

SUMMARY: The document below is the last will and testament, dated 12 February 1553 (lands) and 18 September 1554 (goods) and proved 26 November 1556, of Sir John Gresham (c.1495 – 23 October 1556) of Titsey, Surrey, Lord Mayor of London in 1547, grandfather of William Leveson (d.1621), one of the trustees used by William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon and others in the transfer of shares in the Globe theatre in 1599. For the will of William Leveson, see TNA PROB 11/137/600.

The testator's wife, Mary Ipswell, was the half sister of Elizabeth (nee Harding) Pakington, grandmother of Humphrey Martyn (d.1587?), addressee of the *Langham Letter* describing Leicester's entertainment of Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575.

For an earlier transcript of the testator's will, see Leveson Gower, Granville, *Genealogy of the Family of Gresham*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1883), p. 30 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YNQKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA30>

For the inquisitions post mortem taken after the testator's death, see TNA C 142/108/98 (Surrey), TNA C 142/116/89 (Kent), and Leveson Gower, *supra*, p. 136.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the testator's family background, see the pedigree in Howard, Joseph Jackson and George John Armytage, eds., *The Visitation of London in the Year 1568*, (London: Harleian Society, 1869), Vol. I, p. 15 at:

<https://archive.org/details/visitationoflond00cook/page/14>

See also the Wikipedia entry edited by the author of this website at:

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

MARRIAGES AND ISSUE

Testator's first marriage

The testator married firstly Mary Ipswell (d. 21 September 1538), the daughter of the London mercer, William Ipswell (d.1507), and his wife, Marion. For the will of William Ipswell (d.1507), see TNA PROB 11/15/406, and:

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Ipswell-2>

After the death of William Ipswell, his widow, Marion, married secondly the London goldsmith, Robert Harding (d.1515), father of Elizabeth (nee Harding) Pakington, the grandmother of Humphrey Martyn (d.1587?), addressee of the *Langham Letter* describing Leicester's entertainment of Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575. For the will of Robert Harding, see TNA PROB 11/18/194. For the will of Elizabeth (nee Harding) Pakington, see TNA PROB 11/46/444.

See also:

<https://wc.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=ancestorsearch&id=I69526>

Testator's second marriage

The testator married secondly Katherine Sampson (d.1576?), widow of Edward Dormer (d.1539) of Fulham, Middlesex, brother of Sir Michael Dormer, Lord Mayor of London in 1541. She is said to have been buried at St Michael's, Bassishaw, on 9 January 1576. See Leveson Gower, *supra*, p. 166. For the will of her first husband, Edward Dormer, see TNA PROB 11/28/4. For the Dormer pedigree see Leveson Gower, *supra*, pp. 154-5 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YNQKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA154>

Testator's children

By Mary Ipswell, the testator had twelve children between 1522 and 1538. For the births of the testator's children, see Leveson Gower, *supra*, p. 21, at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YNQKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA21>

The testator had three sons and five daughters living at the time he made his will:

* **William Gresham** (25 April 1522 – 20 June 1579), eldest son and heir, who married Beatrice Guybon (d. 22 May 1604), daughter of Thomas Guybon of King's Lynn, Norfolk. See Leveson Gower, *supra*, p. 170. For the inquisition post mortem taken in Kent after his death, see TNA C 142/186/14, and Leveson Gower, *supra*, p. 136. For the inquisition post mortem taken after the death of his wife, Beatrice, see TNA C 142/285/155.

* **John Gresham** (14 March 1528 – 1578?), second son, of North End, Fulham, Middlesex, and Mayfield, Sussex, who married, on 17 July 1553, Elizabeth Dormer (d.1615), daughter and heir of Edward Dormer (d.1539) of London and Fulham, haberdasher, and Katherine Sampson (the testator's second wife). He is said to have been buried in the vault of Sir Thomas Gresham in St Helen's, Bishopsgate, on 3 December 1578. See Leveson Gower, *supra*, pp. 151, 155, 166. After his death his widow,

Elizabeth, married William Plumbe (d.1593) of Northend near Fulham. See Leveson Gower, *supra*, p. 23. See also the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/gresham-john-1529-86>

* **Edmund Gresham** (12 August 1530 – 30 June 1584), esquire, who married Joan Hynde, eldest daughter of Augustine Hynde, alderman of London. See Leveson Gower, *supra*, p. 151. For the inquisition post mortem taken in Norfolk after his death, see TNA C 142/212/47, and Leveson Gower, *supra*, p. 138.

* **Mary Gresham** (b. 17 August 1523), eldest daughter, who married, on 24 January 1540 at St Mary Aldermanbury, Sir Thomas Rowe (2 September 1570) of Hackney, Lord Mayor of London in 1568. See Leveson Gower, *supra*, pp. 151, 156, 166. For his will, proved 31 October 1570, see TNA PROB 11/52/418. For her will, proved 18 January 1583, see TNA PROB 11/65/13. For the funeral certificate for Sir Thomas Rowe, see Leveson Gower, *supra*, p. 9.

* **Ellen Gresham** (24 May 1533 - 1567), third daughter, who married, about 8 May 1545 at St Mary Aldermanbury, William Uvedale (d. 2 June 1569) of Wickham, Hampshire. See Leveson Gower, *supra*, p. 166, and Leveson Gower, Granville, 'Notices of the Family of Uvedale of Titsey, Surrey, and Wickham, Hants.', *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, Vol. III, (London: Lovell Reeve & Co., 1865), pp. 62-192 at pp. 114-117, 174-7:

<https://archive.org/details/surreyarchaeolog03surruoft/page/114>

* **Ursula Gresham** (21 October 1534-1574?), who married, on 29 May 1553, Thomas Leveson (1532 – 21 April 1576), esquire, of Halling, Kent, son of the London mercer Nicholas Leveson (d.1539) and Denise or Dionyse Bodley (d.1561), the daughter of Thomas Bodley (d.1493) and Joan Leche (d. March 1530), by whom she was the mother of William Leveson (d.1621) one of two trustees used by Cuthbert Burbage, Richard Burbage, William Kempe, Thomas Pope (d.1603), Augustine Phillips (d.1605), John Heminges (bap. 1566, d. 1630) and William Shakespeare (1564-1616) to allocate shareholdings in the Globe Theatre in 1599. See Leveson Gower, *supra*, p. 166. For the will of Thomas Leveson, see TNA PROB 11/58/397.

