

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 22 October 1611 and proved 27 November 1611, of Sir William Cornwallis (c.1549 – 13 November 1611), who purchased Oxford's interest in the mansion of Fisher's Folly in the parish of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate in 1588; who is mentioned in allegations against Oxford made by Lord Henry Howard and Charles Arundel in 1581; and whose daughter, Anne Cornwallis (d.1635), has been identified as the 'Anne Cornwaleys' of the short anthology of sixteenth century poetry known as the Cornwallis-Lysons manuscript, now in the Folger Library (Folger MS V.a.89).

For a discussion of Oxford's interest in Fisher's Folly, see the will of Jasper Fisher (d. 28 February 1579), TNA PROB 11/61/541. For correspondence between the testator's father, Sir Thomas Cornwallis (1518/19-1604) and Lord Burghley concerning the testator's purchase of Oxford's interest in Fisher's Folly, see CP 166/80 and CP 17/60. For mention of the testator in allegations against Oxford by Lord Henry Howard and Charles Arundel, see BL Cotton Titus C.6, ff. 7-8; TNA SP 12/151/45, ff. 100-2; TNA SP 12/151/46, ff. 103-4; and TNA SP 12/151/57, ff. 118-19.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator was the eldest son of Sir Thomas Cornwallis (1518/19-1604) and his wife, Anne Jerningham (d.1581), the daughter of John Jerningham (d.1558?) of Somerleyton in Suffolk and his wife, Bridget Drury, the daughter of Sir Robert Drury (d.1535), chief steward to John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford, by his first wife Anne Calthorpe. For the will of the testator's father, Sir Thomas Cornwallis (1518/19-1604, see TNA PROB 11/105/106.

The testator has often been confused with his nephew, the essayist, Sir William Cornwallis the younger (c.1579-1614), the son of the testator's brother, the courtier and diplomat, Sir Charles Cornwallis (c.1555-1629). See the *ODNB*:

Confusion of Sir William Cornwallis the younger (c.1579-1614) with his uncle, Sir William the elder (c.1551-1611), father of Anne Cornwallis, has made nonsense even of recent discussions of his work, attributing to him his uncle's greater age, retired life, and friendship with Ben Jonson.

The testator's relationship with Ben Jonson is attested to by Jonson's entertainment 'at Highgate in May 1604, to divert the King and Queen at the home of Sir William Cornwallis' (see the entry for Jonson in the *ODNB*, and the following description of the testator's mansion at Highgate):

Presumably William Cornwallis himself built the mansion later famous as Arundel House in 1588 and received Elizabeth I there in 1589, 1593, and 1594. His house and its views were praised by Norden in 1593 and it was there that James I was entertained with the Penates, newly composed by Cornwallis's friend Ben Jonson, in 1604.

See:

A P Baggs, Diane K Bolton, M A Hicks and R B Pugh, 'Hornsey, including Highgate: Highgate', in *A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 6, Friern Barnet, Finchley, Hornsey With Highgate*, ed. T F T Baker and C R Elrington (London, 1980), pp. 122-135. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/middx/vol6/pp122-135> [accessed 29 September 2018].

See also:

'Arundel House, Old Hall and the Lawns', in *Survey of London: Volume 17, the Parish of St Pancras Part 1: the Village of Highgate*, ed. Percy Lovell and William McB. Marcham (London, 1936), pp. 46-53. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/survey-london/vol17/pt1/pp46-53> [accessed 29 September 2018].

Maintaining Fisher's Folly and a mansion at Highgate, entertaining the Queen, and other expenses attendant on the life of a courtier depleted the testator's resources. According to the entry for his daughter, Elizabeth, in the *ODNB*:

Her father's profligacy at court lost £20,000; he left debts amounting to £4000, to settle which five manors had to be sold. He even allegedly remarked: 'So that I may be about her Majesty, I care not to be groom of the scullery' (HoP, Commons, 1558–1603, 1.659).

