

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 1 April 1559 and proved 28 October 1559, of Sir John Markham of Cotham, Nottinghamshire, Lieutenant of the Tower of London 1549-1551, whose third wife, Anne Strelley, was related to Margaret Strelley, wife of Nicholas Brend (d. 12 October 1601), who owned the land on which the Globe playhouse was built.

The testator was the son of Sir John Markham (d. 22 February 1508) and Alice Skipwith, the daughter of Sir William Skipwith. The testator states in the will below that his father died as an outlaw. His father was allegedly involved in an affray at Long Bennington, Lincolnshire, and outlawed for hanging a priest there. See the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/markham-sir-john-1486-1559>.

See also Nichols, John Gough, ed., *The Herald and Genealogist*, (London: J.G. Nichols and R.C. Nichols, 1873), Vol. VII, pp. 381-35 at p. 322:

https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=nDpUAAAACAAJ&pg=PA280&source=gbs_select_ed_pages&cad=2#v=onepage&q&f=false.

The testator married firstly Anne Neville, the only child of Sir George Neville (illegitimate son of Sir Thomas Neville) and Mary Fitz Lewis (whose first husband had been Anthony Woodville, 2nd Earl Rivers). See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, p. 232 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=kjme027UeagC&pg=RA2-PA232&lpg=RA2-PA232&dq=%22Sir+George+neville%22+%22Markham%22&source=bl&ots=qvHjDD0bjm&sig=iXYBpcnrF2wL0ZWXe6TKCMfjw_s&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj51Ke2ivjJAhVG5WMKHW88CLsQ6AEILDAD#v=onepage&q=%22Sir%20George%20neville%22%20%22Markham%22&f=false.

By his first wife, Anne Neville, the testator was the father of two sons, John Markham and Henry Markham. John Markham married Katherine Babington, the daughter of Sir Anthony Babington (d. 23 August 1536), by whom he was the father of Robert Markham (1536 - 20 November 1606) of Cotham, who married Mary Leeke (1538 – c.1597), by whom he was the father of Gervase Markham (1568?-1637), author of *Honour in his Perfection* (1624), for whom see the *ODNB* article. John Markham predeceased the testator, and the testator's heir, as indicated in the will below, was his grandson, Robert Markham. Queen Elizabeth is said to have referred to Robert Markham as 'Markham the Lion' (see the History of Parliament entries for the testator and his grandson, *infra*).

For Sir Anthony Babington, great-grandfather of the conspirator, Anthony Babington (1561-1586), see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/babington-anthony-1476-1536>.

The testator married secondly Margery Longford, the daughter of Sir Ralph Longford (d. 1 February 1513), by whom he had a son, Robert Markham, and a daughter, Margaret Markham, who married Robert Moreton. See Richardson, *supra*, p. 233; the will of Sir Anthony Fitzherbert, TNA PROB 11/27/312; and the Longford pedigree in Metcalfe, Walter C., 'Pedigrees Contained in the Visitations of Derbyshire, 1569 and 1611', *The Genealogist*, Vol. VIII, New Series, (London: George Bell and Sons, 1892), p. 18 at:

http://fmg.ac/FMG/Scanned_Sources/TGB/TGB.htm.

The testator married thirdly Anne Strelley (d. 12 October 1554), widow of Richard Stanhope (d. 21 January 1529) of Rampton, Nottinghamshire. She was one of the four daughters and co-heiresses of John Strelley (d. 22 January 1502), esquire, by Sanchia Willoughby (d. May 1533), sister of Sir Henry Willoughby (d. 11 May 1528), and daughter of Sir Robert Willoughby (d. before 1485) of Wollaton, Nottinghamshire, by Margaret Griffith. See TNA C 89/2/23; Richardson, *supra*, Vol. III, pp. 112, 233, and Vol. II, pp. 132-3 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=kjme027UeagC&pg=RA1-PA133&lpg=RA1-PA133&dq=%22Sir+Robert+Willoughby%22+%22Wollaton%22&source=bl&ots=qvHjEA5dmh&sig=jQKi541ZojkvTy0xTF2OPjR92FE&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiYvavUovrJAhVB8GMKHcSOCzoQ6AEIKTAD#v=onepage&q=%22Sir%20Robert%20Willoughby%22%20%22Wollaton%22&f=false>.

