

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 20 July 1544 and proved 5 November 1545, of Sir Thomas Willoughby, uncle of Katherine (nee Willoughby) Brandon Bertie (1519–1580), Duchess of Suffolk, mother-in-law of Oxford's sister, Mary de Vere (d.1624).

The testator was the son of Sir Christopher Willoughby (b. about 1453, d. 1498/9) and Margaret Jenney (d.1515/16), and according to his will below had eight brothers and three sisters:

-William (d.1526), Lord Willoughby, who married, firstly, Mary Hussey, the daughter of Sir William Hussey (d. 1495), Attorney-General and Chief Justice of the King's Bench, and Elizabeth Berkeley, the daughter of Thomas Berkeley of Wymondham, Leicestershire, and secondly, the Castilian noblewoman, Maria de Salinas (d.1539), Maid of Honour to Henry VIII's Queen, Katherine of Aragon. By Maria de Salinas, the testator's brother, William (d.1526), Lord Willoughby, had two sons, Henry and Francis, who died young, and his daughter and heir, Katherine (nee Willoughby) Brandon Bertie (1519–1580), Duchess of Suffolk. For the testator's sister-in-law, Maria de Salinas (d.1539), and the testator's niece, Katherine (nee Willoughby) Brandon Bertie (1519–1580), Duchess of Suffolk, see the entries in the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*, and Goff, Cecilie, *A Woman of the Tudor Age* (London: John Murray, 1930), pp. 1-8.

-Sir Christopher Willoughby (d.1538-40), who married Elizabeth (buried 12 December 1546), youngest daughter of Sir George Tailboys (b.1467, d. 24 September 1538), Lord Kyme, and Elizabeth Gascoigne, daughter of Sir William Gascoigne, and sister-in-law of Henry VIII's mistress, Elizabeth Blount (c.1500–1539x41) (see GEC, *The Complete Peerage*, Vol. VII (London: St. Catherine Press, 1953) pp. 356, 359-62, Vol. XII, Part I (London: St. Catherine Press, 1959) pp. 602-3, Vol. XII, Part II (London: St Catherine Press 1959), pp. 701-3, and the entries for Sir William Tailboys (c.1416–1464) and Elizabeth Blount (c.1500–1539x41) in the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*;

-Sir John Willoughby, who married Cecily (nee Wentworth), the widow of Robert Southwell, esquire (see LRO 2ANC3/A/34 and 2ANC3/A/40);

-George Willoughby, who married Anastace;

-Robert Willoughby, a priest (see Goff, Cecilie, *A Woman of the Tudor Age* (London: John Murray, 1930), p. 11);

-Richard Willoughby;

-Edmund Willoughby;

-Hugh Willoughby

-Katherine Willoughby (d.1542), who married Sir John Heydon (d. 16 August 1550) of Baconsthorpe (for his will see TNA PROB 11/34, ff. 259-60);

-Elizabeth Willoughby, who married William (b. about 1483, d. 15 March 1547/8), 1st Lord Eure;

-Margaret Willoughby, who married Sir Thomas Tyrrell (1472?-1551) of Gipping, son of Sir James Tyrrell (beheaded 6 May 1502) (for the will of Sir Thomas Tyrrell (1472?-1551), see TNA PROB 11/34, ff. 172-4).

For the foregoing, see also the will of Sir Christopher Willoughby (b. about 1453, d. 1498/9), TNA PROB 11/11, ff. 278-9, and Richardson, *Plantagenet Ancestry* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2004), pp. 297, 519, 763.

The testator married Bridget Rede (d.1558), the daughter of Sir Robert Rede (d.1519), Chief Justice of the Common Pleas and an executor of the will of King Henry VII (see the will of Bridget (nee Rede) Willoughby, TNA PROB 11/40, ff. 289-91; the will of John Caryll (d.1523), TNA PROB 11/21, ff. 75-6; the entries for Sir Robert Rede (d.1519) and John Caryll (1460s–1523) in the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*; and <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=62855>).

By Bridget Rede (d.1558), the testator had his son and heir, Robert Willoughby, who married Dorothy, the daughter of Edward Willoughby of Wollaton, Nottinghamshire; another son, Christopher Willoughby (d.1586?) of Penshurst, Kent, who married Margaret, the daughter of Richard Tottishurst; a daughter, Mary, who married Humphrey Walrond; and a daughter, Elizabeth, who married Thomas Tottishurst (d.1574) of Kent. See the pedigree of Willoughby in Marshall, George William, ed., *The Visitations of the County of Nottingham in the Years 1569 and 1614* (London: Harleian Society, 1871), p. 184, available online, and the will of Thomas Tottishurst, TNA PROB 11/56, ff. 173-4.

