

SUMMARY: The document below is the will, dated 12 November 1562 and proved 14 January 1563, of Sir Humphrey Browne (d.1562), Justice of the Common Pleas, whose nephew was a member of the council of John de Vere (1512-1562), 16th Earl of Oxford, and whose great-nephew, George Browne (d.1559), was in the service of the 15th and 16th Earls.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the testator's family background, see the Browne pedigree recorded in 1612 in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex*, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), Vol. XIII, pp. 165-7 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=0m1KAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA166>

The testator was a younger son of Thomas Browne (d.1488) of Abbess Roding, Essex, by Mary Charlton, the daughter of Thomas Charlton, who was perhaps the Sir Thomas Charlton (c.1417–1465) who was Speaker of the House of Commons.

The testator was a younger brother of Sir Wistan Browne, of whom little is known. He and Henry Guildford were knighted on 15 September 1511 by Ferdinand of Aragon at the palace in Burgos for their 'prowess exhibited in African wars'. He was Sheriff of Essex and Hertfordshire in 1514, and had died by 1534/5. See the inquisition taken after his death, TNA PROB E 199/12/11.

By Elizabeth Mordaunt, the daughter of William Mordaunt (d.1481) of Turvey, Bedfordshire, Sir Wistan Browne was the father of the testator's nephew, Sir Anthony Browne (1509/10–1567), who circa 1554 was a member of the council of the 16th Earl of Oxford. For Sir Anthony Browne, see the *ODNB* entry, his will, TNA PROB 11/49/181, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/browne-anthony-ii-150910-67>

Sir Wistan Brown was the grandfather of the testator's great-nephew, George Browne (d.1559), who is mentioned, together with his son, Wistan Browne (d.1581?), in the inquisition post mortem taken after the death of Oxford's father, John de Vere (1516-1562), 16th Earl of Oxford. According to the IPM, in 1546, in consideration of the service done by George Browne to both the 15th and 16th Earls of Oxford, George Browne and his son, Wistan Browne, were granted the reversion, after the death of Thomas Josselyn, of the offices of master of game and keeper of the park of Stansted Mountfitchet, and bailiff of the honour of Stansted Mountfitchet. The IPM states that both Thomas Josselyn and George Browne had died by the date the IPM was taken on 18 January 1563. See TNA C 142/136/12. For the will of Wistan Browne (d.1581?), see TNA PROB 11/63/226.

MARRIAGES AND CHILDREN***First marriage***

For the order of the testator's three marriages, see:

<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/GEN-MEDIEVAL/2015-01/1421550174>

and:

<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=jweber&id=I38549>

The testator married firstly, as her second husband, Anne Vere (died 5 September 1506), widow of Robert Mordaunt, son of Sir John Mordaunt (30 December 1455 – 11 September 1504), Speaker of the House of Commons, for whom see the Turvey website at:

<http://www.turveybeds.com/mordaunts.html>

See also:

<https://www.geni.com/people/Sir-John-Mordaunt-MP-Speaker-of-the-House-of-Commons/6000000000318631516>

Anne Vere was one of the four daughters and coheirs of Henry Vere (d.1493) of Great Addington. See a Chancery suit from the period 1504-1515, TNA C 1/340/43. By Anne Vere, the testator had his only son and heir:

* **George Browne.** His mother, Anne Vere, died in 1506, and George Browne was thus at least 55 years of age when the testator died in 1562. He was perhaps a few years older than that, since by 1518 (see TNA C 1/392/14 and TNA C 1/494/2) he had married his step-sister, Anne Shelton, one of the daughters of the London alderman, Nicholas Shelton (d.1515), the testator having married Nicholas Shelton's widow, Elizabeth Rawlyns, as his second wife (see below). According to the Browne pedigree, *supra*, the testator's only son and heir, George Browne, died in 1558. This is clearly an error, since he was living when the testator made the will below. However as the will indicates, he had no issue, and his eventual heirs were his three half sisters by the testator's third marriage to Agnes Hussey (see below).

For the testator's first marriage, see also:

'Parishes: Great Addington', in *A History of the County of Northampton: Volume 3*, ed. William Page (London, 1930), pp. 155-160. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/northants/vol3/pp155-160> [accessed 19 October 2017].

