

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 2 April 1559 and proved 7 July 1559, of Francis Clopton, whose wife, Bridget Crane, was the niece of Anthony Crane (d.1583), Master of the Queen's Household, first husband of '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.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the testator's family background, see Parker, William, *The History of Long Melford*, (London: Wyman & Sons, 1873), pp. 170 ff. at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=VsbWA_Q1NR4C&pg=PA170

See also the Clopton pedigrees in Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *The Visitation of Suffolke*, Vol. I, (Lowestoft: Samuel Tymms, 1866), p. 124 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ExI2AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA124>

See also the Clopton pedigrees in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Suffolk*, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1882), p. 16 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=EycAAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA16>

See also the pedigree of Clopton of Groton in Muskett, Joseph James, ed., *Evidences of the Winthrops of Groton co. Suffolk, England*, (Privately printed, 1894-1896), p. 144 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=7dYKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA144>

The testator was the eldest son of Sir William Clopton (1450 – 20 February 1531) by his third wife, Thomasine Knyvet (c.1475-1538), the daughter of Thomas Knyvet (d.1479), esquire, and Elizabeth Lunsford (d. 4 July 1471), daughter of William Lunsford, esquire, by Thomasine Barrington, daughter and heiress of John Barrington.

The testator's mother, Thomasine Knyvet, had a sister, Margaret Knyvet, who married John Roydon, and a brother, Edward Knyvet (d. 4 February 1500), who had an only daughter, Elizabeth Knyvet (d. 4 February 1508), who married Sir John Rainsford. See TNA C 1/198/51; the will, dated 14 September 1559, of Sir John Rainsford, TNA PROB 11/42B/484; and the History of Parliament entry for Sir John Rainsford at:

[http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/raynsford-\(rainforth\)-sir-john-1482-1559](http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/raynsford-(rainforth)-sir-john-1482-1559)

See also Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 509-10, and Muskett, *supra*, p. 144 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=7dYKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA144>

Thomasine, dau. of Sir Thos. Knevett of Stanway in Essex; sister and ultimately coheir of Edward Knevett, Esq.; aunt and coheir (with her two nieces, Elizabeth, wife of John Clopton of Kentwell, and Katherine Roydon) to Elizabeth Rainsford, wife of John Rainsford, Esq., her brother's daughter; as appears by the Inq. p. m. of the said Elizabeth Rainsford, 24 H. 7, from whom she inherited the Manor of Castelyns in Groton. She was then aged 40 years and upwards. See also Knevett pedigree Harl. MS. 380, fo. 128.

For the manor of Castelyns, see also Copinger, W.A., ed., *The Manors of Suffolk*, (London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1905), pp. 113-114 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/manorsofsuffolkn01copiuoft#page/112/mode/2up>

See also 'Descendants of John Knyvett' at:

<http://www.genealogy.com/ftm/l/e/w/Tamsin-N-Lewis/GENE3-0006.html>

See also the Roydon pedigree in Roydon, Ernest Bland, *Three Roydon Families*, (Edinburgh: R. & R. Clark, Ltd., 1924), between pp. 32-3 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/threeroydonfamil00royd#page/n61/mode/2up>

The testator is said to have had two brothers of the whole blood:

(1) John Clopton. He is not mentioned in the will below, and nothing further is known of him.

(2) Richard Clopton, who appears to have predeceased the testator. He married firstly Margaret Bozun, daughter of Sir Richard Bozun (died 18 August 1524) of Barrowby, Lincolnshire, and Thomasine Dene, daughter and heiress of James Dene, by whom he had one daughter:

--**Mary Clopton** (d.1585), who married Sir William Cordell (1522-1581), one of the five trustees appointed by Oxford in an indenture of 30 January 1575 prior to his departure on his continental tour. See ERO D/DRg2/25. For Mary Clopton, see her will, TNA PROB 11/68/545; and the *ODNB* entry for Sir William Cordell. For Mary Clopton's connection to Oxford's father-in-law, Lord Burghley, see *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*, Vol. VII, (London: John Bowyer Nichols and Son, 1841), pp. 67-8 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=tL1nsjpKj8C&pg=PA67&lpg=PA67>

