

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 9 April 1610 and proved 30 June 1610, of Ralph Egerton (d. 17 April 1610), esquire, of Betley, Staffordshire, half brother of Sir Thomas Bromley (c.1530-1587), one of the trustees appointed in Oxford's indenture of 20 January 1575. See SRO D615/D 45(1).

The signature of the testator's sister, Dorothy Egerton, is found in a copy of Chaucer now in the Folger Library.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the testator's family background, see the Egerton pedigree in Rylands, John Paul, ed., *The Visitation of Cheshire in the Year 1580*, (London: Harleian Society, 1882), Vol. XVIII, p. 98 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofches00glov#page/98/mode/2up>

See also the Egerton pedigree in 'Star Chamber Proceedings Henry VIII and Edward IV', *Collections for a History of Staffordshire*, (London: Harrison and Sons, 1912), pp. 1-206 at p. 29:

https://archive.org/stream/collectionsforhi03staf_3#page/n49/mode/2up

Testator's grandparents

According to the pedigree, the testator was the grandson of Randoll (or Ralph?) Egerton (d. 7 May 1522?).

There is confusion concerning the identity of the testator's grandmother, with some sources calling her Isabel Hill, and others calling her Isabel Wood, as well as confusion concerning the number and order of her marriages.

According to most sources, the testator's grandmother was Isabel Hill (granddaughter of Robert Hill of Houndhill near Marchington, Staffordshire, and daughter of Robert's son, also named Robert Hill). See *Collections for a History of Staffordshire*, (London: Harrison and Sons, 1919), pp. 252-3, 301 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/collectionsforhi191719183staf#page/n321/mode/2up>

[Robert Hill] had sons Robert and William to whom he granted lands at Marchington in 1469. . . . His granddaughter married in turn Ralph Egerton of Wrimehill [sic for 'Wrinehill'], Sir John Draycot and Sir Edward Littleton, and her arms are in Horton Church. . . .

[Sir Edward Littleton (d. 10 October 1558) of Pillaton Hall] . . . married [secondly], in or after 1523, Isabel, daughter and heiress of Robert Hill of Houndhill, M.P., and widow of Ralph Egerton of Wrimehill [sic] and of Sir John Draycott.

According to most sources the testator's grandmother, Isabel Hill, married secondly Sir John Draycott (d. 5 May 1514), and thirdly Sir Edward Littleton (d. 10 October 1558) of Pillaton Hall, Staffordshire.

For the marriage of the testator's grandmother to Sir John Draycott, see Pointon, Matthew E., *A History of the Parish of Draycott-En-Le-Moors*, (2006), pp. 62-5 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=0Ns6DwAAQBAJ&pg=PA62>

Sir John [Draycott] married one Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Eyre of Padley in Derbyshire, but she evidently predeceased him as later on he married again – this wife surviving him – one 'Isabel' whom [sic] is described as being the 'daughter of Robert Hill' but who is then inexplicably called 'Isabel Wood'. 121

Sir John died on 5th May 1514 and is buried in Draycott church with his first wife

Sir John Draycott (XIV) had (possibly along with other children two sons, Philip and Anthony. . . . Sir Philip Draycott (XV) who succeeded to the estate upon his father's death. As for the basic facts of his life, he was over thirty in 1522, and died on 25th February, 1559, his tomb being one of the finest in the Draycott Chapel. He was a Knight and an MP and he married one Elizabeth daughter and co-heir of John Fitzherbet of Norbury.

For the marriage of the testator's grandmother to Sir Edward Littleton (d. 10 October 1558), see the History of Parliament entry at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/littleton-edward-1489-1558>

b. by 1489, 1st s. of Richard Littleton of Pillaton by Alice (d. 1 May 1528), da. and h. of William Wynnesbury of Pillaton. m. (1). by 1527, Helen, da. of Humphrey Swynnerton of Swynnerton, 2s. 2da.; (2) by Apr. 1533, Isabel, da. of one Wood, wid. of Ralph Egerton of Wrimehill and of Sir John Draycott (d. 5 May 1522) [sic?] of Painsley in Draycott. suc. fa. 18 May 1517. Kntd. 2 Oct. 1553.4