Richard [de Vere] died in 1480 and was succeeded by his son Henry de Vere (fn. 62) who died in 1493, leaving four daughters and heirs by his wife Isabella Tresham, all under age. (fn. 63) These ladies were also co-heirs of their mother to the lands of Constance, daughter of Sir Henry Grene, wife of John Stafford, Earl of Wiltshire, on the death of their son Edward, Earl of Wiltshire (fn. 64) in 1499. These de Vere co-heiresses were (1) Elizabeth, who married John son of Sir John Mordaunt, who was created a baron in 1522, and whose descendants eventually obtained nearly the whole of Henry de Vere's property; (2) Anne, who married, first, Robert, another son of Sir John Mordaunt, by whom she had no issue, and secondly, Humphrey Brown, brother of Sir Wistan Brown, by whom she had a son George who died without issue in 1558 [sic]; after George's death his share in the manor of Great Addington being conveyed by the three daughters of Sir Humphrey Brown by his second [sic] wife Anne, daughter of John, Lord Hussey, (fn. 65) and their descendants, to the Mordaunts before the end of the century; (3) Constance, the third daughter, who married John Parr and died without issue in 1501, when her share fell to her three sisters; (4) Audrey or Etheldreda, the fourth daughter, who married John, son and heir of Sir Wistan Brown; they and their son George conveyed their share in Great Addington to Sir John Mordaunt in 1548. (fn. 66)

See also:

'Parishes : Wavendon', in *A History of the County of Buckingham: Volume 4*, ed. William Page (London, 1927), pp. 489-496. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/bucks/vol4/pp489-496> [accessed 18 October 2017]

Edward [Stafford] died without issue in 1499, (fn. 36) and Wavendon passed to his cousins the daughters of Henry Vere of Great Addington, Northamptonshire, who had died in 1493, (fn. 37) and to whom the reversion had descended from his mother Isabel Green, wife of Richard Vere and aunt of Constance Green. (fn. 38).

These co-heirs, Elizabeth wife of Sir John Mordaunt, kt., afterwards first Lord Mordaunt, Anne wife of Sir Humphrey Browne, and Audrey, brought an action in 1505 to recover seisin of the manor. (fn. 39) Audrey afterwards married John Browne, a nephew of Sir Humphrey, (fn. 40) and their son and heir George Browne succeeded his father in 1550.

Second marriage

As noted above, the testator married secondly, in 1516, Elizabeth Rawlyns, heiress of her brother, William Rawlyns, and widow of the London alderman, Nicholas Shelton (d.1515). For the will of Nicholas Shelton, see TNA PROB 11/18/230. In the period 1515-1518, Thomas Cumberford, Nicholas Shelton's son-in-law and executor, sued the testator concerning Elizabeth's share of the estate of her late husband, Nicholas Shelton. See TNA C 1/392/14 and TNA C 1/494/2.

In the period 1515-1518, the testator's son, George Browne, also sued John Hussey, Chamberlain of London, for money due to his (George's) wife, Anne Shelton, under the will of her father, Nicholas Shelton. See TNA C 1/383/71.

By his second marriage, the testator had a daughter, Katherine Browne (c.1517-c.1560), who on 3 July 1537 married Richard Townshend (d.1551), the son of John Townshend (d.1543/4) of Raynham, Norfolk, by Eleanor Heydon, the daughter of the courtier Sir John Heydon (d.1551) of Baconsthorpe Castle, Norfolk, and his wife, Catherine Willoughby (d.1542), the daughter of Sir Christopher Willoughby. John Townshend predeceased his father, leaving five sons and two daughters, including an eldest son, Richard Townshend (d.1551), who, as noted, married the testator's daughter, Katherine Browne. Richard Townshend (d.1551) was the grandson and heir apparent of Sir Roger Townshend (d. 25 November 1551), for whom see the Wikipedia article edited by the author of this website, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/townshend-sir-roger-1478-1551>

By Richard Townshend (d.1551), Katherine Browne had a son and two daughters:

-**Sir Roger Townshend** (d.1590), who purchased Oxford's manors of Wivenhoe, Battleswick and Great Bentley in Essex. See the *ODNB* entry for Sir Roger Townshend, his will, TNA PROB 11/77/149, and the pedigree of Townshend in Dashwood, G.H., ed., *The Visitation of Norfolk in the Year 1563*, (Norwich: Miller and Leavins, 1878), Vol. I, pp. 306-8 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationnorfo00dashgoog#page/n322/mode/2up>

-**Alice Townshend**, unmarried as of 31 July 1551.

