

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 10 August 1533 and 23 February 1534, proved 12 November 1534, of Stephen Cope (d. 20 March 1534) of Bedhampton, Hampshire, Sergeant of the Poultry to Henry VIII.

The testator is said to have been forty years of age and upwards in the inquisition post mortem taken after his father's death in 1513, and must thus have been born about 1473. See Cope, William H., *Bramshill; Its History and Architecture*, (London: H.J. Infield, 1883), p. 106 at:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=X-IHAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA106&lpg=PA106&dq=%22William+Cope%22+%22king+James%22&source=bl&ots=u0DnswGg0J&sig=DmnLvQbX4oOM40QLB0N8ierRO_A&hl=en&sa=X&ei=9mm1U5OVLca6iwKjxoHQCA&ved=0CCcQ6AEwAw#v=onepage&q=%22William%20Cope%22%20%22king%20James%22&f=false.

The testator was the only son of William Cope (c.1440 - 7 April 1513), esquire, cofferer to Henry VII, by his first wife, Agnes Harcourt. For William Cope's children and stepchildren by his second marriage to Jane (nee Spencer), see the wills of William Cope, dated 7 February 1513 and proved 24 May 1513, TNA PROB 11/17/2, and Jane (nee Spencer) Saunders Cope, dated 20 January 1526(?) and proved 2 May 1526, TNA PROB 11/22/125.

The testator's mother, Agnes Harcourt, was one of the daughters and coheireses of Sir Robert Harcourt of Stanton Harcourt, standard bearer to Henry VII at the Battle of Bosworth.

The testator married firstly Anne Saunders, the eldest daughter of his father's second wife, Jane (nee Spencer), by her first husband, William Saunders. According to the will of her mother, Jane (nee Spencer), Anne Saunders had died by 1526:

Item, I will that William, the son of my said son [=stepson and son-in-law], Stephen, and Anne, his late wife, have a spoon of silver with a short steel to bear in his purse with his name graven upon the steel of the same spoon for a token and God's blessing and mine.

The testator married secondly a wife named Margaret, whose surname is unknown. She may have been the sister of the testator's feoffees, Henry and Thomas Polsted, as the will of their father, Thomas Polsted the elder (d. 15 March 1529) of Stoke next Guildford, Surrey, dated 6 March 1529 and proved 22 April 1529, mentions an unmarried daughter, Margaret. See:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~engsurry/trnscrpt/sry2832.txt>.

For the testator's feoffees, Henry Polsted (born by 1510, d.1555) and Thomas Polsted (born by 1505, d.1541?) , see the History of Parliament entries:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/polsted-henry-1510-55>.

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/polsted-thomas-1505-41>.

In the will below the testator mentions three sons and two daughters:

* William Cope, eldest son and heir, said to have been born in 1506, and to have married firstly Barbara Quarles, the daughter of George Quarles of Ufford, Northamptonshire, and secondly Joyce Morris.

* Anthony Cope (d. 8 January 1586), who married Anne Stafford, daughter of Sir Humphrey Stafford (d. 8 May 1548) of Blatherwycke, Northamptonshire, by Margaret Tame. Anne Stafford's uncle, Sir Robert Stafford (d.1574), had married, as his first wife, Jane (nee Spencer), daughter of Sir John Spencer (d.1522) of Althorp, and widow of Richard Knightley (d. 30 March 1538), eldest son and heir of Sir Richard Knightley (d. 8 December 1534). Anne Stafford had two brothers, Sir Humphrey Stafford (d.1574) and John Stafford (d. 28 November 1595), who married Bridget Clopton (d. 17 August 1562), daughter of William Clopton, esquire, of Kentwell Hall in Long Melford, Suffolk, by Mary Perient, daughter of Sir George Perient of Diggeswell, Hertfordshire, and two sisters, Frances Stafford, who married Sir Thomas Smith, and Eleanor Stafford, who married Anthony Cope (d.1558), esquire, of Adstone, Northamptonshire. See the will of Richard Knightley (d. 30 March 1538), dated 29 March 1537 and proved 14 July 1540, TNA PROB 11/28/156; Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 121-2, 434; and Greenfield, B.W., 'Edward Cope of Edon, and John Stafford of Bletherwicke, 1580', *Notes and Queries*, 4th Series VI, September 24, 1870, pp. 250-1 at:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=ItkEAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA251&lpg=PA251&dq=%22Anthony+Cope%22+%221586%22&source=bl&ots=ChmfzbfJmX&sig=qMzdGu5aTb7-M2KiQr_G7cr0qTw&hl=en&sa=X&ei=u9eyU_aHFIGDogSj7oGwDw&ved=0CDcQ6AEwBA#v=onepage&q=%22Anthony%20Cope%22%20%221586%22&f=false.

