, gentleman, vicar of Chilham (d. 22 September 1624), who married Margaret Courthop (d. 13 May 1619), the daughter of Thomas Courthop. See 'Family Chronicle', *supra*, pp. 114, 125.

After the death of Margaret Kempe, George Fogge married secondly Honor Palmer, the daughter of Sir Thomas Palmer, by whom he had a son, Thomas Fogge, who married Sybil Bridges, the daughter of Lord Chandos. See the Fogge pedigree, in 'Family Chronicle', *supra*, p. 125 at:

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

See also *Memorials*, *supra*, p. 184 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/memorialsoffamil00scot#page/184/mode/2up>

See also *Stemmata Chicheleana*, (Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1765), p. 11 at:

<https://archive.org/details/stemmatachichele00buckuoft/page/10>

See *Magna Carta Ancestry*, *supra*, Vol. III, pp. 275-6; Hitchin-Kemp, *supra*, pp. 25-8; and Robertson, Herbert, *Stemmata Robertson et Durdin*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1893-95), p. 225 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/stemmatarobertso00robe#page/224/mode/2up>

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

The Reynold Scott who witnessed the testator's will was his son-in-law, Sir Reynold Scott (c.1511 - 16 December 1554) of Scott's Hall in Smeeth, Kent (see above). It further appears from the will that it was through him that the testator acquired a 20-year lease of the manor of Olantigh near Wye in Kent. Both Sir Reynold Scott and Oxford were descended from the daughters of Sir Richard Sergeaux, Sir Reynold Scott through

Philippa Sergeaux, and Oxford through Alice Sergeaux (d.1452). See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, pp. 181-4, 194. See also the Sergeaux pedigree after p. 32, the Pashley pedigree after p. 12, and the Scott pedigree after p. 40 in MacMichael, N.H., 'The Descent of the Manor of Evegate in Smeeth with Some Account of its Lords', *Archaeologia Cantiana*, Vol. 74, 1960, pp. 1-47:

<https://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/index.php/arch-cant/vol/74/descent-manor-evegate-smeeth-some-account-its-lords>

For the will of Reynold Scott, dated 4 September 1554 and proved 13 February 1556, see TNA PROB 11/37/539.

Sir Thomas Scott (c.1537 – 30 December 1594), the son of Sir Reynold Scott and the testator's daughter, Emmeline Kempe, was a first cousin and a financial supporter of Reginald Scott, whose *The Discoverie of Witchcraft* (1584) is said to have influenced Shakespeare. From the *ODNB*:

Scott, Sir Thomas (1534x6–1594), landowner, was the eldest son of Sir Reginald Scott (d. 1555) of Scot's Hall, Smeeth, Kent, and his wife, Emmeline, daughter of Sir William Kempe of Ollantigh by Wye, Kent, and his wife, Eleanor, daughter and coheir of Sir Robert Brown of Betchworth, Surrey. He was the grandson of Sir John Scott (b. in or before 1484, d. 1533), while Reginald Scott (Scot), the writer on witchcraft, was a cousin.

Scott [Scot], Reginald (d. 1599), writer on witchcraft, was the first son of Richard Scott (d. before 1544), landowner, of Scott's Hall, Kent, and his wife, Mary (d. 1582), daughter of George Whetenall of Hextall's Place, Kent. . . . He had close connections with his cousin Sir Thomas Scott (1534x6–1594) of Scott's Hall, and tells us that he was financially dependent upon him.

The Peter Lyly named in the probatum clause as proctor for Sir William Kempe's widow, Eleanor, would appear to be Peter Lyly (d.1569), the father of Oxford's servant, the writer and dramatist, John Lyly (1554-1606).

