

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 23 September 1557 and proved 2 May 1558, of Bridget (nee Spring) Erneley Hussey, the daughter of the wealthy clothier Thomas Spring of Lavenham, and first cousin of Margaret Spring, who married Oxford's uncle, Aubrey Vere.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the testatrix' family background, see the will of her father, Thomas Spring (d.1523), TNA PROB 11/21/179.

The testatrix was the only child of Thomas Spring (d.1523) by his second wife, Alice Appleton (d.1538), widow of a husband surnamed May. For the will of Alice Appleton May(?) Spring, dated 13 April 1538 and proved 5 September 1538, see TNA PROB 11/27/300. For a transcript of her will, see Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *The Visitation of Suffolke*, Vol. I, (Lowestoft: Samuel Tymms, 1866), pp. 173-5 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ExI2AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA173>

MARRIAGES AND CHILDREN

The testatrix married firstly, as his second wife, by settlement dated 15 August 1538, William Erneley (21 December 1501 - 20 January 1546) of Cakeham near West Wittering, Sussex, son of Sir John Erneley (c.1464-1520), Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas. See the *ODNB* entry for Sir John Erneley, the will of William Erneley, proved 28 February 1546, TNA PROB 11/31/77, and the History of Parliament entry for William Erneley at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/erneley-william-1501-46>

By his first wife, William Erneley was the father of:

-Francis Erneley (d. 10 September 1547), the testatrix' stepson, whose wardship was granted to Thomas Wriothesley (21 December 1505 – 30 July 1550), 1st Earl of Southampton, paternal grandfather of Henry Wriothesley (1573-1624), 3rd Earl of Southampton, to whom Shakespeare dedicated *Venus and Adonis* and *The Rape of Lucrece*. For the will of the 1st Earl of Southampton, see TNA PROB 11/34/154. On 2 August 1547, Francis Erneley married Eleanor Cutler, who survived him. For the inquisition post mortem taken after his death, see Attree, F.W.T., *Notes of Post Mortem Inquisitions Taken in Sussex*, Sussex Record Society, Vol. XIV, (London: Mitchell Hughes and Clarke, 1912), pp. 82-3 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/notesofpostmorte00greauoft#page/82/mode/2up>

By William Erneley, the testatrix had two sons and two daughters:

* **Richard Erneley** (d.1577?), who succeeded his half brother, Francis Erneley. His wardship was granted to the 1st Earl of Southampton. He is said to have married Barbara Goring, the daughter of Henry Goring.

* **John Erneley**, whose wardship was also granted to the 1st Earl of Southampton.

* **Katherine Erneley**, who married Richard Covert of Hascomb. See the Covert pedigree in Berry, William, *County Genealogies: Pedigrees of the Families in the County of Sussex*, (London: Sherwood, Gilbert and Piper, 1830), p. 323 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=OeFEAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA323>

* **Alice Erneley**, who is said to have married John Warnet(?) of Hempstead.

The testatrix married secondly, on 25 June 1546, Sir Henry Hussey (by 1519 – 28 August 1557) of Slinfold, Sussex, eldest son of Henry Hussey of Slinfold by Eleanor Bradbridge, daughter of John Bradbridge of Slinfold. See his will, proved 27 September 1557, TNA PROB 11/39/397, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/hussey-sir-henry-1519-57>

There were no issue of the testatrix' second marriage.

OTHER PERSONS NAMED IN THE WILL

For other persons named in the will, see Pink, W.D., 'Hussey of Slinfold, Sussex', *Notes and Queries*, 10th Series, Vol. XII, 3 July 1909, pp. 3-4 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/s10notesqueries12londuoft#page/2/mode/2up>

TESTATRIX' LANDS

For the testatrix' manor of Hunston, see:

'Hunston', in *A History of the County of Sussex: Volume 4, the Rape of Chichester*, ed. L F Salzman (London, 1953), pp. 156-158. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/sussex/vol4/pp156-158> [accessed 3 October 2017].

