

SUMMARY: The document below is the last will and testament, dated 22 May 1576 and proved 5 March 1577, of Sir Anthony Cooke (1505/6–1576), the father of Oxford's mother-in-law, Lady Burghley. From the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*:

Sir Anthony Cooke (1505/6–1576), educator and humanist, was the only son of John Coke or Cooke (1485–1516) of Gidea Hall, Essex, within the liberty of Havering-atte-Bower near Romford, and Alice Saunders (d. 1510), daughter of William Saunders of Banbury, Oxfordshire. He was the great-grandson of Sir Thomas Cook, a wealthy draper, who was lord mayor of London in 1462–3.

John Coke died in 1516, leaving the eleven-year-old Anthony to be raised by his uncle Richard Cooke, a diplomatic courier under Henry VIII, and his stepmother, Margaret Pennington, a lady-in-waiting first to Katherine of Aragon and later to the Princess Mary. Some time before 1523 Anthony Cooke married Anne (d. 1553), daughter of Sir William Fitzwilliam of Gaynes Park, Essex, a London merchant, and widow [sic] of Sir John Hawes of London.

The testator's wife, Anne Fitzwilliam (d.1553) was a descendant of Geoffrey Plantagenet (1113-1151), Count of Anjou by a mistress (see Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2004), pp. 330-3). The *DNB* is in error in stating that she was the widow of Sir John Hawes. The will of John Hawe, dated 28 August 1516, states that his daughter, Anne, now deceased, was the wife of Sir William Fitzwilliam (d.1534), and had four children by him, William, Richard, Elizabeth and Anne (d.1553). The testator's wife, Anne Fitzwilliam (d.1553) was thus the granddaughter of John Hawe, as indicated by these bequests in his will (see TNA PROB 11/18, ff. 240-1):

Item, I bequeath to William Fitzwilliam the younger, son of William Fitzwilliam, late alderman of London, and of Anne, my daughter, late his wife, my best cup of silver gilt, to be delivered unto him when he cometh to his lawful age of 21 years;

Item, I bequeath to Richard Fitzwilliam, brother of the same William Fitzwilliam the younger, another of my best cups of silver gilt, to be delivered to the same Richard when he cometh to his lawful age of 21 years;

Item, I bequeath to Elizabeth Fitzwilliam, their sister, another of my best cups of silver gilt, to be delivered unto her when she cometh to her lawful age of 21 years or be married;

And to Anne Fitzwilliam, another of their sisters, another of my best cups of silver gilt, to be delivered to the same Anne when she cometh to her lawful age or be married;

The *DNB* entry emphasizes the exceptional education given to the testator's daughters, including Oxford's mother-in-law, Lady Burghley:

Some time in the 1530s Cooke turned his attention to the education of his children, and especially that of his daughters. Enlightened opinion favoured some form of training for girls, but Cooke's five daughters received as good an education as that given to his four sons and probably better. Latin and Greek certainly formed part of their studies and they may also have received some training in Hebrew and modern languages. They read both early Christian writers and the works of contemporary protestant thinkers, and became well known for their scholarly abilities. The eldest daughter, Mildred Cecil, who married the future Lord Burghley, was especially praised for her knowledge of Greek, while Anne Bacon, the second wife of Lord Keeper Bacon, published works by Ochino and Jewel in translations from Italian and Latin respectively. Katherine Killigrew, the wife of the diplomat Sir Henry Killigrew, was a strong protestant noted for her linguistic scholarship. She published nothing, but the formidable Elizabeth Russell, who married successively the translator Sir Thomas Hoby and John, Lord Russell, second son of the second earl of Bedford, published her translation of a Latin treatise on the sacrament in 1605. The remaining daughter, Margaret, who became a maid-in-waiting to Queen Mary, married Sir Ralph Rowlett in 1558 as his second wife but died only a few weeks later.

