

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 17 September 1545 and proved 2 October 1545, of Sir Michael Dormer, a wealthy member of the Mercers' Company, and Lord Mayor of London in 1541.

The testator was the son of Geoffrey Dormer the elder (d. 9 March 1503) by his second marriage to Alice Collingridge. In 1498 Geoffrey Dormer the elder (d. 9 March 1503) settled the manor of Baldington in Thame on his son Geoffrey the younger and his male heirs, with remainders to his (Geoffrey the elder's) sons Michael Dormer (d. 20 September 1545), Peter Dormer (d.1555), Edward Dormer (d.1539), William Dormer (d.1506) and Thomas Dormer. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 420-1. It thus appears that of the twelve sons of Geoffrey Dormer the elder (d. 9 March 1503), only the six above-named were still living in 1498, and that William Dormer (d.1506), as the eldest surviving son of Geoffrey Dormer's first marriage, was his heir.

The testator died 20 September 1545. At the time of his death he resided in the parish of St Lawrence Jewry in London. His first wife, Elizabeth, whose surname is unknown, had predeceased him, and was buried in the churchyard of St. Lawrence Jewry. His second wife, Katherine, survived him for many years. She was the daughter of Thomas Dallam, a member of the Skinners' Company, and was married firstly to Richard Collier, by whom she had two children, and secondly to Robert Pakington (d. 13 November 1536), by whom she had no issue. Her two children by her marriage to Richard Collier died about the time of her third marriage to the testator. For her will see TNA PROB 11/46/47.

At the time of his death the testator had only one brother still living, Peter Dormer (d.1555), and one sister, Elizabeth Cowley. In his will he mentions his deceased brother Edward Dormer (d.1539), and a sister Constance, also deceased.

The testator leaves his lands to his sons Thomas, William, Geoffrey, John and Ambrose, and daughter, Joan, and an annuity to his son Walter, a priest, and appoints as executors his wife, Katherine, and son, John.

As one of his overseers he appoints his nephew of the half blood (whom he terms 'cousin'), Sir Robert Dormer (d.1552), son of his eldest half brother, William Dormer (d.1506). For the will of Sir Robert Dormer see TNA PROB 11/35/330.

As his other overseer he appoints his son-in-law, the Inner Temple lawyer, Anthony Stapleton, husband of his daughter, Joan Dormer. Before her marriage to Anthony Stapleton, Joan Dormer had been twice married, firstly to James Bolney (d.1536), by whom she had a daughter, Agnes, mentioned in the will below, and secondly to Edward Borlase (d.1544). For the will of James Bolney, in which he mentions his wife, Joan Dormer, and his children, Agnes, Winifred and Edward, and 'the child now being in my wife's womb', see TNA PROB 11/25/554. For the will of Edward Borlase, in which he

mentions his wife, Joan Dormer, see TNA PROB 11/30/136. For Anthony Stapleton, see his will, Borthwick Institute V19 F690.

The testator mentions in his will that he was a demy at Magdalen College, Oxford, and 'brought up in learning there'. He was still actively involved as a merchant at the time of his death. In his will he mentions his apprentices and journeymen, and his woolhouses in Calais.

RM: Test{amentu}m Michaelis Dormer Milit{is}

In Nomine Dei Amen. The 17 day of September in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred forty and five, I, Sir Michael Dormer of London, knight, Alderman and Mercer of London, being of whole mind and memory, laud be to God, make and ordain this my present testament and last will in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God and to Our Lady Saint Mary and all the holy company of heaven, and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Saint Lawrence in the Jewry in London whereas Elizabeth, my late wife, lieth buried, or elsewhere in such other place as it shall please God to ordain for me after the discretion of my executors;

Item, I will that my funeral expenses be done in honest wise without any pomp of the world, and after my funeral expenses done according to a[n] order taken for the burying of an Alderman of my degree, I will no further expenses to be done upon my burial in no wise;

