

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 20 and 24 December 1551 and proved 13 January 1552, of Sir Edward Don (c.1482-1551/2), whose sister, Margaret Don, was Oxford's great-grandmother. The surname is also frequently spelled 'Donne'.

The testator's original will, with seals attached, is available at the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies. See D-X580/2/1 in the online National Archives catalogue.

The testator was a kinsman of the poet John Donne. Escutcheons on the capitals of the columns in the Don triptych by Hans Memling show Sir John Don's coat of arms, *Azure, a wolf salient argent*. His crest was a knot of five snakes. See:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S11WSF3LZ4w>

For the 1591 portrait of the poet John Donne which includes the same coat of arms and crest, with a mark of cadency (i.e. a label of three points coupé at the ends) differencing the arms as those of an eldest son borne during the lifetime of his father, see Flynn, Dennis, *John Donne and the Ancient Catholic Nobility*, (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1995), pp. 2-5 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=nUvve-g0jScC&pg=PA3>

For marks of cadency, see Fox-Davies, Arthur Charles, *A Complete Guide to Heraldry*, (New York: Gramercy Books, 1993), p. 487.

This coat of arms and crest also appear in a book of hours (formerly the Louthe Hours), now recognized as having belonged to the testator's father, Sir John Don. See Dubois, Anne, 'The Donne Hours: A Codicological Puzzle', *Journal of Historians of Netherlandish Art*, 6:1, (Winter 2010) at:

<https://jhna.org/articles/donne-hours-codicological-puzzle/>

In addition to the book of hours, the testator's father, Sir John Don, also commissioned two other Flemish manuscripts, and received yet another as a gift from Mary, Duchess of Burgundy, and her step-daughter. See:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sir\\_John\\_Donne](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sir_John_Donne)

*[T]here are two surviving Flemish illuminated manuscripts commissioned by Donne in the British Library, plus a second-hand one (BL MS Royal 15 D iv) that was a gift from the two Duchesses of Burgundy (the widowed Margaret and her stepdaughter Mary) with the inscriptions: "For yet not har that ys on of yor treu frendes Margarete of Yorke" ("Forget not her that is one of your true friends, Margarete of York), and "Prenez moy ajames pour vre bonne amie Marie D. de bourg.ne" ("Take me forever for your good*

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*friend, Mary, Duchess of Burgundy"). This was formerly in the Old Royal Library, probably having been presented to Henry VIII by one of Donne's sons.<sup>[3]</sup>*

For the testator, see also *The Household Book (1510–1551) of Sir Edward Don: An Anglo-Welsh Knight and his Circle*, ed. Ralph A. Griffiths, (Aylesbury: Buckinghamshire Record Society, 2004) at:

<https://academic.oup.com/ehr/article-abstract/120/486/521/396465?redirectedFrom=PDF>

### ***FAMILY BACKGROUND***

The testator was the eldest son and heir of Sir John Don (c.1430-1503) by Elizabeth Hastings (c.1450-1508), the sister of William Hastings (c.1431 – 13 June 1483), 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Hastings, whose beheading by order of Richard III is depicted in Shakespeare's *Richard III*. For the will of Elizabeth Hastings Don, dated 29 November 1507 and proved 15 February 1508, see TNA PROB 11/15/680.

The testator's father, Sir John Don, was the third son of Griffith Don (buried after 1443) of Kidwelly by Joan (or Janet) Scudamore, daughter of Sir John Scudamore (born c.1365?, d. before 14 December 1435) of Kentchurch. See Skidmore, Warren, 'A Revisionist's Look at the Skydmore-Glyn Dwr Alliance', available as a pdf file online.

Sir John Don and Elizabeth Hastings had two sons and two daughters:

-**Sir Edward Don** (c.1482-1551/2), the testator.