In 1589, the testator employed the poet Thomas Watson at Fisher's Folly as a tutor for his son and heir, John Cornwallis (d.1594), then aged 15. For a discussion of Watson's involvement in a Star Chamber suit in 1594 resulting from his employment by the testator, see Chatterley, Albert, 'Two Sixteenth-Century East Anglian Families at the Court of Star Chamber', *Norfolk Archaeology*, Vol. 44, Part 1, (Hunstanton: Witley Press, 2002), pp. 119-128. The *ODNB* refers to comments made by the testator concerning Watson in connection with this Star Chamber suit:

Although no plays by Watson are extant, his employer William Cornwallis wrote later that devising 'twenty fictions and knaveryes in a play' was his 'daily practyse and his living'.

MARRIAGES AND ISSUE

Testator's first marriage

The testator married firstly Lucy Neville (c.1549-1608), one of the four daughters and co-heirs of John Neville (d.1577), 4th Lord Latimer, the son of John Neville (1493-1543), 3rd Lord Latimer and his first wife, Dorothy de Vere (d.1527), sister and co-heir of John de Vere (1499-1526), 14th Earl of Oxford. The testator's purchase of Oxford's interest in Fisher's Folly may thus have been partly due to the fact that the testator's wife, Lucy,

was related to Oxford, both through her maternal grandmother, Dorothy de Vere (d.1527), as well as through her sister, Dorothy Neville (1548-1609), who married Oxford's brother-in-law, Thomas Cecil (1542-1632/3), 1st Earl of Exeter, eldest son of Oxford's father-in-law, Lord Burghley.

By his first wife, Lucy Neville, the testator had two sons and four daughters:

* **Thomas Cornwallis**, who was baptized at Brome 10 January 1572, and buried there 20 January 1572.

* **John Cornwallis** (1573?-1594), who was killed by a fall from his horse at Brome and buried there 1 November 1594.

* **Frances Cornwallis**, who was baptized at Brome 23 January 1575, and married Sir Edmund Withipole (d.1619) of Christ Church, Ipswich, for whom see *The Suffolk Garland*, (Ipswich: John Raw, 1818), p. 228 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=qmhKAAAIAAJ&pg=PA228>

* **Elizabeth Cornwallis** (c.1578-1658), who married, firstly, Sir William Sandys (d.1629) of Mottisfont, Hampshire, at the house of her father in St Botolph's, Bishopsgate (i.e. Oxford's former mansion), and secondly, Richard Lumley (1589?-1661x3), Viscount Lumley. See the *ODNB* entry.

* **Cornelia Cornwallis**, who circa 1601 married Sir Richard Fermor (1575?-1642) of Somerton, Oxfordshire. See the will of Sir Richard Fermor's father, Thomas Fermor (d. 8 August 1580) of Somerton, TNA PROB 11/62/337, which mentions his son, Richard, and daughter, Mary (who married Francis Plowden, a younger son but the eventual heir of the jurist Edmund Plowden), and the History of Parliament entry for Thomas Fermor at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/fermor-thomas-1523-80>.

Thomas Fermor's sister, Mary Fermor (d.1573), was the first wife of Sir Richard Knightley (1533-1615), prosecuted for his part in the publication of the Marprelate tracts. Another sister, Anne Fermor (d.1550), was the wife of William Lucy (d.1551), by whom she was the mother of Sir Thomas Lucy (b. in or before 1532, d. 1600), of Charlcote, Warwickshire. See the *ODNB*:

Lucy, Sir Thomas (b. in or before 1532, d. 1600), gentleman, of Charlcote, in Warwickshire, was the eldest son of William Lucy (d. 1551) and his wife, Ann (d. 1550), daughter of Richard Fermor of Easton Neston in Northamptonshire.

See also pp. 118-22, including the pedigree, p. 122, at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=LRTnAAAAMAAJ&pg=RA1-PA118>

For the marriage of William Lucy and Anne Fermor, see also Dugdale, William, *Antiquities of Warwickshire*, (London: Thomas Warren, 1656), p. 399 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/antiquitiesofwar00dugd#page/398/mode/2up>

See also the Fermor pedigree in Urban, Sylvanus, *The Gentleman's Magazine*, Vol. XCVII, 1827, p. 114 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=qqhJAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA114>

See also 'Catholicism in Somerton' at:

<http://somertonoxon.co.uk/st-james-church/catholicism-in-somerton/>

Sir Richard Fermor's first wife was Jane Lacon, the daughter of Rowland Lacon (d.1608) of Willey. Jane Lacon's sister, Beatrix Lacon, was the wife of Sir Francis Newport of High Ercall, Shropshire. See:

'The parish of Church Eaton: Little Onn', *Staffordshire Historical Collections*, vol. 4 (1883), pp. 64-102. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=52410>

See also the *ODNB*:

Newport, Richard, first Baron Newport (1587–1651), royalist army officer, was born on 7 May 1587, the son of Sir Francis Newport (c.1555–1623) of High Ercall and Eyton-on-Severn, Shropshire, MP for Shropshire in the parliament of 1593, and his wife, Beatrice, daughter of Rowland Lacon of Willey, Shropshire.

For Cornelia Cornwallis, see also Blomfield, J.C., *History of the Present Deanery of Bicester, Oxon* (Oxford: Parker & Co., 1882), pp. 118-19.

* **Anne Cornwallis** (d.1635), who married Archibald Campbell (1575/6-1638), 7th Earl of Argyll, at St Botolph's, Bishopsgate, on 30 November 1609. See the *ODNB* entry.

Cornwallis, Anne, countess of Argyll (d. 1635), Roman Catholic benefactor and supposed author, was the daughter of Sir William Cornwallis (c.1551–1611) of Brome, Suffolk, and his wife, Lucy, daughter of John Neville, fourth Baron Latimer (d. 1577); the essayist Sir William Cornwallis (c.1579–1614) was her cousin. After the death of Lucy Cornwallis, Anne's father married Jane (c.1581–1659), daughter of Hercules Meautys of West Ham, Essex, and Philippa Cook of Gidea Hall, Essex. No details of Anne's upbringing and early life are known, but she came to the notice of literary historians because the short anthology of sixteenth-century poetry known as the Cornwallis–Lysons manuscript, now in the Folger Library (Folger MS V.a.89), bears on its second page the signature, in a large, rather immature italic hand, 'Anne Cornwaleys her booke'. Samuel Lysons, the

late eighteenth-century antiquary, was a subsequent owner. Beginning with seven verses by John Bentley, the anthology moves on to twenty-seven more poems, including some by Edward de Vere, seventeenth earl of Oxford, and one which is attributed to Shakespeare: 'When that thyne eyes hath chose the dame'.

It was James Orchard Halliwell-Phillips, the prolific nineteenth-century Shakespeare scholar and collector, who identified 'Anne Cornwaleys' as Sir William's daughter. Convinced that several of the poems were by Shakespeare, he saw the anthology as an intriguing link between Shakespeare and Oxford, and he set about investigating the circumstances in which the poems had been copied. He discovered that, probably in the autumn of 1588, Anne's father had purchased from Oxford, his friend and distant relative, the London house named Fisher's Folly. An enormous mansion set in extensive gardens just east of Bishopgate Street Without, on the site of the present Devonshire Square, it had served as a centre for the many poets and dramatists patronized by Oxford, until his precarious finances forced him to dispose of it to Sir William. Presumably the poems in the anthology had been found in manuscript in Fisher's Folly after Sir William and his daughter moved in, and scholars assumed that Anne had actually copied the contents herself.

Apparently on this basis, the editor of the *Complete Peerage* declared that 'she was distinguished as an authoress of some note'. In fact, the verses were transcribed in an accomplished secretary hand by someone now believed to have been a professional scribe. Most are love poems, and it is probable that, rather than being copied by a scholarly young woman with literary tastes, they were simply chosen to please a romantic adolescent and presented to Anne by a friend or relative. Her signature in the volume cannot therefore be taken as such important evidence of women's involvement in the transmission of literary manuscripts as has sometimes been supposed.

For the foregoing details concerning the testator's children and their marriages, see also *The Private Correspondence of Jane Lady Cornwallis, 1613-1644* (London: S. & J. Bentley, 1842), p.xxxvii) at:

<https://archive.org/stream/privatecorrespon00baco#page/n45/mode/2up>.

