

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will dated 22 September 1550 and codicil dated 15 March 1557, proved 18 August 1557, of Sir Richard Morison (c.1510 – 20 March 1557), 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.

In the will below the testator requests that Katherine (nee Willoughby) Brandon Bertie (1519-1580), Duchess of Suffolk, be granted the wardship of his son, Charles Morison:

. . . most earnestly desiring all my friends to be suitors with my Lady Katherine, Duchess of Suffolk, to the King's Majesty that her Grace may have him her ward by his Majesty's gift and so him brought up according to my trust.

The Duchess' son, Peregrine Bertie (1555-1601), Lord Willoughby d'Eresby, married Oxford's sister, Mary De Vere.

The testator was a close associate of the future Lord Burghley. From the *ODNB* entry for Sir John Cheke:

On 25 November and 3 December 1551 a two-part debate on the sacrament was held at the London homes of Cecil and Richard Morison, presaging the second Book of Common Prayer (1552).

The testator died at Strasbourg. From the *ODNB*:

Following the accession of Mary I in July 1553 Morison joined the English protestant exiles on the continent. Together with his family and other prominent exiles such as Sir John Cheke and Sir Anthony Cooke, he stayed for the most part in Strasbourg, studying under Vermigli and corresponding with Heinrich Bullinger and John Calvin. With Cooke and Edwin Sandys, he successfully petitioned the city council for temporary residence in September 1555, but he died there on 20 March 1556. In a codicil added to his will on 15 March and witnessed by Cheke and Sir Thomas Wroth, Morison gave his wife all his moveable goods unconditionally. She returned to England on the accession of Elizabeth I and remarried.

The *ODNB* states that the testator died on 20 March 1556. However the codicil below is dated 'the xv day of March 1556', i.e., 15 March 1557, New Style, and his death was announced to Lord Burghley by John Hales in a letter dated 'the 23 of March 1556', i.e. 23 March 1557, New Style (see CP 151/50). Moreover the will was proved on 18 August 1557, which would be seventeenth months after the testator's death had he died on 20 March 1556. It thus appears the testator died 20 March 1557, and the will was proved 17 August 1557, five months after his death.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Testator's parents

The testator was the son of Thomas Morison, esquire, of Chardwell, Yorkshire, and Margaret Merry, the daughter of Thomas Merry of Hatfield, Hertfordshire. See the *ODNB* entry, and Cooper, Charles Henry and Thompson Cooper, *Athenae Cantabrigienses*, Vol. I, (Cambridge: Deighton, Bell & Co., 1858), pp. 143-5 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=k-pLAAAACAAJ&pg=PA143>

Through his mother the testator was related by marriage to Thomas Norton and Alexander Nowell. See the *ODNB* entries:

Norton, Thomas (1530x32–1584), lawyer and writer, was born in London, the first son (and heir) of Thomas Norton, grocer of London, and his first wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Merry of Northall, Hertfordshire.

Nowell, Alexander (c. 1516/17–1602), dean of St Paul's His first wife, Jane, daughter of Robert Mery of Northaw, Hertfordshire, and widow of Thomas Bowyer of London, died on 3 August 1579.

For the will of the London grocer, Thomas Bowyer, see TNA PROB 11/41/93. See also the pedigree of Mery of Hatfield in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Hertfordshire*, (London: Harleian Society, 1886), Vol. XXII, p. 152 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=uFE_AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA152

Testator's siblings

Two sisters are mentioned in the will below:

-Faith Morison, who married and had issue. The name of her husband is unknown. She is not included in the entails in the will below, and may have predeceased the testator.

-Amy Morison, who married firstly Robert Beale (d.1545?). See his will dated 16 September 1545 and proved 11 July 1548, TNA PROB 11/32/171, in which he mentions 'Amy, my wife', and bequeaths a cup to 'my brother-in-law, Master Morison'.

By Robert Beale, Amy Morison was the mother of the diplomat and Clerk of the Privy Council, 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.

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>

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

In the will below the testator mentions 'my sister Amy's children by Stephen Hales'.

Stephen Hales was the brother of the testator's friend and executor, John Hales (1516?-1572), for whom see the *ODNB* entry:

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.