Then in 1493 John Williams and Margery his wife, who was granddaughter and heir of John Benfeld, (fn. 35) conveyed half the manor to John Erneley. (fn. 36) This came to his son William Erneley, who in 1538 settled the manor of Hunston on Bridget daughter of Thomas Spring of Lavenham, whom he married. (fn. 37) He died in January 1546 and Bridget married Sir Henry Hussey, (fn. 38) whom she survived, holding courts of the manor in 1556. (fn. 39) She had been succeeded before 1558 by Richard, (fn. 40) younger son of William Erneley by a previous wife and heir of his brother Francis. (fn. 41) He died between 1604 and 1609, when another Richard, probably his son, held his first court. (fn. 42).

RM: T{estamentum} D{omi}ne Brigitt{e} Husse

In Dei nomine amen. The 23rd day of September in the year of Our Lord [f. 138v] a thousand five hundred fifty and seven and in the 4th and 5th years of the reign of our Sovereign Lord and Lady King Philip and Queen Mary, I, Dame Bridget Hussey, late wife of Sir Henry Hussey, knight, deceased, and before that the wife of William Erneley, esquire, deceased, do make and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God and to all the holy company of heaven, and my body to be buried within the church of West Wittering, and with such divine service as shall be thought meet by my executors;

And I will, charge and require my executors that they shall do, see and provide the last will and testament of my said husband, William Erneley, and all his debts and legacies which yet be not performed or paid be by them, my said executors, and the survivors of them and the executors of the same survivors truly and fully performed, paid and executed in as convenient time as it may grow and be levied of such things as I do leave and will the same to be paid, levied and performed withal;

And in like manner I will that my said late husband Sir Henry Hussey's debts be paid, and also that his will and all his legacies appointed therein by me to be paid be likewise by my said executors and the survivors of them and th' executors of the same survivors truly and fully performed, paid and executed in as convenient time as it may grow and be levied of such things as I do leave and will the same to be paid, levied and performed withal;

Item, I bequeath to my son, Richard Erneley, when he cometh to the age of 21 years, 600 sheep, 16 oxen and 16 kine, to be left to him upon my farm of Cakeham;

Also I give unto him ten of my best featherbeds with all that belong to the same at the appointment of my executors, with ten pair of fine sheets and ten pair of my best coarse sheets;

Item, I will to my son, Richard, all such pewter and brass as I have at Cakeham;

Item, I give to him the little gray nag he useth to ride upon, and my young gray ambling gelding;

Item, I will to my son, Richard, my chain of gold, the cross of diamonds, my sealing ring, two great silver tankards parcel gilt, and my best gilt salt and gilt bowls with the cover, my best beer-cruise, and my best stone jug covered with silver;

Item, 11 gilt spoons and 11 spoons with th' Apostles, and my silver basin & ewer parcel gilt, and the velvet cap set with aglets, and all his father's [=stepfather's], Sir Henry Hussey's, best apparel, and my little gilt salt with the pepperbox;

Item, I give to each of my daughters, Katherine and Alice, one standing cup with covers of silver, and to each of them a beer-cruise of silver with covers of the same, and to each of them a gilt salt, and each of them two gilt spoons, each of them a dozen of silver spoons, and each of them three of the best beds at Slinfold, with all that belong to the same, and the rest of my stone pots with gilt rings and feet I give equally between my said two daughters;

Item, I give to each of my said two daughters ten pair of fine sheets, ten pair of coarse sheets;

Item, I give to my daughter, Katherine, both my bracelets of gold;

Item, I give to my daughter, Alice, my edge of gold;

Item, I give to my daughter, Katherine, my flower with the five stones, and my book of gold;

Item, I give to my daughter, Alice, my flower with the sapphire, and my tablet of gold;

Item, I give to my daughter, Katherine, the bigger chain that is upon my ruffs;

Item, to my daughter, Alice, the lesser chain of gold of the said ruffs;

Item, I give to my daughter, Katherine, a ring with a diamond;

Item, I give to my daughter, Alice, my ring with the emerald;

Item, I will to my son, John, my greatest brooch of gold and my cross with the pictures of Christ;

Item, I give to John Feame [sic for 'Fennor?'], my cousin George's eldest son, my little brooch;

