

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 13 January 1558 and proved 6 December 1560, of George Brooke (c.1497 – 29 September 1558), 9th Baron Cobham, whose eldest son, William Brooke, 10th Baron Cobham, was Lord Chamberlain and patron of the Lord Chamberlain's Men in 1596/7, and whose eighth son, Thomas Brooke the younger, wrote verses commemorating the death of Arthur Brooke (d.1563), author of *Romeus and Juliet*, a principal source of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

The document below is the second of the testator's two extant wills. For the testator's superseded will of 31 March 1551, see BL Harley Charter 57 H.7.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

A pedigree of the Brooke family from the reign of Henry III to 1571 was emblazoned by Robert Glover (1543/4 – 10 April 1588), Somerset Herald, at the request of the testator's eldest son and heir, William Brooke (1527-1597), 10th Baron Cobham. See CP 225/1 and McKeen, David, *A Memory of Honour; The Life of William Brooke, Lord Cobham*, (Salzburg: Universitat Salzburg, 1986), 2 vols., pp. 5, 21, 291 at:

<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000901279>

The pedigree contains the statement that the testator's eldest son and heir, William Brooke, 10th Baron Cobham, 'is 'now living in anno 1571', thus providing an approximate date for the blazoning of the pedigree.

It should be noted that the pedigree contains errors, particularly with respect to the testator's father's second and third marriages.

Testator's great-grandparents

The testator was the great-grandson of Edward Brooke (born c.1415 – d. before 7 July 1464), 6th Baron Cobham, and Elizabeth Audley (or Tuchet), the daughter of James Tuchet, 5th Baron Audley.

Testator's grandparents

The testator was the grandson of John Brooke (c.1450 – 9 March 1512), 7th Baron Cobham, and Margaret Neville (d. 30 September 1506), daughter of Sir Edward Neville (d. 18 October 1486), Lord Bergavenny, youngest son of Ralph Neville, 1st Earl of Westmorland, and Katherine Howard (living 29 June 1478), daughter of Sir Robert Howard and Margaret Mowbray, daughter of Thomas Howard, 1st Duke of Norfolk. After the death of Margaret Neville, John Brooke, 7th Baron Cobham, married Eleanor

Anstie of Suffolk, by whom he had no issue. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 240-1, Vol. III, pp. 529-30.

Testator's parents

The testator was the eldest surviving son of Thomas Brooke (d. 19 July 1529), 8th Baron Cobham, and his first wife, Dorothy Heydon (d. by 1515), daughter of Sir Henry Heydon (d.1504) of Baconsthorpe, Norfolk, by Anne Boleyn, daughter of Sir Geoffrey Boleyn, Lord Mayor of London, great-grandfather of Queen Anne Boleyn. See Cokayne, George Edward, *The Complete Peerage*, Vol. III, (London: St Catherine Press, 1913), p. 347. See also the will of Sir Thomas Brooke, 8th Baron Cobham, proved November 1530, TNA PROB 11/23/361. See also the Wikipedia entry for Sir Henry Heydon created by the author of this website at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Heydon

Testator's sibings

According to McKeen, brasses in Cobham church depict the testator as one of thirteen children, and his father as one of eighteen. See McKeen, *supra*, p. 16.

The testator is known to have had three brothers and three sisters:

-**John Brooke**, eldest son, who died without issue in the lifetime of his father. See McKeen, *supra*, p. 16.

-**William Brooke**, who died in the lifetime of his father. See McKeen, *supra*, p. 16.

-**Thomas Brooke** (d.1547) of Reculver, Kent, steward of the household to Archbishop Thomas Cranmer (1489-1556). For a letter from the Archbishop to Cromwell dated 5 October 1536 referring to Thomas Brooke as 'this bearer, Thomas Cobham, brother unto my lord Cobham, and my servant', see Cox, John Edmund, ed., *The Works of Thomas Cranmer*, Vol. II, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1846), p. 330 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=DQw5AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA330>

The Brooke pedigree, CP 225/1, *supra*, has a confused account of Thomas Brooke's alleged two marriages and issue, stating that he married the daughter of Cranmer of Aslockton, by whom he had a son, Thomas Brooke, who died without issue, and that by the widow of Clerke he had another son, Cranmer Brooke.

The Brooke pedigree in Hovenden states that Thomas Brooke married 'Susan, daughter of (blank) Cranmer, widow of Clerke'. See Hovenden, Robert, *The Visitation of Kent Taken in the Years 1619-1621*, (London: Harleian Society, 1898), Vol. XLII, p. 16 at:

<https://archive.org/details/visitationofkent00camd/page/16>

It thus seems from the pedigree in Hovenden that Susan Cranmer was the widow of a husband surnamed Clerke when she married Thomas Brooke. However the possibility cannot be entirely ruled out that the pedigree in CP 225/1 is correct, and that Thomas Brooke married twice, one of his wives being Susan Cranmer, and the other the widow of a husband surnamed Clerke.

Thomas Brooke's connection to the Clerke family is evident in his will, in which he refers to his 'kinswoman', Joan Clerke, and to 'certain writings' made between himself and James Clerke of Wrotham, Kent. For the Clerke family, see Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 482; and *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, 1920, Vol. LXXIV, pp. 74-5 at:

<https://archive.org/details/newenglandhistor74wate/page/74>

Thomas Brooke's wife, Susan Cranmer, was the daughter of John Cranmer, esquire, of Aslockton, Nottinghamshire, by his second wife, Margaret Fitzwilliam, the daughter of John Fitzwilliam, esquire, of Sprotbrough, Yorkshire. See Collins, Arthur, *A Supplement to the Four Volumes of the Peerage of England*, Vol. I, (London: W. Innys, 1750), p. 239 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=4tBCAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA239>

John Fitzwilliam of Sprotbrough and Haddlesey, esquire, son and heir of Ralph, married Margery, daughter of John Clarevaux of Croft Hall, esquire, and had issue John, William and Margaret, who was married to John Cranmer of Aslockton, esquire, by whom she had issue Susan, first married to Thomas Brooke, esquire, brother to George, Lord Cobham, by whom she had issue Thomas Brooke of Chislet Park, and after to Anthony Vaughan, esquire, son and heir of Sir Hugh Vaughan of Littleton, by whom she had issue Hugh and Alice.

Susan Cranmer was the niece of Thomas Cranmer (1489-1556), Archbishop of Canterbury, and was also the niece of Edmund Cranmer, Archdeacon of Canterbury (see below), and Agnes Cranmer (d. 18 August 1556), who married Edmund Cartwright, gentleman, of Ossington, Nottinghamshire. See the Cranmer pedigrees in Waters, Robert Edmond Chester, *Genealogical Memoirs of the Extinct Family of Chester of Chicheley*, Vol. II, (London: Robson and Sons, 1878), pp. 444-9 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=nqFCAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA444>

For the Cranmer family, see also the will of Hugh Cartwright, TNA PROB 11/54/317.

Thomas Brooke (d.1547) left a will, PRC 32/21/72, which is confusingly dated 5 January 1544, 35 Henry VIII. A date of 5 January 1544 in a will of this period is usually Old

Style, and should be converted to 5 January 1545 New Style; however the statement that the will was made on 5 January in the 35th year of the reign of Henry VIII indicates that it was, in fact, made 5 January 1544.

For an abstract of the will, see:

<https://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/Research/Pub/ArchCant/Vol.032%20-%201917/03/093.htm>

In his will Thomas Brooke (d.1547) mentions his wife, Susan, and the two sons who are named in the pedigree in CP 225/1, *supra*:

(1) Cranmer Brooke (living 1573), eldest son, who married Abell Fogge, sister of Sir John Fogge (d.1564). Sir John Fogge (d.1564) married, after 7 July 1529, the testator's sister, Margaret Brooke, the daughter of Thomas Brooke (d. 19 July 1529), 8th Baron Cobham (see below), by whom he had a son, Edward Fogge (buried 11 November 1573), who died without issue. See the will of Sir John Fogge, TNA PROB 11/47/303, and the Fogge pedigree in T.G.F., 'Family Chronicle of Richard Fogge of Danes Court in Tilmanstone', *Archaeologia Cantiana*, (Kent Archaeological Society, 1863), Vol. V, p. 125 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/archaeologiacant05kent#page/n189/mode/1up>

Cranmer Brooke is mentioned in the 1573 will of his nephew, Edward Fogge, PRC 17/42/276.