* **Cecily Gresham** (12 February 1535 – 10 January 1609), who married, on 20 January 1544 at St Michael's, Bassishaw, a Spanish merchant, German Cioll. She resided at Crosby Place. See:

John Stow, 'Notes: Volume 1, pp.101-200', in *A Survey of London. Reprinted From the Text of 1603*, ed. C L Kingsford (Oxford, 1908), pp. 283-308. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/no-series/survey-of-london-stow/1603/pp283-308> [accessed 17 March 2019].

For her will, proved 9 February 1610, see TNA PROB 11/115/130, and Cox, John Edmund, *The Annals of St. Helen's, Bishopsgate, London*, (London: Tinsley Brothers, 1876), p. 78 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=coAyAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA78>

* **Elizabeth Gresham** (b. 19 November 1537, living 21 March 1579), who married, early in 1558, James Eliot (living 1586) of Godalming and Albury, mercer. See Leveson Gower, *supra*, p. 166.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

For the testator's brother, William Gresham (d.1547), who married Mary Bodley, the daughter of Richard Bodley, see Leveson Gower, *supra*, p. 150.

For the testator's brother, Thomas Gresham (d.1557), a priest, see Leveson Gower, *supra*, p. 150.

For the testator's sister, Margaret King, wife of Henry King, girdler, see Leveson Gower, *supra*, p. 150.

For the testator's sister-in-law, Isabel, Lady Gresham, see Leveson Gower, *supra*, p. 150.

For the testator's brother-in-law, William Harding (c.1508-1549), see:

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Harding-4926>

Sir John Gresham had married Mary Ipswell. Mary's mother, Marion, following the death of her husband, Walter Ipswell, appears to have married Robert Harding, the father of William Harding. Mary, the wife of Sir John Gresham, and William Harding were presumably half siblings.

For John Marshe (d.1579), who married the testator's niece, Alice Gresham, see Leveson Gower, *supra*, p. 150, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/marshe-john-1516-79>

For the testator's uncle, William Gresham of Walsingham, Norfolk, see Leveson Gower, *supra*, p. 149.

'Old Mrs Leveson was likely Dionyse Bodley (d.1561), mother of the testator's son-in-law, Thomas Leveson. For her will, see TNA PROB 11/43/645.

For Edward North (c.1504-1564), 1st Baron North, from whom the testator purchased Mayfield in Sussex, see the *ODNB* entry.

For the testator's nephew and overseer, Sir Thomas Gresham (c.1518-1579), see the *ODNB* entry.

For the testator's overseer Sir Rowland Hill (c.1495-1561), see the *ODNB* entry.

TESTATOR'S LANDS

For the testator's lands, see the grants in Leveson Gower, *supra*, pp. 145 ff.

For the testator's manor of Stangrave alias Edenbridge, see:

Edward Hasted, 'Parishes: Eatonbridge', in *The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent: Volume 3* (Canterbury, 1797), pp. 179-188. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/survey-kent/vol3/pp179-188> [accessed 15 March 2019].

For the testator's manor of Broadham, see Brayley, Edward Wedlake, *A Topographical History of Surrey*, Vol. IV, Part I, p. 173 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=7yxNAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA173>

For the testator, see also *The Cabinet Portrait Gallery of British Worthies*, (London: Charles Knight, 1845), Vol. IV, p. 9 at:

https://archive.org/stream/cabinetportraitg4_lond#page/n13/mode/2up

[WILL OF GOODS]

RM: T{estamentum} d{omi}ni Ioh{ann}is Gresh{a}m mi{li}t{is}

In the name of God, Amen. The eighteenth day of September in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred fifty and four and in the first and second years of the reigns of Philip and Mary by the grace of God King and Queen of England, France, Naples, Jerusalem and Ireland, Defenders of the Faith, Princes of Spain and Sicily, Archdukes of Austria, Dukes of Milan, Burgundy and Brabant, Counties of Hapsburg, Flanders and Tyrol, I, Sir John Gresham, knight, citizen and alderman of London, being whole of mind and body and in good and perfect remembrance, laud and praise be unto Almighty God, make, ordain and dispose this my present testament and last will touching and concerning the disposition of all my goods, chattels, plate, jewels and debts in manner and form following:

First and principally I give and commend my soul unto Almighty God and unto his only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, my Saviour and Redeemer, in whom and by the merits of

whose most blessed death, passion and resurrection I trust and believe to be saved and to have full and clear remission and forgiveness of my sins;

And I will my body be in honest manner buried, and if I decease within the city of London, then I will me to be buried in the parish of Saint Michael's in Bassishaw in London by the discretion of mine executors hereunder named;

And also I give and bequeath to threescore poor men threescore gowns of the value of 26s 8d apiece, and to forty poor women forty gowns of the value of 20s apiece every gown, and the gowns to be delivered to every one of them ready made the selfsame day that my body shall be buried, and I will the making of them to be paid for at my costs and charges;

And if it fortune me to decease without the city of London, then I will that my body be buried within that parish church where it shall fortune me to decease by th' advice and discretion of my said executors;

And after my burial, I will that all such debts and duties as I owe to any person or persons in right or in conscience shall be truly contented and paid;