Item, I will to my son, John, forty marks when he cometh to the age of 21 years;

Item, I give to my cousin, Anthony Hussey of London, my young dun colt at Cakeham;

Item, I give to my cousin, Lawrence Hussey, my ring with the sapphire;

Item, I will and bequeath to each of my daughters, Katherine and Alice, 300 marks apiece with the bequests of my husband, William Erneley;

Item, I will that my cousin, George Venner, shall have the keeping, ordering and rule of my son, Richard, till he come to the age of 21 years;

Item, I give to my sister, Katherine Apesley, five pounds, and ten sheep of the sheep remaining at Slinfold;

Item, I give to my cousin, Thomas Machell of Hilles' wife ten sheep;

Item, I give to my sister, Jane Moore, twenty sheep;

Item, I give to every one [f. 139r] of my servants, both men and women, a quarter of wheat and five sheep;

Item, I give to Joan Collyn six sheep;

Item, I give to my brother [=brother-in-law], John Hussey, all the stone, timber, brick, glass and all other things prepared towards the building of the house at Slinfold and remaining there at this time;

Item, I will all my apparel and linen belonging to my body to my two daughters, Katherine and Alice, equally between them;

Item, I give to my son, Richard, all my napery remaining at Cakeham unbequeathed;

Item, I give to my cousin, George Venner, an old sovereign of gold;

Item, I give to my cousin, Averei Michell, one old sovereign of gold;

Item, I will, if need be for the speedy payment of my debts and legacies, my plate and cattle before willed to the parties aforesaid shall be sold by the discretion of my executors, and the same persons to whom the same is bequeathed to have and be paid the value thereof again in money at my executors' hands, that is to say, my sons to be paid for their cattle and plate at their full ages of 21 years, and my said daughters to be paid for their plate at the days of their marriages;

Also I will that my executors and the survivors of them and the executors of the same survivors shall have my farm of Cakeham and all other my farms and the stock and store

of my said farm of Cakeham, as well corn, cattle, stuff of household, plate and other things whatsoever, as well within doors as without, not before willed and bequeathed, and the profits of the same for and during the term of five years next after my decease, and with the same profits coming, rising and growing of the said farm, stock and store that they shall pay the rents and resolutes of the same farms and also perform and accomplish this my said will and testament, and pay my said two husbands' debts and legacies according to my meaning and intent afore declared;

And I will that after the said five years ended and expired, that then my said farm of Cakeham and other my said farms and all the said stock and store, plate and other things afore rehearsed shall go and be to my son, Richard Erneley, if he be then living, and if he be then dead, I will that my said executors and the survivors of them and the executors of the same survivors shall still take the issues and profits of the premises over and above the said rents resolutes until such time as my son, John, shall come to the age of 24 years, and when the said John shall come to the said age of 24 years, then the said farms and other the premises shall go and be to my said son, John, and his executors forever;

And if my said son, John, be dead, then I will the same to my two daughters, Katherine and Alice, if they be then on live, and to the survivor of them, if either of them be then dead;

Furthermore I will that my said executors and the survivors of them and the executors of the same survivors shall likewise during the said term of five years next after my decease take and receive towards the performance of this my last will all the rents, revenues and profits of my said husband Erneley's inheritance without let or interruption of the said Richard or John, my sons, or of any of their heirs;

Provided always and it is my will that if any of my said sons or any other heirs shall or do interrupt and let my said executors or the survivors of them or the executors of the same survivors to have, receive, levy and take the said rents, revenues, issues and profits either of my said farm of Cakeham or other farms, or of the said stock and store or any part or parcel thereof, or of any of my said husband Erneley's inheritance, or of any other of the premises limited and appointed by this my will to go and be to the performance of the same my will, that then the same my said son or sons that so shall or doth interrupt or let my said executors or the survivors of them or the executors of the survivors of them shall lese the benefit of this my will, and shall be disabled to have or take my [sic for any'?] legacy or profit to him or them by me given by this my will, and that then all such legacies as should have been to such my son or sons shall go and shall be to thother of my said sons or daughters which shall permit and suffer this my will to take place;