Katharine [Pedwardyn] married first to Nicholas Dene of Barrowby in the county of Lincoln; and secondly, to David Sitsilt or Cecil, grandfather of Lord Burghley. By the second she had no children; but by the first she had a son named James Dene, whose only daughter and heir Thomasine was twice married; first to Sir Richard Bozon, Knt. who died on the 18th of Aug. ao 16 Hen. VIII. and by whom she had five daughters; and secondly to William Vernon, by whom she had an only daughter. The five daughters by the first husband (Dene) were . . . (3) Margaret, wife of Richard Clopton, of Groton in Suffolk, Esq., by whom she had only a daughter named Mary, who married to Sir William Cordell, Knt. Master of the Rolls, who I believe died s. p.

The testator's brother, Richard Clopton, married secondly Margery Playters, daughter of William Playters, esquire, of Sotterley, Suffolk, and Jane Jenney (buried 4 March 1540), daughter of Sir Edmund Jenney (d. 26 August 1522). For Sir Edmund Jenney, see the History of Parliament entry for his son, Sir Christopher Jenney (by 1489-1542) at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/jenney-christopher-1489-1542>

See also 'Descendants of John Jenney' at:

<http://www.matthewhovious.co.uk/Jenney/pafg03.htm#80>

By Margery Playters, Richard Clopton is said to have had three sons and six daughters:

--**William Clopton** (d. 9 August 1616), esquire, of Castelyns (in Groton), Suffolk, mentioned in the will below, who married Margery Waldegrave, daughter of Edward Waldegrave (c.1514 – 13 August 1584), esquire, of Lawford Hall, Essex, and granddaughter of George Waldegrave (c.1483-1528), esquire. See the will of Edward Waldegrave, TNA PROB 11/67/500; the will of George Waldegrave, TNA PROB 11/22/577; the will of William Clopton, TNA PROB 11/128/617; and Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 521, and Vol. IV, p. 285. For the will of William Clopton, see also Howard, *supra*, pp. 79-81 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ExI2AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA79>

See also Pedigree A in Howard, Joseph Jackson, *The Visitation of Suffolke*, Vol. I, (Lowestoft: Samuel Tymms, 1866), at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofsuff01harv#page/n161/mode/2up>

--**Richard Clopton**, mentioned in the will below.

--**Edward Clopton**, who died without issue. He is not mentioned in the will below.

--**Thomasine Clopton**, mentioned in the will below, who married firstly Thomas Aldham (d.1582?), gentleman, of Sapiston, Suffolk. and secondly Thomas Kighley, esquire, of

Grays Thurrock, Essex. For the will of Thomas Aldham, proved 12 May 1582, see TNA PROB 11/64/194. For Thomas Kighley, see:

'Parishes: Grays Thurrock', in *A History of the County of Essex: Volume 8*, ed. W R Powell, Beryl A Board, Nancy Briggs, J L Fisher, Vanessa A Harding, Joan Hasler, Norma Knight and Margaret Parsons (London, 1983), pp. 35-56. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/essex/vol8/pp35-56> [accessed 19 September 2017].

--**Frances Clopton** (d.1619), not mentioned in the will below, who married firstly Martin Bowes (d.1573), esquire, second son of Sir Martin Bowes (1496/7-1566), Lord Mayor of London, and secondly Matthew Hutton (1529?-1606), Archbishop of York. In several pedigrees her second husband is erroneously identified as *Henry* Hutton, Archbishop of York'. See, for example, Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Suffolk*, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1882), p. 125 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=EycAAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA125>

In addition, while some sources state that Archbishop Matthew Hutton's third wife was Frances, widow of Martin Bowes (d.1573), they fail to specify her maiden name. See, for example, the *ODNB*:

Hutton, a widower since May 1582, had married, on 20 November 1583, Frances, widow of Martin Bowes, son of the London alderman Sir Martin Bowes.