And after my debts paid and my funeral expenses finished and done, I will and my mind is that all such black gowns and gold rings as I have bequeathed and given by this my last will to any person or persons shall be deduct out of my whole goods, chattels and substance or [=before] ever any part thereof be divided, and thus I charge my executors to do before they make any portion or division of my said goods, chattels and debts;

And I will that after the said deduction made, that then all and singular my goods, merchandizes, chattels, plate, jewels, household stuff and debts, whatsoever they be and wheresoever they shall be or may be found, as well within the realm of England as beyond the seas, shall be divided into three equal parts and portions according to the laudable use and custom of the city of London, whereof I leave, give and bequeath to Dame Katherine, my wife, one part of the same;

Also one other third part thereof I give and bequeath to my children unmarried equally amongst them to be divided and parted, and I will the same their parts and portions to be paid and delivered to them and every of them as they shall accomplish and come to their lawful ages of 21 years or marriage, and if it fortune any of my said children to decease before they shall accomplish and come to their said lawful age or marriage, then I will that the part or portion of him or her so deceasing shall remain wholly and come to and amongst the survivors of them;

And thother third part of all my goods, debts and chattels I reserve unto myself and to my executors to and towards the payment and performance of my legacies and bequests hereafter following, except before except, that is to say:

First I give and bequeath unto the high altar of the parish church of Our Lady in Aldermanbury whereof late I was a parishioner for my tithes forgotten or withholden negligently, 10s;

And more, to the reparations and amending of all things that doth appertain unto the said church of Aldermanbury £6 13s 4d, the same to be paid to the churchwardens there to th' use of the said church;

Item, I give and bequeath to the buildings and reparations and other necessities to be had in the parish church of Saint Mary Magdalen in Milk Street where I was sometime a parishioner twenty marks, to be bestowed by the discretion of the churchwardens and parishioners of the same parish;

Item, I give and bequeath towards the buying of ornaments and other necessities for the parish church of Bassishaw where I am a parishioner £16 13s 4d;

Item, I give and bequeath to be distributed and dealt amongst the poor householders of the 24 wards in London two hundred and forty pounds, that is to say, to every ward ten pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath to be distributed to poor maidens' marriages within the city of London a hundred pounds, whereof I will every of them shall have 10s;

Item, I give and bequeath to seven prison-houses hereafter named, that is to say, Ludgate, Newgate, the Marshalsea, the King's Bench and the two Counters and the convict house at Westminster £14, that is to say, amongst the prisoners of every of them 40s;

Item, I give and bequeath to the poor people of every one of the five lazar-houses next about the city of London twenty shillings apiece, that is to say, every house 20s;

Item, I give and bequeath to the new-erected hospital called St. Bartholomew's Spital in London, of the foundation of the most excellent prince of famous memory King Henry the Eight, for the relief and comfort of the poor people there the sum of £66 13s 4d;

And also to the hospital lately founded within the late house called the Grey Friars and now called Christ's Church fifty pounds, the said fifty pounds to be paid within three months after my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath to the repairing and amending of highways being most noisome and foul within twenty miles' compass of the city of London, and specially southwards, fifty pounds by the discretion of mine executors;

Item, I give and bequeath to my brother, Thomas Gresham, priest, twenty pounds and a black gown;

Item, I give and bequeath [f. 192v] to my sister, Margaret King, wife to Henry King, girdler, thirty-three pounds six shillings and eight pence, and to every child that she now hath £20, to be paid to the said children as they shall accomplish and come to their lawful ages of twenty years or marriage, and if it happen any of the said children to decease before their said lawful age or marriage, then I will that the part or portion of him or her so deceasing shall remain and be equally divided amongst the other surviving, and if it shall fortune that it shall please God to take them all out of this present life and my sister then living, I will then that my said sister to have all such sums of money as to them is bequeathed;

And by this my present testament and last will I freely and clearly remit and forgive the said Henry King all such debts and duties as he shall owe me at the time of my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath to and amongst the daughters, children of mine uncle, William Gresham late of Walsingham in the county of Norfolk, which shall be living at the time of my decease twenty pounds amongst them equally to be divided;

Also I give and bequeath to my kinswoman's daughter, Thomas Candler's [=Chandler?] sister, sometime dwelling with Mistress Creswell, widow, ten pounds to her marriage;

Also I give and bequeath to Thomas Candler, mine apprentice, ten pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath to be dealt and distributed amongst the poor people householders dwelling and inhabiting within the town and parish of Holt Market in the county of Norfolk the sum of £33 6s 8d at the discretion of mine executors, to be understand I will that every such poor household shall have 10s or more if it so arise;

And where I was executor of the last will and testament of William Bottery [=Botry?], citizen and mercer of London, deceased, which said Mr Botry by his said last will and testament bequeathed, amongst other things therein contained, to and amongst poor maids' marriages dwelling within the parish of Thorpe in the county of Norfolk and other towns thereunto adjoining which held or did owe any suit or service to the manor of Thorpe Market in the said county the sum of two hundred pounds, which is a mere debt due to be paid whereof I have already paid £70, and so remaineth yet in my hands of the said Mr Botry's goods unpaid of the said legacy a hundred and thirty pounds, I will therefore according to the trust to me committed that mine executors shall within one year next after my decease without any further or longer delay pay and distribute the said £130 in my hands remaining to and amongst poor maidens' marriages of such poor maids as shall dwell in the said parish of Thorpe Market and thother towns and parishes thereunto adjoining which do hold or ought to do any suit or service unto the said manor of Thorpe Market aforesaid in preferment of their marriages, that is to say, to every maid forty shillings until the said hundred and thirty pounds be fully distributed and paid;

Item, I give and bequeath to every of the persons hereafter ensuing, that is to say, first to my cousin, Paul Gresham, and to my cousin his wife, to every of them [-to every of them] a ring of gold of the value of forty shillings apiece;

Item, to Anne Bower a black gown and a ring of gold, price 40s;