Then I will in any wise my debts to be paid without any delay at the days that I am bounden to pay them, without any delivery of ware for the payment thereof or delaying at any time after the days be expired, and no penny to be abated of that that I owe;

And after my debts paid, then I will that all my goods, chattels and debts both movable and unmovable shall be divided in three several parts, whereof I will Katherine, my wife, shall have one part thereof to her own use as is accustomed for her reasonable part;

And another part of my goods to my children for their reasonable portion equally to be divided amongst them, and I will that such of my children as be married shall have as much as such which be unmarried;

And the third part of my goods & chattels I reserve wholly to me and to mine executors to the fulfilling and performing of this my last will and the legacies contained in the same;

Item, I give and bequeath to every one of my brother Peter's children being alive at the time of my departing this present life ten pounds, and every one of them to be heirs to the other;

And I bequeath to my brother, Peter, if he be alive at the time of my departing this present life, then I will that he shall have of my goods thirteen pounds 6s 8d;

Item, I give and bequeath to Elizabeth, my brother Edward's daughter, ten pounds;

Item, I bequeath to my sister, Elizabeth Cowley, six pounds 13s 4d, and to every of her children living at the time of my departing six pounds 13s 4d;

Item, I bequeath to my sister Costans [=Constance's] children, every of them six pounds 13s 4d;

I reckon each hath but one child which dwelleth at Risborough, and there each is married to a poor man;

Item, I bequeath to the two Counters, every one of them 20s, summa 40s;

Item, I bequeath to Newgate to the prisoners there 20s, to the prisoners of Ludgate 20s, to the King's Bench 20s, to the Marshalsea 20s, summa to these four prisons for the relief of the poor prisoners £4;

Item, I bequeath to poor scholars studying divinity in Oxford fifty pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath to the Company and Fellowship of Magdalen College in Oxford ten pounds to make them a dinner there at their pleasure, so that it be done within 6 months after my death and the money paid to their hands according to my will;

Item, I bequeath to every demy being in Magdalen College in Oxford at the time of my death and three months after, I will every of them shall have 6s 8d for a remembrance that I was there a demy and brought up there in my youth in learning;

Item, I bequeath to the high altar in the church of Saint Lawrence for tithes forgotten 6s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to threescore maidens' marriages forty pounds, that is to every maiden when she is married 13s 4d;

Item, I will that there be bestowed in the parish of Saint Lawrence whereas I now dwell six pounds, that to wit, every year for the space of three years forty shillings yearly;

Item, I give to every prentice and journeyman that I shall have at the time of my death six pounds 13s 4d;

Item, I give to every of my servants that hath dwelt with me one year before my death 40s;

Item, I give [+&] bequeath to Richard Beterton that keepeth my house at Kimble 40s;

Item, I give and bequeath to the churchwardens of the parish of Saint Lawrence whereas I now dwell to the maintenance of the church and of God's service there to be maintained forty pounds;

Item, I give to the church of Thame four torches;

Item, I give to the church of Crendon two torches;

Item, to the church of West Wycombe two torches;

To Kimble two torches;

To Milton two torches;

And of this my present testament and last will I make and ordain mine executors Katherine, my wife, and John Dormer, my son, and I bequeath to every of them so taking upon them six pounds 13s 4d;

And to this present testament I make my overseers my cousin, Sir Robert Dormer, knight, and Anthony Stapleton, and I bequeath to every of them six pounds 13s 4d, desiring them to give mine executors good counsel in the performance of this my last will devised concerning my goods and chattels with as short speed as they [f. 291v] conveniently [+may];

And all wills made by me before this I disannul, repel and avoid;

And [+to?] this my last will only to stand for my very testament I have set under my name, and written this with mine own hand the day and time above-written, and set to my seal;

I will that John Smyth th' elder of Ascott and all my tenants in Ascott shall enjoy one half year's rents of their farms next after my death without the payment of any rent for the same half year;