See also the entry for Sanchia Willoughby at:

<http://www.kateemersonhistoricals.com/TudorWomenWi-Z.htm>.

By his third wife, Anne Strelley (d. 12 October 1554), the testator was the father of two sons and two daughters:

* Thomas Markham (buried 8 March 1607) of Ollerton, Nottinghamshire, one of Queen Elizabeth's gentleman pensioners, who married Mary Griffin, the daughter of Sir Rice Griffin, and by her is said to have been the father of eighteen children (seven of whom died as infants), including Elizabeth Markham (c.1565–1630), who married Edward Sheldon (1566-1643) of Beoley (one of Edward Sheldon's sisters married Oxford's brother-in-law, Francis Trentham, while another married Sir John Russell (d.1593), brother of Thomas Russell (1570-1634), overseer of the will of William Shakespeare of Stratford). See the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/markham-thomas-1523-1607>.

* William Markham (d.1570/1) of Little Oakley, Northamptonshire, who in 1567 married Elizabeth Montagu (d.1569), widow of Richard Cave (d. 3 April 1560), and eldest daughter of Sir Edward Montague (d. 10 February 1557) of Boughton, Northamptonshire, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, by whom he had an only daughter, Anne Markham, who married Nicholas Timperley of Hintlesham, Suffolk. See the *ODNB* article for Sir Edward Montague; the will of Richard Cave (d.1538), TNA PROB 11/41/34; and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/markham-william-1533-7071>.

For the Timperley family, see the will, TNA PROB 11/92/96, of Sir John Russell (d. 1593), brother of Thomas Russell (1570-1634), overseer of the will of William Shakespeare of Stratford.

* Frances Markham, who married Henry Babington (1530?-1570?) of Dethick, eldest son and heir of Thomas Babington (d. 21 April 1560). Frances Markham is not mentioned in the will below, and appears to have predeceased the testator. After her death, Henry Babington married Mary Darcy, the daughter of George Darcy (d. 28 August 1558), 1st Baron Darcy of Aston, and granddaughter of Thomas Darcy (beheaded 30 June 1537), 1st Baron Darcy of Templehurst, by whom he was the father of the conspirator, Anthony Babington (1561-1586). Henry Babington's sister, Anne Babington, married John Darcy (c.1530 – 18 October 1602), 2nd Baron Darcy of Aston, the son and heir of George Darcy, *supra*. Robert Greene's *Mamillia* (1583) was dedicated to 'The right Honourable, his very good lord and master, Lord Darcy of the North'. Although this was the first work to be licenced under Greene's name, in 1580, standard references on Greene fail to identify Lord Darcy, whom Greene intriguingly calls his 'lord and master'. It appears, however, that Greene's first dedicatee, and his lord and master, must have been John Darcy (c.1530 – 18 October 1602), 2nd Baron Darcy of Aston. For the marriage of Henry Babington and the testator's daughter, Frances Markham, see the *ODNB* article on the conspirator, Anthony Babington; and G.T.C., 'The Pedigree of the Family of Babington of Dethick and Kingston', *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*, (London: John Bowyer Nichols and Son, 1843), Vol. VIII, pp. 313-60 at pp. 348-51:

<https://archive.org/stream/collectaneatopog08madd#page/350/mode/2up>.

For the Barons Darcy, see also Kinney, Arthur F. and Jane A. Lawson, *Titled Elizabethans*, 2nd ed., p. 102 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=q8apBQAAQBAJ&pg=PA102&lpg=PA102&dq=%22George+Darcy%22+%221558%22&source=bl&ots=QxLrWOXlgl&sig=aDm1fHC_DgOkonTVoYw91nro1vE&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjzPfUxfzJAhVD6WMKHVq5Do0Q6AEILjAE#v=onepage&q=%22George%20Darcy%22%20%221558%22&f=false.

