

SUMMARY: The document below is the last will and testament, dated 17 November 1566 and proved 21 December 1566, of Edward Cooke, esquire, servant to Queen Elizabeth, and brother of Oxford's mother-in-law, Mildred (nee Cooke) Cecil (1526-1589), Lady Burghley.

According to Laoutaris, *infra*, pp. 68-9, the testator died 16 November 1566. However the will he made in Paris (see below) is dated 'Sunday the seventeenth day of November'.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the testator's family background, see the Cooke pedigree in *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society*, Vol. III, (London: J.B. Nichols, 1870), p. 306 at:

<http://www.lamas.org.uk/archives/transactions/transactions-vol03fs.html>

See also the Cooke pedigree in Laoutaris, Chris, *Shakespeare and the Countess*, (London: Fig Tree, 2014).

Testator's parents

The testator was the son of Sir Anthony Cooke (1505 – 11 June 1576), son of John Cooke (d. 7 October 1516), esquire, of Gidea Hall and Alice Saunders. For the will of the testator's father, Sir Anthony Cooke, see TNA PROB 11/59/110.

The testator's mother was Anne Fitzwilliam, the daughter of Sir William Fitzwilliam (d. 9 August 1534) by his first wife, Anne Hawe, daughter of the London mercer and alderman, John Hawe, and his wife, Margaret. See the will of John Hawe, TNA PROB 11/18/336, and the will of Sir William Fitzwilliam, TNA PROB 11/25/205. For Anne Fitzwilliam, see also the entry at:

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

Testator's siblings

The testator had three brothers and five sisters:

-**Anthony Cooke**, who is said to have died of the sweating sickness before 1555.

-**Richard Cooke** (1531 – 3 October 1579), who married, by 1559, Anne Cawnton (buried 25 September 1617), the daughter of the London haberdasher, John Cawnton, esquire, alderman of Bishopsgate ward from 1523-8, and sheriff in 1525-6, who is said to have

been among those ‘reduced to extreme poverty after exercising the offices of sheriff and mayor, or even one of them’. See Beaven, Alfred B., *The Aldermen of the City of London*, Vol. II, (London: Eden Fisher, 1908), p. 35 at:

<https://archive.org/details/BeavenABTheAldermenOfTheCityOfLondonTemp.HenryIII.WithNotesOnTheParliamentaryRep/page/n63>

See also the will of John Cawnton’s mother-in-law, Dame Elizabeth Thurston, dated 21 March 1520, in Bloom, J. Harvey, *Wayman Wills and Administrations*, (London: Wallace Gandy, 1922), pp. 6-10 at:

<https://archive.org/details/waymanwillsadmin00bloo/page/6>

For the will of Richard Cooke, see TNA PROB 11/61/533. Richard Cooke’s wife, Anne Cawnton, is mentioned in the will below.

-William Cooke (d. 14 May 1589), esquire, who married Frances Grey (d.1608), the daughter of Lord John Grey (d. 19 November 1564) of Pyrgo (in Havering), Essex, uncle of Lady Jane Grey (1537-1554), the ‘nine days Queen’, by Mary Browne (d. 4 February 1617), sister of Anthony Browne (1528-1592), 1st Viscount Montagu, and daughter of Sir Anthony Browne (29 June 1500 – 6 May 1548) and Alice Gage (d. 31 March 1540). See the will of Lord John Grey, TNA PROB 11/48/27; the will of Mary (nee Browne) Grey Capell, TNA PROB 11/130/133; the will of William Cooke, TNA PROB 11/74/523; and the will of Frances (nee Grey) Cooke, TNA PROB 11/111/120.

-Mildred Cooke (25 August 1526-1589), who married William Cecil, Lord Burghley. See the *ODNB* entry for William Cecil, and his will, TNA PROB 11/92/316. Their daughter, Anne Cecil (1556-1588), was Oxford’s first wife.

-Anne Cooke (c.1528-1610), who married Sir Nicholas Bacon (1510-1579), Lord Keeper. See the *ODNB* entries for Anne Cooke and Sir Nicholas Bacon.

