

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 12 April 1594, of Ferdinando Stanley, 5th Earl of Derby, son and heir of Henry Stanley (1531-1593), 4th Earl of Derby, and Margaret (1540-1596), the eldest daughter of Henry Clifford (1517-1570), 2nd Earl of Cumberland, and his first wife, Eleanor (1519-1547). Eleanor was the daughter of King Henry VIII's sister, Mary Tudor (1496-1553), and her husband, Charles Brandon (d.1545), Duke of Suffolk. Through his mother, Ferdinando Stanley was thus closely related to Queen Elizabeth. His parents' marriage was not a happy one. The couple were estranged by 1567, and circa 1570 Henry Stanley contracted a common-law marriage to Jane Halsall of Knowsley, by whom he had at least four children. It seems likely that Ferdinando was estranged from his mother, as she is not mentioned in his will. His relationship with his younger brother, William (1561-1642), who succeeded him as 6th Earl of Derby, appears from the will to have been equally strained. William later married Oxford's daughter, Elizabeth Vere (1575-1627), on 26 January 1595. Ferdinando Stanley and his brother, William, were related to Oxford in several ways through their mother's descent from Charles Brandon (d.1545), Duke of Suffolk. After Mary Tudor's death, Charles Brandon (d.1545), Duke of Suffolk, married his ward, Katherine Willoughby (1519-1580). By her second marriage to Richard Bertie (1517-1572), Katherine Willoughby (1519-1580), Duchess of Suffolk, was the mother of Peregrine Bertie (1555-1601), Lord Willoughby d'Eresby, who married Oxford's sister, Mary De Vere (d.1624). Moreover, Ferdinando and William's maternal uncle, their mother's stepbrother, Francis Clifford (1559-1641), later 4th Earl of Cumberland, married, in June 1589, Grissell (1559-1613), the elder daughter of Thomas Hughes of Uxbridge, Middlesex, and widow of Edward Neville, Lord Bergavenny (d.1589). Grissell Hughes was a second cousin of Oxford's father, both being descendants of Sir John Don (c.1430-1503) (see *Edward De Vere Newsletter* #47 on this website). In 1589, Robert Greene dedicated *Ciceronis Amor* to Ferdinando Stanley. He had earlier dedicated *The Mirror of Modesty* to Ferdinando's mother in 1584. Greene also dedicated two books to Ferdinando's maternal uncle, his mother's stepbrother, George Clifford (1558-1605), 3rd Earl of Cumberland, *Pandosto* (1588) and *Greene's Mourning Garment* (1590). In the dedication to *Pandosto*, Greene included 'the virtuous Countess', George Clifford's wife, Margaret, to whom he had already dedicated *Penelope's Web* (1587) jointly with her elder sister, Anne (1549-1604), the wife of Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick, and a maid of honour to Queen Elizabeth. In his will, Ferdinando mentions his 'right honourable my cousin, Gilbert, Earl of Shrewsbury'. In 1584, Greene had dedicated his *Arbasto* to Gilbert Talbot's wife, Mary Talbot. In 1601, Ferdinando Stanley's daughter, Elizabeth (1587-1633) married Henry Hastings (1586-1643), 5th Earl of Huntingdon, thus uniting two families with royal blood. There were suspicions that Huntingdon's uncle, Henry Clinton (1539-1616), 2nd Earl of Lincoln, had royal ambitions for his nephew. Three days before Queen Elizabeth's death, Oxford, who was in secret correspondence with King James of Scotland, invited Lincoln to dine with him at Hackney, and sounded out his views concerning his nephew 'of the blood royal' (see TNA SP 14/3/77, f. 134, and TNA SP 14/4/14, ff. 27-9).