Although the testator is usually described as Edward VI's tutor, the *DNB* entry suggests that he may never have been formally appointed to that position:

*The high point of Cooke's career has traditionally been seen as his appointment as tutor to Edward VI, although whether he ever actually held a formal post is uncertain. In 1550 John Hooper referred to Cooke as one of Edward's tutors along with John Cheke, and in May of that year Cooke received a life annuity of £100 in return for giving 'training in good letters and manners' to the king (*HoP, Commons, 1509–58, 1.690*). Cooke is never mentioned in Edward's journal, however, nor was he ever officially described as royal tutor. Most probably, Cooke began working with Edward in 1550 after the retirement of Richard Cox, another of the royal tutors, but as a companion and guide rather than as a formal teacher.*

Despite his embracement of the new religion and his connections at the highest political level, the *DNB* entry suggests that the testator's abilities were under-utilized during Queen Elizabeth's reign:

Cooke may have been slow to move towards religious evangelicalism, but his commitment had grown sufficiently strong by 1553 to lead him to an apparently self-imposed exile shortly after Mary's accession. While on the continent he travelled widely, making visits to Italy before settling in Strasbourg in 1555. There he attended lectures by Pietro Martire Vermigli (known as Peter Martyr) and was in contact with leaders of the reformed faith. Following Mary's death he returned to England, where many expected that he would be named to high office. He played an active part in the parliament of 1559 (in which he sat as a knight of the shire for Essex), but in some way seems to have become disaffected from the progress of the religious settlement, and in spite of his close connections with the highest echelons of the new government he was never granted an important position. He served on several religious commissions early in Elizabeth's reign and sat as a member for Essex again in 1563, but his participation in national affairs, whether political or

religious, had virtually ended by that year, and he appears to have been largely absorbed in family matters in the last years of his life. His occupations included the extension of Gidea Hall, which Queen Elizabeth visited in 1568. In his will, drawn up on 22 May 1576 and with a codicil added on 9 June, Cooke provided for the descent of his lands (estimated to be worth some £1100 per annum) to his sons Richard and William. All his surviving sons and daughters received bequests of plate, while each daughter was given her choice of books, two Latin and one Greek, from her father's library. The executors were headed by Bacon and Burghley, each of whom was to have £200 for his pains. His bequests in cash, totalling nearly £1200, bear witness both to Cooke's wealth and to his concern for his wider family—he remembered a number of grandchildren, including Robert Cecil, Anthony and Francis Bacon, and Thomas Posthumous Hoby. Surprisingly, perhaps, his will makes only the briefest possible provision for the well-being of his soul, and contains no charitable bequest at all. Cooke died on 11 June 1576, aged seventy, and was buried in St Andrew's Church at Romford. His effigy survives at St Edward's Church, Romford.

The testator was succeeded by his eldest son, Richard Cooke, who did not long survive him. Richard Cooke married Anne Cawnton, the daughter of the London haberdasher, John Cawnton, esquire, alderman of Bishopsgate Ward from 1523-8, and sheriff in 1525-6, who is said to have been among those 'reduced to extreme poverty after exercising the offices of sheriff and mayor, or even one of them' (see Beaven, Alfred B., *The Aldermen of the City of London*, Vol. II, (London: Eden Fisher, 1908), pp. 11-60, available online at <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=67234>). See also the will of John Cawnton's mother-in-law, Dame Elizabeth Thurston, dated 21 March 1520, in Bloom, J. Harvey, *Wayman Wills and Administrations* (London: Wallace Gandy, 1922), pp. 6-10, available online). Richard Cooke died at the age of forty-eight on 3 October 1579 and was buried at Romford on 12 October 1579. For his will, dated 31 July 1579 and proved 17 November 1579, see TNA PROB 11/61, ff. 348-9. For the pedigree of the Cooke family of Gidea Hall, see *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society*, Vol. III (London: J.B. Nichols, 1870), p. 306, available online.

The testator's second son, William Cooke (d.1589), married Frances Grey, the daughter of Sir John Grey (d.1564) of Pirgo and his wife, Mary Browne, the sister of Anthony Browne (1528-1592), 1st Viscount Montagu. Mary (nee Browne) Grey is the 'Lady Grey' mentioned by the testator in the will below. For the will of Sir John Grey (d.1564), see TNA PROB 11/48, ff. 11-12. Sir John Grey's son, Sir Henry Grey (1547-1614) of Pirgo, married Anne Windsor (d. 1604), the sister of Oxford's brother-in-law, Edward (1532?-1575), 3rd Lord Windsor. William Cooke (d.1589) was succeeded by his son, Sir William Cooke of Highnam Court in Gloucestershire, who in 1597 married the daughter of Thomas Lucy (1551-1605), son of the Sir Thomas Lucy (d.1600) of Charlecote who allegedly prosecuted Shaksper of Stratford for deer poaching. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2004), p. 361, and the entry for Sir Thomas Lucy (d.1600) of Charlecote in the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*.

