

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 30 March and 1 August 1560 and proved 14 November 1560, of Sir Thomas Moyle (d. 2 October 1560), Speaker of the House of Commons, whose son-in-law, Sir Thomas Finch, was drowned in the wreck of the Greyhound, together with Arthur Brooke (d.1563), author of *Romeus and Juliet*, a source for Shakespeare's play, *Romeo and Juliet*.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator was the fourth son of John Moyle (d. 21 November 1495) and Anne Darcy, the daughter of Sir Robert Darcy (1420 – 2 November 1469) and Elizabeth Tyrrell. See the *ODNB* entry for the testator; Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, pp. 216-18, and the undated will, proved 24 January 1507, of Elizabeth (nee Tyrrell) Darcy Haute, TNA PROB 11/15/363.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married Katherine Jordeyne or Jordan, younger daughter and co-heiress of the London goldsmith Edward Jordeyne (d.1514) and his wife, Alice. For the will of Edward Jordeyne, dated 26 October 1514 and proved 5 December 1514, see TNA PROB 11/17/606.

By Katherine (nee Jordeyne) the testator had two daughters:

* **Katherine Moyle** (d.1587), who married Sir Thomas Finch (d. 19 March 1563), the second son of Sir William Finch (d.1553?) of The Moat, Canterbury, by Elizabeth Cromer, widow of Sir Richard Lovelace (c.1440-c.1511) and daughter of Sir James Cromer.

By Sir Thomas Finch, Katherine Moyle had three sons and a daughter:

-**Sir Moyle Finch** (c.1550 – 18 December 1614), who married Elizabeth Heneage (1556–1633), daughter of Sir Thomas Heneage (c.1532 – 17 October 1595).

-**Sir Henry Finch** (c.1558–1625).

-**Thomas Finch**.

-**Jane Finch**, who married George Wyatt, son of Sir Thomas Wyatt (beheaded 11 April 1554) and Jane Haute, daughter of Sir William Haute (d.1539) of Bishopsbourne.

According to *Magna Carta Ancestry*, *supra*, Vol. II, p. 170, there was also another son, Anthony Finch; however he is not named in the will below.

The testator's son-in-law, Sir Thomas Finch, was appointed Knight Marshal of the English army sent to Newhaven [=Le Havre] in 1563, and was drowned on 19 March when his ship, the *Greyhound*, went aground at Rye, Sussex. Also drowned in the sinking of the *Greyhound* was Arthur Brooke (d.1563), author of *Romeus and Juliet*, a source for Shakespeare's play, *Romeo and Juliet*. After the death of Sir Thomas Finch, his widow, Katherine, married Nicholas St Leger, younger brother of Sir Warham St Leger (1525?-1597). See the *ODNB* entries for Sir Thomas Finch, Arthur Brooke, Sir Thomas Wyatt and Sir Thomas Heneage; the will of Sir Warham St Leger, dated 20 July 1593 and proved 28 January 1598, TNA PROB 11/91/61; the will of Sir William Haute, dated 12 January 1539 and proved 16 June 1539, TNA PROB11/26/240; the will of Sir William Finch, dated 11 June 1553 and proved 3 May 1553, TNA PROB 11/36/124; *Magna Carta Ancestry, supra*, Vol. I, p. 565; and Pleasants, J. Hall, 'The Lovelace Family and its Connections', *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 27, (Virginia Historical Society, 1919), pp. 393-403 at pp. 397-8:

<https://archive.org/stream/jstor-4243738/4243738#page/n5/mode/2up>

For the wreck of the *Greyhound*, see also Green, Nina, 'Who was Arthur Brooke? Author of the Tragical History of Romeus and Juliet', *The Oxfordian*, Vol. III, 2000, pp. 59-70.

* **Amy Moyle**, (buried 17 August 1557), who married, on 19 January 1550, as his second wife, Sir Thomas Kempe (1517-1591) of Olantigh.