After the death of Amy Morison, Stephen Hales married secondly, before 1561, Bridget Over, daughter of Henry Over, and widow of John Nethermill.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married, in 1546, Bridget Hussey (1526-1601), the eldest daughter of John Hussey (executed 29 June 1537), 1st Baron Hussey of Sleaford, Lincolnshire, and his second wife, Anne Grey (d.1545/6), the daughter of George Grey (d.1503), 2nd Earl of Kent, by his second wife, Katherine Herbert (d.1503/4), third daughter of William Herbert (c.1423-1469), 1st Earl of Pembroke, and Anne Devereux, the daughter of Sir Walter Devereux (1411-1459). For the will of Anne (nee Grey) Hussey, see TNA PROB 11/31/56.

For Bridget Hussey's two marriages after the testator's death, see her will, TNA PROB 11/97/10.

By Bridget Hussey, the testator had a son and two daughters, for whom see her will, *supra*.

By his mistress, Lucy Peckham (d.1552), wife of Sir George Harper (d.1558), the testator is said to have had five illegitimate children. See Harris, Barbara J., *English Aristocratic Women 1450-1550*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), p. 81 at:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=_ooCPPIPqvcC&pg=PA81

For Lucy Peckham, see the entry at:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=701

For Sir George Harper, see his will, TNA PROB 11/42A/75, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/harper-george-1503-58>

He had made no provision for the putative children, two sons and three daughters, of his first marriage. They were in fact his children in name only.

After the death of Lucy Peckham, George Harper married Audrey Gainsford, who after his death married, as his first wife, George Carleton (1529-1590). George Carleton's third wife was Bridget (nee Hussey) Crane, the 'Mistress Crane' at whose manor of East Molesey across the Thames from Hampton Court Palace the first of the Marprelate tracts was printed on a secret press by Robert Waldegrave in October 1588.

In the will below, the testator mentions only one 'base son', Marcellus, and two 'base daughters', Mary and Amy. Amy is not mentioned in the inquisition post mortem taken 18 October 1560 after the death of the testator's illegitimate son, Marcellus Harper. At that time, the testator's surviving children by Lucy Peckham were:

* **Marcellus Harper** (d. 1 February 1559).

* **Frances Harper**, who married William Patrickson, gentleman. She is not mentioned in the will below.

* **Mary Harper**, who married Bartholomew Hales, gentleman, son of the testator's friend, John Hales (1516?-1572). See the Wikipedia entry for John Hales edited by the author of this website:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Hales_\(died_1572\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Hales_(died_1572))

Bartholomew Hales (d.1599), esquire, of Snitterfield, Warwickshire, who married Mary Harper, the daughter of George Harper (d. 12 December 1558) by his first wife, Lucy Peckham (d. 31 July 1552), daughter of Thomas Peckham.

* **Anne Harper**, who died unmarried. She can perhaps be identified with the testator's 'base daughter' Amy mentioned in the will below. The two Christian names appear to have been somewhat interchangeable at the time. The testator's brother-in-law, Robert Beale, for example, refers throughout his will to his wife, Amy. However in the probatum clause to his will she is referred to as Anne.

See the inquisition post mortem taken after the death of Marcellus Harper (and the inquisition post mortem taken after the death of Anne Harper) at:

'Inquisitions: 2 Elizabeth I (1559-60)', in *Abstracts of Inquisitiones Post Mortem For the City of London: Part 1*, ed. G S Fry (London, 1896), pp. 191-211. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/inquis-post-mortem/abstract/no1/pp191-211> [accessed 24 October 2019].

Inquisition taken at the Guildhall, 18 October, 2 Eliz. [1560], before William Hewett, knight, Mayor and escheator, after the death of Marcellus Harper, gent., by the oath of Robert Shurlocke, John Jackson, Robert Lee, Robert Danby, Robert Davy, Henry Callis, Guy Awood, Michael Smith, Lawrence Jacson, Stephen Walden, Thomas Ebden, Robert Dunkin, William Swaunson and John Benson, who say that

Before the death of the said Marcellus, Lucy Harper, late the wife of George Harper, knight, deceased, was seised of 2 messuages and 2 gardens, lying within the precinct of the late Priory sometime belonging to the Black Friars within the City of London.

So seised, the said Lucy had issue by the said George, Marcellus Harper (named in the writ), Frances, now the wife of William Patrickson, gent., Mary, now the wife of Bartholomew Hales, gent., and Anne Harper, and died 31 July, 6 Edward VI [1552], the said Marcellus, her son and next heir, being then aged 7 years and more.

The said George Harper survived the said Lucy, and died 12 December, 1 Eliz. [1558]; after his death Audrey (Audria) Harper, late the wife of the said George, took the profits of the said premises up to 5 February, 1 Eliz. [1559].

