

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 10 April 1544 and proved 9 July 1544, of Sir John Cornwallis, Steward of the Household of Prince Edward from 1538 to 1544. The will indicates that the testator had three brothers, Edward, Francis and William. No sisters are mentioned. At the time of the making of the will, the testator's wife, Mary Sulyard, daughter of Edward Sulyard (d.1516) of Otes in High Laver, Essex, and his wife, Anne Norreys or Norris (d.1531), the daughter of John Norris, of Bray, Lancashire, was deceased. By her, the testator had four sons, Thomas, Henry, Richard and William, and three daughters, Anne, Mary and Elizabeth.

The testator's eldest son and heir, Sir Thomas Cornwallis (1518/19–1604), married Anne Jerningham, the daughter of Sir 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 Sir Thomas Cornwallis (1518/19–1604), see TNA PROB 11/105 ff 85-6. The testator's son, Henry, is said to have married firstly, Anne Rokewood, and secondly, Anne Calibut, the daughter of William Calibut (d.1577) of Coxford Abbey and widow of Thomas Gardiner (see Jessopp, Augustus, *One Generation of a Norfolk House*, 2nd ed., (London: Burns & Oates, 1879), p. 200, available online). The testator's son, Richard, of Shotley and Okenhill Hall in Badingham, Suffolk, married his father's ward, Margaret Lowthe, the daughter and heiress of Lionel Louthe of Sawtrey Beaumes, Huntingdonshire, and Cretingham, Norfolk, by Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Blennerhasset of Frenze, Suffolk. The testator's daughter, Anne, is said to have married Thomas Kent of Suffolk. The testator's daughter, Mary, married, firstly, William Halse or Hales of Devonshire, and secondly, Roger Warren of Newbourne, Suffolk (see White, C.H. Evelyn, ed., *The East Anglian*, Third Series, Vol. X, (London: Elliott Stock, 1903-4), p. 223, available online; and the will of Roger Warren, TNA PRO 11/76, ff. 198-9). The testator's daughter, Elizabeth, married John Blennerhasset, esquire, of Barsham by Beccles, Suffolk. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2004), pp. 252-3, 711.

The testator's eldest son and heir, Sir Thomas Cornwallis (1518/19–1604), was the father of Sir William Cornwallis (c.1551-1611), who purchased Oxford's lease of the mansion of Fisher's Folly in the parish of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 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 the will of Sir William Cornwallis, see TNA PROB 11/118, ff. 93-5.

The testator was a descendant of Sir Richard Sergeaux (d.1393) and his wife Philippa Arundel (d.1399) through their daughter, Philippa Sergeaux. Oxford was descended from Sir Richard Sergeaux (d.1393) and Philippa Arundel (d.1599) through their daughter, Alice Sergeaux (d.1452). This family connection may offer a partial explanation for Oxford's sale of his lease of Fisher's Folly to the testator's grandson, Sir William Cornwallis

(c.1551-1611). See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2005), pp. 252, 646-7.

RM: Testamentum Iohannis Cornwalllys

In the name of God, Amen. I, Sir John Cornwalllis of Brome in the county of Suffolk, knight, the tenth day of April in the year of our Lord God a thousand five hundred forty and four and in the 35th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord Henry the Eight by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, and in earth Supreme Head of the Church of England and Ireland, being whole of mind and body, praised be God, make, ordain and dispose this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First, I commend my soul to Almighty God and to the whole company of heaven, and my body to be buried within Christian burials where it shall please God to suffer me to depart this world;