Sir Thomas Kempe's first wife was Katherine Cheyney (d. before 19 January 1550), the daughter of Sir Thomas Cheyney (c.1485-1558) by his first wife, Frideswide Frowyk (1499 – before April 1528), the daughter of Sir Thomas Frowyk (c.1460-1506), by whom he had three daughters: Margaret Kempe (d.1557), who married William Cromer (d. 12 May 1598); Anne Kempe (c.1542-1623), who married Sir Thomas Shirley (c.1542 – October 1612); and Alice Kempe (1550-1592), who married firstly Sir James Hales (d.1589), grandson of Sir James Hales (d.1554), and 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, and Anne Kempe's son, Sir Thomas Shirley (1564–1633/4), married Anne Vavasour's sister, Frances Vavasour. By 1590, Anne Vavasour had married John Finch, who was likely related to the testator's son-in-law, Sir Thomas Finch. For the marriage of Margaret Kempe and William Crowmer, see *Magna Carta Ancestry, supra*, Vol. I, p. 327. For the marriage of Sir Thomas Shirley and Frances Vavasour, see the *ODNB* entry for Sir Thomas Shirley (1564–1633/4). For the marriage of Anne Vavasour and John Finch, see the *ODNB* entry for Anne Vavasour. For Sir Thomas Cheyney, see his will, TNA PROB 11/42B/105.

After the death of Amy Moyle, Sir Thomas Kempe (1517-1591) married thirdly, by settlement dated 20 December 1571, Joan Fermor, one of the five daughters of Sir Richard Fermor (d.1551) of Easton Neston, Northamptonshire, and widow successively of Robert Wilford (d.1545) and John Mordaunt (d.1571), 2nd Baron Mordaunt, by whom

he had no issue. See *Plantagenet Ancestry, supra*, Vol. II, p. 649; the will of Joan (nee Fermor) Wilford Mordaunt Kempe, TNA PROB 11/79/239; and the History of Parliament entry for Sir Richard Fermor at:

<http://www.histparl.ac.uk/volume/1509-1558/member/fermor-richard-148084-1551>

See also the Fermor pedigree in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Northamptonshire Made in 1564 and 1618-19*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1887), pp. 19, 87 at:

<https://archive.org/details/visitationsnort00vincgoog/page/n32>

According to the will below, the testator's daughter, Amy Moyle (buried 17 August 1557), and Sir Thomas Kempe (1517-1591) had four sons living in 1560, the testator's grandsons:

-Sir Thomas Kempe (baptized 7 November 1551, buried 2 December 1607), heir to the testator's lands in Kent and Somerset in the will below. He married firstly 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, including Mary Kempe (buried 1 May 1631), who married Sir Dudley Digges (1582/3–1639), stepson of Thomas Russell, overseer of the will of William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon. For the will of Thomas Russell, dated 3 October 1617 and proved 5 May 1634, see TNA PROB 11/165/424. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 649-50. Sir Thomas Kempe (1551-1607) 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.

See also the will of Sir Thomas Frowyk, proved 3 November 1506, TNA PROB 11/15/285; the will of Anne (nee Kempe) Shirley, proved 1 April 1623, TNA PROB 11/141/330; the will of Sir James Hales, dated 15 and 18 March and 25 June 1589 and proved 7 May 1590, TNA PROB 11/75/265; *Magna Carta Ancestry, supra*, Vol. II, pp. 82, 169-70, Vol. III, pp. 216-18, 275-7, and Vol. IV, p. 383; and *Goodwin Family Papers*, Vol. I, (Hartford, Connecticut, 1921), p. 65 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/englishgoodwinfa01star#page/64/mode/2up>

See also the History of Parliament entry for Sir Thomas Kempe at:

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

See also the History of Parliament entry for the testator at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/moyle-thomas-1500-60>

-Reginald or Reynold Kempe (baptized 18 May 1553), gentleman, who is said to have married Mary Argal of East Sutton, sister of John Argal. For his will, dated 2 January 1610 and proved in the Archdeaconry Court of Canterbury on 12 September 1612, see PRC17/56/88. He appears to have been the 'Reynold Kempe' who was a complainant in the 1594 Chancery suit, *supra*.

-Moyle Kempe. In 1592 he was living with his stepmother, Joan (nee Fermor) Mordaunt Kempe. See *Plantagenet Ancestry*, *supra*, Vol. II, p. 649 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=kjme027UeagC&pg=RA1-PA649>

-William Kempe (baptized 17 February 1556?, living 1560). He may be the 'Mr William Kempe' who according to the Wye burial register was buried 20 March 1597. He may also 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*.

