

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 24 August 1584 and proved 1 September 1584, of Thomas Cooper of Thurgarton, Nottinghamshire, whose brother and heir, William Cooper, married Dorothy Trentham, the sister of Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham (d.1613).

For the Trentham pedigree, see Grazebrook, H. Sidney, ed., *The Heraldic Visitations of Staffordshire*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1885), p. 289 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=gfwcAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA289>

The testator was the grandson of William Cooper (d.1550) and his wife, Cecily Tolley, the daughter and heir of John Tolley of London. See the 1569 pedigree in Marshall, George William, ed., *The Visitations of the County of Nottingham in the Years 1569 and 1614*, (London: Harleian Society, 1871), Vol. IV, p. 140 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/visitationsofcou00flow#page/140/mode/2up>

For the will of William Cooper (d.1550), which mentions his wife Cecily, his three sons Thomas, William, and Richard, and his daughter Olive (who married Edward Sutton of Aversham), see Clay, J.W., *North Country Wills*, (London: Bernard Quaritch, 1908), pp. 211-12 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/northcountrywill00surtuoft#page/210/mode/2up>

For Olive Cooper's husband, Edward Sutton, who was the half brother of Lord Cobham's sister-in-law, Anne Sutton (d.1612), see Anne Sutton's will, TNA PROB 11/119/37, and:

Robert Thoroton, 'Averham', in Thoroton's History of Nottinghamshire: Volume 3, Republished With Large Additions By John Throsby, ed. John Throsby (Nottingham, 1796), pp. 106-113 <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/thoroton-notts/vol3/pp106-113>.

The pedigree indicates that the testator, his brother, William, and his sisters, Anne and Joan, were the children of Thomas Cooper and Eleanor Stanhope, the daughter of the courtier Sir Michael Stanhope (b. before 1508, d.1552) and his wife Anne Rawson (c.1515-1588), the daughter of Nicholas Rawson of Aveley, Essex. See the inscription on the tomb of Anne (nee Rawson) Stanhope in Shelford Church in Brown, Cornelius, *Lives of Nottinghamshire Worthies*, (London: H. Sotheran & Co., 1882), p. 109, at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=14ZQAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA109>

*By Sir Michael she had these children, Sir Thomas Stanhope of Shelford in the County of Nottingham, knight; Eleanor, married to Thomas Cooper of Thurgarton in Com. Nottingham, esquire; Edward Stanhope, esquire, one of her Majesty's Council in the north parts of England; Julian, married to John Hotham of Scarborough in Com.*

*Eborum, esquire; John Stanhope, esquire, one of the Gentlemen of the Privy Chamber to our most dear Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth; Jane, married to Sir Roger Townshend of Eyam in Com. Norfolk; Edward Stanhope, Doctor of the Civil Law, one of her Majesty's High Court of Chancery; Michael Stanhope, esquire, one of the Privy Chamber to Queen Elizabeth; besides Margaret, William and Edward, who died in their infancy.*

In the will below the testator mentions his brother and heir, William Cooper, and his 'sister Coote'. Both are mentioned in the will, dated 28 February 1603 and proved 25 March 1608, of the testator's uncle, Sir Edward Stanhope (d. 10 March 1608). See TNA PROB 11/111/228:

*Item, I do give to my nephew, William Cooper, the heir of my late sister, Eleanor Cooper of Thurgarton in the county of Nottingham, deceased, to remain to himself during his life and to the heirs of his house after his decease, and so from heir to heir of that house, one basin and ewer of silver and gilt of the same weight, fashion, engraved arms and crest, with words as is set down to my nephew, John Stanhope, for his basin and ewer before.*

*Item, I do give to my nephew [=great-nephew], Thomas Coote, son to my niece Anne Coote, who I desire should be continued in his learning as I have hitherto brought him up in Westminster, so long as he shall continue a scholar there or a student in either of the universities of Cambridge or Oxford, towards his relief and bringing up in learning, eight pounds yearly to be paid to him or to his tutor, so long as he shall continue under the government of any, by my executor or executors quarterly by even portions, but if he shall depart from his study in any of those places and not continue his study in the one of those universities until he shall have taken the degree of Master of Arts, then upon his such departure, that payment of eight pounds by year to cease and be determined, and if the said Thomas Coote shall continue scholar, fellow or a continual student in any college within either of the foresaid universities, then shall my executor or executors pay unto him in manner aforesaid the said yearly payment of eight pounds until he shall have been full seven years Master of Arts, at the end of which seven, after his ordinary degree of Master of Arts by him taken, my executor or executors shall pay unto him the full sum of one hundred pounds of current English money.*