To Christopher Mering, William Southwod, Thomas Peirson, scrivener, and William Bowyer, to every of them a ring of gold of the value of forty shillings;

Item, I give and bequeath to my Lady Gresham, my sister [=sister-in-law], a black gown and a ring of gold, price three pounds six shillings and eight pence;

And to Mr William Dom{m}er [=Dormer?] a black gown and a ring of gold, price three pounds six shillings and eight pence;

Item, I give and bequeath to Leverich Foster [=Forster], one of the clerks of the Mercers of the city of London, a black gown and a ring of gold of the value of 40s;

Item, I give and bequeath to my well-beloved nephew, Thomas Gresham, and his wife, to every of them a black gown;

Item, to my son-in-law, William Uvedale, and Helen, his wife to each of them a black gown, and to each of them a gold ring of forty shillings apiece;

Item, to Thomas Leveson, my son-in-law, and to Ursula, his wife, to every of them a black gown, and to either of them a gold ring of forty shillings apiece;

Item, to the said Thomas Leveson and Ursula, his wife, to either of them twenty pounds, and to their son now living, twenty pounds;

And to old Mrs Leveson a ring of gold, price 40s;

And to the parson of Bassishaw a ring of gold, price three pounds six shillings and eight pence;

Item, I give and bequeath to the late wife of my brother [=brother-in-law], William Harding, a ring of gold of the value of forty shillings, and in like manner another to Mr Warner, her husband;

Item, I give and bequeath to Richard Kempshall and Robert Rowett, my servants, to either of them a black coat of two yards apiece;

Item, I give and bequeath to Mr James Skynner a ring of gold of three pounds six shillings eight pence, and to his wife another of forty shillings;

And unto John Southcot, esquire, a ring of gold of three pounds six shillings and eight pence, and in ready money £16 13s 4d, and to his wife another ring of forty shillings;

Also I give and bequeath to my cousin Crafford's wife, widow, a ring of gold, price forty shillings;

And to John Harlowe, one of the clerks of the Counters, a black gown and a ring of gold of the value of forty shillings;

Item, I give and bequeath to the worshipful Company of the Mercers in London, to th' intent to have a dinner amongst them in their common hall called the Mercers' Hall, thirteen pounds six shillings and eight pence of lawful money of England, desiring them after dinner to have my soul in remembrance with their prayers, and if the same dinner extend above the sum of thirteen pounds six shillings and eight pence, then my mind and will is that my executors shall content and pay the same, so always that it amounteth not above the sum of six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence besides the said thirteen pounds six shillings and eight pence;

Item, I give and bequeath to every of mine apprentices that now be a black gown and six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence apiece, and to every of them which have been my prentices in times past a black gown;

Item, I give and bequeath to Katherine Fuller and Joan Kempsall, to every of them five pounds and a black gown;

Item, I give to Ellyn forty shillings and a black gown;

Item, I give and bequeath to Ellyn Thomkyns [f. 193r] and Margaret Lynedorne, my servants, to either of them five pounds;

Item, to William Gaye and Richard Gay, my porter's sons, to either of them ten pounds, to be paid at full age;

Item, I give and bequeath to William Ache, my servant, a black gown;

And I give to Philip Reynolds of Titsey the bailiwick of Limpsfield and Broadham, and make him my rent-gatherer of Limpsfield and of Oxted with a fee of three pounds six shillings and eight pence to be paid to the said Philip during his natural life going out of my manors of Limpsfield and Broadham in the county of Surrey at two terms in the year, that is to say, at the feasts of Saint Michael th' Archangel and th' Annunciation of Our Lady by even portions, with clause of distress in the said manors for non-payment thereof;

Item, I give and bequeath to Brian Mylles, James Cooke, Hugh Cook, John Johnson, Richard Giles, William Gay, my porter, to every one of them a black gown and forty shillings apiece every man;

And I will and ordain furthermore by this my present testament and last will that if any person or persons after my decease shall claim or demand any duty by way of restitution

or otherwise and so proved by sufficient witnesses before mine executors, then I will that mine executors shall truly content and pay to every such person & persons so claiming all such duties as before mine executors shall appear to be due in right or in conscience, as my trust is in them and as they will answer before God to the contrary at the general day of judgment;

Item, I give unto my cousin, John Marshe, and to his wife, either of them a black gown, and to the said John Marshe a ring of gold of three pounds, and to his wife a ring of gold of forty shillings;

Item, I give to Agnes Richardson, my maid, six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence, to be paid at the day of her marriage;

Item, to Joan Smythe, my maid, five pounds, to be paid at the day of her marriage;

And I revoke and disannul by these presents all and singular wills and testaments by me before this time in any wise made with the legacies and bequests in them contained and also all and singular executors and overseers therein and in them expressed touching the disposition of my goods and chattels, and that none of them shall stand in strength ne effect but only this my present testament containing therein my last will with the legacies, bequests, executors and overseers therein contained;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth Gresham one hundred pounds over and above her portion, to be levied and paid out of my part and portion, and to be paid to her at the day of her marriage or full age;

And also I give and bequeath to my daughter, Ellen Uvedale, wife to William Uvedale, one hundred marks to be paid out of my part upon condition that if the said William Uvedale do make any brabbling or other demand of mine executors and doth deny at the payment thereof to make them a general acquittance, then I will this gift to be clearly void and of none effect;

And if it shall fortune me to die, any of my children being orphans, then I will that mine executors or other whosever shall have any of my said orphans' portions or money in occupying by consent of my Lord Mayor, to put in sufficient sureties as well for the legacy money as for the orphanage to the Chamber of London in the Court of Orphanage before the said Lord Mayor for the same;

And if it fortune any of my said orphans to decease (as God defend) before they be married or come to their full age the other of them remaining alive, then I will that she or he being alive and surviving thother shall have and enjoy th' whole hundred pounds of her so deceased;