The fact that Archbishop Matthew Hutton's third wife was born Frances Clopton appears to be settled by her will, dated 1 January 1616, in which she bequeaths a gilt bowl to 'my well-beloved brother, William Clopton, gentleman'. See Raine, James, 'Marske', *Archaeologia Aeliana*, New Series, Vol. V, (Newcastle-upon-Tyne: William Dodd, 1861), pp. 1-90 at p. 55:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=QTQGAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA55>

The identification of Archbishop Matthew Hutton's third wife as Frances Clopton is also supported by a bequest in her will to her 'daughter Parmeter' and her daughter, Cordell May'. In her own will, Frances Clopton's half sister, Mary Clopton Cordell (see above) leaves bequests to 'my sister Hutton', to 'my niece Parmenter' and to 'my god-daughter, Cordell Bowes'. It appears that Cordell Bowes (later Cordell May) was given the Christian name Cordell as a compliment to the surname of her godmother, Mary Clopton Cordell. In her will, Mary Clopton Cordell also leaves bequests to two of Frances Clopton's sons, Richard Bowes and Thomas Bowes.

See also the *ODNB* entries for Sir Martin Bowes and Matthew Hutton, and the sources cited in the Wikipedia entry for Sir Martin Bowes edited by the author of this website. See also 'The Clopton Chronicles' at:

<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~clopton/200men.htm>

--**Elizabeth Clopton**, mentioned in the will below, who married Nicholas Hobart (d. 6 March 1607?), gentleman, of Lindsey, Suffolk. For his wall monument in the church of St Peter see:

<http://www.suffolkchurches.co.uk/Lindsey.htm>

--**Emme Clopton**, mentioned in the will below, who married George Smith, esquire, of Cavendish, Suffolk.

--**Julian Clopton** (d.1624), mentioned in the will below, who married firstly Thomas Wye of Lypiatt, Gloucestershire, and secondly John Throckmorton (c.1555-1615), eldest son of Anthony Throckmorton (d.1587) and Katherine Willington (d.1593). For John Throckmorton, see the will of his grandfather, Sir George Throckmorton (c.1489-1552), TNA PROB 11/36/298, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/throckmorton-john-1555-1615>

Anthony Throckmorton (d.1587), has been conflated in the History of Parliament entry with another Anthony Throckmorton (d.1593), 'a recusant London mercer', also married to a wife named Katherine (d.1594). See the will of William Willington, TNA PROB 11/36/298; and Rosen, Adrienne, *Two Monuments at Little Rollright, Oxfordshire*, (Oxoniensia, 2005), p. 52, available online; and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/throckmorton-anthony-15923>

--**Mary Clopton** (buried 7 October 1593), mentioned in the will below, who married Edward King (d. 23 July 1617) of Ashby de la Launde, Lincolnshire. See Trollope, Edward, *Sleaford and the Wapentakes of Flaxwell and Aswardhurn in the County of Lincoln*, (London: W. Kent and Co., 1872), p. 207 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=DBYHAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA207>

For the testator's brother of the whole blood, Richard Clopton, see also Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 520-1.

For the testator's half brothers and sisters by his father's first marriage to Joan Marowe, see the will of William Marowe, TNA PROB 11/5/139, and the will of the testator's half sister, Dorothy Clopton (d.1508?), TNA PROB 11/16/117.

MARRIAGE

The testator married Bridget Crane, one of the seven children of Robert Crane (c.1508 - d. 12 September 1591) of Chilton, Suffolk, by Bridget Jermyn, the daughter of Sir Thomas Jermyn (d. 8 October 1552) of Rushbrooke, Suffolk. As noted above, Robert Crane's younger brother, Anthony Crane (d.1583), Master of the Queen's Household, was the first husband of '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. See the will of Anthony Crane, TNA PROB 11/65/507, and Appleton, William S., *Memorials of the Cranes of Chilton*, (Cambridge: John Wilson and Son, 1868), pp. 60-1 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=p_8HAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA60

For the will of the testator's father-in-law, Robert Crane, see Howard, *supra*, pp. 146-55 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ExI2AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA146>

As indicated in the will below, the testator had no issue, and left his lands firstly to his nephews, William Clopton (d. 9 August 1616), esquire, and Richard Clopton, the sons of his brother of the whole blood, Richard Clopton, with remainder to Francis Clopton, son and heir of the testator's nephew of the half blood, William Clopton (d. 17 August 1562) of Lutons. William Clopton (d. 17 August 1562) of Lutons was the son and heir of the testator's eldest half brother, John Clopton (d. 21 October 1541), who married Elizabeth Roydon (who after John Clopton's death married Robert Withersby). For the will of the testator's eldest half brother, John Clopton (d. 21 October 1541), and the inquisition post mortem taken after his death, see Howard, *supra*, pp. 51-3 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ExI2AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA51>