RM: Testamentum ffardinandi Comitum Derbiensis

In the name of God, Amen. I, Ferdinando, Earl of Derby, sick in body but of good and perfect memory, the Almighty God be praised, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

Imprimis, I will and recommend my soul into the blessed hands of th' Almighty, my Creator, my Redeemer, and my Preserver, trusting and verily believing in and by the only merits of my everlasting Redeemer, Christ Jesus, to inherit the kingdom of heaven with his saints and chosen elected, and my body to be interred in my chapel in Ormeschurche [=Ormskirk?] with decent and Christian funeral fit for my estate and calling;

Item, I will and bequeath, and it is my especial mind, intent and purpose, that all and singular my funeral charges and the due debts for the payment whereof I, the said Earl, or any other person or persons whatsoever for or in my behalf stand obliged or bound shall be well and truly satisfied, discharged and paid according to the effect, purport and tenor of one lease for two thousand years by me, the said Earl, lawfully executed unto my right honourable my cousin, Gilbert, Earl of Shrewsbury, and Thomas, Lord of Buckhurst, or to some person or persons to their use or uses, for the due performance of which my trust and confidence so by me assuredly reposed in them, I do most entirely entreat and will their and every of their painful and trusty carefulness in th' accomplishment thereof as to their wisdoms (whereof I rest satisfied) shall seem requisite and convenient;

I, the said Earl, do will and appoint Edward Warren of Poynton, Richard Holland of Denton, William Farington of Worden, esquires, and Michael Doughty, gentleman, my servants, or such of them as therein hath or have any interest, to assure and convey unto my well-beloved wife or unto such person or persons as she shall therein or in that behalf nominate and appoint, all an[d] singular such estate and interest as they or any of them have or heretofore had in any the goods or chattels real or personal, utensils or other implements whatsoever by force of any deed or gift heretofore executed to them or any of them by the right honourable my late deceased father, the said assurance or assignment of all and singular the said premises to be and remain to the sole and only use and behoof of my said wife, her executors and assigns, she, my said wife, her executors and assigns, satisfying and performing the trusts, uses and intents of the said deed of gift so executed by my said father;

Item, touching the disposition of my manors, lordships, lands, tenements and hereditaments which if I should not dispose of by my will would otherwise descend unto my three several daughters and coheirs, and so be divided and dismembered into many parts and portions, for avoiding of which inconvenience my will and mind is and I do will and bequeath all and singular such my manors, lordships, lands, tenements and hereditaments with all their and every of their appurtenances whereof I am now seised in possession or reversion of an estate in fee simple and not in tail unto my well-beloved wife, Alice, Countess of Derby, in augmentation of her dower of the residue of my lands entailed whereof I do make no disposition by will, to have and to hold all and singular my said manors, lordships, lands, tenements[s] and hereditaments with their appurtenances

unto my said wife for and during her natural life, the remainder thereof, if my said wife be not enceinte with a son, unto my eldest daughter, the Lady Anne Stanley, and the heirs of her body lawfully to be begotten, and for default of such issue, the remainder thereof unto Frances, my second daughter, and to the heirs of her body lawfully to be begotten, and for default of such issue, the remainder unto Elizabeth, my third daughter, and the heirs of her body lawfully to be begotten,, and for default of such issue then to the next heir female of the body of the said Ferdinando and of the heirs of the body of such heir female lawfully to be begotten, and for default of such issue, the remainder thereof to the right heirs of my said eldest daughter forever;

Provided nevertheless that if my said wife shall fortune to marry after my decease, then it is my will that her estate and interest in the full moiety of the said manors, lordships, lands, tenements and hereditaments with all and every their appurtenances so bequeathed unto her as aforesaid shall cease and no further have continuance, and that then the said moiety with th' appurtenances so bequeathed unto her as aforesaid shall presently be and remain unto my said daughter, Anne, and my said other daughters successively in manner and form aforesaid;

And [-it] nevertheless my mind is that my said wife shall after her marriage continue her quiet possession of the said moiety wherein her estate shall so cease as aforesaid until my said eldest daughter shall accomplish her full age of twenty and one years or otherwise be married by or with the consent of my said well-beloved wife, whether of them shall first happen, and thereupon at that time my said wife to be accountable unto my said daughters successively as aforesaid for the mean issues and profits rising or coming of the said moiety last recited after my said wife's marriage and before my said eldest daughter her accomplishment of twenty and one years or marriage as aforesaid, whether of them soever shall first happen;

