

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 6 June 1558 and proved 20 December 1558, of Anthony Cope, youngest son of Sir John Cope (d. 22 January 1558) by his first wife, Bridget Raleigh. For the will, dated 2 July 1557 and proved 21 May 1558, of the testator's father, Sir John Cope, see TNA PROB 11/40/278.

The testator had two elder brothers, Erasmus Cope, who predeceased the testator, and George Cope, esquire, who married Dorothy Spencer, the daughter and co-heir of Thomas Spencer, esquire, of Everden, Northamptonshire.

The testator also had two sisters:

* Elizabeth Cope, who married John Dryden (d. 3 September 1584), gentleman, of Canons Ashby, by whom she was the mother of Sir Erasmus Dryden (c.1553 – 22 May 1632) of Canons Ashby, who married Frances Wilkes (d. 16 February 1630), by whom he was the father of Erasmus Dryden (c.1602-1654), father of the poet, John Dryden (1631-1700).

* Joan Cope, who married firstly Stephen Boyle of Bradden, Northamptonshire, and secondly Ferdinand Freckleton. It is said that Elizabeth Boyle, wife of the poet Edmund Spenser, was the daughter of Joan Cope and Stephen Boyle. See the nuncupative will of Stephen Boyle, dated 17 May 1582 and proved 8 October 1582, TNA PROB 11/64/427, and Haskell, Dorothy F., *Edmund Spenser; A Bibliographical Supplement*, (New York: Haskell House, 1937), p. 30:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=kjtvnSmFdb4C&pg=PA30&lpg=PA30&dq=%22Stephen+Boyle%22+%22Bradden%22&source=bl&ots=Hck2AYZelw&sig=wTB6Nx7ClahH36yqkJ-t2e6qn38&hl=en&sa=X&ei=gCa2U6u4E-rwiwLp_YD4Ag&ved=0CBwQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22Stephen%20Boyle%22%20%22Bradden%22&f=false.

The testator married Eleanor Stafford, the daughter of Sir Humphrey Stafford (d. 8 May 1548) and Margaret Tame. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 121-2, 434.

The testator appoints his brother-in-law, John Dryden, as well as his sister, Joan Cope (who had not yet married), to raise his unborn child if his wife should happen to be pregnant at his death. It would appear, however, that the testator had no issue by his wife, who married Thomas Barlow after the testator's death. For the will of John Dryden, dated 15 August 1584 and proved 10 September 1584, see TNA PROB 11/67/298.

For the testator's brother-in-law, Sir Humphrey Stafford (d.1574), see Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 121-2, 434; and Greenfield,

B.W., 'Edward Cope of Edon, and John Stafford of Bletherwicke, 1580', *Notes and Queries*, 4th Series VI, September 24, 1870, pp. 250-1 at:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=ltkEAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA251&lpg=PA251&dq=%22Anthony+Cope%22+%221586%22&source=bl&ots=ChmfzbfJMx&sig=qMzdGu5aTb7-M2KiQr_G7cr0qTw&hl=en&sa=X&ei=u9eyU_aHFIGDogSj7oGwDw&ved=0CDcQ6AEwBA#v=onepage&q=%22Anthony%20Cope%22%20%221586%22&f=false.

LM: T{estamentum} Anthonij Coope

[f. 141v] In the name of God, Amen. This sixth day of June Anno Domini 1558 and in the 4th and fifth years of the reigns of our Sovereign Lord and Lady Philip and Mary by the grace of God King and Queen of England, Spain, France, both Sicilies, Jerusalem and Ireland, Defenders of the Faith etc., I, Anthony Cope of Adstone in the county of Northampton, being sick in body and in good and perfect mind and remembrance, laud and praise be unto Almighty God, do make and ordain this my present testament and last will in manner and form following, that is to say:

First I give and recommend my soul unto Almighty Jesus, my Saviour and Redeemer, in whom and by the merits of whose most blessed death, passion and resurrection I trust and believe to be saved;

And I will my body to be buried by my father Sir John Cope's in the north aisle in the parish church of Ashby, as I have declared unto mine executors;

And after my body buried and funerals done, then I will mine executors shall pay 6s 8d unto the said church of Ashby;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Eleanor Cope, my wife, the two hundred pounds which the voice is Sir Humphrey Stafford, her brother, gave her to her marriage, and that the obligation for the same is or late was in the custody of Dame Margaret Cope, her mother;

