

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 31 December 1607 and proved 11 February 1608, of Frances (nee Grey) Cooke (buried 30 January 1608), who married William Cooke (d. 14 May 1589), esquire, son of Sir Anthony Cooke (1505 – 11 June 1576), and brother of Oxford's mother-in-law, Mildred (nee Cooke) Cecil (1526-1589), Lady Burghley.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Testatrix' father

The testatrix' father was Lord John Grey (d. 17 November 1564) of Pyrigo (in Havering), Essex, the youngest of the four sons of Thomas Grey (22 June 1477 - 10 October 1530), 2nd Marquess of Dorset, and his second wife, Margaret Wotton (died c.1535), widow of William Medley, esquire, and daughter of Sir Robert Wotton (d.1524) of Boughton Malherbe, Kent, by Anne Belknap, the daughter of Henry Belknap (d. 3 July 1488). Margaret Wotton was godmother to Queen Elizabeth I, and through her mother, Anne Belknap, was related to Oxford's mother-in-law, Mildred (nee Cooke) Cecil (1526-1589), Lady Burghley. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 233-4, Vol. II, pp. 167-73, Vol. III, pp. 518-19 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=kjme027UeagC&pg=RA1-PA172>

See also Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 233-4, 269-71, 306-13, Vol. IV, pp. 141-5, 370 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=8JcbV309c5UC&pg=RA1-PA312>

See also the *ODNB* entry for Thomas Grey, 2nd Marquess of Dorset.

The testatrix' father, Lord John Grey, was the uncle of Lady Jane Grey (1537-1554), the 'nine days Queen'. See the pedigree in De Lisle, Leanda, *The Sisters Who Would Be Queen*, (London: HarperPress, 2008).

Testatrix' mother

The testatrix's mother was Mary Browne, the daughter of Sir Anthony Browne (29 June 1500 – 6 May 1548) and Alice Gage (d. 31 March 1540), and sister of Anthony Browne (1528-1592), 1st Viscount Montagu. See the will of Sir Anthony Browne (29 June 1500 – 6 May 1548), TNA PROB 11/33/155, in which he mentions his daughter, Mary Browne. See also the Browne pedigree in Questier, Michael, *Catholicism and Community in Early Modern England*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006); and Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 180-3, Vol. II, pp. 172-3 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=kjme027UeagC&pg=RA1-PA172>

See also the entry for Mary Browne at:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=646

For the testatrix' siblings and other relatives, see the will of her father, Lord John Grey (d.1564), TNA PROB 11/48/27, and the will of her mother, Mary (nee Browne) Grey Capell (d. 4 February 1617), TNA PROB 11/130/133.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testatrix married, on 28 August 1569, William Cooke (d. 14 May 1589), esquire, son of Sir Anthony Cooke (1505 – 11 June 1576), and brother of Oxford's mother-in-law, Mildred (nee Cooke) Cecil (1526-1589), Lady Burghley. For the will of Sir Anthony Cooke, see TNA PROB 11/59/110. For the will of William Cooke, see TNA PROB 11/74/523. See also the Cooke pedigree in *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society*, Vol. III, (London: J.B. Nichols, 1870), p. 306 at:

<http://www.lamas.org.uk/archives/transactions/transactions-vol03fs.html>

For the Cooke family see also Mason, Thomas, ed., *A Register of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials in the Parish of St. Martin in the Fields in the County of Middlesex, from 1550 to 1619*, (London: Harleian Society, 1898), Vol. XXV at:

<https://archive.org/details/registerofbaptis00stma/page/n8>

For the testatrix see also the entry at:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=677

According to the Cooke pedigree in *Transactions, supra*, p. 306, the testatrix had seven sons and three daughters by William Cooke. Three sons and three daughters are mentioned in the will below, all of whom are also mentioned in the will of their father, William Cooke, TNA PROB 11/74/523:

* **Sir William Cooke** (baptized 14 February 1579, buried 4 March 1619) of Highnam Court, Gloucestershire, eldest son. In 1597 he married Joyce Lucy, one of the fourteen children of Thomas Lucy (1551–1605) by his second wife, Constance Kingsmill, daughter and heiress of Richard Kingsmill, Surveyor of the Court of Wards. Thomas Lucy (1551-1605) was the son of Sir Thomas Lucy (d.1600) of Charlecote, Warwickshire, who allegedly prosecuted Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon for deer poaching. See the *ODNB* entry for Sir Thomas Lucy (d.1600) of Charlecote. For a letter from Sir Francis Bacon to Sir Thomas Lucy (1551-1605) concerning the marriage of his

kinsman, Sir William Cooke, to Joyce Lucy, see Brown, Basil, *Law Sports at Gray's Inn (1594)*, (Clark, New Jersey: The Lawbook Exchange, Ltd., 2009), pp. 60-1 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=XZYXeN-0ocIC&pg=PA60>

