

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 20 February 1598 and proved 20 July 1599, of Sir Charles Morison (1549 - 31 March 1599), only legitimate son and heir of Sir Richard Morison (c.1510 – 20 March 1557) by his wife, Bridget (nee Hussey), later Countess of Bedford. For the wills of the testator's parents see TNA PROB 11/94/168 and TNA PROB 11/97/10.

### ***FAMILY BACKGROUND***

The testator's father died as a Marian exile at Strasbourg while the testator was underage, and his wardship was granted to John Throckmorton (c.1520-1580), seventh son of Sir George Throckmorton (d.1552):

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/morison-charles-1549-99>

*Charles Morison was probably with his parents in Strasbourg as a child, but he had presumably returned to England with his mother by July 1557, when his wardship was granted to John Throckmorton I, despite his father's expressed wish that his wardship should be granted to Katherine, Duchess of Suffolk, whose religious views coincided with his own.*

### ***Testator's siblings***

The testator had two sisters of the whole blood:

**-Jane Sibilla Morison** (1552-1615), who married firstly Edward Russell (d.1572), eldest son and heir of Francis Russell (1527-1585), 2nd Earl of Bedford. Administration of his estate was granted to her on 30 June 1572. She married secondly, as his second wife, Arthur Grey (1536-1593), 14th Baron Grey of Wilton, by whom she had a son, Thomas Grey (1575-1614), 15<sup>th</sup> Baron Grey of Wilton, who along with the testator's mother and the Earl of Kent was granted the wardship and marriage of the testator's son and heir, Charles Morison (1587-1628). The testator's nephew, Thomas Grey, was knighted by Essex in Ireland on 12 July 1599, and two years later was one of those who judged Essex and Southampton. From the *ODNB*:

*Grey was one of the peers who sat in judgment on Essex and the earl of Southampton after their insurrection of 8 February 1601. Hearing Grey's name read out at the trial, Essex turned to his co-defendant, laughed, and tugged Southampton by the sleeve. Indeed, it seems that Southampton rather than Essex was the particular foe. He and Grey had come close to duelling in 1600, and their quarrel had rumbled on ever since. Early in 1601 Chamberlain tells how the two peers 'had a little bickering in the Strand on*

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*horsebacke, for the which the Lord Grey was committed to the Fleet' (Letters of John Chamberlain, 1.115).*

The testator's nephew, Thomas Grey, was later condemned to death for his involvement in the Bye plot, but was pardoned on the scaffold and spent the remainder of his life in the Tower.

The Earl of Kent who shared the wardship of the testator's son, Charles Morison (1587-1628), was Henry Grey (1541 – d. 31 January 1615), 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Kent, younger brother of Reginald Grey (d. 17 March 1573), 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Kent, whose wife, Susan Bertie, was the sister-in-law of Oxford's sister, Mary de Vere (d.1624).

The testator leaves his sister, Jane Sibilla Morison, the following bequest:

*I do also give unto my honourable sister, the Lady Grey, a cup of the like value, praying them both to yield their best advice to my son, to whose favour I do recommend him.*

The testator also mentions his regard for Jane's deceased husband, Arthur, Lord Grey of Wilton:

*I further give unto my said son my long velvet cloak furred with the fur that was my Lord Grey's, willing him to keep the same as a thing worn by him whom I dearly loved.*

For the will of the testator's sister, Jane Sibilla Morison, see TNA PROB 11/126/40.

**-Elizabeth Morison** (died c. 4 July 1611), who married firstly, William Norris (c.1545 - 25 December 1579), by whom she was the mother of Francis Norris (1579-1622), 2nd Baron Norris of Rycote, to whom the Queen stood godmother. In the will below the testator bequeaths 'my sorrel bald mare' to 'my well-beloved nephew, Mr Francis Norris'. For William Norris, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/norris-william-1545-79>

After the death of William Norris, Elizabeth Morison married secondly, after 20 October 1586, Henry Clinton (1539-1616), 2nd Earl of Lincoln, by whom she had two sons, Henry Clinton and Robert Clinton, named in the will of their grandmother, Bridget (nee Hussey), TNA PROB 11/97/10. For an incident in 1603 involving Oxford and Henry Clinton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Lincoln, see TNA SP 14/3/77, ff. 134-5 and TNA SP 14/4/14, ff. 27-9. See also the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/clinton-sir-henry-1616>.

Elizabeth Morison's second marriage may have resulted from the fact that Lincoln's first wife, Katherine Hastings, was the sister-in-law of Katherine Dudley (d.1604), sister of

Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick, husband of Elizabeth Morison's stepsister, Anne Russell (see below). See Cross, Claire, *The Puritan Earl: The Life of Henry Hastings, Third Earl of Huntingdon, 1536-1595*, (London: Macmillan, 1966), p. 344.

