

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 7 March 1547 and 20 November 1547 and proved 12 November 1548, of Sir John Greville (d. 25 November 1547), great-grandfather of Sir Edward Greville (1564 - c.1621) mentioned in Richard Quiney's letter dated 25 October 1598 to William Shakespeare of Stratford (see SBTRO ER 27/4). For Sir Edward Greville (1564 - c.1521), see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/greville-edward-1622>.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator's grandfather, John Greville (d. before 21 April 1507), esquire, was heir in 1497, together with Robert Winter and Robert Russell (d. 24 June 1502), to his kinsman, Sir Thomas Cokesey alias Greville (d. 6 March 1498), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/11/353. John Greville inherited the manors of Milcote-upon-Avon, Milcote-on-Stour, and Weston Maudit, Warwickshire, and Lasborough and Great Rissington, Gloucestershire. In 1499 John Greville was also heir to his aunt, Alice Poyntz, from whom he inherited a one-third interest in the manor of Nympsfield, Gloucestershire. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 268 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=8JcbV309c5UC&pg=RA1-PA268>

John Greville's coheir, Robert Russell (d. 24 June 1502), was the great-grandfather of Thomas Russell (1570-1634), overseer of the will of William Shakespeare of Stratford-upon-Avon. For the will of Robert Russell (d. 24 June 1502), see TNA PROB 11/13/373. For the will of Thomas Russell (1570-1634), see TNA PROB 11/165/424. See also Lysons, Daniel and Samuel Lysons, *Magna Britannia*, (London: T. Cadell and W. Davies, 1817), Vol. V, pp. 130-1 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=qUBaAAAACAAJ&pg=PA130>

The manor of Eaton-Dovedale belonged, in the reign of Edward I., to the family of St. Pierre, whose heiress, about the year 1356, brought it to Sir Walter Cokesey. Sir Hugh Cokesey, grandson of Sir Walter, died seised of it in 1445: one of his sisters and coheirs married John Greville, whose grandson, Sir Thomas Greville, alias Cokesey, died without issue in or about the year 1499. This estate, in consequence, devolved to the Russels, descended from the other sister and coheir of Sir Hugh Cokesey. Sir John Russell died seised of it in 1556. . . .

The testator was the eldest son and heir of Sir Edward Greville (d. 22 June 1528) by Anne Denton, the daughter of John Denton, gentleman, of Appleton, Berkshire, and Foscott, Buckinghamshire. He had three younger brothers, Sir Fulke Greville (d. 10

November 1559), Thomas Greville and Edward Greville, and a sister, Anne Greville. See Richardson, *supra*; and the History of Parliament entry for the testator at:

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

MARRIAGES AND CHILDREN

The History of Parliament entry states that the testator would have been married to his father's ward, Elizabeth Willoughby (born c.1512 – buried 15 November 1562), had she not expressed a preference for his younger brother, Sir Fulke Greville (d. 10 November 1559). However as the testator's first marriage is said to have taken place by 1517 (see below) and Elizabeth Willoughby is said to have been born c.1512, the story may be apocryphal. For Elizabeth Willoughby, see Richardson, *supra*, Vol. I, pp. 337-8 and Vol. II, p. 269.

First marriage

The testator married firstly, by 1517, Elizabeth Spencer. Sources differ as to her identity. According to the Greville pedigree in Lipscomb, *supra*, she was the daughter of Sir John Spencer of Hodnet, Shropshire, while according to the Spencer pedigree in Fetherston she was the daughter of Sir John Spencer (d. 14 April 1522) of Wormleighton by his second wife, Isabel Grant. The marriages of all the children of Sir John Spencer (d. 14 April 1522) of Wormleighton are recorded on his monument, however, and no mention is made there of a daughter, Elizabeth Spencer, married to the testator. See the will of Sir John Spencer (d. 14 April 1522), TNA PROB 11/20/348 and the Spencer pedigree in Fetherston, John, *The Visitation of the County of Warwick in the Year 1619*, (London: Harleian Society, 1877), Vol. XII, pp. 284-5 at:

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

The History of Parliament entry for the testator, *supra*, states that the testator's first wife was the daughter of John Spencer of Hodnell, Warwickshire. It thus seems likely that her father was John Spencer (d. 4 January 1497) of Hodnell, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/11/147.

By his first wife, Elizabeth Spencer, the testator had a son and a daughter:

* **Sir Edward Greville** (d. 24 December 1559), who married Margaret Willington, the daughter of William Willington of Barcheston, Warwickshire. William Willington is named as a supervisor in the will below. For the testator's son, Sir Edward Greville (d. 24 December 1559), see his will, TNA PROB 11/44/282. For the will of Sir William Willington, proved 14 November 1559, see TNA PROB 11/42B/642.