Item, I will that my executors shall give and distribute five pounds sterling amongst the poor people being householders within the parishes of Brome, Oakley, Stuston, Thrandeston, Yaxley and other towns nigh thereabouts adjoining wherein any of my lands do lie, equally to be divided among the number of persons dwelling within every such poor household as they shall think best by their discretions within one month next after my decease, this to be distributed and given at such time and times within the said month as my said executors shall think most meet for the best relief of the said poor people;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Thomas, my son, all my stuff and utensils of household, as featherbeds, bolsters, sheets, coverlets, blankets, testers, celures, hangings, brass and pewter, with all other my stuff and utensils of household, both linen and woollen and other whatsoever they be that is hereafter unbequeathed lying at Brome aforesaid, Fiens in the county of Norfolk, or elsewhere within the realm of England;

Item, I give unto my said son, Thomas, all my cattle, as sheep, oxen, horses, calves and other whatsoever they be that is hereafter unbequeathed, with all my corn and grain, as wheat, rye, messelyn [=maslin?], barley and malt, being at Brome aforesaid or elsewhere within the realm of England upon this condition, that he shall give unto either of his two sisters, Anne and Mary, their double marriage apparel according unto the degree of every such person or persons which either of them shall happen first or next to marry withal;

Item, I give unto my said son, Thomas, my lease and term of the parsonage of Oakley in the county of Suffolk with my lease and term of the manor of Brome Monachorn in Brome aforesaid, he leaving and disposing after his decease, if he die within the said term, the said lease and term of the manor of Brome Monachorn or so much as then shall be to come of it unto his next heir, and so forth to be left and disposed by every heir unto his or their next heir so long as the said lease and term shall continue, unless the said Thomas or

any other his heir to whom this lease and term shall come by this my last will and testament as aforesaid shall happen to obtain and purchase the reversion of the said manor of Brome Monachorne in fee simple or fee tail by exchange for the manor of Kilnstones or otherwise by any lawful act or means;

Item, I give unto my daughter, his wife, my wife's gown of black velvet;

Item, to my son, Henry, my gown of tawny taffeta;

Item, I bequeath unto my son, Richard, my ward, Margaret Lowthe, which I bought of my Lord of Norfolk, he to marry her himself if they both will be so contented; if not, then I will and give unto that my said son, Richard, the wardship and marriage of her with all th' advantage and profit that may and shall rise and grow by reason thereof to his own use forever;

Item, where Richard Nix, late Bishop of Norwich, hath granted unto me and my cousin, Edmund Whitt [=White?] of Shotesham in the county of Norfolk, now deceased, to th' only use of me the next advowson, gift and presentation of the Archdeaconry of Norfolk, I will that mine executors and the overliver of them and his executors shall have the said next advowson to these uses and intents following, that is to say:

If it happen the said Archdeaconry to fall void, my son, William, then being a priest or within such order as he may lawfully by them be presented unto the same, or else by any licence or dispensation to be obtained at any time before the falling void of it or within the six months next following enabled to accept and take the same, then I will that they present my said son, William, unto the said Archdeaconry according to the due form of the law in that behalf used;

And if my said son, William, shall not be a priest nor within such orders as he may lawfully take it, nor otherwise enabled as is aforesaid at such time as it shall become void, nor may be within the said six months, nor willing to have it himself, then I will that my said executors and the overliver of them and his executors shall present unto the same such an able person as shall be by my said son, William, unto them nominated and appointed, and if they shall refuse so to do, then I will that my said son shall present unto the said Archdeaconry in his own name;

Item, I give unto my daughter, Anne, my ring with the rock ruby in it, and three hundred marks to her marriage, to be paid in manner and form hereafter declared;

Item, to my daughter, Mary, other three hundred marks to her marriage, to be paid as shall be hereafter declared;

Item, to my Lady Hassett my gilt cup with the cover that hath two ears, and an antic boy with a shield in his hand upon the cover;

Item, to my daughter Hassett my wife's gown of black satin;

Item, to my brother, Edward, my gown of black damask welted with velvet and furred with martens;