* Isabella Markham (28 March 1527 – 20 May 1579), a lady of the privy chamber to Queen Elizabeth, who c.1559 married the courtier John Harington (c.1517– 1 July 1582),

whose first wife, Ethelreda, is said to have been an illegitimate daughter of Henry VIII. The testator's daughter, Isabella Markham, was the mother of Queen Elizabeth's godson, Sir John Harington (1560-1612). See the *ODNB* entry for Sir John Harington; and the entry for Isabella Markham at:

<http://www.kateemersonhistoricals.com/TudorWomenM.htm>.

Through his third wife, Anne Strelley, the testator was connected to the family of the wife of Nicholas Brend (d. 12 October 1601), the owner of the ground on which the Globe playhouse was built. For the will of Nicholas Brend, see TNA PROB 11/98/348. Nicholas Brend married Margaret Strelley, and the Globe continued in the hands of Brend and Strelley family connections until the second Globe playhouse was finally pulled down. Margaret Strelley's precise connection to the Strelley family has never been determined. However according to Berry the testator's third wife, Anne Strelley (d. 12 October 1554), was the aunt of Jane (nee Stanhope) Townshend Berkeley (d. 3 January 1618), widow of Henry (1534-1613), Lord Berkeley, whose first wife had been Oxford's first cousin, Katherine (nee Howard) Berkeley (1537-1596). Jane (nee Stanhope) Townshend Berkeley, in a letter dated 20 May 1595, referred to Margaret Strelley as 'my cousin, Margaret Brend'. See the will of Jane (nee Stanhope) Townshend Berkeley, TNA PROB 11/131/287; and Berry, Herbert, *Shakespeare's Playhouses*, (New York: AMS Press, 1987), p. 112.

It should also be noted that Jane (nee Stanhope) Townshend Berkeley's father, Michael Stanhope, became head of the Stanhope family after his elder brother, Richard Stanhope, esquire, died on 21 January 1529 without male issue by his wife, Anne Strelley (d. 12 October 1554), who after his death married the testator.

It should further be noted that Jane (nee Stanhope) Townshend Berkeley's eldest brother, Sir Thomas Stanhope (d.1596) of Shelford, was the father of Oxford's brother-in-law, Sir John Stanhope (d.1611). For the will of Oxford's brother-in-law, Sir John Stanhope (d.1611), see TNA PROB 11/117/473. For the will of Oxford's sister-in-law, Katherine (nee Trentham) Stanhope (d.1621?), see TNA PROB 11/137/516.

For the testator's grandson and heir, Robert Markham, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/markham-robert-1536-1606>.

The testator appoints as one of his overseers Sir Gervase Clifton (d. 20 January 1588), and in that regard it should be noted that Jane (nee Stanhope) Townshend Berkeley was the granddaughter of Sir Edward Stanhope (d. 1511), knight of the body to Henry VII, by Adelina Clifton, the daughter of Sir Gervase Clifton (d.1471) of Clifton, Nottinghamshire.

For the testator's overseer, Sir Gervase Clifton (d. 20 January 1588), see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/clifton-gervase-1516-88>.

For Sir Francis Leeke (d. 1 August 1580), father-in-law of the testator's grandson and heir, Mary Leeke, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/leke-francis-1510-80>.

See also the Leeke pedigree in Metcalfe, Walter C., 'Pedigrees contained in the Visitations of Derbyshire, 1569 and 1611', *The Genealogist*, Vol. VII, New Series, (London: George Bell and Sons, 1891), p. 229 at:

http://fmg.ac/FMG/Scanned_Sources/TGB/TGB.htm.

For Sir Francis Leeke, see also Throsby, John, *Thoroton's History of Nottinghamshire*, (Leicester, 1790), Vol. 1, p. 369 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=03tbAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA369&lpg=PA369&dq=%22Sir+Francis+Leeke%22&source=bl&ots=IxwLhIBX4l&sig=I4V-JdGj4dppyprMR0wrJ6UUUE0&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiJ78OwvffJAhUU3mMKHaptA0UQ6AEIHTAA#v=onepage&q=%22Sir%20Francis%20Leeke%22&f=false>.