-**Elizabeth Townshend**, who married Thomas Godsolve (d. 2 August 1588), esquire, of Bokenham Ferry, Norfolk.

Richard Townshend, made his will on 20 July 1551, and died shortly thereafter. The will was not proved by the executor, Thomas Townshend, until 12 February 1555, having been contested by the testator's daughter, Katherine Browne Townshend, who in the interim had married Peter Sainthill, and is described on 12 February 1555 as 'Katherine Sainthill alias Townshend, late relict of the deceased'. For Peter Sainthill, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/sainthill-peter-1524-71>

According to the History of Parliament entry, there were no issue of Katherine Browne Townshend's second marriage to Peter Sainthill. Peter Sainthill married Julian Shine in 1560, and it thus appears that Katherine Browne Townshend Sainthill predeceased the

testator, and that his reference to her in the will below is to a provision likely made by the testator when Katherine and her husband, Richard Townshend, were first married:

Also where I did entail the manor of Manuden otherwise called Battles Hall in the said county of Essex, and the manor of Perivale otherwise called Little Grindford [=Greenford] in the county of Middlesex unto Richard Townshend and to Katherine, his wife, and to th' heirs of the body of the same Katherine lawfully begotten, I will that if the issue of the same Katherine of her body lawfully begotten die without issue of their bodies lawfully begotten, that then the same manors with their appurtenances shall then immediately remain to the said Mary, Christian and Katherine Browne, my daughters, and to their heirs forever.

Third marriage

The testator married thirdly, about 1547, Agnes Hussey (born c.1515), widow of Henry Ryther (1511 – 5 January 1544), esquire, of Harewood Castle, son of Sir Ralph Ryther (d. 2 April 1520) by his second wife, Maud Percy, the daughter of Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland. For the argument that Maud Percy was the daughter of Henry Percy (c.1449–1489), 4th Earl of Northumberland, by Maud Herbert, see:

<https://royaldescent.blogspot.ca/2010/02/ryther-1-who-was-maud-percy-dame-ryther.html>

and:

<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/GEN-MEDIEVAL/2006-08/1155280035>

For Henry Ryther, see also Craig, W.J., ‘James Ryther of Harewood and his Letters to William Cecil, Lord Burghley’, *The Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*, Vol. 56, 1984, pp. 95-8, and Vol. 57, 1985, pp. 125-32, and ‘Butler, R.M., ‘Further Information on James Ryther of Harewood’, Vol. 59, 1987, pp. 179-82.

See also the History of Parliament entry for Henry Ryther’s heir, James Ryther (1536-1595) at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/ryther-james-1536-95>

For the Ryther family, see Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, p. 111, and the pedigree of Ryther of Scarcroft, in Dugdale, William, *The Visitation of the County of York*, (London: Surtees Society, 1859?), p. 235 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ykNjAAAACAAJ&pg=PA235>

See also the pedigree of Ryther in Norcliffe, Charles Best, ed., *The Visitation of Yorkshire in the Years 1563 and 1564*, (London: Harleian Society, 1881), Vol.XVI, p. 367 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofyork00flow#page/366/mode/2up>

For the Ryther family, see also:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~hwbradley/aqwg3252.htm#71027>

There were no issue of Agnes Hussey's first marriage to Henry Ryther, who made his first cousin, John Ryther, esquire, heir to certain of his properties. For the will, dated 23 January 1543 and proved 18 March 1544, of Henry Ryther, in which he mentions his father, Ralph Ryther, his mother, Maud Percy, and his wife, Agnes Hussey, and bequeaths his lands to 'John Ryther of London, squire, and cofferer to our Sovereign Lord Prince Edward', see *Testamenta Eboracensia*, Vol. VI, (London: Whittaker & Co., 1902), Surtees Society, Vol. CVI, pp. 170-1 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/testamentaebora08claygoog#page/n188/mode/2up>

