

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 13 January 1558 and proved 6 December 1560, of George Brooke (c.1497 – 29 September 1558), 9th Baron Cobham, whose eldest son, William Brooke, 10th Baron Cobham, was Lord Chamberlain and patron of the Lord Chamberlain's Men in 1596/7, and whose eighth son, Thomas Brooke the younger, wrote verses commemorating the death of Arthur Brooke, author of *Romeus and Juliet*.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator was the eldest surviving son of Thomas Brooke (d.1529), 8th Baron Cobham, by his first wife, Dorothy Heydon, daughter of Sir Henry Heydon of Baconsthorpe, Norfolk, by Anne Boleyn, daughter of Sir Geoffrey Boleyn. See Cokayne, George Edward, *The Complete Peerage*, Vol. III, (London: St Catherine Press, 1913), p. 347.

After the death of Dorothy Heydon, Thomas Brooke, 8th Baron Cobham, married secondly Elizabeth Calthorpe (d. before 1518), widow of Sir Robert Southwell (d. 31 March 1514), and daughter of Sir Philip Calthorpe (d.1464-1535). See TNA C 1/452/8; the will of Sir Robert Southwell, TNA PROB 11/18/38; and:

<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/GEN-MEDIEVAL/2013-06/1372383631>

See also the entry for Elizabeth Calthorpe in 'A Who's Who of Tudor Women' at:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=667

Elizabeth Calthorpe was the daughter of Sir Philip Calthorpe of Burnham Thorpe, Norfolk (c.1464-1535) and his first wife, Mary Saye (1464-1501). Her first husband was Sir Robert Southwell (d. March 31, 1514). She was his second wife. They were married c.1511 and had no children. In 1515, she became the second of three wives of Thomas Brooke, 8th baron Cobham (d. July 19, 1529). Her name is sometimes mistakenly given as Dorothy Southwell. A lawsuit in 1516 in the court of Common Pleas, identifies Lady Cobham as the widow of Sir Robert Southwell. She and her husband were at that time acting as co-executors of the Southwell estate. Elizabeth had no children from her second marriage and died before 1518.

See also the Calthorpe pedigree in Lee-Warner, James, 'The Calthorps of Burnham', *Norfolk Archaeology*, Vol. IX, (Norwich: A.H. Goose & Co., 1884), pp. 1-19 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=imhIAAAAYAAJ&pg=PP1>

Thomas Brooke, 8th Baron Cobham, married thirdly Elizabeth Hart. See McKeen, David, *A Memory of Honour: The Life of William Brooke, Lord Cobham*, (Salzburg: Institut Fur Anglistik Und Amerikanistik, 1986), p. 701. See also the entry of Elizabeth Hart at:

<http://www.kateemersonhistoricals.com/TudorWomenH-He.htm>

Elizabeth Hart (d. March 1552) was the daughter of John Hart of Westmill, Hertfordshire (c.1450-1507) and Elizabeth Peche (1452-July 15, 1544). She became the third wife of Thomas Brooke, 8th baron Cobham (d. July 19, 1539) in about 1518. She had a jointure worth 100 marks a year and his will left her Cobham Hall for life, together with all his moveable goods. Her second husband was a widower, John Cornewall. Elizabeth was still living when her stepson, George Brooke, 9th baron, wrote a will dated March 31, 1551/2.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

The testator married, by 1526, Anne Bray (c.1510–1558), eldest daughter of Edmund, Lord Bray, and his wife, Jane Halighwell, daughter of Sir Richard Halighwell, by whom he had ten sons and four daughters. See CP 225/1 on this website; Cokayne, *supra*, p. 348; and McKeen, David, *A Memory of Honour; The Life of William Brooke, Lord Cobham*, (Salzburg: Universitat Salzburg, 1986), pp. 700-702. For an abstract of the will, dated 7 October 1558, of Anne (nee Bray), Brooke, Lady Cobham, see CP 198/100, and the *Calendar of the Manuscripts of the Honourable the Marquis of Salisbury, K.G., Preserved at Hatfield House, Hertfordshire, Part I*, (London: Eyre and Spittiswoode, 1883), p. 147 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/calendarmanusc01grea#page/146/mode/2up>.

Four of the testator's children predeceased him:

- * **Henry Brooke** (b. September 1529), second son.
- * **Edward Brooke** (b. September 1536), sixth son.
- * **Anne Brooke** (b. March 1531), second daughter.
- * **Mary Brooke** (b. 3 October 1542), third daughter.

Eight of the testator's sons and two of his daughters were living when the testator made his will:

- * **William Brooke** (1527-1597), 10th Baron Cobham, eldest son. See his will, BL Lansdowne 830, f. 249ff; and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/brooke-william-1527-97>

* **George Brooke** (27 January 1533 – c.1569), third son, who married Christian Duke (d.1608), daughter and heir of Richard Duke of Otterton, Devon. See the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/brooke-alias-cobham-george-1533>

* **Thomas Brooke the elder** (30 December 1533–1578), fourth son, who married Catherine Cavendish (1535-1594), daughter of Sir William Cavendish (1508–1557) by his second wife, Margaret Bostock. Catherine Cavenish was thus the stepdaughter of Bess of Hardwick, who had care of her as a child. See McKeen, *infra*, p. 215, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/brooke-alias-cobham-thomas-1533-78>

