

SUMMARY: The document below is the will, dated 5 January 1544 and proved 17 January 1548, of Thomas Brooke (d.1547) of Reculver, Kent, whose nephew, William Brooke, 10<sup>th</sup> Baron Cobham, was Lord Chamberlain and patron of the Lord Chamberlain's Men in 1596/7, and whose nephew, Thomas Brooke the younger, wrote verses commemorating the death of Arthur Brooke (d.1563), author of *Romeus and Juliet*, a principal source of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

The testator's will is confusingly dated 5 January 1544, 35 Henry VIII. A date of 5 January 1544 in a will of this period is usually Old Style, and should be converted to 5 January 1545 New Style; however the statement that the will was made on 5 January in the 35<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of Henry VIII indicates that it was, in fact, made 5 January 1544.

For an abstract of the will, see:

<https://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/Research/Pub/ArchCant/Vol.032%20-%201917/03/093.htm>

In 1536 the testator was in the service of Thomas Cranmer (1489-1556), Archbishop of Canterbury. See Cox, John Edmund, ed., *The Works of Thomas Cranmer*, Vol. II, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1846), p. 330 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=DQw5AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA330>

Ralph Brooke, York Herald, may have been related to the testator. His monument was in St Mary's Church, Reculver. See:

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ralph\\_Brooke\\_monument\\_Reculver.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ralph_Brooke_monument_Reculver.jpg)

See also Duncombe, John, 'The History and Antiquities of the Two Parishes of Reculver and Herne, in the County of Kent,' *Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica*, No. XVIII, (London: J. Nichols, 1784), pp. 73, 89 at:

[https://books.google.ca/books/about/The\\_history\\_and\\_antiquities\\_of\\_the\\_two\\_p.html?id=FY1bAAAAQAAJ&redir\\_esc=y](https://books.google.ca/books/about/The_history_and_antiquities_of_the_two_p.html?id=FY1bAAAAQAAJ&redir_esc=y)

### ***FAMILY BACKGROUND***

A pedigree of the Brooke family from the reign of Henry III to c.1571 was emblazoned by Robert Glover (1543/4 – 10 April 1588), Somerset Herald, at the request of the testator's nephew, William Brooke (1527-1597), 10<sup>th</sup> Baron Cobham. See CP 225/1 and McKeen, David, *A Memory of Honour; The Life of William Brooke, Lord Cobham*, (Salzburg: Universitat Salzburg, 1986), 2 vols., pp. 5, 21, 291 at:

<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000901279>

### ***Testator's parents***

The testator was a younger son of Thomas Brooke (d.1529), 8<sup>th</sup> Baron Cobham, and his first wife, Dorothy Heydon (d. by 1515), daughter of Sir Henry Heydon (d.1504) of Baconsthorpe, Norfolk, by Anne Boleyn, daughter of Sir Geoffrey Boleyn, Lord Mayor of London, great-grandfather of Queen Anne Boleyn. See Cokayne, George Edward, *The Complete Peerage*, Vol. III, (London: St Catherine Press, 1913), p. 347. See also the will of Sir Thomas Brooke, 8<sup>th</sup> Baron Cobham, proved November 1530, TNA PROB 11/23/361. See also the Wikipedia entry for Sir Henry Heydon created by the author of this website at:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry\\_Heydon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Heydon)

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

For the testator's siblings, see the will of his elder brother, George Brooke (c.1497 – 29 September 1558), 9<sup>th</sup> Baron Cobham, TNA PROB 11/43/628; CP 225/1, *supra*; the Brooke pedigree in McKeen, *supra*, pp. 701-2; and Waller, J.G., 'The Lords of Cobham, Their Monuments, and the Church', *Archaeologia Cantiana*, Vol. XI, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1877), pp. 49-112 at p. 112:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=794GAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA112>

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

The Brooke pedigree, CP 225/1, *supra*, has a confused account of the testator's alleged two marriages and issue, stating that he married the daughter of Cranmer of Aslockton, by whom he had a son, Thomas Brooke, who died without issue, and that by the widow of Clerke he had another son, Cranmer Brooke.

