

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 12 April 1522 and proved 16 June 1522, of Sir John Spencer (d. 14 April 1522) of Wormleighton, Warwickshire, and Althorp, Northamptonshire, whose son-in-law, Sir Richard Knightley (d. 30 March 1538) was the brother of Sir Edmund Knightley (by 1491 – 12 September 1542), husband of Ursula de Vere (d.1558), sister and co-heir of John de Vere (1499-1526), 14<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford. For the will of Ursula de Vere, see TNA PROB 11/42A/10.

### ***FAMILY BACKGROUND***

The testator was the son of William Spencer and Elizabeth Empson, sister of Sir Richard Empson (c.1450–1510), for whom see the *ODNB* entry. According to the will below, the testator's mother was still living in 1522:

*Item, I give unto my mother £20 to do for her soul, and 40s by year during her life.*

The testator had a brother, Thomas, and a sister, both mentioned in the will of the testator's uncle, John Spencer (d. 4 January 1497) of Hodnell, Warwickshire, TNA PROB 11/11/147:

*Item, I bequeath to my nephew, Thomas Spencer, son of William Spencer, £20, whereof was £17 of his father's bequest and the residue of my gift and bequest.*

*Item, to my niece, his sister, £20 in like wise to be had of her father's bequest and mine.*

The testator's brother, Thomas Spencer, was living on 26 November 1504 when he and the testator, as sons of William Spencer, were granted a coat of arms. See Round, J. Horace, 'The Rise of the Spencers', *Studies in Peerage and Family History*, (New York: Longmans Green, 1901), pp. 279-329 at p. 289:

<https://archive.org/stream/studiesinpeerage02rounuoft#page/288/mode/2up>

The testator's sister may have been named Jane. See Collins, Arthur, *The Peerage of England*, (London: R. Gosling and T. Wotton, 1735), Volume II, Part I, pp. 226-7 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=ITw-AAAaCAAJ&pg=PA226>

However the testator mentions neither a brother nor a sister in the will below, and it would appear they predeceased him.

The testator resided at Hodnell while he was acting as executor of the will of his uncle, John Spencer (d. 4 January 1497), and while the heir, his first cousin, Thomas Spencer (d.1532), was underage. See Round, *supra*, pp. 287, 289, 326, and S.H.A.H., *Ladbroke and its Owners*, (Bury St. Edmunds: Paul & Mathew, 1914), p. 357 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/ladbrokeitsowner00hervuoft#page/378/mode/2up>

In the will below the testator names his first cousin, Thomas Spencer (d.1532) of Hodnell, a residuary legatee under certain conditions, directing that:

*. . . for default of heir male of my son, William Spencer, lawfully begotten, [my feoffees shall hold my lands] to the use of Thomas Spencer, my cousin, and the heirs males of his body lawfully to be begotten if he will forgive all things betwixt him and me unremembered, and make release(?) thereof by writing, or else not.*

In the event, the testator's son and heir, Sir William Spencer (d. 22 June 1532), and the testator's first cousin, Thomas Spencer (d.1532) of Hodnell, died within a few months of each other. For the will of the testator's son and heir, Sir William Spencer, see TNA PROB 11/24/12. For the will of the testator's first cousin, Thomas Spencer of Hodnell, see TNA PROB 11/24/51.

For further details concerning the testator's family, see the will of the testator's uncle, John Spencer (d. 4 January 1497) of Hodnell, *supra*, in which the testator was named an executor, and the pedigree of Spencer in Fetherston, John, *The Visitation of the County of Warwick in the Year 1619*, (London: Harleian Society, 1877), Vol. XII, pp. 284-5 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationcount01britgoog#page/n310/mode/2up/>.

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

The testator married Isabel Graunt (d.1558), the daughter of Walter Graunt of Snitterfield, Warwickshire, and Elizabeth Rudinge.

