

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 24 August 1558 and proved 11 December 1560, of Eleanor (nee Browne) Fogge Kempe, grandmother of Alice (nee Kempe) Hales Lee (d.1592), the dedicatee of Robert Greene's *Menaphon* (1589), to which Thomas Nashe contributed a preface. For the will, proved 7 May 1590, of Alice (nee Kempe) Hales Lee's first husband, Sir James Hales (d.1589), see TNA PROB 11/75/265.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testatrix was a descendant of Robert de Vere, 3rd Earl of Oxford, through her father, Robert Browne, esquire, of Luddenham, Kent. Robert Browne was the fifth son of Sir Thomas Browne (1402 – beheaded 29 July 1460), Treasurer of the Household to Henry VI, by Eleanor Arundel, daughter of Sir Thomas Arundel and Joan Moyne. Hitchin-Kemp states that the testatrix' mother was Margaret Mallet, the daughter of Sir William Mallet. However this identification of the testatrix' mother is open to doubt as Robert Browne left a will dated 9 December 1509 in which he names his wife, Anne, and daughter, Eleanor, and requests burial in Faversham Abbey, Kent, 'before the rood of pity', or else in the chapel of Arundel College next to the body of Thomas, sometime Earl of Arundel. See the will of Robert Browne (Consistory Court of Canterbury, vol. 10, f. 12, FHL Microfilm 188837); Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 32-3, 338-40, and Vol. III, p. 275; Cokayne, George Edward, *The Complete Peerage*, (London: St. Catherine Press, 1910), Vol. I, p. 247; and Hitchin-Kemp, Frederick, *A General History of the Kemp and Kempe Families*, (London: The Leadenhall Press, 1902), p. 24 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/generalhistoryof00kemp#page/n39/mode/2up>.

For the will of the testatrix' father, Robert Browne, see also Nicolas, Nicholas Harris, *Testamenta Vetusta*, (London: Nichols and Son, 1826), Vol. II, p. 487:

<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/GEN-MEDIEVAL/2015-02/1424350057>

Robert Browne was the brother of Sir Anthony Browne (d.1506), who, by his second wife, Lucy Neville (d.1534), was the great-grandfather of Mary Browne (c.1552-1607), mother of Henry Wriothesley, 3rd Earl of Southampton, the dedicatee of Shakespeare's *Venus and Adonis* (1593), and *The Rape of Lucrece* (1594), and of Thomas Nashe's *The Unfortunate Traveller* (1594). By his first wife, Sir Anthony Browne (d.1506) had a daughter, Anne Browne, who was the first wife of Charles Brandon (c.1484-1545), Duke of Suffolk, who married, as his fourth wife Katherine Willoughby (1519-1580), later the mother-in-law of Oxford's sister, Mary de Vere (d.1624).

Another brother, Sir George Browne (d.1483), married Elizabeth Paston, and had a son, Sir Matthew Browne (d. 6 August 1557) of West Betchworth, who married Frideswide Guildford, the daughter of Sir Richard Guildford (c.1450-1506) and his first wife, Anne

Pympe. Frideswide's sister, Mary Guildford, married Christopher Kempe (1485-1512), the elder brother of the testatrix' second husband, Sir William Kempe (1487-1539). Sir Edward Guildford (c.1479-1534), the brother of Mary and Frideswide, married his daughter Jane Guildford to his ward, John Dudley (1504-1553), Duke of Northumberland. They were the parents of Queen Elizabeth's favourite, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester.

Sir Matthew Browne (d. 6 August 1557) and Frideswide Guildford were the grandparents of Sir Thomas Browne (d. 9 February 1597), who married Mabel Fitzwilliam, by whom he was the father of Sir Matthew Browne (died c.1603), one of the trustees of Nicholas Brend (d. 12 October 1601), who leased the ground on which the Globe was built by lease dated 21 February 1599 to Richard Burbage, Cuthbert Burbage, William Kempe, Augustine Phillips, Thomas Pope, John Heminges and William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon (see TNA REQ 4/1/2). Sir Thomas Browne (d. 9 February 1597), signed Lady Russell's petition against James Burbage's Blackfriars theatre.

For the Browne family of Betchworth, descendants of King John, see the *ODNB* article on Sir Richard Guildford (d.1506) and his will, TNA PROB 11/17/381; the will of Nicholas Brend (c. 1560 – 12 October 1601), TNA PROB 11/98/348; the will, dated 2 August 1603 and proved 19 April 1608, TNA PROB 11/111/273, of Sir Matthew Browne (died c.1603); Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 179-80, and 369-71; Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 341; the Browne and Guildford pedigrees in Burke, John and Bernard Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies of England, Ireland and Scotland*, 2nd ed. (London: Scott, 1841), pp. 87, 231; and Laoutaris, Chris, *Shakespeare and the Countess*, (London: Fig Tree, 2014), pp. 121, 123, 130, 176-7, 277-8, 324.