According to the pedigree in Hovenden, *supra*, p. 16, by Abell Fogge, Cranmer Brooke had a son, William Brooke, esquire, of Hartlip, Kent, who is mentioned in the 1564 will, TNA PROB 11/47/303, of his uncle, Sir John Fogge:

Item, I will to William Brooke, Abell's son, 2 two yearling heifers to be delivered within half a year after my decease.

William Brooke of Hartlip married Jane Tenacre, the daughter of John Tenacre of Boughton-under-Blean, Kent, by whom he had a daughter, Mary Brooke. For the Tenacre family, see Boodle, John Adolphus, trans., *The Registers of Boughton-under-Blean Co. Kent*, (London: Parish Register Society, 1903), at:

<https://archive.org/details/registersofbough49boug/page/n5>

(2) Thomas Brooke, youngest son. In the pedigree in CP 225/1, he is said to have died without issue. Collins, *supra*, refers to him as 'Thomas Brooke of Chislet Park'. He can perhaps be identified with Thomas Brooke who, with his wife, Elizabeth, broke into the house of William Brooke of Hartlip, gentleman. See QM/SI/1606/9/7, dated 25 July 1606.

The History of Parliament suggests that he was Thomas Brooke (by 1513-1555 or later) of Calais. See:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/broke-thomas-1513-55-or-later>

b. by 1513, poss. yr. s. of Thomas Brooke alias Cobham of Reculver, Kent by Susan. m. by Dec. 1534, at least 2 ch.3

However the History of Parliament appears to be in error since Thomas Brooke (by 1513-1555) was already a member of Parliament in 1539, five years before Thomas Brooke (d.1547) made his will, and in his will Thomas Brooke (d.1547) states that his *eldest* son, Cranmer Brooke, was under 18 years of age in 1544.

The Brooke pedigree in Hovenden, *supra*, differs from both the pedigree in CP 225/1, *supra*, and the will of Thomas Brooke (d.1547) in stating that his second son was:

(2) Edward Brooke, 'killed in battle'. Although the pedigree in Hovenden, *supra*, appears to be based on good authority in that the information was provided to the heralds by William Brooke, son of Cranmer Brooke, the statement that Thomas Brooke (d.1547) and Susan Cranmer had a son, Sir Edward Brooke, killed in battle, seems doubtful in light of the pedigree in CP 225/1, *supra*, and the will of Thomas Brooke (d.1547).

The Sir Edward Brooke mentioned in the pedigree in Hovenden can likely be identified with Sir Edward Brooke who served in the Low Counties in 1588 and was killed at the siege of Groningen on 18 June 1594. See Markham, Clements R., *The Fighting Veres*, (London: Sampson Low, 1888), pp. 193-4:

Sir Francis Vere, with his English contingent, worked side by side in the trenches with the regiments of Friesland and Zeeland On the 18th of June [1594] Sir Edward Brooke was slain; "a gentleman," wrote Vere, "if it had pleased God to spare him, would have done her Majesty good service."

He is referred to as 'a kinsman of Lord Cobham' in a letter dated 8 September 1588 from the Privy Council to Peregrine Willoughby, Lord Willoughby d'Eresby. See:

'Elizabeth: September 1588, 1-10', in *Calendar of State Papers Foreign: Elizabeth, Volume 22, July-December 1588*, ed. Richard Bruce Wernham (London, 1936), pp. 178-195. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/cal-state-papers/foreign/vol22/pp178-195> [accessed 14 September 2019].

The Sir Edward Brooke slain at Groningen may be the Sir Edward Brooke for whom Shaw gives alternate dates of knighthood (1591 and 1598). See Shaw, William A., *The Knights of England*, Vol. II, (London: Sherratt and Hughes, 1906), p. 98 at:

<https://archive.org/details/knightsofengland02shawuoft/page/n107>

If it is assumed that Sir Edward Brooke (d. 18 June 1594) was about thirty years of age when he served in the Low Countries in 1588, he would have been born about 1558, too late to have been the son of Thomas Brooke (d.1547).

If it is assumed he was about twenty years of age when he served in the Low Countries in 1588, he would have been born about 1568, and could have been a younger son of Cranmer Brooke.

McKeen states that Thomas Brooke (d.1547) had three sons. For the possibility that after he made his will on 5 January 1544 Thomas Brooke (d.1547) and Susan Cranmer had a third son, Arthur Brooke, author of *Romeus and Juliet*, see below.

For Thomas Brooke (d.1547) and Susan Cranmer, see also Waters, *supra*, pp. 373-4 at:

<https://archive.org/details/genealogicalmemo02wate/page/372>

After Thomas Brooke's death, Susan Cranmer married Anthony Vaughan, another of Archbishop Cranmer's servants. See MacCulloch, Diarmaid, *Thomas Cranmer: A Life*, (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1996), p. 271 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=y4DD4mAYipUC&pg=PA271>

Anthony Vaughan is said to have been the illegitimate, but acknowledged, son of Sir Hugh Vaughan (d.1536) of Littleton, Middlesex. See Waters, *supra*, p. 374, and the pedigree in 'Birch, Walter de Gray, 'The Lady Anne Percy's Portrait in Stained Glass at Long Melford', *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, (London, 1884), pp. 400-408 at p. 407:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=QhQpAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA407>

For Hugh Vaughan (d.1607), Susan Cranmer's son by Anthony Vaughan, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/vaughan-hugh-1607>

-Margaret Brooke, who married, after 7 July 1529, as his first wife, Sir John Fogge (d.1564), brother of Abell Fogge (see above). See the pedigree in CP 225/1, *supra*; the will of Sir John Fogge, TNA PROB 11/47/303; the will of Thomas Brooke, 8th Baron Cobham, TNA PROB 11/23/361, in which he mentions his unmarried daughter, Margaret Brooke; and Waller, J.G., 'The Lords of Cobham, Their Monuments, and the Church', *Archaeologia Cantiana*, Vol. XI, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1877), pp. 49-112 at p. 112:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=794GAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA112>

By Sir John Fogge (d.1564), Margaret Brooke had one son:

(1) Edward Fogge (buried 11 November 1573), who died without issue. His heir was his uncle, George Fogge (died c.1592). According to the pedigree in CP 225/1, *supra*, Edward Fogge married ‘the widow of Ellys of Kennington in the county of Kent’.

For the will of Edward Fogge, dated 30 October 1573 and proved 6 May 1576, in which he mentions his wife, Margaret, his cousin, Henry Brooke alias Cobham, and his kinsman, Cranmer Brooke, see PRC 17/42/276 at:

<https://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/Research/01/ASH/04/01f.htm>

See also the Fogge pedigree in ‘Family Chronicle’, *supra*, p. 125 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/archaeologiacant05kent#page/n189/mode/1up>

-Faith Brooke (d. 1 December 1574), who married William Ockenden of Hoo, Kent. She is mentioned in the will of the testator’s widow, Anne (nee Bray) Brooke. See CP 198/100. According to McKeen, *supra*, pp. 68-9, the funeral certificate of Faith Okendon, widow, is MS Ashmol. 836, f. 365.

- Elizabeth Brooke (d.1560), who married firstly the poet Sir Thomas Wyatt (1503 - 10 October 1542), son and heir of Sir Henry Wyatt and Anne Skinner, daughter of John Skinner of Reigate, Surrey. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, p. 531, and the *ODNB* entry:

By about 1520 Wyatt had married Elizabeth (d. 1560), daughter of Thomas Brooke, eighth Baron Cobham, thereby consolidating his father's position among the Kentish gentry. Thomas Wyatt the younger was born in or before 1521. The marriage was unhappy, and, if the Spanish ambassador (writing on 27 March 1541) is to be believed, the pair were estranged by the second half of the 1520s. By 1537 Elizabeth's brother George, ninth Baron Cobham, begged Cromwell to ensure that Wyatt made provision for his wife, which he was evidently failing to do.

After the death of Sir Thomas Wyatt, Elizabeth Brooke married secondly, before 27 February 1560, Sir Edward Warner (1511 – 9 November 1565), by whom she had no surviving issue. For Sir Edward Warner, see *Plantagenet Ancestry*, *supra*, and the *ODNB* entry.