According to his monument in Brington church, the testator had two sons and three daughters. See *The English Baronetage*, (London: Thomas Wotton, 1741), Vol. I, p. 204 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=R2QUAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA204>

*Here lieth the bodies of Sir John Spencer, knight, and Dame Isabel, his wife, one of the daughters and coheirs of Walter Graunt of Snitterfield in the county of Warwick, esquire. Her mother was the daughter and heir of Humphrey Ruddinge of the Wich in the county of Worcester, esquire. Which John and Isabel had issue Sir William Spencer, knight; Anthony Spencer, who died without issue; Jane, wife to Richard Knightley, esquire, son and heir of Sir Richard Knightley of Fawsley in the county of Northampton, knight; Isabel, married to Sir Nicholas Strelley of Strelley in the county of Nottingham, knight; Dorothy, married to Sir Richard Catesby of Legers-Ashby in the county of Northampton, knight. Which Sir John Spencer departed this life the 14<sup>th</sup> of April Anno Domini 1522.*

For the will of the testator's wife, Isabel (nee Graunt) Spencer, see TNA PROB 11/40/348. In her will Dame Isabel requests burial in the parish church of Snitterfield, Warwickshire, 'near unto the sepulture of my mother', bringing into question the claim on the monument that she was buried at Brington with the testator.

The pedigree of Spencer in Fetherston, *supra*, pp. 284-5, lists two children of the testator and Isabel Graunt not named on the monument in Brington church: a son, Thomas Spencer, who died without issue, and a daughter, Elizabeth Spencer, who married John Greville, son of Sir Edward Greville of Milcote, Warwickshire. It seems these were actually the children of the testator's uncle, John Spencer (d. 4 January 1497) of Hodnell, Warwickshire, who had a daughter, Elizabeth, who married Sir John Greville, and a son, Thomas, who died without issue in 1532. See the will of John Spencer (d. 4 January 1497) of Hodnell, *supra*; the will of Sir John Greville (d. 25 November 1547), TNA PROB 11/32/252; Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 268; and the History of Parliament entry for Sir John Greville at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/greville-john-1492-1547>

Moreover according to two contemporary sources, the testator's son, Anthony Spencer, was not, as alleged on the testator's monument, the son of the testator by Isabel Graunt, but was illegitimate. See Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Northamptonshire Made in 1564 and 1618-19*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1887), p. 47:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsnort00vincgoog#page/n60/mode/2up>

See also Fetherston, *supra*, p. 284, where he is listed as Anthonius Nothus.

It thus appears that by his wife, Isabel Graunt, the testator had a son and three daughters:

\* **Sir William Spencer** (d. 22 June 1532), who married Susan Knightley, the daughter of Sir Richard Knightley (d. 8 December 1534), by whom he was the father of Sir John Spencer (1524-1586) of Althorp, Northamptonshire, who married Katherine Kitson (c. by 1561), the daughter of Sir Thomas Kitson (1485-1540) by his second wife, Margaret Donnington (1510 - 20 December 1561). For the will of Sir Thomas Kitson, see TNA PROB 11/29/2. For the will of Margaret Donnington, see TNA PROB 11/45/55. For the will of Sir William Spencer, see TNA PROB 11/24/12.

\* **Jane Spencer**, who married Richard Knightley, (d. 30 March 1538), esquire, the son and heir of Sir Richard Knightley (d. 8 December 1534) of Fawsley, Northamptonshire. In the will below the testator complains that Sir Richard Knightley (d. 8 December 1534) has not yet performed his covenants (presumably covenants concerning the marriage of the testator's son and heir, William Spencer (d. 22 June 1532), to Sir Richard Knightley's daughter, Susan Knightley, and the marriage of the testator's daughter, Jane Spencer, to Sir Richard Knightley's son and heir, Richard Knightley). For the will of Sir Richard Knightley (d. 8 December 1534), see TNA PROB 11/25/292. For Richard Knightley (d.

30 March 1538), see his will, TNA PROB 11/28/156; and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/knightley-richard-1484-1538>

See also the pedigree of Knightley in Metcalfe, *supra*, p. 32 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsnort00vincgoog#page/n44/mode/2up>

\* **Isabel Spencer**, who married Sir Nicholas Strelley (d. 25 August 1560), for whom see Kerry, Charles, ‘Notes to the Pedigree of the Strelleys of Hazlebach’ in *Journal of the Derbyshire Archaeological and Natural History Society*, (London: Bemrose and Sons, January 1892), Vol. XIV, p. 95 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=9Lw1AAAAMAAJ&pg=RA1-PA95>