Item, I will that John Smyth th' elder of Ascott and all my tenants in Ascott there now dwelling shall enjoy their holds during their lives without any fine paying or any rent raising by any of them;

Item, I will that John Smyth of Ascott th' elder shall enjoy the farm that he dwelleth in to him or to any of his children to dispose for ten years after his death without raising of any rent or any fine paying, upon condition always that he shall uphold and maintain all the houses and fences in, upon and about the same, and paying truly his rent yearly;

I will that John Grene of Milton enjoy his farm and all that he hath of me by lease in Milton for one half year next after my death without any rent paying for that half year;

Item, I will that Thomas Coker of Crendon enjoy one whole year's rent immediately after my death of all such lands as I have in Crendon which I bought of my Lord Marquess Dorset;

And I will my children after my decease order my tenants after good fashion, and not to put them from none of their holds, but to use them honestly according to good conscience, they paying their rent and doing their duty;

Item, I give and bequeath to poor householders in the parish whereas I now dwell in ten pounds;

Item, I give to poor householders in the Vintry Ward forty shillings;

Item, I will to the poor householders in Thame six pounds 13s 4d;

Item, to the poor householders in Crendon six pounds 13s 4d;

Item, to the poor householders in Dorton three pounds 6s 8d;

Item, in Great Kimble and Little Kimble to my poor tenants there five pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath toward the maintenance of the highways to the City of London whereas most need is westward within forty miles of London in the common highway, for the ease of the poor carriers and such other as travel toward the City, for the ease of the common people where it shall be thought most need, a hundred pounds;

Item, I will that Katherine, my wife, have my house that I now dwell in in the parish of Saint Lawrence in the Jewry in London in as ample wise as I do occupy it in mine own use and for my occupying during her widowhead, and if she chance after my decease to marry, then she to have the same house one year after the time of her marriage and no lenger upon condition that she find reparation in all things conveniently as long as she holdeth the same, and so sufficiently repaired to leave it;

Item, I will that Katherine, my wife, have my house in Kimble with such closes, orchards and dovehouse as I kept in mine own hands, to have to her for pastime during her life with all such stuff as is in the house, and that stuff there to leave to him that I would the house should remain to, and if Katherine, my wife after my decease be minded to marry, then I will that she enjoy the same one year then next following and no lenger but one year after her marriage, upon condition that she keep all manner of reparations of the housing, and the maintenance of hedging and ditching and all waterwork to be substantially maintained;

And if my wife be disposed to let or set any part of my housing aforesaid in London or any part of my house in Kimble aforesaid or any part of the land thereunto belonging, then I will that she enjoy no part of the housing nor London aforesaid no lenger than she intendeth to keep it to her own use and to take her pastime therein to make merry with my friends and hers, and that the poor people may be the better relieved and comforted;

Item, I bequeath to the Company of the Mercery, as to the Wardens and rulers of the same Company, two hundred pounds to be put into four young men's hands of the same Company that be toward and intend to thrive, not being in the livery, to have every of them four fifty pounds in occupying upon good surety to the Wardens and Company for the repayment thereof when it shall please them to require it to put it into any other man's hands of the same Company upon a lawful warning;

Item, I will that my executors after my decease shall buy yearly about Michaelmas four load of coals, every load containing 24 quarters, I say not 24 sacks but 24 quarters, these coals to be appointed by the churchwardens of Saint Lawrence in the Jewry to the poor householders of the same parish of Saint Lawrence in the Jewry whereas most need is, to freemen and freewomen;

Also once a year about the time that it shall please God to send for me, that the four young men shall meet together at the Mercers' Church, and there shall desire one of the chaplains to say Mass for all Christian souls, and every one of them to give to the priest or offer at the same Mass one penny, and to give to the clerk of the Company yearly at the same Mass 12d, and to the keeper of the chapel 4d, this to be done [f. 292r] yearly as long as it shall please God that this money shall be occupied as is aforesaid;

I pray God this may(?) be put to good use to the pleasure of God and to the maintenance of young men in virtue to God's pleasure;

And if the Wardens and Assistance think that the four young men should be overcharged, then I will that they shall minish as much of the charges as they shall think good according to their discretion;

This I make my last will devised concerning all my goods and chattels, and all other wills afore this will made I disannul and avoid by this my last will only to stand for my very testament;

I have written this with mine own hand and sealed it with my seal and subscribed my name. Per me Michael Dormer.