Sir Edward Stanhope also leaves a bequest to a daughter of Anne (nee Cooper) Coote:

*Item, I give unto my niece [=great-niece], Eleanor Coote, daughter unto my niece, Anne Coote, if she be unmarried at the time of my death or if it shall not appear that at her marriage or otherwise before my death I shall have bestowed so much upon her, the sum of one hundred pounds of lawful English money.*

It would appear that Thomas Coote, who had been a scholar at Westminster, was enrolled at Trinity College, Cambridge, by the time Sir Edward Stanhope completed his will:

*Item, I do give all my books in Hebrew, Greek, French, Latin and Italian which be not by me already given to Trinity College library in Cambridge in manner as is above in this will set down to my two nephews, George Stanhope and Thomas Coote, now scholars of*

*Trinity College in Cambridge, to be apportioned indifferently betwixt them, my nephew, George Stanhope, making the first choice of his book, and my nephew, Thomas Coote, making the second choice, and so each of them successively until they shall have divided all the said books betwixt them, and if either of them shall have forsaken or left the university before my death, then I will that whether of them shall [+have] any brother a continuer and student in either of the universities of Cambridge or Oxford, that brother so continuing as a student there shall have the books by me given to his brother departed from the said university in his foresaid brother's place.*

Evidence that Thomas Coote and George Stanhope (d.1644), later chaplain in ordinary to Charles I, were students at Trinity College Cambridge, and were living on 22 June 1615, is found in Clark, Andrew, ed., *Register of the University of Oxford, Vol. II, (1571-1622), Part I*, (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1887), *The Yorkshire Archaeological and Topographical Journal*, (London: Bradbury, Evans, 1870), Vol. I, p. 372, at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=qQEVA AAAQAAJ&pg=PA372>

Moreover two of Anne Coote's sons, Thomas and William Coote, are mentioned in the will of the testator's aunt, Jane (nee Stanhope) Townshend Berkeley (d. 3 January 1618) (see TNA PROB 11/131/287).

There is considerable confusion with respect to the identity of the testator's brother-in-law, Nicholas Coote. It would appear that there were two persons of the same name, one of whom married the testator's sister, Anne Cooper, by whom he had several sons and daughters, possibly including Sir Charles Coote (d.1642), while the other was knighted by King James, married Elizabeth Harvey, the daughter of Sir George Harvey (d. 10 August 1605), Lieutenant of the Tower, and died 1 September 1633 without issue.

The confusion has resulted from the fact that both Nicholas Cootes are shown in various pedigrees as the son of Richard Coote (born c.1529) and Elizabeth Felton, the daughter of Thomas Felton, gentleman, of Wilton, Norfolk. It is possible that Richard Coote and Elizabeth Felton had two sons, both named Nicholas. However it seems more likely that the pedigree of Coote in the *Visitations of Essex, infra*, is in error, and that *Sir* Nicholas Coote has been wrongly placed in that pedigree.

For the Coote pedigree from the visitation of Norfolk taken in 1563 see Dashwood, G.H., ed., *The Visitation of Norfolk in the Year 1563*, (Norwich: Miller and Leavins, 1878), Vol. I, p. 85.

For the Coote pedigree which includes information from visitations in Norfolk in 1563, 1589 and 1613, see Rye, Walter, ed., *The Visitation of Norfolk*, (London: Harleian Society, 1891), Vol. XXXII, p. 83 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=HS8EAAAIAAJ&pg=PA83>

For the Coote pedigree which includes information from visitations in Essex in 1552, 1558, 1570, 1612 and 1634, see Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex, Part II*, (London: Harleian Society, 1879), Vol. XIV, p. 565 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsesse00britgoog#page/n39/mode/2up>

The will of Sir George Harvey (see TNA PROB 11/106/73), which mentions his daughter, Dame Elizabeth Coote, and his son-in-law, Sir Nicholas Coote, whom he appoints as one of his overseers, confirms that *Sir* Nicholas Coote's wife was Elizabeth Harvey, not Anne Cooper, as do Sir George Harvey's funeral certificate, and monument in Romford. For the funeral certificate, see Howard, Joseph Jackson, *The Visitation of Suffolk, 1561*, Vol. II, (Lowestoft: Samuel Tymms, 1871), p. 158 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=LCgAAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA158>