* **John Brooke** (22 April 1534–1594), fifth son, of Newington, Kent, who married, by 1561, Alice (nee Cobbe), widow of Sir John Norton of Northwood in Milton, Kent, and daughter of Edward Cobbe of Cobbs Place, Kent. His will, dated 8 February 1594 and proved 26 September 1594, TNA PROB 11/84/223, mentions his deceased brothers, Edward and Henry. See also the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/brooke-alias-cobham-john-1535-94>

* **Sir Henry Brooke alias Cobham** (5 February 1537/8 – 13 January 1592), seventh son, who married, on 27 January 1573, Anne Sutton (d.1611/12), widow of Walter Haddon (1514/15–1571) and daughter of Sir Henry Sutton of Nottinghamshire, by whom he had three sons and two daughters: Sir Calisthenes Brooke (1573–1611); John Brooke, later Baron Cobham (1574–1660); Maximilian Brooke (1575/6–1598); Anne Brooke (born c.1577); and Philippa Brooke (c.1579–1613), who married Walter Calverley (d.1605), the subject of *A Yorkshire Tragedy*, attributed to Shakespeare.

* **Thomas Brooke the younger** (b. 22 April 1539), eighth son. He wrote verses commemorating the death of Arthur Brooke, author of *Romeus and Juliet*.

* **Edmund Brooke** (31 October 1540 – c.1587), ninth son.

* **Edward Brooke**, tenth son, who according to the will of his brother, John Brooke (see above), had died by 8 February 1594, and had left a widow, Mary Cobham, who was the sister of John Brooke's wife, Alice (nee Cobbe). According to McKeen, *infra*, p. 11, Edward Brooke married Mary Hornebie (d.1600).

* **Elizabeth Brooke** (12 June 1526 – 2 April 1565), the testator's eldest daughter, who in the summer of 1547 secretly married William Parr (1513–1571), Marquess of Northampton, by whom she had no issue. Parr was already married, having been

contracted at the age of thirteen to the ten-year-old Anne Bouchier (1517–1571), heir of Henry Bouchier (d. 3 March 1540), Earl of Essex. Although Anne Bouchier eloped in 1541 with a man named Hunt or Huntley, Parr was unable to regularize his marital situation until 31 March 1551, at which time his divorce from her and marriage to Elizabeth Brooke were legalized by Act of Parliament. See the *ODNB* article on William Parr.

* **Catherine Brooke** (7 April 1544-1617?), fourth daughter, who married firstly John Jerningham of Somerleyton, son of George Jerningham, and secondly a husband surnamed Bellamy. By her first husband she had a son and daughter, Henry and Elizabeth, who died young, and three other daughters:

-**Frances Jerningham** (d. August 1607), for whom see the will, TNA PROB 11/76/276, of her first husband, Thomas Bedingfield (d. 19 April 1590), and the will, NRO JER 246 55X1, of her second husband, Henry Jerningham (d. 15 June 1619), who in 1596 sold his mansion in the Blackfriars to George Carey (1548–1603), 2nd Baron Hunsdon.

-**Catherine Jerningham** (d.1614), who married firstly (as his second wife) Henry Crane (d. 1 August 1586), son of Robert Crane (d. 12 September 1591) and Bridget Jermyn, and secondly Sir Wymond Carey (d.1612), son of Sir John Carey (d.1552) and Joyce Denny (d.1559). For her will, dated 13 February 1614 and proved 21 February 1614, in which she left her mother, then Catherine Bellamy, a bequest, see TNA PROB 11/123/225.

-**Margaret Jerningham**, who married Thomas Ford, esquire, of Butley.

ROMEUS AND JULIET

The testator's son, Thomas Brooke the younger, wrote verses commemorating the death of Arthur Brooke, author of *Romeus and Juliet*, drowned when the *Greyhound* ran aground on 19 March 1563 while carrying English forces under Sir Thomas Finch to Newhaven [=Le Havre]:

*Example, lo, in Broke before thine eye,
Whose praised gifts in him did late abound,
By whipwrack forced, alas, too soon to die,
Helpless of all intomed lies underground.*

See Munro, J.J., ed., *Brooke's 'Romeus and Juliet' being the original of Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet'*, (London: Chatto & Windus, 1908), p. xxii; and Green, Nina, 'Who Was Arthur Brooke?', *The Oxfordian*, 2000, Vol. III, pp. 59-70.

According to McKeen, the testator mentions in his will 'a number of nephews, William's late uncle's three sons', i.e. the sons of the testator's brother, Thomas Brooke (d.1547) and his wife, Susan (nee Cranmer), niece of Archbishop Thomas Cranmer. See McKeen, *supra*, pp. 16, 27, 68, 701. However there is no specific mention by the testator of three

nephews in the PCC copy of the will below, although there is a general mention of the testator's nephews, i.e. the sons of Thomas Brooke (d.1547), in this clause:

And for lack of such issue I will that all the same manors, lands, tenements and premises with their appurtenances shall wholly remain to the heirs males of the body of my brother, Thomas Brooke, lawfully begotten and to the heirs males of their bodies lawfully begotten.