For the testator’s siblings, see also Waller, *supra*, p. 112 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=794GAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA112>

See also the Brooke pedigree in McKeen, *supra*, pp. 701-2 at:

<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000901279>

Testator's father's second marriage

After the death of the testator's mother, the testator's father married secondly Elizabeth Calthorpe (d. before 1518), widow of Sir Robert Southwell (d. 31 March 1514), and daughter of Sir Philip Calthorpe (d.1464-1535). See TNA C 1/452/8; the will of Sir Robert Southwell, TNA PROB 11/18/38; and:

<https://lists.rootsweb.com/hyperkitty/list/gen-medieval.rootsweb.com/thread/568234/>

See also the entry for Elizabeth Calthorpe at:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=667

Elizabeth Calthorpe was the daughter of Sir Philip Calthorpe of Burnham Thorpe, Norfolk (c.1464-1535) and his first wife, Mary Saye (1464-1501). Her first husband was Sir Robert Southwell (d. March 31, 1514). She was his second wife. They were married c.1511 and had no children. In 1515, she became the second of three wives of Thomas Brooke, 8th baron Cobham (d. July 19, 1529). Her name is sometimes mistakenly given as Dorothy Southwell. A lawsuit in 1516 in the court of Common Pleas, identifies Lady Cobham as the widow of Sir Robert Southwell. She and her husband were at that time acting as co-executors of the Southwell estate. Elizabeth had no children from her second marriage and died before 1518.

See also the Calthorpe pedigree in Lee-Warner, James, 'The Calthorps of Burnham', *Norfolk Archaeology*, Vol. IX, (Norwich: A.H. Goose & Co., 1884), pp. 1-19 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=imhIAAAAYAAJ&pg=PP1>

In the pedigree in CP 225/1, *supra*, her Christian name is erroneously given as Dorothy.

Testator's father's third marriage

After the death of Elizabeth Calthorpe, the testator's father married thirdly Elizabeth Hart (living 31 March 1552), the daughter of John Hart (d.1507) and Elizabeth Peche (d. 16 July 1544). For the Peche pedigree, see Robertson, Scott, 'Peche of Lullingstone', *Archaeologia Cantiana*, Vol. XVI, 1886, pp. 227-40, available online at:

<https://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/Research/Pub/ArchCant/Vol.016%20-%201886/page%20v%20+%20vi%20%20contents.htm>

See also McKeen, *supra*, p. 701, Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, p. 530, and the entry for Elizabeth Hart at:

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http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=685

Elizabeth Hart (d. March 1552) was the daughter of John Hart of Westmill, Hertfordshire (c.1450-1507) and Elizabeth Peche (1452-July 15, 1544). She became the third wife of Thomas Brooke, 8th baron Cobham (d. July 19, 1539) in about 1518. She had a jointure worth 100 marks a year and his will left her Cobham Hall for life, together with all his moveable goods. Her second husband was a widower, John Cornwall. Elizabeth was still living when her stepson, George Brooke, 9th baron, wrote a will dated March 31, 1551/2.

It should be noted that the pedigree in CP 225/1, *supra*, is in error in stating that the testator's father's third wife, Elizabeth Hart, was the daughter of *Thomas Hart*, but does state correctly that she was the sister of Sir Percival Hart (c.1496-1580). See the Peche pedigree, *supra*.

Elizabeth Hart's second husband, John Cornwall, was the brother of Barbara Cornwall (d.1579), who married firstly Francis Berners (d.1560/1) of Finchingfield, Essex, and secondly Oxford's uncle, Robert Vere. For Robert Vere, see his will, TNA PROB 11/91/503, and TNA C 3/251/104, a Chancery suit brought by Robert Vere in which he mentions his wife, Barbara:

Barbara, then wife of your said orator & widow of one Barnish [=Berners] at a house in Finchingfield in the county of Essex which was the jointure of the said Barbara, until that about fourteen years past [=1579] the said Barbara deceased. . . .

See also the will of John Berners (d.1540), father of Francis Berners, TNA PROB 11/28/18, and the Cornwall and Berners pedigrees in Foljambe, Cecil George Savile and Compton Reade, *The House of Cornwall*, (Hereford: Jakeman and Carver, 1908), pp. 164-5 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/houseofcornwall00live#page/n207/mode/2up>

According to a pedigree taken in 1552, John Cornwall and Elizabeth (nee Hart) Brooke had a son, Giles Cornwall, and a daughter, Mary Cornwall, both of whom died without issue, and after the death of Elizabeth (nee Hart) Brooke, John Cornwall married secondly 'the daughter of Stubbes, relict of Verney', by whom he had a daughter, Jane Cornwall. See Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex*, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), Vol. XIII, p. 7 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=hqwKAAAYAAJ&pg=PA7>

See also the Berners pedigree in Chauncy, Henry, *The Historical Antiquities of Hertfordshire*, (London: J.M. Mullinger, 1836), Vol. I, p. 317 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/historicalantiq03chaugoog#page/n383/mode/2up>

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married, by 1526, Anne Bray (c.1510 – 1 November 1558), eldest daughter of Edmund Bray (d.1539), 1st Baron Bray, and Jane Halighwell, daughter of Sir Richard Halighwell. See the pedigree in CP 225/1, *supra*; Cokayne, *supra*, p. 348; McKeen, *supra*, pp. 7-9, 700-702; and ‘Memorials of the Family of Cobham’, *Collectanea Topographica & Genealogica*, Vol. VII, (London: John Bowyer Nichols and Son, 1841), pp. 320-54 at p. 352:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=tL1nsjpJkj8C&pg=PA352>

See also the Bray pedigree in Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, Vol. I, New Series, (London: Hamilton, Adams, and Co., 1874), p. 62 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=Ztjtx2j68AsC&pg=PA62>

For the will, dated 7 October 1558, of the testator’s wife, Anne (nee Bray) Brooke, see CP 198/110, and the *Calendar of the Manuscripts of the Honourable the Marquis of Salisbury, K.G., Preserved at Hatfield House, Hertfordshire, Part I*, (London: Eyre and Spottiswoode, 1883), p. 147 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/calendarmanusc01grea#page/146/mode/2up>

According to the pedigree in CP 225/1, *supra*, by Anne Bray the testator had ten sons and four daughters born between 1526 and 1544, four of whom predeceased him:

- * **Henry Brooke** (b. September 1529), second son, died without issue.
- * **Edward Brooke** (b. September 1536), sixth son, died without issue.
- * **Anne Brooke** (b. March 1531), second daughter, died without issue.
- * **Mary Brooke** (b. 3 October 1542), third daughter, died without issue.

Eight of the testator’s sons and two of his daughters were living when the testator made his will:

- * **William Brooke** (1 November 1527 – 6 March 1597), 10th Baron Cobham, eldest son and heir. As noted above, he was Lord Chamberlain and patron of the Lord Chamberlain’s Men in 1596/7. He married firstly Dorothy Neville (d. 22 September 1559), one of the five daughters of George Neville (c.1469-1535), 3rd Baron Bergavenny, by his third wife, Mary Stafford, youngest daughter of Edward Stafford (1478-1521), 3rd Duke of Buckingham, and secondly Frances Newton (d. 17 October 1592), one of Queen

Elizabeth's longest-serving gentlewomen and closest friends. See his will, TNA PROB 11/89/478 and BL Lansdowne 830, f. 249ff; and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/brooke-william-1527-97>

* **George Brooke** (27 January 1533 – c.1569), third son, who married Christian Duke (d.1608), the daughter and heir of Richard Duke of Otterton, Devon, by whom he had three sons and two daughters including, Duke Brooke (b. March 1562), and Elizabeth Brooke (born 15 July 1558), and Anne Brooke (born 16 July 1560). See CP 225/1, *supra*, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/brooke-alias-cobham-george-1533>

* **Thomas Brooke the elder** (30 December 1533–1578), fourth son, who married Katherine Cavendish (1535-1594), daughter of Sir William Cavendish (1508–1557) by his second wife, Margaret Bostock. Katherine Cavendish was thus the stepdaughter of Bess of Hardwick, who had care of her as a child. See McKeen, *supra*, p. 215, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/brooke-alias-cobham-thomas-1533-78>

By Katherine Cavendish, Thomas Brooke had a son, Thomas Brooke (born 1559), and two daughters.

For Thomas Brooke's career as a privateer and his role in the events leading up to the execution of Oxford's first cousin, Thomas Howard (1538-1572), 4th Duke of Norfolk, see McKeen, *supra*, pp. 215ff, and *The Edward De Vere Newsletter*, No. 14, (April 1990), on this website.