The said premises are held of the Queen in chief by the service of the 20th part of a knight's fee, and are worth per ann., clear, £4 6s. 8d.

Marcellus Harper died 5 February, 1 Eliz. [1559], before any inquisition had been taken after the deaths of the said Lucy and George; the said Frances Patrickson, Mary Hales, and Anne Harper are the sisters and next heirs of the said Marcellus, and were then aged respectively, the said Frances 24 years and more, the said Mary 17 years and more, and the said Anne 13 years. The said Anne died unmarried before the taking of this inquisition.

After the death of the said Marcellus, the said Audrey (Audria), afterwards the wife of George Carleton, gent., took the profits of the said premises until 25 March last past.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

For Katherine (nee Willoughby) Brandon Bertie (1519-1580), Duchess of Suffolk, whose son, Peregrine Bertie (1555-1601), Lord Willoughby d'Eresby, married Oxford's sister, Mary De Vere., see the *ODNB* entry.

In connection with the manor of Snitterfield, the testator makes the following reference to John Combe:

Provided always and I will and bequeath to John Combes, gentleman, one yearly annuity of five pound for term of his life going out of my said manor of Closworth in consideration that he shall not claim th' annuity of £5 yearly which I give him during his life out of the manor of Snitterfield in the county of Warwick, anything before in this my will to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

For the Combe family, see the will of John Combe (buried 12 July 1614), TNA PROB 11/126/415, who in 1602 sold 107 acres of land to William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon (see SBTRO ER 27/1) and bequeathed him £5 in his will.

The John Combe referred to by the testator was likely John Combe (d.1588), whose son, Edward Combe (d.1597), married Anne Hales, the daughter of Stephen Hales (d. 27 March 1574). Stephen Hales was twice married, his first wife being the testator's sister, Amy Morison (see above).

For Bernardino Ochino (c.1487–1564/5), see the *ODNB* entry.

For the testator's brother-in-law, Thomas Hussey, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/hussey-thomas-i-1520-1576>

For the testator's brother-in-law, William Hussey of Beauvale, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/hussey-william-ii-1493-1556>

For Sir John Cheke (1514-1557), who witnessed the testator's will, see the *ODNB* entry.

For Sir Thomas Wroth (d.1573), another witness to the will, see the *ODNB* entry.

For John Aylmer (1520/21-1594), later Bishop of London, another witness to the will, see the *ODNB* entry.

For James Haddon (d.1556?), another witness to the will and former tutor to Lady Jane Grey, see the *ODNB* entry.

See also the *ODNB* entry for John Aylmer:

Like many leading exiles Aylmer is credited with a 'miraculous escape': according to Thomas Fuller, when those sent to apprehend Aylmer boarded the vessel in which he was to cross the channel he was hidden in a large wine-vat with a secret compartment. Although John Strype asserted that it was Aylmer who in Strasbourg published a letter of Lady Jane Grey's it is more likely that its preserver and publisher was James Haddon, another of her tutors, who died there in 1556.

TESTATOR'S LANDS

For the testator's manor of Cashibury, see Hall, S.C., 'The Stately Homes of England', *The Art-Journal*, Vol. 33, (London: Virtue and Co., 1871), pp. 253-6 at:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=_jocAQAAMAAJ&pg=PR253

For the testator's reversionary interest in the priory of Beauvale, see Dickinson, William, *Antiquities Historical, Architectural, Chorographical, and Itinerary in Nottinghamshire and the Adjacent Counties*, Part I, Vol. I, (Newark: Holt and Hage, 1801), pp. 314-15 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/antiquitieshistov1p12dick#page/314/mode/2up>

For Beauvale see also *Magna Britannia Antiqua & Nova*, Vol. IV, (London: Caesar Ward and Richard Chandler, 1738), pp. 178-9 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=U5RJAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA179>

For the testator's manor of Whitsbury, see:

'Parishes: Whitsbury', in *A History of the County of Hampshire: Volume 4*, ed. William Page (London, 1911), pp. 594-595. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/hants/vol4/pp594-595> [accessed 25 October 2019]

After the Dissolution the site of the manor was leased in 1540 for twenty-one years to Anthony Cotes, the tenant of the abbot, (fn. 13) and five years later the manor itself was granted to Richard Morrison. (fn. 14) He died seised in 1556, leaving a son and heir Charles, (fn. 15) who was succeeded in 1599 by his son Charles, (fn. 16) created a baronet in 1611.