Item, I will that my said brother shall have and retain in his own hands the thirty pounds which he oweth me upon this condition, that he deliver unto mine executors or to one of them within one month next after my decease all and singular such pieces of plate which I have before this lent unto him and his wife, and if he do not deliver the said plate as is abovesaid, then I will that he take no advantage of this my bequest and legacy, but to pay the said thirty pounds to my said executors or to one of them within one year next following without further delay;

Item, to my brother, Francis, my gown of black satin lined with velvet;

Item, to my brother, William, such my apparel as mine executors shall think most feat for him;

Item, I will that Leonard and Thomas Cooke, my servants, shall have each of them four marks and their liveries over and besides that which shall be due unto every of them at the time of my death, to be paid unto every of them immediately after the day of my burial;

Item, I will that all and every of my other servants shall have each of them forty shillings and their liveries over and besides that which shall be due unto every of them at the time of my death, to be paid unto either of them immediately after the day of my burial as is aforesaid;

And all other of my goods and chattels movable and unmovable, whatsoever they be, not bequeathed, I will, my burial and funeral expenses deducted and this my last will performed, that my son, Thomas, have them.

This is the last will and testament of me, the said Sir John Cornwallis, knight, made the day and year first written concerning the order and disposition of certain of my manors, lands, tenements, rents, reversions and services in the county of Norfolk, Suffolk, Middlesex and London in manner and form following:

First, I will that mine executors and the overliver of them and th' executors of the overliver of them shall have immediately after my decease the reversion of my manor of Barnes in the parish of Saint Botolph without Aldgate in London, with the reversion and reversions of all the messuages, lands, tenements, meadows, pastures, feedings, rents, services and other hereditaments unto the same manor of Barnes appertaining or in any manner of wise used, taken and supposed as any part or member thereof lying and being within the parish aforesaid or within the parishes of Saint Mary Matfelon, other [sic?] Whitechapel parish, Stepney in the county of Middlesex or elsewhere in London and

Middlesex aforesaid, which said manor and other the premises one Rowland Goodman and Anne, his wife, now have and hold of my lease for term of certain years yet enduring;

And also the reversion of that my capital mese or messuage called the Horsehead, with the reversion and reversions of eight other little meses or tenements and one garden called the Old Yard in the parish of Saint Mary Matfelon aforesaid, which capital mese or messuage with other the premises Thomas Coplonde and Alice, his wife, now have and hold of my lease for certain years yet enduring;

To have and to hold the said reversions and all other the premises with all and singular rents and services incident unto them and reserved upon the same leases and their appurtenances unto my said executors and the overliver of them and th' executors of the overliver of them for the term of ten years next and immediately ensuing after my death to th' only performance of this my last will and testament in manner and form hereafter declared, that is to wit:

First, I will that of the yearly rents, revenues, issues and profits coming and rising of the premises and any parcel thereof that they give to each of my two daughters, Anne and Mary, for and towards their marriages three hundred marks apiece to be paid in manner and form following, that is to say, at the day or days of every of their marriages so much of the said three hundred marks apiece as may and shall be then lawfully gathered of the yearly rents, revenues and profits aforesaid from the day of my decease till the days of their several marriage, the whole yearly rents, revenues and profits aforesaid equally to be divided in two parts, whereof the one moiety yearly to go and be accounted towards their [sic] marriage of the one, the other moiety towards the marriage of the other from the time of my decease, and all such sums as shall be behind and not levied of the premises before their several marriages, I will it be paid to them and either of them as it may and shall lawfully be gathered from thenceforth of the yearly rents, revenues and profits aforesaid, the whole yearly rents revenues and profits to be divided in two parts as is abovesaid;

And if it fortune both my said daughters do die before that they be married and within the said term of ten years, then I will that from thenceforth the said term to cease and be utterly void, and that all such sums of money as my said executors and the overliver of them and his executors have then received of the yearly rents [+and] revenues aforesaid (this my last will performed), I will that my son Thomas, have, if he be then living; if not, his eldest son; if he have no son, then the eldest of my sons then living to have them;