The Brooke pedigree in Hovenden states that the testator married 'Susan, daughter of (blank) Cranmer, widow of Clerke'. See Hovenden, Robert, *The Visitation of Kent Taken in the Years 1619-1621*, (London: Harleian Society, 1898), Vol. XLII, p. 16 at:

<https://archive.org/details/visitationofkent00camd/page/16>

It thus seems from the pedigree in Hovenden that Susan Cranmer was the widow of a husband surnamed Clerke when she married the testator. However the possibility cannot be entirely ruled out that the pedigree in CP 225/1 is correct, and that the testator married twice, one of his wives being Susan Cranmer, and the other the widow of a husband surnamed Clerke.

The testator's connection to the Clerke family is evident in his will, in which he refers to his 'kinswoman', Joan Clerke, and to 'certain writings' made between himself and James Clerke of Wrotham, Kent. For the Clerke family, see Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 482; and *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, 1920, Vol. LXXIV, pp. 74-5 at:

<https://archive.org/details/newenglandhistor74wate/page/74>

The testator's wife, Susan Cranmer, was the daughter of John Cranmer, esquire, of Aslockton, Nottinghamshire, by his second wife, Margaret Fitzwilliam, the daughter of John Fitzwilliam, esquire, of Sprotbrough, Yorkshire. See Collins, Arthur, *A Supplement to the Four Volumes of the Peerage of England*, Vol. I, (London: W. Innys, 1750), p. 239 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=4tBCAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA239>

*John Fitzwilliam of Sprotbrough and Haddlesey, esquire, son and heir of Ralph, married Margery, daughter of John Clarevaux of Croft Hall, esquire, and had issue John, William and Margaret, who was married to John Cranmer of Aslockton, esquire, by whom she had issue Susan, first married to Thomas Brooke, esquire, brother to George, Lord Cobham, by whom she had issue Thomas Brooke of Chislet Park, and after to Anthony Vaughan, esquire, son and heir of Sir Hugh Vaughan of Littleton, by whom she had issue Hugh and Alice.*

Susan Cranmer was the niece of Thomas Cranmer (1489-1556), Archbishop of Canterbury, and was also the niece of Edmund Cranmer, Archdeacon of Canterbury (see below), and Agnes Cranmer (d. 18 August 1556), who married Edmund Cartwright, gentleman, of Ossington, Nottinghamshire. See the Cranmer pedigrees in Waters, Robert Edmond Chester, *Genealogical Memoirs of the Extinct Family of Chester of Chicheley*, Vol. II, (London: Robson and Sons, 1878), pp. 444-9 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=nqFCAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA444>

For the Cranmer family, see also the will of Hugh Cartwright, TNA PROB 11/54/317.

In the will below the testator mentions his wife, Susan, and the two sons who are named in the pedigree in CP 225/1, *supra*:

\* **Cranmer Brooke** (living 1573), eldest son, who married Abell Fogge, sister of Sir John Fogge (d.1564). Sir John Fogge (d.1564) married, after 7 July 1529, the testator's sister, Margaret Brooke, the daughter of Thomas Brooke (d. 19 July 1529), 8<sup>th</sup> Baron Cobham, by whom he had a son, Edward Fogge (buried 11 November 1573), who died without issue. See the will of Sir John Fogge, TNA PROB 11/47/303, and the Fogge pedigree in T.G.F., 'Family Chronicle of Richard Fogge of Danes Court in Tilmanstone', *Archaeologia Cantiana*, (Kent Archaeological Society, 1863), Vol. V, p. 125 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/archaeologiacant05kent#page/n189/mode/1up>

Cranmer Brooke is mentioned in the 1573 will of his nephew, Edward Fogge, PRC 17/42/276.

According to the pedigree in Hovenden, *supra*, p. 16, by Abell Fogge, Cranmer Brooke had a son, William Brooke, esquire, of Hartlip, Kent, who is mentioned in the 1564 will, TNA PROB 11/47/303, of his uncle, Sir John Fogge:

*Item, I will to William Brooke, Abell's son, 2 two yearling heifers to be delivered within half a year after my decease.*

According to the pedigree in Hovenden, *supra*, p. 16, William Brooke of Hartlip married Jane Tenacre, the daughter of John Tenacre of Boughton-under-Blean, Kent, by whom he had a daughter, Mary Brooke. For the Tenacre family, see Boodle, John Adolphus, trans., *The Registers of Boughton-under-Blean Co. Kent*, (London: Parish Register Society, 1903), at:

<https://archive.org/details/registersofbough49boug/page/n5>

\* **Thomas Brooke**, youngest son. In the pedigree in CP 225/1, *supra*, he is said to have died without issue. Collins, *supra*, refers to him as 'Thomas Brooke of Chislet Park'. He can perhaps be identified with Thomas Brooke who, with his wife, Elizabeth, broke into the house of William Brooke of Hartlip, gentleman. See QM/SI/1606/9/7, dated 25 July 1606.