For the Markham family, see also the pedigree at:

<http://ralphinla.rootsweb.ancestry.com/mrkmcthm.htm>.

LM: Testamentu {m} Ioh {ann} is Markh {a} m

[f. 397v] In the name of God, Amen. The first day of April Anno Domini 1559 and the first year of the reign of Elizabeth, Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., I, Sir John Markham of Cotham in the county of Nottingham, knight, whole in body, my wits and memory simple but not decayed, do make & ordain this my last will and testament as followeth:

First I give and bequeath my soul to Almighty God who redeemed and bought the same with the price of his precious blood, fully and wholly trusting that by the merits of his passion to be saved, not by mine own works and deeds, the which I confess to be vile, corrupted and polluted, trusting by the same merits to be one of those to whom my sins shall not be imparted nor laid, but covered, for if God look narrowly and straitly of the

sins of the world none may abide it, and enter not into judgment with thy servant, for no person living shall be justified in thy sight;

Further I give my body to the earth, and my sins to the devil and the world;

I give in the name of my mortuary as the law will;

I will that my cousin [=grandson] and heir, Robert Markham, shall have such implements at Cotham as can be proved heirlooms and no further but at the discretion of mine executors, willing them to suffer him to have the [f. 398r] preferment of such stuff as they may spare for his money;

Also I give and bequeath to Thomas Markham, my son, my house at Ollerton as it is furnished when I lie at Cotham, and according to one inventory writ with the hand of the vicar of Edwinstowe, excepted a pair of rakes(?) to turn spits in and 3 spits to be taken there, neither of the greatest nor of the least, my second basin and ewer, 2 goblets of silver, a little salt gilted, a silver great salt, 6 silver spoons with square knobs, 6 kie and one bull, two hundred wethers and 6 oxen;

Also I give and bequeath to William Markham, my son, one of my less basins and ewer of silver, 2 goblets parcel gilted, 6 silver spoons with wreathen knops, one of the greatest silver salts, 6 kie and one bull, one hundred ewes and forty wethers, the bed in the gallery at Cotham with the chair and the cushion thereto belonging, with the hangings and the(?) whole furniture of the little chamber within the great chamber, and the hangings in the little chamber within the green chamber except the bed and bedstead and 4 featherbeds in the holle [=hall?], with sufficient furniture to them of coverings, coverlet, bolster, pillows, blankets and sheets, and the great cob-irons and 3 spits at Ollerton that I before excepted, 2 garnish of pewter vessel to be taken at Cotham, with the one half of all the kitchen stuff there, except it be of great cob-irons and rakes(?);

Item, I give and bequeath to the foresaid Robert Markham the parsonage of Cotham with the lease of North Muskham and the lease of Balderton grange;

Also to Thomas Markham my lease of Elkesley, Bothamsall and Ollerton, the Brome close and Parlethorp when it falls;

Also to William Markham the lease that I have of the church of Lincoln of Thoroton, with all contained within the same lease;

And where I have full power and liberty as well by laws and statutes of this realm as by other collateral covenants made and agreed betwixt Sir Francis Leeke, knight, and me, the said Sir John Markham, to give and bequeath by this my last will and testament parcel of my lands, tenements, rents and hereditaments amounting to the clear yearly value of threescore pounds, that is to say, lands and tenements to the clear yearly value of £40 for the term of ten years next after my decease, the which sum in ten years shall amount to four hundred pounds, whereof I give and bequeath to Isabel Markham, my daughter, and

her assigns three hundred pounds for her preferment to her marriage, & one £100 of 40 pounds to Thomas Cranmer, son to the late Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, for a due debt that I am bound in my conscience and also by bill obligatory to pay, for true payments whereof I give and bequeath my manor of Kilvington and all [+and?] singular lands, tenements, rents and hereditaments in Kilvington, Flawborough, Alverton and Shelton and my closes and pastures in Boughton within the county of Nottingham, all the which beforesaid is of the clear yearly value of £40 for the intent beforesaid if she so long live;