TESTATOR'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE COMEDIAN, WILL KEMPE

Although no direct link has been discovered, there is considerable evidence which suggests that the comedian Will Kempe was closely connected to the testator's family. From the *ODNB*:

Kemp's parentage is unknown, though it has been conjectured that, despite his plebeian performance persona, he was linked in some way to the Kempes of Ollantighe, near Ashford in Kent, who were a wealthy Catholic dynasty. Sir Thomas Kempe (1517–1591) did indeed have a son named William; however, the claim that this William Kempe was the actor cannot be correct, since he was buried at Wye church on 27 March 1597 (Honeyman, 125–9; Bannerman, 3; private information, A. Findlay). Nonetheless, this

*putative connection might help explain the otherwise surprising story—dramatized in the play *The Travailes of the Three English Brothers* (1607) by Day, Rowley, and Wilkins—that when William Kemp the actor was in Italy in 1601 he had an encounter with the celebrated traveller Sir Anthony Shirley: for Sir Anthony and his two equally famous brothers were related to the Ollantighe Kempes through their mother, who was Sir Thomas Kempe's daughter. Possibly, then, the actor had some tie of kinship to Ollantighe, at an outlying point on the family tree; or perhaps in recommending himself to Shirley he was just opportunistically taking advantage of the name he shared with Shirley's mother.*

*Kemp's earliest notices link him to the Earl of Leicester's Players in the 1580s. He was not, as sometimes stated, the 'Mr Kempe' to whom the corporation of Ipswich sent a letter in 1580 at about the date that Leicester's Men were performing there (Eccles, 293). He did, though, perform with the earl's company at Leicester House in London in May 1585, and was one of fifteen players who travelled to the Netherlands in November, when Leicester took up his post as general of English forces in the Netherlands. Kemp seems to have contributed to the general air of ostentation that marked Leicester's disconcertingly regal entourage. He would have performed in shows such as 'The Forces [=Labours?] of Hercules' at Utrecht in April 1586, but he also provided special feats of impromptu clowning and athleticism. One record has him leaping into a ditch while the earl was out walking with Prince Maurice: presumably this was some kind of tumbling trick. Leicester had already singled Kemp out for an individual reward of 10s. in May 1585, and he received further special payments in the Netherlands. The earl's nephew Sir Philip Sidney called him 'William, my Lord of Leicester[s] jesting player', and used him in January 1586 to carry correspondence home to Lady Sidney (*The Complete Works of Sir Philip Sidney*, ed. A. Feuillerat, 4 vols., 1912–26, 3.167). Unfortunately Kemp embarrassed Sidney by delivering his letters to Lady Leicester, who was the subject in them of some undiplomatic remarks.*

The *ODNB* entry omits several facts which suggest that there was a direct relationship between Will Kempe and the testator's family.

Firstly, the testator's eldest son, Sir Thomas Kempe (1517 – 7 March 1591), had a son, William Kempe, who was baptized on 17 February 1557. He was buried at Wye on 20 March 1598 (not 27 March 1597 as stated in the *ODNB* entry). He did not leave a will, and it appears his brother, Reynold Kempe, administered his estate (see above).

However there were two, or perhaps three, other William Kempes living in Wye contemporaneously with him:

(1) A William Kempe acted as godfather at baptisms on 24 June 1556, 7 September 1556 and 12 January 1559. This appears to have been the William Kempe who had three daughters: Mary Kempe, baptized 28 January 1556, Jane Kempe, baptized 15 October 1558, and Joan Kempe, baptized 11 January 1560. This William Kempe was buried 19 May 1561, and left a will, PRC 17/35/175c, in which he mentions his wife, Thomasine, and his younger daughters, Jane and Joan.

(2) A different William Kempe acted as godfather at baptisms on 30 November 1564 and 2(?) October 1567. This William Kempe cannot have been the son of Sir Thomas Kempe baptized on 17 February 1557, and is therefore a hitherto-unnoticed adult William Kempe living in Wye during the years 1564-1567.

