

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 20 June 1557 and proved 28 July 1557, of Edward Cope, whose son Sir Walter Cope (1553?-1614), a long-time servant of Lord Burghley, employed Shakespeare's fellow Globe Theatre shareholder, Cuthbert Burbage (1564/5-1636). See the *ODNB* articles on Sir Walter Cope and Cuthbert Burbage, and Barnett, Richard C., *Place, Profit, and Power; A Study of the Servants of William Cecil, Elizabethan Statesman*, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1969), pp. 50-1.

The testator was the son of Sir Anthony Cope (d.1551) and Jane Crews, the daughter of Matthew Crews of Pynne in Stoke English, Devonshire. For the will of the testator's father, Sir Anthony Cope, dated 5 January 1551 and proved 2 November 1551, see TNA PROB 11/34/433. For the will of the testator's mother, Jane (nee Crews) Cope, dated 1 April 1569 and proved 4 July 1570, see TNA PROB 11/52/287.

The testator married Elizabeth Mohun (d. 1587), the daughter and heir of Walter Mohun of Overstone, Northamptonshire, by whom, according to the *ODNB*, he had four sons and three daughters, including William Cope (d. by 1571), Sir Anthony Cope (1548x50-1614), 1st Baronet Cope, and Sir Walter Cope (1553?-1614).

After the testator's death Elizabeth Mohun married George Carleton (1529-1590) of Overstone, Northamptonshire, by whom she had a son, Castle Carleton, and two daughters, Elizabeth Carleton, who married Anthony Berners of Thoby, Essex, and Joyce Carleton, who married a husband surnamed Plumsted. See the Carleton pedigree in Turner, William Henry, ed., *The Visitations of the County of Oxford*, (London: Harleian Society, 1871), pp. 122-4.

After the death of Elizabeth Mohun, George Carleton married the 'Mistress Crane' of the Marprelate tracts, who was born Elizabeth Hussey, the eldest daughter of Sir Robert Hussey (d.1546) of Linwood, Lincolnshire, and his second wife, Jane Stydolf, the daughter of Thomas Stydolf of Surrey.

George Carleton's involvement with the publication of the Marprelate tracts is described in the *ODNB*:

In the last year of his life Carleton's connections with the tightly knit puritan gentry of the midlands involved him in the puritan literary conspiracy of the Marprelate tracts. Also in 1589 he married Elizabeth Crane, daughter of Sir Robert Hussey of Linwood, Lincolnshire, and widow of Anthony Crane of St Martin-in-the-Fields. It was at her house at East Molesey, Surrey, that the first Marprelate tracts were printed, and she was to be heavily fined in the Star Chamber for her involvement. The Marprelate press then moved to Fawsley, the Northamptonshire seat of Sir Richard Knightley, an enthusiast not entirely compos mentis, whose affairs were in Carleton's hands. Several elusive references in the tracts themselves suggest that Carleton's involvement in this illicit venture may have been more than merely managerial.

For the will of George Carleton, dated 1 January 1590 and proved 16 January 1590, see TNA PROB 11/75/14.

RM: T[estamentum] Edwardi Coope Armig{e}r{i}

In the name of God, Amen. The twenty day of June Anno Domini Millesimo quingentesimo quinquagesimo septimo, I, Edward Cope of Hardwick in the county of Oxford, esquire, being whole of mind and good of remembrance, make and ordain this my last will & testament in manner and form following:

First I commend my soul to Almighty God, and my body to be buried in the parish church of Banbury;

Item, I will that all my lands and hereditaments in Hanwell and Hardwick in the county of Oxford shall descend to William my son, when he cometh to full age, and in the meantime until he be of full age I will that Walter Mohun, my father [=father-in-law], and Elizabeth, my wife, whom I make mine executors, shall have the said lands and the profits thereof to the use of my daughters for their marriages and to the bringing up of my younger sons;

Item, I will that my daughters equally amongst them have all my stock of cattle going in Hardwick to their marriages;

Item, I will that my younger sons have all my lands in Banbury to them and to their heirs forever equally to be divided between them;

Item, I will that Elizabeth, my wife, during her life have all my manors of Grimsbury in the county of Northampton;

Item, I give unto her my stock of cattle there;

Item, all my lands and goods in other places unbequeathed I will that my said executors shall have, order and dispose to the use of my daughters and younger sons and to the payment of my debts according to their discretions.

Witnesses to this will: Sir Richard Barnes, clerk, Henry Shuttelworthe, Peter Gyff({es}?), Hugh Allyn, John Jervys.

Probatum fuit Testamentu{m} Coram Mag{ist}ro Will{el}imo(?) Cooke Legum Doctore Curie Prerogatiue Reuerendissimi in xpo Patris et d{omi}ni n{ost}ri d{omini} Reginaldi Cant{uariensis} Archiep{iscop}i Custode siue Comissario xxviijo Die Mensis Iulij Anno d{omi}ni Millesimo Quingentesimo quinquagesimo septimo Iuramento Thome

Dockwray no{tar}rij pu{bli}ci p{ro}cur{ator}is Relicte et executric{is} in
 h{uius}mo{d}i test{ament}o no{m}i{n}at{e} Cui comissa fuit admi{ni}stracio
 o{mn}i{u}m bonoru{m} &c De bene &c Ac de pleno In{uenta}rio &c Ad s{an}c{t}a
 dei &c Res{er}uata p{otes}tate Waltero Mohone ex{ecutori} &c cu{m} vener{it}

[=The testament was proved before Master William Cooke, Doctor of the Laws, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of the Most Reverend Father in Christ and our Lord, the Lord Reginald, Archbishop of Canterbury, on the 28th day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-seventh by the oath of Thomas Dockwra, notary public, proctor of the relict and executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all the goods etc., [+sworn] on the Holy [+Gospels] to well etc., and [+to exhibit] a full inventory etc., with power reserved to Walter Mohun, executor etc., when he shall have come.]