For the involvement of the testator's daughters, Frances and Anne, and their husbands, Sir Edmund Withipole and Lord Argyll, in the attempt by their first cousin, Elizabeth, Lady Hatton (the daughter of their mother's sister, Dorothy Neville, and her husband, Thomas Cecil) to prevent the marriage of her daughter, Frances, to John Villiers in 1617, and her plan to marry Frances to Oxford's son and heir, Henry de Vere (1593-1625), see Longueville, Thomas, *The Curious Case of Lady Purbeck*, available online.

Testator's second marriage

After the death of his first wife, Lucy Neville, who was buried at Brome on 5 May 1608, the testator married Jane Meautys (1580/1-1659), the daughter of Hercules Meautys by Lady Burghley's niece, Philippa Cooke, by whom he had one child, a son and heir:

* **Frederick Cornwallis**, aged one year and three days at the testator's death.

After the testator's death, Jane Meautys married secondly, Sir Nathaniel Bacon (d. 1 July 1627) of Culford, Suffolk. See the *ODNB* entry for Jane Meautys, and the *ODNB* entry for Sir Nathaniel Bacon (d. 1 July 1627):

Bacon, Sir Nathaniel (1585–1627), painter, was born at Redgrave in Suffolk in August 1585, the grandson of Lord Keeper Bacon and the youngest son of Sir Nicholas Bacon (c.1543–1624) [see under Bacon, Sir Nathaniel (1546?–1622)], subsequently the premier baronet of England, and his wife, Anne Butts (c.1547–1616). He was admitted to the Order of the Bath in February 1626 to mark Charles I's coronation. Raised at Redgrave Hall, Bacon acquired Brome Hall in Suffolk on his marriage, on 1 May 1614, to Jane, née Meautys (1580/81–1659) [see Bacon, Jane, widow of Sir William Cornwallis, and inherited Culford Hall, 4 miles north of Bury St Edmunds, from his parents.

See also the will of Hercules Meautys, TNA PROB 11/73/110; the Meautys pedigree in *The Private Correspondence of Jane Lady Cornwallis* (London: S. & J. Bentley, 1842), pp. xlviii-ix at:

<https://archive.org/stream/privatecorrespon00baco#page/n57/mode/2up>

For the testator, see also the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/cornwallis-sir-william-1549-1611>

For the testator's employment of the poet and translator, Thomas Watson (1555/6–1592), see the *ODNB* entry for the latter:

From time to time Watson may have been used by Sir Francis Walsingham as a political agent; perhaps even his position with William Cornwallis, as tutor to the son, was organized so that he could be Walsingham's ears during the official inquiries into the recusancy of the father, Sir Thomas Cornwallis of Brome in Suffolk, who was under surveillance from 1587. It was about this time that Watson took up his duties at Fisher's Folly opposite St Botolph without Bishopsgate, which the Cornwallises had just taken over from the earl of Oxford; John, aged fifteen, was soon to enter the then openly Catholic Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge.

One of Watson's colleagues in the household was Thomas Swift, a Norwich-born musician, sheltered in the family since boyhood. Watson had married his older sister, Anne (b. 1564), at St Antholin, Budge Row, London, on 6 September 1585. About 1589 Swift conceived the notion that William Cornwallis had been 'miserable towards him',

and, 'by the advice of the said Watson, whom he ... confessed the plot-layer of this matter' (Bodl. Oxf., MS Tanner 97, fol. 29), he began a blackmail worthy of presentation at a nearby playhouse. The scheme was to lend ten gold angels to Cornwallis's fourteen-year-old daughter, Frances (not an unusual event, for Swift was 'in love' with her, and it was a miser's house), in return for her signature to a document which promised repayment with interest on her wedding day. The signing was hurriedly effected before morning lessons in front of witnesses, but the document (drawn up by Swift's brother, the attorney Hugh Swift) actually concealed a contract to marry the musician. Watson doubtless thought that he would never dare use it, and attempted later to get it away from him; but use it he did on Frances's betrothal, setting a blackmail price. Cornwallis's fury at this calumny and his daughter's besmirchment knew no bounds, and as a relative of Burghley through his wife, he managed to get a hearing in the Star Chamber in 1593, at which (the late) Watson's involvement was exposed by John, Frances's honour restored, and Swift very severely punished.