And if it fortune both my said daughters to die before that they be married and after the said term of ten years expired, then I will that mine executors and the overliver of them and his executors shall pay and deliver all such sums of money as they shall or may have then received of the yearly rents, revenues and profits aforesaid unto my son Thomas, if he be then living; if not, to his eldest son; if he have no son, to th' eldest of my sons then living as is abovesaid;

And if it fortune thone of my said daughters to die before that she be married and within the said term of ten years, then I will that the other overliving shall have at the day of her

marriage the whole sum of three hundred marks if there shall and may be by that time so much lawfully gathered of the yearly rents, revenues and profits aforesaid; if not, then the residue of the said three hundred marks which shall be behind, I will it be levied of the whole yearly rents and profits abovesaid, and then the said three hundred marks levied and this my last will performed, the said term to cease and to be utterly void;

And if she that shall overlive be then married and her three hundred marks not levied nor paid, then I will that the residue of the said three hundred marks be paid of such sums received for the portion of the other so deceased without further delay if there be then so much then received and levied; if not, that which shall then remain behind of the said three hundred marks to be levied of the whole yearly rents and revenues aforesaid, and then the said term to cease as is abovesaid;

And if her portion so deceased shall amount above that which shall serve t' accomplish the said sum of three hundred marks to the other, then I will the said term to cease, and the overplus to be given unto my said son, Thomas, as is aforesaid;

And if it happen the one of my said daughters to die before that she be married and after the said term or each of their three hundred marks levied, then I will that her part or portion so deceased be given to my said son if he be then living, or else to go as is abovesaid;

And likewise if it fortune the other overliving to die before that she be married, I will that her part and portion to go as is above limited;

And if the clear yearly rents, revenues and profits aforesaid received by my executors and the overliver of them and his executors shall exceed at any time that which shall serve for the payment of these my legacies and the performance of this my last will, the overplus I will my said son, Thomas, have if he be then living, or else to go as is above declared;

Item, I give to each of my said two daughters, Anne and Mary, one annuity or annual rent of five pounds by year out of my manor of Woodhaule [=Wood Hall?] in Thrandeston in the county of Suffolk with all other my lands and tenements within the said town for and towards their finding until such time as they be married, to be paid at the feasts of Saint Michael th' Archangel and th' Annunciation of Our Lady by even portions, the first payment to begin at such of the said feasts as next shall come after my decease;

And if it shall happen the said yearly rents of five pounds or either of them to be behind and unpaid at any of the said feasts, then it shall be leeful unto them and either of them whose annuity or rent shall so happen to be behind to enter into the said manor with all other my lands and tenements within the same town, and there to distrain, and the distress with them or her to retain until such time as they and every of them be of the said yearly rent contented and paid;

Provided that if it happen them or any of them to marry or to die before that they or she be married, then theirs or her rent so married or deceased to be utterly void and to cease;

And if my said daughter, Anne, be not married before that she shall accomplish th' age of forty year, and at that age towards no marriage, and then or at any time before determined with herself to live sole and to refuse the three hundred marks by this my present will unto her bequeathed, and that doth refuse, then I will the said annuity or rent of five pounds by year to her before given to cease, and that she from thenceforth shall have one annuity or rent of twenty marks by year out of all those my said lands and tenements which I have of th' exchange with Robert Wigmore, late of Tetysdale [=Tittleshall] in the county of Norfolk, lying and being within Tittleshall aforesaid so long as she shall continue her life sole, to be paid at the feasts of Saint Michael and the Annunciation of Our Lady by even portions, there [sic] first day of the payment thereof to begin at such of the said feasts as shall happen next to come after that she shall accomplish the said age and refuse the said three hundred marks or after any such refusal and determination to live sole only before the said age as is abovesaid, and if it shall happen the said yearly rent of twenty marks to be behind at any of the said feasts, then it shall be leeful unto the said Anne into all and singular the premises to enter and to distrain, and the distresses there by her so taken to retain until such time as she be of the said yearly rent contented and paid;