In the will below the testator leaves the following bequest to his sister Elizabeth:

*I do further give unto my honourable sister, the Countess of Lincoln, a cup of ten pounds in value, praying her to accept the same as a mean show of my last good wishes.*

The testator's father, Sir Richard Morison, also had several illegitimate children by his mistress, Lucy Peckham (1504 – 31 July 1552), daughter of Thomas Peckham, and wife of Sir George Harper (d. 8 November 1558). For Sir George Harper, see his will, TNA PROB 11/42A/75), and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/harper-george-1503-58>

For Lucy Peckham, see the entry in 'A Who's Who of Tudor Women' at:

[http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page\\_id=701](http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=701)

After the death of the testator's father, Sir Richard Morison, the testator's mother, Bridget (nee Hussey), married secondly, Henry Manners (1526-1563), 2nd Earl of Rutland, and thirdly, Francis Russell (1526/7-1585), 2nd Earl of Bedford.

For the testator's stepbrothers and stepsister by his mother's second marriage, see her will.

By his mother's third marriage the testator had four stepbrothers and three stepsisters:

-**Edward Russell** (d.1572), who about 1571 married the testator's sister, Jane Sibilla Morison (see above). Administration of his estate was granted to his widow on 30 June 1572.

-**John Russell** (d. 24 July 1584), who on 23 December 1574 married Lady Burghley's sister, Elizabeth Cooke (1528-1609), for whom see the *ODNB* article and the biography of her by Chris Laoutaris, *Shakespeare and the Countess: The Battle That Gave Birth to the Globe*, (London: Fig Tree, 2014).

-**Francis Russell** (d. 27 July 1585), who on 15 July 1571 married Juliana Foster or Forster, by whom he was the father of Edward Russell (1572-1627), 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Bedford, who in 1591 was suggested as a husband for Oxford's eldest daughter, Elizabeth Vere (1575-1627). See TNA SP 12/238/69, f. 100.

-**William Russell** (c.1553-1613), 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Russell of Thornhaugh and Lord Deputy of Ireland, who on 13 February 1585 married Elizabeth Long (d.1611), daughter and heir of

Henry Long (1544-1573) of Shingay, Cambridgeshire, and the testator's wife, Dorothy Clerke (see below). The testator makes to following bequest to William Russell and his wife in the will below:

*Item, my further will is that all such household stuff and furniture as now is [+or?] at the time of my death shall be in the manor house of Shingay in the county of Cambridge shall accrue and remain wholly, together with the said house, unto Sir William Russell, knight, and the Lady his wife, at such time as the said house is to accrue and grow unto them.*

The testator's stepbrother was the William Russell who arrived in Paris with Oxford in late March 1576 (see TNA SP 70/137, ff. 322-3).

Anne (nee Russell) Dudley (1549–1604), Countess of Warwick, who was appointed as a Maid of Honour to Queen Elizabeth in 1559, and who married, at the age of sixteen in the Queen's chapel at Whitehall Palace on 11 November 1565, Leicester's brother, Ambrose Dudley (c.1530-1590), Earl of Warwick (c.1530–1590). See the *ODNB* entry. The testator leaves a bequest to her in the will below.

**-Elizabeth Russell** (1558-1605), who married William Bouchier (1557-1623), 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Bath.

**-Margaret Russell** (1560–1616), who married George Clifford (1558-1605), 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Cumberland, by whom she was the mother of Lady Anne Clifford (1590–1676). See the *ODNB* entry.

For the testator's stepbrothers and stepsisters, see also Cokayne, George Edward, *The Complete Peerage*, Vol. II, (London: St Catherine Press, 1912), pp. 75-8, and Brydges, Egerton, *Collins's Peerage of England*, Vol. I, (London: F.C. and J. Rivington, 1812), pp. 272-4 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=-vI6AAAIAAJ&pg=PA273>

### ***MARRIAGE AND ISSUE***

The testator married Dorothy Clerke, the stepdaughter of Lord Burghley's long-time servant, Roger Alford (c.1530-1580), who had married Elizabeth (nee Ramsey), widow of Nicholas Clerke (d.1551), and daughter of Thomas Ramsey (d.1524) by Pernell Baldwin (d.1527), one of the daughters and coheirs of Sir John Baldwin (d.1545), Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. See the will of Roger Alford, TNA PROB 11/62/442, in which the testator was appointed one of the 'curators' of Alford's son during his minority; the will of Elizabeth (nee Ramsey) Clerke Alford, TNA PROB 11/92/437, in which the testator was appointed one of the overseers; and Barnett, Richard C., *Place, Profit and Power; A Study of the Servants of William Cecil, Elizabethan Statesman* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1969), pp. 24-8. See also the History of Parliament entry for Roger Alford:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/alford-roger-1530-80>

According to the History of Parliament entry for the testator, Dorothy Clerke had earlier been the wife of Henry Long (1544-1573) of Shingay, Cambridgeshire, the eldest son of Sir Richard Long (d.1546) of Shingay, and Draycot, Wiltshire, and his wife Margaret Donington (d.1561), the widow of Sir Thomas Kitson (1485-1540) of Hengrave, Suffolk. For the will of Henry Long, dated 30 March and proved 16 April 1573, see TNA PROB 11/55/169. In his will, Long mentions his friend, William Walter the younger, who was perhaps the William Walter who was Oxford's servant and to whom Oxford granted a 40-year lease in reversion of Colne Park by indenture dated 12 April 1580 (see TNA C 54/1080).