The ODNB entry also mentions Watson's dedication of *Hekatompathia* to Oxford, and Oxford's authorship of sonnet 60 in Watson's *Tears of Fancie*:

The Hekatompathia, or, Passionate Century of Love was printed in the spring of 1582, and in dedicating it to Edward de Vere, seventeenth earl of Oxford, who had already seen a manuscript (BL, Harley MS 3277), the author modestly apologizes for his temerity in offering English verse, for the 'trifling' nature of its subject, and for his own lack of skill. It became his best-known and most quoted English work and Watson was hailed as a Petrarch who had brought the Muses to live in England, enriching his native tongue (as Harvey noted) and giving intellectual respectability to love poetry.

....

The second work, a sixty-sonnet sequence printed in 1593, was no doubt intended by its publisher to take advantage of the current fashion of sonnet sequences, many of which, though stimulated by the publication of *Astrophil and Stella* (1591), reflected Watson's direct style more than Sidney's subtleties. The author of *The Tears of Fancie* is shown only by the initials T. W., but Watson is a strong candidate, for the poems exhibit characteristics of his style (but less Petrarchan) and cover similar amatory concerns, and there is a final line to sonnet 59 which balances the final couplet of *Hekatompathia*; sonnet 60 has been shown to be by the earl of Oxford.

LM: T{estamentum} D{omi}ni Will{el}mi Cornewaleis

In the name of God, Amen. The two and twentieth day of October in the year of our Lord God according to the computation of the church of England one thousand six hundred and eleven and in the years of the reign of our Sovereign Lord James by the grace of God King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., that is to say, of England, France and Ireland the ninth and of Scotland the five and

fortieth, I, Sir William Cornwallis of Brome in the county of Suffolk, knight, being of good and perfect memory (thanks be therefore given to Almighty God), do now make, ordain and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say:

First, I commend my soul to Almighty God, hoping and assuredly believing by his free mercy & grace through the only merits of my Saviour, Jesus Christ, to have full remission of all my sins and to enjoy eternal blessedness in the kingdom of heaven;

And my body I commit to the earth to be buried in the parish church of Oakley in the said county of Suffolk near my mansion house of Brome aforesaid in decent and Christian manner on the right side of the chancel of the said parish church where the same most conveniently may be without any pomp or cost of funeral expenses, in which chancel my will and mind is to have one tomb or monument to be there made for myself with mention of both my wives, viz., of the Lady Lucy, my late wife, deceased, one of the daughters and co-heirs of the right honourable Sir John Neville, knight, Lord Latimer, also deceased, and of Dame Jane, my now wife, and of all my children, and also one other tomb or monument of plain stone to be there likewise made and erected in the said chancel for my great-grandfather, William Cornwallis, esquire, deceased, who lieth buried there with a stone over him;

Item, I will that all such debts and sums of money as I am indebted or do owe at the time of my decease and which are mentioned and expressed in a schedule to this my last will and testament annexed, amounting together to the sum of three thousand nine hundred threescore and eight pounds or thereabouts, shall be well and truly satisfied and paid as soon as conveniently may be after my decease and by all the best ways and means that the same conveniently may or can be done for the discharge of my conscience, and that as well out of my personal estate as of and by my lands, tenements and hereditaments or the issues and profits of the same as hereinafter is mentioned;

And to that intent and purpose my will and desire is that the said Dame Jane, now my wife, shall or may from and immediately after my decease during the minority of Frederick Cornwallis, my son and heir apparent, have, take and receive as guardian unto him, the said Frederick, all and every the rents, issues and profits of all those the manors of Brome, Oakley, Stuston, Thrandeston and Palgrave with their rights, members and appurtenances in the county of Suffolk and of all other manors, messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments in the counties of Suffolk and Norfolk or either of them which after my decease are to descend, fall or come to him, the said Frederick, by force and means of certain conveyances heretofore made of the same by Sir Thomas Cornwallis, knight, my late father, deceased, and the same rents, issues and profits to employ and dispose for and towards the better payment of and satisfaction of my said debts and the performance of this my said last will & testament for and in such sort as all my household stuff, plate and other furniture of household now remaining and being now in and about my mansion house at Brome aforesaid may be preserved and kept until such time as the said Frederick, my son, shall accomplish and come to his full age of twenty and one years, and that then he, the said Frederick, upon reasonable request to him made

