

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 10 December 1556 together, with a codicil dated 20 January 1557, proved 10 September 1558, of Sir Thomas Cave (d.1558), whose son, Roger Cave, married Margaret Cecil, sister of Oxford's father-in-law, William Cecil (1520/1-1598), Lord Burghley.

### ***FAMILY BACKGROUND***

For the Cave family, see Waters, Robert Edmond Chester, *Genealogical Memoirs of the Extinct Family of Chester of Chicheley*, Vol. I, (London: Robson and Sons, 1878), pp. 73-8 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/genealogicalmem01wategoog#page/n110/mode/2up>.

See also Kimber, E. and R. Johnson, *The Baronetage of England*, Vol. I, (London: G. Woodfall, 1771), pp. 355-65; and the Cave pedigree in Crisp, Frederick Arthur, ed., *Visitation of England and Wales*, Vol. 8 (1909), pp. 122-8 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofengl29howa#page/122/mode>.

The testator was the son and heir of Richard Cave (d. 20 April 1538) by his second wife, Margaret Saxby. For other members of the testator's family, see the will of his brother, Sir Ambrose Cave (d. 2 April 1568), TNA PROB 11/54/122.

### ***MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN***

The testator married Elizabeth Danvers, the daughter of Sir John Danvers (d. 30 October 1508?) of Waterstock, Oxfordshire, and his wife Margaret Hampden, daughter of William Hampden of Hartwell, Buckinghamshire, and the granddaughter of Sir William Danvers (1430?-1504), Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, by his wife, Anne (Pury d.1530/1), daughter and heiress of John Pury of Chamberhouse, Thatcham, Berkshire. For the Danvers family, see Macnamara, F.N., *Memorials of the Danvers Family of Dauntsey and Culworth*, (London: Hardy & Page, 1895), pp. 154-5, 169, and 175-88, 226 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/memorialsodanve00macn#page/186/mode/2up>.

Elizabeth Danvers' sister, Dorothy Danvers (d. 16 May 1558), married Nicholas Huband (d.1554), and was the mother of the testator's first cousin, Sir John Huband (d. 24 December 1583), who held a share in the Stratford tithes purchased in 1605 by William Shakespeare of Stratford Upon Avon. See the will of Sir John Huband, TNA PROB 11/66/331, and the pedigree of Digby in Fetherston, John, ed., *The Visitation of the*

*County of Warwick in the Year 1619*, (London: Harleian Society, 1877), Vol. XII, p. 17 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationcount01britgoog#page/n40/mode/2up>.

See also:

<http://hubandfamily.com/ipsley.html>.

According to the Cave pedigrees, *supra*, the testator had six sons and eight daughters:

**-John Cave**, who died young.

**-Richard Cave** (d. 3 April 1560) of Little Oakley, Northamptonshire, who married Elizabeth Montague (d.1569), eldest daughter of Sir Edward Montague (d. 10 February 1557), Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. In 1567 Elizabeth (nee Montague) Cave married William Markham (d.1570/1) of Little Oakley, for whom see the History of Parliament entry, and the will of his father, Sir John Markham (d.1559), TNA PROB 11/42B/583.

**-Edward Cave**, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Conway of Ragley, Warwickshire.

**-Roger Cave** (d.1586), who married, on 24 November 1561, Margaret Cecil, sister of Oxford's father-in-law, William Cecil (1520/1-1598), Lord Burghley. For his will, see TNA PROB 11/69/479.

After the death of Roger Cave (d.1586), Margaret (nee Cecil) Cave married the testator's nephew, Erasmus Smith, son of the testator's sister, Dorothy (nee Cave) Smith Poole, and her first husband, John Smith (d.1544) of Withcote, Leicestershire. For the will of Dorothy (nee Cave) Smith Poole, dated 10 June 1588 and proved 28 March 1593, see TNA PROB 11/81/254.