(3) Twelve years later, a William Kempe acted as godfather at a baptism on 24 February 1579. He may have been the William Kempe mentioned in (2) above, he may have been the William Kempe, son of Sir Thomas Kempe, who was baptized 17 February 1557 (who in 1579 would have been 22 years of age), or he may have been a different William Kempe from either of these. In any event, after 1579 William Kempe disappears from Wye baptismal records, at about the same time the comedian Will Kempe entered Leicester's service. See 'Wye, Kent Baptisms 1551-1600' at:

<http://www.hastingleigh.com/OPR/Wye-Bapt-1551-1600.html>

See also 'Wye, Kent Burials 1551-1600' at:

<http://www.hastingleigh.com/OPR/Wye-Bur-1551-1600.html>

Secondly, the *ODNB* fails to notice the significant fact that in TNA KB 27/1454/1, rot. 692, the comedian is described as a gentleman ('William Kempe, late of London, gentleman, deceased'), which suggests a relationship to a gentry family such as the Kempes of Olantigh.

Thirdly, although the *ODNB* entry notes that Will Kempe was in Leicester's service, it does not mention that this employment likely resulted from the fact that Leicester was related to the Kempes of Olantigh. As noted above, his mother, Jane Guildford, was the niece of the testator's brother, Christopher Kempe (1485-1512).

For payments by Leicester to 'William Kempe the player' in the mid 1580s, see Adams, Simon, *Household Accounts and Disbursement Books of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester*, (Cambridge: Royal Historical Society, 1995), p. 371 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=Ua9m6c488kcC&pg=PA371>

Records of the comedian Will Kempe's last years are scanty. In March 1600 he was in Norwich. See Galloway, David, ed., *Records of Early English Drama: Norwich, 1540-1642*, (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1984), pp. 114-15:

Mayors' Court books XIII, NRO: 16.a
p 418 (8 March 1600)

xl s giuen to Kempe

It ys this day Ordered by Mr Mayor and Courte that xl s be giuen to (blank) Kempe the Lord Chamberleyne his seruante

In 1601 he was in Rome. The testator's grandson, Sir Anthony Shirley (1565-1636?), was, like Will Kempe, with Leicester in the Low Countries, and, as noted in the *ODNB* entry, Sir Anthony Shirley (1565–1636?) and Will Kempe are said to have met in Rome, a circumstance which strongly suggests a family relationship, as does the later dramatization of the meeting. From the *ODNB*:

Kemp, William (fl. 1585–1602), actor, was the most important stage clown working in the late Elizabethan period. . . . During the ensuing year [=1601] Kemp made his way into Germany and Italy, eventually arriving at Rome, where he met the English traveller Sir Anthony Shirley, an encounter dramatized after his death in Day, Rowley, and Wilkins's play about the Shirley family, The Travailes of the Three English Brothers (1607).

The last definite notice of the comedian, Will Kempe, is on 22 August 1602. See Greg, Walter W., ed., *Henslowe's Diary*, Part I, (London: A.H. Bullen, 1904), p. 179 at:

<https://archive.org/details/cu31924026121305/page/n233>

Lent vnto wm kempe the 22 of aguste 1602 to bye buckram to macke a payer of gyent{es} hosse the some of vs

RM: Tes{tamen}t{u}m Will{el}mi Kemp militis

[f. 228r] In the name of God, Amen. The 28th day of November in the 30th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Henry th' Eight, I, William Kempe, knight, of whole mind, declare my will in manner and form following:

First, I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my body to be buried in Our Lady chancel in the church of Wye among my parents;

Item, I will to the high altar there for my tithes negligently forgotten, 20s;

Item, to the reparations of the church of Wye, five pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath to Cicely, my daughter, three hundred marks to her marriage;

Item, I bequeath to the marriage of Faith, my daughter, three hundred marks;

Item, I give and bequeath to the marriage of Mary, my daughter, three hundred marks;

Item, if Margaret, my daughter, be put out of the house where she is now nun, and then she be disposed to marry, I give and bequeath to her marriage three hundred marks, and if

she be not disposed to marry, then I will Thomas, my son, have the said three hundred marks, and to pay her yearly during her natural life five marks with meat and drink, or ten marks and no meat and drink;