RM: Testamentum Thome Willoughbie

In the name of God, Amen. The twenty day of July in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred forty and four and in the 36th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord Henry the Eight by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, and in earth immediately under Christ Supreme Head of the Church of England and Ireland, I, Sir Thomas Willoughby, knight, of the parish of Chiddingstone in the county of Kent and one of the Justices of our said Sovereign Lord the King of his Common Pleas at Westminster, being, Almighty God be thanked, in good health of body, and in perfect and whole memory and mind fully insured in the faith of God and of Holy Church as a true Catholic and Christian man that is frail, remembering this wretched world how transitory it is, and how that nothing is more certain to man than death nor more

uncertain than the hour thereof, make this my present testament and last will in form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my Maker and Redeemer, and to his Blessed Mother Saint Mary, and to all the holy saints and company of heaven, my body somewhat honestly according to my poor behaviour to be buried without pomp in the parish church of Chiddingstone aforesaid in the new chapel there of late found and made by my late father-in-law, Sir Robert Rede, knight, sometime Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, deceased, on whose soul Jesus have mercy, in the tomb there made by the said Robert Rede if it please God to take me to his mercy being in the said parish of Chiddingstone, and if not, then my body to be buried in such place and quarter where it shall please God to take me to his mercy;

And I will that there be spent the day of my burial to poor and needy people five pounds over and besides convenient rewards to priests and clerks, and to six honest poor men six gowns of black cotton frieze to stand about my hearse the day of my burial and also the day of my month's mind, every of them holding a taper or torch light to pray for my soul, and at my month's mind to be spent amongst poor and needy people five pounds, and twenty shillings to priests and clerks, and my year's mind to be kept in the said church of Chiddingstone ten years [+next?] and immediately ensuing my decease, and at the same year's mind yearly to be distributed, spent and bestowed to poor and needy people specially of the said parish twenty shillings, and to priests and clerks and for ringing other twenty shillings;

And I bequeath to the high altar of the same church of Chiddingstone for my tithes negligently forgotten and to th' intent that the parson of the same church shall the more specially pray for me 6s 8d, and also I bequeath for like intent to the high altar of the church of Penshurst three shillings and four pence, and to the high altar of the parish church of Leigh three shillings and four pence, and to the high altar of Sundridge 3s 4d, and to the high altar of the church of Chevening 3s 4d, and to the high altar of the parish church of Wolston in Warwickshire, within which said parish of Wolston my manor and lordship of Brandon is, 6s 8d, over and besides twenty shillings to be distributed amongst my poor tenants of my said manor of Brandon to pray for my soul and all good Christian souls;

Also I will would that immediately after my decease the Master and Wardens of the Fraternity of Jesus in the Cathedral Church of Paul's in London, and also to the Master and Wardens of the Fraternity of Saint Dunstan's in Fleet Street, and to the Master and Wardens of the fraternity of Papey in the said city of London, of which three fraternities I am and of long continuance have been brother, to have done by every of the said fraternities a solemn dirge and Mass of Requiem in convenient time after my decease according to their old ancient custom and laudable use, giving to every of the said fraternities for their pain in doing the same obsequies and service 13s 4d;

Also I will have a virtuous and well-disposed secular priest to sing satisfactory in the said new chapel of Chiddingstone immediately after my decease for my soul, Dame Bridget

my wife's soul, and the souls of Sir Christopher Willoughby, my father, Dame Margery, my mother, Sir Robert Rede, my father-in-law, Dame Margaret, my mother-in-law, the souls of my brethren, that is to say, William, late Lord Willoughby, Christopher, Robert, George, Richard, Edmund, Hugh and John, the souls of my sisters, that is to say, Katherine, Margaret and Elizabeth, the souls of my godfather's, godmother's, and all my children's and benefactors' souls, and for all Christian souls, to begin immediately after my decease and so to continue by the space of the said ten years then next and immediately ensuing;

And I will that the same secular priest that shall so sing and doing his duty as before is rehearsed shall have yearly for his salary, stipend and wages ten marks, to be paid to him quarterly by even portions during the said term;

Also I give and bequeath to Thomas Willoughby, my godson, 20s;

Item, to my god-daughter, Mr Potter's daughter, ten shillings;

Item, to every other of my godsons and god-daughters, 20d;

Item, I will and bequeath to every of my waiting servants being with me at the day of my decease 6s 8d beside their wages, and to every of my women-servants five shillings beside their wages;

Also I will and bequeath to Anne Bertlott and Margaret Bartlott and to every of them £30 towards their marriages according to the last will of Edward Ashe, their grandfather, so that they be ruled and ordered by their mistress, my wife;

Also I will to every of my servants of husbandry 3s 4d beside their wages, trusting that they and every of them will specially pray for my soul;