-Margaret Cooke (d.1558), who married, as his second wife, Sir Ralph Rowlett (by 1513 – 20 April 1571). See the History of Parliament entry at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/rowlett-sir-ralph-1513-71>

According to the History of Parliament entry, Margaret Cooke died 3 August 1558. The Cooke pedigree, *supra*, thus appears to be in error in stating that she died and was buried 8 December 1551 in the parish of St Mary Staining, London.

-Elizabeth Cooke (c.1540-1609), who married firstly Sir Thomas Hoby (1530-1566), and secondly Lord John Russell, (c.1553 – 24 July 1584), second son of Francis Russell (1527 – 29 July 1585), 2nd Earl of Bedford. See the *ODNB* entry for Elizabeth Cooke,

and the will of the 2nd Earl of Bedford's second wife, Bridget (nee Hussey) Morison Manners Russell (1526-1601), TNA PROB 11/97/10.

-Katherine Cooke (d.1583), who married Sir Henry Killigrew (d.1603), whose nephew, Sir Maurice Berkeley (c.1577-1617), was the half brother of Thomas Russell (1570-1634), overseer of the will of William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon. For the will of Sir Henry Killigrew, see TNA PROB 11/101/273.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

Francis Southwell mentioned in the will below may have been the Francis Southwell who, together with Lord Henry Howard (1540-1614) and Charles Arundel (d.1587), was involved in libellous allegations against Oxford in late 1580 and early 1581. See BL Cotton Titus C.6, ff. 5-8; Archivo General de Simancas Leg. 835, f. 6; and TNA SP 12/151/47, ff. 105-8.

For Gabriel Goodman (1528–1601), Dean of Westminster, see the *ODNB* entry.

For Sir John Astley (c.1507-1596), Master of the Jewel House, see the *ODNB* entry:

An ambitious man would have been wise to make an equally judicious match within the golden circle of families closest to the queen but instead his choice fell on Margaret Lenton (d. in or after 1596), an illegitimate daughter of Lord Thomas Grey.

For Margaret Lenton see:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=677

Margaret Grey (d.1601), also called Margaret Lenton, was the illegitimate daughter of Lord Thomas Grey (x.1554), third son of the marquess of Dorset. By a license dated October 13, 1565, she married Sir John Astley, Master of the Queen's Jewel House (c.1507-August 1, 1596). They had three sons, John, William, and Francis, and three daughters. . . .

For the Paris notaries Jacques Bardin and Francois Delafons, see 'Conversations avec mes ancetres' at:

<https://conversationsancetres.wordpress.com/tag/louis-sevestre/>

For the gates of Paris, see *Historical Essays Upon Paris*, Vol. I, (London: G. Burnett, 1767), p. 20 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=QCOyy_P0iN4C&pg=PA20

The testament of Edward Cooke, esquire, deceased, remaining here in England whereof mention is made in the codicil annexed to these presents

RM: Test{amentu}m Edwardi Cooke

In nomine dei Amen. The last will and testament of me, Edward Cooke, esquire, servant to the Queen's Majesty, being of sound and perfect memory, in the year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., and in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred threescore and six:

First I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God, and my body to the ground to be buried in Christian burial;

Item, I give to Sir Nicholas Bacon, knight, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England, a cushion of crimson velvet embroidered with gold;

I give to Sir William Cecil, knight, Principal Secretary unto the Queen's Majesty, a silver jug all gilt over of the price of twenty nobles besides the fashion;

Item, I give to my sister Bacon a jewel of twenty pounds' price or twenty pounds in gold at her pleasure;

Item, I give to my sister Cecil three portagues of three pound ten shillings apiece;

I give to my sister Hoby three portagues of the same value;

I give to my sister Killigrew twenty marks in money;

I give to my sister [=sister-in-law] Cooke, wife to my eldest brother, a diamond of five pounds' price;

I give to my brother [=brother-in-law], Thomas Hoby, a ring of gold engraven with his arms of forty shillings' price;

I give to the Dean of Westminster a Bible in Latin of what translation he himself shall best allow of;

I give to the Master of the Jewel House, Mr John Astley, a ring of gold engraven with his arms of the value of three old angels;

I give to Mrs Shelton, if she be unmarried, four old angels;

I give to Mr George Haus(?) an old sovereign of the value of thirty shillings;

I give to Richard Illin(?) an old royal;

I give to Mr Androwes two old angels;

I give to Mr Neyler an old royal;

I give to Mr Francis Southwell a rapier and dagger silvered or gilt over at his will of the value of five nobles;

I give to Henry Lowgher [=Lowther] my man, twenty nobles;

I give to Robert, my man, thirty shillings. Edward Cooke.