Thomas Brooke (d.1547) left a will dated 5 January 1545 in which he mentions 'Cranmer Brooke, my eldest son' and 'Thomas Brooke, my youngest son'. See:

<http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/Research/Pub/ArchCant/Vol.032%20-%201917/03/092.htm>

It is possible that there is specific mention of three nephews in what McKeen refers to as 'George lord Cobham's superseded will of 31 March 1551', for which he cites Harl. Chart. 57, H.7.

The testator died 29 September 1558. His widow died 1 November 1558.

The testator was succeeded by his eldest surviving son, William Brooke (1527-1597), 10th Baron Cobham, whose second wife, Frances (nee Newton) Brooke (d. 17 October 1592), was one of Queen Elizabeth's longest-serving gentlewomen and closest friends.

See the *ODNB* entries for George Brooke, 9th Baron Cobham; William Brooke, 10th Baron Cobham; Frances (nee Newton) Brooke; and Sir Henry Brooke alias Cobham; McKeen, *supra*, pp. 700-702; and Mayer, Thomas F. and Courtney B. Walters, *The Correspondence of Reginald Pole*, (Aldershot, Hampshire: Ashgate Publishing, 2008), p. 95:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=_daeDoWdQ0cC&pg=PA95

The testator appointed three executors, Thomas Wotton (1521-1587), and the merchants Benedict Spinola (1519/20-1580) and Sir Edward Osborne (c.1530-1592), for whom see the *ODNB* entries. All three renounced the burden of execution of the will. For Oxford's purchase of the Great Garden property in Aldgate from Benedict Spinola on 15 June 1580, see TNA C 54/1080.

Anthony St Leger, mentioned in the will below as having sold lands to the testator, was Sir Anthony St Leger (c.1496 – 16 March 1559), for whose will, dated 27 October 1558 and proved 10 June 1559, see TNA PROB 11/42B/276.

The names of manors held by the testator have been modernized to agree with the spellings in McKeen, *supra*, pp. 690-2.

LM: T{estamentum} Georgij Broke D{omi}ni Cobham

[f. 447v] In the name of God, Amen. The 13th day of January in the fourth 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, Archdukes of Austria, Dukes of Burgundy, Milan and Brabant, Counties of Hapsburg, Flanders and Tyrol, and in the year of Our Lord God 1557, I, George Brooke of the right honourable Order of the Garter knight, Lord Cobham, being whole in body and of perfect remembrance, thanks be unto Almighty God, and being uncertain what time it shall please Almighty God to call me to his mercy, do ordain and dispose this my present testament and last will, by the same revoking and annulling and making void all former wills and testaments heretofore by me made, and this to be my true and last will, in manner and form following:

First and principally I commit my soul unto Almighty God, my Maker and Redeemer and Saviour, in whom I trust and believe by his death, passion and resurrection to have free remission and forgiveness of all my offences and sins;

[f. 448r] And I will that mine executors hereafter named shall see my body brought to the ground and buried in Cobham church in the county of Kent after the laudable and honourable Order of the Garter without vain pomp or pride;

Also I will that every of my household servants have one half year's wages and one half year's board next and immediately after my decease out of such issues, profits, rents and revenues as shall grow and come of the next half year's farm after my decease of all those lordships, manors, lands and tenements which I have in these presents hereafter appointed for and to the performance of this my last will and testament;

Also I give to Sir William Brooke, knight, my son and heir apparent, the lease and interest which I have of the late Bishop of Rochester of the manor of Cobhambury;

And also I give to the said Sir William Brooke my collar of the Order of gold with the George of diamonds thereto belonging, and all other my small chains of gold with the Georges of gold to them appertaining, and all my Garters of gold of th' Order, and all other mine apparel and robes belonging to the Order of Saint George, and all my Parliament robes, and all other mine apparel;

Also all my horses and jennets, steele(?) saddles or harnesses with all others to them belonging;

Also all mine armory with all and singular the appurtenances;

And as concerning all my plate, sheep and bullocks, I will the same to be equally divided into 2 equal parts, and I will that the Lady Anne, now my wife, shall have the one half

thereof, and that the said Sir William Brooke, knight, my son and heir apparent, shall have the other half thereof;

And all other my household stuff at Cooling Castle I give & bequeath the same to the said Lady Anne, my wife;

And all my other household stuff at Cobham I give and bequeath the same to the said Sir William Brooke, knight;

And of this my present testament and last will I do make, ordain and constitute Thomas Wotton, esquire, Benedict Spinola, merchant, and Edward Osborne, merchant, mine executors, and Sir Percival Hart, knight, and Sir Martin Bowes, knight, my overseers of the same, and I give and bequeath to every of my said executors £40, and to every of my said overseers £5 for their good counsel and pains to be taken in and about th' execution of this my will or testament, over and besides all such reasonable costs and charges as they shall fortune to expend, disburse or pay from time to time in and about the execution of the premises;

And now being desirous to declare and set forth an order how all such castles, manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments as God hath lent me in this vale of misery should be used and bestowed when I am gone, as well for the advancement of my wife, children and servants as also that my most dread Sovereign Lord and Lady, the King and Queen's Highness, should fully have all that part and portion which to them of right appertaineth after my death by their Highness' laws and statutes, I do make and ordain this my last will concerning the disposition of all and singular my said castles, manors, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services, possessions and hereditaments whatsoever they be whereof at the time of the making of this my last will I am seised of in fee simple or other state of inheritance within the realm of England or elsewhere within the King and Queen's Majesties' dominions and seignories or any parcel thereof in manner and form following, that is to say:

First, whereas I, the said George, Lord Cobham, now stand and am sole seised of an estate of inheritance of and in the lordships and manors of Weycroft, Chard or Chardborough, Hurtham, Woolmington, Cotleigh, Holditch, Mangerton, Melpash, Blunts Hayes, Stokewells, Stagmore, Hornesbowe, Eastorste, Lovehill, Bowdiche, Lyvenarsh, Okenhed, Kyngslin [=Lyme Regis], Broke, Ilchester and South Bowood alias Bowood set, lying and being in the counties of Somers[et], Dorset and Devonshire;

And also of and in divers other lands, tenements and hereditaments set, lying and being as well within the said lordships or manors, towns and parishes aforementioned;

And also in the towns and parishes of Povrestocke, Thascombe, Marshode, Abatistocke, Cudworth, Churchestocke, Farthinges, Ashelegate, Clyve and Bowmers in the said counties of Somerset, Dorset and [f. 448v] Devonshire;

And of and in the lordship or manor of Colmworth in the county of Bedford;

And of and in the lordships or manors of Bincknoll and Chisbury in the county of Wiltshire;

And of and in the lordships or manors of Radwinter and Bendysh Hall in the county of Essex;

And of and in divers messuages, edifices and buildings with backsides and gardens to them belonging set, lying and being within the place and precinct of the late priory commonly called the Blackfriars nigh Ludgate in London;

And of and in the lordships or manors of Cobham called Cobham Hall with the park and divers lands, tenements and hereditaments and other their appurtenances thereunto belonging, one house called the Plotte with th' appurtenances, certain ground called the Old Ground, together with divers other lands and tenements to the said manor belonging which I lately bought and purchased set, lying and being within the towns, parishes and fields of Cobham, Cuxton and Luddesdown;

And also of and in the lordships or manors of Shorne, West Chalk, Haidon, Hayton, Berry Court, Westclyf alias Westclif Court with the marshes there and the lands which I lately purchased of one Walter Tresse, and of and in the lordship or manor of Okington with all the lands and tenements thereto belonging lately purchased by me of Sir Anthony St Leger, knight, lying in the parishes of Cobham, Higham, Shorne and Frindsbury;

And also of and in the lordship or manor of Randall with one tenement and th' appurtenances to the same belonging lately purchased of one Hawkes lying in Thounge in the parish of Shorne;

And of and in the site of the late College of Maidstone, and of and in the manor of Buckland and divers and sundry lands, tenements and hereditaments late parcel of the possessions of the said late College and of and in the hundreds or manors of Great Hoo and Little Hoo, and of and in divers and sundry lordships, manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments within the said hundred with all and singular their appurtenances with an hundred acres of meadow, five hundred acres of pasture, three hundredth acres of arable land, and one thousand acres of wood, parcel or belonging to the said hundreds or manors set, lying and being in the towns & parishes of Great Hoo, Little Hoo, Sainte Maries, Allhallows, Stoke and Halstow in the said county of Kent;

And of and in the lands late Bewelles in Halstow;

And of the farm or tenement of Ranscombe in the parish of Cuxton in the said county of Kent;

And all other lands lying in the hundred of Tolting Trough in the same county;

And of and in the castle, lordships or manors of Cooling with the marshes there, Beckley, Strood, Temple, the College of Cobham with all the lands thereto belonging lying in Cobham, Cuxton, Frindsbury, Hawlynge, Higham, Chalk, Shorne, Strood, Cooling and Cliff;

And of the hundred of Shamble;

And of and in the farm or tenement of Chattenden in the parish of Frindsbury;

And of and in sundry other hereditaments in the county of Kent or elsewhere within the realm of England or any the King and Queen's dominions, which castles, lordships, manors, lands, tenements, hereditaments and possessions with th' appurtenances, equally rated, do extend and amount in the whole to the clear yearly value of one thousand threescore eighteen pounds 6s 2d ob qua in possession over and above all yearly charges and reprises;

And also of the reversion of the site of the late monastery of Newnham in the county of Bedford and of other lands, tenements and hereditaments in the said county, parcel of the possessions of the late monastery expectant upon the deaths of Master Bruerton [=Brereton] and of Dame Jane, late Lady Bray, now his wife;

I, the said George, Lord Cobham, do will, devise and appoint all those my said lordships or manors of Weycroft, Chard or Chardborough, Hurtham, Woolmington, Cotleigh, Holditch, Mangerton, Melplash, Blunts Hayes, Stokewells, Stagmore, Hornesbowe, Eastcrofte, Lovehill, Bowdyche, Lyvecalshe(?), Okenhed, KingesLyme [=Lyme Regis], Broke, Ilchester and South Bowood alias Bowood in the said counties of Somerset, Dorset and Devonshire and all [f. 449r] other my lordships, manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments with all and singular their appurtenances set, lying and being as well within the towns and parishes aforementioned as also within the towns or parishes of Powrestocke, Chastombe, Marshode, Abbatistocke, Cudworth, Churchestocke, Ashleigate, Clyve and Bowmers or elsewhere within the said counties of Somerset, Dorset and Devonshire;