-**Sir Griffith Don** (c.1487-1543), for whom see his will, TNA PROB 11/30/109, in which he appoints as overseer his 'loving cousin and friend', Dr John Hughes (1500-1543) of Uxbridge. After Dr Hughes' death, his offices were granted on 18 April 1543 to Sir Edward Don's son-in-law, Sir Thomas Jones (see below). For Dr John Hughes, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/hughes-john-1500-43>

-**Anne Don** (c.1471-c.1507), who married, as his first wife, Sir William Rede (1467 c.1527) of Boarstall, Buckinghamshire, by whom, according to her mother's will, she had two daughters, Elizabeth Rede and Mary Rede. After the death of Anne Don, Sir William Rede married Anne Warham, a niece of Archbishop William Warham, by whom he had several children, including a daughter, Anne Rede (d. 5 January 1585), who married firstly Sir Giles Greville (d. 1 April 1528), secondly Sir Adrian Fortescue (1476?-1539), and thirdly Queen Elizabeth's cofferer, Sir Thomas Parry (d.1560). For Sir Giles Greville see the will, dated 7 July 1544 and proved 14 April 1546, of William Arden of Park Hall, said to have been a second cousin of Mary Arden, mother of William Shakespeare of Stratford-upon-Avon, TNA PROB 11/31/109; the will of Oxford's

kinsman, John Neville (17 November 1493 – 2 March 1543), 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Latimer, TNA PROB 11/29/303; and the will of Sir Henry Wentworth (c.1448 - August 1499) of Nettlestead, Suffolk, great-grandfather of John Darcy (d.1581), 2nd Baron Darcy of Chiche, co-guarantor of Oxford's debt to the Court of Wards.

**-Margaret Don** (born c.1480), who married Edward Trussell (c.1478 - 16 June 1499) of Elmesthorpe, by whom she was the mother of Elizabeth Trussell (1496–1527), wife of John de Vere, 15th Earl of Oxford.

Both Sir John Don and his wife, Elizabeth Hastings, were buried in St George's Chapel, Windsor.

For the testator's family see also *The Edward De Vere Newsletter*, Nos. 45-8 on this website, and the Wikipedia article on Sir John Don at:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sir\\_John\\_Donne](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sir_John_Donne)

For Sir John Don, see also Griffiths, Ralph A., 'After Glyn Dwr: An Age of Reconciliation?', *Proceedings of the British Academy: 2001 Lectures*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), pp. 139-164 at pp. 159-62:

[https://books.google.ca/books?id=GjDbGzuYQ\\_gC&pg=PA159](https://books.google.ca/books?id=GjDbGzuYQ_gC&pg=PA159)

### ***MARRIAGE AND ISSUE***

About 1507 the testator married Anne Verney, the daughter of Sir John Verney (d. 31 August 1505) of Pendley, Hertfordshire, by Margaret Whittingham (d. April 1509). For Pendley, see:

<http://landedfamilies.blogspot.ca/2014/07/132-anderson-of-pendley-manor-baronets.html>

*Descent: Robert Whittingham; under attainder 1461-72, when returned to his daughter, Margaret, wife of John Verney (d. 1505); to son, Sir Ralph Verney (d. 1525); to son, Ralph Verney (d. 1546); to son, Edmund Verney (1528-58); to younger brother, (also) Edmund Verney (d. 1600); to sons, Sir Francis Verney (d. 1615) and Edmund Verney, who sold 1607 to Sir Richard Anderson, kt. (d. 1653). . . .*

### ***Testator's father-in-law***

Sir John Verney was the eldest son and heir of Sir Ralph Verney (d. 16 June 1478), Lord Mayor of London, for whose will, dated 11 June 1478 and proved 25 June 1478, see Bruce, John, ed., *Letters and Papers of the Verney Family*, (London: Camden Society, 1853), p. 24 at:

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<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YipTAAAAcAAJ&pg=PA24>

In his will, Sir Ralph Verney (d. 16 June 1478) mentions his wife, Emme, and her son, John Pykyng, his sons, John Verney and Ralph Verney, and his daughters, Margaret, wife of Sir Edward Raleigh, and Beatrice, wife of the London mercer Henry Danvers.