And if it shall fortune them both to decease (as God defend) before that they or any of them shall come to be married or of full age, then I will that Ellen Uvedale have £33 6s

8d, parcel of the said hundred pounds, and Mary Rowe other £33 6s 8d, parcel of the same, and Cecily Jermyn the other £33 6s 8d, residue of the said hundred pounds;

Also I give & bequeath to Elizabeth Gresham, wife to my son, John Gresham, fifty marks;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Mary Rowe, my daughter, threescore six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence, and unto Thomas Rowe, her husband, fifty marks;

Item, I give and bequeath to every child that my son Rowe hath twenty pounds, to be paid to them by mine executors at their lawful age or marriages;

Also I give and bequeath to every child that my son, William Gresham, have alive at my departing this present world fifty pounds apiece, to be paid by mine executors at their lawful ages or marriages;

Also I will that thirty loads of cart coals shall be distributed amongst the poor inhabitants of the parish of Saint Michael's in Bassishaw where I now dwell by three loads every year for the space [+of] ten years;

And in like manner over and besides I will that there be dealt and distributed to the poor prisoners of Newgate every year between Hallow-tide and Christenmas three loads of coals till 12 years be past;

Also I will that mine executors shall pay £25 for making of Alexander Cornwoll, my servant, free of the Staplers at such time as he shall be made free of the said Company;

And of this my present testament and last will I make and ordain mine executors John Gresham, my son, Dame Katherine, my wife, my son-in-law, Thomas Rowe, and my son, Edmund Gresham, in whom I have earnest trust and perfect belief that they will see this my said testament in all points justly performed according to my bequests and devices [=devises] herein declared and mentioned;

And I give to my son-in-law, Thomas Rowe, for like intent fifty marks, and to every of them and their wives a black gown, and every of them a ring of gold, price of every ring three pounds six shillings and eight pence;

And overseers of the same my last will and testament I [f. 193v] constitute and make Sir Rowland Hill and Sir Andrew Judd, knights and aldermen of the city of London, and my well-beloved nephew, Thomas Gresham, unto the which said Sir Rowland Hill and Sir Andrew Judd I give and bequeath for their diligence and pains taken herein ten pounds apiece, and to every of them a black gown, and to my nephew, Thomas Gresham, £20, desiring and praying them all heartily together to take such pains for me, my wife and children herein as they would other men should do for them in case like;

And further I most heartily desire and pray them earnestly to command and call upon mine executors to bring in my inventory of all my goods, jewels and plate into the council chamber before my Lord Mayor and his brethren, and in no wise to drive or prolong the time as we have done my brother's, Sir Richard Gresham, and if it please my Lord Mayor to call it in within six weeks, I will my said Lord Mayor have for his labour forty shillings and a black gown;

And further I will and bequeath to the right heir of Lytkin Vovolde, Genovese, which sometime did dwell in London, for and in discharge of my conscience of twenty pieces of good kerseys valued to be worth forty shillings apiece, forty pounds in ready money to be paid to his right heir by good certificate from Jeane [=Genoa] to be had and seen;

The residue of all my said part to me as is above reserved, after my legacies and bequests above expressed and all manner of my debts and duties truly contented and paid, I will that the residue of my said part to be distributed in deeds of charity and pity to the poor householders by the discretion and will of mine executors, and in especially if any of mine own children shall hereafter in decay, then I will that mine executors shall succour and help him or them with a part and portion thereof according to their discretions, even as the[y] would be holpen and relieved themselves if they were in like case of extremity;

In witness whereof to this my present testament and last will I, the said Sir John Gresham, have set my seal and subscribed my name in the presence of those whose names be hereunder written, being specially called to bear witness to the same. By me, John Gresham, alderman. P{er} me Iacobum Skynner. By me, John Southcote, one of the under-sheriffs of London. P{er} me Iohannem Anderton, r{ec}torem eccl{es}ie Sancti Michaelis in Bassishaw. By me, John Harlowe, one of the clerks of the Counter in the Poultry and writer of this testament.

RM: Ex{ } p{er} W et P

[WILL OF LANDS]

This is the last will and testament of me, Sir John Gresham, knight, citizen and alderman of London, touching and concerning the order and disposition of all and singular my lordships, manors, lands, tenements, rents, possessions and hereditaments which I have as well within the counties of Surrey, Sussex, Kent, Norfolk, Buckingham and the city of London as elsewhere within the realm of England, made the 12th day of the month of February in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred fifty and two [=12 February 1553] and in the seventh year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord Edward the Sixth by the grace of God King of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, and of the Church of England and also of Ireland in earth the Supreme Head, in manner and form following, that is to say:

First I will and bequeath unto Dame Katherine, my wife, during her natural life in full satisfaction and recompense of all her dower which she may claim or ought to have out of

my manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments, all and singular those manors, messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments hereafter expressed, that is to say:

All that my manor of Hethenden otherwise called Henden in the county of Kent, with all and singular the members and appurtenances;

And all that my mansion and lodge of Hethenden otherwise called Henden Park thereunto adjoining, and all the lands, tenements, meadows and pastures lying within the precinct and compass of the park pale of the same Hethenden Park within the parishes of Sundridge, Brasted, Chiddingstone in the said county of Kent now in the holding of Robert Stone of Sundridge aforesaid and Anne, his wife, and all and singular other my messuages, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments, whatsoever they be, now accepted, taken, occupied, used or reputed as part, parcel or member of the said manor of Hethenden otherwise called Henden;