In consideration of which said inheritance so bequeathed unto my said eldest daughter with remainder over as aforesaid, I do will and bequeath unto my two younger daughters, Frances and Elizabeth, over and above the three thousand pounds apiece which my brother, William Stanley, standeth obliged to make payment of, the full sum of four thousand pounds apiece in manner and form following for and towards their preferment and advancement in marriage or otherwise, viz., unto either of them one several and annual or yearly rent-charge of five hundred pounds apiece, to have continuance and be duly and yearly paid unto them at the two feasts of St John Baptist and St Martin the Bishop in winter by equal and even portions for and during such only term and time as either of them shall or may have received the full and several sum of four thousand pounds apiece, the said several rents of four thousand pounds apiece to be issuing and going out of all and singular the said lands, tenements and hereditaments as they shall severally accrue or come by my devise aforesaid unto my eldest daughter or any the heirs of her body, or unto the said other daughters successively or any the heirs of their several bodies, and the first payment thereof to commence and begin at such of the said feasts as shall next and immediately ensue the determination of the said estate of my said wife by death or marriage as aforesaid in all or any the premises aforesaid;

Provided nevertheless that if my said younger daughters, Frances and Elizabeth, or either of them, their or either of their heirs, shall hereafter impeach and avoid my said disposition & devise unto my said eldest daughter by reason or means of any estate to them to descend by or upon my decease, or otherwise shall not at their several full age of twenty and one years do and execute such further estate & assurance unto my said eldest daughter, her heirs or assigns, for the lawful & effectual conveying of all and singular their estate and title of, in and unto the said premises so bequeathed unto my said eldest daughter as aforesaid (their rent-charges of four thousand pounds and their several remainders aforesaid always excepted), that then and from thenceforth from and after such impeachment and avoidance or not performance of the said assurance or assurances all and singular the said payments of the said yearly rents so devised as aforesaid as touching only such of my said younger daughters, their or either of their heirs as so shall impeach and avoid the devise aforesaid or not perform the said further assurance or assurances, shall absolutely cease and no longer have continuance, any the premises notwithstanding;

And my further will and mind is that if my said wife be at the time of my decease enceinte with a child, then if such child fortune to be a daughter, my will and mind is that such said daughter shall have and perceive the like annual rent-charge of four thousand pounds for and towards her preferment and in such quality, manner and form as is formerly bequeathed unto my two daughters, Frances and Elizabeth;

And if such said child shall be a son, then I will and bequeath that all and singular those lands, tenements and hereditaments formerly bequeathed unto my said eldest daughter shall from and after the decease or marriage of my said wife in manner and form aforesaid remain and belong unto such my said son and the heirs of his body lawfully to be begotten, with the remainders over successively unto my said several daughte[r]s in such manner and form and of such several estates as is formerly limited unto them severally and successively in and by these presents, yielding and paying therefore yearly as well unto my said eldest daughter, Anne, as unto my other daughters the like yearly sum or rent-charge of five hundred pounds apiece until every of them have received the full and several sum of four thousand pounds apiece, the same payments to be then issuing and to commence and begin in such manner and form as formerly in this my present will is limited and appointed;

And my further will is, and I do by these presents will and bequeath unto my well-beloved wife to such intents and purposes as I, the Earl, have already declared unto my said wife, all and singular those lands and tenements, rectories and other estates whatsoever for and during such and the like estates which heretofore were my said uncle's and by him in any sort conveyed and assured unto me by any means whatsoever;

And I do further will and bequeath unto my said wife and her assigns to the like uses and intents one annual or yearly rent-charge of fifty pounds to be issuing and going out of all and singular my lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever;