It should be noted in passing that the Verney pedigrees contain significant errors. For example, Richardson points out that the pedigree given by Lipscomb erroneously states that Sir Ralph Verney (d. 15 June 1478), Lord Mayor of London, married Eleanor Pole, whereas in fact Eleanor Pole was the wife of the Lord Mayor's second son, the courtier, Sir Ralph Verney (d. 6 July 1528). See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. III, p. 372 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=8JcbV309c5UC&pg=RA2-PA372>

Yet another error is contained in the pedigree given in Metcalfe, which states that the testator's father-in-law, Sir John Verney (d. 31 August 1505), was cupbearer to Queen Anne Boleyn. See Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Hertfordshire*, (London: Harleian Society, 1886), Vol. XXII, p. 23 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsofher222732cook#page/n39/mode/2up>

A John Verney was chief sewer to Catherine of Aragon in 1519-20. See Hayward, Maria, ed., *Dress at the Court of King Henry VIII*, (London: Routledge, 2017), p. 303 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=LTorDwAAQBAJ&pg=PA303>

A John Verney is listed as Queen Anne Boleyn's cupbearer at the Field of Cloth of Gold in 1520. See:

'Henry VIII: March 1520, 21-30', in *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII, Volume 3, 1519-1523*, ed. J S Brewer (London, 1867), pp. 231-249. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/letters-papers-hen8/vol3/pp231-249> [accessed 26 May 2018].

The testator's father-in-law, Sir John Verney, was buried at Ashridge, Hertfordshire. If he left a will, it has not survived. See Bruce, *supra*, pp. 38-9 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YipTAAAAcAAJ&pg=PA38>

An inquisition post mortem, TNA C 142/19/20, was taken in Hertfordshire after his death. Another was taken in Buckinghamshire between 22 August 1506 and 21 August 1507, although this IPM may pertain to another John Verney. See TNA E 150/5/15.

The testator's father-in-law and mother-in-law were originally buried in a tomb at Ashridge, later removed to the church of St John Baptist at Aldbury. See:

'Parishes: Aldbury', in *A History of the County of Hertford: Volume 2*, ed. William Page (London, 1908), pp. 143-148. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/herts/vol2/pp143-148> [accessed 1 June 2018].

*A brass plate on the south wall of the chapel, which must date from 1588 or soon after, records the history of the tomb, how it was set up in 'the Monasterie of Ausheritch,' Sir John Verney, husband of Margaret sole heir of Sir Robert Whittingham, being afterwards buried in it with his wife, as was his son Sir Ralph Verney and Anne his wife. Then it was moved to Aldbury in the eighteenth year of Elizabeth and the chapel and vault made by Edmund Verney, his wife Dame Audrey (Carew) being buried here in 1588.*

See also Bruce, *supra*, pp. 79-81 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YipTAAAcAAJ&pg=PA80>

### ***Testator's mother-in-law***

The testator's mother-in-law, Margaret Whittingham Verney, left a will dated 3 April 1509, which was proved at Wondon [=Wavendon?] on 21 April 1509. See Bruce, *supra*, p. 41 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YipTAAAcAAJ&pg=PA41>

In her will, the testator's mother-in-law, Margaret Whittingham Verney, mentions three sons and two daughters:

**-John Verney**, about whom nothing further appears to be known. If he was the eldest son, he had died by 1514, as in that year his brother, Ralph, was heir to their father. See:

'Parishes : Middle Claydon', in *A History of the County of Buckingham: Volume 4*, ed. William Page (London, 1927), pp. 32-35. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/bucks/vol4/pp32-35> [accessed 23 May 2018].

*In 1460 William Edy was sole owner. (fn. 36) Sir Ralph Verney advanced him money on the security of Middle Claydon, (fn. 37) and his son and heir John, afterwards Sir John Verney, died seised in 1505. (fn. 38) In 1514 Sir Ralph Verney obtained livery of this manor as his father's heir, (fn. 39) and died in 1525 . . . .*

If he was not the eldest son, it appears he was nonetheless dead by 1525, as he is not mentioned in the will of his brother, Sir Ralph Verney (c.1477 – 8 May 1525), made in that year.