The History of Parliament suggests that he was Thomas Brooke (by 1513-1555 or later) of Calais. See:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/broke-thomas-1513-55-or-later>

*b. by 1513, poss. yr. s. of Thomas Brooke alias Cobham of Reculver, Kent by Susan. m. by Dec. 1534, at least 2 ch.3*

However the History of Parliament appears to be in error since Thomas Brooke (by 1513-1555) was already a member of Parliament in 1539, five years before the testator made his will, and in his will the testator states that his *eldest* son, Cranmer Brooke, was under 18 years of age in 1544.

The Brooke pedigree in Hovenden, *supra*, differs from both the pedigree in CP 225/1, *supra*, and the will below in stating that the testator's second son was:

\* **Sir Edward Brooke**, 'killed in battle'. Although the pedigree in Hovenden, *supra*, appears to be based on good authority in that the information was provided to the heralds

by William Brooke, son of Cranmer Brooke, the statement that Thomas Brooke (d.1547) and Susan Cranmer had a son, Sir Edward Brooke, killed in battle, seems doubtful in light of the pedigree in CP 225/1, *supra*, and the testator's will below.

The Sir Edward Brooke mentioned in the pedigree in Hovenden can likely be identified with Sir Edward Brooke who served in the Low Counties in 1588 and was killed at the siege of Groningen in 1594. See Markham, Clements R., *The Fighting Veres*, (London: Sampson Low, 1888), pp. 193-4:

<https://archive.org/details/thefightingveres00markiala/page/194>

*Sir Francis Vere, with his English contingent, worked side by side in the trenches with the regiments of Friesland and Zeeland . . . . On the 18<sup>th</sup> of June [1594] Sir Edward Brooke was slain; "a gentleman," wrote Vere, "if it had pleased God to spare him, would have done her Majesty good service."*

He is referred to as 'a kinsman of Lord Cobham' in a letter dated 8 September 1588 from the Privy Council to Peregrine Willoughby, Lord Willoughby d'Eresby. See:

'Elizabeth: September 1588, 1-10', in *Calendar of State Papers Foreign: Elizabeth, Volume 22, July-December 1588*, ed. Richard Bruce Wernham (London, 1936), pp. 178-195. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/cal-state-papers/foreign/vol22/pp178-195> [accessed 14 September 2019].

The Sir Edward Brooke slain at Groningen may be the Sir Edward Brooke for whom Shaw gives alternate dates of knighthood (1591 and 1598). See Shaw, William A., *The Knights of England*, Vol. II, (London: Sherratt and Hughes, 1906), p. 98 at:

<https://archive.org/details/knightsofengland02shawuoft/page/n107>

If it is assumed that Sir Edward Brooke (d. 18 June 1594) was about thirty years of age when he served in the Low Countries in 1588, he would have been born about 1558, too late to have been the testator's son.

If it is assumed he was about twenty years of age when he served in the Low Countries in 1588, he would have been born about 1568, and could have been a younger son of Cranmer Brooke.

McKeen states that the testator had three sons. For the possibility that after he made his will on 5 January 1544 the testator had a third son, Arthur Brooke, author of *Romeus and Juliet*, see below.

For Thomas Brooke (d.1547) and Susan Cranmer, see also Waters, Robert Edmond Chester, *Genealogical Memoirs of the Extinct Family of Chester of Chicheley*, Vol. II, (London: Robson and Sons, 1878), pp. 373-4 at:

<https://archive.org/details/genealogicalmemo02wate/page/372>

After the testator's death, Susan Cranmer married Anthony Vaughan, another of Archbishop Cranmer's servants. See MacCulloch, Diarmaid, *Thomas Cranmer: A Life*, (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1996), p. 271 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=y4DD4mAYipUC&pg=PA271>

Anthony Vaughan is said to have been the illegitimate, but acknowledged, son of Sir Hugh Vaughan (d.1536) of Littleton, Middlesex. See Waters, *supra*, p. 374, and the pedigree in 'Birch, Walter de Gray, 'The Lady Anne Percy's Portrait in Stained Glass at Long Melford', *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, (London, 1884), pp. 400-408 at p. 407:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=QhQpAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA407>

For Hugh Vaughan (d.1607), Susan Cranmer's son by Anthony Vaughan, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/vaughan-hugh-1607>

### ***TESTATOR'S RELATIONSHIP TO ARTHUR BROOKE, AUTHOR OF ROMEUS AND JULIET***

As noted above, it seems likely the testator had a third son, Arthur Brooke (d.1563), born after the testator made his will on 5 January 1544, and before his death in 1547, or shortly thereafter.