See also Spedding, James, *The Letters and the Life of Francis Bacon*, Vol. II, (London: Longmans, Green, and Co., 1890), pp. 369-70 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=X-9MAQAAMAAJ&pg=PR10>

See also the Lucy pedigree in Dugdale, William, *The Antiquities of Warwickshire*, (London: Thomas Warren, 1656), p. 399 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/antiquitiesofwar00dugd#page/398/mode/2up>

See also:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/52219527@N00/31812246558/>

For Sir William Cooke, see also the History of Parliament entry at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/cooke-sir-william-1574-1619>

* **John Cooke**, second son.

* **Edward Cooke**, third son.

* **Anne Cooke** (baptized 16 October 1572, living 1641?), eldest daughter. She married, in 1602, as his second wife, Ely Walwyn (d.1616), esquire, a descendant of Fulke Walwyn (d.1509) and Jane Baynham, by whom she had a son, Fulke Walwyn. After the death of Ely Walwyn, Anne Cooke married secondly Lesbeius Thomas, esquire. See the will of Sir Alexander Baynham (d. 25 September 1524), TNA PROB 11/21/469, and Cooke, William Henry, *Collections Towards the History and Antiquities of the County of Hereford in Continuation of Duncumb's History*, Vol. III, (London: John Murray, 1882), pp. 14-18 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=0zxAAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA17>

Anne (nee Cooke) Walwyn is mentioned in the will below.

* **Mildred Cooke**, second daughter. She married, on 1 June 1590, Sir Henry Maxey. She is mentioned in the will of her grandmother, Mary (nee Browne) Grey Capell (d. 4 February 1617), TNA PROB 11/130/133.

* **Frances Cooke**, third daughter. She married Edward Morris [=Morice?].

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

For the testatrix' friend, Sir John Morice *alias* Poyntz (1568-1618), whom she appoints as overseer, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/morice-%28afterwards-poyntz%29-john-1568-1618>

See also the History of Parliament entry for William Cooke, *supra*.

See also the Poyntz pedigree in Burke, John, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland*, Vol. III, (London: Henry Colburn, 1836), p. 538 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=gQpBAQAAMAAJ&pg=RA1-PA538>

See also the pedigree of Morice of Springfield in Burke, Bernard, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain & Ireland*, Vol. II, (London: Harrison, 1882), p. 1126 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=yr48fD1QbMEC&pg=PA1126>

James Morice, Esq., M.P. for Colchester, Essex, who m. Elizabeth, dau. of George Medley, Esq., and was father of Sir John Morice, Knt. of Ongar Castle, who took the name of Poyntz; James d. 2 Feb. 1596, and his wife d. 29 September 1603.

As the pedigree indicates, Sir John Morice was the son of Elizabeth Medley, the daughter of George Medley, son of the testatrix' grandmother, Margaret Wotton (died c.1535), by her first husband, William Medley, esquire (see above). For the will of George Medley, esquire, dated 20 May 1561 and proved 3 February 1563, see TNA PROB 11/46/75. See also the History of Parliament entry for James Morice (1539-1597) at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/morice-james-1539-97>

b. 1539, 1st s. of William Morice[†] of Chipping Ongar by Anne Isaac of Kent. educ. M. Temple 1558, called. m. by 1560, Elizabeth (d.1603), da. of George Medley of Tilty Abbey, Essex and 'Whitnes' (?Whitnash), Warws., 4s. inc. John 3da. suc. fa. 1554.1

LM: T{estamentum} ffrancisce Cooke vid{ue}

In the name of God, Amen. The last day of December one thousand six hundred and seven and in the years of the reign of our Sovereign Lord James by the grace of God King of England, France and Ireland the fifth and of Scotland the one and fortieth, Defender of the Faith etc., I, Frances Cooke of London, widow, being sick in body but of good, sound and perfect mind and remembrance, praised be God therefore, do ordain and make this my present testament containing therein my last will in manner and form following, that is to say:

Imprimis and before all things I give and commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my Creator, and to Jesus Christ, my only Lord and Saviour, by the merits of whose most bitter death and passion I hope and steadfastly believe to be saved and by no other means;