By Dorothy Clerke, Henry Long (d.1573) had an only child, Elizabeth Long (d.1611), who was four years old at her father's death. As noted above, Long's widow, Dorothy (nee Clerke) Long, married the testator, and on 13 February 1585 at Watford her daughter, Elizabeth Long (d.1611), married the testator's stepbrother, William Russell (c.1553-1613), 1st Baron Russell of Thornhaugh. See the *ODNB* entry for William Russell, and the History of Parliament entry for Henry Long:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/long-henry-1544-73>

By his wife, Dorothy Clerke, the testator had a son and a daughter:

\* **Sir Charles Morison** (1587-1628), who married Mary Hicks, the daughter of Baptist Hicks (1551?-1629), younger brother of Lord Burghley's secretary, Sir Michael Hicke (1543-1612)

\* **Bridget Morison** (1575-1623), who married Robert Radcliffe (1573-1629), 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Sussex, to whom, respectively, Robert Greene dedicated *Euphues' Shadow* and *Lady Fitzwater's Nightingale*. From the *ODNB*:

*In or before 1592 [Robert Radcliffe (1573-1629), 5th Earl of Sussex] married Bridget (bap. 1575, d. 1623), the eldest daughter of Sir Charles Morison of Cassiobury, Hertfordshire. The couple gained a reputation as literary patrons in the 1590s. In 1592 Robert Greene dedicated to Lord Fitzwalter Thomas Lodge's Euphues Shadow and to his wife Philomela, which he subtitled The Lady Fitzwater's Nightingale.*

For the family of the testator's wife, see the pedigree of Clerke of North Weston in Lee, Frederick George, *The History, Description and Antiquities of the Prebendal Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Thame*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1883), p. 310 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=f1oMAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA300>

See also the pedigree of Clerke of Hitcham in Betham, William, *The Baronetage of England*, Vol. I, (London: W. S. Betham, 1802), p. 118 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=QS8wAAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA118>

For Sir Dru Drury (1531/2–1617), whom the testator appoints as one of the overseers of his will, see the *ODNB* article.

For the Morison tombs in the Church of St Mary the Virgin in Watford, Hertfordshire, see Brayley, Edward Wedlake, *The Beauties of England and Wales*, Vol. VII, (London: Thomas Maiden, 1808), pp. 299-303 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=KXFbAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA300>

After the death of Lord Burghley on 4 August 1598, Oxford's two daughters, Bridget Vere (1584-1631) and Susan Vere (1587-1629), lived with the testator's mother, then Dowager Countess of Bedford. In late April or early May 1599, Bridget Vere married the testator's nephew, Francis Norris (1579-1622), at the Countess' house at Chenies. See BL MS Lansdowne 87/34, ff. 96-7; TNA SP 12/270/91, f. 159; TNA SP 12/270/101, f. 176; and TNA SP 12/272/95, f. 150.

For a letter dated 3 February 1602 from the testator's widow, Dorothy (nee Clerke) to Sir Robert Cecil (1563-1612) proposing that her son, Charles Morison (1587-1628), should marry Oxford's youngest daughter, Susan Vere, see CP 85-8.

It is perhaps a testimony to the close relationship between the testator's mother, Bridget (nee Hussey), Dowager Countess of Bedford, and the Cecil family that her step-grandson, Edward Russell (1572-1627), 3rd Earl of Bedford, was proposed as a husband for Oxford's eldest daughter, Elizabeth Vere (see above); her grandson Francis Norris married Oxford's middle daughter, Bridget Vere; and her grandson, Charles Morrison (1587-1628), was proposed as a husband for Oxford's youngest daughter, Susan Vere (see above).

The PCC copy of the testator's will contains some errors, including duplicate and incomplete bequests.