For the will of Elizabeth Roydon Withersby, see Howard, *supra*, pp. 59-61 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ExI2AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA59>

For the inquisition post mortem taken after the death of William Clopton (d. 17 August 1562) of Lutons, see Howard, *supra*, p. 57 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ExI2AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA57>

The testator's nephew of the half blood, William Clopton (d. 17 August 1562) of Lutons, married firstly Margaret Jermyn, the daughter of Sir Thomas Jermyn (d. 8 October 1552) of Rushbrooke, by whom he had two sons, Francis Clopton and William Clopton, and secondly Mary Peryent, the daughter of George Peryent, by whom he had two sons, George Clopton and Thomas Clopton, all mentioned in the will below as the testator's heirs in remainder. See Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Suffolk*, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1882), p. 16 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=EycAAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA16>

For the inquisition post mortem taken after the death of the testator's nephew of the half blood, William Clopton (d. 17 August 1562) of Lutons, see Howard, *supra*, pp. 57-9 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ExI2AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA57>

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

The testator requests that his wife, Bridget Crane, be advised, as executrix of his will, by:

Sir Ambrose Jermyn, her uncle, by Mr Robert Crane, her father, and by my cousin, Robert Ashfield, her assured friend.

As noted above, Bridget Crane's mother was Bridget Jermyn, the daughter of Sir Thomas Jermyn (d. 8 October 1552) of Rushbrooke, Suffolk. Bridget Crane's uncle, Sir Ambrose Jermyn (c.1510–1577) was Sir Thomas Jermyn's eldest son and heir by his first wife, Anne Spring (1494-1528), the daughter of Thomas Spring (d.1523) of Lavenham, Suffolk. Sir Thomas Jermyn married secondly Anne Drury (d. 8 June 1572), widow of Sir George Waldegrave (c.1483 – 8 July 1528), esquire, of Smallbridge, Suffolk, and daughter of Sir Robert Drury (d. 2 March 1535), chief steward and executor of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford. See the will of Thomas Spring, TNA PROB 11/21/179; the will of Sir George Waldegrave, TNA PROB 11/22/577; the will of Sir Robert Drury, TNA PROB 11/25/467; the will of Sir Thomas Jermyn, TNA PROB 11/35/417; Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 92-3, and Vol. IV, pp. 283-6; and the *ODNB* entry for Sir Robert Jermyn (1538/9–1614). See also Betham, William, *The Baronetage of England*, Vol. III, (London: W.S. Betham, 1803), p. 60 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=IGAOAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA60&lpg=PA60>

See also Appleton, *supra*, p. 61 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=p_8HAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA61

The testator's 'cousin Robert Ashfield' appears to have been Robert Ashfield of Stowlangtoft, Suffolk, the husband of Anne (or Alice?) Jermyn, another of the daughters of Sir Thomas Jermyn (d. 8 October 1552), and therefore Bridget Crane's cousin. See Betham, *supra*, p. 61.

Burke erroneously records the marriage of Robert Ashfield to Alice, daughter of 'Sir Thomas Termin [sic for 'Jermyn']'. See Burke, John and John Bernard Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies of England, Ireland and Scotland*, 2nd ed., (London: John Russell Smith, 1844), p. 16 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=4KRAAAAACAAJ&pg=PA16>

TESTATOR'S LANDS

For the testator's manor of Castelyns, see Copinger, W.A., *The Manors of Suffolk*, (London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1905), pp. 113-15 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/manorsofsuffolkn01copiuoft#page/114/mode/2up>

For the testator's manor of Sampfords or Stampfords [=Sandesford's alias Stanford? in Waldingfield?], see Copinger, *supra*, pp. 243-4 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/manorsofsuffolkn01copiuoft#page/242/mode/2up>

For the testator's manor of Lutons, see Parker, *supra*, p. 170 ff. at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=VsbWA_Q1NR4C&pg=PA170

For the testator's will, see also Howard, *supra*, p. 54 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ExI2AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA54>