RM: Vltima voluntas eiusd{e}m Mich{ael}is

The will of me, Sir Michael Dormer, of my lands, tenements and hereditaments die et anno predictis.

In primis I will Thomas Dormer, mine eldest son, to have all my lands in Berkshire which I bought of Nicholas Thorne and of John May(?), and all the lands that I bought of them wheresoever it lie, and all other my lands in Berkshire of whomsoever they were bought;

Also I give to the said Thomas Dormer all my lands in Heydon Maston and Water Eton, which lands I bought of Jerome Hamdon [=Hampden?] and Roger Yonge, to have unto the said Thomas and to his heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue of his body lawfully begotten, then I will it shall go to the second son of William Dormer and of the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue, I will it shall go to the second son of Geoffrey, my son, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And in like manner and form from Geoffrey to John, my son, and to his heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And so to Ambrose, my son, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And if the said Thomas, my son, do make trouble or go about in breaking of my will devised upon the rest of any part of my land in altering of any part of my will in that behalf, then I will that this present will concerning the said bequests of lands be utterly void, and he to take none advantage by this bequest and gift, but then I will that the same lands afore-written be sold by my executors by the advice and counsel of my cousin, Sir Robert Dormer, and Anthony Stapleton and two of my eldest sons next unto Thomas, my son, or three of them, and then I will farther that the execution of the statute wherein the said Thomas is bound be extended upon the said Thomas Dormer to the uttermost thereof, which statute Sir John Baldwin, knight, hath in his custody;

This I will to have truly executed, and the land so sold, the money thereof to be spent in the defence of his title, and the rest thereof, if it come to pass that the land be sold, that it be bestowed in making of highways within 40 mile of London westward for the ease of the poor carriers resorting to the City;

I will and bequeath unto William Dormer, my son, all my manors, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments with th' appurtenances in the parishes and fields of Thame, Aston, Stoken Church, Rowsam, Dorneford, Sowthorne, Steeple Aston, Wendlebury, Ilbery except a certain grove called Ilbery grove containing 12 acres or thereabouts;

And I bequeath to the said William all my lands, tenements and hereditaments in Wycombe, Kyrtilton, Dorton and Crendon except my part of the said manor of Crendon which I bought of my Lord Marquess Dorset and now or of late in the tenure of Thomas Cannon and Thomas Croker in the counties of Oxford and Buckinghamshire, to have and to hold all the said manors, lands, tenements rents, reversions and hereditaments with th'

appurtenances, except before excepted, unto the said William and his heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue I will the said premises, except before excepted, shall remain to Geoffrey Dormer, my son, [+and] to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue I will all the said premises, except before excepted, shall remain to John Dormer, my son, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue I will the same premises, except before excepted, shall remain to Ambrose Dormer, my son, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue the remainder thereof to the foresaid William Dormer and to his heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue the remainder thereof to the said Geoffrey Dormer and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue, the remainder thereof to the said John Dormer and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

[f. 292v] And for default of such issue the remainder thereof to the said Ambrose Dormer and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue the remainder thereof to my daughter, Joan Stapleton, and to the heirs males of her body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue I will the same to remain to the right heirs of my said sons forever;

Out of which premises I will the said William and his heirs, and also every of my said sons and their heirs to whom the premises shall come, shall for their times pay yearly to my son, Walter Dormer, ten pounds sterling during his life out of the premises according to my deed thereof made unto the said Walter [+to?] be advanced to ten pounds by the year in benefice or otherwise for term of his life by the said William or his said heirs, or else until he be promoted unto fifty pounds by year for term of his life by the said William or other my said sons and their said heirs or some of them, and then the said annuity to cease;