RM: T{estamentum} d{omi}ni Caroli Moryson

[f. 137r] In the name of God, Amen. I, Sir Charles Morison, knight, whole of mind, perfect of memory and of health of body, praised be my God, having entered into some great dealings in this world, and so desirous as well for the quiet of mine own conscience in discharging my debts as for disposing such goods and chattels as shall remain, my debts being paid, knowing death a most certain guest when it shall please the Lord to send him to summon me, am willing in this my quiet and peaceable time to make a

disposition of such worldly things as th' Almighty God hath of his own mercy and goodness lent me to be as his steward in this transitory world, do therefore ordain this my testament the twentieth day of February in the year of Our Lord God 1597 containing in it my last will in manner following:

First I recommend my soul unto the Almighty God, looking for salvation by the mere merits of mine only Saviour, Jesus Christ, and in him alone and in his death without any merit or desert of mine own to have peace and atonement with his Father and mine, my ransom being by him paid and my sins by his most precious blood cleansed, so as I rest by faith alone in him assured to appear before my God [f. 137v] as a loving Father, not as a severe judge, to receive through Christ the comfortable censure, 'Come, ye elect before the beginning of the world to the place of comfort prepared for you';

My body I will to be buried in Watford at the feet of my Lady, my honourable mother;

To the discharge of my funerals I give and allow three hundred pounds, willing my executors not exceed that proportion leaving divers debts to be satisfied and my will heavily charged, which I desire rather to have well performed than vainly to bestow upon the bringing my lump of clay to his last home, and therefore do charge my executor in this to follow my commandment and not exceed the said rate;

And whereas by the laws and statutes of this realm I may dispose of two parts of my lands as to me shall be thought good, leaving one third part thereof to descend unto my heir which her Majesty is to have during his minority by the wardship of my said heir, being within age, I do assign and set forth by this my will for a full third part of all my lands and tenements which I ought to leave to descend to my said son in possession, and during his minority ought to remain in the Queen's Majesty by reason of his wardship, all such messuages and hereditaments with th' appurtenances situate within the precinct of the late-dissolved monastery or priory of the White Friars near the city of London as hereafter is particularly named viz., one great house or tenement now in the tenure or occupation of Sir Thomas Leighton, knight, Miles Baron and Marshal of the yearly value of twenty-eight pounds; one great garden now turned into divers gardens and two wood-wharfs in the tenure of Thomas Payne or of his assigns of the yearly value of twenty pounds; and three other little tenements by the said great house of the yearly value of five marks, the yearly rents of all the which last above-mentioned premises be of a greater value than a full third part of all the lands and tenements which I now have or leave to descend in possession after such rate as they were valued by office found after the death of my late father, Sir Richard Morison, knight, and my hope is, and so is my humble suit to her Majesty and to the right honourable the Master of the Court of Wards that the same may be accepted and allowed of accordingly;

And whereas it hath pleased her Majesty of her princely grace and favour toward me and at my most humble suit to grant unto the right honourable Henry, Earl of Kent, Bridget, Countess of Bedford, my honourable good Lady and mother, and Thomas, Lord Grey of Wilton the custody and marriage of my said son, my full mind, will and meaning is to recommend his abode with his mother as the only comfort I have to leave her if she rest

unmarried, but if she happen to marry, I do then recommend his abode to my good Lady and mother;

For his education my desire is, after he pass the age of twelve years, to have him set to Cambridge with Mr Dutton(?), his schoolmaster, there to remain till he attain the age of seventeen at least to follow his book, and after that he hath fully attained the grounds of learning, to have some assigned to instruct him in the French and Italian, which tongues I greatly desire him to have and attain, willing my beloved wife that he attend my Lady my mother whensoever without her trouble it shall be her pleasure to have him, commanding him to be most dutiful to my Lady my mother, and in all his courses to be directed by her, of whose honourable care myself have had very good trial, and doubt not of her like honourable favour towards him as my son if he thereof shall be worthy, willing him to carry a special duty and regard to his mother, to whose care with the advice of my honourable good Lord, the Earl of Kent, and my honourable dearly beloved nephew, my Lord Grey, I do recommend him to be commanded in all his courses and actions;

And whereas I, the said Sir Charles, now stand and am possessed of and in the site of the late-dissolved monastery of Wardem [=Warden] in the county of Bedford, and of and in the grange there, and certain lands, meadows and pastures in the said county parcel of the possessions of the said [f. 138r] late-dissolved monastery, and of and in one mine of coals in the parish of Selston in the county of Nottingham by force and virtue of sundry letters patent from the Queen's Majesty under the Great Seal of England, and of and in certain lands, meadows, pastures and other tenements in King's Langley in the county of Hertford, and of the custody and keepership of the park there, together with the game of conies and the herbage and pannage of the said park by force and virtue of her said Majesty's grant under the seal of her Highness' Duchy of Lancaster for several terms of years not yet expired, now I, the said Sir Charles, do by this my present testament will, bequeath and devise unto my well-beloved son, Charles Morison, the said site, grange, lands, meadows, pastures, mine of coals, custody and keepership of the said park, game of conies, herbage and pannage of the said park with th' appurtenances and all and singular my several interest and terms for years therein together with the said letters patent and other conveyances concerning the same, to have and to hold all and singular the said-recited premises with th' appurtenances unto my said son, his executors and assigns, for and during all such several terms of years as at the time of my decease shall be to come and unexpired;