*Sir Nicholas Strelley, only son of Sir Nicholas and Catherine, daughter of Lord Delaware. He married, first, Sarah, daughter of Simon Digby, Lieutenant of the Tower; second, Ellen, daughter of Sir Thomas Gresley; and, third, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Spencer, Kt., by whom he had four sons and four daughters.*

Sir Nicholas Strelley (d. 25 August 1560) appears to have been related to Margaret Strelley, who married Nicholas Brend (d. 12 October 1601), who in 1599 leased the ground on which the Globe playhouse was built to William Shakespeare of Stratford and other members of the Lord Chamberlain’s Men. See TNA C 54/1947, mm. 5-6, and the will of Nicholas Brend (d. 12 October 1601), TNA PROB 11/98/348. See also:

‘Strelley’, *Thoroton's History of Nottinghamshire: volume 2: Republished with large additions by John Throsby* (1790), pp. 218-222. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=76831>

See also “Ancestors of Edward Michael Swift” online, where a pdf file can be accessed which contains a detailed pedigree of the Strelley family.

\* **Dorothy Spencer**, who married Sir Richard Catesby (d. 8 March 1553) of Ashby St. Ledgers, the grandson of Sir William Catesby (d.1485), councillor to Richard III, and the son of George Catesby, esquire, by Elizabeth Empson, the daughter of Sir Richard Empson (d.1450-1510). See TNA C 1/586/65:

*Plaintiffs: Richard Verney and Dame Elizabeth Lucy, his wife, executrix and late the wife of Thomas Lucy, knight, and formerly the wife of George Catesby, esquire.*

*Defendants: William Spencer, knight, son and heir of John Spencer of Wormleighton, knight, Nicholas Strelley (Styrley), esquire, Richard Knyghtley, esquire, Richard Wyllys, gentleman, and Thomas Palmer, clerk, executors of the said Sir John.*

*Subject: Bond of the said Sir Thomas and George Pateson to the said Sir John [Spencer], which his son William promised not to enforce against the said Elizabeth in return for her success in persuading her son Richard Catesby, esquire, ward of the said Sir John, to marry his daughter Dorothy.*

After the death of George Catesby, Elizabeth Empson married, in August 1509, Sir Thomas Lucy (d.1525), by whom she was the grandmother of Sir Thomas Lucy (d.1600) of Charlecote, from whose park William Shakespeare of Stratford is alleged to have poached deer. After the death of Sir Thomas Lucy, Elizabeth Empson married Richard Verney, esquire. See the *ODNB* articles on Sir William Catesby and Sir Richard Empson; Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. IV, p. 278; the will of Sir Richard Catesby, TNA PROB 11/36/261, and Metcalfe, *supra*, pp. 10, 47:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsnort00vincgoog#page/n24/mode/2up>

See also Burke, John and John Bernard Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain & Ireland*, (London: Henry Colburn, 1847), Vol. I, p. 772 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=C8fTAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA772>

For Elizabeth Empson's three marriages to George Catesby, esquire, Sir Thomas Lucy (d.1525) and Richard Verney, esquire, see also TNA C 1/586/65, *supra*:

*Plaintiffs: Richard Verney and Dame Elizabeth Lucy, his wife, executrix and late the wife of Thomas Lucy, knight, and formerly the wife of George Catesby, esquire.*

See also Pollard, A.F., 'The Making of Sir Thomas More's Richard III', *Historical Essays in Honour of James Tait*, (Manchester: Butler & Tanner Ltd., 1933), p. 232, at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=h2i7AAAAIAAJ&pg=PA232>

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

The identity of the testator's 'Aunt Cope' is unclear. The testator had a first cousin, Jane (nee Spencer) Saunders Cope, for whose will, proved 2 May 1526, see TNA PROB 11/22/125. It seems that she may have been referred to by the testator as his 'Aunt Cope', as the testator's next three bequests appear to be to her children:

*Item, I give to Anthony Cope half the debt he oweth me.*

*Item, I give to John Cope to his marriage 10 marks.*

*Item, to Bess Cope to her marriage £30, which I have paid ready for Archer marriage.*

For the will of Sir Anthony Cope (d.1551), see TNA PROB 11/34/433. For the will of Sir John Cope (d. 22 January 1558), see TNA PROB 11/40/278. Nothing further is known of 'Bess Cope'.