LM: T{estamentum} ffrancisci Clopton Senioris

In dei nomine, Amen. In the second day of February and in the first year of the reign of the most gracious Lady Elizabeth, Queen of England, France and Ireland, and in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred fifty and eight, I, Francis Clopton th' elder of Melford within the county of Suffolk, gentleman, do make, ordain and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I commend my soul to God, there to rest with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in his kingdom forever, my body to be buried in holy sepulture where and in such manner as shall seem good to mine executor[s], my state and degree considered;

Item, at my burial I will have 12 poor folks which shall take pain about my funeral as shall be appointed by mine executors, and to every of them I give 12d;

And within thirty days after my decease I will there be distributed within the parish aforesaid amongst the poor there three pounds six shillings and eight pence;

Item, I give towards the reparation of Melford Church 40s;

Item, I will and bequeath to every one of my household servants being in service with me at the day of my decease, over and besides their wages and liveries to any one of them or to all of them then due, 13s 4d except John Perke(?) and Anne Rudston, to every of them I give 40s to be paid to them severally as it may be levied of the issues and profits of such lands as I have put in feoffment for the performance of my will;

Item, I give to Bridget, my wife, all that my lease, interest and term of years within th' indenture of the same which I have and hold of and in the [f. 260r] park called Melford Park in Melford aforesaid, with all profits, commodities, fees and advantages to the same in any wise appertaining or belonging, to have and to hold to the said Bridget and to her assigns during and by all the term yet not ended nor determined in as large and ample manner and wise to all intents and purposes as I had and now have, occupy and enjoy the same;

Item, where at the court holden at the manor of Melford Hall in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred fifty and seven and in the third and fourth years of the reigns of King Philip and Queen Mary I did surrender all those my copy-lands and tenements, meadows, pastures and feedings, woods and underwoods called Cookes house with th' appurtenances to the use of my wife, now I will that all the premises shall be in the use and occupation of Bridget, my wife, and all the profits of the same during and by all the term of her natural life;

And after her decease I will that all the premises with their appurtenances shall remain to William Clopton, son of my brother, Richard Clopton, and his heirs forever;

Item, I give unto the said Bridget, my wife, all the lands and pastures lying in Bridge Street and in the field there near which I purchased of John Holyer of Waldingfield, and my mill-house with the horte yard [=orchard] and hop-yard with all and singular their appurtenances which I purchased of the churchwardens and certain feoffees of the parish of Alpheton with a yearly reservation of 4d by year for scouring of the church there, or else to find scouring for the same, to have and to hold to the said Bridget and her assigns and by all the term of her life;

And after her decease to remain to William Clopton aforesaid, and to his heirs forever;

Item, I will my manor of Sampfordes [=Sandesforde's?], my manor of Castelyns, and my manor of Chipley set, lying, being and extending in and to the towns and fields of Much Waldingfield and Little Waldingfield, Acton, Groton, Edwardstone, Boxford, Lindsey, Chipley, Poslingford, Stansfield and Hundon or elsewhere within the county of Suffolk with all lands, meadows, pastures, feedings, woods, underwoods, rents, reversions and services, profits of court or courts with all and singular their appurtenances, profits, commodities and advantages whatsoever to the manors aforesaid or to any of them in any wise appertaining or belonging, and also all other my lands and tenements, meadows, pastures, feedings, woods and underwoods, rents, reversions and services and all other mine hereditaments with all and singular their appurtenances set, lying and being in the towns and fields aforesaid or in any of them shall continue, be and remain in the hands,

use and occupation of Bridget, my said wife, for the term and by all the term of thirty years next and immediately ensuing after my decease for and to these intents and purposes following:

First I will and my mind and intent is that the said Bridget, my wife, her executors and assigns, shall during and by all the whole term of 30 years aforesaid yearly content and pay out of th' issues and profits that she shall receive of those three last-rehearsed manors, lands and tenement to Sir Ambrose Jermyn, knight, and to Robert Crane, and to Robert Ashfield, esquires, the sum of thirty pounds, if this my will shall be by the order of the law adjudged to be good and to take effect for the whole of the same manors, lands and tenements;

And if by the reason of the tenure or any other occasion this my will shall not be good and effectual for the whole of them, then she shall pay yearly to them after the rate but for so much as she shall take the profits of the said manors, lands and tenements;