**-Sir Ralph Verney** (c.1477 – 8 May 1525), Chamberlain to Mary Tudor, who married firstly Margaret Iwardby (d. 26 June 1519), widow of William Say, son of Thomas Say,

esquire, of Abingdon, Oxfordshire; secondly Anne Weston, daughter of Edmund Weston of Boston, Lincolnshire; and thirdly Elizabeth, the widow of John Breton (d.1522?) (after the death of Sir Ralph Verney, Elizabeth married John Drew, Usher of the King's Chamber). See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. IV, p. 277 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=8JcbV309c5UC&pg=RA3-PA277>

For the will of Sir Ralph Verney, see Bruce, *supra*, pp. 42-7 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YipTAAAAcAAJ&pg=PA42>

**-Robert Verney**, who married Avis Bullock (d.1541?), daughter of Gilbert Bullock (d. before 1514), esquire, by Margaret Norreys, daughter of Sir William Norris (d. before 10 January 1507) by Joan Vere, daughter of John de Vere, 12<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, and Elizabeth Howard. At the time of her marriage to Robert Verney, Avis Bullock was the widow of Christopher (or John?) Bellingham. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 352 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=8JcbV309c5UC&pg=PA352>

For the marriage of Robert Verney and Avis Bullock Bellingham, see also Bruce, *supra*, pp. 45, 50 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YipTAAAAcAAJ&pg=PA45>

Robert Verney is said to have died without issue. See the pedigree in Metcalfe, *supra*, p. 23.

**-Cecily Verney**, who married Sir Edward Chamberlain (1480-1543), by whom she had several children, including the testator's nephews, Sir Edward Chamberlain and Sir Ralph Chamberlain mentioned in the will below. See the History of Parliament entry for Sir Edward Chamberlain (1480-1543) at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/chamberlain-sir-edward-1480-1543>

*bap. 22 Dec. 1480, 1st s. of Richard Chamberlain of Coton, Northants. by Sybil, da. of Richard Fowler of Rycote, Oxon. m. by 1504, Cecily, da. of Sir John Verney of Pendley, Herts., at least 3s. Edward Chamberlain II, Sir Leonard\* and Sir Ralph 2da. suc. fa. 28 Aug. 1496, mother 1525. Kntd. 25 Sept. 1513.1*

For the testator's nephew, Sir Edward Chamberlain (by 1509-1557), see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/chamberlain-edward-ii-1509-57>

For the testator's nephew, Sir Ralph Chamberlain (1523-1570?), see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/chamberlain-sir-ralph-1523-70-or-later>

As indicated in the History of Parliament entry, after the death of Sir Richard Chamberlain, his widow married Sir Richard Hussey (by 1529-1574), son of Richard Hussey and Elizabeth Trentham, daughter of Thomas Trentham, great-grandfather of Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham. For the will of Thomas Trentham, see TNA PROB 11/19/252.

-**Anne Verney**, wife of the testator.

By Anne Verney the testator had only one child:

\* **Elizabeth Don** (d. before 1551), who married Sir Thomas Jones (by 1492 – 1558/9) of Abermarlais, sheriff of Carmarthen and Cardigan. See his will, proved 26 June 1559, TNA PROB 11/42B/330, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/jones-thomas-1492-155859>

After the death of the testator's daughter, Elizabeth Don, Sir Thomas Jones married secondly, by 1532, Mary Berkeley (c.1511–c.1586), the daughter of James Berkeley (died c.1515) of Thornbury, Gloucestershire, and widow of Thomas Perrot (1504/5–1531) of Haroldston, by whom he had at least three sons, including Henry Jones and Richard Jones, and two daughters. For Sir John Perrot, the only son of Thomas Perrot by Mary Berkeley, see the Wikipedia article at:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Perrot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Perrot)

By Sir Thomas Jones, Elizabeth Don had two daughters, referred to by the testator in the will below as his 'daughters', but in reality his granddaughters:

-**Anne Jones**, who married John Cotton of Whittington, Gloucestershire, by whom she had three sons – Richard Cotton, William Cotton and Ralph Cotton (who married Apolyn Child, the daughter of William Child of Northwick (in Blockley), Worcestershire (now Gloucestershire), by whom he had a son, Don Cotton). See the Cotton pedigree in Maclean, John and W.C. Heane, eds., *The Visitation of the County of Gloucester Taken in the Year 1623*, (London: Harleian Society, 1885), Vol. XXI, p. 46 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=zSgEAAAIAAJ&pg=PA46>

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<http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/>

**-Frances Jones** (d.1572) who married Ralph Lee (d.1578) of Saunderton, who is said to have married, firstly(?), a daughter of Sir Philip Paris of Linton. See Meyrick, Samuel Rush, ed., *Heraldic Visitations of Wales*, Vol. I, (Llandoverly: William Rees, 1846), p. 199 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=3plOAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA199>

For Ralph Lee, see also:

'Parishes: Saunderton', in *A History of the County of Buckingham: Volume 3*, ed. William Page (London, 1925), pp. 92-95. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/bucks/vol3/pp92-95> [accessed 22 May 2018]

*They granted this manor before 1474 to Sir John Leynham alias Plomer and his wife Margaret. (fn. 30) He died in 1479, (fn. 31) and Margaret sold the manor to Sir John Donne. (fn. 32) He bequeathed it to his wife Elizabeth for life, with reversion to their son Edward, (fn. 33) who had succeeded in 1506. (fn. 34) He was knighted in 1513, (fn. 35) and on his death in 1551 (fn. 36) Sir Thomas Jones, who had married Elizabeth only daughter and heir of Sir Edward Donne, held the manor for his life. (fn. 37) He died in 1559, (fn. 38) leaving two co-heirs, Anne wife of John Cotton and Frances wife of Ralph Lee. (fn. 39) By mutual agreement Saunderton Manor passed to the Lees. (fn. 40) Frances died in 1572 (fn. 41) and her husband in 1578. (fn. 42) Their son and heir Edward Donne Lee (fn. 43) conveyed this manor in 1593 to Sir Robert Dormer, (fn. 44).*

Frances Jones Lee was buried in the Savoy Church, London, 'Somerset Herald attending'. See Lipscomb, George, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Buckingham*, Vol. III, (London: J. & W. Robins, 1847), p. 628 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ut89AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA628>

For the inquisition post mortem taken in Buckinghamshire after the death of Ralph Lee, see TNA C 142/180/7.

By Ralph Lee, Frances Jones had two children:

**(1) Anne Lee** (living January 1572, when she attended the funeral of her mother, Frances Jones Lee; died between 1572 and 1576), who married George Ashby (d.1603) of Harefield, Middlesex, son of Thomas Ashby (d.1559), Clerk of the Spicery to Queen Elizabeth, and grandson of George Ashby (d.1514) by Rose Eden, sister of Richard Eden, Archdeacon of Middlesex, and of Henry Eden (d.1518), Merchant of the Staple at Calais (Henry Eden's widow married the testator's brother, Sir Griffith Don; see his will for details). For the will of George Ashby, proved 15 November 1604, see TNA PROB 11/104/513. For Anne Lee, see also *The Gentleman's Magazine*, July 1822, p. 230 at:



<https://books.google.ca/books?id=HaRJAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA230>

For the Ashby family see also:

<http://landedfamilies.blogspot.ca/2016/01/202-ashby-of-breakspears.html>

For Rose Eden's second husband, Nicholas Bone, gentleman, of Edmonton, Middlesex, see his will, proved 5 May 1523, TNA PROB 11/21/114, and the Ashby pedigree at:

<http://www.mbs-brasses.co.uk/Brass%20of%20the%20month%20Nov%202017.html>

**(2) Edward Don (or Dunn) Lee** (d.1598), who according to the History of Parliament and Meyrick, *infra*, p. 199, married firstly Anne Heywood, the daughter of Richard Heywood, esquire, by whom he had at least three sons. In his will he requests burial 'in the parish church of Carmarthen in the same grave that my first wife was buried'. He appears to have married secondly, after 1580, Cecily, widow of George Handford. See:

'Parishes: Beaconsfield', in *A History of the County of Buckingham: Volume 3*, ed. William Page (London, 1925), pp. 155-165. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/bucks/vol3/pp155-165> [accessed 24 May 2018].