And as for all other things touching my said wife, I do remit unto the order and consideration of mine executors;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my brother, George Cope, my lease of the grange land in Eydon in the county of Northampton;

Item, I give and bequeath unto John Dryden, my brother-in-law, and Joan Cope, my sister, my two tenements or messuages in the town of Northampton with their appurtenances now in the tenure or occupation of George [f. 142r] Dalton and George Higgins, and all other my lands, tenements and hereditaments situate and being in Northampton aforesaid, and also my lease of all and singular such lands, tenements and hereditaments as I am entitled to hold in Canons Ashby at Cope's Ashby, and my farm

[+or?] lease of the parsonage or farm of Woodford, Farmedon and Hinton within the said county of Northampton;

To have and to hold the said lands, tenements and hereditaments with the said two leases together with their appurtenances unto the said John Dryden and Joan Cope and to their heirs and assigns forever upon this condition notwithstanding, that if my said wife, Eleanor Cope, be privement enceinte at this present, and that God do send me by her issue male, that then the said John and Joan shall bring up the said issue male unto his age of 21 years, and if God send me issue female, that then the said John and Joan shall bring up the same issue female until her full age of 16 years and so long after her age of 16 years as she continueth unmarried;

And that after the said issue male shall accomplish his said full age of 21 years or that the said issue female shall be of the full age of 16 years and married, that then within three months next after the said issue male's accomplishing of his full age of 21 years or the said issue female's marriage, being first of the full age of 16 years, the said John and Joan shall make their account to the said issue male or female and be allowed for the charges of his or her so bringing up, and immediately upon the said account shall yield the residue of the said leases then not expired, and convey by good and sufficient assurance in the law the said lands, tenements and hereditaments unto such issue male or female and to the heirs and assigns of the same issue without condition, provided that the said assurances in the law be made at the only costs and charges in the law of such issue male or female as above is said, and also provided that if the said issue male die before the accomplishment of his full age of 21 years, or else that the said issue female die before the accomplishment of her full age of 16 years, that then the said John and Joan shall have and hold all and singular the said lands, tenements and hereditaments and the said two leases together with their appurtenances unto the said John and Joan, their heirs and assigns, forever without any condition;

Item, I give and bequeath unto mine executors all and singular other my goods, chattels, debts and duties whatsoever heretofore not bequeathed, and of this my present testament and last will I ordain and make my said brother, John Dryden, and my said sister Joan Cope, my whole and sole executors, and that the same be truly performed and kept, I ordain and make Humphrey Benton my faithful overseer;

In witness whereof I have hereto set my hand and seal the day and year abovesaid, and also have required these underwritten to put to likewise their hands as witnesses to the same. By me, Anthony Cope. By me, George Cope. John Thossyll, John Clemens, Peter Underwood.

Probatum fuit suprascriptu{m} test{amentu}m coram Mag{ist}ro Henrico Cole legu{m} Doctore Curie prerogatiue Cant{uariensis} Custode siue Com{m}issario sede Archie{pisco}pali ib{ide}m vacan{te} vicesimo Die mensis Decembris Anno D{om}ni Mill{es}imo quingen{tesim}o quinquage{sim}o octauo Iuramento Thome Willet Notarij

pu{bli}ci procu{rato}ris Iohanne Coope Executricis Cui com{m}issa fuit
admi{ni}strac{i}o bonor{um} &c De bene &c Ac de pleno Inuentario &c Necno{n} de
plano et vero comp{ot}o &c Res{er}uata p{otes}tate Ioh{ann}i Driden executor{i}
etiam cu{m} venerit in debita iuris forma ea{m} admissur{o} &c

[=The above-written testament was proved before Master Henry Cole, Doctor of the
Laws, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in the
Archiepiscopal seat now vacant, on the twentieth day of the month of December in the
year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-eighth by the oath of Thomas Willet,
notary public, proctor of Joan Cope, executrix, to whom administration was granted of
the goods etc., [+sworn] to well etc., and [+to exhibit] a full inventory etc., and also [+to
render] a plain and true account, etc., with power reserved to John Dryden, executor also,
when he shall have come in due form of law to be admitted the same etc.]