And my lordships and manors of Colmworth in the county of Bedford, Bincknoll and Chisbury in the county of Wiltshire, Cobham called Cobham Hall with the park and wood, plots, house, ground and other purchased lands in Cobham, Cuxton and Luddesdown, the manor of Randall with one house and appurtenances thereto belonging, late one Hawkes', the manor of Oakenden with the woods thereto belonging, and the site or lodging with the house and garden within the late Blackfriars in London, all which lordships, manors, lands, tenements, hereditaments and possessions late before rehearsed and lying within the counties of Somerset, Dorset, Devon, Kent, Bedford, Wiltshire and the City of London do amount to the clear yearly value of three hundred threescore 2 pounds 13s 4d in possession over and above all charges and reprises and are the full third part of all my manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments, to descend and come to my heir and to his and their heirs after my decease for the King and Queen's Majesties' duties to be taken of the same third part by reason of wardship, relief, primer seisin,

livery or otherwise according to their Highness' laws and statutes in such case ordained and provided;

And further I will and devise my lordships and manors of Cooling, Beckley, Strood, Temple, the hundred of Shamble and the farm of Chattenden with their appurtenances in the said county of Kent, and the late College of Cobham with the lordships, manors, lands and tenements at the dissolution thereof to the same belonging or in any manner of wise appertaining, amounting to the clear yearly value of 2 hundred £79 12s 7d above all yearly charges and reprises, to the Lady Anne, my wife, for and during the term of her natural life according as they and every of them have been heretofore already to her appointed and assured by one Act of Parliament therefore made in the 34th year of the reign of the late King Henry the Eight, as by the same Act amongst other things therein contained more at large it doth and may appear;

Also I will and devise all my manors of Bendysh Hall with th' appurtenances which I late bought and purchased of the Lord Rich in the county of Essex, the lordship or manor of Radwinter with th' appurtenances, and all other my lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever they be in Bendysh Hall and Radwinter or elsewhere in the said county of Essex;

And also my lordships or manors of Berry Court, Westcliff alias Westcliff Court with salt-marshes, rents of assize and the lands late Walter Tresse's with other their members and appurtenances in Cliff in the said county of Kent, the lordships of Shorne and West Chalk, Haidon, Hayton, the farm of Ranscombe in Cuxton and the hundreds of Hoo with woods and their appurtenances, and the lands late Bewelles in Halstow, and also the site and demesne lands of the late College of Maidstone and all my woods and other my lands, tenements and hereditaments which were late parcel of the possessions of the same late College or did belong or appertain to the same within the said county of Kent [+and?] in all other my lordships, manors, lands, tenements, possessions and hereditaments aforesaid or elsewhere within the said county of Kent or in any other place within the realm of England, not being part or parcel of the third part left to descend to my said heir nor part or parcel of the jointure of the said Lady Anne, my wife, extending and amounting to the clear yearly value of four hundred thirty-five pounds 14s 3d ob, together with the reversion and reversions, rents and services of all my said [f. 449v] lands, tenements and hereditaments in form aforesaid assured to my said wife for and in the name of her jointure, and the reversion of the site and premises late parcel of the said late monastery of Newnham with all and singular their appurtenances to Sir William Brooke, knight, my son and heir apparent;

To have and to hold all the same said manors, lands, tenements, rents, reversions and services and every parcel thereof with their appurtenances last before recited together with all my said reversion and reversions, rents & services of all my said manors, lands and tenements so as before is said assured to my said wife or parcel of Newnham monastery to him, the said Sir William Brooke, for the term of his life natural without impeachment of any manner of waste, the remainder thereof after his decease to the first

lawful begotten son of the body of the said Sir William Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same first son lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the second lawful begotten son of the body of the same Sir William Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the said second son lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the third lawful begotten son of the body of the said Sir William Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same third son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fourth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Sir William Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same fourth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for default of such issue to the fifth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Sir William Brooke and to the heirs males [+of?] the body of the same fifth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for default of such issue to the sixth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Sir William Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same sixth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for default of such issue to the seventh lawful begotten son of the body of the same Sir William Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same seventh son lawfully to be begotten;

And for default of such issue to the 8th lawful begotten son of the body of the said Sir William Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the said eight[h] son lawfully to be begotten;

And so from one son of the body of the said Sir William dying without issue male of his body lawfully begotten successively to the next lawful begotten son of the same Sir William & to the heirs males of every such other son of his body lawfully begotten successively, one after the other, in form aforesaid as long as any son of his body shall be and as mine intent aforesaid appeareth;

And for lack of such issue of all the said sons of the body of the said Sir William Brooke lawfully coming to remain to George Brooke, my son, for term of his life without impeachment of any waste;

And after his decease to the first lawful begotten son of the body of the said George Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same first son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the second lawful begotten son of the body of the said George Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same second son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the third lawful begotten son of the body of the said George Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the said third son lawfully to be begotten;

And for default of such issue to the fourth lawful begotten son of the body of the said George Brooke [-and to the heirs males of the body of the said George Brooke] and to the heirs males of the body of the same fourth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fifth lawful begotten son of the body of the said George Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same fifth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the sixth lawful begotten son of the body of the said George Brooke and to the heirs males of the [f. 450r] body of the said sixth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the seventh lawful begotten son of the body of the said George and to the heirs males of the body of the said seventh son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the eight[h] lawful begotten son of the body of the said George Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the said eight[h] son lawfully to be begotten;