**-Ambrose Cave**, who died young.

**-Anthony Cave**, who died young.

**-Amy Cave**, who married John Hunt, esquire, of Lindon, Rutlandshire. For the inquisition post mortem of the testator's son-in-law, John Hunt, see:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/A2A/records.aspx?cat=056-dg11&cid=10-1#10-1>

*[The jurors] say that said John Hunt died 17th March 28 Elizabeth I [=17 March 1586], and that Remige Hunt is the elder son and next heir, and was aged 40 years at John's death.*

-**Mary Cave**, who married William Skeffington.

-**Margaret Cave**, who married Sir William Mering of Nottinghamshire.

-**Elizabeth Cave**, who married Sir(?) Humphrey Stafford (d.1574?) of Blatherwycke, Northamptonshire, the son of Sir Humphrey Stafford (d. 8 May 1548) and Margaret Tame (d. after 1558). See:

[http://www.flickr.com/photos/sic\\_itur\\_ad\\_astra/6769912347/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/sic_itur_ad_astra/6769912347/).

For the testator's daughter, Elizabeth Cave, see also:

<http://www.kateemersonhistoricals.com/TudorWomenC-Ch.htm>

*Elizabeth Cave was the daughter of Thomas Cave of Stanford, Northamptonshire (d. September 4, 1558) and Elizabeth Danvers (1506-1522+). She married Humphrey Stafford of Bletherwick, Northamptonshire (d.1574). They had two children, Humphrey (d. unm.) and John (d.1596). In 1562, Elizabeth brought charges against her husband in the Court of Requests. Timothy Stretton's Women Waging Law in Elizabethan England provides a number of details from the case. Elizabeth accused Humphrey of fathering a child with a maidservant and giving his mistress expensive gifts, of slandering acquaintances, sacking servants, and falsely accusing her of infidelity. Humphrey maintained that she had been unfaithful to him, saying that one of her lovers had committed suicide and indicating that she had told one man that he should be patient and not marry someone else, implying that she would soon be free to remarry. Humphrey freely admitted that he had beaten his wife (a husband's right in those days) because she had uttered "many unseemly and quarrelous words." His goal, he said, was to reform "her manners and life." Humphrey also protested the authority of the Court of Requests to rule of the matter. It appears that the final outcome of the case is not known.*

-**Margery Cave**, who married firstly Francis Farnham, esquire, of Quarndon, Leicestershire, and secondly John Dasset, esquire, of Hill Morton, Warwickshire.

-**Barbara Cave**, who died young.

-**Alice Cave**, who married John Skeffington, esquire, of Fisherwick, Staffordshire.

-**Susan Cave**, who married Sir John Bowes of Elford, Staffordshire.

As noted in the will, the testator's eldest son and heir, Richard Cave, married the eldest daughter of Sir Edward Montague. From the *ODNB*:

*Sir Edward Montague (1480s–1557) married three times: first Cicely (or Elizabeth), daughter of William Lane of Orlingbury, Northamptonshire; second, following Cicely's death, Agnes, daughter of George Kirkham (d. 1527) of Warmington in the same county, a chancery clerk and member of parliament for Stamford in 1515; and third, after the*

*death of Agnes, Eleanor (or Helen), daughter of John Roper (d. 1524), chief clerk of the king's bench and attorney-general to Henry VIII, who was the widow of John Moreton. With his third wife he had at least five sons and six daughters; in his petition to Mary I of 1553, in which he disassociated himself from the attempt to place Lady Jane Grey on the throne, he said he was the father of seventeen children, six sons and eleven daughters.*

### **OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL**

The Francis Saunders who witnessed the testator's will was Francis Saunders (d.1585), the brother of George Saunders, murdered on 25 March 1573 by Oxford's former servant, George Browne. The murder was the subject of a pamphlet by Oxford's uncle, Arthur Golding (1535/6-1606), *Brief Discourse of the Late Murther of Master George Saunders*, and an anonymous play, *A Warning for Fair Women*, performed by the Lord Chamberlain's Men. For the will of Francis Saunders, see TNA PROB 11/68/442.