Item, I devise, will and bequeath to Katherine, my wife, my mese and house in Great Kimble with the orchard, lands and closes thereto belonging which I keep in my own hands for my own pastime, and all the closes, orchards and lands thereunto adjoining now in my own hands, and my mese and garden with th' appurtenances in London wherein I do now inhabit so long as she liveth sole and unmarried, to have and to hold the said

meses, closes, land and garden with th' appurtenances to the said Katherine during her life upon condition that the said Katherine shall keep the premises always in her own hands without setting or letting the same or any parcel thereof to any person or persons, and after such time as the said Katherine shall marry, then she to have it one year then next following and no lenger;

And after that year or after her decease if she marry not, I devise and will the said meses, closes, gardens and lands in Kimble to the said Geoffrey Dormer, my son, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, with like remainders over as are expressed in this my said last will and testament upon other my meses, lands, tenements and hereditaments given to the said Geoffrey in this my said will;

And my said mese and garden in London I devise and bequeath to the said John Dormer, my son, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten after the said interest of my said wife therein determined, with like remainders over as are expressed in this my said will upon other my meses, lands, tenements and hereditaments given to the said John Dormer by this my said will;

Item, I give and bequeath to Geoffrey Dormer, my son, all [+my?] manors, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments with th' appurtenances in Great Kimble, Little Kimble, Risborough, Longwick, Ellesborough, Bishopstone, Wendover, Aston Clinton, Bucknam, Farnyngo, Barton, Charsey and in the town and fields and parishes of Missenden, Over Worton, Little Milton, Bodicote, Adderbury, Bloxham, Shalborn and Aston Molyns, and all my lands and tenements in Turville lately belonging to the house of Medmenham, and my part of the manor of Crendon which I bought of my Lord Marquess Dorset in the county of Buckingham, and certain woods which appeareth by particulars, except my house and mese with the orchards, lands and closes thereunto belonging which I keep in my own hands for my pastime in Great Kimble during the life only of the said Katherine, my wife, as is aforesaid, to have and to hold the said manors, lands, tenements and other the premises with th' appurtenances, except before excepted, to the said Geoffrey and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue I will the same premises, except before excepted, remain to my said son, William, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue I will the same remain to John Dormer, my son, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue I will the same premises, except before except, shall remain to the said Ambrose Dormer, my son, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue I will that the same shall remain to the said Geoffrey, my son, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue I will the same shall remain to my said son, William Dormer, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue I will all the same, except before excepted, shall remain to my said son, John Dormer, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to my said son, Ambrose Dormer, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such [+issue?] I will the same shall remain to my said daughter, Joan Stapleton, and to the heirs males of her body lawfully begotten;

The remainder thereof to the right heirs of my said sons forever;

Out of which premises I bequeath and devise to the said Katherine, my wife, during her life an annual rent of fourscore pounds yearly to be paid at the feasts of Saint Michael th' Archangel and the Annunciation of Our Lady by even portions, and for non-payment thereof I will the said Katherine shall distrain from time to time in the premises during her life;

And out of [f. 293r] which premises so bequeathed unto the said Geoffrey I will that the said Geoffrey and his said heirs and all my said sons and their said heirs and every of them successively for their times shall pay yearly out of the premises to the said Walter Dormer, my son, ten pounds sterling during his life according to a deed of grant thereof made to the said Walter until the said Walter be advanced to ten pounds by year by benefice or otherwise for term of his life by the said Geoffrey or his said heirs, or else until he be advanced until fifty pounds by the year by the said Geoffrey or his said heirs or by other my said sons or their said heirs or some of them for term of his life, and then the said annual payment to cease;