And so from one son of the body of the said George dying without issue male of his body lawfully begotten successively to the next lawful begotten son of the same George and to the heirs males of every such other son of his body lawfully begotten successively one after another in form aforesaid as long as any son of his body shall be and as mine intent aforesaid appeareth;

And for lack of such issue of all the said sons of the body of the said George lawfully coming to remain unto Thomas Broke, my eldest son of that name and who is my third son, for term of his life without impeachment of any waste;

And after the decease of the said Thomas to the first lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same first begotten son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the second lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke and to the heirs males of the same second son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the third lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same third son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fourth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the said fourth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fifth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same fifth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the sixth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same sixth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the 7th lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same seventh son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the eight[h] lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same eight[h] son lawfully to be begotten;

And so from one son of the body of the said Thomas dying without issue male of his body lawfully begotten successively to the next lawful begotten son of the same Thomas and to the heirs males of every such other son of his body lawfully begotten successively one after the other in form aforesaid as long as any son of his body shall be and as mine intent aforesaid appeareth;

And for lack of such issue of all the said sons of the body of the said Thomas lawfully coming to remain unto John Brooke, my fourth son, for term of his life without impeachment of any waste;

And after the decease of the said John to the first lawful begotten son of the body of the said John Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same first son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the second lawful begotten son of the body of the said John Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same second son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the third lawful begotten son of the body of the said John Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same third son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fourth lawful begotten son of the body of the said John Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same fourth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fifth lawful begotten son of the body of the said John Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same fifth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the sixth lawfully begotten son of the body of the said John Brooke and [f. 450v] to the heirs males of the body of the same sixth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the seventh lawful begotten son of the body of the said John Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same seventh son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the eight[h] lawful begotten son of the body of the said John Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same eight[h] son lawfully to be begotten;

And so from one son of the body of the said John Brooke dying without issue male of his body lawfully begotten successively to the next lawful begotten son of the same John and to the heirs males of any such othe[r] son of his body lawfully begotten successively one after another in form aforesaid as long as any son of his body shall be and as mine intent aforesaid appeareth;

And for lack of such issue of all the said sons of the body of the said John lawfully coming to remain unto Henry Brooke, my fifth son, for term of his life without impeachment of any waste;

And after the decease of the said Henry to the first lawful begotten son of the body of the said Henry Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same first son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the second lawful begotten son of the body of the said Henry Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same second son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the third lawful begotten son of the body of the said Henry Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same third son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fourth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Henry Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same fourth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fifth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Henry Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same fifth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the sixth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Henry Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same sixth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the seventh lawful begotten son of the body of the said Henry Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same seventh son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the eight[h] lawful begotten son of the body of the said Henry Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the said eight[h] son lawfully to be begotten;

And so from one son of the body of the said Henry dying without issue male of his body lawfully begotten successively to the next lawful begotten son of the same Henry and to the heirs males of every such other son of his body lawfully begotten successively one after the other in form aforesaid as long as any son of his body shall be and as mine intent aforesaid appeareth;

And for lack of such issue of all the said sons of the body of the said Henry lawfully coming to remain unto Thomas Brooke the younger of that name, who is my sixth son, for term of his life without impeachment of any waste;

And after the decease of the said Thomas the younger to the first lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke the younger and to the heirs males of the body of the same first son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the second lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke the younger and to the heirs males of the body of the same second son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the third lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke the younger and to the heirs males of the body of the same third son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fourth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke the younger and to the heirs males of the body of the same fourth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fifth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke the younger and to the heirs males of the body of the same fifth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of [f. 451r] such issue to the sixth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke the younger and to the heirs males of the body of the same sixth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the seventh lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke the younger and to the heirs males of the body of the same seventh son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the eight[h] lawful begotten son of the body of the said Thomas Brooke the younger and to the heirs males of the body of the same eight[h] son lawfully to be begotten;

And so from one son of the body of the said Thomas the younger dying without issue male of this body lawfully begotten successively to the next lawful begotten son of the same Thomas Brooke the younger and to the heirs males of every such other son of his body lawfully begotten successively one after the other in form aforesaid as long as any son of his body shall be and as mine intent aforesaid appeareth;

And for lack of such issue of all the said sons of the body of the said Thomas the younger lawfully coming to remain unto my son, Edmund Brooke, my seventh son, for term of his life without impeachment of any waste;

And after the decease of the said Edmund to the first lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edmund Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same first son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the second lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edmund Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same second son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the third lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edmund Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same third son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fourth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edmund Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same fourth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fifth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edmund Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same fifth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the sixth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edmund Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same sixth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the seventh lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edmund Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same seventh son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the eight[h] lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edmund Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same eight[h] son lawfully to be begotten;

And so from one son of the body of the said Edmund dying without issue male of his body lawfully begotten successively to the next lawful begotten son of the same Edmund and to the heirs males of every such other son of his body lawfully begotten successively one after the other in form aforesaid as long as any son of his body shall be and as mine intent aforesaid appeareth;

And for lack of such issue of all the said sons of the said Edmund lawfully coming to remain to my son, Edward Brooke, my eight[h] son, for term of his life without impeachment of any waste;