However for the testator's grandmother, see also the Littleton pedigree in Burke, John, and John Bernard Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies of England, Ireland and Scotland*, 2nd ed., (London: John Russell Smith, 1844), p. 315 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=j3Q-AQAAIAAJ&pg=PA315>

Sir Edward m. secondly, Isabel, relict of (blank) Wood, and daughter of Richard Hill, sister and heir of Robert Hill, esq. of Hounhill, in the county of Stafford, (she m. secondly, Ralph Egerton, esq. of Wrinehill) but by that lady had no issue. He died 10th October, 1558, and was s. by his son, Sir Edward Littleton, knt. sheriff of Staffordshire, 5 Elizabeth who m. Alice, daughter of Francis Cockayne, esq. of Ashburne, in Derbyshire, and had [among other] issue Mary Littleton, m. to Walter Vernon, esq. of Hounhill, in Staffordshire. Sir Edward d. 19th July, 1574, and was s. by his eldest son, Sir Edward Littleton, knt. . . . [who] m. Margaret, dau. and co-heir of Sir William Devereux. . . .

See also *The English Baronetage*, (London: Thomas Wotton, 1741), Vol. II, pp. 65-6 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=nC45AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA67>

For the will of Sir William Devereux (c.1525 - 28 September 1579) of Merevale, Warwickshire, see TNA PROB 11/61/494. As noted above, Margaret Devereux (d.1603) married Sir Edward Littleton (d.1555-1610), who participated in the Essex Rebellion in 1601.

The testator's grandparents, Randoll (or Ralph Egerton) and Isabel Hill, had two sons and two daughters:

-John Egerton (d. 1 June 1529), eldest son, who married Agnes Griffith, the daughter of Sir Walter Griffith of Wychnor, by whom he was the father of Sir Ralph Egerton (d.1596) of Wrinehill, who married firstly Anne Fitton, the daughter of Sir Edward Fitton (d. 17 February 1548) of Gawsworth, Cheshire, and Mary Harbottle. For further details concerning the marriage of Sir Ralph Egerton (d.1596) and Anne Fitton, see the will of Anne Fitton's mother, Mary (nee Harbottle) Fitton, TNA PROB 11/39/471.

-William Egerton (buried 22 November 1571), second son, the testator's father (see below).

-Katherine Egerton, who married Edward Barker of Wollerton, Shropshire, son of John Barker and Elizabeth Hill, the daughter of Thomas Hill, Lord Mayor of London. See Bierce, Thurber H., and *Lisle Cottrell, Ancestors in the United States of Byron H. Bierce and His Wife Mary Ida Cottrell*, (1962) p. 171 at:

<https://archive.org/details/ancestorsinunite00bier/page/170>

-Anne Egerton, who married Robert Middlemore (1509?-1576) of Edgbaston, Warwickshire, the son of Thomas Middlemore (c.1473 - 9 December 1521) of Studley and Anne Littleton, the daughter of Richard Littleton (d. 17 May 1518) of Pillaton Hall (second son of Sir Thomas Littleton, author of *Littleton's Tenures*). See Anne Littleton's will, proved 13 November 1559, TNA PROB 11/42B/641; and *The English Baronetage*, (London: Thomas Wotton, 1741), Vol. II, pp. 65-6 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=nC45AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA67>

See also the will of Robert Middlemore, dated 5 November 1573 and proved 28 June 1576, TNA PROB 11/58/224, and the Middlemore pedigree in Phillimore, W.P.W., ed., *The Visitation of Worcestershire 1569*, (London: Harleian Society, 1888), Vol. XXVII, pp. 96-7 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationcount02mundgoog#page/n111/mode/2up>

For the marriage of Anne Egerton and Robert Middlemore, see also the will of Sir Robert Throckmorton, TNA PROB 11/20/25.