Item, I give, devise, will and bequeath to John Dormer, my son, all my meses, gardens, lands, tenements and hereditaments with all and singular th' appurtenances in the City of London and the suburbs of the same, and all my manors lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments with all and singular the appurtenances in Rayne, Good Easter, Ramesden and Brentwood in the county of Essex and in Hackney in the county of Middlesex and in Saint Albans and Radborne in the county of Hertford, and all my lands, tenements and hereditaments with all and singular th' appurtenances in Cranfield and Lewton in the county of Bedford, and in Crawley and Calverton in the county [+of] Buckingham, and in Rainham, Hartlip, Micham and Wingham in the county of Kent, and all my manors, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments with all and singular th' appurtenances in Blechingley and Horsham in the county of Sussex, and my lands and tenements in the tenure of Richard Rickman in the county of Surrey, and my lands, tenements and hereditaments in Bix, Lewknor and Ibstone in the county of Oxford, and my two wool-houses and herring-hang in the town of Calais, and all my meses and tenements in the parishes of Saint James at Garlickhythe, Saint Giles, Saint Peter's the Poor, Philpot Lane, Bow parish, Milk Street, Abchurch

Lane and in the parish of Saint Lawrence in London, except only the said house and garden bequeathed to the said Katherine, my wife, during her life only as aforesaid, which I give to the said John after her decease as aforesaid, to have and to hold as well the said premises so devised to the said John as the reversion of the said mese and garden in London to him, the said John, and his heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue I will the said premises shall remain to the said Ambrose, my son, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to the said William Dormer, my son, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to the said Geoffrey Dormer, my son, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to the said John Dormer and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to the said Ambrose Dormer and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to the said William and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to the said Geoffrey Dormer and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue I will the same to remain to the said Joan Stapleton, my daughter, and to the heirs males of her body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue the same to remain to the right heirs of my said sons forever;

Out of which premises so bequeathed to the said John and his said heirs I will that the said John and his said heirs and all my said sons and their said heirs and every of them for their times shall successively pay out of the premises to the said Katherine during her life forty pounds sterling yearly at the feasts aforesaid, which annual rent of forty pounds by year I bequeath to her out of the said premises during her life and that it shall be lawful to her for non-payment thereof to distrain in the same premises as is aforesaid, and that they shall pay to the said Walter Dormer, my son, ten pounds sterling out of the premises during his life according to my deed of grant thereof made to the said Walter until the said Walter be advanced unto ten pounds by year by benefice or otherwise for term of his life by the said John or his said heirs, or else by him and other my said sons or their said heirs or some of them until the said Walter have in advancement of fifty pounds sterling by year for term of his life, and then the said annual payment to cease;

Item, I will and devise to the said Ambrose Dormer, my son, all my manors, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments with th' appurtenances in Great Milton and Little Milton, except the said lands in the tenure of Thomas Assynden lately belonging to the house of Dorchester;

And I will and bequeath to the said Ambrose all my lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments with [f. 293v] th' appurtenances in Ascot, Holcombe, Haseley, Benton, Baldon, Sherborn, Watlington, Drayton, Hickford, Oving, Bledlow and Chinnor, and all my lands and tenements in Turville, except the lands and tenements late belonging to the house of Medmenham before bequeathed to the said Geoffrey;

And I give and bequeath to the said Ambrose, my son, a certain grove called Ilbery grove containing 12 acres or thereabouts in Suncombe, and my lands and tenements in the tenure of John Kebyl, and my part of a cottage with th' appurtenances in Kydlinston, and my part of my lands in Middle Barton, Cobbington, Stonley, Hook Norton, Toddington and Wotton Underwood;

And also I give and bequeath to the said Ambrose, my son, my lands and tenements in Kidderminster and Fullam [=Fulham?], except a mese and garden(?) now in the holding of Anthony Stapleton;

And I bequeath to the said Ambrose one acre of land in Cheswike, and my three acres of land late in the tenure of my Lady Gresham, and one acre and a rood that I keep in mine own hands;