For the testator's cousin and executor, Richard Wyllys, see his will, dated 24 January 1530 and proved 11 May 1532, TNA PROB 11/24/200.

For the testator's overseer, William Parr (1513-1571), Marquess of Northampton, see the *ODNB* article.

For Thomas Shukburgh, who witnessed the testator's will, see the pedigree of Shukburgh of Naseby in Metcalfe, *supra*, p. 46 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsnort00vincgoog#page/n60/mode/2up>

For the testator's role in the enclosures of the day, see:

<http://www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk/node/20>

For Silsworth in Watford, see:

<http://watfordvillage.weebly.com/the-lords-of-watford.html>

RM: Test{amentu}m Ioh{an}nis Spencer Milit{is}

[f. 194r] In the name of Our Lord God, Amen. The 12<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred and 22 and the 13<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of King Henry the 8<sup>th</sup> I, John Spencer of Wormleighton in the county of Warwick, knight, being in good and whole mind and memory, thanked be God, declare and ordain this my present testament and last will in manner and form following:

I bequeath and recommend my soul to Almighty God, my Maker and Saviour, to Our Blessed Lady Saint Mary, and to all the saints in heaven, my body to be buried in the chancel of Brington church in the county of Northampton afore the image of Our Blessed Lady, and there mine executors to make a tomb for me as nigh to the wall as they can behind the sepulture, and I will that mine executors bestow of the said tomb, well and cunningly to be made, £20;

And I give and bequeath to the making of the same chancel roof with the lead, walks and windows, and my arms to be set in the same windows, £60;

And for the making of an image of Our Lady with a tabernacle and gilding of the same, to be made after the pattern of one Master [name omitted?] caused to be made at Banbury, and to be made by the same man that made his, or else by some other;

Also I give and bequeath to the maintenance of two tapers to burn in two candlesticks at Our Lady Mass that shall be said in the chancel during 7 years after my decease, for the wax and maintenance of the same, 20s by year;

And my month mind to be kept every month by mine executors during the first year, and every priest that shall come thither to say Mass 8d, without meat or drink, and every clerk that can sing 4d, and the clerk of the church 4d, and every ringer that shall ring at dirge and Mass to be said, 12d, and the curate or parish priest that shall say service that day my month's mind 16d for the first year, and every year during five years after that every year to have an obit for my soul, and every priest and clerk that shall come thither to have like as I have rehearsed at my month's mind before;

Also I will that every poor man and woman that shall come and pray for my soul at my month mind and also at my year's mind that shall be during five years have a penny;

Also I will that mine executors give at the day of my burial to all them that will take money to pray for my soul 2d for every man, woman and child, and to everybody that will come, meat and drink, and to every priest that shall [+say?] Mass and dirge 12d, and to every clerk that can sing 6d, and to every canon in Kenilworth that is priest 12d, and to every novice 4d, and to the abbot of the same house for his prayer and observance at the day of my burial £20;

Also I give and bequeath to have once in the year an obit in the said house made sure by mine executors with the abbot and convent £20 to the reparations of the church and monastery, and to the abbot 10 marks, and to every canon being priest 8d, and to every novice 2d;

Also I give to the said abbey all my lands in Leek Wootton forever that I have put in feoffment, the same to maintain mine obit, and if the said lands will not pay yearly the said charges of my obit to every priest and novice as is above rehearsed, then I will mine executors do purchase as much more land as shall pay the charges of my said obit;

Also I give to the said monastery of Combe Abbey to have my month's mind kept there for one year 10 marks, and give to every monk that is priest to say Mass 8d, and to every novice 2d;

Also I bequeath to the monastery and abbey of Studley 5 marks to say Masses and dirges for my soul at the month mind;

Also I bequeath to the Charterhouse of Coventry to pray for my soul and say [+Mass?] and dirge at the day of my burial 40s;

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Also I bequeath to Saint Mary house of Coventry to say Masses and dirges for my soul the same day of my burial 5 marks;

Also I bequeath to the 2 orders of friars in Coventry to say Masses and dirges and pray for my soul at the same day of my burial, 5 marks to every house of them;