And whereas I, the said Sir John Gresham, by deed indented bearing date the 16th day of February in the 34th year [=16 February 1543] of the reign of the late King of most famous memory, King Henry the Eight, have demised, granted and to farm letten unto one Brian Gaville of Westerham in the county of Kent, yeoman, and Margaret, his wife, for term of certain years yet enduring all that farm which is parcel of the manor of Westerham called the curtilage of Westerham in the said county of Kent with all edifices and buildings to the same farm belonging, and also all that my tenement called Charmanes in Westerham aforesaid, with all the houses, lands, meadows and pastures with all and singular their appurtenances to the said manor, farm, curtilage and tenement of Charmanes [f. 194r] or to either of them appertaining or belonging, together with the gains and profits of the coneys belonging unto the said manor, yielding and paying therefore yearly unto me, mine heirs and assigns, twenty-three pounds six shillings and eight pence, as by the said deed indented it doth and may more at large appear:

Item, I will, give and bequeath unto the said Dame Katherine, my wife, in further recompense of her said dower, all that my said manor or farm of Westerham aforesaid and other the premises with their appurtenances demised to the said Brian Gavile and Margaret, his wife, and the reversion of the same, to have and to hold unto the said Dame Katherine, my wife, and her assigns during her natural life;

Also I give and bequeath unto the said Dame Katherine, my wife, all that my manor of Warlingham and the parsonage of Warlingham in the said county of Surrey with all and singular their members & appurtenances now demised and granted by indenture for term of years to one John Cater, vintner of London;

And all that my manor of Felcourt, Sanderstead and Langhurst in the said county of Surrey;

And also all that my farm wherein Stevyn of Loffsted dwelleth and payeth by year ten pounds;

And also all that my manor of Rowholt in the parish of Warlingham with th' appurtenances in the said county of Surrey late in the tenure of William Harding and now in the tenure of one Mr Warner;

And all that my farm, messuages, lands and tenements with their appurtenances in the parish of Marten in the said county of Surrey called Westbarnes now in the tenure of Thomas Carpenter;

And all that my parsonage of Mayfield otherwise called the parsonage of Maigfeld in the county of Sussex now in the tenure and farm of William Pankhurst for fifteen pounds by year;

And also all that my parsonage of Wadhurst in the said county of Sussex now in the tenure of Thomas Darrell for eleven pounds by year;

And also all that my manor of Woldingham with th' appurtenances in the said county of Surrey now in the tenure of Richard Kemsall;

And all that my message, lands and tenements in Woldingham aforesaid now in the tenure of Robert Rowete;

And all and singular other my messuages, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments, whatsoever they be, now accepted, taken, occupied, used or reputed as part, parcel or members of the foresaid manors of Felcourte, Sanderstead, Langhurst, Warlingham, parsonage of Warlingham, the parsonage of Mayfield, the parsonage of Wadhurst, Rowholt, Woldingham and farm called Westbarnes and other the premises before given or to any of them;

To have and to hold the said manors of Felcourte, Sanderstead, Langhurst, the parsonage of Warlingham, the parsonage of Mayfield, the parsonage of Wadhurst, the manor of Warlingham, Rowholt, Woldingham farms wherein Richard Kemsall and Robert Rowete dwelleth and all other the premises with their appurtenances to the said Dame Katherine and to her assigns during her natural life;

Moreover I give and bequeath unto the said Dame Katherine, my wife, in further recompense of her said dower, all that my message or tenement with th' appurtenances set and being in Milk Street in the parish of Saint Mary Magdalen in Milk Street in London now in the tenure of Nicholas Byngham, haberdasher;

And all my messuages, lands and tenements with th' appurtenances in Bassishaw in London aforesaid except the great message or tenement with th' appurtenances wherein I now do inhabit and dwell;

To have and to hold all and singular the foresaid messuages or tenements with th' appurtenances, except before excepted, unto the said Dame Katherine, my wife, during her natural life;

And further I will and bequeath my said great messuage or tenement with th' appurtenances in Bassishaw aforesaid wherein I do now inhabit or dwell unto the said Dame Katherine, my wife, as long as she shall live sole and unmarried;

Provided always and my mind and will is that if my said wife at any time after my decease shall not be contented with the manors, lands, tenements to her before willed and appointed, but shall claim dower or jointure in any other of my manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments, that then this my last will made and declared to her of the premises shall be clearly void and of none effect;

Item, I leave and suffer to descend and come to William Gresham, my eldest son and heir apparent, my manor of Titsey alias Tythesey in the said county of Surrey with all the members and appurtenances thereunto appertaining;

And all other my messuages, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments whatsoever they be in the towns, parishes, fields of Titsey alias Tythesey aforesaid;

And also my manors of Limpsfield and Broadham in the said county of Surrey with all the members and appurtenances thereto appertaining;

And also my capital mansion and tenement called 'le place' with all and singular th' appurtenances in the parish of Oxsted in the said county of Surrey which I, the said Sir John Gresham, lately purchased of Sir Thomas Pope, knight;

And all and singular other my messuages, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments, whatsoever they be, set, lying and being in Limpsfield, Broadham and Oxsted in the said county of Surrey or in any of them, except my manor of Langhurst with th' appurtenances;

Also I leave and suffer to descend and come unto the said William Gresham, my son, my manor of Etonbridge otherwise called Edolnebridge in the county of Kent and the parsonage of the same;

And my manor and parsonage of Westerham and all the rents, tenements, meadows, woods and underwoods to the same manor and parsonage of Westerham [f. 194v] and to the said manor and parsonage of Etonbridge or to any of them belonging or appertaining except the farm of the curtilage of Westerham and my tenement of Charemanes aforesaid bequeathed to Dame Katherine, my wife for term of her life;

Also I leave and suffer to descend and come unto the said William Gresham, my son, after the decease of Dame Katherine, my wife, all my farm and tenements wherein Stephen of Lofsted now dwelleth, being in the counties of Surrey and Kent;

And a certain quit-rent of 13s 4d paid out yearly of the lands belonging to Fickleshole which was belonging to my late brother, William Harding;