And after the decease of the said Edward to the first lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edward Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same first son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the second lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edward Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same second son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the third lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edward Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same third son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fourth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edward Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same fourth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fifth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edward Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same fifth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the sixth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edward Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same sixth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the seventh lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edward Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the same seventh [f. 451v] son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the eight[h] lawful begotten son of the body of the said Edward Brooke and to the heirs males of the body of the said eight[h] son lawfully to be begotten;

And so from one son of the body of the said Edward dying without issue male of his body lawfully begotten successively to the next lawful begotten son of the same Edward and to the heirs males of every such other son of his body lawfully begotten successively one after the other in form aforesaid as long as any son of his body shall be and as mine intent aforesaid appeareth;

And for lack of such issue of all the said sons of the body of the said Edward lawfully coming to remain unto my daughter, Elizabeth, late called and known by the name of Lady Marquess of Northampton, for term of her life without impeachment of any waste;

And after the decease of the said Elizabeth to the first lawful begotten son of the body of the said Elizabeth and to the heirs males of the same first son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the second lawful begotten son of the body of the said Elizabeth and to the heirs males of the body of the same second son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the third lawful begotten son of the body of the said Elizabeth and to the heirs males of the body of the same third son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fourth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Elizabeth and to the heirs males of the body of the same fourth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fifth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Elizabeth and to the heirs males of the body of the same fifth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the sixth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Elizabeth and to the heirs males of the body of the same sixth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the seventh lawful begotten son of the body of the said Elizabeth and to the heirs males of the body of the same seventh son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the eight[h] lawful begotten son of the body of the said Elizabeth and to the heirs males of the body of the said eight[h] son lawfully to be begotten;

And so from one son of the body of the said Elizabeth dying without issue male of his body lawfully begotten successively to the next lawful begotten son of the said Elizabeth and to the heirs males of every such other son of her body lawfully begotten successively one after the other in form aforesaid as long as any son of her body shall be and as mine intent aforesaid appeareth;

And for lack of such issue of all the said sons of the body of the said Elizabeth lawfully coming to remain unto my daughter Katherine for term of her life without impeachment of any waste;

And after the decease of the said Katherine to the first lawful begotten son of the body of the said Katherine and to the heirs males of the body of the same first son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the second lawful begotten son of the body of the said Katherine and to the heirs males of the body of the same second son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the third lawful begotten son of the body of the said Katherine and to the heirs males of the body of the same third son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fourth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Katherine and to the heirs males of the body of the same fourth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the fifth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Katherine and to the heirs males of the body of the same fifth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the sixth lawful begotten son of the body of the said Katherine and to the heirs males of the body of the same sixth son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the seventh lawfully begotten son of the body of the said Katherine and to the heirs males of the body of the same seventh son lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the eight[h] lawful begotten son of the body of the said Katherine and to the heirs males of the body of the same eight[h] son lawfully to be begotten;

And so from one son of the body of the said Katherine dying without issue male of his body lawfully begotten successively to the next lawful begotten son of the said Katherine and to the heirs males of every such other son of her body lawfully begotten successively one after the other in form aforesaid as long as any [f. 452r] son of her body shall be and as mine intent aforesaid appeareth;

And for lack of such issue I will that all the same manors, lands, tenements and premises with their appurtenances shall wholly remain to the heirs males of the body of my brother, Thomas Brooke, lawfully begotten and to the heirs males of their bodies lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue to remain to the heirs of the body of the said Sir William Brooke, my son, lawfully begotten and to their heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue to remain to the heirs of the body of the said George, my son, lawfully begotten and to their heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue to remain to the heirs of the body of the said Thomas, my eldest son of that name, lawfully begotten and to their heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue to remain to the heirs of the body of the said John, my son, lawfully begotten and to their heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue to remain to the heirs of the body of the said Henry, my son, lawfully begotten and to their heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue to remain to the heirs of the body of the said Thomas the younger, my son, lawfully begotten and to their heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten;

And for lack [+of such?] issue to remain to the heirs of the body of the said Edmund, my son, lawfully begotten and to their heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issues to remain to the right heirs of the said Edward, my youngest son, forever;

Provided always that all and every the remainder by me willed as is aforesaid be by me willed upon this condition, that if any of my said sons or daughters or any others to whom any remainder or estate of the said manors, lands, tenements and other hereditaments or of any parcel thereof is by this my last will limited and appointed or may come to by this my will shall at any time or times hereafter, when his or their remainder or estate shall fall unto him, her or them or be executed or at any time before that he, she or they shall come and be in actual and real possession of the said manors, lands, tenements and other the premises by force and virtue of his or their remainder or by this my last will, by any manner of means [+have?] concluded and agreed to alien, sell, discontinue, levy fine, suffer recovery or to do or suffer any other act or acts, thing or things to cut off the entail of the said manors, lands, tenements and other the premises made and conveyed to any person or persons by this my present last will to bar the said remainders or any of them or to alter the course of this my last will or any estate therein conveyed in any other sort or condition than they and every of them be now by me already limited and appointed, contrary to the very true intent and meaning of this my present last will, that then I will now as then and then as now that immediately from and after the concluding and agreeing so to aliene [sic], bargain, sell, levy fine, suffer recovery or any such act, and before that any such alienation, bargain, sale, fine, recovery or any other thing shall take any effect, that all manner of interests, rights, titles, remainders and estates which they or any of them so aliening or doing or suffering fine, recovery, discontinuance or suchlike should or might have or claim of, in or to any the said manors, lands, tenements, hereditaments and other the premises with the appurtenances or in any parcel thereof by virtue of this my said last will shall utterly cease, be void and be of none effect in the law, and that then and immediately after such concluding and agreeing so to do or suffer, the same premises shall remain to the next that shall stand in remainder to such offender, and that it shall be lawful for him, her or them which shall be so next in remainder to such as shall so alien, sell, levy fine, discontinue, suffer recovery or do any like act to enter into the premises with th' appurtenances as though he, she or they so offending contrary to the intent of this my will had died or were then dead without issue of his, her or their body or bodies, this present will or any clause, article, thing or matter therein contained to the contrary in any wise [f. 452v] notwithstanding, the same concluding and agreeing before specified to be judged only by the doing or sufferance of such discontinuance, bargain, sale, fine, recovery or suchlike act;