*After [George] Handford's death in 1580 his wife Cecily married Edward Dun-Lee, with whom she joined in 1584 to alienate her interest [in to Richard Tredway.*

For the will of George Handford of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, proved 18 October 1580, see TNA PROB 11/62/410.

See also the 1616 will of John Handford of Wollas Hall, TNA PROB 11/127/794, who appoints his 'dear kinsman', Thomas Russell (1570-1634), as one of his executors. In the same year, 1616, Thomas Russell was also appointed as overseer of the will of William Shakespeare (1564-1616) of Stratford upon Avon.

Edward Don Lee was sheriff of Carmarthen from 1588-1594 and a Member of Parliament during the years 1584-1587. In the latter capacity, he is chiefly remembered for his presentation of John Penry's petition to the Parliament of 1586-87. A year later, John Penry found a permanent place in history by acting as manager of the secret press which printed the Marprelate tracts, a transgression which doubtless played a large part in his execution in 1593, although he was hanged for treason on other grounds. See the *ODNB* entry for John Penry:

*Immediately after he had obtained his master's degree Penry turned his attention to the state of the church in his native land, and in 1586 compiled A treatise containing the aequity of an humble supplication which is to be exhibited unto hir gracious maiesty and this high court of parliament in the behalfe of the countrey of Wales, that some order may be taken for the preaching of the gospell among those people. Having heard that parliament might be dissolved, early in 1587 Penry gained a licence for his tract, had*

*500 copies printed in Oxford, and brought them hurriedly to London. On 28 February he persuaded Edward Dounlee, the member for Carmarthen, to present The Aequity to the House of Commons, where it gained the enthusiastic support of the Warwickshire MP, Job Throckmorton.*

For Edward Don Lee, see his will, TNA PROB 11/91/234, proved 13 March 1598, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/donne-lee-alias-downlee-dounley-1598>

For his motto ('Cedo Regi et Legi'), see:

<http://www.yarntheory.net/ursulageorges/motto/welshmottoes.html>

### **TESTATOR'S LANDS**

For the manor of Horsenden, see:

[www.bucksgardenstrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Horsenden\\_Manor.pdf](http://www.bucksgardenstrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Horsenden_Manor.pdf)

LM: T{estamentum} Edwardi Donne mi{li}t{is}

In the name of God, Amen. The 20<sup>th</sup> day of December in the fifth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord Edward the Sixth by the grace of God King of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith and of the Church of England and also of Ireland in Earth the Supreme Head:

Forasmuch as there is nothing more certain and sure appointed unto man than death, and the time and place thereof being most commonly to every man uncertain, I, Sir Edward Dun of Horsenden within the county of Buckingham, knight, being of whole mind and perfect memory, the living God be praised, revoking all other former wills heretofore by me had or made, make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I give and bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my Creator, Redeemer and Saviour, by whose merits and only deservings I believe to have free remission, pardon and forgiveness of all my sins and offences according to the most benign promises contained in the most holy and sacred scriptures, and also assuredly hope to be of the number of them that shall be saved and inherit the kingdom of heaven;

And further I will that when it shall please Almighty God to call me from this transitory life to his mercy, that my body shall be buried in the parish church of Horsenden

aforesaid in the place where the body of the Lady Dame Anne, my late wife, deceased, lieth, or as near the same place as it may conveniently be;

Also I will and give to my son, John Cotton, my black velvet coat and my best sword;

Also further I will and give to my daughter [=granddaughter], Anne Cotton, his wife, my basin and ewer of silver, my lesser pounced bowl of silver, one silver salt with a cover, one little salt of silver gilt, eight silver spoons and three gilt spoons of silver;

