

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 12 January 1539 and proved 16 June 1539, of Sir William Haute (c.1490-1539), whose widow, Margaret (nee Wood), commenced the lawsuit *Hales v Petit*, alluded to in the gravedigger's speech in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.

### ***FAMILY BACKGROUND***

The testator is said to have been the grandson of Sir William Haute (d. 2 July 1497) and Joan Horne, and the great-grandson of William Haute (c.1395-1462) and Joan Woodville. See:

[http://powys.org/pl\\_tree/ps07/ps07\\_052.html](http://powys.org/pl_tree/ps07/ps07_052.html)

Joan Woodville's father, Richard Woodville (died c.1441), was also the father of Richard Woodville (executed 12 August 1469), 1<sup>st</sup> Earl Rivers, and the grandfather of Elizabeth Woodville, wife of Edward IV. See the History of Parliament entry for Sir William Haute (d.1462) at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1386-1421/member/haute-william-1462>

The testator was the son of Sir Thomas Haute (d. 28 November 1502) of Waddenhall in Waltham, Kent, by Isabel Frowyk, sister of the judge, Sir Thomas Frowyk (c.1460–1506), and daughter of the mercer Thomas Frowyk of Ealing and London, (son of Henry Frowyk, Lord Mayor of London, and Isabel Otis) by his second wife, Joan Sturgeon, daughter of Richard Sturgeon and his wife, Joan. See:

[http://powys.org/pl\\_tree/ps07/ps07\\_037.html](http://powys.org/pl_tree/ps07/ps07_037.html)

See the *ODNB* entry for Sir Thomas Frowyk; the will of Sir Thomas Frowyk, dated 13 August 1505 and proved 3 November 1506, TNA PROB 11/15/285, in which he mentions his sister, Isabel Haute; and Cass, Frederick Charles, *South Mimms*, (Westminster: Nichols and Sons, 1877), p. 100 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=UUdJAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA100>

### ***Testator's siblings***

The testator had a sister:

**-Jane Haute** (living 1546), who married firstly Thomas Goodere, esquire, of Hadley, Middlesex, and secondly Robert Wroth (d. 11 May 1535), esquire, of Durants in Enfield, Middlesex. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. IV, p.

372; and the will of Robert Wroth, dated 8 May 1535 and proved 26 May 1536, TNA PROB 11/25/522, to which the testator was a witness.

In the will below the testator states that he is forty-nine years of age, and was thus born about 1490.

## ***MARRIAGES AND CHILDREN***

### ***First marriage***

The testator married firstly Mary Guildford (1486-1529), widow of Christopher Kempe (1485-1512), elder brother of Sir William Kempe (1487-1539) of Olantigh, Kent, and daughter of Sir Richard Guildford (c.1450-1506). See the will of Sir Richard Guildford, TNA PROB 11/17/381; and the Guildford pedigree in Burke, John and Bernard Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies of England, Ireland and Scotland*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (London: Scott, 1841), p. 231 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=DqkTAAAYAAJ&pg=PA231>

See also Robertson, Herbert, *Stemmata Robertson et Durdin*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1893-95), pp. 224-5:

<https://archive.org/stream/stemmatarobertso00robe#page/224/mode/2up>

By her first husband, Christopher Kempe, Mary Guildford had a daughter:

-**Mary Kempe** (d.1557), who was raised by the testator, her stepfather, until she was old enough to attend court, where she served Mary Tudor. Mary Kempe married Lawrence Finch (c.1508-c.1563) of The Moat, Canterbury, eldest son of Sir William Finch (died c.1553) and Elizabeth Cromer, and brother of Sir Thomas Finch (d. 19 March 1563) who drowned in the wreck of *The Greyhound*, but does not appear to have had issue by him. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 169-70, and Hitchin-Kemp, Frederick, *A General History of the Kemp and Kempe Families*, (London: The Leadenhall Press, 1902), p. 22 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/generalhistoryof00kemp#page/n35/mode/2up>

See also the entry for Mary Kempe (1508-1557) at:

[http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page\\_id=691](http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=691)

By Mary Guildford the testator had two daughters:

\* **Elizabeth Haute**, who married Thomas Culpeper (d. 13 May 1558), esquire, of Bedgebury in Goudhurst, Kent. For his will, see TNA PROB 11/41/336. Thomas

Culpeper was the eldest of the three sons of Sir Alexander Culpeper (d.1541) by Constance (nee Chamberlain) Harper, and elder brother of Sir Thomas Culpeper, executed 23 November 1541 for alleged indiscretions with Henry VIII's fifth wife, Katherine Howard. Sir Anthony Culpeper (1560-1618), grandson of Thomas Culpeper and Elizabeth Haute, married Anne Martyn, half sister of Humphrey Martyn, the addressee of the *Langham Letter* which describes the Earl of Leicester's entertainment of Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575. See the will of Anne Martyn's mother, Elizabeth (nee Castlyn) Knolles Martyn, TNA PROB 11/65/430.

