

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 19 July 1610 and proved 4 May 1611, of Oxford's brother-in-law, Sir John Stanhope.

According to Cox, the testator was knighted by King James on his arrival in England. See Cox, John Charles, *Notes on the Churches of Derbyshire*, Vol. IV, (London: Bemrose and Sons, 1879), p. 202 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=eh9NAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA202>

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator was the son of Sir Thomas Stanhope (d. 3 August 1596) and Margaret (nee Port) Stanhope. See the will of the testator's mother, TNA PROB 11/121/331, and the History of Parliament entry for the testator's father at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/stanhope-sir-thomas-1540-96>

MARRIAGES AND CHILDREN

First marriage

The testator married firstly Cordell Alington, daughter of Richard Alington (d.1561), Master of the Rolls, by Jane Cordell (d.1603?). For the will of the testator's father-in-law, Richard Alington, see TNA PROB 11/45/31. For the will of the testator's mother-in-law, Jane Cordell Alington, in which she mentions the death of her daughter, Cordell, see TNA PROB 11/103/18. The testator's first wife was the niece of Oxford's trustee, Sir William Cordell (d.1581), Master of the Rolls, and is mentioned in his will, TNA PROB 11/63/590.

For the connection between the Alington and Cecil families, see the will of Oxford's father-in-law, William Cecil (d. 4 August 1598), Lord Burghley, TNA PROB 11/92/316, and the History of Parliament entry for Sir Giles Alington:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/alington-giles-1499-1586>

Alington had made his will on 26 Feb. 1580, leaving cash, plate and other presents to his wife and family and £20 for division among the poor of four Cambridgeshire and Suffolk villages. The executors were his wife, his youngest son, who was also residuary legatee, a grandson, and Sir William Cordell, who had predeceased him. Lord Burghley, who was named supervisor, was left a cup worth £10 'for the duty, love and good will that I have

ever borne unto him' and was asked to see that the marriage arranged between Alington's heir and a daughter of Burghley's heir-apparent Thomas Cecil should take place, as it later did.

By Cordell Alington, the testator was the father of Philip Stanhope, 1st Earl of Chesterfield (baptized 6 January 1584?, d. 12 September 1656), for whom see the *ODNB* entry:

Stanhope, Philip, first earl of Chesterfield (1583/4–1656), royalist nobleman, was the son of Sir John Stanhope (d. 1609) and his first wife, Cordell Alington. Aged seventy-two when he died, Stanhope must have been born in 1583 or 1584; he may well have been the Philip Stanhope, son of John Stanhope, baptized at Holy Trinity-the-Less, London, on 6 January 1584. In the reign of Elizabeth the Stanhopes of Shelford had become one of the leading families in Nottinghamshire with substantial estates in the south of the shire. Philip Stanhope was knighted in 1605 and in the same year married Catherine, daughter of Francis, Lord Hastings. After her death in 1636 he married again; his second wife was Anne (d. 1667), widow of Sir Humphrey Ferrers and daughter of Sir John Pakington of Westwood, Worcestershire, and his wife, Dorothy Smith.

Second marriage

The testator married secondly, Oxford's sister-in-law, Katherine Trentham, for whom see her will, TNA PROB 11/137/516, and the Trentham quarterings on the testator's tomb at Elvaston in Cox, *supra*:

On the lower part of the monument is the quartered coat of Stanhope, Maulovel, Longvilliers, and Lexinton, impaling the quarterings of Sir John's second wife: --

- 1. Argent, three griffins' heads erased sable, beaked gules (Trentham).*
- 2. Argent on a chief or a hawk sable (Hoord).*
- 3. Gules a bend fusilly or within a bordure engrailed of the second (Marshall).*
- 4. Argent six billets azure fretty, three in fesse and as many in pale (Hurst).*

The right of Trentham to these three quarterings will be explained on referring to the Trentham pedigree, Harl. MSS, 1,077, f. 15b, and 1, 173, f. 14b.

According to Cox, *supra*, the testator had seven sons by Katherine Trentham, only two of whom survived to adulthood, Sir John Stanhope (d.1638), and William Stanhope, who had three sons who died without issue.

At the time he made his will, five of the testator's sons were still living. A sixth son, John Posthumous Stanhope, born after the testator's death, is mentioned in the will, dated 25 November 1612, TNA PROB 11/121/171, of Oxford's widow, Elizabeth Trentham, sister of the testator's second wife, Katherine Trentham:

And for want of such issue, then to my said brother Francis Trentham and unto his heirs forever, the said Francis Trentham or his heirs paying unto John Posthumous Stanhope, the youngest son of my sister, the Lady Stanhope, if the said John Posthumous Stanhope shall be then living, the full sum of one thousand pounds of lawful English money at the font-stone within the Temple Church, London, within one year next after the same premises shall accrue, happen, or come unto the said Francis Trentham or his heirs by such failing of the issues of the body of my said son as is aforesaid.

When the testator's widow, Katherine Trentham, made her will on 7 September 1619, she had five sons and five daughters then living, for whom see her will, TNA PROB 11/137/516.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

For the will of the testator's uncle, Sir Edward Stanhope, mentioned in the will below, see TNA PROB 11/111/228.

