

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>.

The testator's grandfather, John Greville (d. before 21 April 1507), esquire, was heir in 1497, together with Robert Winter and Robert Russell, to their cousin, Sir Thomas Cokesey alias Greville. John Greville inherited the manors of Milcote-upon-Avon, Milcote-on-Stour, and Weston Mauduit, 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*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 268. John Greville's coheir, Robert Russell, was the ancestor of Thomas Russell, overseer of the will of William Shakespeare of Stratford. See the will of Sir Thomas Cokesey, TNA PROB 11/11/353; the will of Robert Russell, proved 1 December 1502, TNA PROB 11/13/373; and 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=PA131&lpg=PA131&dq=%22Sir+Thomas+Cokesey%22&source=bl&ots=WFZhPOnFWB&sig=h9cRmMJ\\_Rn0ruJe2ZBUTognhZeY&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CBsQ6AEwADgKahUKEwiH2KCG14vJAhVCXlgKHVKOAMQ#v=onepage&q=%22Sir%20Thomas%20Cokesey%22&f=false](https://books.google.ca/books?id=qUBaAAAACAAJ&pg=PA131&lpg=PA131&dq=%22Sir+Thomas+Cokesey%22&source=bl&ots=WFZhPOnFWB&sig=h9cRmMJ_Rn0ruJe2ZBUTognhZeY&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CBsQ6AEwADgKahUKEwiH2KCG14vJAhVCXlgKHVKOAMQ#v=onepage&q=%22Sir%20Thomas%20Cokesey%22&f=false).

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>.

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 appears to be apocryphal. For Elizabeth Willoughby, see Richardson, *supra*, Vol. I, pp. 337-8 and Vol. II, p. 269.

The testator married firstly, by 1517, Elizabeth Spencer, the daughter of John Spencer (d. 4 January 1497) of Hodnell, Warwickshire, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/11/147.

Confusion has arisen concerning the identity of the testator's first wife as the pedigree of Spencer in Fetherston states that she was the daughter of Sir John Spencer (d. 14 April 1522) of Wormleighton. However this is clearly an error, as the marriages of all the children of Sir John Spencer (d. 14 April 1522) are recorded on his monument, and no mention is made there of a daughter Elizabeth married to the testator. For the will of Sir John Spencer (d. 14 April 1522), see TNA PROB 11/20/348. See also 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/>.

By his first wife, Elizabeth Spencer, the testator had a son and heir, 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.

By his first wife the testator also had a daughter, 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](http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/r?_st=adv&_ep=Meysey%2C%20Thomas&_dss=range&_sd=1565&_ed=1566&_ro=any&_p=1500).

The testator married secondly 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&lpg=PA268&dq=%22Lodowick+Greville%22&source=bl&ots=0ygd2GByoL&sig=ftZUOgSsAyXow3oFOg0qg\\_rrZPQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CCgQ6AEwBDgKahUKEwi\\_xpLS4ojJAhVWL4gKHXkcAjU#v=onepage&q=%22Lodowick%20Greville%22&f=false](https://books.google.ca/books?id=taAgAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA268&lpg=PA268&dq=%22Lodowick+Greville%22&source=bl&ots=0ygd2GByoL&sig=ftZUOgSsAyXow3oFOg0qg_rrZPQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CCgQ6AEwBDgKahUKEwi_xpLS4ojJAhVWL4gKHXkcAjU#v=onepage&q=%22Lodowick%20Greville%22&f=false).

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

In dei nomine Amen. The 7<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> day of November in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred 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, Geoffrey 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 insinuatu{m} 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 12<sup>th</sup> day of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 48<sup>th</sup> 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.]