* **Isabel Greville** who married Thomas Meysey (d.1564), esquire, of Shakenhurst Park, three miles south of Kinlet, Shropshire. There were no issue of the marriage, and Thomas Meysey was succeeded by his brother, Leonard Meysey. However according to the will of Thomas Blount, Thomas Meysey had an illegitimate daughter, 'Bridget Cornwall alias Meysey'. See the will of Thomas Blount, TNA PROB 11/51/110; and:

'Parishes: Bayton', in *A History of the County of Worcester: Volume 4*, ed. William Page and J W Willis-Bund (London, 1924), pp. 237-241 <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/worcs/vol4/pp237-241> [accessed 10 November 2015].

For the inquisitions post mortem taken after Thomas Meysey's death, see:

http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/r?_st=adv&_ep=Meysey%2C%20Thomas&_dss=range&_sd=1565&_ed=1566&_ro=any&_p=1500

Second marriage

Elizabeth Spencer had died by 1 September 1527, the date of a settlement concerning the testator's marriage to his second wife, Eleanor Verney, the daughter of Sir Ralph Verney (d. April 1546?) of Pendley in Tring, Hertfordshire, by whom he had no issue.

See also the description of the testator's brass in the church of All Saints at Weston-on-Avon in *Warwick Castle and its Earls*, (London: Hutchinson & Co., 1903), Vol. II, pp. 608 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/warwickcastleits02warw#page/608/mode/2up>

For the testator, see also the Greville pedigree in Lipscomb, George, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Buckingham*, (London: J. & W. Robins, 1847), Vol. I, p. 268 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=taAgAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA268>

RM: T{estamentum} Ioh{ann}is Grevill mi{li}{t}{is}

In dei nomine Amen. The 7th day of March in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundredth 46, I, John Greville of Milcote in the county of Warwick, knight, whole of mind and good remembrance, thanked be God, make, ordain and declare this my very true last(?) will and testament in this manner and form following:

First and principally I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, and my body to be buried within the church of Weston [=Weston-on-Avon] whereof I am very true and just patron, purchased of King Henry th' Eight;

The effect of my very mind and will is thus: I will that Edward Greville, my son & heir, be sole executor of and for th' administration of all such goods and chattels as I shall leave behind me in and at the day of my departing and death when I shall depart out of this present world;

Item, I will that all things as household stuff being within the houses of Milcote shall remain to my son, Edward Greville, and his heirs for evermore;

Item, I will that all carts and wains, horses and oxen, and all to them belonging remain to the heirs of Milcote;

Item, I will that all such servants as I shall have with me at the day of death shall have one year's wages, livery and board with their horses that they customably ride, use and occupy;

And as touching my daughter, Isabel Meysey, I will that she shall have yearly £6 13s 4d to be paid by Edward Greville's hands at two terms of the year at th' Annunciation of Our Lady and Saint Michael th' Archangel by even portions until that Thomas Meysey shall take her & so continually to keep her the term of her life;

The residue of all my goods and chattels and debts I wholly give and bequeath to my said executor;

Also further I heartily desire my brother, Sir Fulke Greville, knight, my brother, Sir Thomas Greville, with Mr Willington, to take the pains to be supervisors of this my last will, and they to be honestly rewarded for their painstaking;

These men being witnesses the 20th day of November in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundreth 47, which will was plainly read and declared to me, the said John Greville, above-named;

And this I will to stand and be my last will and testament, and all other wills and testaments of me, the said John Greville, at any time or times made before the date hereof I will to stand void and of none effect. Sir John Greville. By me, William Willington. Basil Fielding. By me, Somerville. By me, Geffrey Markkh{a}m(?) [=Markham?]. By me, Thomas Greville. By me, William Lound, clerk.

Probatum fuit test{amentu}m coram d{omi}no Cant{uariensis} Archie{pisco}po apud London xijo die Nouembris Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo qui{n}gentesimo xlvijjo Iuramento Will{el}mi Lounde cl{er}ici p{ro}cur{atoris} Executoris in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}at{i} Ac approbatum et insinuat{um} Et comissa fuit admi{n}istrac{i}o o{mn}i{u}m bonor{um} &c d{i}c{t}i def{uncti} De bene &c Ac de pleno Inu{enta}rio &c exhibend{o} Ad s{an}c{t}a dei Eu{a}ngelia in debita iuris forma Iurat{i}

[=The testament was proved before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the 12th day of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 48th by the oath of William Lounde, clerk, proctor of the executor named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all the goods etc. of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels in due form of law to well etc., and to exhibit a full inventory etc.]