And that with the same revenues that she shall so pay to the said Sir Ambrose Jermyn, knight, and to Robert Crane and to Robert Ashfield, esquires, I will that by them the legacies and gifts of this my will & testament be truly contented and paid;

Item, I give unto Elizabeth Clopton, my niece, one hundred pounds to be paid to her so soon as it may be levied of the issues and profits;

And if it fortune the said Elizabeth to die before the day of payment, that then it shall remain unto Bridget, my wife;

And also if Mr Hunt do marry with Thomasine Clopton, my niece, that then she shall have one hundred marks to be paid her so soon as it may be levied out of the revenues and profits of my said lands;

And if the said Thomasine do decease or die before it be paid to her, that then it shall remain to Bridget, my said wife;

Item, I give unto Emme Clopton, my niece, one hundred marks to be paid unto her so soon as it may be levied;

And if it fortune that she(?) die before it be paid unto her, that then it shall remain unto Bridget, my wife;

Item, I give unto Juliane Clopton forty pounds to be paid unto her so soon as it may be levied;

And if she die before it be paid, that then it shall remain unto Bridget, my wife;

Item, I give unto Mary Clopton, my niece, forty pounds to be paid unto her so soon as it may be levied;

And if she die before it be paid, that then it shall remain unto Bridget, my wife;

Item, I will that my will fulfilled and [f. 260v] my legacies paid, that all the overplus and residue of the profits that shall come and grow of my said manors, lands and tenements within the space of thirty years aforesaid shall be good and remain unto Bridget, my wife, to her own proper use;

Item, I will that she shall be bound in her pure widowhead to Sir Ambrose Jermyn, knight, to Robert Crane and unto Robert Ashfield, esquire, to do and accomplish duly and truly without fraud, waste or covin according to my trust committed to her all and every article in this my last will contained which on her part and behalf is appointed and limited to be done;

Item, I give unto the same Bridget, my wife, all my money, jewels, plate, debts, stuff of household, implements, with cattle, as horse, beasts, sheep, swine, with all other things belonging unto husbandry;

Item, I give them unto her forever;

And after the end and term of the said thirty years, I will that my manors of Sampforde and Castelyns with Clopton Hall and Chapmans in Poslingford and Chipley or elsewhere, with all the lands, meadows, pastures, feedings, woods, underwoods, rents, reversions and services, profits of court or courts with all and singular their appurtenances, profits, commodities and advantages and all other my lands and tenements, meadows, pastures, feedings, woods and underwoods, rents, reversions and services and all other mine hereditaments with their appurtenances set, lying or being within the towns and fields of Much Waldingfield, Little Waldingfield, Acton, Groton, Edwardstone, Boxford and Lindsey to the heirs of my body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to remain to William Clopton, son of my brother, Richard, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue I will that all the premises last remembered shall remain to his brother, Richard, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue and after the end and term of the aforesaid thirty years, I will that my manor of Chipley otherwise called Clopton Hall and Chapmans and all other my lands and tenements with all and singular their appurtenances in Chipley, Poslingford, Stansfield and Hundon shall remain to the heirs of my body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to remain to William and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to Richard Clopton, his brother, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And where before this time I have by good and lawful conveyance executed estates and made livery and seisin according of and in my manor of Bellhouse in Ramsden within the county of Essex and of and in the advowson of the same church of Ramsden and also of and in the moiety of the manor of Stanway within the county aforesaid with th' advowson of the church of Stanway *alterius vicibus* with all the lands, meadows, pastures, feedings, woods, underwoods, profits and advantages to the same manors or to either of them appertaining or belonging to the use of Bridget, my wife, for term of her natural life, and after her decease to th' use of my last will, as by the deeds of feoffment thereof made may & do more plainly appear, now I will and my intent and mind is, according to the devise aforesaid, the said Bridget, my wife, shall have and enjoy the aforesaid manor of Bellhouse in Ramsden with th' advowson of the church of Ramsden and the manor of Stanway with th' advowson of the church of Stanway *alterius vicibus* with all other the last-rehearsed premises with all and singular their appurtenances during and by all the term of her natural life;