RM: T{estamentum} Thome Cave militis

In the name of God, Amen. The tenth day of December in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred fifty and six and in the third and fourth years of the reigns of our Sovereign Lord and Lady Philip and Mary by the grace of God King and Queen of England, Spain and France, both Sicilies, Jerusalem and Ireland, Defenders of the Faith, Archdukes of Austria, Dukes of Milan, Burgundy and Brabant, [f. 36v] Counties of Hapsburg, Flanders and Tyrol, I, Sir Thomas Cave of Stanford in the county of Northampton, knight, being whole of mind and of good remembrance and perfect memory, thanks be to God, make this my testament and last will tripartited indented in manner and form following, that is to say:

First I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God, my Maker and Redeemer, and my body to be buried in my tomb within the parish church of Stanford appointed for the same if it fortune me there to depart out of this present life, or else in the parish church where it shall fortune me to depart out of this present life;

And concerning the order and disposition of all my goods, lands, debts and farms I give and dispose them in form following, that is to say:

First I give and bequeath to the reparations of the same church and chancel of Stanford and for the ornaments of the same ten pounds of lawful English money;

And I give to the reparations of any other church where it shall please God to call me to his mercy forty shillings of lawful English money;

Item, I will that every priest that cometh to my burial to say divine service for my soul and all Christian souls have twelve pence, and every clerk four pence;

Item, I give and bequeath to the poor people in every town and parish, meaning to Stanford ten shillings, and to Stanford town twenty shillings;

Item, I will there be given within the space of seven years next after my decease twenty pounds of lawful English money to the marriage and preferment of young men and maids dwelling within Stanford and within four miles of Stanford by the discretion of mine executors and overseers or the more part of them;

Item, I bequeath to the relief of the poor prisoners in Northampton Castle, being immediately after my decease, thirteen shillings four pence, to be bestowed in meat and drink for them;

Item, I will there be proclamations made in markets & churches in the counties of Northampton and Leicester that if there be any person or persons that I have done wrong unto in anything, they and every of them shall resort to mine executors, and that duly proved, mine executors shall make them recompense for the same wrongs and injuries so by me committed and done;

Item, I will that mine executors pay my debts after my funerals be discharged as shortly as may be and at such days and times as I am bounden or shall be bounden to at the time of my death by obligation or by writing or otherways to pay the same;

Item, I give to Margery Farnham, one of my daughters, two hundred marks of lawful English money over and besides such sums of money as her husband hath had already of me in full recompense of all legacies and bequests given to her by my father, Richard Cave, in writing or otherway, to be paid to her within six years next after my decease if she so long live, or to her children if she fortune to have any living after her decease if she die within the same six years;

Item, I give and bequeath to my daughter, Alice Cave, to her marriage if she therein will be ordered by mine executors and overseers or the more part of them, five hundred pounds of lawful English money;

Item, I give and bequeath to Susan Cave, my youngest daughter, at her full age of one and twenty years or at her marriage, to be paid by mine executors upon like condition as is aforesaid for Alice Cave, five hundred pounds of lawful English money;

Item, I give and bequeath to Roger, my son, at his age of four and twenty years, or at any time before at the discretion of mine executors, five hundred pounds of lawful English money, and till he be paid the same I will that he and also my daughters Alice and Susan be found by mine executors;

Item, I give and bequeath to Edward, [f. 37r] my son, at his like age of four & 20 years or at any time before at the discretion of mine executors five hundred pounds of lawful

English money, and till he be paid the same I will he be kept and found by mine executors;

And I will that if any of my said daughters, Alice and Susan, or any of my said sons, Roger and Edward, or any of them, fortune to die before they be married or before carnal knowledge had between them, their husbands and wives, or before the said Roger and Edward or any of them come to th' age of four and twenty years, and their portions or the portion of any of them being unpaid or unpromised by writing or as much thereof as shall be unpaid or unpromised, then the parts and portions of them that so fortune to die I will that they shall be divided evenly amongst them that survive, as well to my said sons as to my said daughters then being unmarried;