MARRIAGES AND CHILDREN

The testatrix married firstly, before 9 December 1509, Sir Thomas Fogge (d. 16 August 1512), esquire, Sergeant Porter of Calais, son of Sir John Fogge (c.1417-1490) by his second wife, Alice Haute, by whom she had two daughters:

* **Anne Fogge**, who married firstly William Scott (d. 5 June 1536), eldest son and heir of Sir John Scott (d. 7 October 1533) and Anne Pympe, and secondly a husband surnamed Pollard. She is mentioned as 'my daughter Pollard' in the will below, and as 'my sister Dame Anne Pollard' in the will of her brother-in-law, Sir Reynold Scott (c.1511 - 16 December 1554), dated 4 September 1554 and proved 13 February 1556, TNA PROB 11/37/539. For further details concerning her, see the will of Sir Reynold Scott.

* **Alice Fogge** (c.1508-c.1583), who married firstly Edward Scott (c.1478 - November 1535), second son of Sir William Scott (d. 24 August 1524), Comptroller of the Household to Henry VII and Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, and secondly, by 1543, Sir Robert Oxenbridge (1509 – 17 November 1574), named by the testatrix as an

executor in the will below. By her first husband, Alice (nee Fogge) is said to have had two sons, William Scott (imprisoned in the White Lion as a Catholic recusant in 1582), and Thomas Scott, and two daughters, Jane Scott and Anne Scott. By her second husband Alice (nee Fogge) may have had as many as fourteen children. See the will of Sir Robert Oxenbridge, proved 2 December 1574, TNA PROB 11/56/578; and the History of Parliament entry for Sir Robert Oxenbridge at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/oxenbridge-sir-robert-15089-74>

See also the entry for Alice Fogge at:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=675

See also the will of Sir Thomas Fogge, proved 21 October 1512, TNA PROB 11/17/267; Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, p. 275, and Vol. IV, p. 1; *Sussex Archaeological Collections Relating to the History and Antiquities of the County*, (London: Smith, 1860), Vol. 8, pp. 226, 231; Hitchin-Kemp, *supra*, pp. 24-5; and Smith, Herbert L., 'Notes of Brasses, Memorial Windows and Escutcheons Formerly Existing in Ashford and Willesborough Churches', *Archaeologia Cantiana*, (London: Kent Archaeological Society, 1859), Vol. II, pp. 103-110 at pp. 108-9:

<http://archive.org/stream/archaeologiacan03socigoog#page/n199/mode/2up>

The testatrix married secondly Sir William Kempe (1487 – 28 January 1539) of Olantigh near Wye in Kent. In the will below she names five sons: Sir Thomas Kempe, Anthony Kempe, Francis Kempe, Edward Kempe, John Kempe and George Kempe. For details concerning the testatrix' sons by her second husband, see his will, TNA PROB 11/27/500.

The testatrix' five daughters by Sir Thomas Kempe were:

* **Emmeline Kempe**, who married, before 1537, Sir Reynold Scott (c.1511 - 16 December 1554) of Scott's Hall in Smeeth, Kent by whom she had one son, Sir Thomas Scott (c.1537 – 30 December 1594), who married Elizabeth Baker, daughter of Sir John Baker (c.1489–1558), Speaker of the House of Commons, and two daughters, Katherine Scott, who married John Baker (c.1531-c.1604), son of Sir John Baker (c.1489–1558), Speaker of the House of Commons, by whom she was the mother of the chronicler, Sir Richard Baker (c.1568–1645), and Anne Scott, who married Walter Mayney (d.1577) of Spilsill manor, Staplehurst, Kent. Emmeline Kempe died before 1542, at which date Sir Reynold Scott married secondly, Mary Tuke, the daughter of Sir Brian Tuke (d.1545) of Layer Marney, Essex, by Grissell Boughton (d.1538), daughter of Nicholas Boughton of Woolwich. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. IV, pp. 1-3; the *ODNB* articles on Sir John Baker (c.1489-1558), Sir Richard Baker (c.1568-1645), and Sir Brian Tuke; and the History of Parliament entry for John Baker (c.1531-c.1604) at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/baker-john-ii-1531-16046>.

For Walter Mayney, see also <http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/928022>.