Provided alway that if my said son Cotton and Anne, his wife, and every of them do not permit and suffer my daughter [=granddaughter], Frances Lee, and her assigns quietly to have and enjoy all such goods, chattels, household stuff, money, plate and jewels to her willed and given by this my last will and testament without any interruption, vexation, let, trouble or disturbance of my said son Cotton and Anne, his wife, or any of them or of any other person or persons by the commandment, procurement, means or assent of them or any of them, that then and from thenceforth the said gift as well of the said velvet coat and sword as also of all the parcels of plate before willed and given shall be void and of none effect to all intents, constructions and purposes as if the same had never be[en] had or made, and then I will and give to my said daughter, Frances Lee, as well the said velvet coat & sword as also the said parcels of plate before expressed and every parcel thereof;

Also furthermore I will and give to Anne Lee, daughter of my son, Ralph Lee, and of my said daughter, Frances, his wife, my carklet [=carcanet?] or hoop of gold and a cross of gold with a pearl thereunto annexed weighing twenty angelets [=a gold coin half the value of an angel], which said carklet or hoop, cross and pearl I will that my said daughter, Frances Lee, shall keep to the use of the said Anne Lee during the life natural of the said Frances;

Also I will and give to my nephew, Ralph Chamberlain, my wolstid [=worsted?] gown furred with budge;

Also I will and give to my nephew, Edward Chamberlain, all my pieces of tapestry of the story of Godfrey of Bullen [=Boulogne] and a tester of a bed of the same story and the valence of the same tester belonging;

And further I will and give to my said nephew, Edward Chamberlain, all my armour, harness, artillery and weapons for the war whatsoever they be, and also my black velvet cap and all the pieces of gold thereupon;

And further I will that my said nephew, Edward Chamberlain, shall have the custody and keeping of one writing obligatory wherein one Sir Thomas Jones, knight, standeth holdeth [sic] and bounden unto me in the sum of one thousand pounds for the performance of certain covenants specified and expressed in a pair of indentures made between me, the said Sir Edward, of thone party and the said Sir Thomas Jones of thother party, bearing the date of the said writing obligatory to th' use of my said daughters,

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Anne Cotton and Frances Lee, for that the same writing obligatory was made for th' assurance of certain lands & tenements [f. 5r] and hereditaments amounting to the yearly value of forty pounds to th' use of my said daughter[s] Anne and Frances and of their heirs;

Also I will and give to Jenot Jones for and in recompense of her good and faithful service to me done £6 13s 4d of lawful English money;

Also I will and give to Thomas Wymot in recompense of his faithful and diligent service to me done my bed wherein I now lie in my chamber at Horsenden aforesaid with all the furniture of bedding thereunto belonging and appertaining;

And also all my wearing apparel other than such which is of any manner of silk and not by his my last will and testament given and willed to any other person or persons;

And also 26s 8d of leeful English money for and in consideration of his whole year's wages;

And further I will and give to John Carpenter ten shillings of lawful English money;

Also I will and give to Edward Whitburne 20s of lawful English money;

Also I will and give to Sir John Robertson, priest, curate of the parish church of Bledlow, 20s of leeful English money;

Also furthe[r] I will and give to every one of my servants under-named, that is to say, Ralph Kingston, John Coope, Thomas Sale, John Raunce, Robert Meade and Edward Hooke, twenty shillings of leeful English money for and in consideration of their wages;

Also further I will and give to every one of my servants a new black coat;

Also I will that my executrix shall give to the poor people being householders and dwelling or inhabiting within the towns and parishes of Princes Risborough, Saunderton, Ilmer, Hadman [=Haddenham?], Bledlow, Kingsey, West Wycombe & Longwick within the said county of Buckingham £6 13s 4d of lawful English money in manner and form following, that is to say, the day of the burial of my body and the same day month then next and immediately following by even portions;