To have and to hold all the said premises, except before excepted, to him, the said Ambrose, and to his heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue I will the same premises, except before excepted, shall remain to the said John Dormer, my son, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue I will that the same shall remain to the said Geoffrey Dormer, my son, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to remain to my said son, William Dormer, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue I will the same shall remain to the said Ambrose Dormer and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue I will the premises shall remain to the said John Dormer and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue I will the said premises shall remain to the said Geoffrey Dormer and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue I will the same to remain to the said William and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to remain to Joan Stapleton, my daughter, and to the heirs males of her body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to my said sons and their right heirs forever;

Out of which premises so bequeathed unto the said Ambrose I will that the said Ambrose and his said heirs and all my said sons for their time successively shall pay to the said Katherine, my wife, forty pounds sterlings at the feasts aforesaid, which annual rent of forty pounds by year I bequeath to her out of the same premises during her life, and that the said Katherine for non-payment thereof shall distrain in the premises during her said life, and that they shall pay yearly to the said Walter Dormer, my son, thirteen pounds 6s 8d during his life out of the premises according to my deed of grant thereof made to the said Walter until the said Walter be advanced unto twenty pounds by year by benefice or otherwise by the gift or means of the said Ambrose or his said heirs, or else until he be promoted unto fifty pounds by year by the said Ambrose and his said heirs or other my said sons and their heirs or some of them for term of life of the said Walter, and [+then?] the said annual payment to cease;

And further I will that my said wife shall yearly pay unto the Wardens and Company of the Mercery 5s 4d towards the finding of the morrow-mass priest of the Mercery during the life of one Ambrose Barker, grocer, and after the decease of the said Ambrose Barker, I will that such lands, tenements and hereditaments which I, the said Sir Michael, and William Dauntsey, Alderman, deceased, purchased in reversion after the decease of the said Ambrose Barker shall remain to the Wardens and Fellowship of the Mystery of Mercers of London and their successors to th' intents and purposes as are contained and specified in this my said will and in the will of the said William Dauntsey, which is for the maintenance and finding of the said morrow-mass priest;

Item, I bequeath my lands in Lincolnshire bought in the name of Anthony Stapleton to the said Anthony until he have received thereof one hundred pounds to th' use of Michael Stapleton, my godson, that is to say, during 8 years and 3 quarters, so that he do follow it accordingly to the covenants of the indenture, and after that I will it to remain to Sir Robert Dormer, knight, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and I will that the said Anthony shall keep the reparations during his time in the premises;

Item, I will and bequeath to Agnes Bolney, my daughter's daughter, my mese and garden in Fulham now in the tenure or occupation of the said Anthony Stapleton and Joan, his wife, to have and to hold the said mese and garden to her and her heirs forever;

Also I give, will and bequeath to the said Dame Katherine, my wife, all my lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments which I bought of Richard Archer lying in Tanworth, and all [f. 294r] my lands, tenements, rents, reversions,

Modern spelling transcript copyright ©2013 Nina Green All Rights Reserved

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

services and hereditaments which I lately bought of the King's Majesty with other in Hertfordshire, and all my lands, tenements and hereditaments which I bought of Alexander Seymer [Seymour?], and all my lands and tenements in Godmanchester, and all my lands and tenements which I bought of Robert Corbet, and all my lands and tenements in Clare, to have and to hold all the said lands, tenements and premises with th' appurtenances unto the said Katherine during her life, and I will that she keep the reparations thereof sufficiently;

And after her decease I will the same premises and the said lands in Lincolnshire for lack of issue male of the body of the said Sir Robert Dormer shall remain and be equally divided to my said sons William, John and Ambrose or the heirs of their bodies by the advice and counsel of the said Sir Robert Dormer, John Goodwyn and Anthony Stapleton or two of them or the survivor of them, and I will that every of my said sons William, John and Ambrose to have like estate in his part and portion of the said lands and tenements so to be divided with like remainders over as are in this my present last will expressed of thother lands and tenements to them bequeathed by this my said last will and testament;