Item, whereas I have of the demise and grant of Reynold Scott, esquire, and John Tuke, gentleman, for term of twenty years a messuage called Olantigh with all the lands thereto belonging, and divers other manors, lands and tenements comprised in a deed indented made by the said Reynold and John unto me, I will that Dame Eleanor, my wife, have the said messuage with all the lands and tenements comprised in the said deed indented for term of twelve years so that she may receive the said twelve hundred marks before bequeathed to the marriage of my daughters aforesaid;

And after the twelve years I will that the said Dame Eleanor have the said messuage with all the said lands and tenements thereto belonging to the full term of twenty years if she so long live, and to pay yearly during the said term to every one of my six younger sons forty shillings, and the residue of the said manors, lands and tenements comprised in the said deed I will that Thomas, my son, have, paying to every one of his brothers 40s;

And if my said wife be not disposed to inhabit and dwell in the said messuage after the said twelve years, then I will that Thomas, my son, have the said messuage with all the lands thereunto belonging, and to pay to every one of his brothers out of the said lands 40s yearly as his mother should have done during the full residue of the said term of twenty years;

Provided always that if it happen my wife to die after the said twelve years and before the said twenty years be expired, then I will that Thomas shall have the said messuage and all the foresaid manors, lands and tenements clearly without paying anything to his brothers;

Furthermore, I will that if my wife be not disposed to dwell and inhabit in the said messuage, and go from thence at any time within the said 12 years, then I will that Thomas, my son, have the said messuage and lands thereto belonging, paying yearly during the said term of twelve years the value thereof to his mother for the levying of the said twelve hundred marks;

Furthermore I will that my wife shall receive the profit of the lands that I have during the nonage of Henry Idon [=Iden?], and she to find him conveniently during his nonage for to help to levy the said twelve hundred marks;

Provided always and my very will is that if my foresaid daughters or any of them happen to die before they be married, then I will my said son, Thomas, to have the money to them bequeathed that be departed;

The residue of my goods I will to my well-beloved Dame Eleanor, my wife, whom I ordain to be mine executrix, and to dispose for me and my children as she shall think most convenient.

These being witness at the making hereof: Reynold Scott, esquire, and John Tuke, gentleman.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum iiii^{to} die mensis Iulij Anno d^{omi}ni Mill^{es}imo quingen^{tes}imo xxxix^o apud London coram D^{omi}no auc^{torita}te d^{omi}ni n^{ost}ri Regis & Will^{el}mi Kemp Milit^{is} defuncti h^{ab}entis & Iurament^o d^{omi}ne Elianore Relicte & executricis in h^{uius}mo^di tes^{tamen}to no^miⁿat^e in p^{er}sona Petri Lyly procur^{atoris} & ac p^{er} eund^em auct^{oritatem} dⁱc^ti d^{omi}ni n^{ost}ri Regis approbat^{um} & insinuat^{um} Com^missaque fuit admiⁿⁱstracⁱo omⁿi^{um} & singulor^{um} bonor^{um} Iuriu^m & creditor^{um} dⁱc^ti defuncti p^{er}sona dⁱc^ti procur^{atoris} De b^en^e & fidel^{ite}r admiⁿⁱstrand^o Ac de pleno & fideli In^{uenta}rio secundo die post festum Com^memorac^{ionis} aⁿi^mar^{um} prox^{imum} futur^{um} exhiben^{do} necnon de plano & vero compoto reddend^o Ad s^{an}c^ta dei Euaⁿg^{elia} in debita iuris forma Iurat^e

[=The above-written testament was proved on the 4th day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 39th at London before the Lord by the authority of our Lord the King etc. of William Kempe, knight, deceased, having etc., by the oath of Lady Eleanor, relict & executrix named in the same testament, in the person of Peter Lyly, proctor etc., and by the same authority of our said Lord the King probated and registered, and administration was granted of all & singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased to the forenamed executrix in the person of the said proctor, sworn on the Holy Gospels in due form of law to well & faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full & true inventory on the second day after the feast of All Souls next to come, and also to render a plain & true account.]