For the testator's manors of East Chinnock and Closworth, see Collinson, John, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Somerset*, Vol. II, (Bath: R. Cruttwell, 1791), p. 327:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=OdpSAAAACAAJ&pg=PA327>

For East Chinnock and Closworth, see also Archbold, W.A.J., *The Somerset Religious Houses*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1892), p. 213 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=djUQAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA213>

For the testator's manor of Snitterfield, see:

'Parishes: Snitterfield', in *A History of the County of Warwick: Volume 3, Barlichway Hundred*, ed. Philip Styles (London, 1945), pp. 167-172. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/warks/vol3/pp167-172> [accessed 25 October 2019]

In 1545 Henry VIII granted the manor to Richard Moryson. (fn. 37) In September of the next year Moryson conveyed the manor to John Hales for regrant to himself for one month and then to Lucy Harper for life, with contingent remainders to her various children. (fn. 38) One of these children, Mary, was presumably the 'Mary daughter of George Harper of Kent' who married Bartholomew Hales, younger brother of John Hales, (fn. 39) as Bartholomew and Mary Hales made a settlement of the manor in 1568, (fn. 40) and he died seised thereof in 1599. (fn. 41)

LM: T{estamentum} Rich{ard}i Moryson

In the name of God, Amen. I, Richard Morison, knight, whole of mind and perfect memory and of health in body, praise be to Almighty God, intending to pass over the seas in the King's my master's service and affairs, not knowing what God will dispose of me in my journey ne whether I shall ever return into my natural county in life or men(?), mindful therefore of the uncertainty of man's life, being most assured that I am mortal and must pass out of this transitory life when God shall call me by his terrible messenger, death, ordained of God for the sin of our father, Adam, willing to make a declaration of such things as Almighty God of his goodness hath lent me in this vale of misery, as well movables as unmovables, manors, lands and tenements by the goodness of the most gracious King of famous memory, Henry the Eight, father to the King my master, [f. 214r] to me given and granted, also with such manors, lands and tenements as I have purchased, both in possession and reversion, before my departure out of England, make and ordain this my testament containing in it my last will in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my Saviour and Redeemer, my body and carcass to be buried in Christian burial in such place as it shall please Almighty God to call me to his mercy;

My funerals to be done in such order and condition as my vocation at the time of my death shall require, as by discretion of my executors shall be thought expedient;

My debts to be paid as far as my goods will extend in discharge of my conscience;

Declaring my last will concerning all my manors, lands and tenements in manner and form ensuing, this is the last will of me, Richard Morison, knight, made the 22nd day of September in the fourth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Edward the Sixth concerning the disposition of all [+and?] singular my lordships, manors, lands, tenements and other hereditaments whatsoever with th' appurtenances:

First I will that immediately after my decease my lordship and manor of Whitsbury otherwise called Whichebury with all and singular th' appurtenances in the counties of Wiltshire and Southampton and all my lands and tenements, rents, reversions and services with their appurtenances situate, lying and being in Whitsbury in the said county of Wiltshire or elsewhere in the said counties of Southampton and Wiltshire, and my lordship and manor of East Chinnock with all and singular th' appurtenances in the county of Somerset and all lands and tenements, rents, reversions and services in East Chinnock in the said county of Somerset shall descend and go by way of descent according to the order of the common law to my son, Charles Morison, or for want of him, to such person or persons whom God at the time of my decease shall provide to be my next heir, which lordships, manors and other the premises be at this present of the full clear yearly value of a third part of all mine hereditaments whereof I am now sole seised, they being equally divided into three parts, which I most humbly beseech the King's Majesty, my most gracious Sovereign Lord and master, to accept and take with the custody and wardship of mine heir in full recompense as to his Highness appertaineth of all [+the?] said lordships, manors, lands, tenements and other mine hereditaments whereof I am now sole seised according to the laws of this his realm without any grief or trouble to be offered to any person or persons to whom I shall by this my present last will give, appoint, bequeath, will or devise any other my lordships, manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments, most earnestly desiring all my friends to be suitors with my Lady Katherine, Duchess of Suffolk, to the King's Majesty that her Grace may have him her ward by his Majesty's gift and so him brought up according to my trust;

I do will, give and devise to my loving wife, Bridget, in full satisfaction of her dower and augmentation of her living, beside all my movables, jewels, plate, cattle, household stuff, all my money and all the rest of my utensils, all that my capital mansion house with th' appurtenances wherein I now dwell situate, lying and being within the precinct of the site of the late Whitefriars in Fleet Street in [+the?] city of London, and all and singular my houses, lands, tenements, gardens and void grounds with th' appurtenances situate, lying and being within the said city or elsewhere;