And all such sums of money as my said executors shall have then received for and towards her marriage I will, my other daughter's three hundred marks paid, that my said son, Thomas, shall have then as is aforesaid;

Item, I will and give unto Henry, my son, one annuity or rent of ten pounds by year out of all those my lands, tenements and other hereditaments which lately were Robert Wigmore's of Tittleshall lying in Tittleshall aforesaid term of his life, the remainder of the same rent unto such a woman as the said Henry shall have lawfully to his wife at the time of his death for term of her life, payable at the said feasts of Saint Michael th' Archangel and th' Annunciation of Our Lady by even portions, the first payment thereof to begin at such of the said feasts as shall next come after my decease;

And if it happen the said annuity or yearly rent of ten pounds to be behind unpaid at any of the said feasts, then it shall be leeful unto the said Henry during his life and to such a woman as the said Henry shall lawfully have unto his wife at the time of his death during her life into all and singular the premises to enter and to distrain, and the distresses so there taken to retain until such time as they be of the said yearly rent of ten pounds contented and paid as is aforesaid;

Item, I will and give unto Richard, my son, one annuity or annual rent of ten pounds by year immediately after my decease out of all those my lands and tenements and other hereditaments lying and being in Tittleshall aforesaid, Oakley, Borough Shimpling and Multon [=Moulton?] in the said count of Norfolk which I lately purchased of Rowland Goodman and Anne, his wife, Thomas Reves(?) and Alice Cobbe, or of either of them, for term of his life, the remainder of the said rent to Margaret Lowthe, my ward, term of her life if she shall marry and take to her husband the said Richard; if not, the remainder thereof unto such a woman as the said Richard shall have lawfully to his wife at the time of his death term of her life, this rent to be paid at the feasts of Saint Michael th'

Archangel and th' Annunciation of Our Lady by even portions, the first payment to begin at such of the said feasts as shall next come after my decease, and if it shall happen the said yearly rent of ten pounds to be behind and unpaid at any of the said feasts, then it shall be leeful unto the said Richard during his life, the said Margaret Lowthe during her life if she shall marry and take to her husband the said Richard, or any other wife which the said Richard shall have at the time of his death term of her life to enter into all and singular the premises and there to distrain, and the distresses there by them and every of them taken to retain until they be of the said yearly rent contented and paid;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my said son, Richard, at such time as he shall be married, one other annuity or annual rent of ten pounds by year out of all those lands and tenements and other hereditaments aforesaid term of his life, payable at the said feasts by even portions, the first payment thereof to begin at such of the said feasts as shall next fall and come after the day of his marriage solemnized and had, the remainder of the said rent unto such a woman as the said Richard shall lawfully have to his wife at the time of his decease during her life, and if it shall happen the said yearly rent or annuity of ten pounds to be behind at any of the said feasts, then it shall be lawful to the said Richard during his life and to such a woman as the said Richard shall lawfully have to his wife at the time of his decease during her life into all and singular the premises to enter and to distrain, and the distresses to retain as is aforesaid;

Item where by my deed of feoffment I have given and granted unto Elize Lache, clerk, and to his heirs and assigns forever all those my lands, tenements and other hereditaments called Smythes, Thompsons, [] Thurbarnys, Parkes and Goddardes lying and being within the parishes of Melles [=Mellis], Burgate, Gislingham, Yaxley, Thornham Magna, Thornham Parua in the county of Suffolk which I lately purchased of Robert Whittingham, and all those my lands, tenements and other hereditaments called Clerckes in Fusca(?), Thronoson [=Thrandeston?], Brome and Oakley in the county of Suffolk, Frens [=Frenze?] and Scole in the county of Norfolk which I lately purchased of Alice Norys [=Norris], Thomas Bekke, Thomas Shereman and their viffers [=feoffors(?)] to th' use of me for term of my life without impeachment of waste, and after my decease to th' use of my son, William, term of his life, with this proviso, that it shall be lawful unto the said William to make a jointure or jointures to such wife or wives for term of life or lives of the same wife or wives only which shall happen the said William to marry and take to wife of the premises or any parcel of the same, as by the same deed more plainly doth appear, I do by this my present testament and last will ratify and confirm the same deed and all therein contained, and I will that it shall be leeful unto my said son, William, to make a jointure or jointures as is aforesaid, so that upon every such jointure or jointures the inheritance be always limited and appointed unto my right heirs immediately after the decease of such wife or wives to whom this jointure shall be made as is aforesaid;