* **Cecily Kempe**, who married firstly, before 1558, William Latham, and secondly William Strangman (d. 17 December 1573) of Hadleigh Castle, Essex, for whom see his will, TNA PROB 11/56/319; and King, H.W., 'James Strangman, Esq., of Hadleigh, an Eminent Essex Antiquary of the time of Queen Elizabeth and James I', *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society*, (Cochester, 1863), Vol. II, pp. 139-46 at p. 143:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=_hY5AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA142&lpg=PA142

For William Strangman, see also Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex*, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), Vol. XIII, pp. 52, 104, 292 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsofess13metc#page/292/mode/2up>

* **Faith Kempe**, who married Francis Neale of Lancashire.

* **Mary Kempe**, who married Nicholas Boughton, son of Sir Edward Boughton (d.1550) of Plumstead, Kent. For the will of Nicholas Boughton, dated 30 March 1559 and proved 9 February 1560, see TNA PROB 11/43/127.

* **Margaret Kempe**, who at the time her father made his will was a nun, and who later married Sir George Fogge.

See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, pp. 275-6; Hitchin-Kemp, *supra*, pp. 25-8; and Robertson, Herbert, *Stemmata Robertson et Durdin*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1893-95), p. 225 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/stemmatarobertso00robe#page/224/mode/2up>

The testatrix refers in the will below to 'my daughter Anne Scott', who appears to have been the testatrix' granddaughter, Anne Scott.

It is possible that the comedian Will Kempe was a member of the testatrix' family. The comedian was in the service of the Earl of Leicester, who was distantly related to the Kempes of Olantigh. See Adams, Simon, *Household Accounts and Disbursement Books of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester*, (Cambridge: Royal Historical Society, 1995), p. 371 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=Ua9m6c488kcC&pg=PA371&lpg=PA371>

The comedian is described in TNA KB 27/1454/1, rot. 692 as a gentleman ('William Kempe, late of London, gentleman, deceased'), which suggests the possibility that he could have been a member of the family of Kempe of Olantigh. Moreover during a visit to Rome in 1601 the comedian met with Sir Anthony Shirley (1565–1636?), son of the testatrix' granddaughter, Anne Kempe Shirley, which again suggests the possibility that he was related to the Kempes of Olantigh. From the *ODNB*:

Sherley [Shirley], Sir Thomas (c.1542–1612), politician and courtier, was the eldest of three children born to William Sherley (c.1498–1551), a gentleman of Wiston, Sussex, and his wife, Mary, daughter of Thomas Isley of Sundridge, Kent. Nothing is known of his education; he did not, as sometimes claimed, matriculate as a fellow commoner from Queens' College, Cambridge, in 1561. Sherley married, about 1559, Anne (c.1542–1623), daughter of Sir Thomas Kempe of Wye, Kent. They had twelve children, including three adventurous sons: Sir Thomas Sherley (1564–1633/4), Sir Anthony Sherley (1565–1636?), and Robert Shirley (c.1581–1628). Herbert referred to the Sherleys as 'A family not needing hyperboles' (Shirley, 234).

*Kemp, William (fl. 1585–1602), actor, was the most important stage clown working in the late Elizabethan period. . . . During the ensuing year [=1601] Kemp made his way into Germany and Italy, eventually arriving at Rome, where he met the English traveller Sir Anthony Shirley, an encounter dramatized after his death in Day, Rowley, and Wilkins's play about the Shirley family, *The Travailes of the Three English Brothers* (1607).*

According to Emerson the testatrix:

served in Katherine Parr's household from 1543-1547 and was one of the longest serving and most loyal of Mary Tudor's ladies. She was part of Mary's household by 1547 and was still there in 1558 when the Queen died.

See <http://www.kateemersonhistoricals.com/TudorWomenBrooke-Bu.htm>.

The testatrix' Catholic sympathies are evident in the will, both in her directions regarding her burial and in the fact that she names as her supervisor William Roper of Eltham (1495-1577), the husband of Margaret More (1505-1564), the daughter of Sir Thomas More (1478-1535), Lord Chancellor and martyr. The testatrix' wish to be buried in the Chapel of the Savoy may have been carried out, as Strype records a memorial to her there; see Martin, Charles Trice, *Memorials of the Savoy*, (London: Macmillan, 1878), p. 226.

The manor of Morris-Court in Bapchild, Kent, mentioned in the will had been owned by the testatrix' grandfather, Sir Thomas Browne (1402 – beheaded 29 July 1460), and had likely descended to her through her father. The manor of Chelworth mentioned in the will is also mentioned in the will of her son, George Kempe. For the wills of the testatrix' sons George Kempe and Anthony Kempe, see TNA PROB 11/72/479 and TNA PROB 11/94/3.