John Ryther was comptroller of the household of Elizabeth de Vere, Countess of Oxford, and one of her executors. See her will, TNA PROB 11/27/144. He was later comptroller of the household of Oxford's father, the 16th Earl, and comptroller of the royal household. See Higgs, Laquita M., *Godliness and Governance in Tudor Colchester* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1998), pp. 49-50:

More obviously a protégé of [the 16th Earl of] Oxford than were either [John] Lucas or [Anthony] Stapleton was John Ryther, who served with Lucas in Edward VI's first Parliament in 1547. There is no indication that Oxford dictated the selection of Lucas and Ryther, but it is quite possible that Oxford, as an active supporter of the Protestant Reformation, wanted the right people elected and used his influence to get them elected. Ryther's father had been a servant to the thirteenth earl, and Ryther began his service to the de Veres as comptroller of the household of Elizabeth, dowager countess, and after her death, comptroller of the sixteenth earl's household. Probably the Oxford connections helped bring Ryther to the office of cofferer of the household of Prince Edward and then of the royal household, but even earlier Ryther would have come to the attention of Colchester when he was appointed by Thomas Cromwell to report on the alleged embezzlement by one of the abbot's servants of the jewelry of Colchester abbey. Ryther served only in the 1547 Parliament for Colchester, as he died before another Parliament was elected.

For John Ryther, see his will, TNA PROB 11/35/362, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/ryther-%28ryder%29-john-1514-52>

The testator's third wife, Agnes Hussey, was one of the daughters of John Hussey (executed 29 June 1537), 1st Baron Hussey of Sleaford, by Anne Grey, the daughter of George Grey (d. 21 December 1503), 2nd Earl of Kent, and his second wife, Katherine Herbert, third daughter of William Herbert (c.1423-1469), 1st Earl of Pembroke, by Anne Devereux, the daughter of Sir Walter Devereux (1411-1459). See the Hussey pedigree in Maddison, A.R., *Lincolnshire Pedigrees* (London: Harleian Society, 1908), pp. 526-30 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/lincolnshirepedi51madd#page/526/mode/2up>

For the will of Agnes Hussey's mother, Anne Grey Hussey, dated 1 March 1545 and proved 11 February 1546, see TNA PROB 11/31/56. Anne Grey Hussey (d.1545/6) was the aunt of Elizabeth (nee Hussey) Crane Carleton (d.1606?), the 'Mistress Crane' at whose home in East Molesey the first of the Marprelate tracts was printed in October 1588.

Agnes Hussey's sister, Elizabeth Hussey (d. 23 January 1554), widow of Walter Hungerford (1503-1540), Baron Hungerford of Heytesbury, married, as her second husband, Sir Robert Throckmorton (d.1581), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/63/176. Sir Robert Throckmorton was the uncle of both Oxford's friend, Arthur Throckmorton (c.1557-1626), and of Job Throckmorton (1545-1601), who assisted with the printing of the Marprelate tracts in 1589. In the will below, the testator refers to Sir Robert Throckmorton as his brother-in-law.

According to the will below, the testator had three daughters by his third wife, Agnes Hussey:

* **Mary Browne**, who is said to have married Thomas Wilford of Hartridge, Kent. Although there is some variation as to details, the *ODNB* entry and the Wilford pedigrees are in essential agreement that Mary Browne's husband, Thomas Wilford, was the son of Sir James Wilford (c.1517-1550), who married, by 1543, Joyce Barrett (d.1580), the daughter of John Barrett of Aveley, Essex, and that Sir James Wilford (c.1517-1550) was, in turn, the son of Thomas Wilford (d.1533) of Hartridge by his first wife Elizabeth Culpepper (died c.1530), the daughter of Walter Culpepper of Bedgebury, Kent, by Anne Aucher, the daughter and heiress of Henry Aucher, esquire, and that Sir James Wilford (c.1517-1550) was the grandson of James Wilford (d.1526), merchant tailor, alderman, and sheriff of London, by Elizabeth Bettenham, the daughter of Adam Bettenham of Pluckley, Kent.

See Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex*, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), Vol. XIII, p. 128 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=0m1KAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA128>

See also the Wilsford pedigree in Hovenden, Robert, ed., *The Visitation of Kent Taken in the Years 1619-1621*, (London: Harleian Society, 1898), Vol. XLII, p. 53 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofkent00camd#page/52/mode/2up>

See also Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 112 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=8JcbV309c5UC&pg=PA112>

* **Christian Browne**, who married, as his second wife, Sir John Tufton (d. 2 April 1624), son and heir of John Tufton, esquire, by Mary Baker, the daughter of Sir John Baker (c.1489–1558), Speaker of the House of Commons. See the will, proved 30 January 1559, of Sir John Baker, TNA PROB 11/42A/279, and Pocock, Robert, *Memorials of the Family of Tufton, Earls of Thanet*, (Gravesend: R. Pocock, 1800), p. 29:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=iP1qvlJQyUkC&pg=PA29>

For Sir John Tufton, see the History of Parliament entry for his son, Sir Nicholas Tufton (1578-1631) at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/tufton-sir-nicholas-1578-1631>

One of Christian Browne's daughters, Cecily Tufton, married Francis Manners (1578-1632), 6th Earl of Rutland:

https://howlingpixel.com/wiki/Francis_Manners,_6th_Earl_of_Rutland

He married secondly, before 26 October 1608, Cecily, eldest daughter of Sir John Tufton, 1st Baronet, Hothfield, Kent, (and his second wife, Christian, daughter of Sir Humphrey Browne), and widow of Sir Edward Hungerford.

* **Katherine Browne the younger** (buried 20 February 1616 [=1617?]), who according to the *ODNB* married 'William Roper, chief clerk of the king's bench, biographer of Thomas More, and ancestor of the lords Teynham'. This clearly cannot be the case, as the William Roper (1495x8–1578) who was Sir Thomas More's biographer married Sir Thomas More's daughter, Margaret More (d.1544), and according to the *ODNB*, never remarried after her death. For William Roper (1495x8-1578) of Eltham, Kent, son-in-law of Sir Thomas More, see his will, dated 10 January 1577 and proved 21 June 1578, TNA PROB 11/60/365, and the transcript of the will at:

<http://docplayer.org/53969772-Anhang-i-stammbaum-der-familie-roper-quellen.html>

It appears that Katherine Browne's husband was the *grandson* of the William Roper (1495x8-1578) who married Margaret More, i.e., William Roper (c.1557-1628), son of Thomas Roper (buried 26 February 1597 [=1598?]), esquire, by Lucy Browne (buried 10

July 1606), sister of Anthony Browne (1528-1592), 1st Viscount Montagu, grandfather of Henry Wriothesley (1573-1624), 3rd Earl of Southampton. In the *Visitation of Kent*, the Christian name of Katherine Browne's father is erroneously given as 'William', i.e. 'Sir William Browne of Ridley Hall in Essex, Judge of the Common Pleas'. See Hovenden, *supra*, pp. 82-4 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofkent00camd#page/82/mode/2up>

In *Collins's Peerage*, the Christian name of Katherine Browne's father is erroneously given as 'Anthony'. See Brydges, Egerton, *Collins's Peerage of England*, (London: F.C. and J. Rivington, 1812), Vol. VII, p. 81 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/collinsspeerageof07coll#page/80/mode/2up>

Sir William, eldest son, of Eltham, and St. Dunstan's, married Catherine (who was buried at St. Dunstan's, February 20th 1616), daughter and coheir of Sir Anthony Browne, Knt. of Ridley Hall, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, by whom he had two sons. 1. Anthony. 2. Thomas, who married Susan, daughter of John Winchcombe, of Henwick, co. Berks; and one daughter, Anne, married to Sir Philip Constable, of Everingham, Yorkshire, Bart.