And further I will that after the decease of the said William, the said Elize and his heirs shall have and hold all and singular the premises to th' use of such wife as the said William shall have at the time of his decease term of her life, and after her decease, to th' use of my right heirs forever;

Item, I will that my brother, William, shall have immediately after my decease one annuity or annual rent of five pounds by year out of all my lands and tenements in Brome in the county of Suffolk, payable at the said feasts of Saint Michael th' Archangel and th' Annunciation of Our Lady as is abovesaid, the first payment to begin at such of the said feasts as shall next come after my death, so long as my said son, Thomas, or any other [- or any other] which God shall provide to be mine heir shall give him his commons and board either in household with them if they shall keep house, or else in another place with them where they shall sojourn, and if it shall happen the said yearly rent to be behind at any of the said feasts, then it shall be leeful unto the said William to distrain as is aforesaid;

And if my said son, Thomas, or any other which God shall provide to be mine heir shall at any time refuse to give unto my said brother his commons and board as is above-mentioned, then I will that from the time of such denial and refusal my said brother shall have one annuity or annual rent of six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence out of all my said lands and tenements term of his life, payable at the said two feasts, the first payment thereof to begin at such of the said feasts as next [+shall] fall and come after such denial and refusal had, and then and from thenceforth the said annuity of five pounds yearly to cease and be utterly void, and if it shall happen the said yearly rent of six pounds thirteen shillings four pence to be behind at any of the said feasts, then it shall be leeful unto the said William to enter into all and singular the premises, and to distrain as is aforesaid;

And I ordain and make my Lady Hassett, Thomas, my son, and John Blennerhassett, my son-in-law, my executors of this my last will and testament;

In witness whereof I have to this my present will set to my seal the day and year above-written in the presence of these bearing witnesses: William Lydney, Thomas Bill, Edward Cornwallis, Francis Cornwallis, Anthony Otway, priest.

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum coram Domino apud London Nono die mensis Iulij Anno Domini Millesimo quingentesimo quadragesimo quarto ac approbatum et insinuatum Et Commissa fuit administracio omnium et singulorum bonorum iurium et creditorum antedictum defunctum et eius Testamentum qualitercunque concernentium Iohanni Blanhassett personaliter presenti et Domine Margarete Hassett et Thome Cornwaleis Executoribus in huiusmodi testamento nominatis in persona xpofer Robynsonne Notarij publici procuratoris dicte Domine Margarete et Thome sufficienter et Legitime constituti De bene et fideliter administrando eadem Ac de pleno et fideli Inuentario &c conficiendo Necnon de plano et vero Compoto &c Reddendo ad sancta Dei Euangelia Iuratis

[=The above-written will was proved before the Lord [+Archbishop] at London on the ninth day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred forty-fourth, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all and singular the

goods, rights and credits concerning the aforesaid deceased and his testament by whatever right to John Blennerhasset, personally present, and Lady Margaret Hassett [=Blennerhasset] and Thomas Cornwallis, executors named in the same testament, in the person of Christopher Robinson, notary public, sufficiently and lawfully constituted proctor of the said Lady Margaret and Thomas, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to prepare a full and faithful inventory and also a plain and true account.]