According to Emerson:

From 1547-51, Eleanor was engaged in a lawsuit in Chancery against her cousin, Sir Matthew Browne, over land in Kent.

The cousin with whom the testatrix was engaged in this lawsuit was Sir Matthew Browne (d. 6 August 1557), mentioned above.

LM: D{omi}ne Elianore Kempe

[f. 457v] In the name of God, Amen. In the 24th day of August in the year of Our Lord God 1558, the fifth and sixth 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, I, Dame Eleanor Kempe, widow, late the wife of Sir William Kempe, knight, deceased, being of perfect mind and remembrance, laud and praise be unto God, do ordain, make and declare this my present testament and last will in manner and form as hereafter ensueth:

First and before all earthly things I full and wholly give and commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my Creator and Maker, to Jesus Christ, his son, my Redeemer and Saviour, by whose precious blood and mere mercy I trust to be one of the partakers of the life everlasting, and to the glorious Virgin his mother, Our Blessed Lady Saint Mary, and to all the holy celestial company of saints in heaven, my body to be buried within the Savoy according to the due order of the Catholic church of Christ;

Item, I bequeath for my funeral charges and burial with the duties of the church belonging, and so charitably given as far as it shall extend, 100s;

Item, I will that there be given and distributed by mine executors at the same day of my burial to 33 poor householders within the same parish where I shall be buried and parishes thereabout, to the most needy and poorest households and to every of them, 5s, which amounteth to the sum of £8 10s [sic];

Item, I will that my executors shall buy or cause to be bought twenty gowns of black frieze, for every gown six yards after 12d the yard, to be given to twenty poor honest men, for every of them a mourning gown, and for the making of every gown 12d, and that they be made and worn at the day of my burial and my month's mind, which amounteth to the sum of 74s [sic];

Item, I bequeath to captive persons within the City of London, that is to say, Ludgate, Newgate, the Marshalsea and the King's Bench, to the prisoners of every of these prison-houses, and to every of them afore-named, 50s, to be given and distributed immediately after my decease, which cometh to £10;

Item, to the poor prisoners of the Fleet I give and bequeath 20s;

Item, I bequeath to the poor prisoners of the Gatehouse of Westminster other 20s;

Item, I bequeath for the funeral charges at the day of my month's mind with the duties of the church, so charitably to be given as far as it shall extend, the sum of 100s;

Item, I bequeath to 33 poor householders within the same parish where I shall be buried & parishes thereabout, to the most needy and poorest householders and to every of them, 5s, which amounteth to the sum of £8 10s [sic];

Item, I bequeath for my funeral charges and to poor folks at my year's mind, 100s;

Item, to my son, Sir Thomas Kempe, my ring with a diamond, and a pair of salts gilt with a cover weighing 29 ounces;

Item, to my son, Anthony, a featherbed and bolster thereunto belonging, with a pair of fustian blankets, 2 pair of sheets, and my counterpoint of arras, and a trussing bed, a great flat standard, and a gilt bowl weighing 17 ounces;

To my son, Francis, my best featherbed and a bolster, 2 pair of sheets, a pair of fustian blankets, a counterpoint of verdure with imagery, and the best trussing bed, and a little flat standard, 6 gilt spoons, and my ring with a rak(?) ruby, a goblet parcel gilt weighing 22 ounces;

To my son, Edward, [f. 458r] to furnish his bed which he hath already received, a pair of fustian blankets, 2 pair of sheets, six spoons with gilt ends;

To my son, John, to furnish his bed which he hath already received, 2 pair of sheets and the little gilt salt weighing 5 ounces 3 quarters;

To my son, George, my bed which I lay in at the court, with all that belongeth unto it, & 2 pair of sheets, 4 spoons with gilt ends;

To my son Anthony Kempe his wife, a French gown of black velvet and two yards and a half of black velvet, a fair damask diaper tablecloth never worn, a petticoat of silk say, and a pot with a cover gilt weighing 13 oz. and a half;

To my daughter Oxenbridge 6 yards and a half of black velvet, my best French kirtle of plain black velvet with sleeves to the same, and a standing cup with a cover gilt weighing 22 oz. one quarter, and a cypress chest;

To my daughter Pollard a loose gown of black velvet with fringe, a French kirtle of black satin, a pair of French sleeves to the same, my best petticoat of scarlet, and a pot with a cover gilt weighing 23 oz.;