Also I bequeath to the friars of Warwick to keep an obit every month the first year after my burial to say Masses and dirge £5;

Also I bequeath to the four orders of friars in Northampton, to every house 20s to say Mass and dirge for my soul at the day of my month's mind after my decease;

Also I bequeath to my church of Wormleighton a suit of vestments of the best manner and two chalices gilt worth 5 marks, every of them, and two pair of vestments beside, and double altar cloths;

And I will and charge mine executors to gild the rood loft and the chancel roof and Peter and Saint Lawrence in the chancel, and Our Lady in the [f. 194v] church, and the lights in the church to be made and mended after the best manner, and my executors to see it done, and the 2 bells in the steeple to be changed, and the third bell to be bought, and so to have 3 bells of a good tune, and to the performance of this I charge mine executors;

I will there shall a priest say Mass and dirge in the church of Wormleighton at the altar of Our Lady to pray for my soul, my wife's soul, my soul, my father's soul and mother's soul and all my children's souls, and he to have 12 marks a year to be mortised forever according to th' intent as hereafter shall appear;

And after my decease I will the said priest that as oftentimes as he shall be disposed to say Mass at Stonton in Saint Lawrence' chapel there in the county of Northampton, to pray for my soul, my wife's soul, my father and mother's soul and all my children's souls, and on the holy-day to say matins, Mass and evensong at Wormleighton in the parish church there, and he to have for his salary and a lad to help him to sing Mass there at Stonton, buy his purveyance for him and his lad, the foresaid 12 marks by year forever to have 12 marks land or rent for the same to be mortised or put in feoffment;

And I will that my executors make the reparation of the chancel of the church at Stonton, and to buy 2 Mass books, two pair of vestments, 2 chalices and all things to them belonging for a priest to say Mass withal at Stonton;

Also I bequeath for my mortuary as right of the church shall require;

Also I bequeath to certain churches to say one Mass and one dirge in every place for my soul and to maintenance of the same churches, that is to say, Compton, Farnborough, Napton, Southam, Ladbroke, Harbury, Bishop's Itchington, Shuckburgh, the Over and Nether Badby, Hellidon, Stareton, Daventry, Woodford, Hynton, Byfield, Brokhole,



Haddon, Harlestone, Wylton [=Whilton?], every one of these in Warwickshire and Northampton 20s, and to Byrton church 10s, and the Over Itchington 10s;

Item, I bequeath to Brington church in the county of Northampton one whole suit of vestments and a chalice gilt, price £4;

And I will a priest to be mortised there, and for him £10 by year there to say Mass and teach a song-school of 6 or 8 persons forever, he taking nothing for their school hire, this to be done, the land or rent to be assigned by me or my executors and put in feoffment by th' advice of mine executors out of the lordship of Stonton £10 by year, and the licence to mortise it to be done by mine executors;

Also I bequeath to both the guilds of Coventry to have Mass and dirge for my soul when the friars shall do it at the day of my burial 20s apiece, that is to say, Corpus Christi and Trinity guilds;

Item, to the abbot and convent of Nuneaton toward their reparations and see(?) Mass and dirge to be done for my soul £5;

Also I bequeath to the parish church of Hodnell a pair of vestments, price 5 marks, to be bought by mine executors;

Also I give to every of my servants that is no yeoman 6s 8d, and every woman servant 20s, except one woman that hath not been yet a year in my service, and she to have but 10s, to pray for my soul besides their wages, and to every yeoman that hath not been with me 2 years 10s beside his standing wages, to pray for my soul;

Also I will and bequeath to five score young maidens unmarried five score young kine, price the cow 13s 4d, mine own maiden servants to be partakers thereof beside my former bequests to them, and all the maidens in Wormleighton, also in Boddington parish, and if there be not so many to perform, take the maidens of Brington of my tenants there, and if those be not enow, take the maidens of Ladbroke and Compton of the poorest;

Item, to Thomas Hall, my servant, 20s beside his wages;

Item, to William Seyton [=Seton?], beside his wages, 40s;

Item, to the vicar of Wormleighton 20 marks;

Item, to Master Stokes 40s;