See also Halliwell, James Orchard, ed., *The Autobiography and Correspondence of Sir Simonds D'Ewes*, (London: Richard Bentley, 1845), p. 330 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=Y5sUAAAQAAJ&pg=PA331&lpg=PA331&dq=%22William+Clopton%22+%22Mary+Perient%22&source=bl&ots=e7ASAeFiVJ&sig=Et9Csfxp5UqJqulzAhFUOLq59U&hl=en&sa=X&ei=TBOzU87rCIKEogSVhoH4BQ&ved=0CD8Q6AEwCA#v=onepage&q=%22William%20Clopton%22%20%22Mary%20Perient%22&f=false>.

* John Cope.

* Elizabeth Cope, wife of James Harrington, said to have been Clerk of the Bakehouse to Henry VIII.

* Edborowe Cope.

In the will of the testator's mother-in-law, Jane (nee Spencer) Saunders Cope (see above), another daughter, Ursula Cope, is mentioned. However she appears to have predeceased the testator.

The testator leaves his manor of Howbury in Oxfordshire to his eldest son. Given the provisions of his father's will, there is some question as to how the testator came into possession of the manor. In his 1513 will, the testator's father, William Cope, left the manor of Howbury to William Cope, his second son by his second marriage, with remainders over if William should die before reaching the age of 26.

However there were further provisions in William Cope's 1513 will regarding the manor of Howbury. William Cope had purchased the wardship and marriage of an heiress, Jane Burnby, whom he wished to marry to either his eldest son by his second marriage, Anthony Cope (d.1551), or to his second son by that marriage, William Cope. If either marriage went ahead, the testator, Stephen Cope, was to have the manor of Howbury:

And also if the said Anthony be married to the said Jane, I will that the said William Cope, my son, shall have all my lands and tenements in Banbury and Neithrop aforesaid, and all the premises afore limited and appointed to the said Anthony in like manner and form as the said Anthony should have had the same premises to him afore limited if he had not been married to the said Jane.

And then I will that the said Stephen Cope shall have the foresaid manor of Howbury with th' appurtenances to him and his heirs for evermore.

And if the said William Cope, my son, happen to be married to the said Jane, then I will that my feoffees shall make estate of the said manor of Norton with th' appurtenances and of all mine other lands and tenements in Norton with th' appurtenances [-and of all mine other lands and tenements in Norton] in the said county of Northampton and of a yearly rent of £5 going out of the said manor of Grimsbury to the said William and Jane and to th' heirs of their bodies between them lawfully begotten with like remainders over as is afore rehearsed in this article.

And then I will also that the said William Cope, my son, shall have no part of the premises to him afore limited and appointed by this my last will and testament, but then I will that the said Stephen Cope shall have the said manor of Howbury with th' appurtenances to him and his heirs forever.

The fact that Stephen Cope died possessed of the manor of Howbury suggests that Jane Burnby did marry either Anthony or William Cope.

For the testator's half-brother, Sir John Cope (d. 22 January 1558), see his will, dated 2 July 1557 and proved 21 May 1558, TNA PROB 11/40/278, and Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 121, 434.

The testator's feoffee, John Tawke, may have been John Tawke of Hayling Hampshire, for whose will, proved 11 March 1541, see TNA PROB 11/28/428.

LM: T{estamentum} Stephani Coope

In the name of God, Amen. The tenth day of August in the year of Our Lord God [+the?] thousand five hundred 33rd and in the 25th year of the reign of King Henry the Eight, I, Stephen Cope, esquire, being whole in mind and [+of?] good memory, thanked by Almighty God, do make and declare this my testament and last will concerning the disposition of all my goods and chattels both real and personal in manner and form following, that is to say:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, and my body to be buried where it shall be thought convenient by mine executors with as little charge as shall be thought expedient by mine executors;

Item, I bequeath to the mother church of Winchester 7d;

Item, I bequeath to the high altar of the parish church of Bedhampton in the county of Southampton for my tithes and duties forgotten 6s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to the churchwardens of the parish church of Bedhampton before said to the use of the same church towards the ornaments thereof 40s;

Item, where I, the said Stephen, before this time have given and granted unto William Westbrocke, John Tawke, Thomas Polsted and Henry Polsted all my estate, possession, interest and term of years due and to come of and in the manor and farm and corn-mills of Bedhampton in the county of Southampton, and of and in the herbage of the park of Bedhampton aforesaid, and of and in a corn-mill with th' appurtenances called Shete mill in the same county, and of and in a tenement and a parcel of land or farm called Little Gatcome and Little Bramshott in the said county, and of and in a tenement or farm with th' appurtenances called Hackettes in Cheddham in the county of Sussex, and of and in the manor of Seintclers with th' appurtenances in the said county of Sussex, to have to them and to their executors to the use of me, the said Stephen, and mine assigns for the performance of this my last will and testament, that is to say;