RM: T{estamentum} Thome Moyle Militis

[f. 424r] In the name of God, Amen. The first day of August in the year of the Incarnation of Our Lord God one thousand five hundred and threescore, I, Thomas Moyle of Eastwell in the county of Kent, knight, being sick in body but whole of mind and perfect remembrance, thanks be therefore given unto God, do make and ordain this my last will and testament:

First, I will and give my soul unto God, my Saviour and Redeemer, trusting in his great and ineffable mercy to be saved through and by the merits of his most bitter passion which he suffered for the redemption of me and all mankind, unto Our Blessed Lady, Saint Mary, and all the holy company of heaven;

Item, I will my body to be buried [f. 424v] in the church of Eastwell aforesaid or elsewhere as to mine executors shall be thought most requisite;

Item, I give and bequeath to the high altar in the church of Eastwell for my tithes neglected or wilfully forgotten 20s;

Item, I will to every of the high altars of Westwell, Kennington, Challock and Boughton Aluph for my tithes omitted or negligently forgotten 10s;

Item, I give and bequeath to be distributed among the poor people at my burial £6 13s 4d, and I will that at either of my month's minds and my year's mind there be bestowed to or among the poor people £6 13s 4d;

Item, I will that the charges of my funerals and minds be at the discretion of mine executors, and to be paid by them of my goods;

Item, I will and bequeath unto my well-beloved wife, Dame Katherine Moyle, all my household stuff and bedding the which is at my house at Clerkenwell besides London;

Item, I will and give unto her two the best beds that I have at my house at Eastwell or such 2 as she will choose, furnished in form as followeth, that is to say, to every or either of them a stedell(?), a tester, curtains, a mattress, a bed of feathers or down, a bolster, two pillows, two blankets and a counterpoint, whereof the best counterpoint to be one and thother at choice;

Item, I will unto her my fine damask sheet, twenty pair of canvas sheets, 6 pair of fine sheets, four pair of pillow-beres of lockram, four pair of fine pillow-beres, 4 plain tablecloths of the best sort, 4 of the coarser sort, one of diaper with arms, one of diaper of thother sort, 2 dozen of diaper napkins of the coarser sort, four dozen of plain napkins, 2 dozen of diaper napkins of the finer sort, 3 plain towels of the best sort, 3 of the coarser sort, 2 diaper towels, and one of the finest diaper towels, 3 diaper cupboard cloths, five plain cupboard cloths;

Item, I will she have one garnish of vessel, 2 chargers and 4 plates for pies(?), and also 2 pieces of new hangings and one other coverlet to join with those two pieces of hangings;

Item, I will she have six kine at her choice;

Item, that she have one of my ambling nags as she will choose, and I will she have 4 other geldings;

Item, I will she have one boar, two sows and four shoats or pigs;

Item, I will and bequeath unto her my best basin and ewer, a standing cup chased with leaves with a cover, one gilt goblet with a cover, one gilt ale cup chased with a cover, two

silver salts of the second sort with a cover and one little silver salt, a pepperbox, a casting-bottle, a jug of silver, one dozen of silver spoons, one pottinger of silver, all her apparel and jewels, a pax of silver, my chalice and cruets of silver, and all other plate in her custody being and all other ornaments and apparel which the priest is most accustomed to use about the altar;

Item, I give and bequeath to my well-beloved son-in-law, Sir Thomas Kempe, knight, my black velvet gown furred with martens and my lease of Bokynge Court, upon condition that he pay the yearly farm and do the customs and also pay such sums of money unto certain of my servants as I shall appoint and declare in a scrow or bill indented to be paid of the profits growing by the said lease;

Item, I will and give unto my well-beloved son-in-law, Sir Thomas Finch, knight, my black velvet gown lined;

Item, I give to my cousin, Avery Randolph, my black gown of cloth furred with martens;

Item, I give to my cousin, John Brent, my black satin gown furred with coney;

Item, I give to Clement Gregory, clerk, parson of Eastwell, four marks;

Item, I bequeath to Richard Barker £4;

Item, I give to Edmund Tynte the younger four marks;

Item, I bequeath to John Sharpe, John Warren and Edmund Welton and to every of them forty shillings apiece;

Item, I bequeath to William Banester 26s 8d;