And I, the said Earl, do constitute and make my well-beloved wife, Alice, Countess of Derby, my sole and only executrix of this my last will and testament, and I do most entirely entreat the right honourable Gilbert, Earl of Shrewsbury, and Thomas, Lord Buckhurst, to be supervisors of this my said last will to and for the good of my said wife and children and the other parties therein specified;

And finally, I, the said Earl, after the example of my late deceased father, do most humbly beseech the Queen's most excellent Majesty to accept into her gracious protection my said wife and young daughters entirely (though with all submission) willingly [sic for 'willing'?] of her Majesty that sithence it hath pleased God for to call me unto his mercy in the years of my youth, at what time I cannot so securely and assuredly perfect my said intention for the good and quiet of my said wife and children as otherwise I could most heartily have desired if the Almighty had not otherwise disposed of me by his visitation aforesaid, that therefore it would please her most excellent Majesty, of her princely and ever to me-wards most favourable and gracious disposition, to continue and transfer her gracious goodness from me, her faithful and loyal subject, unto my wife and my said young children, to(?) the qualifying of such extremities or questions whatsoever as may in any sort arise or be moved touching this my said last will and testament for their or any of their prejudice, or touching any the manors, lands, tenements or other hereditaments so disposed or by me intended to be disposed of in this my last will aforesaid;

In witness whereof I, the said Ferdinando, have unto this my last will & testament subscribed my name and set my seal the twelfth day of April in the six and thirtieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith, etc. one thousand five hundred ninety-four;

Published and sealed by the within-named Earl of Derby the twelfth day of April within-written after the sealing and delivering as well of one lease for the term of two thousand years as of one indenture of uses, which said lease beareth date the eleventh day of April within-mentioned, and the said indenture of uses the twelfth day of the said April, in the presence of W. Cestrensis, Edward Stanley, Richard Shuttleworth, Thomas Leigh, Edward Scarisbrick, Edward Savage, Humphrey Davenport, John Golborne.

A codicil of certain legacies and bequests given and bequeathed by the right honourable Ferdinando, Earl of Derby, unto divers his servants and followers sithence the publishing of his last will, and by his Lordship especially authorized to be annexed unto his said will in manner and form following:

Imprimis, I will and bequeath unto my loving servant, Henry Eccleston, esquire, all that my term and interest in the tithes of corn and grain renewing or coming within the lordship or town of Eccleston, with the tithe-barn thereunto belonging, for and during such only term & time as the right honourable Alice, Countess of Derby, shall be pleased to continue him, the said Henry, in her service, yielding therefore yearly unto my

executors or administrators the ancient yearly rent therefore due and accustomed, viz., six pounds three shillings and four pence by the year;

Item, unto my loving servant, Edward Scarisbrick, esquire, all that my term & interest in the tithes of corn, grain and line arising, renewing or coming within the lordship or town of Scarisbrick for and during such only term and time as the right honourable Alice, Countess of Derby, shall be pleased to continue him, the said Edward, in her service, yielding therefore to my executors or administrators the accustomed rent therefore yearly due and payable, viz., thirteen pounds by the year;

Item, unto John Golborne the yearly sum of thirteen pounds six shillings and eight pence for and during such only time and term as the right honourable Alice, Countess of Derby, shall be pleased to continue him, the said John, in her service;

Item, unto Andrew Leigh the sum of thirteen pounds six shillings eight pence during his like service as the said John;

Item, unto Hugh Ellis the sum of thirteen pounds fifteen shillings eight pence during his service as the said John Golborne;

Item, unto Thomas Farington the sum of ten pounds during his like service as the said John Golborne;

Item, unto William Stanley, gentleman-usher, the sum of thirteen pounds six shillings eight pence during his like service as the said John;

Item, unto Edward Stanley the sum of twenty pounds during his like service as the said John Golborne;

Item, unto Giles Clothier the sum of twenty pounds during his like service as the said John Golborne;

Item, unto George Evans the sum of thirteen pounds six shillings eight pence during his like service as the said John Golborne;