And as touching the disposition of all and singular my stuff of household, implements and utensils of the same wheresoever they be, my plate, jewels, apparel concerning my body, corn and grain, as well in garners, barns as corn growing, all my quick cattle of what kind soever they be, they [sic] particulars whereof and of every of them shall more plainly [+appear?] in a schedule and inventory to this my present testament and last will filed and annexed, my very will and mind is touching the disposition of the same in manner and form ensuing, that is to say:

All my said whole grain and corn and thone half of the best of everything before rehearsed (mine apparel, chain of gold with the cross only excepted) I will, give and bequeath to the same Dame Bridget, my wife, to her own proper use, and she to take her choice of it;

And tother half residue (except before except), I will the same be equally divided by my said wife amongst my children, that is to say, Robert Willoughby and Christopher Willoughby, my sons, Mary Walrond and Elizabeth Tottishurst, my daughters, the dividing and disposition whereof I reserve it only to the disposition of my said wife and

as she thinketh best so to be ordered and no otherwise, whom for the special confidence, fidelity and trust that I have in her above all creatures living, and for the true and final performing and executing of this my testament and last will to be put effectually in due and plain execution for the health of my soul according to the true intent and meaning of this my said testament and last will, I make and ordain the same Dame Bridget, my wife, my sole executrix;

And in consideration and to th' intent that my said wife shall have sufficient in her hands to accomplish and perform in every point and condition this my testament and last will, and also for the payment of my debts such as I do owe and am charged with either in law or in conscience, or for any injuries or wrongs by me committed or done or by me caused to be done at any time before this, so that there may be evident and apparent prove [=proof] of the same, wherefore and for that purpose and consideration I give and will by this my present [+will] unto my said wife all and singular such my manors, lands, tenements, rents, reversions and services with all and singular th' appurtenances lying and being in the parish and towns of Chiddingstone, Penshurst, Cowden, Hever, Sundridge, Chevening, Sevenoaks and Leigh in the county of Kent or in any other parish or town thereto adjoining which I late purchased of divers and sundry persons at several times, to have and to hold to the same Dame Bridget during her life, keeping sufficient reparations, paying the owlt [=old?] rents, and also performing and fulfilling this my last will, also paying yearly to my said son, Christopher, twenty marks quarterly by even portions, to be paid during her life towards his exhibition and finding if he be virtuous and of honest conversation and living, or else not;

And if it shall fortune my said wife to decease before my debts and legacies be fully contented and paid, then I will the executors of my said wife to have and receive the rents, revenues, issues and profits of all the said manors, lands, tenements till such time as my debts and legacies are truly performed and paid, and after that fully performed, then all and singular my said manors, lands and tenements and other the premises with their appurtenances shall remain and be as after ensueth and followeth, that is to say:

The manor of Bawsell with th' appurtenances, with all such lands as I purchased late of the Lord Burgh and of his brother, Henry Burgh, esquire, lying and being in the said parish of Sevenoaks, Chevening, Leigh and Chiddingstone, with all and singular such lands and tenements as I also late purchased of John Brithred and of William Brithred, his brother, called Hales, lying and being in the said parish of Chevening, further with all such lands as I also purchased of Christopher Rescue in Sundridge aforesaid, with all such lands as I also purchased of one William Beche(?) and of Joan, his wife, lying and being in the said parish of Sundridge, I will the said lands after the decease of my said wife, my debts and legacies paid and performed, remain to the said Robert Willoughby, mine eldest son, for term of his life, and if it fortune Dorothy, now his wife, to decease, living the said Robert Willoughby, and he, the said Robert Willoughby, chance to marry and to take another wife and have issue male of his body by any such second wife, that then after the decease of the said Robert Willoughby the said manor of Bousell with all such other lands so to him willed for term of his life by this my last will as before is rehearsed shall go and

remain after his decease to such issue male of his body as he shall fortune to have to his second wife;

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

And for default of such issue male of the body of the said Christopher, then the said lands to remain to the said George Walrond, son and heir of Mary Walrond, my daughter, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue, then the said lands and tenements to remain to the right heirs of me, the said Thomas Willoughby, forever;

So that my very will, intent and full determinate mind is that none of the issue gotten or to be gotten between [sic?] the said Robert Willoughby and the said Dorothy, now is [sic] wife, shall in no wise have nor inherit any part of my lands; there is many considerations and causes why, which is not to be rehearsed nor put in writing or memory that moveth me so to do which I am right sorry for; I take God to judge I do it not of malice, grudge nor ill will;

Also I will that all such my manors, lands, tenements, rents, reversions and services with th' appurtenances which I late purchased of Robert Darknoll, gentleman, and all such lands which I late purchased of Sir Thomas Boleyn, late Earl of Wiltshire, which was sometime one Hamonde's, called Watstock, immediately after the decease of my said wife, my debts and legacies paid and performed, shall remain to the said Christopher, my son, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to remain to the said Robert Willoughby and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten by his second wife if it chance Dorothy, now his wife, to decease, and he to marry again;