\* **Jane Haute** (d. in or after 1595), who married Sir Thomas Wyatt, executed 11 April 1554 for instigating the Wyatt rebellion, by whom she had, according to the *ODNB*, at least four sons and three daughters. Two of her sons were dead by 1555. Arthur Wyatt died before reaching the age of majority. George Wyatt (1553–1624), born a few days before his father's rebellion, married Jane Finch, daughter of Sir Thomas Finch (d.1563) and Katherine Moyle, daughter of Sir Thomas Moyle (d.1560). For the will of Sir Thomas Moyle, dated 30 March and proved 14 November 1560, see TNA PROB 11/43/593. Of her daughters, Mary Wyatt died unmarried, Jane Wyatt married Charles Scott of Egerton, Kent, and Anne Wyatt married Roger Twisden.

See also the *ODNB* entries for the Culpeper family, Katherine Howard, and Sir Thomas Wyatt; and Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. IV, p. 383.

### *Second marriage*

The testator married secondly Margaret Wood (d. 18 September 1567), the daughter of Oliver Wood, by whom he had no issue.

Margaret Wood had earlier been the wife of Sir Walter Mantell (d.1529), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/23/158. In the will below the testator mentions Margaret's children by her first marriage, one of whom, Margaret Mantell (d.1540), married Robert Goche (d. 5 May 1557), and was the mother of the poet, Barnabe Googe (1540-1594). See the will of Robert Goche, TNA PROB 11/40/86, and Eccles, Mark, 'Barnabe Googe in England, Spain, and Ireland', *English Literary Renaissance*, Vol. 15, No. 3, (Autumn 1985), pp. 353-370 at:

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/43447166>

After the testator's death Margaret Wood married, as her third husband, the judge Sir James Hales (c.1500–1554). As Lady Margaret Hales she initiated the lawsuit *Hales v Petit* alluded to in the grave-digger's speech in *Hamlet*. See the *ODNB* entry for Sir James Hales. She is buried in the south or Woods chancel in St Mildred's Church, Canterbury, where there is a monument to her memory. Sources differ as to the date of her death. According to an inquisition post mortem taken 18 March 1568, she died 18 September 1567 (see TNA C 142/165/132).

See also Leach, Thomas, ed., *Reports of Sir George Croke, Knight*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., Vol. I, (London: E. & R. Brooke, 1790), p. 28 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=s2oDAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA28>

See also:

'Parishes: Milton Malzor', in *A History of the County of Northampton: Volume 4*, ed. L F Salzman (London, 1937), pp. 271-276. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/northants/vol4/pp271-276> [accessed 12 November 2018]

*The eldest son of John Mantell was convicted of felony and put to death, leaving a son Walter who later suffered the same fate on being convicted of treason. Walter Mantell, the second son, was also attainted on a charge of treason, and on the death of Margaret, then the widow of Sir James Hales, in 1567, the manor passed to Walter's eldest son Matthew who was aged 21 years. (fn. 67)*

However the will of Margaret Wood's stepson, Humphrey Hales, suggests that he was unaware of her death when he made his will on 8 August 1568 ('if it shall fortune Dame Margaret Hales to die'). See the will of Humphrey Hales, dated 18 August 1568 and proved 13 May 1571, TNA PROB 11/53/261.

Brayley describes Margaret Wood's monument in St Mildred's Church, Canterbury:

*On the south aisle is a neat mural monument for the Lady Margaret Hales, daughter and heiress of Oliver Wood, Esq. She died in 1577, having been married in succession to three Knights; viz. Sir William Mantel, Sir William Haute, and Sir James Hales. At the bottom is a genealogical tree, bearing her shield of arms, with impalements. The slabs in the pavement, which covered the remains of the Atwoods, have been long deprived of their brasses: the whole Chapel, indeed, is in a ruinous state.*

See Brayley, Edward Wedlake, *The Beauties of England and Wales*, Vol. VIII, (London: Thomas Maiden, 1808), p. 907 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/beautiesengland17braygoog#page/n317/mode/2up>

It appears that the date '1577' in Brayley's description is a typographical error for '1567'.