For the monument, see Ogborne, Elizabeth, *The History of Essex*, (London, 1814), p. 124 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=IeVSAAAACAAJ&pg=PA124>

These sources are contradicted by a pedigree in Howard, *supra*, p. 139, which states that Sir George Harvey's daughter, Elizabeth Harvey, married Richard Cooke. It is possible that this was Elizabeth Harvey's first marriage, and that she later married Sir Nicholas Coote, but it seems more likely that that pedigree is also in error.

Nicholas Coote was knighted by King James on 23 July 1603. See Shaw, William A., *The Knights of England*, (London: Sherratt and Hughes, 1906), Vol. II, p. 117:

*23 July 1603 Nicholas Cotes (Coote) of Barking, Essex*

He would also appear to have been the Nicholas Coote who was admitted to Gray's Inn in 1569. See Foster, Joseph, *The Register of Admissions of Gray's Inn, 1521-1889*, (London: The Hansard Publishing Union, 1889), p. 39 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/cu31924029785452#page/n43/mode/2up>

*fol. 603*

*1569 Nicholas Coote*

*Sir* Nicholas Coote, who is stated to have died without issue on 1 September 1633, was thus an entirely different person from the Nicholas Coote who married the testator's sister, Anne Cooper, and according to the pedigree in Rye, *supra*, by her had three sons, Charles, Thomas and William, and two daughters, Eleanor and Mary.

In the pedigree in Rye, *supra*, it is said that Anne Coote's eldest son was Charles Coote. He is usually identified as Sir Charles Coote (d.1642), 1<sup>st</sup> Baronet, for whom see the

*ODNB* article. Charles Coote is not mentioned in the wills of his Stanhope uncle and aunt, *supra*; however it seems likely that he can in fact be identified with Sir Charles Coote (d.1642), who was knighted in Ireland 5 November 1616. See:

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/rd/46563ec0-a71a-49ea-8684-5ddd7238c521>

A 'Mr Coote', who may have been Anne Cooper's son, Charles Coote, is mentioned in the will of Sir James Hales (d.1589), to whose wife Robert Greene dedicated *Menaphon* (see TNA PROB 11/75/265).

For the testator's nephew, Charles Coote, see also:

<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=ancestorsearch&id=I9659&style=TEXT>

It is also perhaps worth mentioning that in his nuncupative will of 12 January 1590, Francis Coote, esquire, of St Anne's in the Blackfriars, gentleman-usher to Queen Elizabeth and brother of Christopher Coote of Norfolk, left all his goods to his wife, Anne Coote, who is said to have later married Sir Ralph Bouchier and to have died in August 1598. See the will of Francis Coote, TNA PROB 11/75/72; Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 290; and the History of Parliament entry for Sir Ralph Bouchier (d.1598) at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/bouchier-ralph-1531-98>

It would appear that the testator's father died in 1571, as on 20 March of that year the testator's uncle, Sir Thomas Stanhope (1540-1596), petitioned for the testator's wardship. See Lemon, Robert, ed., *Calendar of State Papers, Domestic Series, of the Reigns of Edward VI, Mary, Elizabeth 1547-1580*, (London: Longman, Brown, 1856), p. 367 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=EVU4AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA367>

*20 March [1570], Shelford*

*Thomas Stanhope to Sir William Cecil. Is an humble suitor for the wardship of his sister's child, eldest son of Thomas Cooper, of Thurgarton, Notts.*

The testator's uncle, Sir Thomas Stanhope is also named as one of the testator's executors in the will below.

For the testator's uncle, Sir Michael Stanhope, named in the will below, see his will, TNA PROB 11/139/119.