* **John Brooke** (22 April 1534–1594), fifth son, of Newington, Kent, a Marian exile. He married, by 1561, Alice Cobbe, widow of Sir John Norton (d. 9 July 1557) of Northwood in Milton, Kent, and daughter of Edward Cobbe of Cobbs Place, Kent. See the History of Parliament entry for Sir John Norton at

<http://historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/norton-sir-john-1512-57>

See also TNA E 133/10/1571 concerning a lease made by Thomas Norton to John Brooke and Lady Alice, his wife.

John Brooke's will, dated 8 February 1594 and proved 26 September 1594, TNA PROB 11/84/223, mentions his deceased brothers, Edward Brooke and Henry Brooke. See also the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/brooke-alias-cobham-john-1535-94>

See also ‘St Mary Church, Newington near Sittingbourne’ at:

<http://tedconnell.org.uk/LFH/GRS/NES/01.htm>

* **Sir Henry Brooke alias Cobham** (5 February 1538 – 13 January 1592), seventh son, who married, on 27 January 1573, Anne Sutton (d.1611/12), widow of Walter Haddon (1514/15–1571) and daughter of Sir Henry Sutton of Nottinghamshire, by whom he had three sons and two daughters: Sir Calisthenes Brooke (1573–1611); John Brooke, later Baron Cobham (1574–1660), who was involved in a business enterprise with Thomas Russell, the overseer of the will of William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon; Maximilian Brooke (1575/6–1598); Anne Brooke (born c.1577); and Philippa Brooke (c.1579–1613), who married Walter Calverley (d.1605), the subject of *A Yorkshire Tragedy*, attributed to Shakespeare. See *The Edward De Vere Newsletter*, No. 22, (December 1990), on this website. For further details concerning Sir Henry Brooke’s children, see the will of his widow, Anne (nee Sutton) Haddon Brooke, TNA PROB 11/119/37.

* **Thomas Brooke the younger** (b. 22 April 1539), eighth son. He wrote verses commemorating the death of Arthur Brooke, author of *Romeus and Juliet* (see below).

* **Edmund Brooke** (31 October 1540 – c.1587), ninth son.

* **Edward Brooke**, tenth son, who according to the will of his brother, John Brooke (see above), had died by 8 February 1594, and had left a widow, Mary Cobham, who was the sister of John Brooke’s wife, Alice (nee Cobbe). According to McKeen, *supra*, p. 11, Edward Brooke married Mary Hornebie (d.1600), by whom, according to the pedigree in CP 225/1, *supra*, he had five children, unnamed in the pedigree. He cannot be identified with the Sir Edward Brooke killed at the siege of Groningen on 18 June 1594 (see above), since his brother’s will states that he had died prior to that date.

* **Elizabeth Brooke** (12 June 1526 – 2 April 1565), the testator’s eldest daughter, who in the summer of 1547 secretly married William Parr (1513–1571), Marquess of Northampton, by whom she had no issue. Parr was already married, having been contracted at the age of thirteen to the ten-year-old Anne Bouchier (1517–1571), heir of Henry Bouchier (d. 3 March 1540), Earl of Essex. Although Anne Bouchier eloped in 1541 with a man named Hunt or Huntley, Parr was unable to regularize his marital situation until 31 March 1551, at which time his divorce from her and marriage to Elizabeth Brooke were legalized by Act of Parliament. See the *ODNB* entry for William Parr.

* **Katherine Brooke** (7 April 1544 - 1617?), fourth daughter, unmarried when the testator made his first will in 1551 in which he left her all the gilt plate given him by the King of France. See BL Harley Charter 57 H.7. Katherine Brooke married firstly John

Jerningham of Somerleyton, son of George Jerningham (26 March 1515 – January 1559) and Ella Spelman, the daughter of Sir John Spelman (c.1480–1546) of Narborough, Norfolk, and grandson of Sir John Jerningham (c.1497-1558). See the *ODNB* entry for Sir John Spelman, and the Spelman pedigree in Dashwood, G.H., ed., *The Visitation of Norfolk in the Year 1563*, Vol. I, (Norwich: Miller and Leavins, 1878), p. 253 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=qkpFAAAAYAAJ&pg=RA7-PT16>

See also the History of Parliament entry for George Jerningham at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/jerningham-george-1515-59>

See also Copinger, W.A., *The Manors of Suffolk*, Vol. 5, (Manchester: Taylor, Garnett, 1909), p. 5 at:

<https://archive.org/details/cu31924092579584/page/n13>

Katherine Brooke married secondly a husband surnamed Bellamy. By her first husband she had a son and daughter, Henry Jerningham and Elizabeth Jerningham, who died young, and three other daughters:

-Frances Jerningham (d. August 1607), for whom see the will, TNA PROB 11/76/276, of her first husband, Thomas Bedingfield (d. 19 April 1590), and the will, NRO JER 246 55X1, of her second husband, Henry Jerningham (d. 15 June 1619), who in 1596 sold his mansion in the Blackfriars to George Carey (1548–1603), 2nd Baron Hunsdon.

-Katherine Jerningham (d.1614), who married firstly (as his second wife) Henry Crane (d. 1 August 1586), son of Robert Crane (d. 12 September 1591) and Bridget Jermyn, and secondly Sir Wymond Carey (d.1612), son of Sir John Carey (d.1552) and Joyce Denny (d.1559). For her will, dated 13 February 1614 and proved 21 February 1614, in which she left her mother, then Katherine Bellamy, a bequest, see TNA PROB 11/123/225.

-Margaret Jerningham, who married Thomas Ford, esquire, of Butley. See Druery, John Henry, *Historical and Topographical Notices of Great Yarmouth*, (London: Nichols & Son, 1826), pp. 166-7, 176 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=DUIjAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA166>

TESTATOR'S RELATIONSHIP TO ARTHUR BROOKE, AUTHOR OF ROMEUS AND JULIET

As noted above, it seems likely the testator was the uncle of Arthur Brooke (d.1563), and that Arthur was born after the testator's brother, Thomas Brooke (d.1547), made his will on 5 January 1544, and before his death in 1547, or shortly thereafter.

At least four items of evidence suggest that Arthur Brooke was the testator's nephew.

Firstly, Henry Machyn recorded in his diary the date, 21 March 1563, on which news of the wreck of the *Greyhound* reached court, and listed among those drowned 'my Lord Cobham's brother' [sic]. The *Greyhound* had run aground on 19 March 1563 while carrying English forces under Sir Thomas Finch to Newhaven [=Le Havre].

Secondly, the testator's son, Henry Brooke alias Cobham (5 February 1538 – 13 January 1592), wrote to Sir Thomas Chaloner (1521-65) on 14 May 1563 mentioning 'little Brooke' as one of those who had perished in the wreck of the *Greyhound*:

Sir Thomas Finch was drowned going over to Newhaven as knight marshal in Sir Adrian Poynings' place, who is come over. James Wentworth and his brother, John, were cast away in the same vessel on the sands near Rye, and little Brooke and some other petty gentlemen.

Thirdly, another of the testator's sons, Thomas Brooke (b. 22 April 1539) the younger, wrote verses commemorating the death of 'Brooke', drowned in a shipwreck:

*Example, lo, in Broke before thine eye,
Whose praised gifts in him did late abound,
By shipwrack forced, alas, too soon to die,
Helpless of all intombed lies underground.*

Fourthly, in 1567 George Turberville published an epitaph on the death of Arthur Brooke mentioning his translation, *Romeus and Juliet*, and his death by drowning 'passing to Newhaven', i.e. in the wreck of the *Greyhound*.

See Munro, J.J., ed., *Brooke's 'Romeus and Juliet' being the original of Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet'*, (London: Chatto & Windus, 1908), p. xxii; and Green, Nina, 'Who Was Arthur Brooke?', *The Oxfordian*, 2000, Vol. III, pp. 59-70, available online.

The entry in Machyn's diary has caused confusion by misidentifying Arthur Brooke as 'my Lord Cobham's brother', i.e., the brother of the Lord Cobham in 1563, William Brooke (1527-1597), 10th Baron Cobham, whereas it appears he was the testator's nephew, the son of the testator's brother, Thomas Brooke (d.1547), and thus a first cousin of William Brooke, 10th Baron Cobham.

McKeen's discussion of the testator's two wills of 1551 and 1558 implies that three nephews are mentioned in it:

[William Brooke's] father named, besides the disgraced Elizabeth Brooke, seven younger sons and another daughter, as well as a number of nephews, William's late uncle's three sons.

See McKeen, *supra*, p. 68.