Interestingly, William Waad of Battles Hall, Essex, married Anne Browne, also said to have been the testator's daughter and coheir. See:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/waad-william-1546-1623>

b. 1546, 1st s. of Armagil Waad[†] by his 1st w.; bro. of Thomas. educ. G. Inn 1571. m. (1) 1586, Anne (d.1589), da. and h. of Owen Waller of London, 1s. d.v.p.; (2) c.1599, Anne, da. and coh. of Sir Humphrey Browne, j.c.p., 1s. at least 8da. suc. fa. 1568. Kntd. 20 May 1603.2

TESTATOR'S LANDS

Manor of Driffield

See *The Gentleman's Magazine*, January 1818, p. 14 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=9UBDAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA14>

. . . were granted to Humphrey and George Browne, in exchange for lands at Waltham, in Essex. Sir Humphrey Browne died seised thereof the 4th of Elizabeth, and left four co-heiresses. Rudder, in his History of Gloucestershire, says, "Roger Townshend, who married the eldest, had livery in right of his wife 5th of Eliz. – One of the heiresses dying soon after, livery was granted to Mary Browne the 9th of Elizabeth – and livery of another

3rd part to Christiana Browne 14th of Elizabeth.” In Bigland’s Hist. of Gloucestershire is the following statement: “In 1546 [sic for ‘1564’?] these lands (Driffield, St. Ampreys, &c.) passed by Mary the elder co-heir of Sir Humphrey Browne, of Ridley Hall, Essex, and one of the Justices of the Common Pleas, to Thomas Wilford, esq. prior to 1608. . . .

Manor of Manuden

For the testator’s manor of Manuden, see TNA C 1/469/29.

The testator’s funeral is noted in Machyn’s *Diary*. See:

<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/machyn/5076866.0001.001/1:8.13/--london-provisioners-chronicle-1550-1563?rgn=div2;view=fulltext>

Manor of Perivale

A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 4, Harmondsworth, Hayes, Norwood With Southall, Hillingdon With Uxbridge, Ickenham, Northolt, Perivale, Ruislip, Edgware, Harrow With Pinner. Originally published by Victoria County History, London, 1971.

On his death in 1516, Little Greenford was in the possession of Sir Robert Southwell. (fn. 14) He was succeeded by Sir Humphrey Browne (d. 1562), a judge of the Common Pleas, who owned the manor at least from 1521 to 1559. (fn. 15) In 1566 Roger Townsend, who was probably Browne’s grandson, sold what was then called the manor of Perivale or Little Greenford to Henry Millett.

LM: T{estamentum} Humfridi Broune militis

In the name of God, Amen. I, Sir Humphrey Browne, knight, one of the Queen’s Majesty’s Justices of her Common Pleas at Westminster, being of whole mind and perfect memory, praise be to God, maketh this my testament and last will concerning my goods and lands hereafter declared the 12th day of November in the fourth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith etc., in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my body to be buried within the parish church of St Martens the Organs [=St Martin Orgar] in the city of London if I depart this present life within ten miles of the same city, and that in no sumptuous manner, but after a charitable fashion, and the greatest cost therein to be done for me to be bestowed and given to the poor and needy people;

Also I will that my debts be paid which I owe, and restitution be made to all men to whom I have done wrong in times past if it be well proved;

And I will that my plate and other my movable goods, saving those which hereafter by this my will I do give to Agnes, now my wife, shall go to the contentation thereof;

Further I give to the said Agnes, my wife, all my household stuff and hangings in my little chamber within my mansion house adjoining to Cow Lane in the parish of Saint Sepulchres in London, in the which chamber my brother-in-law, Sir Robert Throckmorton, knight, is accustomed to lie in, and called by the name of his chamber, with all manner th' implements therein;

Also I give to my said wife my scarlet bed commonly called my field bed wholly, with all the beds, bedsteads, coverlets, curtains and all other things to the same belonging or any part thereof;

Also I give to my said wife all such goods and chattels that she had before the time I married her that now be unsold and ungiven away, and also all the profits and increase of the said [f. 10r?] goods and chattels ever sithence the time of the said marriage;

Also I will and give to my said wife all the rings, chains of gold, biliments of gold, jewels, stones and goldsmith's work whatsoever which she now hath and had before the time I married her;

Further I give to my daughter, Christian, my lease of Cowleez, being certain pastures within the parish of Epping in the county of Essex whereof Thomas Heynes of Epping is now tenant immediately after my decease, and from that time she shall have and take the profits of the same;