Also I leave and suffer to descend and come unto the said William Gresham, my son, all my lands, tenements [-tenements] and houses in Bowe, Brickhill and Little Brickhill with th' appurtenances in the county of Buckingham, and all other my lands, tenements and hereditaments in the said county of Buckingham;

Also I leave and suffer to descend and come to the said William Gresham, my son, my farm called Wellcombes and Laurence with all the members and appurtenances set lying and being in the parish of Wattington in the said county of Surrey now in th' occupation of one Rowete and Bassett;

Also I leave to descend unto the said William Gresham, my son, all that my messuage or tenement set and being in the parish of Saint Mary Magdalen in Milk Street in London now in the tenure and occupation of Robert Sharpe;

And further I, the said Sir John Gresham, will and devise by these presents that if the said William Gresham, my son, and his heirs be not contented with such portion as I have by these presents appointed to descend and come to him in full recompense and satisfaction of all such manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments as he or they ought for to have by the laws and statutes of this realm as heir unto me, then I will that the reversion of all such manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments which I have willed and bequeathed hereafter in these presents to my said son, William, after the decease of the said Dame Katherine, my wife, shall wholly remain and come unto John Gresham and Edmund Gresham, my sons, and to the heirs of their two bodies lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue I will the same to remain to Ursula, Cecily and Elizabeth, my daughters, and to the heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issues of their bodies lawfully begotten, I will the same to remain to Mary Rowe, my daughter, and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue the remainder thereof to Ellen Uvedale, my daughter, and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue the remainder thereof to the right heirs of me, the said Sir John Gresham, forever;

Also I give and bequeath to the said John Gresham, my son, my lordship and manor of Mayfield alias Maghefelde with the parks of Mayfield and Frankham in the county of Sussex;

And also after the decease of Dame Katherine, my wife, all that my said parsonages of Mayfield and Wadhurst in the same county of Sussex;

Also I give and bequeath to the said John Gresham, my son, all other my lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments whatsoever to the same manors, parks and parsonages or to any of them in any wise belonging or appertaining, used, reputed, taken or letten as part, parcel or members of the same or any of them;

And all other my messuages, mills, lands, woods, rents, reversions and services, tithes, pensions, portions and all other my possessions and hereditaments whatsoever they be with all and singular their appurtenances which I late bought and purchased of Sir Edward North, knight, now Lord North, set, lying and being in the towns, fields, parishes and hamlets of Mayfield alias Maghfelde, Wadhurst alias Wodhurste, Frankham and Lambhurst in the said county of Sussex or elsewhere within the said county of Sussex;

Also I give and bequeath unto the said John Gresham, my son, after the decease of the said Dame Katherine, my wife, my farm, messuages, lands and tenements called Westbarnes with all and singular th' appurtenances set, lying and being in the parish of Marten in the said county of Surrey;

To have and to hold the said manors of Mayfield, Wadhurst and parsonages, lands, tenements, parks, tithes and also my farm in Martin and other the premises aforesaid to the said John Gresham last before bequeathed with all and singular their appurtenances unto the said John Gresham, my son, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten upon condition hereafter following, that is to say, that the said John Gresham, my son, or his heirs of his body shall give and pay to Elizabeth Gresham, my daughter, his sister, that is to say at the day of her marriage or within one year after, of the issues, revenues and profits of the said manor of Mayfield with the parsonage of the same and the parsonage of Wadhurst and the parks of Mayfield and Wadhurst and the profits of all the lands, tenements and rents reputed, taken, known or letten for members or parts of the same one hundred pounds over and above her part of my goods to her belonging by the custom of the city of London;

And if it shall fortune the said John Gresham, my son, to decease without issue of his body lawfully begotten, then I will the same manors, parsonages, lands, tenements and all other the premises before to the said John Gresham, my son, bequeathed shall wholly remain and come to William Gresham, my son, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten upon like condition that the said William or the heirs males of his body shall pay unto my said daughter, Elizabeth, the said sum of a hundred pounds or as much thereof as shall be then unpaid in such manner and form as the said John is bound to do and perform;

And for default of such issue male of the body of the said [f. 195r] William Gresham begotten, then I will that the said manors, parsonages, lands, tenements and other the premises bequeathed unto the said John Gresham, my son, for lack of heirs of the body of the said John Gresham, and after that the said William Gresham shall decease and die without heirs male of his body lawfully begotten, shall wholly remain and come to the said Edmund Gresham, my son, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten

upon like condition for payment of the said hundred pounds to my said daughter, Elizabeth, or so much thereof as shall be then unpaid in form aforesaid;

And if it fortune the said Edmund to decease without issue male of his body lawfully begotten, and the said John Gresham to decease and die without heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and the said William Gresham to decease and die without heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, then I will that the said manors, parsonages, lands, tenements and other the premises devised unto the said John Gresham shall wholly remain to the right heirs of me, the said Sir John Gresham, forever, upon condition always to pay to my said daughter, Elizabeth, the said hundred pounds in form aforesaid or as much thereof as shall be then unpaid;

And for default of payment thereof I will the said manors and other the premises bequeathed to the said John Gresham, my son, shall after that my said son, John Gresham, shall decease and die without heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and the said William Gresham to decease and die without heirs of his body lawfully begotten, wholly remain and come to my said daughter, Elizabeth, and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten;

And I give and bequeath to Edmund Gresham, my son, my manor of Thorpe and Brusendes in the county of Norfolk with all and singular the members and appurtenances in the said county of Norfolk and all other my lands, tenements and hereditaments set and being in Holt in the said county of Norfolk which I late bought and purchased of my late brother, William Gresham, together with all other my lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments which I have in Holt aforesaid or elsewhere within the said county of Norfolk except my manor of Holt Hales and all other lands and tenements which I purchased of late of John Appleyard, esquire, and also except all those my lands, tenements and hereditaments which I late purchased of Sir Edmund Wyndham, knight, and Giles Sefowlde, esquire, and also except all those my lands, tenements and hereditaments being freehold which I late purchased of Thomas Toly(?) in Holt and Letheringsett in the said county of Norfolk;