McKeen calls these three nephews ‘William’s late uncle’s three sons’, thus identifying them as the sons of the testator’s brother, Thomas Brooke (d.1547). See McKeen, *supra*, pp. 16, 27, 68, 701. Contrary to the impression given by McKeen’s discussion, however, there is no specific mention of three nephews in either of the testator’s wills, although there is a general mention of the testator’s nephews, i.e. the sons of Thomas Brooke (d.1547), in this clause in the will below:

And for lack of such issue I will that all the same manors, lands, tenements and premises with their appurtenances shall wholly remain to the heirs males of the body of my brother, Thomas Brooke, lawfully begotten and to the heirs males of their bodies lawfully begotten.

The testator’s earlier will, Harley Charter 57 H.7, dated 31 March 1551, contains a similar clause:

[A]nd for default of such issue, the remainder thereof unto th’ heirs males of the body of my brother, Thomas Brooke, lawfully begotten.

On 18 December 1561, two years before his death in the wreck of the *Greyhound*, Arthur Brooke (d.1563) was admitted to the Middle Temple, with Thomas Sackville and Thomas Norton as pledges. Thomas Norton was Arthur Brooke’s uncle, having married firstly, about 1556, Archbishop Cranmer’s daughter, Margaret Cranmer (d. before 1568), a first cousin of Susan Cranmer. See the *ODNB* entry:

Norton, Thomas (1530x32–1584), lawyer and writer. . . . At Somerset House Norton probably met not only Cranmer, his future father-in-law, but his future patron, William Cecil

*Norton was twenty-one or twenty-two when Edward VI died in July 1553. He may have continued as tutor to the late king's cousins until his admission to the Inner Temple on 28 June 1555. While learning common law at the Temple he found time to translate some of the psalms. On Mary I's accession the printer Edward Whitchurch went into exile, probably in Germany. Whitchurch had published the first edition of thirty-nine psalms ‘drawn’ into English verse by Thomas Sternhold in 1549, the year of Sternhold's death. Some time between Whitchurch's last edition of the metrical Psalms in 1553 and the publication in 1562 by John Day of *Psalms of David in Englishe Metre* by T. Sterneholde and Others, Norton provided twenty-four psalms for the growing collection. It is likely that Norton was drawn into this enterprise through his domestic alliance with Whitchurch. The exact date of Norton's marriage to Margaret Cranmer is not known. Whitchurch married Cranmer's widow probably late in 1556.*

After the death of Margaret Cranmer, Thomas Norton married secondly Margaret Cranmer’s first cousin, Alice Cranmer (d. after 1602), the daughter of Edmund Cranmer, Archdeacon of Canterbury, a younger brother of the Archbishop, and Alice Sandes.

For Thomas Norton's marriages to Margaret Cranmer and Alice Cranmer, see the Cranmer pedigrees in Waters, *supra*, pp. 444-9 at:

<https://archive.org/details/genealogicalmemo02wate/page/448>

See also Waters, *supra*, pp. 387-8 at:

<https://archive.org/details/genealogicalmemo02wate/page/386>

For Thomas Norton, see also the History of Parliament entry at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/norton-thomas-1532-84>

On 4 February 1562 the Inner Temple Parliament ordered that 'arthur broke shall have a speciall admittance without anything paying in consideration of certen playes & shows in christmas last, set forth by hym'.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

The testator appoints three executors, Thomas Wotton (1521-1587), and the merchants Benedict Spinola (1519/20-1580) and Sir Edward Osborne (c.1530–1592), for whom see the *ODNB* entries. All three renounced as executors. For Oxford's purchase of the Great Garden property in Aldgate from Benedict Spinola on 15 June 1580, see TNA C 54/1080. For his will, see TNA PROB 11/62/443.

Anthony St Leger, mentioned in the will below as having sold lands to the testator, was Sir Anthony St Leger (c.1496 – 16 March 1559), for whose will, dated 27 October 1558 and proved 10 June 1559, see TNA PROB 11/42B/276.

TESTATOR'S LANDS

For the manors of West Cliffe and Bury Court [=Berry Court?], see:

Edward Hasted, 'Parishes: Cliff', in *The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent: Volume 3* (Canterbury, 1797), pp. 498-515. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/survey-kent/vol3/pp498-515> [accessed 3 October 2019].

For the testator's other lands, see McKeen, *supra*, pp. 690-2.

LM: T{estamentum} Georgij Broke D{omi}ni Cobham

[f. 447v] In the name of God, Amen. The 13th day of January in the fourth and fifth years of the reigns of our Sovereign Lord and Lady Philip and Mary by the grace of God King and Queen of England, Spain, France, both Sicilies, Jerusalem and Ireland, Defenders of the Faith, Archdukes of Austria, Dukes of Burgundy, Milan and Brabant, Counties of Hapsburg, Flanders and Tyrol, and in the year of Our Lord God 1557, I, George Brooke of the right honourable Order of the Garter knight, Lord Cobham, being whole in body and of perfect remembrance, thanks be unto Almighty God, and being uncertain what time it shall please Almighty God to call me to his mercy, do ordain and dispose this my present testament and last will, by the same revoking and annulling and making void all former wills and testaments heretofore by me made, and this to be my true and last will, in manner and form following:

First and principally I commit my soul unto Almighty God, my Maker and Redeemer and Saviour, in whom I trust and believe by his death, passion and resurrection to have free remission and forgiveness of all my offences and sins;

[f. 448r] And I will that mine executors hereafter named shall see my body brought to the ground and buried in Cobham church in the county of Kent after the laudable and honourable Order of the Garter without vain pomp or pride;

Also I will that every of my household servants have one half year's wages and one half year's board next and immediately after my decease out of such issues, profits, rents and revenues as shall grow and come of the next half year's farm after my decease of all those lordships, manors, lands and tenements which I have in these presents hereafter appointed for and to the performance of this my last will and testament;

Also I give to Sir William Brooke, knight, my son and heir apparent, the lease and interest which I have of the late Bishop of Rochester of the manor of Cobhambury;

And also I give to the said Sir William Brooke my collar of the Order of gold with the George of diamonds thereto belonging, and all other my small chains of gold with the Georges of gold to them appertaining, and all my Garters of gold of th' Order, and all other mine apparel and robes belonging to the Order of Saint George, and all my Parliament robes, and all other mine apparel;

Also all my horses and jennets, steele(?) saddles or harnesses with all others to them belonging;

Also all mine armory with all and singular the appurtenances;

And as concerning all my plate, sheep and bullocks, I will the same to be equally divided into 2 equal parts, and I will that the Lady Anne, now my wife, shall have the one half thereof, and that the said Sir William Brooke, knight, my son and heir apparent, shall have the other half thereof;

And all other my household stuff at Cooling Castle I give & bequeath the same to the said Lady Anne, my wife;

And all my other household stuff at Cobham I give and bequeath the same to the said Sir William Brooke, knight;

And of this my present testament and last will I do make, ordain and constitute Thomas Wotton, esquire, Benedict Spinola, merchant, and Edward Osborne, merchant, mine executors, and Sir Percival Hart, knight, and Sir Martin Bowes, knight, my overseers of the same, and I give and bequeath to every of my said executors £40, and to every of my said overseers £5 for their good counsel and pains to be taken in and about th' execution of this my will or testament, over and besides all such reasonable costs and charges as they shall fortune to expend, disburse or pay from time to time in and about the execution of the premises;

And now being desirous to declare and set forth an order how all such castles, manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments as God hath lent me in this vale of misery should be used and bestowed when I am gone, as well for the advancement of my wife, children and servants as also that my most dread Sovereign Lord and Lady, the King and Queen's Highness, should fully have all that part and portion which to them of right appertaineth after my death by their Highness' laws and statutes, I do make and ordain this my last will concerning the disposition of all and singular my said castles, manors, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services, possessions and hereditaments whatsoever they be whereof at the time of the making of this my last will I am seised of in fee simple or other state of inheritance within the realm of England or elsewhere within the King and Queen's Majesties' dominions and seignories or any parcel thereof in manner and form following, that is to say:

First, whereas I, the said George, Lord Cobham, now stand and am sole seised of an estate of inheritance of and in the lordships and manors of Weycroft, Chard or Chardborough, Hurtham, Woolmington, Cotleigh, Holditch, Mangerton, Melplash, Blunts Hayes, Stokewells, Stagmore, Hornesbowe, Eastorste, Lovehill, Bowdiche, Lyvenarsh, Okenhed, Kyngslin [=Lyme Regis], Broke, Ilchester and South Bowood alias Bowood set, lying and being in the counties of Somers[et], Dorset and Devonshire;