And for default of such issue to remain to the said Mary and to the heirs males of her body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to remain to my said nephew, Sir William Willoughby, knight, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to remain to the right heirs of me, the said Sir Thomas Willoughby, forever;

And as to the manor of Eppisbroke [=Eppesbrook?] with th' appurtenances in Penshurst which I late purchased of Mr Edward Shelley and of Joan, his wife, and lands purchased of one Nashe, I will that after the decease of my said wife the said manor of Eppisbroke with th' appurtenances and the said lands late purchased of Nashe immediately after the decease of my said wife, my debts and legacies paid and performed, wholly to remain unto my said daughter, Mary, and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten;

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

And for default of such issue to remain to Robert Willoughby, mine eldest son, and to such heirs males of his body lawfully begotten as he shall fortune to have by any other wife if it shall fortune the said Dorothy, now his wife, to decease and he, the same Robert, to marry again;

And for default of such issue male to remain to the right heirs of me, the said Thomas Willoughby, forever;

Also I will such my part of the manor of Chiddingstone Burgherst [=Burghersh] which I late purchased of Richard Caryll and of his brethren and of Sir John Harcourt, knight, and of Dame Anne, his wife, and also such lands as Dalton, my farmer, now occupieth which I purchased of one Willarde, after the decease of my said wife remain to Elizabeth, my daughter, now wife to Tottishurst, and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten;

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

And for default of such issue to remain to the said Christopher Willoughby, my son, [+and to the?] heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to remain to the right heirs of me, the said Sir Thomas Willoughby, forever;

Item, I will that if any of my said children or their heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten to do, suffer or cause to be done any act or acts, deed or deeds, to defeat or undo any part of this my last will, or whereby any disinheritance may or shall be to any of their issues inheritable by reason of this my last will, that then he or they so doing to take no manner of benefit or profit by this my last will, and that then he or they to whose disinheritance any such act shall be done, that it shall be lawful to them to enter into such portion or part so altered or changed whereby any such disinheritance should fortune to be, jointures for term of life to be made only except, so that the reversions be always saved according to this my will;

In witness whereof to this my testament and last will I, the said Sir Thomas Willoughby, have subscribed my name and put to my seal the day and year abovesaid. By me, Thomas Willoughby.

Item, I will and bequeath to every one of my waiting servants being with me at the time of my decease twenty shillings besides their wages, and to every one of my women-servants ten shillings, and to every of my servants of husbandry ten shillings;

Also I will and bequeath towards the amending and repairing of the highways and causes(?) made(?) by my father-in-law, Sir Robert Rede, knight, within the parish of Chiddingstone five pounds yearly next and immediately after my decease till the sum of £40 be fully paid and bestowed;

Also I will and bequeath to every of my servants a black coat to be had at the time of my burial to th' intent that they shall pray for my soul and all Christian souls;

Also I will and bequeath to my said waiting servants all mine apparel, velvet and silks only excepted;

Also I will and bequeath to Dame Bridget, my wife, all my corn and cattle of what kind soever they be for the keeping of my house, to th' intent that she shall keep my servants together until they can provide them of masters;

Also I will and bequeath to my said wife all such plate as I did buy of my Lord of Canterbury;

Also I will and bequeath to my wife the better half of the rest of my said plate towards the performance of this my last will and testament, and thother half of my said plate to be divided amongst my children, that is to say, Robert Willoughby and Christopher Willoughby, my sons, Mary Walrond and Elizabeth Tottishurst, my daughters, by the discretion of my said wife as she shall think it best, and none otherwise;

I make and ordain Master Waller th' elder supervisor of this my last will and testament. Present at this latter adiectment, William Bassett and Joan Bredstrete.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum coram Domino Archiepiscopo Cantuariensis apud London quinto die mensis Novembris Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo xlv Iuramento Magistri Anthonij Huse notarij publici procuratoris Brigitte Relicte et executricis cui commissa fuit administracio Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et commissa fuit administracio omnium et singulorum bonorum dicti defuncti prefate executrici De bene et fideliter administrando eadem Ac de pleno et fidei Inventario omnium et singulorum bonorum iurium et creditorum huiusmodi conficiendo citra festum etc exhibendo Necnon de plano et vero compoto inde reddendo Ad sancta dei Euangelia in persona dicti procuratoris Iurate

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the fifth day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 45th by the oath of Master Anthony Hussey, notary public, proctor of Bridget, relict and executrix, to whom administration was granted, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all and singular the goods of the said deceased to the forenamed executrix, sworn on the Holy Gospels in the person of the said proctor

to well and faithfully administer the same, and to prepare a full and faithful inventory of all and singular the goods, rights and creditors of the same, and to exhibit [+the same] before the feast etc., and also to render a plain and true account thereof.]