
SUMMARY: The document below is the copy in the Cecil Papers of the will, dated 7 October 1558, of Anne (nee Bray) Cobham (c.1510–1558).

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testatrix was the eldest daughter of Edmund Bray (d. 18 October 1539), 1st Lord Bray, son and heir of John Bray of Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire. The testatrix' father was heir as well to much of the property of his childless uncle, Sir Reginald Bray (c.1440 – 5 August 1503), Treasurer to Henry VII.

Sir Edmund Bray's younger brother, Sir Edward Bray (d.1558), married firstly, Elizabeth Lovell, daughter and coheir of Henry Lovell, esquire, of Sussex; secondly, Beatrice Shirley, daughter of Ralph Shirley, esquire, of Wiston, Sussex; and thirdly, Jane (nee Browne), widow of Sir Francis Poynings, and daughter of Sir Matthew Browne (d. 6 August 1557) of Betchworth Castle, Surrey, by Frideswide Guildford.

See McKeen, David, *A Memory of Honour; The Life of William Brooke, Lord Cobham*, (Salzburg: Universitat Salzburg, 1986), 2 vols., p. 7; the *ODNB* entry for Sir Reginald Bray; the will of Edmund Bray, dated 18 October 1539 and proved 12 March 1541, TNA PROB 11/28/429; Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 413; and Burke, John, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland*, (London: Henry Colburn, 1836), Vol. III, pp. 244-5:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=qf4GAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA244>

See also the History of Parliament entry for Sir Edward Bray at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/bray-sir-edward-1492-1558>

The testatrix' mother was Jane Halighwell, the only daughter of Richard Halighwell (d. 24 July 1506), esquire, of South Pool, Devon, son and heir of Sir John Halighwell, Admiral of the Fleet, and Anne Norbury, 'one of the co-heiresses of the Boteler lords Sudeley'. Jane Halighwell was heir to her paternal grandfather, and to her maternal grandfather, Sir John Norbury (d.1504) of Stoke D'Abernon, Surrey. See McKeen, *supra*, pp. 7, 567; and the will of Richard Halighwell, dated 8 May 1508 and proved 8 November 1508, TNA PROB 11/16/183.

The testatrix' ancestor, Sir John Norbury (d.1414), a retainer of Henry IV, appears in Shakespeare's *Richard II*. See the *ODNB* entry, and French, George Russell, *Shakspeareana Genealogica*, (London: Macmillan and Co., 1869), p. 50 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/cu31924079621094#page/n71/mode/2up>

After the death of Edmund Bray, the testatrix' mother, Jane (nee Halighwell) Bray (d. 24 October 1558) married Sir Urian Brereton of Handforth, Cheshire. See Maclean, John, ed., *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society for 1882-83*, (Bristol: C.T. Jeffries), Vol. VII, p. 304 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=dzQGAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA304>

Testatrix' siblings

The testatrix had one brother and nine sisters, including:

-John Bray (d.1557), 2nd Baron Bray.

-Jane Bray.

-Elizabeth Bray (born c.1513), who married firstly Sir Ralph Verney (1510 – 26 April 1546); secondly Sir Richard Catesby (d. 4 March 1553) of Ashby Saint Ledgers, Northamptonshire, son and heir of George Catesby by Elizabeth Empson, daughter of Sir Richard Empson (c.1450–1510); thirdly William Clarke, esquire, of Dunton, Buckinghamshire, whose will was proved in 1572; and fourthly Henry Phillips, gentleman, of Lincoln's Inn. Elizabeth Bray had died by 13 July 1574, the date on which administration of her estate was granted. See Richardson, *supra*, Vol. III, p. 416; and the entry for Elizabeth Bray at:

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

-Frideswide Bray, who married Sir Percival Hart (1496-1580). See McKeen, *supra*, pp. 7, 68, 145, 149, 304; and the will of Sir Percival Hart, dated 16 February 1578 and proved 1 June 1580, TNA PROB 11/62/271.

-Mary Bray (born c.1517), who married firstly Sir Robert Peckham (1515 – 13 September 1569) of Biddlesden, Buckinghamshire, and secondly Geoffrey Palmer. See McKeen, *supra*, p. 14; the will of Robert Peckham, dated 11 September 1569 and proved 17 December 1569, TNA PROB 11/51/414; and Willis, Browne, *The History and Antiquities of the Town, Hundred and Deanry of Buckingham*, (London, 1755), p. 155 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=kRAtAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA155>

-Dorothy Bray (1529/30 – 31 October 1605), who married firstly Edmund Brydges (d.1573), 2nd Baron Chandos, by whom she was the mother of Giles Brydges (1548–1594), 3rd Baron Chandos; and secondly the courtier William Knollys (c.1545–1632), 1st Earl of Banbury. See the *ODNB* entries for Edmund Brydges and William Knollys; and the entry for Dorothy Bray at:

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

-Ellen Bray.

-Frances Bray (c.1535 – 27 May 1592), who married Thomas Lyfield (d.1596), esquire. Their daughter, Jane Lyfield (d. 23 January 1619), married Sir Thomas Vincent (d. 14 December 1613), by whom she had a daughter, Jane Vincent, who married Sir Matthew Browne of Betchworth in Dorking, Surrey. Sir Matthew Browne was one of the trustees of Nicholas Brend (d. 12 October 1601), who leased the ground on which the Globe theatre was built by lease dated 21 February 1599 to Richard and Cuthbert Burbage, Will Kempe, Augustine Phillips, Thomas Pope, John Heminges, and William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon (see TNA REQ 4/1/2). For Richardson, *supra*, Vol. I, p. 414; and the will of Sir Matthew Browne, dated 2 August 1603 and proved 19 April 1608, TNA PROB 11/111/273.