Testator's parents

The testator was the son of William Egerton (buried 22 November 1571) of Betley by Jane Lacon (born c.1505, buried 22 October 1578), the daughter of Sir Thomas Lacon (d.1536) of Willey, Shropshire. For the will of Sir Thomas Lacon, see TNA PROB 11/25/371. See also the Egerton pedigree in Rylands, John Paul, ed., *The Visitation of Cheshire in the Year 1580*, (London: Harleian Society, 1882), Vol. XVIII, p. 98 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofches00glov#page/98/mode/2up>

The parish register of Betley records the burial of William Egerton, esquire, on 22 November 1571, and Jane Egerton, widow, on 22 October 1578. These burial records are presumably those of the testator's parents. See Adams, Percy W.L., ed., *Betley Parish Register*, pp. 22, 26 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/betleyparishregi00pari#page/24/mode/2up>

Before her marriage to William Egerton, the testator's mother, Jane Lacon, had been the wife of George Bromley (d.1545). For Jane Lacon's two marriages, see the pedigree of Lacon in Grazebrook, George, and John Paul Rylands, eds., *The Visitation of Shropshire Taken in the Year 1623, Part II*, (London: Harleian Society, 1889), Vol. XXIX, p. 307 at:

<https://archive.org/details/visitationshrop01grazgoog/page/n34>

Testator's mother's first marriage

By her first husband, George Bromley (d.1545) of Mitley and Hodnet, Shropshire, Jane Lacon was the mother of George Bromley (c.1526-1589), Chief Justice of Cheshire, and of Queen Elizabeth's Lord Chancellor, Sir Thomas Bromley (c.1530-1587). See the Bromley pedigree in Grazebrook, George and John Paul Rylands, eds., *The Visitation of Shropshire, Part I*, (London: Harleian Society, 1889), Vol. XXVIII, p. 78 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationshrop00britgoog#page/n132/mode/2up>

See also the History of Parliament entry for George Bromley (c.1526-1589) at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/bromley-george-1526-89>

See also the *ODNB* entry for Lord Chancellor Bromley:

Bromley, Sir Thomas (c.1530–1587), lord chancellor, was a younger son of George Bromley (d. 1545) of Hodnet, Shropshire, and his wife, Jane (b. c.1505), daughter of Sir Thomas Lacon of Willey, Shropshire. His was a legal family: his father was a bencher of the Inner Temple, as were his uncle Sir Thomas Bromley (d. 1555), chief justice of the king's bench, and his brother George, chief justice of Chester, whose son Edward Bromley became a baron of the exchequer in the time of James I.

The testator was thus a half brother of:

-Sir George Bromley (c.1526-1589), Chief Justice of Cheshire.

-Sir Thomas Bromley (c.1530-1587), Lord Chancellor.

The testator was also a second cousin (of the half blood) of Margaret Bromley, daughter of Sir Thomas Bromley (d.1555). Margaret Bromley married Sir Richard Newport (d.1570), owner of a copy of Hall's *Chronicle* thought to contain annotations by Shakespeare, formerly Loan 61 in the British Library, and now in the possession of a trustee, Lord Hesketh. See the *ODNB* entry for Sir Thomas Bromley (d.1555):

Bromley and his wife, Isabel, had only one child, Margaret, who married Sir Richard Newport (d. 1570), MP and member of the Inner Temple.

See also the will of Sir Richard Newport, TNA PROB 11/53/456, and the will of Margaret Bromley Newport, TNA PROB 11/93/149.

The testator and his wife were bequeathed gold rings by Lord Chancellor Bromley in his will dated 10 April 1587, TNA PROB 11/70/219.

Testator's siblings

According to the Egerton pedigree in Rylands, *supra*, p. 98, the testator had a brother and three sisters of the whole blood:

-Richard Egerton, who died without issue.

-Isabel Egerton, who married Robert Sandford (d.1597?). For his will, see TNA PROB 11/91/485.

-Anne Egerton, who on 19 September 1574 married John Biest (d. 30 June 1587), gentleman, the only son of William Biest, and grandson of Roger Biest, both of Atcham, but died without issue. See *Betley Parish Register, supra*, p. 24 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/betleyparishregi00pari#page/24/mode/2up>

For their monument at Atcham, see:

https://www.shropshirearchives.org.uk/collections/getrecord/CCA_X7381_15_106

See also Harwood, H.W. Forsyth, ed., *The Genealogist*, Vol. XXXV, (London: George Bell & Sons, 1919), pp. 100-101 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/genealogist3519selb#page/n223/mode/2up>

For the Biest pedigree, see *The Visitation of Shropshire, Part I, supra*, p. 38 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationshrop00britgoog#page/n92/mode/2up>

-Dorothy Egerton, who married Sir Thomas Vernon (d. 9 May 1616) of Haslington, Cheshire. See the Vernon pedigree in *The Visitation of Shropshire Taken in the Year 1623, Part II, supra*, p. 473 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=HW5KAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA473>

Dorothy Egerton and her husband, Sir Thomas Vernon, were bequeathed gold rings by Lord Chancellor Thomas Bromley in his will dated 10 April 1587, TNA PROB 11/70/219.