Item, to William Johnson ye sum of ten pounds during his like service as the said John Golborne;

Item, unto William Stanley of (blank) the sum of five pounds during his like service as the said John Golborne;

Item, unto John Burdett the sum of ten pounds during his like service as the said John Golborne;

Item, unto Hugh Tildesley the sum of ten pounds during his like service as the said John Golborne;

Item, unto Robert Butler the sum of five pounds during his like service as the said John Golborne;

Item, unto George Haughton the sum of three pounds six shillings eight pence during his like service as the said John Golborne;

Item, unto Cuthbert Smith the sum of three pounds six shillings eight pence during his like service as the said John Golborne;

Item, unto George Burstowghe [=Burscoughe?] the sum of forty shillings during his like service as the said John Golborne;

Item, unto Thomas Atkinson the sum of forty shillings during his like service as the said John Golborne;

Item, unto Tristram Wardell the sum of forty shillings during his like service as the said John Golborne;

Item, unto Andrew Rediche the sum of thirteen pounds six shillings eight pence during his like service as the said John Golborne;

Item, unto Thomas Cropper the sum of six pounds thirteen shillings four pence during his like service as the said John Golborne;

Item, unto Thomas Weston, coachman, the sum of three pounds six shillings eight pence during his like service as the said John Golborne;

Item, unto Philip Lillie [=Lyly?] the sum of forty shillings during his like service as the said John Golborne;

Item, unto John Bradley the sum of three pounds six shillings eight pence during his like service as the said John Golborne;

Item, unto Matthew Styropp the sum of forty shillings during his like service as the said John Golborne;

Item, unto Edward Smith the sum of five pounds during his like service as the said John Golborne;

Item, unto John Patten the sum of forty shillings during his like service as the said John Golborne;

Item, unto Joan Huggins the sum of forty shillings during her like service as the said John Golborne;

Item, unto Margaret Fletcher the sum of forty shillings during her like service as the said John Golborne;

Item, unto Ann Cooper the sum of twenty shillings during her like service as the said John Golborne;

The said mentioned sums or rents to be issuing and going out of all and singular the lands, tenements and hereditaments of the said Earl and to have continuance severally as aforesaid;

Item, the said Earl doth will and bequeath unto the persons hereafter named the several sums hereafter mentioned, viz.:

Imprimis he doth bequeath unto the right reverend father in God, William, Lord Bishop of Chester, one cup of plate of the value of six pounds thirteen shillings four pence;

Item, to my very loving friend, Sir Richard Shuttleworth, knight, whom I heartily thank for his great pains, one cup of plate of the value of six pounds thirteen shillings four pence;

Item, to my loving cousin, Henry Stanley, esquire, one cup of plate of the value of six pounds thirteen shillings four pence;

Item, to John Davis the sum of five pounds for a legacy;

Item [-item], unto Thomas Tidder the sum of six pounds for a legacy;

Item, unto Morgan Edwards the sum of five pounds for a legacy;

Item, unto John Looke(?) the sum of five pounds for a legacy;

Item, unto Henry Holcroft the sum of five pounds for a legacy;

Item, unto Ferdinando Cropper the sum of three pounds six shillings eight pence for a legacy;

Item, unto Mrs Jane Radcliffe the sum of ten pounds for a legacy;

Item, unto Mrs Lucy Porter the sum of five pounds for a legacy;

Item, unto John Geares(?) the sum of five pounds for a legacy.

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram venerabili viro magistro willelmo Lewin legum doctore curie prerogative Cantuariensis magistro custode siue

comissario duodecimo die mensis Octobris Anno Domini millesimo quingentesimo nonagesimo quarto Iuramento Thome Browne Notarij publici procuratoris Honorande ffemine domine Alicie Comitisse Derbien relicte executricis in huiusmodi testamento nominate &c Cui comissa fuit Administracio bonorum iurium et creditorum dicti defuncti De bene et fideliter Administrando &c Ad sancta Dei Evangelia Iurate

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