Among the grandchildren to whom the testator leaves bequests is 'my Lady of Oxford', i.e. Oxford's wife, Anne Cecil (d.1588).

The testator also leaves bequests to his 'cousin Ogle' and 'cousin Skinner':

Item, to my cousin Ogle, five pounds.

Item, to my cousin Skinner, ten pounds.

The recipients of these bequests would appear to be the testator's nephew, Nicholas Ogle (d.1582?), and the testator's nephew by marriage, Vincent Skinner (d.1611). Nicholas Ogle (d.1582?) was the son of Richard Ogle (d.1555) and his wife Beatrice Cooke (1561), the testator's sister, while Vincent Skinner (d.1611) was the husband of Audrey Ogle, the daughter of Richard Ogle (d.1555) and Beatrice Cooke (d.1561). For the will of the testator's brother-in-law, Richard Ogle (d.1555), see TNA PROB 11/38, ff. 172-3.

As noted above, the testator died 11 June 1576. For the quarterings and inscriptions on his monument in Romford Chapel, see 'Romford', *The Environs of London: volume 4: Counties of Herts, Essex & Kent* (1796), pp. 183-203. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=45473>.

RM: Testamentum Domini Anthonij Cooke Militis

In the name of God, Amen. I, Anthony Cooke of Gidea Hall in Havering in the county of Essex, knight, the two and twentieth day of the month of May in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred seventy and six and in the eighteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth etc., being in good and perfect mind and memory, laud and praise be unto Almighty God therefore, do make and ordain my last will and testament in manner and form following, viz.:

First I commit my soul to Almighty God through my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, my body to be buried at Romford by the discretion of my executors with convenient and not excessive charges;

Item, I revoke and declare void all my former wills and testaments heretofore made, and I will that only this my present will and testament shall be of force and take effect;

Item, I give and bequeath to my son, Richard, my best basin and ewer of silver parcel gilt; my best gilt salt; one nest of bowls gilt, the biggest; one pair of pots white of silver, and one pair parcel gilt; one nest of bowls white of silver; one dozen of spoons of the best;

Item, I give to my daughter of Burghley one other nest of bowls gilt and pinked;

Item, I give to my daughter Bacon one other nest of gilt bowls plain;

Item, I give and bequeath to my daughter Russell my second gilt salt and two little salts gilt;

Item, I give and bequeath to my daughter Killigrew one nest of white bowls and two silver candlesticks;

Item, I give to my son, William, my second basin and ewer parcel gilt, two flagons of silver and a dozen of spoons;

Item, I give to my son, Richard, all my household stuff and harness which I have at Gidea Hall and Bedfords or any place else;

Item, I will that of my books my daughter of Burghley shall have two volumes in Latin and one in Greek such as she will choose of my gift, and after her choice, that my daughter Bacon shall have other [+two?] volumes in Latin and one in Greek such as she will choose, and after her choice that my daughter Russell shall have other two volumes in Latin and one in Greek such as she will choose, and after her choice that my daughter Killigrew shall have other two volumes in Latin and one in Greek such as she will choose, and the residue of my books I give to my son, Richard, and Anthony, his son;

Item, I give and bequeath the lease of my farm in Minster in the Isle of Thanet with all the stock of corn and cattle thereupon to my sons, Richard and William, jointly during the term yet to come;

Item, I give to my son, Richard, two hundred pounds towards his charges at his entering into his lands after my decease;

Item, I will that beside such legacies as be particularly mentioned in this my will and testament, that my executors shall pay all such legacies as shall be contained in a schedule annexed to this my last will and testament and written with my own hand or at least subscribed with mine own hand;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my son, William Cooke, the sum of five hundred pounds of good and lawful money of England;

Item, I do make, ordain, constitute and appoint mine executors of this my present testament and last will the right honourable Sir Nicholas Bacon, knight, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England, the right honourable the Lord of Burghley, Lord Treasurer of England, Richard Cooke and William Cooke, my sons above-named, and I give and bequeath to the said right honourable Sir Nicholas Bacon, knight, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England, for and in consideration of his Lordship's pains and travails to be taken in and about the execution of this my present testament and last will the sum of two hundred pounds of good and lawful money of England, and the forenamed right honourable the Lord Burghley, Lord Treasurer of England, for and in consideration of his Lordship's pains and travail also to be taken in and about the execution of this my

present last will and testament the sum of two hundred pounds of like lawful money of England;