Also I will and give to every of my household servants which take wages one quarter of a year's wages next after my decease, and meat and drink for half a year next following my decease if they will take it, and to every of the same my servants then in wages 20s in money;

Now concerning my will of my lands hereafter following:

First I will that if George Browne, my son and heir apparent, die without issue of his body lawfully begotten, that then immediately after his decease my manor of Dryfeld [=Driffeld?] with th' appurtenances in the county of Gloucester and my rectory of Mauden [=sic for 'Manuden'?]] with th' appurtenances in the county of Essex shall wholly remain to Mary Browne, Christian Browne and Katherine Browne, my daughters, and to their heirs forever;

Also where I did entail the manor of Manuden otherwise called Battles Hall in the said county of Essex, and the manor of Perivale otherwise called Little Grindford [=Greenford] in the county of Middlesex unto Richard Townshend and to Katherine, his

wife, and to th' heirs of the body of the same Katherine lawfully begotten, I will that if the issue of the same Katherine of her body lawfully begotten die without issue of their bodies lawfully begotten, that then the same manors with their appurtenances shall then immediately remain to the said Mary, Christian and Katherine Browne, my daughters, and to their heirs forever;

Furthermore I will and give to the parson and churchwardens of the parish of St Martins the Organs abovesaid and to their successors all those my six messuages or tenements situate and being in Cow Lane in the parish of St Sepulchres abovesaid near to my capital mese or mansion house within the same parish of St Sepulchres standing and being on th' east side of my great gate of my said mansion house, to th' intent that they and every of them and their successors shall give and dispose the rents and profits of the same tenements in manner and form following, that is to say, that they and every of them shall yearly give and dispose every Friday weekly from the first day of December till the last day of March then next following 2 horse-loads of charcoals amongst the poor and needest [=neediest] persons of the same their parish, and the overplus of the said rents and other profits to be given amongst the poor people of the said parish yearly from time to time;

Provided always that if my said daughters or any of them do marry without the assent and consent of Thomas Hussey and Gilbert Hussey, gentlemen, my brethren-in-law, Robert Hussey and John Hussey of Gray's Inn in the suburbs of London, or of the most part of them, that then if the same my daughters or any of them shall otherwise do without their assents shall inherit no parcel of my said lands, but that the same shall then remain to thother of my said daughters that shall marry by th' assents aforesaid;

And of this my present testament and last will I ordain and make Agnes, my said wife, my sole executrix, to whom I bequeath and give the residue of my goods, my debts, funerals, legacies and childrens' portions discharged;

And further do heartily desire and pray my nephew, Anthony Browne, one of the Queen's Majesty's Justices of her Common Pleas at Westminster, that it will please him to be my overseer of this my last will and testament, and also to aid and help my said wife and my young children that they have no wrong;

And for his pains that he shall take therein, I give to him all my books of the law;

In witness whereof to this my present testament and last will I have put to my hand and seal in the presence of these persons following whose names be hereunder subscribed the day and year first above-written: Thomas Tresham, John Kaly, clerk, William(?) Elliot, Robert Throckmorton, Humphrey Browne, Thomas Buggen, Roger Bales, Robert Jackson.

Probatum fuit h{uius}mo{d}i Testamentum coram mag{ist}ro Waltero Haddon Legum Doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cant{uariensis} Comissario apud London decimo Quarto die Mensis Ianuarij Anno Domini mill{es}imo Quingentesimo Sexagesimo Secundo Iuramento mag{ist}ri Ioh{ann}is Incent No{ta}rij publici Procuratoris d{om}ine Agnetis Browne Relicte et executric{is} in h{uius}mo{d}i Testamento no{m}i{n}at{e} Cui comissa fuit administrac{i}o &c de bene &c Ac de pleno Inuentario Necnon de vero et plano computo Reddend{o} Ad sancta Dei Evangelia Iurat{i}

[=The same testament was proved before Master Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the fourteenth day of the month of January in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixty-second by the oath of Master John Incent, notary public, proctor of Lady Agnes Browne, relict and executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., and [+to exhibit?] a full inventory, and also to render a true and plain account.]