And also I will that if my said sons do permit and suffer this my said will to take place, that is to say, every of them for his part without interruption or let, then I will that my son or sons that shall and doth so suffer my will to take place without any interruption shall [f.139v] have to his own use the profit and commodity of his own marriage, notwithstanding my [sic for 'any'?] wardship that I or any of my executors have or shall have of my said son or sons by any way or means;

And if any of my said sons do interrupt this my said will, then I will the marriage and profit of the marriage of the same my said son that doth interrupt the same my will shall be taken by my said executors and the survivors of them or th' executors of the same survivors to the most advantage that may be, and shall go and be employed towards the performance of this my last will;

Provided also and it is my very will and intent that if the profits coming, rising and growing of my said farms, stocks and other the premises that shall come to the hands of my said executors or the survivors of them or to the executors of the survivors of them within the said term of five years next after my decease will not or do not amount to so much in value over and above all reasonable costs and charges borne as shall be sufficient and extend to perform this my last will & testament in every behalf, that then my said executors or the survivors of them or th' executors or [sic for 'of?'] the survivors of them shall and may have and hold all and singular the said farms and premises until such time as they have and shall receive so much yearly profits of the same as shall suffice fully and wholly to perform the same my last will and testament in every behalf, anything to the contrary notwithstanding;

Also I will that my executors and the survivors of them and th' executors of the survivors of them shall and do competently & conveniently find and bring up my said sons and daughters, that is to say, my said daughters until they be married, and my said sons till their several ages of 21 years, with the revenues and profits of my said farms if they be ruled and ordered by my executors;

The residue of all my said goods and chattels not before bequeathed, I give and bequeath to my executors to the performance of this my last will and testament;

And of this my last will and testament I make my executors my cousin, George Goring, Lawrence Hussey, George Fennor and Avereŷ Michell, gentlemen, and I will to every of them for their pains as is before and hereafter expressed over and besides all their costs and charges that they shall be at in [+and?] about th' execution of the same my will, which I will shall be borne and allowed them from time to time at my costs and charges;

And I make John Caryll, my brother [=brother-in-law], Richard Fulmaster [=Fulmerston], and Anthony Hussey, esquires, overseers of the same;

And I will to Mr Caryll for his pains therein my trotting dun gelding, and to Mr Fulmaster [=Fulmerston], my great trotting bay gelding in Cakeham. Bridget Hussey.

Witness at the reading, sealing and subscribing by the testatrix' hand aforenamed to the said will and testament containing six leaves besides this leaf, whereof the one is written on both sides, were and bethe parts [sic for 'be the parties?'] whose names be hereunder written, and to every side that is written. By me, Lawrence Hussey. By me, Avereŷ Michell. By me, John Hussey. P{er} me Edwardu{m} P{er}syvall curatum Dr Houghton. P{er} me Will{el}mu{m} Colebarne. By me, John Potter.

Probatum fuit h{uius}mo{d}i Testamentum coram D{omi}no apud London secundo die mensis Maij Anno D{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quinge{ntesti}mo quinquagesimo octavo Iuramento Mag{ist}ri Laurentij Huse Legu{m} Doctoris Ex{ecutoris} p{er}sonal{ite}r p{re}sent{is} ac Georgij Goringe Georgij ffennor et Alveredi Michell in persona Ioh{ann}is Iucent no{tar}ij publici p{ro}curator{is} sui Executor{um} in h{uius}mo{d}i Testament{o} no{m}i{n}ator{um} Ac approbatum &c Et Com{m}issa fuit Administrac{i}o om{n}iu{m} bonor{um} d{i}c{t}i defuncti pefat{is} Executoribus De bene &c Ad sancta Dei Evangelia vt supra Iurat{is}

[=The same testament was proved before the Lord at London on the second day of the month of May in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-eighth by the oath of Master Lawrence Hussey, Doctor of the Laws, executor, personally present, and George Goring, George Fenner, and Avery Michell in the person of John Jucent, notary public, their proctor, executors named in the same testament, and probated etc., and administration was granted of all the goods of the said deceased to the forenamed executors, sworn as above on the Holy Gospels to well etc.]