Item, to Master Shirwode 40s by year during the time that he continueth his study and learning beyond the sea;

Item, to Master Borowe(?) his salary of 10 marks by year to be paid during his life out of my lands in Stareton and 20s in money, and if the land there suffice not to that yearly

value, then I will mine executors buy more land and make up the same sum of 10 marks, and to put it in feoffment to the use of a priest forever to sing at Brington or Northampton for my soul and Richard Catesby's soul;

Item, to Morton church in Northamptonshire 20s to pray for my soul;

Item, to Brockhall church in Northampton 20s;

Item, I bequeath to Bess Clopton to her marriage 20 marks;

Item, I give half the debt that he oweth me [no beneficiary specified];

Item, I bequeath to Henry Rowley a gown of black furred;

Item, I bequeath to William Spencer of Badby threescore culling ewes;

And I give to my daughter Strelley forty pounds, and to my son Strelley £40;

And I give to my daughter Knightley one hundred marks, and to every child she hath living after my decease £40 to their marriage except the heir male, and if any of them die afore they come to their lawful age or unmarried, the livers to be their heirs;

Item, I give to every child that my son Strelley hath by my daughter beside his heir male £20, and every one to be other['s] heir of that money if any of them die afore they come to their age and afore they be married;

Item, I give to Newnham, my servant, the whole debt that he oweth me;

Item, I give to my daughter, Dorothy, the marriage of Richard Catesby and an hundred pounds beside to begin their household with, my lands in Sellisworth [=Silsworth?] to her and Richard Catesby and to the heirs of their 2 bodies lawfully begotten, and for default of such heirs to the heirs of the body of the said Dorothy lawfully to be gotten, and for default of such heirs to the right heirs of me, the foresaid John Spencer, knight;

And if the marriage of Richard Catesby take none effect, I give her the advantage(?) of the marriage and the hundred pounds and the lands in Sellisworth beside after the form as is afore rehearsed;

Item, I give to mine Aunt Cope a ring to be bought by mine executors, price of £5, for a remembrance;

Item, I give to Anthony Cope half the debt he oweth me;

Item, I give to John Cope to his marriage 10 marks;

Item, to Bess Cope to her marriage £30, which I have paid ready for Archer marriage;

Item, I give unto my mother £20 to do for her soul, and 40s by year during her life;

Item, I give to Philipp[a] Shukburgh to her marriage 10 marks so that her brother die not afore she be married that the land should not come to her before;

Item, I give to William Spencer of Badby and two of his brethren 5 marks apiece of them;

Item, I give to Chaveney and to my cousin, his wife, half the debt he oweth me, and to her sister that was [f. 195r] Manyngam's wife in Northampton 40s;

Item, I give to my cousin Wyllys and his wife an hundred marks;

Item, to my cousin, John Graunt, 5 marks, and to every brother he hath 40s;

Item, to John Graunt's mother 20s;

Item, I bequeath to every godchild that I have known alive 6s 8d;

Item, I give and bequeath to Dame Isabel, my wife, for her jointure and dower a hundred pounds by year to be made sure unto her by my executors and feoffees, and she to have it as long as she shall live sole unmarried, and so long she to have to dwell in my manor-place of Wormleighton or Althorp at her pleasure, and if she marry then she to have but fourscore pounds by year, that is to wit, £61 of my lands in Essex beside the woods, and the rest in hamlets at the appointment of mine executors, and then she to dwell no lenger in my manor of Wormleighton nor Althorp, but avoid out of them, and if she live sole unmarried the said £100 by year to be appointed to her by mine executors after this manner, that is to wit, £61 out of my lands in Essex, and the rest of the said whole sum of a hundred pounds out of my manor of Wormleighton;

Also I give to her in plate and household stuff two hundred pounds here at Wormleighton and Althorp, the plate to be in value 100 marks, as a basin and an ewer of silver; 3 gilt bowls with a cover that were the parson of Boddington's and the white bowls of the same suit; item, 2 white pieces of the same; item, the gilt piece and a nott(?); item, a great standing cup pounced, and if this be not sufficient for a 100 marks, to be made up of such goblets as I had of the said parson of Boddington;