RM: T{estamentum} d{omi}ni Iohannis Stanhope, milit{is}

In the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, the Creator of the whole world and of all therein contained, the only Saviour and Redeemer of me, Lord of all mankind and the true and lively comforter of all that believe in thy divine majesty, I, John Stanhope of Elvaston in the county of Derby, knight, being of perfect memory at my writing hereof, for which I yield most humble thanks to Almighty God, assuring myself of full remission of my infinite and horrible sins by the only death and most precious bloodshedding of my loving Saviour, Jesus Christ, knowing the frailty and uncertainty of man's life, following the example of the scripture do make and ordain this my last will and testament of my soul, body and worldly estate;

My soul, being heavenly, I commend and bequeath to God, my Creator, assuring myself in his great and wonderful day of salvation both in soul and body by the only mediation of Jesus Christ, my Saviour and Redeemer;

My body, as it is earthly, I do willingly yield it to the earth, and desire to be interred in the chancel of the parish church of Shelford by my late dear father, from whence with him I hope to arise into the everlasting and incomprehensible joys of heaven;

And for my worldly estate thereof I thus dispose of:

What land soever I am possessed of that is not settled on my two eldest sons I have already made conveyances whereby there is set down the small preferments I am able to yield to my three youngest sons;

More than that, which whilst I breathe I give and increase to my eldest and youngest together, my humble prayers to Almighty God to bless them and all my daughters with all his best heavenly and earthly blessings;

My debts, which are not small, I will that they be paid of the goods I die possessed of;

For the residue, if any do remain, I give to my dearest wife, Dame Katherine Stanhope, and to my daughters that are unmarried, to be divided amongst them;

And the lease of Weston demesnes given me by my late good uncle, Sir Edward Stanhope, knight, doctor, deceased, I give to my daughters unmarried, my loving wife, and my most true friend, Mr Lawrence Wright, to dispose thereof for my said daughters' behoof, which if any my younger sons shall contrary that might take benefit thereby by my uncle's gift and will, then I give to my said unmarried daughters amongst them that portion of land I had conveyed to my son that shall thus contrary my will, to be sold to their benefit by my wife and friend, Mr Lawrence Wright, and do hereby revoke that deed of conveyance to any son contrarying my will, and do further hereby give and grant the said land to my wife and Mr Lawrence Wright to sell and dispose of to the behoof and behalf of my daughters that are unmarried, and because my sons are yet under-age, and cannot agree to my disposing of the legacy given them by my foresaid uncle, my will is and hereby I do give and grant to my wife and Mr Lawrence Wright and to their heirs forever all the lands conveyed to any or all of my three youngest sons, to dispose of as aforesaid whensoever any or all my three youngest sons shall contrary this my bequest of Weston demesnes;

And to my two daughters that are married, to wear for a remembrance of me and for their full child's parts, I give to each of them a twenty shillings' piece of gold to make a ring of, and to my two loving eldest sons I give a like twenty shillings' piece of gold for their child's parts, praying them in the fear of God to love one the other and never to have smites the one with the other, and to love and to be good to their sisters, as my several letters to them dated with this my will doth more fully set forth my requests;

To my honourable loving aunt, the Lady Bertley [=Berkeley], and to my two most dear uncles, the Lord Stanhope and Sir Michael Stanhope, though a small, yet a token of my true love, and as my present estate will admit, to each of them I give a twenty shillings' piece of gold to make a ring of to wear for my sake, who did ever truly love and honour them;

And to my most true friend, Mr Lawrence Wright, and to his son, Mr Thomas Wright, I give to each of them a like remembrance of a twenty shillings' piece of gold to put into a ring to wear for a remembrance of me;

My loving brother, Edward Stanhope, I commend hereby to my son, Sir Philip Stanhope, his nephew, and do pray my son hereby to give to my brother and his two sons some estate of living for their lives;

My ever most kind and loving friend, Mr Lawrence Wright, and my loving wife, Dame Katherine Stanhope, I make my full and only executors of this my last will;

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the nineteenth of July 1610.

John Stanhope.

The last will and testament of Sir John Stanhope, knight, which he acknowledged to be his will the 19th of this July 1610 afore us whose names are underwritten: William Osborne, Thomas Foster.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram venerabili viro Domino Iohanne Benet milite legum doctore Curie prerogatiue Cantuariens{is} Mag{is}tro Custode siue Comissario legitime constituto Quarto die mensis Maij Anno Domini millesimo sexcentesimo vndecimo Iuramento d{omi}ne Catherine Rel{i}c{t}e dicti defuncti et Lawrencij wright Ar{migeri} executorum in eodem testamento nominat{orum} Quibus Commissa fuit Administracio bonorum Iurium et Creditorum dicti defuncti de bene et fideliter Administrand{o} &c ad sancta dei Evangelia vigore Commissionis in ea parte al{ia}s Emanat{e} Iurat{orum}

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Sir John Bennett, knight, Doctor of the Laws, lawfully constituted Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the fourth day of the month of May in the year of the Lord the thousand six hundred eleventh by the oath of the Lady Katherine, relict of the said deceased, and Lawrence Wright, esquire, executors 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., by force of a grant in that respect elsewhere issued.]