I, the said Stephen, will that the said William Westbrocke, John Tawke, Thomas Polsted and Henry Polsted and every of them shall suffer Margaret, my wife, to manure and occupy all the said manor or farm of Bedhampton with th' appurtenances and all other the said lands, tenements and other the premises in the said counties of Southampton and

Sussex, and thereof to take the revenues, issues and profits during all her life natural (if the years do so long continue) if she live sole in the name and for her dowry of all my manors, lands and tenements which she ought to be endowed of;

And I will that the said Margaret shall with the revenues, issues and profits thereof keep an obit every year yearly during the space of 7 years next after my decease, the said obit to be kept yearly nigh about the time of the year that I shall happen to depart out of this world in the said parish church of Bedhampton, [f. 134r] bestowing at every of the said obits 13s 4d in five Masses at the least and alms to poor people and other necessaries as shall be thought most convenient by the said Margaret;

And after the decease of the said Margaret, I will that the said William Westbroke, John Tawke, Thomas Polsted and Harry Polsted shall suffer John Cope, my son, and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten to manure and occupy the said manor or farm of Bedhampton with th' appurtenances and all other the foresaid lands and tenements and other the premises with th' appurtenances in the said counties of Southampton and Sussex, and thereof to take and receive the revenues, issues and profits;

And if it happen the said John Cope to die without heirs of his body lawfully begotten during the terms of the years of and in the premises or any of them, that then I will that all the foresaid interest and terms of years that then shall happen to be due to come of and in the premises and every parcel thereof shall be sold by mine executors or the more part or the overlivers or overliver of them or th' executors or administrators of the overliver of them, and the money thereof coming to be and remain towards the payments of my debts, if any be, and if none be, then to dispose it by their discretion for the wealth of my soul;

Item, I will that the said Margaret, my wife, with the revenues and profits aforenamed shall find and bring up the said John Cope, my son, at school, and Edborowe, my daughter, by her discretion, provided always that the said Margaret, her under-tenants and assigns during her life and the said John Cope, my son, and the heirs of his body begotten, their under-tenants, assigns and every of them shall during the time of their manurement or occupying of the said farms, manors, lands and other the premises or any of them bear, pay and do all manner of charges, duties, rents, services and customs to be borne, paid, done and due or to be challenged of or out the said farms, manors, lands and tenements and other the premises or any parcel thereof, and thereof at their own proper costs and charges shall clearly acquit and discharge the said William Westbroke, John Tawke, Thomas Polsted and Henry Polsted;

Item, I bequeath to Elizabeth Harrington, my daughter, a hundred ewes to be delivered by mine executors incontinent after my decease.

RM: Vltima Voluntas eiusd {em}

This is the last will and intent of me, Stephen Cope, squire, concerning all my manors, lands and tenements, rents, reversions and services within the realm of England made and declared the foresaid 10 day of August the foresaid year;

First I will that my feoffees of confidence of and in all my lands and tenements, rents, reversions and services with the appurtenances set, lying and being in the parish of East Greenwich in the county of Kent shall have the said lands and tenements and other the premises to them and their heirs to th' intent that the same feoffees or the overlivers or overliver of them shall sell all the same lands and tenements and other the premises, and the money thereof coming shall deliver to my executors towards the payment of my debts;

Also I will that all my feoffees of confidence of and in all my lands and tenements, rents, reversions and services with th' appurtenances in Richmond in the county of Surrey shall have all my said lands and tenements to them and to their heirs to the intent that the same feoffees or the overlivers or overliver of them shall sell all the same lands and tenements and other the premises, and the money thereof coming shall deliver to mine executors to be and remain towards the payment of my debts;

Item, I will that my feoffees of and in the manor of Howberye with th' appurtenances in the county of Oxford immediately after my decease by their sufficient writing in the law shall grant unto mine executors an yearly rent of £10 going out of the said manor of Howberye, to have and perceive the same yearly rent unto the same executors for term of 7 years then next ensuing, with a sufficient clause of distress to be put in the said writing for the non-payment of the same yearly rent so that mine executors may fully and clearly perceive £0 sterling out of the said manor of Howberye, and of the money coming thereof I will that mine executors deliver unto Edborowe Cope, my daughter, at the time of her marriage fifty pounds so that the same Edborowe be married by the consent of her mother or of mine executors, and the residue of the said yearly rent received over and beside the said fifty pound, I will it be and remain towards the payments of my debts;