And also of and in divers other lands, tenements and hereditaments set, lying and being as well within the said lordships or manors, towns and parishes aforesaid;

And also in the towns and parishes of Powerstock, Thascombe, Marshode, Abatistocke, Cudworth, Churchestocke, Farthinges, Ashelegate, Clyve and Bowmers in the said counties of Somerset, Dorset and [f. 448v] Devonshire;

And of and in the lordship or manor of Colmworth in the county of Bedford;

And of and in the lordships or manors of Bincknoll and Chisbury in the county of Wiltshire;

And of and in the lordships or manors of Radwinter and Bendish Hall in the county of Essex;

And of and in divers messuages, edifices and buildings with backsides and gardens to them belonging set, lying and being within the place and precinct of the late priory commonly called the Blackfriars nigh Ludgate in London;

And of and in the lordships or manors of Cobham called Cobham Hall with the park and divers lands, tenements and hereditaments and other their appurtenances thereunto belonging, one house called the Plotte with th' appurtenances, certain ground called the Old Ground, together with divers other lands and tenements to the said manor belonging which I lately bought and purchased set, lying and being within the towns, parishes and fields of Cobham, Cuxton and Luddesdown;

And also of and in the lordships or manors of Shorne, West Chalk, Haidon, Hayton, Bury Court, West Cliffe alias Westcliffe Court with the marshes there and the lands which I lately purchased of one Walter Tresse, and of and in the lordship or manor of Okington with all the lands and tenements thereto belonging lately purchased by me of Sir Anthony St Leger, knight, lying in the parishes of Cobham, Higham, Shorne and Frindsbury;

And also of and in the lordship or manor of Randall with one tenement and th' appurtenances to the same belonging lately purchased of one Hawkes lying in Thounge in the parish of Shorne;

And of and in the site of the late College of Maidstone, and of and in the manor of Buckland and divers and sundry lands, tenements and hereditaments late parcel of the possessions of the said late College and of and in the hundreds or manors of Great Hoo and Little Hoo, and of and in divers and sundry lordships, manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments within the said hundred with all and singular their appurtenances with an hundred acres of meadow, five hundred acres of pasture, three hundredth acres of arable land, and one thousand acres of wood, parcel or belonging to the said hundreds or manors set, lying and being in the towns & parishes of Great Hoo, Little Hoo, Sainte Maries, Allhallows, Stoke and Halstow in the said county of Kent;

And of and in the lands late Bewelles in Halstow;

And of the farm or tenement of Ranscombe in the parish of Cuxton in the said county of Kent;

And all other lands lying in the hundred of Tolting Trough in the same county;

And of and in the castle, lordships or manors of Cooling with the marshes there, Beckley, Strood, Temple, the College of Cobham with all the lands thereto belonging lying in Cobham, Cuxton, Frindsbury, Hawlynge [=Halling?], Higham, Chalk, Shorne, Strood, Cooling and Cliffe;

And of the hundred of Shamble;

And of and in the farm or tenement of Chattenden in the parish of Frindsbury;

And of and in sundry other hereditaments in the county of Kent or elsewhere within the realm of England or any the King and Queen's dominions, which castles, lordships, manors, lands, tenements, hereditaments and possessions with th' appurtenances, equally rated, do extend and amount in the whole to the clear yearly value of one thousand threescore eighteen pounds 6s 2d ob qua in possession over and above all yearly charges and reprises;

And also of the reversion of the site of the late monastery of Newnham in the county of Bedford and of other lands, tenements and hereditaments in the said county, parcel of the possessions of the late monastery expectant upon the deaths of Master Bruerton [=Brereton] and of Dame Jane, late Lady Bray, now his wife;

I, the said George, Lord Cobham, do will, devise and appoint all those my said lordships or manors of Weycroft, Chard or Chardborough, Hurtham, Woolmington, Cotleigh, Holditch, Mangerton, Melplash, Blunts Hayes, Stokewells, Stagmore, Hornesbowe, Eastcrofte, Lovehill, Bowdyche, Lyvecalshe(?), Okenhed, KingesLyme [=Lyme Regis], Broke, Ilchester and South Bowood alias Bowood in the said counties of Somerset, Dorset and Devonshire and all [f. 449r] other my lordships, manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments with all and singular their appurtenances set, lying and being as well within the towns and parishes aforementioned as also within the towns or parishes of Powerstock, Chastombe, Marshode, Abbatistocke, Cudworth, Churchestocke, Ashleigate, Clyve and Bowmers or elsewhere within the said counties of Somerset, Dorset and Devonshire;

And my lordships and manors of Colmworth in the county of Bedford, Bincknoll and Chisbury in the county of Wiltshire, Cobham called Cobham Hall with the park and wood, plots, house, ground and other purchased lands in Cobham, Cuxton and Luddesdown, the manor of Randall with one house and appurtenances thereto belonging, late one Hawkes', the manor of Oakenden with the woods thereto belonging, and the site or lodging with the house and garden within the late Blackfriars in London, all which lordships, manors, lands, tenements, hereditaments and possessions late before rehearsed and lying within the counties of Somerset, Dorset, Devon, Kent, Bedford, Wiltshire and the City of London do amount to the clear yearly value of three hundred threescore 2 pounds 13s 4d in possession over and above all charges and reprises and are the full third part of all my manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments, to descend and come to my heir and to his and their heirs after my decease for the King and Queen's Majesties' duties to be taken of the same third part by reason of wardship, relief, primer seisin, livery or otherwise according to their Highness' laws and statutes in such case ordained and provided;

And further I will and devise my lordships and manors of Cooling, Beckley, Strood, Temple, the hundred of Shamble and the farm of Chattenden with their appurtenances in the said county of Kent, and the late College of Cobham with the lordships, manors, lands and tenements at the dissolution thereof to the same belonging or in any manner of wise appertaining, amounting to the clear yearly value of 2 hundred £79 12s 7d above all yearly charges and reprises, to the Lady Anne, my wife, for and during the term of her natural life according as they and every of them have been heretofore already to her appointed and assured by one Act of Parliament therefore made in the 34th year of the reign of the late King Henry the Eight, as by the same Act amongst other things therein contained more at large it doth and may appear;

Also I will and devise all my manors of Bendysh Hall with th' appurtenances which I late bought and purchased of the Lord Rich in the county of Essex, the lordship or manor of Radwinter with th' appurtenances, and all other my lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever they be in Bendysh Hall and Radwinter or elsewhere in the said county of Essex;

And also my lordships or manors of Berry Court, West Cliffe alias Westcliffe Court with salt-marshes, rents of assize and the lands late Walter Tresse's with other their members and appurtenances in Cliffe in the said county of Kent, the lordships of Shorne and West Chalk, Haidon, Hayton, the farm of Ranscombe in Cuxton and the hundreds of Hoo with woods and their appurtenances, and the lands late Bewelles in Halstow, and also the site and demesne lands of the late College of Maidstone and all my woods and other my lands, tenements and hereditaments which were late parcel of the possessions of the same late College or did belong or appertain to the same within the said county of Kent [+and?] in all other my lordships, manors, lands, tenements, possessions and hereditaments aforesaid or elsewhere within the said county of Kent or in any other place within the realm of England, not being part or parcel of the third part left to descend to my said heir nor part or parcel of the jointure of the said Lady Anne, my wife, extending and amounting to the clear yearly value of four hundred thirty-five pounds 14s 3d ob, together with the reversion and reversions, rents and services of all my said [f. 449v] lands, tenements and hereditaments in form aforesaid assured to my said wife for and in the name of her jointure, and the reversion of the site and premises late parcel of the said late monastery of Newnham with all and singular their appurtenances to Sir William Brooke, knight, my son and heir apparent;

To have and to hold all the same said manors, lands, tenements, rents, reversions and services and every parcel thereof with their appurtenances last before recited together with all my said reversion and reversions, rents & services of all my said manors, lands and tenements so as before is said assured to my said wife or parcel of Newnham monastery to him, the said Sir William Brooke, for the term of his life natural without impeachment of any manner of waste, the remainder thereof after his decease to the first lawful begotten son of the body of the said Sir William Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same first son lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the second lawful begotten son of the body of the same Sir William Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the said second son lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the third lawful begotten son of the body of the said Sir William Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same third son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fourth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Sir William Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same fourth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for default of such issue to the fifth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Sir William Brooke and to the heirs males [+of?] the body of the same fifth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for default of such issue to the sixth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Sir William Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same sixth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for default of such issue to the seventh lawful begotten son of the body of the same Sir William Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same seventh son lawfully to be begotten;