Item, I give and bequeath all such interest, leases & terms, and all manner of cattle & sheep that I have or hereafter shall have in two pastures in Eltington, the one called Cockehilles and thother called Cotehilles, to my wife and to Roger Cave and Edward Cave, three of mine executors, jointly to have to them three the commodities, profits and feedings of the same to the performance of this my last will and testament for as many years after my decease and till such time as my will may and shall be performed in all points, and after my will be performed and my debts paid, then I will that the residue of all such years and terms as shall be then to come with all manner of my cattle upon the same remain to the foresaid Roger and Edward, my sons, during their lives, and after their deceases, then I will the farms of the said two pastures with all the cattle upon the same then being remain to my son, Richard, during the terms then to come if any such be after the death of the foresaid Roger and Edward, my wife and my said sons, Richard, Roger and Edward, and every of them paying yearly all such rents, annuities and other charges and payments as I am bound to pay yearly out of the same, as well to the heirs and assigns of Thomas Pyggott, esquire, as to Sir Edward Montague, knight, and his heirs and assigns, as also all other annuities and payments contained in my father's will, that is to say, I will that mine executors pay yearly to my brother, Augustine Cave, ten pounds in full recompense of my father's will, and I will that mine executors pay yearly to Sir Robert and Sir John, priests, and to their successors all such wages, meat & drink and lodging as they have at this day, and also I will mine executors perform all such covenants as be specified by indentures between me of thone party & my brethren, Francis and Bryan, during all the said terms, if my father's will so long do express, or else according to his will and no lenger;

Further I will that my wife and mine executors shall during the term of fourteen years next and immediately after my decease have the use, occupation and possession of certain of my pastures in Stormesworth in the county of Leicester called Westrell [=Westerhill?] quarter, Swinford quarter and Little Field quarter, with six small closes or meadows thereto adjoining called Ingrams close, Durrauntes close, Rayle meadow, Westrell close and two smaller(?) closes by Barnehill in the county of Leicester, and all my lands, tenements, meadows, leases, pastures, tithes, waters, mills and hereditaments within the said quarters called Wrestrell quarter, Swinford quarter and the Little Field quarter, and within the said six closes in Stormesworth aforesaid, with all my cattle and coneys there, and corn gotten by the mills there, requiring and [f. 37v] charging them and every of

them with [+the?] revenues, issues and profits rising and yearly coming of the same to keep and find competently and sufficiently all and so many of my children as shall be unmarried at the time of my decease in all things, and also to content and pay all my debts, legacies and bequests contained within this my last will and testament, and to perform and to fulfil all other such covenants as hereafter shall fortune me to do for the marriage of any of my said children or otherwise;

Also I will that mine executors shall yearly during the term of twenty years next after my decease find one priest to sing and say divine service within the church of Stanford for me and my wife, my father and my mother, Master William Lane and all ours [sic?] ancestors, brethren, sisters and children and all Christian souls, his wages to be paid of the revenues, issues and profits aforesaid during the said term of twenty years;

And also I will, give and bequeath to the re-edifying of the late monastery of Selby in the county of York, if it be re-edified within twenty years next after my decease, two hundred pounds of lawful English money;

And after my will performed, my legacies and debts paid, and all my children preferred and set forth in marriage according to the true meaning of this my last will and testament, and the foresaid term of fourteen years not fully expired nor ended, then I will with the revenues, issues and profits coming and growing yearly of all my foresaid lands, tenements, tithes and hereditaments of the foresaid three quarters or pastures in Stormesworth aforesaid called Westrell quarter, Swinford quarter and Little Field quarter, with the six small closes to the same adjoining, and all cattle and other commodities going and kept upon the same during the residue of the foresaid term of fourteen years shall be employed and bestowed to such of my children as shall have most need by the discretion of mine executors and overseers or the more part of them;

Item, I give and bequeath to all my yeomen servants twenty shillings apiece of them, besides their wages and liveries;

Item, I give to all my other servants, shepherds and maids thirteen shillings and four pence apiece besides their wages and liveries;