Item, I will that William Cope, my son and heir apparent, shall have all the foresaid manor of Hobery with th' appurtenances and all other my lands and tenements, rents, reversions and services and hereditaments with th' appurtenances in the county of Oxford to him and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue the remainder thereof to Anthony Cope, my son, and to his heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue the remainder thereof to John Cope, my son, and to his heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue the remainder thereof to the heirs of my body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue the remainder thereof to John Cope, my half-brother, and to his heirs for evermore;

Item, I will that my feoffees of and in my [f. 134v] house about Paul's Wharf in London adjoining upon my Lord Derby's place immediately after my decease shall suffer Margaret, my wife, to have all the said house for term of her life for and in the name of her dower of all such manors, lands and tenements which she ought, is or may be entitled to be endowed of, provided alway that the said Margaret shall not do ne suffer any voluntary waste in or upon the same house;

And after the decease of the said Margaret, or if it happen the said Margaret to die [sic for 'do'?] or suffer any voluntary waste in or upon the said house to the value of 40s, I will that Anthony Cope, my son, shall have the said house to him and to his heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue the remainder thereof to the heirs of the body of me, the said Stephen, lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue the remainder to the said John Cope, my half-brother, and to his heirs for evermore;

Item, I will that Margaret, my wife, shall have all my lands and tenements, rents, reversions and services with th' appurtenances in the county of Southampton for term of her life in the name of her dower of all my manors, lands and tenements with th' appurtenances which [+she?] ought, is, or may be entitled to be endowed of, provided alway that the said Margaret shall not do ne suffer any manner of wilful waste or destruction in or upon the said lands or tenements;

And after the decease of the said Margaret, or if the said Margaret do any manner wilful waste or destruction to the value of £4, then I will that John Cope, my son, shall have all the same lands and tenements, rents, reversions and services with their appurtenances to him and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue the remainder to Anthony Cope, my son, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue the remainder thereof to the heirs of the body of me, the foresaid Stephen, lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such [+issue?] the remainder to the said John Cope, my half-brother, and to his heirs forever;

Item, I will that all my feoffees of and in all my lands and tenements with th' appurtenances in Writtle, Chelmsford and Moulsham in the county of Essex shall suffer mine executors to take and perceive the yearly rents and profits of all the said lands and tenements by the space of 8 years next after my decease, and with the profits thereof

coming I will that mine executors shall keep and maintain the reparations thereof and pay the rents and services yearly due and accustomed to the chief lords of the fee thereof, and also pay my debts and duties which I do owe;

Item, I will that mine executors with the same revenues shall every year yearly during the said 8 years content and pay unto the said Anthony Cope, my son, £8 of good and lawful money of England towards his finding at his learning in one of the Inns of Court or Chancery;

Item, I will that the said Anthony, my son, shall have all the said lands and tenements in Writtle, Chelmsford and Moulsham with th' appurtenances and all other my lands and tenements and other hereditaments in the county of Essex to him and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue the remainder thereof to the heirs of the body of me, the said Stephen, lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue, the remainder thereof to the said John Cope, my half-brother, and to his heirs forever;

Provided alway that if it happen all my debts to be paid at any time within the said 8 years, then I will immediately after the same payments of all my debts the said Anthony shall have all the said lands and tenements and other hereditaments with th' appurtenances in the said county of Essex, and thereof perceive and take the whole profits in manner and form aforesaid and with like remainder as before of the same lands and tenements and hereditaments is specified;

Item, I will that my feoffees of and in my house and garden above Paul's Wharf in London which Peter Van, the Pope's collector, lately dwelled in, shall suffer mine executors to take and perceive the yearly rents and profits thereof coming by the space of 8 years next after my decease, and with the profits thereof I will that mine executors shall maintain the reparations thereof and pay the rents and duties thereof yearly due and accustomed, and also pay my debts & duties which I do owe;

Item, I will that the said William Cope, my son, after th' end of the said 8 years shall have all the said house and garden to him and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue the remainder thereof to Anthony Cope, my son, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue the remainder thereof to John Cope, my son, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue the remainder thereof to the right heirs of my body begotten;

And for lack of such issue the remainder thereof to the said John Cope, my half-brother, and to his heirs forever;

Provided always that if it happen my debts to be paid at any time within the said 8 years, then I will that immediately after the same payments of all my debts the said William shall have all the foresaid house and garden, and thereof perceive and take the whole profits in manner and form aforesaid and with like remainder as is aforesaid;