At least four items of evidence suggest that Arthur Brooke was the testator's son:

Firstly, Henry Machyn recorded in his diary the date, 21 March 1563, on which news of the wreck of the *Greyhound* reached court, and listed among those drowned 'my Lord Cobham's brother' [sic]. The *Greyhound* had run aground on 19 March 1563 while carrying English forces under Sir Thomas Finch to Newhaven [=Le Havre].

Secondly, the testator's nephew, Henry Brooke alias Cobham (5 February 1538 – 13 January 1592), wrote to Sir Thomas Chaloner (1521-65) on 14 May 1563 mentioning 'little Brooke' as one of those who had perished in the wreck of the *Greyhound*:

*Sir Thomas Finch was drowned going over to Newhaven as knight marshal in Sir Adrian Poyning's place, who is come over. James Wentworth and his brother, John, were cast away in the same vessel on the sands near Rye, and little Brooke and some other petty gentlemen.*

Thirdly, another of the testator's nephews, Thomas Brooke (b. 22 April 1539) the younger, wrote verses commemorating the death of 'Brooke', drowned in a shipwreck:

*Example, lo, in Broke before thine eye,  
Whose praised gifts in him did late abound,  
By shipwrack forced, alas, too soon to die,  
Helpless of all intombed lies underground.*

Fourthly, in 1567 George Turberville published an epitaph on the death of Arthur Brooke mentioning his translation, *Romeus and Juliet*, and his death by drowning 'passing to Newhaven', i.e. in the wreck of the *Greyhound*.

See Munro, J.J., ed., *Brooke's 'Romeus and Juliet' being the original of Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet'*, (London: Chatto & Windus, 1908), p. xxii; and Green, Nina, 'Who Was Arthur Brooke?', *The Oxfordian*, 2000, Vol. III, pp. 59-70 available online.

The entry in Machyn's diary has caused confusion by misidentifying Arthur Brooke as 'Lord Cobham's brother', i.e., the brother of the Lord Cobham in 1563, the testator's nephew, William Brooke (1527-1597), 10<sup>th</sup> Baron Cobham, whereas it appears he was the testator's son, and thus a nephew of George Brooke, 9<sup>th</sup> Baron Cobham, and a first cousin of the 9<sup>th</sup> Baron's son, William Brooke, 10<sup>th</sup> Baron Cobham.

McKeen's discussion of the 1551 and 1558 wills of George Brooke, 9<sup>th</sup> Baron Cobham, implies that three nephews are mentioned in it:

*[William Brooke's] father named, besides the disgraced Elizabeth Brooke, seven younger sons and another daughter, as well as a number of nephews, William's late uncle's three sons.*

See McKeen, *supra*, p. 68.

McKeen calls these three nephews 'William's late uncle's three sons', thus identifying them as the sons of the testator. See McKeen, *supra*, pp. 16, 27, 68, 701. Contrary to the impression given by McKeen's discussion, however, there is no specific mention of three nephews in either of the two wills of George Brooke, 9<sup>th</sup> Baron Cobham, although there is a general mention of the testator and his sons in this clause in the 9<sup>th</sup> Baron's 1558 will:

*And for lack of such issue I will that all the same manors, lands, tenements and premises with their appurtenances shall wholly remain to the heirs males of the body of my brother, Thomas Brooke, lawfully begotten and to the heirs males of their bodies lawfully begotten.*

The 9<sup>th</sup> Baron Cobham's earlier will, Harley Charter 57 H.7, dated 31 March 1551, contains a similar clause:

*[A]nd for default of such issue, the remainder thereof unto th' heirs males of the body of my brother, Thomas Brooke, lawfully begotten.*

On 18 December 1561, two years before his death in the wreck of the *Greyhound*, Arthur Brooke (d.1563) was admitted to the Middle Temple, with Thomas Sackville and Thomas Norton as pledges. Thomas Norton was Arthur Brooke's uncle, having married firstly, about 1556, Archbishop Cranmer's daughter, Margaret Cranmer (d. before 1568), a first cousin of Susan Cranmer. See the *ODNB* entry:

*Norton, Thomas (1530x32–1584), lawyer and writer. . . . At Somerset House Norton probably met not only Cranmer, his future father-in-law, but his future patron, William Cecil . . . .*

*Norton was twenty-one or twenty-two when Edward VI died in July 1553. He may have continued as tutor to the late king's cousins until his admission to the Inner Temple on 28 June 1555. While learning common law at the Temple he found time to translate some of the psalms. On Mary I's accession the printer Edward Whitchurch went into exile, probably in Germany. Whitchurch had published the first edition of thirty-nine psalms 'drawn' into English verse by Thomas Sternhold in 1549, the year of Sternhold's death. Some time between Whitchurch's last edition of the metrical Psalms in 1553 and the publication in 1562 by John Day of *Psalms of David in Englishe Metre* by T. Sterneholde and Others, Norton provided twenty-four psalms for the growing collection. It is likely that Norton was drawn into this enterprise through his domestic alliance with Whitchurch. The exact date of Norton's marriage to Margaret Cranmer is not known. Whitchurch married Cranmer's widow probably late in 1556.*

After the death of Margaret Cranmer, Thomas Norton married secondly Margaret Cranmer's first cousin, Alice Cranmer (d. after 1602), the daughter of Edmund Cranmer, Archdeacon of Canterbury, a younger brother of the Archbishop, and Alice Sandes.

For Thomas Norton's marriages to Margaret Cranmer and Alice Cranmer, see the Cranmer pedigrees in Waters, *supra*, pp. 444-9 at:

<https://archive.org/details/genealogicalmemo02wate/page/448>

See also Waters, *supra*, pp. 387-8 at:

<https://archive.org/details/genealogicalmemo02wate/page/386>

For Thomas Norton, see also the History of Parliament entry at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/norton-thomas-1532-84>

On 4 February 1562 the Inner Temple Parliament ordered that ‘arthur broke shall have a speciall admittance without anything paying in consideration of certen playes & showes in christmas last, set forth by hym’.

### ***OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL***

The testator leaves a bequest to James Clerke of Wrotham, Kent, who would appear to be James Clerke (d. 20 September 1553), esquire, of Forde Hall in Wrotham, son and heir of John Clerke, esquire, of Forde Hall by Lucy Moyle, daughter of Sir Walter Moyle. He married, about 1508, Elizabeth Ferrers. For the Clerke family of Forde Hall in Wrotham, Kent, see Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 482, and *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, 1920, Vol. LXXIV, pp. 74-5:

<https://archive.org/details/newenglandhistor74wate/page/74>

For John Sethe, see TNA E 326/7782, a bond between John Sethe the younger, gentleman, of Milton next Gravesend, and Sir Henry Wyatt. See also Nichols, John, *The Progresses and Public Processions of Queen Elizabeth*, Vol. I, (London: John Nichols and Son, 1823), p. 352 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=h2gNAAAAIAAJ&pg=PA352>

*1546 King Henry VIII granted his royal Charter to the town, appointing John Seth Mayor*

Sir Thomas More’s son-in-law, William Roper (d.1578), and his mother, Jane (nee Fyneux) Roper (d.1544?), mention members of the Sethe family in their wills. From the will, TNA PROB 11/60/365, of William Roper:

*For lands of Mr Sethe purchased in Herne eight pounds.*

From the will, TNA PROB 11/30/316, of Jane (nee Fyneux) Roper:

*Item, I bequeath to John Sethe of Herne two long round salts of silver with one cover of th’ old making.*

*I bequeath to Francis(?) Sethe one goblet of silver with a cover.*

*The residue of all my goods, my debts and legacies being fully contented and paid, I will to be bestowed in deeds of charity at the discretion of my executors, whom I ordain and make Master Robert Collins, John Sethe of Herne, Sir Hugh Crompton, my chaplain.*

### ***TESTATOR’S PROPERTIES***

Archbishop Cranmer granted the testator a lease of the parks at Forde and Chislet ‘which was long enjoyed by the Brooke family’. See Waters, *supra*, pp. 373-4 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=nqFCAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA373>

For Chislet park, see also Strype, John, *Memorials of the Most Reverend Father in God, Thomas Cranmer*, (London: Richard Chiswell, 1694), p. 436 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=Z7ZTAAAcAAJ&pg=PA436>