Item, the residue to be paid to her in cattle, part of all the sum of a thousand marks in the whole, and all her own jewels and raiment beside by the deliverance of mine executors over and beside the said 1000 marks;

And where as afore rehearsed I have ordained to have a priest to sing for me at Brington in the county of Northampton, as also another priest to sing at Stonton in the said county of Northampton and on the holy-days at Wormleighton that is he that shall sing at Stonton, I will that mine executors and feoffees of trust make this sure as shortly as they can;

Also I give and bequeath 40s to be given in penny dole to poor people the first year after my decease, without meat or drink, at such place where my wife and son shall keep household;

Also I will that William Spencer, my son and heir apparent, have all the remnant of my goods and lands, my will performed in every point, and the same to enjoy to him and his heirs according to the covenants made betwixt Sir Richard Knightley and me;

And if the said Sir Richard Knightley do not perform his said covenants, and that shortly, that then I will mine executors give unto my Lord Cardinal £100 that he may call the matter afore him to put it in a[n] order, if he can, according to the covenants; if not, then my feoffees to stand seised of my lands, my will performed, to the use of my said son, William Spencer, and the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to the use of the right heirs of me, the foresaid John Spencer, knight, except 100 marks by year which I will that for default of heir male of my son, William Spencer, lawfully begotten, shall be to the use of Thomas Spencer, my cousin, and the heirs males of his body lawfully to be begotten if he will forgive all things betwixt him and me unremembered, and make release(?) thereof by writing, or else not;

And for default of such issue of the said Thomas Spencer, to the right heirs of me, the said John Spencer, knight;

And where as is afore rehearsed a priest to be mortised to sing for me at Brington and to have £10 by year to be paid out of the lordship of Stonton with clause of distress by the priest to be taken if he be not paid at 2 terms in the year at Michaelmas and Our Lady in Lent, this chantry shall be in the gift of my heirs which shall happen to be lord of the same lordship of Brington and Althorp, and the priest shall have 12 marks to sing at Stonton and Wormleighton [+which?] shall be paid out of the manor of Stonton and Hardwik with clause of distress by the priest to be taken if he be not paid at 2 times in the year at Michael[mas] and Our Lady Day in Lent, and the gift thereof to be in my heirs as in the other chantry afore rehearsed, and mine executors to have the King's licence of the same;

Item, I will that mine executors pay to every man that can lawfully prove that I have hurt him with my cattle or otherwise, I will they be recompensed, be it man or woman, so that they claim it within 2 years, or any debt or servants' wages left behind unpaid duly proved by his oath or otherwise to be recompensed, howbeit as now I know none in remembrance, but I had liever charge their souls than mine should be in danger, and I will and charge mine executors once in a month after my decease during a twelvemonth [+to make?] proclamation in open market that if any man or woman can claim any due debt of me by due proof, that then I charge mine executors to pay them, and they to resort to the said executors for payment, and this proclamation to be made at Warwick, Southam, Coventry, Banbury, Daventry and Northampton once a month during the first year after my decease;

Item, I bequeath to Thomas Griffith, my servant, 10 marks;

Item, I will that my house be found betwixt this and Michaelmas of the profits of my lands and goods at the sight and discretion of mine executors;

Also I will that mine executors be content and paid of the profits of my lands and goods of all such costs and charges as they shall bear and be at about my will and testament and for the true executing of the same;

Also I will that mine executors with Sir Christopher, parson of Aston, one of the executors of Richard Blande, late parson of Boddington, go forwards in mortising a chantry at Boddington according to the will of the said Richard, and if licence cannot be gotten, then the land to be put in feoffment to the use of a priest to sing at Boddington forever;

Also I will that mine executors pay to the church of Boddington for the bequests of the said Richard Bland £25 6s 8d;

Also I bequeath to Sir William Marshall, my ghostly father, [f. 195v] 20 marks, and to Snitterfield church 40s, to Master Reynold and to Master Bellitur(?) 10 marks;

Also I bequeath to William Spencer the residue of my goods, my will performed, for I will leave wherewith to perform it, and if there lack to pay my bequests and legacies, then I will they be paid shortly after my decease of the rents and profits of my lands, and my son the meantime to live of the hundred marks a year that I have limited to him after the decease of me and my wife, and the lordship of Wormleighton except my wife's part appointed for her jointure, and no more until all my bequests and legacies paid and my will be performed, and pay rent for the rest;