The testator leaves a bequest of 'one stoned horse pied' to his cousin, Sir John Stanhope (d.1611), the son of his uncle and executor Sir Thomas Stanhope (1540-1596), who was

another of Oxford's brothers-in-law. For the will of Oxford's brother-in-law, Sir John Stanhope (d.1611), see TNA PROB 11/117/473. For the will of Oxford's sister-in-law, Lady Katherine (nee Trentham) Stanhope, see TNA PROB 11/137/516. In her will Katherine (nee Trentham) Stanhope leaves a bequest to her brother-in-law and Oxford's, William Cooper:

*And to my good brothers, Francis Trentham and William Cooper, esquires, either of them a gold ring of twenty shillings' price.*

The testator's brother and heir, William Cooper, and his wife, Dorothy (nee Trentham) Cooper, are also mentioned in the will of Oxford's father-in-law, Thomas Trentham (d.1587) of Rocester (see TNA PROB 11/72/372):

*Also I give and bequeath unto Dorothy Cooper, my second daughter, for a remembrance, one silver bowl gilt.*

*Also I bequeath unto my son Stanhope and my son Cooper each of them one gelding, that is to say, to my son Stanhope the ambling grey gelding in Throwley Park, and to my son Cooper the gelding that was bought of widow Backlowe.*

The testator's brother and heir, William Cooper, is also mentioned in the will of Oxford's brother-in-law, Thomas Trentham (d.1605?) of Rocester (see TNA PROB 11/105/392):

*Item, I give unto my well-beloved brother-in-law, Mr William Cooper of Thurgarton, esquire, a needlework purse and twenty pounds in gold.*

RM: T{estamentum} Thome Cooper

In the name of God, so be it. This 24th of August one thousand five hundred eighty-four, I, Thomas Cooper of Thurgarton in the county of Nottingham, esquire, being sick of body but yet of sufficient remembrance and whole in mind, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following, and do hereby revoke all former wills whatsoever made by me:

And first I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my Creator, firmly trusting and believing to be an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven through the merits of the passion of Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of me and all mankind which do put their trust and believe in him, and my body to be buried in the earth in the church of Thurgarton;

Item, I do hereby ordain and make my loving brother and heir, William Cooper, and my loving uncle, Sir Thomas Stanhope, knight, my true and lawful executors, or executor in my brother's minority, faithfully to execute this my last will and testament;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my said brother, William Cooper, my lease and all those term of years which I have of the towns of Thurgarton, Horningham and Flintham, as well of the lands as also all tithes there and thereto belonging, when he cometh to his full age;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my uncle, Sir Thomas Stanhope, my gray ambling gelding which I bought last at Bartholomew Fair;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my loving cousin, Nicholas Sutton, one trotting gray gelding which I bought of Mr William Gorge;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my friend, Robert Stockwell, forty pounds and one good gelding;

Item, I give unto my servant, William Poysier, the farm in Thurgarton in th' occupation of one Lawrence Smyth from Michaelmas next following during the term of one and twenty years fully to be complete, yielding and paying for the same the old and accustomed rent upon condition he be true to my heir and executors;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my servants, Thomas Crosse, William Moure(?), Thomas Smith, John Pulton, six pounds thirteen shillings four pence to each of them, to be paid by my executors over and besides the debts and wages due unto them within one month after my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath unto every other of my household servants, as well men-servants as women servants, to each of them twenty shillings over and besides wages due unto them;

Item, I give unto William Baynton, my servant, six pounds thirteen shillings four pence;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Thomas Poulton, my godson, six pounds thirteen shillings four pence;

Item, I give and bequeath unto [+my] loving aunt, Mrs Olive Sutton, such chamber room in my house of Thurgarton as she now useth to lie in during her natural life;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my said aunt, Olive Sutton, twenty pounds by year, to be taken out of all my lands, tenements and hereditaments and other my livings during her natural life;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my sister Coote one tablet of gold in the keeping of Poyser and Baynton, and an hundred pounds in money;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my loving uncle, William Cooper, the farm he now dwelleth in [+in] Horningham during his natural life, paying the old and accustomed rent for the same;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my two nephews, the sons of Richard Cooper, to each of them forty shillings;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my loving uncle, Michael Stanhope, my bay trotting gelding and twenty pounds money;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my loving aunt Townshend one ring which is in Poyser['s] keeping which is called a snake's-head;

Item, I give unto every of my uncles by my mother's side, to each of them one piece of gold of twenty shillings called a double sufferand [=sovereign];

Item, I give unto my loving cousin, John Stanhope, one stoned horse pied which I bought of my uncle, Michael Stanhope;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my servant, Robert Clerk, one gold ring of forty shillings for a remembrance;

Item, I will that all such debts as I owe unto any person which are due debts shall be paid by my executors to all men justly and duly without delay for the discharge of my credit and honesty, which I have always meant to maintain;