‘The Christopher’ was the famous Christopher Inn of Gravesend, which dated from circa 1476, and was frequented by Sebastian Cabot as well as the ‘celebrated mariners of Queen Elizabeth’s reign’. See:

[http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WMH2Q3\\_OLDEST\\_Cast\\_Iron\\_Pier\\_in\\_the\\_World\\_The\\_Town\\_Pier\\_Gravesend\\_Kent\\_UK](http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WMH2Q3_OLDEST_Cast_Iron_Pier_in_the_World_The_Town_Pier_Gravesend_Kent_UK)

See also Brabazon, Elizabeth Jane, *A Month at Gravesend*, (London: Simpkin and Marshall, 1863), pp. 126-7 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=eg4HAAAQAAJ&pg=PA126>

See also *A New and General Biographical Dictionary*, Rev. ed., Vol. III, (London: W. Strahan, 1784), p. 66 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=Z0kJAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA66>

LM: Brooke alias Cobham

In the name of God, Amen. The 5<sup>th</sup> day of the month of January in the year of Our Lord God 1544 and the 35<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of our Sovereign King Henry the 8<sup>th</sup>, I, Thomas Brooke of the parish of Reculver in the county of Kent, esquire, calling to remembrance the fragility of this unstable life, ordain and make this my last will and testament;

First I commend my soul to Almighty God and to all the holy company of heaven, and my body to be buried in the choir of the chapel of Hoath;

And I will at my burying to be bestowed to priests, clerks and to poor people 40s, and so much at my month’s day and at my year’s day in like manner;

Item, I bequeath to my especial good Lord, the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, my great black horse and my signet;

Item, I bequeath to Mr Lacye my doublet of crimson satin;

I will also to John Sethe of Herne my nightgown which I made against Christmas;

And to Robert Sethe a nightgown of russells furred with black;

I will furthermore and give to Thomas Woodyar[d](?), my godson, all my coats of cloth;

The residue of all my goods not before bequeathed I give to Susan, my wife, whom I make also to this last will and testament sole executrix;

And overseer of the same John Sethe aforesaid.

This is the last will of me, the foresaid Thomas Brooke, made the day and year above-written:

First I will that Cranmer Brooke, my eldest son, shall have and perceive £5 by year out of the Christopher in Gravesend according to a certain agreement as it shall appear by certain writings thereof made between me, the aforesaid Thomas Brooke, and James Clerke of the parish of Wrotham in the county of Kent aforesaid;

I will also the said writings to be delivered unto my overseer aforesaid;

I will moreover that the said Cranmer, my son, shall be and remain with [+the?] aforesaid John Sethe, and he, the aforesaid John Sethe, to receive the aforesaid £5 towards the education of the said Cranmer until he, the said Cranmer, come to th' age of 18 years;

I will also Joan Clerke, my kinswoman, to have 20s by year out of the aforesaid £5 during the said nonage of the said Cranmer, my son;

I will moreover that Susan, my wife, shall have my lease of Chislet Park during all her natural life, and after her decease I will the said lease to remain over to Thomas Brooke, my youngest son;

I will also the patent which I have of Forde Park to the said Susan, my wife, during her life, and after her decease to remain to the aforesaid Cranmer, my son;

Moreover I humbly desire my Lord's Grace of Canterbury to be so good and gracious Lord unto the said Susan, my wife, as for to move my Lord Cobham, my brother, of his promise made unto me concerning the jointure of £20 by year which he promised to the said Susan, my wife;

Witnesseth this to be my last will and testament, Henry Lacye, gentleman, Robert Sethe and Thomas Stamparde.

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Probatum fuit p{rese}ns Testa{mentu}m cora{m} M{agist}ro Rob{ert}o Colens &c  
 xvijo die Januarij Anno d{omi}ni 1547 &c Iur{amen}t{i}s Rob{er}ti Seth et Thome  
 Stamp{ar}de test{i}um &c Ac p{er} Nos App{ro}bat{um} &c Com{m}is{um} est onus  
 Executr{ici} in d{i}c{t}o testa{men}to no{m}i{n}at{e} p{re}uut(?) in for{m}a  
 ui{ris} (?) iur{at}e(?) &c Dat{um} &c

[The present testament was proved before Master Robert Colens etc. on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year of the Lord 1547 etc. by the oaths of Robert Sethe and Thomas Stamperd, witnesses etc., and probated by us etc., and the burden(?) was granted to the executrix named in the said testament, [ ] sworn in form of law etc., dated etc.]