

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 20 February 1571, and codicil dated 24 October 1572, of Robert Chapman, gentleman. The will was proved 29 January 1575. There is a monument to the testator in the Church of St Mary at Stone. See <http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/en-172702-church-of-st-mary-stone>.

The testator was the father of Anne (nee Chapman) Carew (d.1599), the mother of Thomasine (nee Carew) Amyce Vere (d.1639), who married, firstly, Oxford's servant Israel Amyce, and, secondly, Oxford's first cousin, John Vere (d.1624) of Kirby Hall. For the will of Anne (nee Chapman) Carew, see TNA PROB 11/93, ff. 162-3. For the will of Thomasine Amyce Vere, see TNA PROB 11/181, ff. 229-30. For the will of Anne's husband, William Carew, gentleman, see TNA PROB 11/73, ff. 149-50.

Another of the testator's daughters was Ellen (nee Chapman) Rogers, the wife of Francis Rogers, gentleman, of Dartford, whose grandson, Sir John Jacob (c.1597-1666), was executor of the will of Thomasine (nee Carew) Amyce Vere (d.1639).

The testator was also the father of Barbara Chapman, the wife of William Leveson (d.1593), uncle of Shakespeare's trustee, William Leveson (d.1621). William Leveson (d.1593) is referred to by the testator as his son-in-law in the will below. For the pedigree of William Leveson (d.1593) mentioning his marriage to Barbara Chapman and giving the arms of Leveson and Chapman, see Howard, Joseph Jackson and George John Armytage, eds., *The Visitation of London in the Year 1568 Taken by Robert Cooke, Clarenceux King of Arms*, (London: Harleian Society, 1869), p. 18, available online.

The codicil below indicates that the testator had also prepared a 'testament of lands'. This will was dated 20 February 1571, and was proved 20 June 1575, and states that William Leveson (d.1593) and the testator's daughter, Barbara (nee Chapman) Leveson, had at the time two children, Robert and Ellen. See:

'Wills: 11-20 Elizabeth I (1568-78)', Calendar of wills proved and enrolled in the Court of Husting, London: Part 2: 1358-1688 (1890), pp. 683-697.

ANNO 17 ELIZABETH.

Monday the F. of Trans, of S. Edward, K. and Mar. [20 June].

Chapman (Robert), of Stone near Dartford, co. Kent, gentleman.—To Anne his daughter, wife of William Carewe, draper, one moiety of his manor of Stone Castell in the parishes of Stone and Swannescombe, co. Kent, except his house called the "Castell of Stone," with gardens, &c.; and to "Ellen" his daughter, wife of Frauncys Rogers of Dartford, gentleman, the other moiety. To Ellen [sic] his wife he leaves the "Castell of Stone," &c., aforesaid for life or until marriage, with remainder to Anne his aforesaid daughter; and also an annuity of forty pounds. Provision made for Guy Chapman his brother. To Robert and Ellen, children of Barbara his deceased daughter, late wife of William Lewson,

mercier, fifty pounds apiece. To poor householders of Stone twenty shillings yearly, charged on his daughters' estates. Dated 20 February, A.D. 1570.

A codicil by which his legacies to his son-in-law Fraunceys Rogers and to "Helene" his daughter, wife of the said Fraunceys, are revoked if at any time they molest Anne his daughter and William Carewe her husband in their enjoyment of the house aforesaid called "the Castell of Stone," or if they fail to pay within six months after his decease to his son-in-law William Lewson, mercier, the sum of twenty pounds. Dated 24 October, A.D. 1572.

Roll 260 (8).

RM: Testamentum Roberti Chapman

In the name of God, Amen. The twentieth day of February Anno Domini 1570 and in the thirteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., I, Robert Chapman of the parish of Stone nigh Dartford in the county of Kent, gentleman, being of good health and perfect memory, knowing that I am naturally born and ordained to die and pass this mutable world and transitory life, but the hour and time uncertain when Almighty God to his unspeakable wisdom shall seem good for my calling to himwards will visit me, to whom all honour, glory and praise be given all-where, do make and ordain this my present testament and last will touching all my goods and chattels in manner and form following, that is to say:

First, as it doth most chiefly appertain to a true Christian man to seek the kingdom of God, I yield and bequeath my soul unto Almighty God, my Maker and Redeemer, beseeching his most merciful goodness for his Son, Jesus Christ's sake, whose intercession and means God the Father only heareth and accepteth, that I may be partaker of the kingdom and endless bliss of heaven;

And for my body, I choose my sepulture within the parish church of Stone aforesaid, to be buried in such godly & decent order as by mine executor and overseers hereafter named shall seem most best, as belongeth to my degree, to be had;

Item, I will a sermon to be had and made by a learned man at the time of my burial, and I give and bequeath unto him twenty shillings for his pains therein to be taken;

Item, I will that at the time of my burial shall be by mine executor distributed among the poor 40s;

Item, I will that all such debts and duties as of right or in conscience I do owe unto any person or persons be truly paid, or order therefore taken;

Item, I give and bequeath unto every of the children of my daughter, Anne Carew, to every such child as at the time of my decease shall be living, ten pounds of lawful money of England apiece, to be paid unto every of them, the same children, at their several ages of 21 years or day of marriage first happening, and if it happen any of them, the same children, to decease this life before his, her or their several age of 21 years aforesaid or day of marriage, that then the portion of him, her or them so deceased shall remain and be unto and amongst the rest and residue of the same children surviving or living, provided always that if it shall happen all the same children to decease this life before his, her or their said ages or day of marriage, that then as now and now as then my very will and mind is that the part or portion of all the same children so deceasing shall remain and be unto their father and mother;