Item, I will and bequeath to Elizabeth, my wife, all such sheep and cattle of mine as be going or shall be going at the time of my death in Walcote quarter, being the fourth quarter in Stormesworth, and in Stanford and Downe, and my milch kine in Barnehill and in the Bridge close in the said county of Leicester, with the bulls in the same, to her own use only to the intent she may the better maintain her house and family and help her children and mine at her discretion, and also I give her the same field called Walcote quarter with the Bridge close and Barnehill to have to her during the time she dwelleth in the manor of Stanford without any rent or tithes or any other thing paying for the same during the same time;

Also I will that mine executors shall pay to mine nephew, Matthew Cave, at his full age of one and twenty years, if he so long live, such part and portion of one hundred marks as

my father, Richard Cave, esquire, did give and bequeath to him, his brethren and sister, the same Matthew allowing to mine executors of his part and portion of the said hundred marks twenty pounds whereof I paid for his charges and keeping in Flanders a year at learning the languages, as it appeareth by my brother Anthony's account [f. 38r] seventeen pounds seven shillings penny halfpenny, and the rest of the said twenty pounds was bestowed in double apparel for him made at two times, that is to say, once when he should have been prentice with Walter Yonge, Merchant Taylor, in London, and another time when he should have been with Master Mosely, Merchant Venturer there, and for his charges and commons whiles he went up and down in London from Bartholomew tide [=24 August] till Allhallowtide next after, three pounds thirteen shillings and four pence;

Item, I will that mine executors bestow at my funerals and month's day to all my children, as well sons as daughters, and to mine executors, overseers and yeomen servants, and in wax tapers and torches, in alms and in two sermons, one hundred pounds of lawful English money, or more or less, as by the discretion of mine executors and overseers or the more part of them shall be thought most convenient, or else to bestow the whole sum or the more part thereof in [-in] alms to the poor;

The residue of all my goods and debts and chattels not bequeathed, after my funerals and debts paid and my will performed in all things, I give and bequeath the use and occupation thereof to Elizabeth, my wife, and to my sons, Roger and Edward, they and every of them leaving my house at Stanford furnished in such standards of household, lodging and plate, viz., my least gilt salts, a basin & ewer, three bowls with a cover parcel gilt, and thirteen spoons with th' apostles, with implements and utensils of household, to my said son, Richard, as shall be there at the time of my decease, or else two hundred pounds in ready money in recompense of all the said stuff and plate at the election and choice of mine executors, except all my harness, armour and weapons, which I give to my son, Richard, and to mine executors jointly;

And of this my last will and testament I ordain and make mine executors Dame Elizabeth, my wife, my sons, Roger and Edward, and my son-in-law, William Skeffington, charging them and every of them as they will answer before God to see this my will duly and truly executed according to the true meaning of the same, and to the said William Skeffington I give for his pains herein to be sustained ten pounds;

And the overseers of the same I ordain and make my brethren, Sir Ambrose Cave, knight, Francis Cave and Bryan Cave, esquires, my son, Richard Cave, and Sir Henry Comberford, clerk, parson of Yelvertoft, desiring them to order and see this my will performed, and I give to every of my said overseers that will take pains to set my wife and my sons and other mine executors in good order, unity and concord to perform the same my will, and to give them advice and counsel at all times necessary, five pounds apiece of them;

And I renounce all former wills by me heretofore made in all things;

Item, I, the said Sir Thomas Cave, will, give and bequeath to William Bryan, Simon Bryan and Edmund Bryan, children of one Richard Bryan, late of Clay Coton in the county of Northampton, husbandman, deceased, to every of them six and twenty shillings eight pence at their full age of eighteen years if they so long live, or to the survivors of them if they or any of them be not paid any part or parcel thereof by me in my life, and if any of them shall so fortune to be paid by me in my life, I will that mine executors shall pay the residue if any of them fortune to be unpaid at my decease;