Also I bequeath to my said wife all that my lordship and manor of Casso otherwise called Cashiobury with th' appurtenances in the county of Hertford, and all and singular my lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services, woods, underwoods and other mine hereditaments in Cayshoe and Watford in the said county of Hertford, to have and enjoy the said [f. 214v] capital house and other the premises in London and my said manor of Cayshoe and other the premises in Cayshoe and Watford to my said wife and to her

assigns for term of life without impeachment of waste, willing yet(?) Bernardine Ochine to enjoy my white house for term of his life, and six years after his wife or children to have the same if by some of my friends he or they be not otherwise well provided of a dwelling-place, and content for that to leave this of mine;

After my wife's decease I will my capital house and other the premises in London and my said manor of Cayshoe and other the premises in Cayshoe and Watford shall fully and wholly remain to my son, Charles, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And if it shall fortune the said Charles to die without heirs of his body lawfully begotten, then I will and devise that my said capital house and other the premises in the city of London shall remain to th' heirs of my body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such heirs, I will the same capital house and other the premises in the city of London immediately after the decease of my said wife shall be sold by [+my?] friend, John Hales, or such as he shall appoint, and the money thereof coming I will shall be equally divided between my two base daughters, Mary and Amy, to be paid to them as soon as they shall be married, desiring my Lady of Suffolk's Grace to put them where they may well be brought up, and requiring them to follow her Grace's appointment in their nonage and all the rest;

And if it fortune either of them to decease before they shall be married, then I will that thother overliving shall enjoy the whole sum of the money so coming of the value of my houses and other premises before assigned to be sold by [+my?] said friend, John Hales;

And if it fortune both my said daughters to decease before they shall be married, then I will that the money coming and growing upon the sale of my said houses and lands before appointed to be sold shall be equally divided between the children then living of my sisters, Faith and Amy;

And if it shall fortune the said Charles to die without heirs of his body lawfully begotten, then I will that after the decease of my said wife my said lordship and manor of Cayshoe with th' appurtenances and all and singular the premises in Cayshoe and Watford shall remain to the heirs of my body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such heirs, I will my said lordship and manor of Cayshoe with th' appurtenances and all and singular the premises in Cayshoe and Watford shall wholly remain to my base son, Marcellus, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such heirs, thone moiety of the said manor of Cayshoe with th' appurtenances and other the premises in Cayshoe and Watford to remain to my base daughter, Mary, and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such heirs the remainder thereof to my base daughter, Amy, and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such heirs the remainder of the said moiety to my sister, Amy, and to her heirs forever;

And I will that thother moiety of the said manor of Cayshoe with th' appurtenances and other the premises in Cayshoe and Watford after the death of my said base son, Marcellus, he dying without heirs of his body lawfully begotten, shall remain to my said base daughter, Amy, and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such heirs the remainder of the same moiety to my base daughter, Mary, and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such heirs the remainder thereof to my said sister, Amy, and to her heirs forever;

And further I will and bequeath that my manor of Closworth with th' appurtenances in the county of Somerset and all my lands, tenements and other hereditaments with th' appurtenances in Closworth and Melbury in the said county of Somerset shall fully and wholly remain to my wife, Bridget Morison, for term of her life;

The remainder thereof after her decease to my son, Charles, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such heirs the remainder thereof to my said base son, Marcell, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such heirs the remainder thereof to my base daughter, Mary, and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten;

[f. 215r] And for lack of such heirs the remainder to my base daughter Amy, and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such heirs the remainder to my sister, Amy, and to her heirs forever;

Provided always and I will and devise that if it shall fortune my said wife to decease before my son, Charles, or any other to whom my said manors of Cayshoe and Closworth and other the premises in Cayshoe, Watford, Closworth and Melbury aforesaid be for want of him or his heirs by this my last will assigned, willed and devised shall be at his or her full age of 21 years, that the same manors of Cayshoe and Closworth and other the premises in Cayshoe, Watford, Closworth and Melbury and all th' issues and profits thereof shall wholly go and be perceived and taken by mine executors till the time that he or she to whom the premises by this my last will be willed and assigned shall be at his full age of 21 or she at her full age of 18 years toward the payment of my debts;