And also I will that a sermon shall be made by some godly learned man at every of the same days and that mine executrix shall give for his labour 20s of lawful English money;

And further I will that the evidences concerning all my manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments within the county of Buckingham aforesaid and in the country of Wales shall be put into a strong chest & locked with three locks, and the keys of the same three locks shall be severally delivered, that is to say, one to my said daughter, Anne Cotton, the second to my said daughter, Frances Lee, and the third to my said nephew, Edward

Chamberlain, and after such delivery of the said three keys the same chest with evidences shall be delivered to my said nephew, Edward Chamberlain, to th' intent that he shall keep the same safe to th' use of my said daughters and of their heirs until such time as partition shall be made between my said daughters or their heirs of the said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments in the said county of Buckingham and in the country of Wales by writ or otherwise according to th' order of the laws of this realm;

And the residue of all my goods, chattels, household stuff, plate, jewels and all other things reals and personals, whatsoever they be, I will that after my debts shall be paid and this my last will and testament truly performed in everything according to the true meaning and purport of the same shall be by my said loving daughter, Frances Lee, given to the poor people or otherwise bestowed to such godly uses and intents as shall be thought meet and convenient according to the discretion of the same Frances Lee, whom I ordain and make my only and sole executrix of this my last will and testament, and my said loving nephew, Edward Chamberlain, overseer of the same;

In witness whereof I, the said Sir Edward Dunne, to this present my last will and testament have set to my seal of arms and subscribed my name the day and year first above-written.

RM: Vltima voluntas eiusdem

This is the last will and testament of me, Sir Edward Dune of Horsenden within the county of Buckingham, knight, made the 24<sup>th</sup> day of December in the fifth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Edward the Sixth by the grace of God King of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith and of the Church of England and also of Ireland in Earth the Supreme Head, concerning th' order and disposition of my manor of Ratcliffe Culey with his rights, members and appurtenances in the county of Leicester, and all other my lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments with their appurtenances within the said county of Leicester, that is to say:

I will that my daughter, Frances Lee, or such other person or persons as shall be named and appointed by my said daughter, Frances Lee, shall at any time or times hereafter during the space of ten years next ensuing the date hereof give, grant, bargain or sell the premises aforesaid and every parcel thereof to any person or persons and to his or their heirs forever, and the money thereof coming and growing to give and bestow to the poor people or to such other godly uses and intents as shall be thought meet and decent according to the discretion of my said daughter, Frances, or of such other person or persons as shall be so named and appointed by the same Frances;

And further I will that the rents, issues and profits which shall be coming and growing of the premises before rehearsed and every parcel thereof at any time before the said premises and every parcel thereof shall be given, granted, bargained or sold in manner and form before expressed shall be perceived, received and taken by the said Frances or such other person or persons as shall be so named and appointed by the same Frances and

given and bestowed in manner and form above recited, so that the same premises be given, granted, bargained or sold at any time within the space of ten years aforesaid. Per me, Edward Dune. Signed and sealed in the presence of [f. 5v] Francis Verney, esquire, Ralph Kingston, gentleman, John Cope, Thomas Wymet et aliorum. James Clarke, Edward Chamberlain, Edmund Acton.

Probatum fuit testamentum coram domino Cantuariensis Archiepiscopo apud London xiiij die mensis Ianuarij Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo quiinquagesimo primo Iuramento Rogeri Hunt procuratoris frauncisce Lee Executricis in huiusmodi testamento nominatim Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et commissum fuit administratione omnium bonorum & dicitur defuncti De bene et fideliter administratione eadem Ac de pleno Inuentorio &c exhibendo Ad sancta dei Evangelia in debita iurforma Iurat

[=The testament was proved before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the month of January in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-first by the oath of Roger Hunt, proctor of Francis Lee, executrix named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all the goods etc. of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels in due form of law to well and faithfully administer the same, and to exhibit a full inventory etc.]

LM: Nono Novembris 1574(?) commissum est administrando de bonis non administratis &c

[=On ninth November 1574(?) a grant issued for the administration of the goods not administered etc.]