Also I bequeath to John Andrew 26s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to Nicholas Sharpe 20s;

Item, I will to the parish church of Eastwell a vestment of cloth of gold, one altar cloth of needlework, one cope of red silk and gold flowers, and all such other stuff as I bought lately for the behoof of the church;

Item, I will that there be an house builded by mine executors for ten poor people to lie in, and that to be in one of the two little closes besides the highway at Beverleys, and the other to be for a garden plot to the same, which ten poor people shall have yearly seven pounds 14s 2d, that is to say, every of the said poor people to have a[n] ob [=halfpenny] every day and a penny the Sunday yearly, and 5s 10d to be yearly bestowed on the reparations of the said house for to pray for my soul, the souls of my father, my mother, my brother Wood, my other friends' souls and all Christian souls at my tomb in the

church of Eastwell, the same to be paid yearly by such as shall have the possession of the manor of Wilmington for the time being;

And if any of the said ten poor people die, then I will there be other substituted in his or their place so dying by him that shall be possessioner of the manor of Eastwell within one month next after the death of him or them of the said poor people that shall so die, and the same to be continued in like manner and form forever with th' issues and profits of the said manor of Wilmington;

Item, I will and my very mind is that mine executors shall well and truly content and pay or cause to be contented and paid all such debts as I owe either by specialty or otherwise, so that there be just proof thereof made that the same are due by me by writing or otherwise;

Item, I do ordain and make executors of this my last will and testament Sir Thomas Kempe, knight, Sir Thomas Finch, knight, and Robert Barlee, my servant, to perform, as I trust they will, this my will and testament, and I give unto the said Robert Barlee for his pains to be taken in this behalf £6 13s 4d;

All the residue of my goods and chattels above not given ne bequeathed, my debts first paid and my legacies performed, I give and bequeath unto the said Sir [f. 425r] Thomas Kempe, knight, and Sir Thomas Finch, knight;

In witness whereof I, the said Sir Thomas Moyle, knight, to this my last will and testament have put my seal;

Witnesses to this will and testament, John Brent, Clement Norton, clerk, Clement Gregory, clerk, Gregory Morbred, Thomas Genyng{es} and Edmund Tynte.

This is the last will of me, Sir Thomas Moyle, knight, made the 30th day of March in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred and threescore and in the second year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth touching and concerning all my manors, tenements and hereditaments in the counties of Kent, Surrey, Middlesex, Somerset, Devonshire and the City of London or elsewhere within this realm of England:

First, I will that Dame Katherine Moyle, my well-beloved wife, shall have in full satisfaction and recompense of her jointure made and assured by me, the same Sir Thomas Moyle, unto her before marriage, dower or joint purchaser, which she hath or may pretend to have to any my manors, lands or tenements, all my houses, chambers, stables, gardens, orchards and places in Clerkenwell in the county of Middlesex with all and singular their appurtenances, to have and to hold all and singular the premises afore recited unto the said Dame Katherine, my wife, during and by all the term of the natural life of the said Dame Katherine;

And also I will immediately after my decease my manor of Willand with th' appurtenances in the county of Devon and all my messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments in the said county of Devon, and also my manor of Puryton with th' appurtenances in the county of Somerset with all lands, marshes, mills, rents & other hereditaments accepted, reputed, used or taken as part, parcel or member of the said manor of Puryton, & also the acre of wood in the parish of Easlinge called the Patronage acre with the advowson of the church of Easlinge to the same acre belonging, shall remain, come and be to Katherine, mine eldest daughter, and her heirs forever;

And I will that immediately after my decease my manors of Preston, Grandsones and Walderslade with all and singular their appurtenances in the said county of Kent, together with all other my lands, tenements, woods, rents, reversions and services in Dartford, Sutton at Hone and Chatham in the said county of Kent, and also my manors of Kingweston alias Kyngwardiston, Wythyes and Lottesham with their appurtenances in the county of Somerset, and all other my lands and tenements in the county of Somerset which are and have been accepted in my time as part, parcel or member of the said manors of Kingweston alias Kyngwardiston, Withyes, Lottesham or of any of them shall remain, come and be to Thomas Kempe, son and heir of Amy, my other daughter, deceased, and to his heirs forever;