By Sir Thomas Vernon, Dorothy Egerton was the mother of George Vernon (1575/6-1639), Justice of the Common Pleas, for whom see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/vernon-george-15756-1639>

For a lawsuit brought by Sir Thomas Vernon and his wife, Dorothy Egerton, concerning lands in Audley and Betley, see TNA C 2/JasI/U2/9.

For a copy, dated 17 April 1620, of the inquisition post mortem taken after the death of Sir Thomas Vernon of Haslington, see Cheshire Archives DAR/A/24/1 at:

http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/r?_ep=DAR%2FA%2F24%2F1&_dss=range&_ro=any&_st=adv

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

For a note stating that Sir Thomas Vernon died 9 May 1616, and that his son, Sir George Vernon, was born in 1576, see Cheshire Archives DAR/D/68/35 at:

http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/r?_ep=DAR%2FD%2F68%2F35&_dss=range&_ro=any&_st=adv

For Dorothy Egerton's signature in a copy of Chaucer now in the Folger Library, STC 5074 Copy 2, see:

<https://luna.folger.edu/luna/servlet/detail/FOLGERCM1~6~6~74344~105774:The-works-of-Geffray-Chaucer---new>

The copy of Chaucer was owned firstly by the testator's sister, Dorothy Egerton; secondly by Anne Vernon; thirdly by Mary Egerton (bap. 22 October 1577, d.1647), daughter of Sir Ralph Egerton (d.1596) of Wrinehill and Anne Fitton, who married Hercy Wolfreston; and fourthly by their daughter-in-law, Frances Middlemore Wolfreston (1607-1677), who inscribed it 'Frances Wolfreston her bouk given her by her motherilaw mary wolfreston'. See Wiggins, Alison, 'Frances Wolfreston's Chaucer' in Lawrence-Mathers, Anne and Phillipa Hardman, eds., *Women and Writing c.1340-c.1650*, (York: The University of York, 2010), pp. 77-9 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=AfUrUZqv_2EC&pg=PA79

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married, on 17 January 1577, at Madeley, Frances Egerton, the daughter of Sir Ralph Egerton (d.1596) by his first wife, Anne Fitton (living 1586), the daughter of Sir Edward Fitton (d. 17 February 1548) of Gawsworth, Cheshire, by Mary Harbottle (d. 12 December 1556). For Anne Fitton's family background, see the will of her mother, Mary (nee Harbottle) Fitton, TNA PROB 11/39/471. After the death of Anne Fitton, Sir Ralph Egerton (d.1596) married secondly a wife named Alice. See:

'Deeds: A.13501 - A.13600', in *A Descriptive Catalogue of Ancient Deeds: Volume 5*, ed. H C Maxwell Lyte (London, 1906), pp. 527-547. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/ancient-deeds/vol5/pp527-547> [accessed 16 October 2018].

As the Egerton pedigree in *The Visitation of Cheshire, supra*, p. 98, indicates, the testator's father-in-law, Sir Ralph Egerton (d.1596), was the nephew of the testator's father, William Egerton (buried 22 November 1571) of Betley (see above).

See also *Betley Parish Register, supra*, pp. 22, 25, 26 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/betleyparishregi00pari#page/24/mode/2up>

Testator's children

By Frances Egerton, the testator had two sons, and two daughters (see the pedigree in *The Visitation of Cheshire, supra*, p. 98):

* **Sir Ralph Egerton** (baptized 25 February 1580, d.1624?). See *Betley Parish Register, supra*, p. 26. He may have been the Ralph Egerton who was admitted to the Inner Temple in November 1598. See *Students Admitted to the Inner Temple 1571-1625*, p. 85 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/studentsadmitted00inne#page/84/mode/2up>

Sir Ralph Egerton married, on 21 December 1606 at Richmond, Frances Harington (living 1 June 1634), the daughter of the courtier, author, and godson of Queen Elizabeth, Sir John Harington (1560-1612), and his wife, Mary Rogers. See the *ODNB* entry for Sir John Harington and the Harington pedigree in Poynton, Francis, *Memoranda, Historical and Genealogical, Relating to the Parish of Kelston, in the County of Somerset*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1885), Part III, pp. 19, 21, Part IV, p. 32 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=SgEIAAAQAAJ&pg=PR7>

For the marriage of Sir Ralph Egerton and Frances Harington, see also Crisp, Frederick Arthur, *Visitation of England and Wales*, Vol. 9, (1911), p. 121 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofengl30howa#page/120/mode/2up>

Administration of Sir Ralph Egerton's estate was granted at Lichfield in 1624.

