

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 16 September 1545 and proved 11 July 1548, of Robert Beale (d.1545?), whose son was dispatched by the Privy Council to the Low Countries to complain of the attack on Oxford's ship by pirates from Flushing on his return to England in April 1576. See APC pp. 102-3 on this website, and Dasent, John Roche, ed., *Acts of the Privy Council of England*, New Series, Vol. IX, (London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1894), pp. 102-3 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=Hlc0AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA102>

The testator was the brother-in-law of Sir Richard Morison, with whose widow Oxford's daughters, Bridget Vere (1584-1631) and Susan Vere (1587-1629) were placed by Sir Robert Cecil (1563-1612) after the death of Lord Burghley on 4 August 1598.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Little is known of the testator's family background. In the will below he mentions a sister married to John Brooke, grocer, who may have been the John Brooke, grocer, whose will was proved 2 October 1551, TNA PROB 11/34/368.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married Amy Morison, the daughter of Thomas Morison, esquire, of Chardwell, Yorkshire, and Margaret Merry, the daughter of Thomas Merry of Hatfield, Hertfordshire, and sister of Sir Richard Morison (c.1510 – 20 March 1557), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/39/330.

By Amy Morison the testator had two sons mentioned in the will below:

* **Robert Beale** (1541-1601), for whom see the *ODNB* entry:

Beale, Robert (1541–1601), administrator and diplomat, was the first son of Robert Beale (d. 1545?), mercer, of London, and his wife, Amy, sister of Sir Richard Morison (c. 1510–1556), humanist and diplomat. . . .

Beale was educated at Coventry, probably at the school housed by John Hales (1516–1572), administrator and MP, and brother of Beale's stepfather, Stephen Hales (d. 1574), in the choir of the former priory there. Hales had a decided influence on his charge. He imparted to Beale his views on religious and social reform, as well as his interest in classical learning.

* **William Beale.**

It also appears that a child may have been born after the testator made his will.

As noted in the *ODNB* entry, after the testator's death Amy Morison married secondly, on 26 June 1546, Stephen Hales (d. 27 March 1574), esquire, of Newland and Exhall, Warwickshire, freeman of the Merchant Taylors' Company in 1552, Warden in 1557, 1564 and 1565, and one of the four founders of the Merchant Taylors' School. See Armytage, George J., ed., *Allegations For Marriage Licences*, (London: Harleian Society, 1886), Vol. XXIV, p. 7 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/allegationsforma00cant#page/6/mode/2up>

1546 June 26 Stephen Hales & Anne Bele, of the city of London

Amy Morison's second husband, Stephen Hales, was the brother of John Hales (1516?-1572), a friend of Amy Morison's brother, Sir Richard Morison. See the *ODNB* entry for John Hales:

On 2 February 1551 Hales obtained a licence to leave England with his friend Sir Richard Morison, the new ambassador to Emperor Charles V. Hales remained first in Brussels with Morison before going to Germany with his brother Christopher.

See also the History of Parliament entry for Robert Beale (1541-1601), which states that during his youth he lived at Strasbourg in the house of his 'uncle Morison':

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/beale-robert-1541-1601>

RM: T{estamentum} Roberti Bele

In the name of God, Amen. I, Robert Beale of London, mercer, being whole of mind and perfect memory, the 16th day of September in the 37th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Henry th' Eight do make my testament and last will:

First I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God, desiring him of his mercy to have forgiveness of my sins;

And my body to be buried in the earth without any solemnity;

And as touching the disposition of my worldly goods, I will unto the poor people in Saint Christopher's parish 20s;

Item, I will unto my brother, John Brooke, my fine black cloak and coat guarded with velvet;

Also I will unto my sister, his wife, a gown-cloth of fine puke, and a ring of gold of the value of 30s for a remembrance;

And to Thomas Mallage for that he shall be just to my wife for my part of the account at Boulogne, I do give my grey nag that was Master Cobham's;

Also I do will unto my brother-in-law, Master Morison, a cup of the value of £5, desiring him to be good unto my children;

And for the rest of all my goods both movables and unmovables, as well leases, reversions, goods, debts or otherways, I do will them to Amy, my wife, and to my children, Robert and William, and to that she goeth with, she to have the one half and they to have the other equally to be divided betwixt them, and every one of my children to be others' heir;

And if it shall chaunch [=chance] that all my children shall die before their lawful years of discretion, I will their parts to Amy, my well beloved wife, whom I do ordain sole executrix of this my last will;

And my well beloved brother, John Brooke, grocer, to be the overseer of this same, and he to have for his pains forty shillings sterling;

In witness whereof I have written this with my own hand the day and year above-written.
Per me Robertum Bele, mercer.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum Testamentum Coram Domino Achiep{iscop}o Cantuariensis apud London undecimo die mensis Iulij Anno Dominj mill{es}imo quingen{tesim}o xlvijjo Iuramento mag{ist}ri Davyd Claph{a}m no{ta}rij pu{bli}ci procurator{is} Anne Rel{ic}t{e} et executric{is} in h{uius}mo{d}i testament{o} no{m}i{n}at{e} Ac appro{ba}tum et insinuatum Commissa{que} fuit Administracio o{mn}ium et sing{u}lorum bonorum Iurium et Creditorum d{ic}t{i} defunct{i} prefate executrici De bene et fidel{ite}r administrand{o} eadem Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{i}

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the eleventh day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 48th by the oath of Master David Clapham, notary public, proctor of Anne, relict and executrix named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased to the forenamed executrix, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same.]