And as touching my houses within Newgate in London in the south side of the street there, I will they shall be equally divided between Moyle Finch, Thomas Finch, Henry Finch, Reynold Kempe, Moyle Kempe and William Kempe, my daughters' children, they to have to them and their heirs forever, provided always and my mind and will is that if either of the said Katherine or Thomas Kempe or th' husband of the said Katherine or th' heirs of either of them at any time hereafter do infringe or break this my last will in anything touching the severance, appointment, apportioning, division or limitation of my manors, lands, tenements or hereditaments or any part of them, and do not or will not observe the same, then I will that she or he which shall so infringe or break the intent or meaning of this my last will, or whose husband or heir shall infringe or break the intent or meaning of this my last will in or by claim, entry or suit for any of the lands, tenements or hereditaments limited and appointed to thother of them, shall lose and forfeit the benefits of the bequeaths to her, him or them made or growing by my will, and that all my legacies and bequests to them and their heirs who or whose husband or heir shall so demand, enter or sue to the breach or interruption of my intent and meaning shall be void and of none effect, and that all and singular the manors, lands, hereditaments and things given, limited or appointed to such of the said Katherine, my daughter, or Thomas Kempe or th' heirs of either of them as shall infringe or interrupt my said intent or meaning shall wholly and fully in all things remain, come and be to thother of them not breaking nor interrupting th' intent of my said intent or last will and to his or their heirs solely in such manner and form to all intents, constructions and purposes as if all and singular my said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments within the realm of England had been wholly given and bequeathed by this my last will and testament unto her or them so agreeing or not breaking or interrupting th' intent of this my said last will, and as if he, she or they who or whose husband or heir shall infringe or interrupt the said intent had not been mentioned in this my said last will nor had my manors, lands, tenements or

hereditaments to him, her or them given or bequeathed by the same, and not to be entitled or inheritable in any wise to any other or more part of any my manors, lands, tenements or hereditaments but only the moiety of the third part of my said lands and hereditaments which by the laws and statutes of this realm of England should and ought to him or her descend if I had given and bequeathed all to any estranger;

Provided also that the Queen's Majesty be yearly answered of th' issues, profits and revenues [f. 425v] unto her due or belonging during the minority of the said Thomas Kempe of the manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments given and appointed unto the same Thomas Kempe by this my last will;

Witnesses to this last will, Anthony Kempe, Clement Norton, clerk, Richard Rogers, clerk, Robert Barlee, Clement Gregory, clerk, Edmund Tynte, George Morbred and Thomas Genynges.

The names of such of the servants of Sir Thomas Moyle, knight, as unto whom he, the same Sir Thomas Moyle, hath assigned and appointed such the several sums of money totted upon them to be paid unto them by Sir Thomas Kempe, knight, in consideration of the gift and legacy of the lease of Bokying Court made unto him by the last will and testament of the said Sir Thomas Moyle, knight, as followeth, videlicet:

First, Clement Norton, clerk, £6 13s 4d;

Item, Thomas Moyle senior, £6;

Item, John Turnor, £6;

Item, George Morbred, 53s 4d;

Item, Thomas Genynges, 40s;

Item, John Wulbrige, £4;

Item, Thomas Moyle junior, £3;

Summa totalis, £30 6s 8d;

In witness whereof the said Thomas Moyle, knight, to either part of this bill or scrow indented hath put his seal the first day of August in the year of Our Lord God one thousand five hundred and threescore.

Probatum fuit huiusmodi testamentum coram magistro Waltero Haddon legum Doctore Curie prerogative Cantuariensis Commissario apud London Decimo quarto die mensis Nouembris Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo sexagesimo Iuramento

Thome ffynche et Thome Kempe Militum executorum in huiusmodi testamento nominatorum Quibus Commissa fuit administratio &c De bene &c Ac de pleno et fidei Inventario Necnon de vero et plano compoto Reddendo Ad sancta Dei evangelia Iuratis Reseruatate Roberto Barlee executori etiam &c cum venerit

[=The same testament was proved before Master Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the fourteenth day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixtieth by the oath of Thomas Finch and Thomas Kempe, knights, executors named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., and to [+prepare] a full and faithful inventory, and also to render a true and plain account, with power reserved to Robert Barlee, executor also etc., when he shall have come.]