Provided also and I will that every one of my said sons and all and every one of them to whom any remainder, interest or estate is by me limited and appointed by this my last will, whensoever it shall fortune my said manors, lands, tenements or hereditaments to come to them or any of them according to this my said will, shall have free liberty and authority and it shall be lawful for them and every of them at all times and from time to time hereafter by their sufficient deed in the law sealed with their seals, subscribed or signed with their hands, to make lease or leases of the said manors, lands, tenements and other the premises or any parcel thereof to any person or persons, so that such leases so to be made be not without impeachment of waste and do not extend above the number of 21 years, and that there be also reserved upon every such lease the old accustomed rent or more, so much or more as hath been accustomedly used to be yielded and paid for the same within 20 years next before any such lease to be made, to continue during all the said term and terms, and that all and every such lease or leases made in manner and form aforesaid shall be good and effectual in the law to all intents, constructions and purposes against the lessor and his heirs for all the times and terms in them or any of them to be contained, this last will or any other matter, clause, sentence or article therein contained to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding;

Nevertheless I will that mine executors and the survivors or survivor of them shall receive and take the issues, rents, revenues and profits of my said lordships and manors of Bury Court and West Cliff alias Westcliff Court with salt-marshes, rents of assize and of the lands late Walter Tresse's with their appurtenances in Clyf in the said county of Kent, and also of the said manors or lordships of Radwinter and Bendishall and of all my said lands and tenements in Radwinter and Bendishall aforesaid or elsewhere in the said county of Essex, and of the said manors of Great Hoo and Little Hoo and of the hundred of Hoo and of all my lands and tenements with th' appurtenances within the said hundred of Hoo towards and for the true payment of all my debts and legacies and the performance of this my present last will and the payment of all and every such annual rents or annuities as I and my said son, Sir William Brooke, have by deed or deeds granted unto any of my said sons or servants;

And that my said executors and survivors shall retain the same profits, issues, rents & revenues from the time of my death until all my said debts and legacies shall be truly paid and performed, and after the full payment and performance of my debts and bequests, I will that my said executors or any of them shall not further intermeddle with the profits of the same manors, lands, tenements or premises, but the same to remain to my son, Sir William Brooke, in form aforementioned;

And I will that my said executors and the survivors or survivor of them shall yearly every year after my death between the feast of All Saints and the Birth of Our Lord Christ make a true account unto my said son, Sir William Brooke, of their receipts and payments, as well of the said manors and premises for the payment and performance of my debts and legacies in form aforesaid limited and appointed as also of all and singular my goods, chattels, debts and other movables which shall come to their hands, to the intent it may evidently appear from time to time how and at what time my debts and legacies will be

paid and performed, as I do therein put my full trust in them and as they will answer for it before God;

Also I will that if there arise any ambiguity or doubt in any word or sentence in this my last will and testament, that then the same ambiguity or doubt shall from time to time be declared and appointed by the King and Queen's Justices of the Common Pleas at Westminster [f. 453r] or by the more part of them for the time being, and that such exposition or declaration by them or the most part of them to be made shall be deemed and taken to [+be?] the true intent and meaning of my will and as though the same exposition in [sic?] declaration had been made & written in these presents in my lifetime;

In witness whereof to this my present testament and last will I have set my seal and hand, dated the day and years first above-written. George Cobham. William Cobham. Maurice Denice. John Kennall. Sigillat{um} et subscript{um} in presentia mei Iohannis Wigen, Scriptoris. Henrici Bier. William Webbe.

Sexto Die Mensis Decembris Anno Domini mill{es}imo quingentesimo sexagesimo emanavit Commissio Domino Will{el}mo Broke militi D{omi}no Cobham filio ac heredi supradicti d{omi}ni Georgij Broke D{omi}ni Cobham def{uncti} ad admi{ni}strand{um} bona ad viam intestati decedent{is} eo q{uo}d Executores nominati in testamento dict{i} defuncti oneri execuc{i}o{n}is dicti Testamenti etc expresse renuncia{ve}runt de bene etc in persona Will{el}mi Walker procuratoris sui

[=On the sixth day of the month of December in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixtieth a grant issued to Sir William Brooke, knight, Lord Cobham, son and heir of the abovesaid Sir George Brooke, Lord Cobham, deceased, to administer the goods by way of an intestacy by reason that the executors named in the testament of the said deceased expressly renounced the burden of the execution of the said testament etc., [+sworn] to well etc. in the person of William Walker, his proctor.]