Notwithstanding my full will, mind and meaning is that my said son shall permit and suffer such person or persons as I by this my will shall set down and appoint to be co-executor with him of this my present testament to take and perceive the profits, rents and commodities of all and singular the said-mentioned premises during the minority of him, my said son, to such uses, intents and purposes as in this my said will is expressed and declared, for the full declaration and explanation whereof my will is that whereas I, the said Sir Charles, in the consideration of the sum of four hundred and fifty pounds of lawful English money have given and granted by my deed indented under my hand and seal unto Richard Morison, esquire, one annuity or annual rent of threescore and ten pounds of lawful English money for the term of forty years if he, the said Richard, shall



so long fortune to live, th' executor or executors of this my present testament and last will shall according to the purport and true meaning of my said deed indented well and truly satisfy, content and pay unto the said Richard Morison or his assigns the said annuity or annual rent during the minority of my said son;

And my further will is that my said son, when he shall have attained his full age of one and twenty years, shall likewise well and truly satisfy, content and pay unto the said Richard Morison or his assigns according to th' intention and true meaning of the said deed indented the said annuity or annual rent;

And for the convenient maintenance and entertainment of my said son during his minority, my will and meaning is that my well-beloved wife, being one of the executors of this my last will and testament, shall yearly out of the issues and profits of my said leases pay, dispose and employ for and towards the education, maintenance and bringing up of my said son the sum of two hundred marks until such time as he, my said son, shall have attained th' age of fourteen years, the said sum to be expended and bestowed to th' use and purpose aforesaid by th' order and direction of my said wife, and if she happen to marry or to depart this life, then by th' order and direction of th' overseer of this my present testament;

And my further will is that from and after such time as my said son shall have attained the said age of fourteen years, my said wife shall yearly pay and dispose for and towards the further education and maintenance of my said son the sum of two hundred pounds of like lawful English money, to be expended by th' order and direction aforesaid until [f. 138v] such time as my said son shall have accomplished th' age of nineteen years;

And from and after such time as my said son shall have accomplished the said age, then my will is that my said wife shall yearly pay unto my said son for and towards his further entertainment and maintenance the sum of three hundred pounds of like lawful English money until such time as he shall have accomplished his full age of one and twenty years;

And whereas the yearly profits and issues which are to accrue unto my said wife by the true meaning of this my present last will out of my said leases during the minority of my said son are likely to surmount the charge by this my will imposed upon them, my will further is that the overplus of all the said profits and issues so arising and accruing, this my present testament being truly performed in that behalf, shall be well and truly delivered and paid unto my said son when he shall have accomplished his full age of twenty-one years;

And if my said son shall fortune to depart this life before he have attained his said full age, then my will is that all such sums of money as then shall remain in the custody of my said wife of the issues and profits of my said leases shall be equally divided into two several parts, and thone part thereof shall remain and be unto my said wife to her own use and behoof, and thother part shall be delivered to the Countess of Sussex, my daughter, to th' use of such of the children of the said Countess as she, the said Countess, shall be pleased to nominate and appoint;

And if my said wife shall fortune to be married at the time of such decease of my said son within age, then I will that the said sums of money so remaining in the custody of my said wife shall wholly and entirely grow and be paid to the said Countess to th' use and advancement of such of her children as before is expressed;

And whereas I have received of the right honourable my Lady and mother the sum of five hundred pounds to th' intent that I should assure to and for the maintenance of eight poor women in the alms-house in Watford in the county of Hertford twenty pounds a year and sixteen load of wood and bavin to be yearly delivered to the said poor women, for th' accomplishment whereof I have already assured to that intent and purpose the third part of the manor of Bushie in the said county of Hertford and one yearly rent of sixteen pounds issuing out of the town of Derby in the county of Derby, which rent was formerly conveyed unto my said wife amongst other things as part of her jointure for term of her life, my further will is that if my said wife shall not permit and suffer the said yearly rent of sixteen pounds to be perceived, used and employed for the maintenance of the said poor women in the said alms-house, or if my said wife shall impeach or dispossess my tenants of Selston in the said county of Nottingham, by reason whereof they or any of them shall not enjoy their interests in their holds according to the true intent and meaning of their leases, that then my said wife shall stand and be utterly excluded and debarred of all and every benefit to her any way by this my present will intended, which penalty I have annexed to this article being desirous to provide as much as in me lieth for the security and indemnity of my said tenants as a matter in conscience and equity much to be tendered in respect of the fines by them already paid;

And to th' intent that my said wife may the better conform herself to this toleration, I do give and bequeath unto her in lieu and recompense thereof the profits of my underwoods in Whippenden within my manor of Caysho [=Cassiobury] in the said county of Hertford which I lately purchased of Henry Baldwin, deceased, as also twelve acres of meadow in Hempstead mead in the said parish of Watford which I lately purchased of George Golde;