And as to the residue of all my lands and tenements not bequeathed, I give & bequeath the same to the said Katherine during her life over and above the right of the third part of my lands and tenements which to her belongeth of right, and I will that she at her costs shall yearly find an obit of the profits of the premises yearly during her life for my soul and all Christian souls in the said parish church of Saint Lawrence, and to pay yearly out of th' issues and profits of the premises seven pounds which my Lady Gresham or Mistress Curson should have, and six pounds 13s 4d to the Wardens of the said Mercers yearly for a dinner once in the year to be kept at their pleasure;

And I will that she shall pay yearly out of the profits of the premises to poor people, the parish priest and clerk for their ministration and resort to and at the same obit 40s yearly during her life;

And after the decease of my said wife I will the said residue shall remain and shall be divided to and amongst my said sons William, John and Ambrose by the good discretion of the said Sir Robert Dormer, John Goodwyn and Anthony Stapleton or two of them or the survivor of them, and every of my said sons William, John and Ambrose to have like estate in his part and portion so to be divided, with like remainders over as are before expressed of the other lands to them bequeathed by this my said last will;

Item, I will that if my said wife or any of my said sons do let, interrupt or trouble by suit or otherwise the true performance and execution of this my present testament and last will so that the same cannot take effect and be performed according to the true meaning and intent of the same in any bequest or legacy by me, the said Sir Michael, in this my said last will and testament devised and bequeathed to any person or persons or to any intent and purpose, that then every of my said wife or sons that so shall hereafter make such disturbance of interruption of the true execution of my said last will and testament shall have no part or parcel of any of my manors, lands, tenements, rents, reversions,

services and hereditaments which I bought of the said Richard Archer in Tanworth, nor of my said lands or tenements which I bought of the said Alexander Seymer, nor of my said lands or tenements in Godmanchester, nor which I bought of the said Robert Corbett, nor of my lands and tenements which I bought of the King's Majesty in the said county of Hertford, nor of my lands and tenements in Clare aforesaid, nor of my lands ne tenements in Lincolnshire to them devised and bequeathed by this my last will;

In witness whereof hereunto I have put my hand.

Probatum fuit test{amentu}m suprascripti defuncti vna cum vltima voluntate eiusdem h{ab}entis dum vixit &c Secundo Die mensis Octobris Anno Domini Mill{es}imo quingentesimo quadragesimo quinto Coram Domino apud London auc{torita}te D{omi}ni n{ost}ri Regis &c Iurament{o} executorum in h{uius}mo{d}i testam{ent}o no{m}i{n}at{orum} Ac approbatum et insinuatum Com{m}issaq{ue} fuit admi{n}istracio o{mn}i{u}m et singulorum bonorum Iurium et creditorum d{i}c{t}i defuncti prefatis executorib{us} De b{e}ne et fideliter admi{n}strand{o} Ac de pleno et fideli Inuen{ta}rio secundo die post festum sancta Blasij E{pisco}pi prox{imum} futur{um} exhibend{o} Necnon de plano et vero compoto reddend{o} Ad sancta Dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{is}

[=The testament of the above-written deceased, together with the last will of the same, having while he lived etc., was proved on the second day of the month of October in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred forty-fifth before the Lord at London by the authority of our Lord the King etc. by the oath of the executors named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased to the forenamed executors, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full and faithful inventory on the second day after the feast of Saint Blaise, Bishop, next to come, and also to render a plain and true account.]

Vicesimo secundo Decembris 1584 com{m}issa est Ad{ministrand}o p{er} ex{ecuto}res non administ{rata} Isabelle Stampe al{ia}s Dormer ac in Libro Appr{ } testa{ment}or{um}(?) plenius Liquet

[=On the twenty-second of December 1584 a grant issued to Isabel Stampe alias Dormer to administer [+the testament of the said deceased] by the executors not administered, as in the book of [] more fully appears.]