Also I give and bequeath to the said Edmund Gresham, my son, after the decease of the said Dame Katherine, my wife, my manors of Sanderstead and Langhurst and all other my lands, tenements, rents, reversions and services with all and singular their appurtenances set, lying and being in the parish of Sanderstead in the said county of Surrey, and all the lands called Langhurst set, lying and being within the parish and fields of Limpsfield;

Also I give and bequeath to the said Edmund Gresham, my son, after the decease of the said Dame Katherine, my wife, my manor of Warlingham with all and singular the appurtenances, and the parsonage of Warlingham, the chapel of Chelsham with all tithes, profits and commodities to them belonging, and all other my lands and tenements, rents, reversions and services with all and singular their appurtenances in Warlingham and Chelsham in the said county of Surrey;

To have and to hold the said manor of Thorpe Bruserds and the said other lands and tenements which I bought of my said brother, William Gresham, and other the premises with the appurtenances in the county of Norfolk, except before excepted, and also my said manors of Sanderstead, Langhurst and Warlingham and all other the premises with all and singular their appurtenances in Warlingham and Chelsham in the said county of Surrey unto the said Edmund Gresham, my son, and [-and] to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And furthermore my mind and will is that after the decease of the said Dame Katherine, my wife, or if she claim any dower of any part of my lands and tenements and be not content with the portion to her given by this my last will, that then the foresaid tenements with all and singular their rights and appurtenances which I have in Milk Street aforesaid bequeathed to the said Dame Katherine, my wife, shall remain and come to the said William Gresham, my son, and his heirs forever;

Also I will and bequeath and my will and mind is that my tenement with th' appurtenances in the parish of Saint Pancras in London shall after my decease remain to Elizabeth Gresham, my daughter, and to her heirs forever;

Also I will and my mind is that immediately after the decease of the said Dame Katherine, my wife, that my foresaid manor of Hethenden otherwise called Henden in the said county of Kent with all and singular the members and appurtenances, and the mansion and lodge of Hethenden otherwise called Henden Park with all the houses, barns and stables thereunto belonging, together with all the park thereto adjoining and all lands, tenements, leasows and pastures lying within the precinct and compass of the park pale of the same Standen park within the parish of Sundridge, Brasted and Chiddingstone aforesaid, and all other messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever to the said manor of Hethenden belonging, and also all that my foresaid farm and curtilage of Westerham with the tenements of Charmaynes, and my manor of Woldingham and farm, lands, tenements and hereditaments in Woldingham aforesaid wherein the said Richard Kemsall and Robert Rowte do now inhabit and dwell, and also a parcel of ground called the manor of Rowholt with all the members and appurtenances of the same being in the parish of Chelsham now being in the tenure of Mr Warner and letten to Rowhedd and Bassett, and also all that my said manor of Felcourte with all and singular the appurtenances set, lying and being in the parish of Limpsfield in the said county of Surrey to her by me before devised and bequeathed for term of her life, shall remain and come to the said William Gresham, my son, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such [f. 195v] issue male of the body of the said William Gresham lawfully begotten, the remainder thereof to the said John Gresham, my son, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue male of the body of the said John Gresham lawfully begotten, the remainder thereof to the said Edmund Gresham and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue the remainder thereof to the said William Gresham, John Gresham, and Edmund Gresham, my sons, and to the heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten equally to be divided amongst them;

And for lack of such issue the remainder thereof to the right heirs of me, the said Sir John Gresham, forever more;

And to th' intent that this my present testament and last(?) will shall be taken and known to be my very true last will, I, the above-named Sir John Gresham, knight, have hereunto subscribed my name with mine own hand and set to my seal in the presence of those whose names be hereafter written, being specially called to be witnesses to the same. By me, John Gresham, alderman. Per me Iacobum Skynner. By me, John Southcote, one of the under-sheriffs of the city of London. By me, John Anderton, parson of Saint Michael in Bassishaw. By me, Thomas Rowe, Merchant Taylor. By me, John Harlowe, one of the clerks of the Counter in the Poultry, and writer of this will. Per me Francis Hendye. Per me Alexander Cornwell. Per me Anne Bower.

LM: Ex{ }res computauerut(?)

Probatum fuit h{uius}mo{d}i Testamentu{m} cora{m} mag{ist}ro Will{el}mo Coke(?) legum Doctore Cur{ie} Prerogatiue prefati Reuerendissimi Patris Com{m}issario siue Custod{e} xxvjto die mensis Novembris Anno Domini Mill{es}imo quingen{tesim}o lvjto Iuramento Iohannis Gresham Thome Roo et Edmundi Gresham executor{um} in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}ator{um} Ac approbatum et insinuat{um} Et com{m}issa fuit admi{n}istrac{i}o o{mn}i{u}m bonor{um} etc prefatis executoribus De b{e}n{e} etc Ac(?) de pleno Inuen{ta}rio Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{is} D{omi}na Katherina Relic{t}e et executrice etiam in h{uius}mo{d}i test{ament}o no{m}i{n}at{e} in persona M{agistri} Georgij Harrison no{tar}ij pu{bli}ci procuratoris sui etc renuntian{te}

[=The same testament was proved before Master William Coke(?), Doctor of the Laws, commissary or keeper of the Prerogative Court of the foresaid Most Reverend Father, on the 26th day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 56th by the oath of John Gresham, Thomas Rowe and Edmund Gresham, executors named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all the goods etc. to the forenamed executors, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc. and [+to exhibit] a full inventory, the Lady Katherine, relict and executrix also named in the same testament, renouncing in the person of Master George Harrison, notary public, her proctor, etc.]