And whereas with the privity and permission of my said honourable Lady and mother I have entered into communication and agreement with Sir John Byron, knight, touching and concerning th' erecting of [f. 139r] certain iron mills at Selston in the said county of Nottingham and the delivering yearly unto him of certain soughes(?) for the space of six years, four whereof are expired, my humble suit unto my said honourable mother is that it would please her to continue her honourable favour for th' accomplishment of my said agreement with the said Sir John Byron, and that the profits and commodities of my said iron mills may be taken and perceived by my said wife during the minority of my said son for the better execution of this my last will and testament and the farther profit and advantage of my said son;

And in the dutiful remembrance of my duty to my said honourable Lady and mother, I do bequeath unto her a diamond of the value of forty pounds or the sum of forty pounds to buy therewith a diamond to her best liking, humbly desiring and beseeching her Honour to wear the same in remembrance of me and for my sake;

I do also bequeath unto the honourable Lady the Countess of Warwick, to whom I acknowledge myself ever to have been beholding for her favour to me and mine, a cup of the value of twenty pounds, beseeching her Ladyship to accept it in good part as the last token and show of my dutiful goodwill unto her;

Item, my further will is that all such household stuff and furniture as now is [+or?] at the time of my death shall be in the manor house of Shinge [=Shingay] in the county of Cambridge shall accrue and remain wholly, together with the said house, unto Sir William Russell, knight, and the Lady his wife, at such time as the said house is to accrue and grow unto them;

I do further give unto Francis Russell, son of the said Sir William, one chain of gold or a jewel of the full value of twenty pounds, praying him to keep it for my sake as a token of my goodwill and affection towards him, to whom I have ever wished as well as to my own;

Item, I do give and bequeath unto my honourable good Lord th' Earl of Sussex my best horse at the choice and election of the said Earl;

Item, I give unto my honourable daughter, the Countess of Sussex, one hundred pounds to buy her a jewel therewith, to be paid unto her within thirty days next after the feast of Saint Michael ensuing my decease, desiring her to wear the same for my sake;

I do further give and bequeath unto the children of the said Countess, my daughter, to each of them one hundred pounds, to be paid unto them [-by] at the two usual feasts in the year, th' Annunciation of the Virgin Mary and the feast of St Michael th' Archangel, the first payment thereof to begin at the feast of th' Annunciation of the Virgin Mary next ensuing the Michaelmas after my decease, and if any the children of the said Countess shall die within age, my mind is that the hundred pounds so bequeathed unto such deceasing child shall grow and remain to the children of the said Countess that shall fortune to survive as a poor token of my good affection towards them, which if I had lived, or at this present time had had better means, would have made further show of my well meaning unto them;

I do further give unto my honourable sister, the Countess of Lincoln, a cup of ten pounds in value, praying her to accept the same as a mean show of my last good wishes;

I do also give unto my honourable sister, the Lady Grey, a cup of the like value, praying them both to yield their best advice to my son, to whose favour I do recommend him;

I do likewise give unto my honourable nephew, my Lord Grey, my second best horse at his election and choice, with my best rapier and furniture;

I do likewise give unto my well-beloved nephew, Mr Francis Norris, my sorrel bald mare;

I do further give unto my very good mother [=mother-in-law], Mrs Alford, my best and greatest standing cup gilt with my best wishes and all thankfulness unto her for her kindness always showed unto me and her love to mine;

And whereas I have by sufficient assurance charged my third part of the manor of Busshie in the county of Hertford aforesaid, and one farm called Toolies in the parish [f. 139v] of Watford now in the occupation of my servant, Anthony Cowper, with and for the maintenance and relief of the poor women in the alms-house in Watford aforesaid, for the better and more certain performance whereof and for th' avoiding of all penalties which may grow upon the premises in default thereof by reason of the said assurance, I will that my said wife shall, during her life, have and enjoy the said third part of the said manor and also the said farm called Toolies to th' intent and purpose that she with the rents and profits thereof shall truly and faithfully maintain the said poor women placed or to be placed within the said alms-house during her natural life according to the true intent and meaning of the said assurance;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my honourable good Lord, the Earl of Sussex, and his Countess, my daughter, the sum of five hundred pounds of good and lawful money of England, to be unto them paid at such times and by such portions as I shall set down and express in one schedule to this my present will annexed, as also I do further give unto the said Earl of Sussex my best horse at his Lordship's choice and election, desiring them both to accept this bequest and legacy as a token of my good affection towards them, which I would with greater bounty have testified unto the world if either my life had been longer or my present ability better;

I do likewise give unto my honourable sister, the Lady Grey, my best and greatest standing gilt cup, as also to my honourable sister, the Countess of Lincoln, my next standing cup, desiring them both to take in good part these mean remembrances as a token of my last good wishes unto them, praying them likewise to yield unto my son their best advice, whom I do recommend to their good favour;

I do also bequeath unto my well-beloved nephew, Mr Francis Norris, my sorrel bald mare;