I ordain and make mine executors of this my last will and testament my son, William Spencer, Richard Knightley, esquire, Nicholas Strelley, esquire, Richard Wyllys, gentleman, and Sir Thomas Palmer, clerk, whom I put in trust to see this my will truly to be performed and executed;

And I give to the said Richard Knightley for his labour and business in that behalf £100, and to the said Sir Thomas Palmer for his labour and business in like manner 20 marks;

Also I ordain my supervisor of this my will and testament my good Lord Marquess to see it truly performed, and I give and bequeath to the said Lord for his pain taking my covered basins with spots, and if they lack of the value of a £100, I will mine executors give my Lord the rest to the full sum of £100;

In witness of the premises I, the said John Spencer, knight, to this my testament and last will have put my seal and subscribed my name with mine own hand the day and year above-written, these being witness and present: Richard Knightley, esquire, Nicholas Strelley, esquire, Thomas Andrew, esquire, Richard Graunt, gentleman, Thomas

Shukburgh, gentleman, Nicholas Heyns, Thomas Bentley, Doctor of Physic, William Marshall, parson of Boddington, John Bellytur, clerk, William Reynold, clerk, and other.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascripti defuncti Coram D{omi}no apud Lamehithe xvjo Die mensis Iunij Anno D{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingentesimo xxijo Iurament{o} Will{el}mi Spencer executoris in h{uius}mo{d}i test{ament}o no{m}i{n}at{i} Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et com{m}issat [sic] fuit admi{ni}stracio o{mn}i{u}m & singuloru{m} bonoru{m} et debitoru{m} d{ic}t{i} defuncti p[re]fat{o} Will{el}mo executor{i} De b{e}n{e} & fidei{te}r admi{ni}strand{o} Ac de pleno et fidei In{uenta}rio citra festum s{an}c{t}i Barth{olome}i Ap{osto}li prox{imum} futur{um} exhi{bend}o Necnon de plano & vero compoto reddend{o} Ad s{an}c{t}a dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{i} Reseruat{a} potestate &c alijs executorib{us} &c cum venerint &c

xvjo die mensis Augusti Anno predict{o} Com{m}issa fuit consimilis admi{ni}stracio Ric{hard}o Knyghtley v{nu}m executor{um} In p{er}sona Thome Argall procu{rato}ris &c primitus ad s{an}c{t}a dei Eu{a}ngelia in debita iuris forma Iurat{o}

xvo Die mensis Nouembris anno predict{o} com{m}issa fuit consimilis admi{ni}stracio Ric{hard}o Wyllys In p{er}sona Thome Argall &c Iurat{o}

Tertio maij Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingen{tes}imo xlvjo comissa fuit admi{ni}stracio o{mn}i{u}m etc Nich{olai}o Stirley militi executori etia{m} etc primitus De bene etc Ac de pleno Inue{nta}rio etc Ad s{an}c{t}a Eu{a}ngelia in p{er}sona Will{el}mi Walker(?) notarij pu{bli}ci etc Iurat{i}

[=The testament of the above-written deceased was proved before the Lord at Lambeth on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of the month of June in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 22<sup>nd</sup> by the oath of William Spencer, executor named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all & singular the goods and debts of the said deceased to the forenamed William, executor, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well & faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full and faithful inventory before the feast of Saint Bartholomew the Apostle next to come, and also to render a plain & true account, with power reserved etc. to the other executors etc. when they shall have come etc.]

[=On the 16<sup>th</sup> day of the month of August in the year aforesaid a similar grant was made to Richard Knightley, one of the executors, in the person of Thomas Argall, proctor, etc., first(?) sworn on the Holy Gospels in due form of law.]

[=On the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month of November in the year aforesaid a similar grant was made to Richard Wyllys, sworn in the person of Thomas Argall etc.]

[=On the third of May in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 46<sup>th</sup> a grant of administration of all etc., was made to Nicholas Strelley, knight, executor also etc.,

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first(?) sworn on the Holy Gospels in the person of William Walker, notary public, etc.,  
to well etc., and [+to exhibit] a full inventory etc.]