Margaret (nee Wood) Mantell Haute Hales is said to have left a will in which she mentions her son, Thomas Mantell. See *The Hales Newsletter*, *supra*.

See also the entry for Margaret Wood at:

[http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page\\_id=715](http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=715)

[f. 107v] In the name of God, Amen. The 12<sup>th</sup> day of the month of January in the year of Our Lord God 1538 and in the 30<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Henry the Eight, I, Sir William Haute, knight, of Bishopsbourne in the county of Kent, of the age of 49 years, being whole in mind and in good remembrance, thanks be unto God, do make my testament in manner and form following:

First, I meekly with a firm hope commend my soul to the mercy of Almighty God for the pains and passion which Almighty Jesus suffered on the cross, by the which passion I only hope to be saved, and my body to be buried in the choir of Bishopsbourne aforesaid on the south side of Mary, my wife, next unto her;

And I bequeath unto the high altar there, for tithes and offerings negligently forgotten, 20s, and to the high altar of Patrixbourne and Bridge for tithes likewise forgotten, 3s 4d;

Item, I will not have above £10 to be bestowed at my burying or forthfare [=funeral] thereof in Masses 3 or 4, and the residue to the poor people within the said parish of Bishopsbourne by the discretions of my executors;

Item, I give unto the parson or curate of 20 of the next parishes to Bishopsbourne in the country for one Mass to be said within 8 days next after my decease, 8d, and to the clerk of every of the said twenty parishes, 4d, and to the poor inhabitants of the said twenty parishes, ten marks, provided always that the said money be distributed in the said parishes according to the number of the poor people there inhabited, that is to say, some parishes more, and some less;

Item, I do give to the new heling [=roofing] of the church of Bishopsbourne aforesaid £4 and as much tile from the nunnery late of Saint Sepulchre's as will serve for the performance of the covering of the same church, so it be done by Michaelmas next, and the money that remaineth, I will it be bestowed upon some convenient thing within the same church;

Item, I bequeath unto Alexander Culpeper, the son of Thomas Culpeper the elder, my best cup which my grandfather left me, and to the said Thomas Culpeper, my son-in-law, my damask gown furred or my black velvet gown at his choice, and thother by him refused I give unto Thomas Wyatt, my son-in-law;

Item, I give unto the said Thomas Culpeper my lease of the late nunnery of Saint Sepulchre's for the whole term of the years, and also the bargain of the sale thereof which I bought of Spillman & Cavendish, and I give to the said Thomas Wyatt and to my daughter, Jane, his [+wife], my second standing cup which I had of my mother, Dame Isabel Haute;

Item, I give to James Gage my black cloak guarded with velvet, my best doublet, and my best jacket;

The rest of mine apparel that is new and good, I give unto Margaret, my wife, for her sons and children, except it be old Geane or apparel under 20s the piece; all that I give unto Roger, my servant, and I give to the said Roger 20s, my ball trotting gelding, & he to have freely the keeping of his third part of 100 ewes going at Scotney until Michaelmas next if he list;

Item, I give unto my Lord Warden my black ambling gelding, and to the Master of the Rolls my sorrel gelding;

Item, to Thomas Dabbes, my servant, 40s, my best next gelding;

Item, to Robert Violet, my servant, 40s, and a colt of th' age of one year and more, as good as he will choose among my mares, and to William Wode [=Wood], my servant, in money 40s and a couple of keen [=kine], and to Ralph Parker, my servant, 40s and a colt of 2 years' age, and to Nicholas Franklin, my servant, 40s;

Item, to the warreners, 20s, and to John Fawconer, butler, 20s;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Margaret, my wife, plate to the value of £100, of the best she will choose except the cups before by me bequeathed, and I give to her without praising [=appraising] half the household stuff, and she to have the choice of [f. 108r] everything, the other half to remain for the house to the behoof of the said Thomas Culpeper;

And I will, as long as she be disposed to tarry in the house, keeping herself sole a widow, she to have th' occupation of thother part, and after that, to remain to the house as is afore-written;

Item, I give unto the said Margaret, my wife, of everything that she desireth of outward, cattle and other things, to the value of £100;

Also, I give unto the daughters of my said wife my lease of Farnyngho in Northamptonshire unto the time that Walter Mantell, their brother, come to th' age of 24 years, in full recompense of such revenues and profits as I have received and had of the moiety of the manor of Farnyngho, late Sir Walter Mantell['s], knight, and then I give the said lease to the said Walter Mantell, to him and to his heirs forever, during the whole time of the years;