Item, I give and bequeath unto every of the children of my daughter, Ellen Rogers, wife of Francis Rogers of Dartford aforesaid, gentleman, to every such child as at the time of my decease shall be living ten pounds of lawful money of England apiece, to be paid to every of them, the same children of my said daughter, Ellen, at their several ages of 21 years or day of marriage first happening, and if it shall happen any of the same children of my said daughter, Ellen, to decease before his, her or their said several ages of 21 years or day of marriage, that then the part or portion of him, her or them so deceased shall remain and be unto and amongst the rest and residue of the same children surviving or living, provided always that if it shall happen all the same children of my daughter, Ellen, to decease this life before his, her or their said ages or day of marriage, that then as now and now as then my very will and mind is that the parts and portions of all the same children so deceasing shall remain and be to their said father and mother;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my brother, Guy Chapman, five pounds of lawful money of England, to be paid by my executor within three months next ensuing my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath to James Chapman and Custance [=Constance], his sister, children of my said brother Guy, to either of them, the same children, ten pounds apiece, to be paid at their several ages of 21 years or day of marriage first happening, and if either of them die before his or her several said ages of 21 years or day of marriage aforesaid, that then the part or portion of him or her so deceased shall remain to thother of them living, and being both dead before their said several ages or day of marriage, in such case I will that the portions of the same James and Constance shall remain and be to my executor;

Item, I give unto Joan, my woman-servant, being my servant at the time of my decease, three pounds 6s 8d, to be paid unto her at her day of marriage;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Richard Holmes, my servant, forty shillings, to be paid at his lawful age of 21 years;

The rest and residue of all and singular my goods, chattels, cattle, [-cattle], plate, jewels, ready money and debts (my debts, funerals and legacies before bequeathed first deducted) I will forthwith shall be equally divided into three just and indifferent equal parts, one

equal part whereof I give and bequeath unto Ellen, my well-beloved wife, and one other equal part thereof I give and bequeath unto the said Anne Carew, my daughter, wife of William Carew, citizen and draper of London, and the other equal part thereof I give and bequeath unto the said Ellen Rogers, my daughter;

And of this my testament and last will I make and ordain the said William Carew my sole executor, and supervisors or overseers hereof I make and nominate the said Guy Chapman, my brother, and Francis Rogers, my son;

And I utterly revoke, renounce and do disannul all and every former wills, legacies, gifts, bequests, executors and overseers before this time by me made, ordained and given, willing this my will to stand as my very last will and testament concerning my said goods, and none other or otherwise;

In witness whereof I, the said Robert Chapman, to this my last will and testament concerning my goods have subscribed my name and put to my seal given the day and years first above-written. By me, Robert Chapman. Sic subscriptus Georgius Kevall Notarius publicus. Sealed, subscribed and delivered by the said Robert Chapman in the presence of me, the said notary, and of John Thomson and Thomas Newman, my servants, and I ratify the said three words ('piece', 'before') which are interlined and ('last') raised. Per me Iohannem Thomson servientem eiusdem notarij. Per me Thomam Newman servientem dicti Notarij. The seal imprinted thus [].

This codicil made the four and twentieth day of October Anno Domini 1572 and in the 14th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France & Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., annexed to the last will and testament of goods of me, Robert Chapman of the parish of Stone near Dartford in the county of Kent, gentleman, I will shall be as parcel of the same my last will or testament as touching the gifts, legacies, bequests and devises ensuing, that is to say:

First I will and devise that my son-in-law, Francis Rogers, gentleman, and Helen, his wife, my daughter, or one of them, shall within six months next ensuing my decease truly content and pay or cause to be contented and paid unto my son-in-law, William Lewson [=Leveson], citizen and mercer of London, at his now dwelling-house in London, twenty pounds of good and lawful money of England, and thereof and of all actions, suits and troubles concerning the same clearly to discharge or save harmless my executor named and appointed in my said testament;

And in default of payment and discharge thereof, that then my very will and mind is and I do devise by this my codicil that all such part, portion, legacy, gift, devise and bequest by me in my said testament and in or by any other testament of lands to them, the said Francis and Helen, and her heirs given and bequeathed shall unto all constructions and purposes be utterly void and of none effect, and from thenceforth irrecuperable by the said Francis and Helen, his wife, and her heirs or any of them, or by any other person or

persons to his, her or their use or behoof or to the use or behoof of any of them, my said testaments or any of them or any custom to the contrary notwithstanding;

In witness whereof I, the said Robert Chapman, have hereunto put my seal given the day and years first above-written. Sealed, subscribed and delivered by the said Robert Chapman in the presence of Richard Parnam, cloth-worker; Laurence Monnes, draper; William Birkhead, John Thomson, Thomas Newman, and of me, the said notary. Sealed with a ring wherein the like mark is printed []. Thus written by me, Robert Chapman. Georgius Kevall Notarius publicus.

Probatum fuit huiusmodi Testamentum coram magistro Willelmo Drewry legum Doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cantuariensis Comissario apud London vicesimo nono die mensis Ianuarij Anno Domini secundum cursum et computacionem ecclesie Anglicane millesimo quingentesimo septuagesimo quarto Iuramento Willelmi Carew executoris in huiusmodi testamento nominati Cui comissa fuit administracio &c De bene et fideliter Administrando eandem Ac de pleno Inventario &c Necnon &c

[=The same testament was proved before Master William Drury, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the twenty-ninth day of the month of January in the year of the Lord according to the course and reckoning of the English Church the thousand five hundred seventy-fourth by the oath of William Carew, executor named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted etc., [+sworn on the Holy Gospels] to well and faithfully administer the same, and [+to prepare] a full inventory etc., and also etc.]