Item, my debts, legacies and funerals being paid and discharged, I do give unto my loving brother, William Cooper, and my loving uncle, Sir Thomas Stanhope, my executors of this my last will, all the rest of my goods, household stuff, plate, jewels, money, apparel, linen, leases and other movements [sic?] whatsoever, with my debts and conveyances, cattle and sheep, so as my said brother may have a true account made of them, and the same to be delivered unto him, my said brother, when he cometh to the age of twenty-one years, and not before, in which my meaning is that this aforesaid article of my gift and legacy of my goods, household stuff, plate, jewels, money, apparel, linen, leases, cattle and sheep and the interest thereof shall be to my foresaid brother William only, and my said uncle, Sir Thomas Stanhope, to have the same and to account for it or the worth thereof and of every parcel thereof to my brother's use, and not otherways, and so to have the same paid and account[ed] for unto my said brother, William, as beforesaid when he shall come to the age of one and twenty years as beforesaid, and not otherways, nor to the use of any other, except to my said uncle only, if my foresaid brother fortune to die before he have the same;

In witness that this is my last will I have hereunto set my hand;

Item, I give unto my friend, Mr Edmund Ellways, one ring for a remembrance worth forty shillings;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my loving friend, Owen Oglethorpe, a falcon called Anne, and to Mr Stockwell I bequeath my falcon called Lady. Thomas Cooper.

Item, I will that all such conveyance of lands, goods and leases or sums of money or inheritance, chattels, goods or movements [sic?] whatsoever as my servant, John Grondy, or my servant, Edward Pavis alias Barram, or any other jointly with them or of themselves have or of right out to have to my use, that he and they shall justly and truly answer and deliver and perform the same to my brother with my executors as they and every of them shall be thereunto required without delay. Thomas Cooper.

Item, I give & bequeath unto my servant, Edward Pavis alias Barram, a lease of the mills he hath of mine in occupation and such other tenement as he hath of mine during the term of twenty and one years, paying the accustomed rent for the same and upon condition he be true to my heir and to my executors;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my servant, John Grondy, by this my last will and testament, to have, hold, occupy and enjoy that tenement which is in his own occupation from the time of my decease unto the end and term of his natural life and his son, Michael Grondy, and to the longer liver of them two upon condition aforesaid;

Item, I give & bequeath unto Margery Grondy, my nurse, five marks for a remembrance;

Item, whereas I owe unto my servant, William Posyer, a certain sum of money, be it known by these presents that I have now given unto him, the said William, in full satisfaction thereof, fourscore pounds in the presence of my uncle, Sir Thomas Stanhope, and Owen Oglethorpe;

And in witness that all this above-written is meant by me to be parcel of my will, I have again set my hand unto this as I have before done to the rest in the presence of Owen Oglethorpe, William Poyser. Thomas Cooper.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum apud London Coram mag<sup>ist</sup>ro Will<sup>el</sup>mo Mowse Legum Doctore Surrogato Venerabilis viri mag<sup>ist</sup>ri Will<sup>el</sup>mi Drury Legum etiam Doctoris curie prerogatiue Cantuarien<sup>sis</sup> commissario etc Primo die mensis Septembris Anno Domini mill<sup>es</sup>imo quingentesimo octogesimo quarto Iuramento xpoferi Smith notarij publici procuratoris Domini Thome Stanhope militis vnus executor<sup>um</sup> etc Cui commissa fuit administracio etc De bene etc Iurat<sup>i</sup> Res<sup>er</sup>uata potestate similem commissionem faciend<sup>i</sup> Will<sup>el</sup>mo Coop<sup>er</sup> fr<sup>atr</sup>i dict<sup>i</sup> defunct<sup>i</sup> et executori in h<sup>uius</sup>mo<sup>d</sup>i testamento nominat<sup>o</sup> cum venerit eam petitur<sup>o</sup>

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before Master William Mowse, Doctor of the Laws, Surrogate of the worshipful Master William Drury, also Doctor of the Laws, Commissary etc. of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the first day of the month of September in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred eighty-fourth by the oath of Christopher Smith, notary public, proctor of Sir Thomas Stanhope, knight,

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one of the executors etc., to whom administration was granted etc., sworn to well etc., with power reserved for a similar commission to be made to William Cooper, brother of the said deceased and executor named in the same testament, when he shall have come to petition the same.]