And for default of such issue to the 8th lawful begotten son of the body of the said Sir William Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the said eight[h] son lawfully to be begotten;

And so from one son of the body of the said Sir William dying without issue male of his body lawfully begotten successively to the next lawful begotten son of the same Sir William & to the heirs males of every such other son of his body lawfully begotten successively, one after the other, in form aforesaid as long as any son of his body shall be and as mine intent aforesaid appeareth;

And for lack of such issue of all the said sons of the body of the said Sir William Brooke lawfully coming to remain to George Brooke, my son, for term of his life without impeachment of any waste;

And after his decease to the first lawful begotten son of the body of the said George Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same first son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the second lawful begotten son of the body of the said George Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same second son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the third lawful begotten son of the body of the said George Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the said third son lawfully to be begotten;

And for default of such issue to the fourth lawful begotten son of the body of the said George Brooke [-and to the heirs males of the body of the said George Brooke] and to the heirs males of the body of the same fourth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fifth lawful begotten son of the body of the said George Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same fifth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the sixth lawful begotten son of the body of the said George Brooke and to the heirs males of the [f. 450r] body of the said sixth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the seventh lawful begotten son of the body of the said George and to the heirs males of the body of the said seventh son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the eight[h] lawful begotten son of the body of the said George Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the said eight[h] son lawfully to be begotten;

And so from one son of the body of the said George dying without issue male of his body lawfully begotten successively to the next lawful begotten son of the same George and to the heirs males of every such other son of his body lawfully begotten successively one after another in form aforesaid as long as any son of his body shall be and as mine intent aforesaid appeareth;

And for lack of such issue of all the said sons of the body of the said George lawfully coming to remain unto Thomas Broke, my eldest son of that name and who is my third son, for term of his life without impeachment of any waste;

And after the decease of the said Thomas to the first lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same first begotten son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the second lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke and to the heirs males of the same second son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the third lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same third son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fourth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the said fourth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fifth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same fifth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the sixth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same sixth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the 7th lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same seventh son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the eight[h] lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same eight[h] son lawfully to be begotten;

And so from one son of the body of the said Thomas dying without issue male of his body lawfully begotten successively to the next lawful begotten son of the same Thomas and to the heirs males of every such other son of his body lawfully begotten successively one after the other in form aforesaid as long as any son of his body shall be and as mine intent aforesaid appeareth;

And for lack of such issue of all the said sons of the body of the said Thomas lawfully coming to remain unto John Brooke, my fourth son, for term of his life without impeachment of any waste;

And after the decease of the said John to the first lawful begotten son of the body of the said John Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same first son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the second lawful begotten son of the body of the said John Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same second son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the third lawful begotten son of the body of the said John Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same third son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fourth lawful begotten son of the body of the said John Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same fourth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fifth lawful begotten son of the body of the said John Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same fifth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the sixth lawfully begotten son of the body of the said John Brooke and [f. 450v] to the heirs males of the body of the same sixth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the seventh lawful begotten son of the body of the said John Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same seventh son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the eight[h] lawful begotten son of the body of the said John Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same eight[h] son lawfully to be begotten;

And so from one son of the body of the said John Brooke dying without issue male of his body lawfully begotten successively to the next lawful begotten son of the same John and to the heirs males of any such othe[r] son of his body lawfully begotten successively one after another in form aforesaid as long as any son of his body shall be and as mine intent aforesaid appeareth;

And for lack of such issue of all the said sons of the body of the said John lawfully coming to remain unto Henry Brooke, my fifth son, for term of his life without impeachment of any waste;

And after the decease of the said Henry to the first lawful begotten son of the body of the said Henry Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same first son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the second lawful begotten son of the body of the said Henry Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same second son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the third lawful begotten son of the body of the said Henry Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same third son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fourth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Henry Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same fourth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fifth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Henry Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same fifth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the sixth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Henry Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same sixth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the seventh lawful begotten son of the body of the said Henry Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same seventh son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the eight[h] lawful begotten son of the body of the said Henry Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the said eight[h] son lawfully to be begotten;

And so from one son of the body of the said Henry dying without issue male of his body lawfully begotten successively to the next lawful begotten son of the same Henry and to the heirs males of every such other son of his body lawfully begotten successively one after the other in form aforesaid as long as any son of his body shall be and as mine intent aforesaid appeareth;

And for lack of such issue of all the said sons of the body of the said Henry lawfully coming to remain unto Thomas Brooke the younger of that name, who is my sixth son, for term of his life without impeachment of any waste;

And after the decease of the said Thomas the younger to the first lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke the younger and to the heirs males of the body of the same first son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the second lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke the younger and to the heirs males of the body of the same second son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the third lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke the younger and to the heirs males of the body of the same third son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fourth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke the younger and to the heirs males of the body of the same fourth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fifth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke the younger and to the heirs males of the body of the same fifth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of [f. 451r] such issue to the sixth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke the younger and to the heirs males of the body of the same sixth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the seventh lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke the younger and to the heirs males of the body of the same seventh son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the eight[h] lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke the younger and to the heirs males of the body of the same eight[h] son lawfully to be begotten;

And so from one son of the body of the said Thomas the younger dying without issue male of this body lawfully begotten successively to the next lawful begotten son of the same Thomas Brooke the younger and to the heirs males of every such other son of his

body lawfully begotten successively one after the other in form aforesaid as long as any son of his body shall be and as mine intent aforesaid appeareth;

And for lack of such issue of all the said sons of the body of the said Thomas the younger lawfully coming to remain unto my son, Edmund Brooke, my seventh son, for term of his life without impeachment of any waste;

And after the decease of the said Edmund to the first lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edmund Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same first son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the second lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edmund Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same second son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the third lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edmund Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same third son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fourth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edmund Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same fourth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fifth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edmund Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same fifth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the sixth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edmund Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same sixth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the seventh lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edmund Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same seventh son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the eight[h] lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edmund Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same eight[h] son lawfully to be begotten;

And so from one son of the body of the said Edmund dying without issue male of his body lawfully begotten successively to the next lawful begotten son of the same Edmund and to the heirs males of every such other son of his body lawfully begotten successively one after the other in form aforesaid as long as any son of his body shall be and as mine intent aforesaid appeareth;

And for lack of such issue of all the said sons of the said Edmund lawfully coming to remain to my son, Edward Brooke, my eight[h] son, for term of his life without impeachment of any waste;

And after the decease of the said Edward to the first lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edward Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same first son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the second lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edward Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same second son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the third lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edward Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same third son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fourth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edward Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same fourth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fifth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edward Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same fifth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the sixth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edward Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same sixth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the seventh lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edward Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same seventh [f. 451v] son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the eight[h] lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edward Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the said eight[h] son lawfully to be begotten;

And so from one son of the body of the said Edward dying without issue male of his body lawfully begotten successively to the next lawful begotten son of the same Edward and to the heirs males of every such other son of his body lawfully begotten successively one after the other in form aforesaid as long as any son of his body shall be and as mine intent aforesaid appeareth;

And for lack of such issue of all the said sons of the body of the said Edward lawfully coming to remain unto my daughter, Elizabeth, late called and known by the name of Lady Marquess of Northampton, for term of her life without impeachment of any waste;

And after the decease of the said Elizabeth to the first lawful begotten son of the body of the said Elizabeth and to the heirs males of the same first son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the second lawful begotten son of the body of the said Elizabeth and to the heirs males of the body of the same second son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the third lawful begotten son of the body of the said Elizabeth and to the heirs males of the body of the same third son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fourth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Elizabeth and to the heirs males of the body of the same fourth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fifth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Elizabeth and to the heirs males of the body of the same fifth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the sixth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Elizabeth and to the heirs males of the body of the same sixth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the seventh lawful begotten son of the body of the said Elizabeth and to the heirs males of the body of the same seventh son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the eight[h] lawful begotten son of the body of the said Elizabeth and to the heirs males of the body of the said eight[h] son lawfully to be begotten;

And so from one son of the body of the said Elizabeth dying without issue male of his body lawfully begotten successively to the next lawful begotten son of the said Elizabeth and to the heirs males of every such other son of her body lawfully begotten successively one after the other in form aforesaid as long as any son of her body shall be and as mine intent aforesaid appeareth;

And for lack of such issue of all the said sons of the body of the said Elizabeth lawfully coming to remain unto my daughter Katherine for term of her life without impeachment of any waste;