To my daughter Latham a gown of black damask, my best round kirtle of black velvet, a little black chest with three tills and all the linen that is in it, a pair of very fine sheets, and a pot with a cover gilt weighing 22 oz., my porringer of silver, and my best sables;

To my daughter Boughton a gown of black satin, a kirtle of wrought velvet, a little coffer covered with black leather with all the linen that is in it, and a pot with a cover gilt weighing 18 oz. and a quarter;

Item, I bequeath to Mistress Cicely Barnishe a French kirtle of wrought velvet & sleeves to the same;

I will and bequeath to Mrs. Brente a pair of sables;

Item, I will and bequeath to my daughter, Anne Scott, twenty pounds in money and a new jewel-chest;

Item, I bequeath to the poor folks of Wye 100 s, to the vicar of Coleman Street, to pray for me, 40s;

Item, I will and bequeath to my servant, William Bowth [=Booth?], to be paid to him yearly out of Chelworth by the heirs of the said manor during his natural life, 40s;

Item, I will and bequeath that my servants, Francis Hitchcox and William Kyttes, and every of them, shall have and peaceably enjoy their several annuities or yearly pensions by me, the said Dame Eleanor, to them granted, according to the purport, effect and true meaning of their patents or deeds of grant of the same annuities;

Item, I will that my servant, William Kyttes, shall quietly enjoy his lease of the manor of Marie Court according to his indenture of lease thereof by me, the said Dame Eleanor, to the said William of late made and granted;

Item, I will and bequeath to my servant, Francis Hitchcox, the bed which he lieth in at the court, with all things thereunto belonging, a little flat chest bound with plates at the ends, and my roaned gelding;

Item, to my servant, William Kittes, a red chest bound with iron;

Also, I will that my servant[s] Francis Hitchcox and William Kittes and William Bowth have every of them their year's wages over and besides such legacies as is to them bequeathed;

Also, I will and bequeath to Master William Roper a Flanders cup weighing 17 ounces and a half;

To Sir Robert Oxenbridge a standing cup gilt weighing 20 oz.;

To Master Robert Alee [=Lee] a gilt pot with a cover weighing 13 oz., in money five pounds, and a pair of sables;

And as concerning the free disposition and gift of my manor of Morris-Court with the appurtenances in the county of Kent, with all the lands and woods thereunto belonging, known or taken as any part or parcel of the said manor, lying in the parish of Baptechilde [=Bapchild], Tonge, Redmerson, Muston and Lynsted, I do freely give unto John Kempe, my son, all the said manor with the appurtenances to him for the term of his life, and after his life to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such heirs unto my son Francis Kempe and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such heirs to my son Edward Kempe and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for lack of such heirs to my son Sir Thomas Kempe and his right heirs forever;

Also I bequeath to my son[s] John Kempe, Edward Kempe and George Kempe all my goods unbequeathed, to be equally divided among them all;

Also I make my overseers of this my last will Mr William Roper of Eltham aforesaid in the said county of Kent, esquire, and my executors my son, Sir Thomas Kempe, knight, Sir Robert Oxenbridge, knight, Anthony Kempe, esquire, Francis Kempe and Robert Alee [=Lee], gentlemen;

In witness whereof I, the above-named Dame Eleanor, have unto this my said last will and testament subscribed my name and set to my seal the day and year above-written. Read and sealed in the presence of Alexander Gate, parson of Sandon, Roger Madhoges [=Maddox?], [f. 458v] and John Glascock, with others.

Probatum fuit h{uius}mo{d}i Testamentum coram Mag{ist}ro Waltero Haddon Legum Doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cant{uariensis} Comissario apud London vndecimo die mensis Decembris Anno Domini mill{es}imo quingentesimo sexagesimo Iuramento ffrancisci Kempe et Roberti Lee personaliter p{rese}nti{u}m, Thome Kempe militis Roberti Oxenbridge et Anthonij Kempe Armigeri in persona [-in persona] dicti ffrauncisci executorum in h{uius}mo{d}i Testamento nominator{um} Quibus comissa fuit administrac{i}o de bene etc. Ac de pleno inventario Necnon de vero et plano computo Reddend{o} Ad sancta Dei Evangelia Iurat{is}

[=The same testament was proved before Master Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the eleventh day of the month of December in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixtieth by the oath of Francis Kempe and Robert Lee, personally present, Thomas Kempe, knight, Robert Oxenbridge and Anthony Kempe, esquire, in the person of the said Francis, executors named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., and to render a full inventory and also a true and plain account.]