Item, I will further that if mine executors [f. 38v] or any of them be by any ways or means molested hereafter, unquieted, sued, vexed, and to th' intent and in consideration that my said son, Richard, shall in no wise do or suffer to be done any manner of act or acts to the hindrance or interruption of this my last will and testament or any part of the same contrary to the true meaning of the same, therefore and upon that condition and in full recompense and satisfaction of the third part of all lands, tenements and hereditaments which after my decease shall or ought of right to descend to the said Richard, I, the said Sir Thomas Cave, further give and bequeath to my said son, Richard, one annuity or yearly rent of twenty pounds to be going out of the said lands, tenements and hereditaments in Stormesworth aforesaid called Westrell quarter, Swinford quarter and the Little Field quarter, to be yearly paid to my said son, Richard, by mine executors and the survivors of them at two usual feasts of payment, that is to say, at the feast of St Michael th' Archangel and th' Annunciation of Our Lady by even portions or at any of the said feasts which shall happen first to be due next after my decease, to have and to hold the same annuity or yearly rent of twenty pounds unto the said Richard for and during the space and time of fourteen years next ensuing after the decease of me, the said Sir Thomas, if the said Richard so long live, and no lenger, and if it happen the said annuity or yearly rent of twenty pounds to be behind unpaid in part or in all after any of the said feasts aforesaid by the space of forty days, and the same be personally demanded before sufficient witnesses of mine executors or of any of them at the manor-place of Stanford aforesaid within the said forty days, that then it shall be leeful to the said Richard during the said fourteen years, if he so long live, into the said lands, tenements and hereditaments in Stormesworth aforesaid called Westell quarter, Swinford quarter & the Little Field quarter and into every part and parcel thereof to enter and distrain, and the distress there so taken to drive, lead and carry away, and to impound and [+so?] impounded to retain and keep until the said Richard Cave of the said annuity or yearly rent of twenty pounds with th' arrearages of the same (if any be) be fully satisfied, contented and paid;

Or troubled by Sir Edward Montague knight, and Dame Ellen, his wife, or by any of them, or by the executors or administrators of them or any of them, or by the said Richard Cave for and concerning as well the covenants of marriage of my son, Richard, and the bonds obligatory touching the same, as for any other matter, thing or things concerning the same or any part or parcel thereof, or touching any other matter, thing or things concerning or touching th' execution or performance of this my last will and testament or of any other thing or things whatsoever, then I will that the foresaid Richard Cave shall have no benefit of any gift or legacy given to him by this my last will and testament or

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otherwise by any other writings, but that he shall lose and forfeit the same, anything herein contained or in any other writing to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding;

Item, I will further that if any suit or suits do rise and be attempted against my said executors or any of them by reason of this my last will or otherwise, or if my said executors do fortune hereafter to sue or be sued by any ways or means any person or persons or by any person or persons for any cause or matter touching or concerning any article, clause, sentence or any other thing or things contained and specified in this my last will and testament or otherways, then I will that all the charges and expenses in and about the same suit or suits shall be borne and suffered by mine executors of the revenues, issues and profits of such lands and tenements heretofore by me appointed for the performance of my will, and to be borne [f. 39r] of no part of his or their proper goods, and that they and every of them shall and may lawfully retain so much in his or their hands as they or any of them shall lay forth in and about the same upon a due account thereof to be made to the residue of mine executors;

Item, I will that the two priests that now been at Stanford shall be kept here at Stanford to sing or say divine service, and also my priest that I have appointed for twenty years to pray for my father and mother, and me, my wife, and theirs and ours [sic?] children, so long as it shall seem good by the discretion of mine executors, and no lenger, any thing or things contained in these presents or otherways to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding;

Item, I will my house and my servants shall be kept together one quarter of the year next after my decease of my costs and charges, they doing their duties as appertaineth, and then have their wages, liveries and bequests of my gift paid to them, and so depart, as many of them as by mine executors shall be thought meet;

Item, I will that there be an inventory made of all my goods, chattels & debts within forty days next and immediately following my decease;

And I will that all doubts, ambiguities and questions that shall or may at all time and times hereafter happen to arise upon this my last will and testament or any article, clause or sentence of the same shall be ordered, judged, finally ended and determined by the foresaid executors and as many of mine overseers as my executors shall take to them without any suit or trouble in the law, and if they or any of them or any other person or persons otherways attempt the law and refuse the order of mine executors and overseers as is aforesaid, or commit any private act or acts contrary to the true meaning of this my will without th' assent in writing of the more part of my said executors, then I will that he or they that so doth shall take no benefit of this my will;