And after the decease of the said Katherine to the first lawful begotten son of the body of the said Katherine and to the heirs males of the body of the same first son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the second lawful begotten son of the body of the said Katherine and to the heirs males of the body of the same second son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the third lawful begotten son of the body of the said Katherine and to the heirs males of the body of the same third son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fourth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Katherine and to the heirs males of the body of the same fourth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fifth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Katherine and to the heirs males of the body of the same fifth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the sixth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Katherine and to the heirs males of the body of the same sixth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the seventh lawfully begotten son of the body of the said Katherine and to the heirs males of the body of the same seventh son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the eight[h] lawful begotten son of the body of the said Katherine and to the heirs males of the body of the same eight[h] son lawfully to be begotten;

And so from one son of the body of the said Katherine dying without issue male of his body lawfully begotten successively to the next lawful begotten son of the said Katherine and to the heirs males of every such other son of her body lawfully begotten successively one after the other in form aforesaid as long as any [f. 452r] son of her body shall be and as mine intent aforesaid appeareth;

And for lack of such issue I will that all the same manors, lands, tenements and premises with their appurtenances shall wholly remain to the heirs males of the body of my brother, Thomas Brooke, lawfully begotten and to the heirs males of their bodies lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue to remain to the heirs of the body of the said Sir William Brooke, my son, lawfully begotten and to their heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue to remain to the heirs of the body of the said George, my son, lawfully begotten and to their heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue to remain to the heirs of the body of the said Thomas, my eldest son of that name, lawfully begotten and to their heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue to remain to the heirs of the body of the said John, my son, lawfully begotten and to their heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue to remain to the heirs of the body of the said Henry, my son, lawfully begotten and to their heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue to remain to the heirs of the body of the said Thomas the younger, my son, lawfully begotten and to their heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten;

And for lack [+of such?] issue to remain to the heirs of the body of the said Edmund, my son, lawfully begotten and to their heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issues to remain to the right heirs of the said Edward, my youngest son, forever;

Provided always that all and every the remainder by me willed as is aforesaid be by me willed upon this condition, that if any of my said sons or daughters or any others to whom any remainder or estate of the said manors, lands, tenements and other hereditaments or of any parcel thereof is by this my last will limited and appointed or may come to by this my will shall at any time or times hereafter, when his or their remainder or estate shall fall unto him, her or them or be executed or at any time before that he, she or they shall come and be in actual and real possession of the said manors, lands, tenements and other the premises by force and virtue of his or their remainder or by this my last will, by any manner of means [+have?] concluded and agreed to alien, sell, discontinue, levy fine, suffer recovery or to do or suffer any other act or acts, thing or things to cut off the entail of the said manors, lands, tenements and other the premises made and conveyed to any person or persons by this my present last will to bar the said remainders or any of them or to alter the course of this my last will or any estate therein conveyed in any other sort or condition than they and every of them be now by me already limited and appointed, contrary to the very true intent and meaning of this my present last will, that then I will now as then and then as now that immediately from and after the concluding and agreeing so to aliene [sic], bargain, sell, levy fine, suffer recovery or any such act, and before that any such alienation, bargain, sale, fine, recovery or any other thing shall take any effect, that all manner of interests, rights, titles, remainders and estates which they or any of them so aliening or doing or suffering fine, recovery, discontinuance or suchlike should or might have or claim of, in or to any the said manors, lands, tenements, hereditaments and other the premises with the appurtenances or in any parcel thereof by virtue of this my said last will shall utterly cease, be void and be of none effect in the law, and that then and immediately after such concluding and agreeing so to do or suffer, the same premises shall remain to the next that shall stand in remainder to such offender, and that it shall be lawful for him, her or them which shall be so next in remainder to such as shall so alien, sell, levy fine, discontinue, suffer recovery or do any like act to enter into the premises with th' appurtenances as though he, she or they so offending contrary to the intent of this my will had died or were then dead without issue of his, her or their body or bodies, this present will or any clause, article, thing or matter therein contained to the contrary in any wise [f. 452v] notwithstanding, the same concluding and agreeing before specified to be judged only by the doing or sufferance of such discontinuance, bargain, sale, fine, recovery or suchlike act;

Provided also and I will that every one of my said sons and all and every one of them to whom any remainder, interest or estate is by me limited and appointed by this my last will, whensoever it shall fortune my said manors, lands, tenements or hereditaments to come to them or any of them according to this my said will, shall have free liberty and authority and it shall be lawful for them and every of them at all times and from time to time hereafter by their sufficient deed in the law sealed with their seals, subscribed or signed with their hands, to make lease or leases of the said manors, lands, tenements and other the premises or any parcel thereof to any person or persons, so that such leases so to be made be not without impeachment of waste and do not extend above the number of 21 years, and that there be also reserved upon every such lease the old accustomed rent or more, so much or more as hath been accustomedly used to be yielded and paid for the same within 20 years next before any such lease to be made, to continue during all the said term and terms, and that all and every such lease or leases made in manner and form aforesaid shall be good and effectual in the law to all intents, constructions and purposes against the lessor and his heirs for all the times and terms in them or any of them to be contained, this last will or any other matter, clause, sentence or article therein contained to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding;

Nevertheless I will that mine executors and the survivors or survivor of them shall receive and take the issues, rents, revenues and profits of my said lordships and manors of Bury Court and West Cliffe alias Westcliffe Court with salt-marshes, rents of assize and of the lands late Walter Tresse's with their appurtenances in Cliffe in the said county of Kent, and also of the said manors or lordships of Radwinter and Bendishall and of all my said lands and tenements in Radwinter and Bendishall aforesaid or elsewhere in the said county of Essex, and of the said manors of Great Hoo and Little Hoo and of the hundred of Hoo and of all my lands and tenements with th' appurtenances within the said hundred of Hoo towards and for the true payment of all my debts and legacies and the performance of this my present last will and the payment of all and every such annual rents or annuities as I and my said son, Sir William Brooke, have by deed or deeds granted unto any of my said sons or servants;

And that my said executors and survivors shall retain the same profits, issues, rents & revenues from the time of my death until all my said debts and legacies shall be truly paid and performed, and after the full payment and performance of my debts and bequests, I will that my said executors or any of them shall not further intermeddle with the profits of the same manors, lands, tenements or premises, but the same to remain to my son, Sir William Brooke, in form aforesaid;

And I will that my said executors and the survivors or survivor of them shall yearly every year after my death between the feast of All Saints and the Birth of Our Lord Christ make a true account unto my said son, Sir William Brooke, of their receipts and payments, as well of the said manors and premises for the payment and performance of my debts and legacies in form aforesaid limited and appointed as also of all and singular my goods, chattels, debts and other movables which shall come to their hands, to the intent it may evidently appear from time to time how and at what time my debts and legacies will be

paid and performed, as I do therein put my full trust in them and as they will answer for it before God;

Also I will that if there arise any ambiguity or doubt in any word or sentence in this my last will and testament, that then the same ambiguity or doubt shall from time to time be declared and appointed by the King and Queen's Justices of the Common Pleas at Westminster [f. 453r] or by the more part of them for the time being, and that such exposition or declaration by them or the most part of them to be made shall be deemed and taken to [+be?] the true intent and meaning of my will and as though the same exposition in [sic?] declaration had been made & written in these presents in my lifetime;

In witness whereof to this my present testament and last will I have set my seal and hand, dated the day and years first above-written. George Cobham. William Cobham. Maurice Denice. John Kennall. Sigillat{um} et subscript{um} in presentia mei Iohannis Wigen, Scriptoris. Henrici Bier. William Webbe.

Sexto Die Mensis Decembris Anno Domini mill{es}imo quingentesimo sexagesimo emanavit Commissio Domino Will{el}mo Broke militi D{omi}no Cobham filio ac heredi supradicti d{omi}ni Georgij Broke D{omi}ni Cobham def{uncti} ad adm{in}istrand{um} bona ad viam intestati decedent{is} eo q{uo}d Executores nominati in testamento dict{i} defuncti oneri execuc{i}o{n}is dicti Testamenti etc expresse renuncia{ve}runt de bene etc in persona Will{el}mi Walker procuratoris sui

[=On the sixth day of the month of December in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixtieth a grant issued to Sir William Brooke, knight, Lord Cobham, son and heir of the abovesaid Sir George Brooke, Lord Cobham, deceased, to administer the goods by way of an intestacy by reason that the executors named in the testament of the said deceased expressly renounced the burden of the execution of the said testament etc., [+sworn] to well etc. in the person of William Walker, his proctor.]