Item, I will that James Harrington and Elizabeth, his wife, shall have six score ewes lambs to be delivered to them after my decease within the space of 4 years or else soon after, that is to say, every year 30 ewe lambs for the maintenance of a stock in sheep;

Item, I bequeath and give to Margaret, my wife, my second salt all gilt; a goblet with a cover parcel gilt; item, a silver pot parcel gilt; 6 spoons with sampsons parcel gilt;

Item, I bequeath and give to William Cope, my eldest son, my best salt with a cover all gilt; a goblet with a cover gilt; a little silver pot with a cover parcel gilt; [f. 135r] item, 6 spoons with sampsons parcel gilt;

Item, I bequeath to Anthony Cope the leese [=least?] salt with a cover parcel gilt; a goblet parcel gilt without a cover; a silver pot with a cover, 6 spoons of the lesser sort;

Item, I bequeath to John Cope a[n] old salt parcel gilt; 2 silver goblets with a cover; a little cup parcel gilt without a cover; and 6 spoons of the bigger sort without knops, to be delivered to him when he is at the full age of 21 years;

Item, I give to Elizabeth Harrington a little pot, the least of the three; a little salt of silver wires parcel gilt; item, a white flat piece and a little taster of silver and a pottage piece of silver;

Item, I give to Margaret, my wife, my chalice of silver;

Item, I give to Robert Atkinson a little white goblet of silver;

Item, I give to William Cope my best featherbed that is at London and the best coverlet that is at Bedhampton, two fustian blankets that be at London, two pair of the best sheets and two pair of the meanest sheets;

Item, I bequeath to Anthony Cope my gown that is at London furred with black coney;

Item, I bequeath to Thomas Polsted & to Henry Polsted, my feoffees, and to every of them 20s;

Item, I will that Margaret, my wife shall give to Robert Atkinson, my servant, for the good service that he hath done to me in times past & for the service that he shall do to my wife 20s, to be paid once in the year during their two(?) lives;

Item, I will that William Westbrocke shall have in my house that is in Saint Peter's parish next to Paul's Wharf in London 2 chambers for his lodging with free going in and out there in the back side at the back door at all times for termsof his natural life;

Item, I bequeath to the said William a gown that is furred with foins;

All the residue of my goods and chattels not given neither bequeathed I give them to Margaret, my wife, whom I do make my executrice with William Westbroke, John Tawke and Robert Atkinson to be my executors with her, and the said John Tawke to have for his labour 40s;

Item, I will desire Master John Gunter for to be overseer of this my last will, and he to have for his labour 20s;

In witness whereof I have subscribed my name with my own hand the 23rd day of February in the 25th year of King Henry the Eight. Chief witness: William Westbrocke, James Harrington, Jeffrey Emerthwayte, priest, John Toope, John Hill, Thomas Wytham, by me, John Cope.

Probatum fuit suprascript{um} testamentu{m} coram D{omi}no Apud Lamethith duodecimo die mens{is} Nouembris Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingentesimo xxxiiijto Iurament{o} Margarete Relict{e} et executric{is} in h{uius}mo{d}i testame{n}to no{m}i{n}at{e} in p{er}sona Ioh{a}n{n}i{s} Howe procu{rato}ris sui in hac p{ar}te sufficienter et l{eg}itime constitut{i} Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et com{m}issa fuit admi{n}istrac{i}o o{mn}i{u}m et singulor{um} bonor{um} et debitor{um} dicti defunct{i} preno{m}i{n}at{e} executrici De bene &c Ac de pleno et fidei Inuentario o{mn}i{u}m et singulor{um} bonor{um} iurium et creditor{um} h{uius}mo{d}i conficiend{o} Necnon de plano et vero compoto reddend{o} Ad Sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia in p{er}sona dict{i} procuratoris Iurat{e} Reseruata p{otes}tate similem comissionem faciend{i} Iohanni Tawke et Roberto Atkynson executoribus &c cum venerint in debita iuris forma admissur{is} Will{el}mo Westbroke executore &c renu{n}cian{te}

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord at Lambeth on the twelfth day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 34th by the oath of Margaret, relict and executrix named in the same testament in the person of John Howe, her proctor sufficiently and lawfully constituted in that respect, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all and singular the goods and debts of the said deceased to the aforementioned executrix, sworn on the Holy Gospels in the person of the said proctor to well etc., and to prepare a full and faithful inventory of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the same, and also to render a plain and true account, with power reserved for a similar grant to be made to John Tawke and Robert Atkinson,

executors etc. when they shall have come in due form of law to be admitted, William Westbroke, executor etc. renouncing.]