Item, I, the said Sir Thomas Cave, will, give and bequeath to all my godchildren being on live six shillings and eight pence to every of them, to be paid by my executors within one year next after my decease;

Item, I will that mine executors shall pay to my godsons hereafter named, viz., Thomas Skeffington, Remyge Hunt and Thomas Mering, at their several ages of one and twenty years or at their marriages, to every of them twenty pounds of English money current, and if they or any of them fortune to die before they and every of them be paid, then I will the portion of Thomas Skeffington shall be given to his sister, Margaret Skeffington, to her marriage if she so long live, and if Remyge Hunt die before he be paid his portion, then I will that his sister, Susan, shall have his portion to her marriage if she so long live, and if Thomas Mering fortune to die before his portion be paid to him, then I will that his sister, Anne Mering, shall have his portion to her marriage if she so long live, and if all they, the said Thomas Skeffington and Margaret, his sister, Remyge Hunt and Susan, his sister, Thomas Mering and Anne, his sister, fortune to die before they or any of them have received their several portions in manner and form aforesaid given, then I will the same portions severally amongst the residue of their children, if they fortune to have any then living, or otherways as they shall seem best;

Item, I will, give and bequeath the reversion and reversions of all and singular my manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments within the realm of England [f. 39v] after such several and particular estate and estates determined made by me heretofore by writing or otherwise to my said son, Richard Cave, and Elizabeth, his wife, and to my sons, Roger and Edward, or to any of them, and after the decease of me and Elizabeth, my wife, shall wholly remain, come and be to the heirs of my body lawfully begotten, and to none other use;

Item, I will, give and bequeath to Richard Noble, Edward Noble and William Padge [=Page?], my servants, for their service to me, the said Sir Thomas Cave, heretofore done, and also hereafter to my wife and other mine executors to be done, to every of them twenty-six shillings and eight pence of lawful English money, to be paid yearly to them by mine executors during the natural life and lives of the said Richard Noble, Edward Noble and William Padge & every of them;

Further I will that my executors and the survivor of them yearly make an account for and during the space of fourteen years next ensuing after my decease in the month of December at the manor-place of Stanford in the county of Northampton unto John Hunt and Francis Samuel, gentlemen, and Henry Comberford, clerk, or to the survivor of them, of and for all such yearly issues and profits as shall yearly rise, come and grow, as well of such lands and tenements appointed for the performance of this my last will and testament as of such stocks of cattle whatsoever remaining and being or that shall remain and be at the time of my death or at any time during the said term of fourteen years, and of the increase and yearly revenues, issues and profits coming and growing or that shall come and grow of the same, and the said John Hunt, Francis and Henry, or the overliver of them, to have horse-meat, man's meat and lodging at the costs and charges of mine executors;

And over this I give to the said Francis forty shillings yearly during the said term of fourteen years to take the account and to finish and engross the same in due form, and to be paid the same at his coming to Stanford to take the account;

And if my said executors or any of them upon request made to them or any of them by the said John, Francis and Henry or the overliver of them refuse or will not make an account in manner and form aforesaid, that then they or any of them so refusing or not making account shall have no benefit or interest by this my last will and testament;

In witness whereof to this my last will and testament tripartite indented and to every part of the same I, the said Sir Thomas Cave, knight, have put to my seal and subscribed every leaf of every part of the same with my own hand, dated the day and year first above-written in the presence of these persons thereunto specially called for witnesses whose names hereafter follow written with their own hands, as many of them as can write, and the residue have made their several brands and marks. Per me Thomam Cave.