For the foregoing see also Richardson, *supra*, Vol. II, pp. 629-31 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=kjme027UeagC&pg=RA1-PA629>

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testatrix married George Brooke (c.1497 – 29 September 1558), 9th Baron Cobham. For details concerning their children see his will, dated 13 January 1558 and proved 6 December 1560, TNA PROB 11/43/628.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

The ‘Mistress Faith Okendon’ to whom the testatrix leaves bequests was the testatrix’ sister-in-law, Faith (nee Brooke) Okendon (d. 1 December 1574), wife of William Okendon of Hoo, Kent. See McKeen, *supra*, pp. 68-9.

In the name of God, Amen. The 7th day of October in the year of Our Lord God 1558 in the years of the reigns of our Sovereign Lord & Lady Philip and Mary by the grace of God King & Queen of England etc. the 5th and 6th, I, Lady Anne Cobham, being of perfect mind and good memory, thanks be to God, do ordain and make this my present testament and last will in form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my Saviour and Redeemer, by whose blessed passion I trust to be saved, my body to be buried in the church of Cobham without pomp or pride in such decent order as shall seem good to mine executor hereafter named;

Item, I give and bequeath to my daughter, Katherine Cobham, £60;

Item, I bequeath to my son, George Cobham, £50;

To my son, John Cobham, £40;

To my son, Henry Cobham, £60 and the heart of stone garnished with gold with a pearl appendant to it;

To my son, Thomas Cobham th' younger, £40;

To my son, Edmund Cobham, £40;

To my son, Edward Cobham, £40;

Item, I give to the 3 alms children whom I find, to every of them 40s & 2 kine(?) apiece;

Item, I give to Mr Okendon and his wife £6 13s 4d;

Item, I give to Anne Gardyner alias Watts 6s 8d, & one quarter of wheat & another of malt;

As touching my jewels and apparel, I give and bequeath to my daughter, the Lady Marquess, a jewel set with diamonds with a great pearl thereto appendant, 3 boxes of silver, a taglet [=aglet?] of gold for a lace to a kirtle, 2 of my best wrought(?) handkerchiefs, a piece of gold called a sovereign, and the best ring I have;

Item, I give to my said son, Henry Cobham, my cup of silver with a break upon the cover, 2 of my handkerchiefs;

Item, I give to my daughter George Cobham's wife a gown of wrought velvet furred with genets, a kirtle of purple velvet, £4 in money to pay for the nursing of her child;

I give to her child, Elizabeth, a pomander enclosed with gold & a little Maudlin cup of silver gilt;

Item, I give to my said daughter, Katherine, a gown of chequered(?) velvet lined with sarcenet, a gown of furred velvet black, and a gown of black satin with a French kirtle(?) with sleeves of wrought velvet, a round kirtle with sleeves to it of black velvet with lace about it, & another [-of] kirtle of black velvet with a cut(?) of the same, a cloak with an apron(?) belonging to it, 8 fine smocks, 2 camerick rails, 2 camerick kerchiefs, 2 coarser rails, 2 coarser kerchiefs out of mine own coffer, a piece of gold called a double(?) ducat, & 2 petticoats, one of velvet, thother of taffeta, & 2(?) of my rings;

Item, I give to Mrs Faith Okendon my nightgown of chequered velvet furred with martens with a fore-part of a kirtle of black velvet, my gilt spoon, 2 smocks, a kerchief & a rail;

Item, I give to the said Mrs Okendon a gown of wrought velvet furred with coney;

Item, I give to Richard Brooke a double ducat, & to his wife a ring;

Item, I give to Alice Hancock, my servant, my gown of black cloth and the best petticoat of cloth she will choose, my farthingale & half my linen that is in her keeping, 4 marks in money & a ring, over & besides her wages;

Item, I bequeath to Elizabeth Gyllett my gown of taffeta, mine old kirtle of velvet, a petticoat of cloth, 2 smocks, 2 partlets & 2 pair of ruffs, 40s in money, & my half farthingale;

Item, I give to Anne Barley, my servant, the residue of my linen in the keeping of my said servant, Alice, mine night[gown](?) of black damask, my nightgown of sackcloth, a petticoat of silk say, and 26s 8d besides her wages;

To Mrs Knyght 40s;

To Margaret Wollett(?) 20s;

Item, I give to Joan her whole year's wages and 10s over;

To Mother Marshall 20s;

To the nurse at Cooling her wages & 10s over;

To Agnes of Cooling her wages & 10s over;

To the Frenchwoman her wages & 5s over;

Item, I give to Thomas Lee's wife 20s and as much fine hemp(?) as will make her a pair of sheets;

Item, I give to Elizabeth Wallys 26s 8d, a kerchief & a rail out of mine own coffer;

Item, I give to Suddley's(?) wife 20s;

Item, I give to Hugh Fylkokk's wife her quarter's wages and 20s over, and to Mary Fylkokks, her daughter, 5s;

And all my yarn & hemp I give & bequeath amongst my laundry servants, and all the wool that I reserved for myself to be likewise divided amongst them to make them frocks;

Item, I give to Henry Byhe(?) for his pains making this will 40s;

The residue of all my goods unbequeathed, the said legacies performed & my funerals finished, I do give & bequeath to my son, William Brooke, knight, Lord Cobham, whom I make & ordain of this my testament & last will my sole executor, and Sir Percival Hart, knight, my overseer;

In witness whereof I have set to my hand & seal the day & years above-written. A.
Cobham.

Endorsed: My Lady my mother's will.

Endorsed; The Lady Cobham her will.