And if after my debts paid any of the same issue and revenues shall remain, then I will it shall at the full age of 21 years of him or her at 18 years to whom the same lands shall come by virtue of this my will be equally divided between my said base children if they

shall be advanced at such time to no benefit by reason of this my last will, or to the use of my said base children that shall not then be advanced as is aforesaid;

And if they be all provided for and advanced by this my last will, then to be divided between the children of my sisters, Faith and Amy, anything in this my will to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding;

Provided always and I will and bequeath to John Combes, gentleman, one yearly annuity of five pound for term of his life going out of my said manor of Closworth in consideration that he shall not claim th' annuity of £5 yearly which I give him during his life out of the manor of Snitterfield in the county of Warwick, anything before in this my will to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding;

Also I give to my wife's brother, Thomas Hussey, ten pounds yearly during his life out of my manor of Closworth, with clause of distress for non-payment thereof;

I give all my books to my friend, John Hales, whom with my wife I make executors of this my last will;

And I will the Duchess of Suffolk to be overseer hereof;

And further I will immediately after my decease, if my wife and friend can make no better shift, my messuage and house with th' appurtenances in Friday Street shall be sold by my friend, John Hales, or his executors or assigns to the most benefit and profit that he shall think it may be sold, and the money thereof coming I will shall be paid to such my creditors as he shall think most meetest first to be paid;

And if after my debts paid anything shall remain, I will and bequeath the same so remaining to my said wife, Bridget;

And where it hath pleased the King's Majesties [sic?] to grant unto me and Bridget, my wife, my heirs and [-and] assigns, the reversion of the site of the late priory of Beauvale in the county of Nottingham with all and singular other lands, tenements and hereditaments lately belonging to the same which Sir William Hussey, knight, now hath to him and his heirs males, I will, if it fortune the said Sir William Hussey and my wife to die, that my executors shall have and take towards the payment of my debts and legacies the issues, revenues and profits of the said site, demesnes, woods, mines and all other commodities and profits belonging to the said priory and given to me in reversion except of the parsonage of Farnham, the pension of the lands in Stanford, the lands in the towns of Nottingham and Derby, and the manor of Selston with th' appurtenances, and all the lands in Bagthorpe, which I appoint and set out for a third part of all the said lands due to the King's Majesty with the wardship of mine heir till he shall be 22 years old;

And after that time, I will and bequeath the same to the heirs of my body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such heirs to my base son, Marcell Morison, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for want of them, the moiety between my two base daughters and to th' heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten;

And thother moiety to my sister Amy's children by Stephen Hales, and to their heirs males;

And for want of such [f. 215v] to my sisters [sic] Faith's children and to their heirs males;

And for want of these to my right heirs forever;

In witness whereof I have subscribed every leaf of this my present will the day and year of making hereof above-written.

Memorandum: That the 15th day of March Anno Domini 1556 [=1557] the said Richard Morison, knight, being sick in body but of good mind and memory, having his will above-written before him read and by him well and perfectly understood, declaring the zeal, love and affection which he bare to his well beloved wife, Dame Bridget Morison, being moved what he would should be done with his goods movable, as well those which were within the realm of England as elsewhere, said that he gave the same wholly to Dame Bridget, his wife, to do therewith her free will and pleasure, saying that he had liever she should frustrate his expectation or deceive him after his death than he would seem to distrust her in his life;

This codicil was made, spoken [+and?] declared by him and written at Argentine the day, month and year last above-mentioned, then and there being present and hearing the premises John Cheke, Thomas Wroth, knight, James Haddon, John Aylmer, Humphrey Dornell, and other Englishmen.

Probatum fuit h{uius}mo{d}i Testamentu{m} Vnacu{m} Codicillo decimo octavo die mens{is} Augusti anno d{omi}no mill{esi}mo quingen{tesimo} quinquagesimo septimo Iuramento Thome Huse Armigeri p{ro}curatoris Brigit Moryson Rel{i}c{te} Exec{utricis} Cui &c Res{erua}t{a} p{otes}tat{e} Iohanni Hales Ex{ecuto}ri etiam &c Ac approbatum &c de bene et fideli{te}r admi{ni}strand{o} eadem &c ad sancta dei Eu{a}n gelia Iur{a}t{i}

[=The same testament was proved, together with the codicil, on the eighteenth day of the month of August in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-seventh by the oath of Thomas Hussey, esquire, proctor of Bridget Morison, relict [+and?] executrix, to whom etc., with power reserved to John Hales, executor also etc., and probated etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same etc.]