RM: The codicil

Before Jacques Bardin and Francois Delafons, notaries to the King our Sovereign Lord in the Chatelet of Paris, personally [-personally] appeared Edward Cooke, gentleman of England, at this present being lodged in the suburbs of Paris near the town ditches between the gates of Saint Marcel and Saint Victor in the house of Mr Guillaume Cavellet, priest, parson of Villiers Costeretz and lately parson of Verberie, lying sick in his bed and nevertheless whole of mind, having good and perfect memory and understanding, which hath said and declared that heretofore and before his departure out of England to come into France he hath made his testament and order of his last will signed with his hand, the contents of which testament he saith he doth very well remember, and for the accomplishment thereof hath chosen and named Richard and William Cooke, his brethren, which testament the said Edward Cooke hath approved and the same ratified, and by these presents doth ratify, willing and minding that the same testament shall have his full and plain effect, force and virtue and be executed in all points according to his form and tenor;

And further in augmentation of his said testament and by manner and way of a codicil, and otherwise in the best form the same might be done and ought to be, hath given, bequeathed and left and by these presents giveth, bequeatheth and leaveth to Henry Laughher [=Lowther], his servant, the sum of twenty marks of English money besides the twenty nobles he hath given unto him by his testament made in England, the whole amounting to twenty pounds English money;

And further he giveth unto the said Henry Laughher [=Lowther], his servant, one black gelding which he hath at this present standing and belonging unto him in the stable of the said Cavenett [=Cavellet?];

With this also he doth give him such money as he shall have need of to spend in his return from hence to the city of London;

Item, the said Edward Cooke giveth, bequeatheth and leaveth to Thomas Penny, Englishman, the sum of six crowns of the sun;

Item, the said Edward giveth and bequeatheth to [-to] Thomas Aldrich, Englishman, three crowns of the sun;

Item, the said Edward Cooke giveth and bequeatheth to the poor of the church called the Reformed Church the sum of six crowns of the sun, and willeth and ordaineth to be buried according to the order of the said church;

Item, the said Edward Cooke giveth and bequeatheth to John Shoutt [=Shute?], gentleman of England, black cloth to make him a cloak and a coat thereof;

Item, the said Edward Cooke giveth and bequeatheth to his lackey two crowns of the sun;

Item, he willeth and ordained that his debts and wrongs done be paid and satisfied by his executors named in his said testament;

Item, the said Edward Cooke giveth, bequeatheth & leaveth to his sister named Anne Cooke, wife to my Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England, a lute appertaining to him, the said Edward Cooke;

Item, the said Edward Cooke giveth power and authority to his said executors named in his said testament made by him in England to accomplish his said testament and this present codicil, and for to do this he doth disseisen himself of all his goods into the hands of his said executors unto the full accomplishment of his said testament and this present codicil without making any revocation by these presents of his said testament made in England, which his will and mind is shall take effect as before is said;

Made and passed the year a thousand five hundred sixty and six, the Sunday the seventeenth day of November.

Subscribed by the notaries before-named. Bardin. Delafons.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum coram Mag^{ist}ro Waltero Haddon Legu^m Doctore Curie Prerogative Cantuarien^{sis} Com^missario apud London vicesimo primo Die mens^{is} Decembris Anno d^{omi}ni Millesimo Quingentesimo Sexagesimo sexto Iuramento Will^{el}mi Cooke personal^{ite}r p^{rese}ntis et Ric^{hard}i Cooke in persona eiusdem Will^{el}mi Executoru^m in testa^{men}t^o h^{uius}mo^di nominat^{orum} Quibus com^missa fuit administratio om^{niu}m et singulorum bonorum &c de bene &c ad sancta dei Evangelia Iurat^{is}

[=The above-written testament was proved before Master Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the twenty-first

day of the month of December in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixty-sixth by the oath of William Cooke, personally present, and Richard Cooke in the person of the same William, executors named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc.]