See also the History of Parliament entry for Randolph Egerton (1618-1681), son of Sir Ralph Egerton and Frances Harington, at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1660-1690/member/egerton-randolph-1618-81>

Elizabeth Egerton, daughter of Sir Ralph Egerton (d.1624?), is mentioned in the will below.

* **William Egerton** (bap. 1 January 1582). He may have been the William Egerton, gentleman, buried 5 January 1613 (see *Betley Parish Register, supra*, pp. 28, 58).

* **Mary Egerton** (bap. 22 October 1577, d.1647). At the age of sixteen she married Hercy Wolfreton (d. 28 July 1636) of Statfold Hall near Tamworth. See *Betley Parish Register, supra*, pp. v-vi, 25, 38, Appendix, p. i-ii at:

<https://archive.org/stream/betleyparishregi00pari#page/38/mode/2up>

1593, Sept. 8. Hersey Wolfeston, of the parish of Tamworth, armiger, & Maria fa. Rad. Egerton, of Betley, armiger, married by Roger Reynoldes, rector of Stoke on Trent.

Hercy Wolfreston was the son of Humphrey Wolfreston (d.1592) (for whose will see TNA PROB 11/79/350) by Katherine Stanley, the daughter of John Stanley of Thoresby and the Grove, Nottinghamshire. Hercy Wolfreston served with the Earl of Essex at Cadiz. See Vaughan, H.J.F., 'Sir William Stanley', *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, Vol. XIV, 4th Series, (London: Parker and Co., 1883), pp. 57-76 at pp. 60, 62. See also TNA C 2/Eliz.W11/47; and Staffordshire Record Office D/948/1/1/2/1 at:

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/1fb33b5d-06c3-4e31-ae8d-313b0e611d22>

See also the pedigree of 'Wolferstan of Statfold Hall' in Burke, John, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland*, Vol. I, (London: Henry Colburn, 1835), pp. 187-8 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/genealogicalheral01burk#page/186/mode/2up>

The Betley parish register records that Mary Egerton and Hercy Wolfreston had a son, Hercy Wolfreston, whose parentage was doubtful; two sons, Walter Wolfreston and Richard Wolfreston, who died young; and a son, Francis Wolfreston, who was baptized at Betley on 3 May 1612. See *Betley Parish Register, supra*, pp. 40, 41, 47, 50, 57, 61-2. According to Burke, *supra*, Mary Egerton and Hercy Wolfreston also had a daughter, Katherine Wolfreston, who married John Bromefield.

Francis Wolfreston married, on 29 September 1631, Frances Middlemore (1607-1677), the eldest of the twenty-two children of George Middlemore (administration granted 16 April 1652) of Hazelwell in the parish of King's Norton, Worcestershire, by Frances Stanford, the daughter and heir of Robert Stanford of Towerhill, Staffordshire. See Butler, Alfred Trego, ed., *The Visitation of Worcestershire, 1634*, (London: Harleian Society, 1938), Vol. XC, pp. 68-9 at:

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015039595650;view=1up;seq=84>

As noted above, the copy of Chaucer now in the Folger Library was owned firstly by the testator's sister, Dorothy (nee Egerton) Vernon; secondly by Anne Vernon; thirdly by Mary Egerton (bap. 22 October 1577, d.1647), daughter of Sir Ralph Egerton (d.1596) of Wrinehill and Anne Fitton, who married Hercy Wolfreston; and fourthly by their daughter-in-law, Frances Middlemore Wolfreston (1607-1677), who inscribed it 'Frances Wolfreston her bouk given her by her motherilaw mary wolfreston', see Wiggins, *supra*, pp. 77-9 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=AfUrUZqv_2EC&pg=PA79

See also the image of the inscription at:

<http://slideplayer.com/slide/10184553/>

For the extensive library of Frances Middlemore Wolfreston, see also Ziomek, Anna, 'Frances Middlemore Wolfreston (1607-1677)', Levin, Carole, ed., *A Biographical Encyclopedia of Early Modern Englishwomen*, (London: Routledge, 2017), p. 315 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=kDglDwAAQBAJ&pg=PA315>

* **Frances Egerton.** She may have been the Frances Egerton who was baptized 25 September 1578 (see *Betley Parish Register, supra*, p. 26). She was unmarried when the testator made his will:

Item, I give and bequeath unto my daughter, Frances Egerton, four hundred pounds towards her preferment and advancement in marriage in recompense of her child's part and of all other demands of her to be made, to be to her paid of the money payable by the Right Honourable the Lord Gerratt, and of the first thereof that shall be received after such time as my debts shall be paid, and in the meantime I will that she shall have twenty pounds yearly towards her maintenance and finding at the feasts of St Michael the Archangel and the Annunciation of Our Lady by even portions.

Testator's monument

The monument to the testator and his wife, Frances, in the church of St Margaret in Betley (see *Betley Parish Register, supra*, Appendix i-ii), confirms that Frances was a member of the Wrinehill branch of the Egerton family, while the testator was of the Betley branch. The inscription reads:

Here lie the bodies of Ralph Egerton of Betley, esquire, & Frances, his wife, daughter to Sir Ralph Egerton of Wrinehill, knight, who had issue Sir Ralph Egerton, knight, William, Mary & Frances, which Ralph died the 17 of April 1610.

For the monument, see also:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/52219527@N00/3720117594>

See also:

<http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101038581-church-of-st-margaret-betley>

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

'Right Honourable the Lord Gerratt'

He may have been Thomas Gerard (c.1564 - 15 January 1618), 1st Baron Gerard, the son of Sir Gilbert Gerard (d. 4 February 1593), Master of the Rolls, and Anne Ratcliffe.

Sir Edward Bromley

The testator's cousin and overseer, Sir Edward Bromley (1563-1626), was the second of the four sons of the testator's half brother, Sir George Bromley (d.1589). See also Bromley, Ian, *Bromley: A Midlands Family History*, 2007, p. 117 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=AFXitTEI3DoC&pg=PA117>

For Sir Edward Bromley (1563-1626), see the Wikipedia article:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Bromley

See also the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/bromley-edward-1563-1626>

bap. 17 Oct. 1563, 1 2nd s. of Sir George Bromley† (d.1589) of the Inner Temple and Hodnet, Salop

John Chetwynd

The testator's bequest to John Chetwynd ('I give unto my cousin, John Chetwynd, five pound') appears to have been intended as a separate clause in the will, but was erroneously inserted by the PCC scribe into the clause naming the witnesses to the will.

As noted above, the testator's aunt, Anne Egerton, married Robert Middlemore (1509?-1576) of Edgbaston. In his will, TNA PROB 11/58/224, Robert Middlemore refers to his daughter, Margery Middlemore, who married, as his second wife, John Chetwynd (d.1592), esquire, by whom she had, among other issue, two sons, Walter Chetwynd and Thomas Chetwynd. It thus appears that the John Chetwynd bequeathed £5 in the will below was the testator's first cousin, John Chetwynd (d.1592), esquire. See the Chetwynd pedigree in Grazebrook, H. Sydney, ed., *The Heraldic Visitations of Staffordshire*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1885), pp. 81-3 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/collectionsforpt205stafuoft#page/80/mode/2up>

RM: T{estamentum} Radulphi Egerton

In the name of God, Amen. The 9th day of April in the year of Our Lord God one thousand six hundred and ten and in the years of the reign of our Sovereign Lord James by the grace of God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith etc., that is to say, of England, France and Ireland the eight and of Scotland the forty three, I, Ralph Egerton of Betley in the county of Stafford, esquire, being of perfect mind & remembrance, I thank my most merciful God, although diseased in body, do constitute, ordain & make this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my Creator, redeemed freely by the blood of my alone Saviour, Jesus Christ, in whose only merits & his alone passion & satisfaction for my sins I hope to be saved, and my body to be buried according to my degree according to the discretion of my executors hereafter named;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my daughter, Frances Egerton, four hundred pounds towards her preferment and advancement in marriage in recompense of her child's part and of all other demands of her to be made, to be to her paid of the money payable by the Right Honourable the Lord Gerratt, and of the first thereof that shall be received after such time as my debts shall be paid, and in the meantime I will that she shall have twenty pounds yearly towards her maintenance and finding at the feasts of St Michael the Archangel and the Annunciation of Our Lady by even portions;