And over that I bequeath and give unto Margaret, my wife, my lease of the curtilage of Bishopsbourne by all such term as she will dwell in Bishopsbourne foresaid, and being sole, and if she happen to die before the said lease be expired, or marry, then I will the said lease remain to the said Thomas Culpeper during the whole term of years;

Item, I give unto Peter Hayman £5 2s towards his pains of my sheriffwick, for so we be agreed;

And I give towards the reparation of highways betwixt Bridge and Canterbury £20;

Item, I will that William Idley and Norton, my servants, pay nothing for the keeping of their parts of the 100 ewes in the marsh of Scotney unto Michaelmas, and likewise William Morrishe [=Morris?] for his 20 ewes there;

Also I will and charge mine executors that they, over and besides these my legacies, do well truly content and pay all such debts and duties as I do owe to any person or persons or otherwise am charged in conscience to pay or perform, as appeareth in a certain schedule quadripartite indented subscribed with my hand and to this my present testament annexed, and also all other my debts which at any time after my decease can be duly approved;

And of this my last will & testament I do ordain and make Walter Hendley [=Henley] and John Boys, gentlemen, to be mine executors, and to have full power and authority for th' execution of the same, to whom I do give and bequeath £40, that is to say, every of them £20, over and above their necessary costs and charges at all times to be allowed unto them when they shall travel, ride or go abouts the necessary execution of this my testament;

Also I do give and bequeath Steven Thornhurst £10;

Item, I give to the parish church of Bishopsbourne one chalice after my decease, and I will that my wife have the keeping of thother chalice gilt the whole term of her life if she (word omitted), and after her decease, I bequeath the same gilt chalice to the said church of Bishopsbourne;

Item, I do will and give all the lead being in my house which came from the nunnery to the said Thomas Culpeper, my son-in-law, to the behoof of this house, & also the front of stone which I have at Horton;

I give to the said Thomas Culpeper likewise for the behoof of my said house, and further, all the boards, brick, tile, lime and timber about the house, to remain towards the reparations of this my house;

And I do will unto Margaret, my wife, my white nag with her bridle and saddle, and I will she shall have the 4 other grass-nags here at home, and to pay for them according as they be praised now in my inventory, that is to say, 53s 4d;

Item, to Stephen Thornhurst 3 loads of hay which I do owe him, the rest to serve for my horses and sheep betwixt this and the Annunciation of Our Blessed Lady;

Item, I will at the said day mine executors do pay all my servants their wages and bequests, and to see all the charges of household contented and paid unto the same feast of Our Lady;

And also the corn that remaineth at the said day over and above that shall be sown, that is to say, of barley 40 acres, of oats 20 acres, to be praised by the quarter, that wheat, oats and barley and that (word omitted?) to be employed to the performance of this my last testament;

Provided always that if it appear that there remaineth 3 score 4 score or £100 or any sum above the same more than my bequeaths and debts shall amount unto, then I will that the one half thereof go to the marrying of the daughters of Elizabeth Culpeper, and also my servants to have double their money as they had before, and all other my servants that were not rewarded to be rewarded by the discretion of mine executors, and the rest I do give to the order of mine executors;

Item, I give and bequeath to John Boys £4 besides his bequests above-written;

Item, to Jane Villars, widow, towards the good keeping of her brother Christopher, late Observant Friar, 40s;

Item, I give to my cousin, Elizabeth Haute, £10 to be paid at the day of her marriage if she marry honestly, or else mine executors to be discharged of that payment;

Item, I give and bequeath to the said church of Bishopsbourne my vestment of blue velvet, and all my other vestments I give unto the said Margaret, my wife;

Witness Thomas Culpeper, esquire, William Finch, knight, Robert Colens, clerk, Nicholas Rawlyns, clerk, Stephen Thornehurst, Nicholas Franklin, Robert Chese, [f. 108v] Thomas Croke, Robert Newman, Thomas Fortune, John Bargar, William Wood, Roger Nower, Robert Lynstede.

Debts to be paid by th' executors of Sir William Haute, knight.