And if she fortune to die within the term of ten years, having no husband nor children, then I do give and bequeath the said manors, lands, tenements and other the premises to mine executors during the residue of all the said ten years to the intent that my said executors shall perform therewith this my last will;

And I do also give and bequeath all my lands, tenements and hereditaments in East Markham and Tuxford with all and singular their appurtenances in the said county of Nottingham unto mine executors hereafter to be named, to have and to hold to them, their executors and assigns, for and during the term of 20 years next after my decease to the intent that they therewith, and with the rents, issues and profits thereof, shall pay all my debts [+and?] pay and perform all such bequests and legacies as I shall hereafter in this my present last will give, bequeath, declare and appoint, that is to say: 40s yearly during the said 20 years to Simon Benete, and other forty shillings for the said years to William Dayll, and 40s yearly during the same years to John Gesste, and 26s 8d during the said years to Thomas Smithe, and to Thomas Holmes during the same years 40s, and John Swallow during the same years 26s 8d, and to Elizabeth Powell during the same years 40s, and to Edmund Maver 26s 8d, and to every one of my servants, men and women, one year's wages over and above that they can prove that I owe to them;

Also I ordain & make mine executors for performance of this my last will and testament my two sons, Thomas and William, my friend Henry Needham, and my servant, Nicholas Blouston, and the said Needham and Blouston to have for their painstaking in and about this my said will £4 apiece, that is to say, either of them a piece of plate to that value, and if they travel or ride about the affairs of my said last will, to have their charges borne;

And for the intent to have the same will more exactly done and performed, I ordain and make the surveyors or supervisors of the same Sir Gervase Clifton, knight, and my cousin, Ellis Markham, esquire, and the said Sir Gervase to have of this my gift 2 silver candlesticks and other 2 candlesticks, to have them for his money as a goldsmith will give, and my said cousin Ellis to have my least standing cup with the cover that the Duke Charles of Suffolk gave to me;

And in witness of this my last will I have hereunto subscribed my name and put my seal, humbly praying and charging mine executors to see my debts that can be duly proved paid and my legacies [f. 398v] performed, whereof as nigh as I can call to my remembrance I shall hereafter make mention with mine own hand;

And because I would on my conscience declare what heirlooms there should be, I think none, for my father died outlawed, so that I paid and fined for all the goods that I had, but nevertheless I am content to allow heirlooms as follows: the hangings in the hall at Cotham, all the dormant tables, the hangings of red say in the parlour with the long table and frame, the 2 great brewing-leads in the brewhouse with the keeler and 2 fats, and the great brass pot that stands in the furnace in the kitchen that I lately bought;

For my old debts, I remember none old but £10 or thereupon to Hugh Kelstone of Newark;

Item, 20 quarters of oats to Mr Stanhope, and he claims half a year's rent for Westboro, but I think I owe him none, for I take Michaelmas to be the last half year;

Item, to my cousin, Ellis Markham, £20;

My debts paid and legacies performed, the rest of my goods and chattels I give to my sons, Thomas and William.

Per me, John Markham.

Probatum fuit huiusmodi Testamentum coram Magistro Waltero Hadon Legum Doctore curie prerogative cantuariensis(?) Custode siue Commissario ibidem iam vacante apud London vicesimo octavo die mensis Octobris Anno Domini millesimo quingentesimo quinquagesimo nono Iuramento Thome Markham presertis(?) et Willielmi Markham in persona ipsius Thome executorum in huiusmodi testamento nominatorum Quibus commissa fuit administratio & de bene etc ac de plano [sic?] Inventario etc Necnon de vero et plano computo Reddendo ad sancta dei Evangelia Iuratis Reseruat potestate Henrico Nedeham et Nicholao Blundeston cum venerint

[=The same testament was proved before Master Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury there now vacant, at London on the twenty-eighth day of the month of October in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-ninth by the oath of Thomas Markham, present, and William Markham in the person of the same Thomas, executors named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., and [to prepare] a plain inventory etc., and also to render a true and plain account, with power reserved to Henry Needham and Nicholas Blundeston when they shall have come.]