All the residue of my goods, chattels, debts, ready money, plate, jewels and else whatsoever, my debts and legacies paid and funerals deducted, I give and bequeath to the above-named Richard Cooke, my son;

Moreover this is my last will and testament of all my lands, tenements and hereditaments as hereafter followeth:

First, I will that my son, William Cooke, and my daughter, his wife, shall have the manors of Magdalen Laver, Marskallesburie and Haughams and Wythers in the county of Essex in such order and sort and with such remainders as is by covenant agreed upon between my Lady Grey and me in writing upon the marriage had between him and his wife;

Item, I will that my daughter-in-law, wife to my foresaid son, Richard Cooke, shall have for term of her life the manor of Chaldwell with the appurtenances in the county of Essex, and the manor of Ryden Court [=Redencourt?] with the appurtenances in Havering in the said county in full recompense and satisfaction of all jointure and dower that she may claim out of my lands or that shall come to her husband after my decease, with like remainders as be contained hereafter in the next article following for my other lands;

Item, I will that my son, Richard, shall immediately after my decease have to him and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten all the residue of my lands, tenements and hereditaments not before particularly named in this my will, and for default of such issue to remain to my son, William, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to the heirs females of the body of the said Richard, and for default of such issue to the issue female of my son, William, lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to my daughter of Burghley, my daughter Bacon, my daughter Russell, and my daughter Killigrew and to th' heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to the right heirs of me, the said Anthony Cooke, knight;

In witness whereof to this my present last will & testament I have subscribed my name and set to my seal the day and year first above-written, these being witnesses. Anthony Cooke. Nono Iunij 1576. Witnesses at his confirmation of this to be his last will, and that he renounceth all former: W. Burghley; Gabriel Goodman; Decanus Westmonasterij [=Dean of Westminster]; W. Cooke, George Harrison, notary; Richard Cooke's wife; Henry Killigrew's wife; John Escott.

The legacies of Sir Anthony Cooke, knight, mentioned in the schedule annexed to his last will

Inprimis, to my Lady of Oxford, fifty pounds;

Item, to my Lord of Leicester, the choice of two such stone horse as be in Havering Park;

Item, to Robert Cecil, twenty pounds;

Item, to Elizabeth Cecil, twenty pounds;

Item, to my daughter Killigrew, threescore pounds;

Item, to Anthony Bacon, twenty pounds;

Item, to Francis Bacon, twenty pounds;

To Edward Hoby, ten pounds;

Item, to Thomas Posthumous Hoby, ten pounds;

Item, to Marie Cooke, three portagues;

Item, Anne Cooke, three portagues;

Item, to Anne Killigrew, five portagues;

Item, to my cousin Skinner, ten pounds;

Item, to my cousin Ogle, five pounds;

Item, to John Escott, my servant, three pounds six shillings eight pence;

Item, to Edward Davie, my servant, three pounds;

To Richard Howell, my servant, three pounds;

Item, to every other serving-man being my household servant at my death, in number three, forty shillings apiece;

Item, to every other hind, woman-servant and boy, being in number fifteen, at twenty shillings apiece, fifteen pounds;

Summa totalis: two hundred fourscore thirteen pounds sixteen shillings eight pence.

Probatum fuit Testamentum huiusmodi coram Magistro Willelmo Drewrie Legum Doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cantuariensis Commissario apud london quinto die mensis Marcij Anno domini iuxta computacionem Ecclesie Anglicane Millesimo Quingentesimo Septuagesimo sexto Iuramento Magistri Georgij Harrison Notarij publici Procuratoris

Modern spelling transcript copyright ©2010 Nina Green All Rights Reserved

<http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/>

Richardi Cooke vnius Executorum in Testamento huiusmodi nominatorum Cui Comissa fuit Administracio &c de bene &c ac de pleno et fideli Inuentario Necnon de plano et vero Compoto &c Iurati reseruata potestate Ceteris Executoribus in huiusmodi testamento nominatis cum venerint &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 fifth day of the month of March in the year of the Lord according to the computation of the English Church the thousand five hundred seventy-sixth by the oath of Master George Harrison, notary public, proctor of Richard Cooke, one of the executors named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., and [+to prepare] a full and faithful inventory, and also [+to render] a plain and true account etc., with power reserved to the other executors named in the same testament when they shall have come etc.]