Post scriptum: I will further that all manors, lands and tenements which were the inheritance of Dame Elizabeth, my wife, at any time during our marriage, and the reversions and remainders of the same after our several deceases and the heirs of our two bodies lawfully begotten, wholly remain, come and be unto the said Dame Elizabeth and her heirs, any article, clause or sentence herein contained or any other covenants or assurances heretofore made to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding;

And further where heretofore I have caused a lease to be made by indenture heretofore had and made between me, the said Sir Thomas, then Thomas Cave, esquire, of thone party, and Kenelm Digby, William Skeffington, and [f. 40r] William Mering, then esquires, whose date is the first day of the month of January in the fourth year [=1 January 1551] of the reign of the late King Edward the Sixth, of the manor of Stanford and the parsonage of the same in the counties of Northampton and Leicester, and of all my lands, manors, tenements and hereditaments with th' appurtenances in Stanford aforesaid, Stormesworth, Borsworthe [=Bosworth], Downe, South Kilworth, Swinford, Walcote, Catthorpe and Clifton upon Dunsmore in the counties of Northampton, Leicester and Warwick, and also of one messuage in Yelvertoft in the said county of Northampton now or late in the tenure and occupation of one Morres [=Morris?] Welles, to have and to hold the same to the said Kenelm, William Skeffington and William Mering for term of certain years comprised in the said indenture, as by the same more at large doth and may appear, if Sir Edward Montague, knight, and Dame Ellen, his wife, my said son, Richard, Elizabeth, his wife, and every of them, their executors, administrators and assigns, and the executors, administrators and assigns of every of them, do permit and suffer mine executors and administrators quietly and peaceably to have, enjoy and possess without let, interruption, suit, vexation, trouble or impediment of them or any of them or of any other person or persons by th' assent, procurement or means of them or of any of them, all and every such thing and things contained in my last will and testament, and do not nor suffer to be done any act or acts whereby or wherewith my last will and testament of anything therein contained should be violated, broken, impaired, hindered or let, or th' execution thereof might not be lawfully executed and done according to the true meaning thereof, then I will and desire the said Kenelm Digby, William Skeffington and William Mering upon sufficient bonds made by the said Sir Edward Montague and Richard Cave to mine executors for the performance of my last

will in such sums as my said executors shall think reasonable, that they, the said Kenelm, William Skeffington and William Mering, shall deliver the same indenture to the said Richard to be cancelled, which said lease was made for the quietness of mine executors and the true execution of my last will and testament, and if they or any of them will not so be bound, then I will and require the said Kenelm, William & William Mering to give and assure the said lease to mine executors to use the same at their discretion;

His Testibus vicesimo die Ianuarij Anno d{omi}ni millesimo quingentesimo quinquagesimo Sexto: Per me Thomam Caue per me ffranciscum Saunders test{e} per me John Cumberfford per me Ioh{ann}em whyte Cl{er}icu{m} per me Ioh{ann}em Iordayne Cliricu{m} per me Radulphi Willcock{es} Cl{er}icum

Probatum fuit h{uius}mo{d}i Testamentu{m} vnacu{m} Codicillo Coram d{omi}no Cant{uariensis} Archiep{iscop}o decimo die mensis Septembris Anno d{omi}ni millesimo quingen{tesi}mo quinquage{si}mo octauo Iurament{o} xpoferi Smyth no{ta}rij pu{bli}ci procur{ator}is d{omi}ne Elizabeth{e} Rel{ic}t{e} Rogeri Caue et Will{el}mi Skeuynnngton Executoru{m} in eod{e}m nominat{orum} Quibus com{m}issa fuit Administrac{i}o de bene et fidel{ite}r administrand{o} &c Reseruata pot{est}ate similem Com{m}issionem faciend{o} Edwardo Cave etiam Executor{i} in minore etate existen{ti} cum venerit &c

[=The same testament was proved, together with the codicil, before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury on the tenth day of the month of September in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-eighth by the oath of Christopher Smyth, notary public, proctor of Lady Elizabeth, relict, Roger Cave and William Skeffington, executors named in the same, to whom administration was granted, [+sworn] to well and faithfully administer etc., with power reserved for a similar grant to be made to Edward Cave, also executor, being underage, when he shall have come etc.]