And my body to be buried in the vault of the parish church of Saint Martin's in the Fields in the county of Middlesex where my husband lieth;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my daughter Maxey, wife of Sir Henry Maxey, knight, a silver chafing-dish;

Item, I give to my daughter, Mrs Anne Wallen [=Walwyn], the wife of Mr Elye Wallen, one black velvet gown, two black velvet kirtles, one new gown and kirtle of taffeta, a cut taffeta gown with a kirtle to it, and a crimson velvet petticoat;

Item, I give to my daughter, Frances Morres [=Morice], wife to Mr Edward Morris, one black tufted velvet gown with a kirtle to it, one striped satin gown with a kirtle to it, one crimson satin petticoat with a guard embroidered;

Item, I give and bequeath to my brother, Mr Edward Grey, the sum of ten pounds to be put in a piece of plate in remembrance of me;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the right honourable my good Lady and mother, the Lady Mary Grey, widow, one gold ring set with five diamonds, and I earnestly request her that whatsoever she would have bestowed on me if I had overlived her, she would bestow the same on my sons, John Cooke and Edward Cooke aforementioned;

Item, I give unto my said son, John Cooke, all the furniture that is in the lodge at Hartwell Park in the county of Northampton;

Item, I give unto my said son, Edward Cooke, the [f. 42r] best bed save one that I have in my now dwelling-house with all the furniture belonging to it, and two pair of sheets and two pair of pillow-beres for his own bed, and also two pair of household sheets for his servants;

Item, I give unto my sister Elizabeth, Lady Greville, a jet chain mingled with pearl and a pointed diamond set in a ring of gold hanging at it;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Weston Shawe, my man, in regard of his long and dutiful service, twenty pounds of good and current English money, to be paid together with twenty pounds that I owe him within three months next after my decease by my executor hereafter named;

Item, I give unto Katherine Ward(?), my maidservant, all my own wearing linen and ten pounds in money to be paid unto her within six months next after my decease;

Also I give unto her one whole year's wages over and above that which is due unto her;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Mrs Mary Shawe, my gentlewoman, one pinked black stuff gown with a kirtle to it, and one whole year's wages over and above that which is due unto her;

Item, I give unto John Todd, my man, one old tuftaffeta gown and kirtle to it, and one whole year's wages after my decease besides that which is now due unto him;

Item, I give unto William Barker, my man, one whole year's wages after my decease;

The like I give unto Katherine Barker, his wife;

Item, I give unto the poor of Saint Katherine Creechurch in London where I now dwell five pounds to be disposed by [+the?] minister, churchwardens and vestrymen of the parish aforesaid;

The residue of all and singular my goods, chattels, household stuff and plate unbequeathed, my debts first paid, my legacies fulfilled & my funeral expenses discharged, I wholly give, will and bequeath unto my son, Sir William Cooke, knight, whom of this my present testament and last will I make my full and sole executor;

And I desire my loving friends, Sir John Morris [=Morice], knight, & Sir Robert Osborne, knight, to be overseers of this my last will and testament and to see the same in all things performed according to my true meaning, to whom I give five pounds apiece for their pains herein to be taken;

In witness whereof I, the said Frances Cooke, to this my last will and testament have set my hand and seal the day and years before-written;

Item, I give and bequeath unto George Creswell, minister of the aforesaid parish of Saint Katherine Creechurch, four pounds and ten shillings in money or a piece of plate of the same value;

Item, I give unto every one of my menservants a mourning clacke [sic for 'cloak'], and to every one of my maidservants a mourning gown;

Sealed and delivered as the last will and testament of the said Frances Cooke in the presence of us, Leonard Poure and Richard Patricke. Frances Cooke.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram venerabili viro Magistro Will{el}mo Birde legum doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cantuariens{is} Magistro Custode siue Com{m}issario legitime constituto undecimo die mens{is} ffebruarij Anno Domini iuxta cursum et computac{i}o{n}em Eccl{es}ie anglicane millesimo sexcentesimo septimo Iuramento Domini Will{el}mi Cooke militis filij n{atu}ralis et legitimi d{i}c{t}e Defuncti(?) et executoris in eodem testamento nominat{i} Cui commissa fuit Administrac{i}o bonorum Iurium et Creditorum d{i}c{t}e Defuncte de bene et fideliter administrand{o} &c ad sancta dei Evangelia Iurat{o}

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Bird, Doctor of the Laws, lawfully constituted Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the eleventh day of the month of February in the year of the Lord according to the course and reckoning of the English Church the thousand six hundred seventh by the oath of William Cooke, knight, natural and legitimate son of the said deceased and executor named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer etc.]