after the accomplishment of his said age of twenty and one years, shall by his sufficient deed in law acquit and discharge the said Dame Jane, my wife, and her executors of, for & concerning all such and so much of the said rents, revenues and profits as by her shall be had or received of the said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments in the said counties of Suffolk and Norfolk towards the payment of the debts mentioned and expressed in the said schedule hereunto annexed, and that in lieu and recompense thereof he, the said Frederick, shall from thenceforth have and enjoy to his own proper use all my said household stuff, plate and other furniture of household now remaining and being in and about my said mansion house in Brome aforesaid;

Provided always and my will and mind is that if the said Frederick, my son, shall happen to die within age, or shall not upon such request to him made after the accomplishment of his said age of twenty and one years acquit and discharge the said Dame Jane and her executors of, for and concerning all such and so much of the rents, issues and profits of the said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments in the said counties of Suffolk & Norfolk as is aforesaid, that then she, the said Dame Jane, and her executors shall or may have, employ and dispose all and every of the said household stuff, plate and furniture to her own proper use in lieu and satisfaction of the value thereof by her to be paid and disposed towards the payment of my said debts and the performance of this my will;

And whereas I have by a sufficient deed and conveyance in the law by me made and executed conveyed and assured all that the manor of Wilton in Cleveland in the county of York with all and every the rights, members and appurtenances thereof, and the park of Wilton with th' appurtenances, and the advowson and right of patronage of the rectory, church or chapel of Wilton aforesaid, and all other my messuages, lands, tenements, rents, revenues, services and hereditaments whatsoever in Wilton, West Cotha{m} [=Coatham?], Lackenby, Lazenby and Pinchinthorpe or elsewhere in the said county of York with their appurtenances unto the said Dame Jane, now my wife, for term of her natural life in augmentation of her jointure;

And have also by one other sufficient deed or conveyance by me likewise made and executed conveyed and assured the reversion and remainder of all the said manor of Wilton, advowson and right of patronage, messuages, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments in the said county of York unto my loving friends, Thomas Darcy, esquire, son and heir apparent of the right honourable Thomas, Lord Darcy of Chiche, Sir John Sulyard of Wetherden in the county of Suffolk, knight, Thomas Cornwallis, son and heir apparent of John Cornwallis of Soame in the county of Suffolk, esquire, and Henry Dade, one of the sons of (blank) Dade of Taddington [=Tattingstone?] in the said county of Suffolk, esquire, their heirs and assigns, forever, as by the said several deeds and conveyances more at large may appear, now I, the said Sir William Cornwallis, do hereby express and declare that the said deed and conveyance by me made to the said Thomas Darcy, Sir John Sulyard, Thomas Cornwallis and Henry Dade as aforesaid was and is by me made unto them upon trust and confidence that they & their heirs shall dispose and convey all the said manor, park, advowson, messuages, lands, tenements, rents, reversion, services and hereditaments in the said county of York to them conveyed as aforesaid to such uses, intents and purposes as I should or shall by my last

will and testament in writing or any other writing under my hand and seal limit and appoint the same;

And therefore first I do hereby limit and appoint that if the said Dame Jane, now my wife, shall not in her lifetime and during the minority of the said Frederick, my son, have & receive so much lawful English money of and by the rents, issues and profits of the said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments in the said counties of Suffolk and Norfolk as shall amount to the sum of three thousand pounds towards the satisfaction and payment of the debts specified and contained in the said schedule hereunto annexed and the performance of the bequests and legacies herein by me given and devised, that then they, the said Thomas Darcy, Sir John Sulyard, Thomas Cornwallis and Henry Dade and their heirs or some of them, towards the payment and performance thereof, shall or may levy and receive so much lawful English money of and by the rents, issues and profits of the said manor, lands, tenements and hereditaments in the said county of York, or by the sale of so much thereof as shall be needful, as together with so much of the rents, issues and profits of the said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments in the said counties of Suffolk and Norfolk as by her, the said Dame Jane, shall be received, shall be sufficient to raise and make up the said sum of three thousand pounds towards the payments of my said debts and the performance of this my will;