And whereas I have by sufficient assurance charged my third part of the manor of Busshie in the said county of Hertford, and one farm called Toolies in the parish of Watford aforesaid now in the occupation of my servant, Antony Cowper, with and for the maintenance and relief of the poor women in the alms-housen in Watford, for the better and more certain performance whereof and for th' avoiding of all penalties which may grow upon the premises in default thereof by reason of the said assurance, I will that my wife shall during her life have and enjoy the said third part of the said manor and also the said farm called Toolies to th' intent and purpose that she with the rents and profits thereof shall duly maintain the said poor women now placed or hereafter to be placed in the said alms-housen according to th' intent and true meaning of the said assurance;

And whereas I have received of my said right honourable Lady and mother the sum of threescore pounds towards the perpetual maintenance of one schoolmaster in Watford for the teaching of six poor scholars, being children of poor people within the parish of Watford, my will is that my said wife, and after her decease my son and his heirs, shall yearly pay unto such schoolmaster for the time being the sum of three pounds of lawful money of England at the feasts of th' Annunciation of the Virgin Mary and St Michael th' Archangel by equal portions, and if there shall be default in the payment thereof for the space of twenty days after any of the said feasts, that then it shall be lawful to such schoolmaster to whom such rent shall be due to distrain for such rent and th' arrearages thereof in the rectory and parsonage of Watford;

All the rest of my goods and chattels, debts, money and whatsoever else within this realm of England not in this my will bequeathed or otherwise disposed I do wholly give and bequeath to my said wife and son, whom I do ordain and appoint executors of this my last will and testament;

And I do further constitute and ordain my honourable good Lord th' Earl of Kent, my very good friend Sir Dru Drury, knight, and my good brother, Sir William Clerke, knight, supervisors and overseers of this my last will and treatment, beseeching his Lordship, being a nobleman whom I have ever deeply honoured and loved, that with his honourable acceptance I may presume to lay the trust on him, to whose honourable favour and direction I do [f. 140r] recommend my son, charging my said son that he be every way dutiful to his Lordship and careful of all his Lordship's admonitions and advices, and as a poor token of my good wishes to his Lordship I do give and bequeath unto him forty pounds of good and lawful money of England for to buy a basin an[d] ewer therewith, desiring his Lordship to accept of the same as the last token of the dutiful love and respect that ever I have carried towards his Lordship;

And I do likewise give unto Sir Andrew Drury the sum of twenty pounds and my best black nag, and unto my said brother [=brother-in-law], Sir William Clerke, the sum of twenty pounds, my best rapier and dagger, and my second-best great horse, desiring them both to take in good part these small tokens of that great love and affection which I have always borne towards them;

And my further will is that all such legacies and bequests as I shall be pleased to give and bestow upon any person or persons whatsoever, and shall set down the same in a schedule to this my present will annexed, shall be as beneficial and effectual to him and them to whom they shall be given and bequeathed and shall be as beneficially and effectually performed as if they had been in this my present will expressly mentioned, declared and contained;

In witness whereof to this my present last will and testament I, the said Sir Charles, have put my hand and seal [-in the presence of]. Charles Morison. Signed, sealed and published as the last will and testament of the said Sir Charles in the presence of William Leonard, Abiathar Burkok, John Daye.

A schedule to be annexed to the last will and testament of me, Sir Charles Morison, knight, containing such legacies and bequests as I am disposed to bestow and bequeath to the persons hereunder mentioned according to a reference hereunto made by me in my said last will and testament, which my full mind and meaning is to have as effectually performed as if they had been in my said last will especially expressed and contained.

Imprimis to my beloved wife I do give the charge and oversight of Langley Park which I have by lease with four hundred conies yearly for her own provision until my son shall attain th' age of nineteen years;

I do also give her, my said wife, the pasturing there of such horse as she shall have cause to keep for her own use, as also the summering of such steers as for her own provision she shall have cause yearly to spend, and if otherwise any profit shall thereout grow, her Majesty's rents and Kettell's annuity discharged, the rest I will shall go and be disposed to the performance of my said will;

I do further give unto my beloved wife twenty of my best steers for her provision, twenty of my best kine, and a bull of Caysho stock, four coach geldings, six of my best geldings and nags other than such as I have by my will otherwise disposed, as also six of my best cart-horse except such of my horse and mares as I shall hereby otherwise dispose of, with all hogs, carts and ploughgear such as remain about the house, praying her to accept these bequests as a poor token of my love towards her, which I would have further enlarged if my ability had been greater;

I give unto my beloved son, Charles Morison, my haggat [=haggard?] which my Lady my mother gave unto me, my young little bay horse, his own three nags, the pied, the sorrel and the grey which his sister Russell gave him, four mares, the bay which I had of George Miller, my servant, the bay of mine own race, the other young bay of four year old and weathered(?) mare, and the third stone-horse to remain for a stallion, which I commit to my brother, Sir William Clerke and my said wife's discretion, and lastly mine own armour;