And after her decease I will that all the same premises shall remain to the heirs of my body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to William Clopton, the son of my brother, Richard, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to remain to Richard Clopton, his brother, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And finally I will that if [+I?], the said Francis Clopton, and also my said two nephews, William and Richard, and every of us shall happen to die without issue male of our bodies or of the body of one of us lawfully begotten, then I will that all my manors of Stampforde, Castelyns, Chipley otherwise called Clopton Hall and Chapmans, Bellhouse in Ramsden, the moiety of the manor of Stanway, the advowsons of the churches of Stanway and Ramsden with all and singular their appurtenances and all other my lands and tenements, meadows, pastures, feedings, woods and underwoods, rents, reversions and services and all other mine hereditaments set, lying and being within the towns and fields of Much Waldingfield, Little Waldingfield, Acton, Groton, Boxford, Lindsey, Chipley, Poslingford, Stansfield and Hundon within the county of Suffolk, Ramsden, Stanway or elsewhere within the county of Essex, shall wholly remain to Francis Clopton, son and heir of my nephew, William Clopton of Lutons in Melford, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to remain to William Clopton, his brother, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default [f. 261r] of such issue to remain to George Clopton, their brother, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to remain to Thomas Clopton and to th' heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to remain to the right heirs of me, the aforesaid Francis Clopton th' elder forever;

Nevertheless if at any time hereafter it shall so happen and chance that my aforesaid manors, lands, tenements and other mine hereditaments to come and remain unto one of the sons of my said nephew, William Clopton, by force of this my devise [=devise], and that William Clopton, the son of Richard Clopton, or Richard Clopton, his brother, have issue general one or mo, which otherwise if this devise were not should be heirs at the common law, I will that he of [sic?] my said nephew, William Clopton, his son that so shall have the premises by force of the aforesaid remainder shall pay and give to every of the said daughters being heir or heirs general at the common law the sum of one hundred pounds to be paid at such time as the said daughter or daughters, if there shall be mo than one, shall be married, and otherwise my devise for the remainder to my nephew William Clopton's sons to be utterly void and of none effect to all intents, constructions and purposes;

Item, I give and bequeath unto mine nephew, Richard Clopton, so soon as he shall attain and come to th' age of 24 years, one yearly fee or annuity of [-of] £6 13s 4d to be taken and received of the issues and profits of my manor of Sampforde with th' appurtenances during and by all the term of his natural life, to be paid at two terms in the year, that is to say, at the feasts of the Annunciation of Our Lady and Saint Michael th' Archangel by even portions, and for non-payment thereof by such as shall have th' use or occupation of the same manor with th' appurtenances, I will that the said Richard or his assigns in and upon the premises shall distrain, and the distress there so taken to keep and detain to impark and impound till he be of the sum aforesaid with th' arrearages, if any shall happen to be behind and unpaid, with his costs and charges in that behalf sustained, fully satisfied, contented and paid;

And I do ordain Bridget, my wife, to be my sole executrix of this my last will and testament, willing and heartily desiring her always to be advertised by Sir Ambrose Jermyn, her uncle, by Mr Robert Crane, her father, and by my cousin, Robert Ashfield, her assured friend;

And I heartily pray and desire these three last before-written to be supervisors to this my last will & testament;

Witnesses to this will: Robert Crane, Francis Clopton, th' eldest son of William Clopton of Lutons, John Hunt of Asham, William Clopton, son of William Clopton of Lutons, and Thomas Appleton of Assington;

This is the will of me, Francis Clopton.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentu{m} coram Custode Curie prerogatiue Cantuar{iensis} septimo die mensis Iulij Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingentesimo quinquagesimo nono Iuramento Iohannis Hunt procuratoris Brigitte Relicte et executric{is} in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}ate Ac approbatu{m} et insinuat{m} com{m}issaq{ue} fuit administratio o{mn}i{u}m et sing{u}lor{um} bonor{um} Iuriu{m} creditor{um} &c prefate executrici de bene &c Ac de pleno et fideli Inventario necnon de vero et plano compot{o} reddend{o} &c Iurat{i}

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Keeper of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on the seventh day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-ninth by the oath of John Hunt, proctor of Bridget, relict and executrix named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights, credits etc. to the forenamed executrix, sworn to well etc., and [+to exhibit] a full and faithful inventory, and also to render a plain and true account etc.]