And also that they, the said Thomas Darcy, Sir John Sulyard, Thomas Cornwallis & Henry Dade and their heirs or some of them, after such time as so much lawful English money by any the ways or means aforesaid shall be had, levied or received by the said Dame Jane, now my wife, or by them, the said Thomas Darcy, Sir John Sulyard, Thomas Cornwallis and Henry Dade and their heirs or any of them, as shall amount unto the said sum of three thousand pounds towards the payment of my debts and the performance of my legacies and bequests hereby given and devised, shall sufficiently convey and assure, or cause to be sufficiently conveyed and assured, all or the residue of the said manor of Wilton, park of Wilton, advowson, messuages, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments in the said county of York, and the immediate reversion and remainder thereof expectant upon the decease of the said Dame Jane, now my wife, unto the said Frederick, my son, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully to be begotten;

And for default of such heirs, to the heirs males of the body of me, the said Sir William Cornwallis, lawfully begotten and to be begotten;

And for default of such heirs, to Sir Charles Cornwallis, knight, natural brother of me, the said Sir William Cornwallis, for and during the term of his natural life;

And after his decease, unto Sir William Cornwallis the younger, knight, son and heir apparent of the said Sir Charles Cornwallis, for and during the natural life of him, the said Sir William Cornwallis, knight, the younger;

And after his decease, unto Charles Cornwallis, esquire, son and heir apparent of the said Sir William Cornwallis the younger, and to the heirs males of the body of the said Charles lawfully begotten and to be begotten;

And for default of such heirs, to such other person and persons, and of and for such estate and estates, and with such remainders over and in such manner, sort and degree as and unto whom the said manor of Brome in the said county of Suffolk in and by the said conveyances thereof made by my said late father, Sir Thomas Cornwallis, knight, deceased, is limited and appointed;

Nevertheless my will and mind is and I do hereby will and appoint that if need or occasion shall so require that any part of my said manor of Wilton, messuages, lands, tenements or hereditaments in the said county of York shall be sold for the raising of moneys towards the payment of my said debts and the performance of this my will as is aforesaid, that then in such case the said Frederick, my son, or such other of the persons aforesaid as by the true meaning of these presents were to have had the same in case no such need of sale thereof were to be made, shall have the offer and preferment of the bargain and buying of so much thereof as shall be so sold before any other person or persons, giving for the same as much ready money as any other person or persons (bona fide) will therefore give or pay without fraud or covin;

Item, I will the sum of ten pounds in money to be distributed to and amongst the poor at & about my mansion house situate in the parish of St Botolph without Bishopsgate, London, at such time as my body shall be removed from thence to be carried to the place of burial;

And I will the sum of forty pounds in money to be distributed to and amongst the poor in and about the towns and parishes of Brome and Oakley aforesaid where I have hereinbefore willed and appointed my body to be buried;

And of and for the execution of this my last will and testament I do ordain and make the said Dame Jane, now my wife and the said Frederick Cornwallis, my son, my full and sole executors;

And I do desire and appoint my very loving and kind friend, Sir John Hobart, knight, to be the principal and chief supervisor of this my last will and testament and to aid & assist my said executors with his good advice and direction in and concerning the same, and I do desire him to accept of one hundred French crowns which I do give unto him to be bestowed in a piece of plate for a remembrance;

And for that my trusty and faithful servant[s], Robert Morse, William Crowe, Christopher Nandicke and Walter Warde are best acquainted with my estate, I do also hereby desire and appoint them to be aiding and assisting to my said executors in the execution of the same my will, and I do give unto every of them, the said Robert Morse, William Crowe, Christopher Nandick and Walter Warde, the sum of ten pounds apiece in money for a remembrance of my love and goodwill towards them;

The residue of all and singular my goods, chattels and credits whatsoever I will to remain to my executors towards the performance of this my last will and testament. William Cornwallis.

Witnesses to the sealing, subscribing, publishing and delivery hereof by the said Sir William Cornwallis for and as his last will & testament, viz., John Hobarte, John Amye, John Mayle, Christopher Nandyke, Walter Warde.