First, to the performance of the testament of Dame Isabel Haute, his mother, to highways as appeareth in the same testament, £100;

Item, Mistress Bolney, widow, of Canterbury, to be paid within 4 years next after her decease yearly £30 -- £120;

Item, to the same Mistress Bolney for farm, £15;

Item, £5 yearly the space of (blank) years to the performance of Harry Haute's indenture, as appeareth in the same, £30;

Item, to my Lord of Norfolk for farm for 3 years, every year £9, s{u}m{ma} £27;

Item, to Mr Thomas Culpeper £69;

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Item, to the heirs of Nicholas Wood, £20;

Item, to th' executors of Sir William Chevenyng, late parson of Kingston, £11;

Item, to Davy of Bridge, one of th' executors of Stace of Kingston for oats & hay, 30s;

Item, to the parish church of Sybertisdell [=Shepherdswell?] to buy a vestment, as Grant of Denton knoweth, 40s;

Item, to Fayere of Teneham or to his heirs or executors by the discretion of th' executors of the said Sir William, £20;

Item, to old Anstey of Adisham, 6s 8d;

Item, to Robert Byle of Thistelett, 40s;

Item, to John Millar of Harbledown, £5;

Item, to Sir Thomas Cheyney, knight, for farm and rent, £6 18s;

Item, to William Owere, my servant, 23 marks 6s 8d;

Item, to my Lord of Canterbury for timber in Bingham park, £8;

Item, to my said Lord for store of the curtilage of Borne to be delivered at th' end of my lease, that is to say, 18 years to come, £40;

Item, to Dale of Bridge, smith, 5s 10d;

Item, to the executors of Alexander Hamon [=Hammond?] in full payment of such duties as I do owe th' heirs of Alexander Hamon, £24;

Item, to Lyttelcote and his fellow in Cheapside for a jacket and doublet cloth of satin and the velvet to guard it withal;

Item, to the tailor called Tonge for my Lady's apparel buying and the making thereof, paid him in angels £8 in the Blackfriars, and the rest upon his bill to be paid by the discretion of mine executors;

Item, to Bridgisse [=Bridges?] my tailor for making of a doublet and a jacket with other things;

Item, Doctor Cocks, parson of Midley, for the tithe wool of 300 sheep and 300 lambs in the said parish;

Item, there for the pasturage of 110 acres which the said sheep and lambs were fed upon.

S{u}m{ma} as appeareth -- £517 7s 7d.

Probatum fuit sup{ra}script{um} Tes{tamen}t{u}m cora{m} M{agist}ro Will{el}mo Petre Com{m}iss{a}rio sepedicto apud London xvjto die mens{is} Iunij Anno D{omi}nj Mill{esi}mo quinge{n}tesimo tricesimo Nono Iura{men}to Ioh{anni}s Howe procur{rator}is Executor{um} in h{uius}mo{di} testamento no{m}i{n}at{orum} ac Approbat{um} &c Com{m}issaq{ue} fuit Admi{n}istrac{i}o om{n}i{um} & sing{u}lor{um} bonor{um} Iur{ium} & creditor{um} dict{i} defunct{i} p{re}fat{is} Executorib{us} de bene &c Ac de pleno & fideli Inuentar{io} &c conficiend{o} Necnon de plano & vero Comp{ot}o reddend{o} ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia in p{er}sona d{i}c{t}i p{ro}cu{rator}is Iurat{is}

[=The above-written testament was proved before Master William Petre, often-called(?) Commissary, at London on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of the month of June in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred thirty-ninth by the oath of John Howe, proctor of the executors named in the same testament, and probated etc., and administration was granted of all & singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased to the forenamed executors, sworn on the Holy Gospels in the person of the said proctor to well etc., and to prepare a full and true inventory etc., and also to render a plain & true account.]

LM: vto Iunij 1578 com{m}issa est ad{ministrand}o &c Will{el}m{o} Boys filio infrascript{i} Ioh{ann}is Boys ad administrand{um} bona &c d{i}c{t}i Will{el}mi Hawt p{er} d{i}c{t}os ex{ecutor}es non administrat{a}

[=On the 5<sup>th</sup> day of June 1578 administration was granted etc. to William Boys, son of the within-written John Boys, to administer the goods etc. of the said William Haute by the said executors not administered.]

LM: xj m{ar}tij 1602(?) comissa est ad{ministrand}o bonor{um} d{i}c{t}i def{uncti} non administratum [sic?] p{er} dictos executores q{ue}(?) p{er} dictum Will{el}mu{m} Boys ad{ministrat}em def{uncti} non plene ad{ministrat}um [sic?] Thome Boys filio d{i}c{t}i Will{el}mi Boys.

[=On the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 1602 administration was granted of the goods of the said deceased not administered by the said executors and by the said William Boys, administrator of the deceased, not fully administered, to Thomas Boys, son of the said William Boys.]