Item, I give to Sir Ralph Egerton, knight, my son, one piece of plate to be bought by my executors of the price of six pound thirteen shillings four pence;

And to my son, William, and to my two daughters, each of them severally a piece of plate of five pound price, and over & besides to my son, William, a dozen of spoons;

Item, all my plate whatsoever I give and bequeath unto my dear wife, Frances Egerton, according unto a gift thereof by me made in the presence of Richard Lea, esquire, my son [=son-in-law], Hercy Wolfreston, and Thomas Stanton and others;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth Egerton, daughter of my son, Sir Ralph Egerton, the sum of forty pounds to be paid unto the said Elizabeth when she accomplisheth the age of ten years, and then to be disposed of by my executors for her proper good;

Item, my will is that the chancel of the parish church of Betley aforesaid be presently repaired in some convenient time by my executors;

Item, my will further is that after my debts be discharged my executors shall by some means devise to put forth one hundred pounds, parcel of my goods, so as forever ten pounds yearly may be paid towards the maintenance of a preacher or minister in the church of Betley aforesaid;

Item, I give unto every one of my servingmen that shall be household servants at the time of my death twenty shillings over and besides his or her wages then due, excepting they be by my mean and gift otherways provided for, and excepting William Palmer, and to him I give eighteen pound to be paid within two years after my decease;

Item, whereas I hold for divers years yet to come a lease for the lives of John Audley and Richard Audley of one messuage & tenement and all kind of commodities thereunto belonging set, lying and being in the parish of Audley, I will and bequeath all the said premises unto Frances Egerton during all the said term, my dear and well-beloved wife, according to such limitation and purposes as I have formerly by conveyance disposed of Hely Castle;

Item, my will is that all other goods and chattel[s] whatsoever, my debts & funeral & legacies discharged, shall remain & be and I will, give and bequeath them unto my wife, Frances Egerton, & my executors to be disposed of at their pleasures;

And I do constitute, ordain and make my executors of this my last will and testament Frances Egerton, my wife, Richard Lea of Lea, esquire, and Ralph Thickens [=Thickness] of Balterley, esquire, and I give to every executor five pounds apiece;

And entreat my loving cousin, Sir Edward Bromley, to be overseer of the performing of this my last will, to whom also I give five pounds as a remembrance of my love to him;

And twenty shillings I give to the minister that shall be curate at my funeral;

I give unto my cousin, John Chetwynd, five pound;

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year above-written in the presence of I give unto my cousin, John Chetwynd, five pound, Ralph Egerton, Hercy Wolfreton, Thomas Stanton, Richard Lindope.

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram venerabili viro D^{omi}no Iohanne Benet milite legum D^octore Curie Prerogative Cant^{uariensis} mag^{ist}ro Custode sive Com^missario l^{egi}time constituto vltimo Die Mensis Iunij Anno D^{omi}ni millesimo sexcentesimo decimo Iuramento ffrancisce Relⁱc^te Dicti defuncti et vnus Executorum in huiusmodi testamento no^miⁿatorum Cui com^missa fuit administracⁱo o^mnⁱum et sing^ulorum bonorum Iurium et creditorum eiusdem defuncti De bene et fidel^{ite}r administrando eadem ad sancta Dei Ev^angelia iurat^e Reservata p^{otes}tate simile^m Com^missione^m faciendi Richardo Lea et Radulpho Thickens executoribus etiam in Dicto testamento no^miⁿatis cu^m venerint eam petitur^{is} in debita iuris forma admissur^{is}

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Sir John Bennet, knight, Doctor of the Laws, lawfully constituted Master, Keeper or Commissary

of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the last day of the month of June in the year of the Lord the thousand six hundred tenth by the oath of Frances, relict of the said deceased and one of the executors named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, with power reserved for a similar grant to be made to Richard Lea and Ralph Thickness, executors also named in the said testament, when they shall have come to petition in due form of law to be admitted.]