In this schedule are mentioned and contained all such debts and sums of money due and owing by me, Sir William Cornwallis, knight, as are by me willed and provided for to be satisfied and paid in and by my last will and testament whereunto this schedule is annexed, viz.:

Imprimis, to Mr Peter Vanlore, three hundred and fifteen pounds;

Item, to Mr Wivell, three hundred and fifteen pounds;

Item, to the Lady Killigrew, two hundred and ten pounds;

Item, to Mr John Grove, two hundred and ten pounds;

Item, to Mr Ashby, one hundred and five pounds;

Item, to Mr Seabright, one hundred fifty-seven pounds & ten shillings;

Item, to Mr (blank) upon band of mine, and Mr Wraght, one hundred sixty-four pounds;

Item, to the Lady Carewe, four hundred pounds;

Item, to Mr Rookesbye, a thousand pounds;

Item, to my cousin, William Cornwallis, four hundred pounds;

Item, to Mr Draper, ten pounds;

Item, to Mr Burlamarchi, one hundred pounds or thereabouts;

Item, to Mr Dixon, a harness-maker, ten pounds five shillings six pence;

Item, to Mr Hooker, goldsmith, fifteen pounds;

Item, to Mr Wright, mercer, thirty pounds or thereabouts;

Item, to Mr Warde, goldsmith, threescore pounds or thereabouts;

Item, to Mr Acton, silkman, two hundred pounds;

Item, to Mr Andrewes for hangings, thirty-two pounds and ten shillings;

Item, to William Niccolls for coal, five pounds;

Item, to Mrs Wilkes, thirty pounds;

Item, to Mr Harrison, draper, thirty-two pounds seventeen shillings;

Item, to Mr Warde, linen-draper, twenty-two pounds fourteen shillings and six pence;

Item, to Mr Haye, comfit-maker, forty pounds;

Item, to Mr Mason of the Exchange, twenty pounds four shillings;

Item, (blank) a silkman in Pater Noster Row, fifteen pounds twelve shillings ten pence;

Item, to Mr Lane the saddler, twelve pounds;

Item, to Mr Nasen, upholder, ten pounds eight shillings;

Item, to Thomas Saunders for wood, forty pounds or thereabouts;

Item, to Richard Norman which he paid to Mr Lanna{m}, embroiderer, five pounds;

Sum{m}a totalis, three thousand nine hundred sixty-eight pounds and two and twenty pence;

Item, there is due to one Mr Blount during his life threescore pounds per annum, and which is payable quarterly. William Cornwallis.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum Apud London cora{m} Magistro Edmundo Pope Legum Doctore Surrogato venerabilis viri D{omi}ni Iohannis Benet militis Legu{m} etiam Doctoris Curie Prerogatiue Cant{uariensis} Mag{ist}ri Custodis siue Com{m}issarij l{egi}time constituti vicesimo septimo die mens{is} Novembris Anno Domini Millesimo sexcentesimo vndecimo Iura{men}to D{omi}ne Jane Cornewaleis Relicte dicti defuncti et executricis in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento nominate Cui com{m}issa fuit administrac{i}o omn{i}um et singulor{um} bonor{um} Iurium et Creditor{um} dicti def{uncti} De bene et fideliter administrando eadem Ad Sancta Dei Evangelia Iurat{e} Reservata p{otes}tate &c ffederico Cornewaleis filio n{atu}rali et l{egi}time dicti defuncti et alteri executoru{m} etiam in d{i}c{t}o testamento

nominat{orum} Cum venerit eam petitur{us} in debita Iuris forma admissur{us}
Ex {aminatum}]

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before Master Edmund Pope, Doctor of the Laws, Surrogate of the worshipful Sir John Bennet, knight, also Doctor of the Laws, lawfully constituted Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the twenty-seventh day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand six hundred eleventh by the oath of Lady Jane Cornwallis, relict of the said deceased and executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, with power reserved etc. to Frederick Cornwallis, natural and legitimate son of the said deceased and the other executor also named in the said testament, when he shall have come to petition the same in due form of law to be admitted. Examined.]