I further give unto my said son my long velvet cloak furred with the fur that was my Lord Grey's, willing him to keep the same as a thing worn by him whom I dearly loved;

I give unto my beloved nephew, William Clerke, my bay sorrel trotting gelding, my black velvet nightgown, my shortest black velvet cloak with lace, and my second rapier and dagger;

I give unto my niece, Elizabeth Clerke, twenty pounds to buy her [f. 140v] a chain;

I give unto my friend, William Leonard, twenty nobles and a mourning gown, as also I will unto him twenty nobles yearly during my son's minority, to be paid every half year, with desire to my wife that he may continue steward to my manor of Caysho, and she to

yield him for my sake such further allowance and kindness as she may any way yield him, recommending to his care the good of my son and his causes;

I do give unto my beloved servant, Francis Wethered, my black cloth cloak lined through with taffeta, a white satin doublet, black velvet hose with broad silk lace, a pair of tawny velvet hose without lace;

I do give unto my servant, Abiather, that waiteth in my chamber my black satin doublet and another pair of black velvet hose with little lace, and twenty nobles over and besides his wages then due unto him to buy him a gelding;

I do give unto John Day, my servant [no bequest specified];

I do likewise give unto nurse Rolfe that attendeth me in my chamber the featherbed she lieth on with the furniture to it, two kine, the white gown I wear, and my will is that she have the pasturing of four kie in Langley Park and her dwelling in the Cantwicke and three load of wood a year during my son's minority if so long she live unmarried;

I do give unto my good friend, Mr Dutton, twenty nobles to buy him some books and a mourning gown;

I give unto my servant, Anthony Cowper, the farm of Toolies wherein he now dwelleth during his wife's life and his own and the survivor of them;

I give unto my old servant, Henry Dickson, four marks yearly during his life, and his diet and lodging with my wife during her life, and after her death with my son;

I do give unto my servant, Clement Wallis, five pounds, the young grey trotting nag that was last year backed at Langley, and my will is he do attend my son during his nonage and have for his wages in that behalf five pounds yearly;

I do give unto my servant Tewe five pounds;

I do give unto Roger, my cook, four pounds;

I do give old Peter in the kitchen forty shillings;

I do give Robert Hooper (blank);

I do give John Rolfe in the buttery [no bequest specified];

I do give to my servant, Richard Charles [no bequest specified];

I do give William Isacke, keeper, the close he now holdeth of me at the rent he now payeth during his life;

Unto my servant, Thomas King, I have bestowed somewhat already, and therefore I leave him to my wife's good favour, desiring that he and his wife may have the keeping of Langley house and garden as now they have;

Unto my servant Raven I give six pounds in money and the grey stray nag that was taken at Busshey;

Unto my servant, William Herne (blank);

My will also is that my servant George shall enjoy the farm at Langley which now he holdeth, performing and paying her Majesty's rents and covenants contained in th' original lease, as also paying fifteen quarter and seven bushels of oats yearly, which I will shall be equally divided between my wife and my son;

I will that my servant, John Eresby, shall continue keeper of the park at Langley, as well for the great game as the game of the conies, during the minority of my son, allowing him for his said service her Majesty's fee, six pounds by the year, the depasturing of twelve kine, two horse or mares, four hogs, the little lodge meadow which he now hath, with the after pasture of the weare [=weir?] meadow as he now hath it for the better maintenance of his cattle, willing him to have a care to his farm and to deserve that love and affection which I have always carried towards him. Charles Morison.

Sealed and annexed to this last will in the presence of William Leonard, John Daye, Abyather Buckokz.

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum apud London vnacum Codicillo coram Mag{ist}ro Iohanne Hone Legum doctore Surrogato venerabilis viri m{agist}ri Ioh{ann}is Gibson Legum etiam doctoris Curie Prerogatiue Cantuar{iensis} mag{ist}ri Custodis siue Comissarij legittime constitut{i} Vicesimo die mensis Iulij Anno domini Mill{es}imo Quingentesimo Nonogesimo Nono Iuramento m{agist}ri Thome Browne notarij publici Procuratoris D{omi}ne Dorothee Relict{e} et Executricis in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}at{e} Cui comissa fuit admi{n}istrac{i}o bonor{um} Iuriu{m} et Creditor{um} d{i}c{t}i def{uncti} De bene &c Res{er}uat{a} p{otes}tate &c Charolo Moryson filio D{i}c{t}i Def{uncti} &c cu{m} ven{er}it &c admissur{o}

[=The above-written testament was proved at London, together with the codicil, before Master John Hone, Doctor of the Laws, surrogate of the worshipful Master John Gibson, also Doctor of the Laws, lawfully constituted Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the twentieth day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred ninety-ninth by the oath of Master Thomas Browne, notary public, proctor of Lady Dorothy, relict and executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased,



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[+sworn] to well etc., with power reserved etc. to Charles Morison, son of the said deceased etc., when he shall have come etc. to be admitted.]