

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 17 December 1559 and proved 31 July 1561, of Sir Edward Greville (d. 24 December 1559), grandfather of Sir Edward Greville (1565-c.1628) mentioned, with William Shakespeare of Stratford, in Abraham Sturley's letter to Richard Quiney dated 4 November 1598 (see SBTRO BRU 15/1/136). For Sir Edward Greville (1565-c.1628), see Whitfield, *infra*; and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/greville-edward-1622>

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator was the great-grandson of John Greville (d. before 21 April 1507), esquire, and Jane Forster, the daughter of Sir Humphrey Forster of Harpsden by Henley, Oxfordshire. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 268. See also:

<http://www.berkshirehistory.com/gentry/1566/forster.html>

The testator was the grandson of Sir Edward Greville (d. 22 June 1528) and Anne Denton, the daughter of John Denton. See the will of Sir Edward Greville (d. 22 June 1528), TNA PROB 11/23/20, and Richardson, *supra*, p. 268.

The testator was the son of Sir John Greville (d. 25 November 1547) by his first wife, Elizabeth Spencer, the daughter of John Spencer (d. 4 January 1497) of Hodnell, Warwickshire. For the will of John Spencer, see TNA PROB 11/11/147. For Sir John Greville, see his will, TNA PROB 11/32/252, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/greville-john-1492-1547>

As noted in the will below, the testator had a sister, Isabel Meysey, for whom see the will of the testator's father, *supra*.

For the testator's family background, see also the Greville pedigree in Fetherston, John, ed., *The Visitation of the County of Warwick in the Year 1619*, (London: Harleian Society, 1877), Vol. XII, pp. 28-9 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationcount01britgoog#page/n52/mode/2up>

See also the Greville pedigree in Lipscomb, George, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Buckingham*, (London: J. & W. Robins, 1847), Vol. I, p. 268 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=taAgAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA268>

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married Margaret Willington, one of the seven daughters and coheirs of William Willington of Barcheston (near Shipton-on-Stour), Warwickshire. Margaret's sister, Mary Willington, married William Sheldon (d. 24 December 1570) of Beoley, one of whose granddaughters married Oxford's brother-in-law, Francis Trentham, and another of whose granddaughters married the brother of Thomas Russell, overseer of the will of William Shakespeare of Stratford. For the will of William Willington, proved 14 November 1559, see TNA PROB 11/42B/642.

By Margaret Willington, according to the will below, the testator had three sons and two daughters:

* **Lodowick Greville** (d.1589), eldest son and heir. He married Thomasine Petre, daughter of Sir William Petre (1505/6–1572) of Ingatestone Hall, Essex, by his second wife, Anne (nee Browne) Tyrrell Petre, at St Botolph's, Aldersgate, on 10 February 1560. For Sir William Petre, see the *ODNB* entry. For Anne (nee Browne) Tyrrell Petre, see her will, TNA PROB 11/64/163.

Lodowick Greville and Thomasine Petre resided at Ingatestone Hall after the marriage, and eight of their children were baptized there from 1563 to 1577: William Greville (1563), Sir Edward Greville (January 1565), Anne (1566), John Greville (1567), Margaret Greville (1569), Charles Greville (1572), Peter Greville (1574) and Valentine Greville (1577). See Whitfield, *supra*, p. 82.

Lady Katherine Grey stood godmother to Lodowick's second son, Sir Edward Greville (1565-c.1628), who, according to an unsubstantiated story became Lodowick's heir when he shot an arrow into the air and accidentally killed his elder brother, William Greville. See Whitfield, *supra*, pp. 82-3.

The testator's eldest son and heir, Lodowick Greville, was pressed to death on 14 November 1589 as an accomplice to two murders. See Emmison, F.G., *Tudor Secretary; Sir William Petre at Court and Home*, (London: Longmans, 1961), p. 287; and Greer, Germaine, *Shakespeare's Wife*, (Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 2008), at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=WF6OsgytwzQC&pg=PT205>

For the marriage of Lodowick Greville and Thomasine Petre, see also ERO D/DP F1 at:

http://seax.essexcc.gov.uk/result_details.aspx?ThisRecordsOffset=1&id=325216

Only two of the children of Lodowick Greville and Thomasine Petre married. In 1583 Sir Edward Greville (1565-c.1628) married Jane Bromley, the daughter of the Lord Chancellor, Thomas Bromley (c.1530-1587), by whom he had seven daughters and a son,

John Greville, who died unmarried in his father's lifetime. See Whitfield, *supra*, p. 83. Margaret Greville (b.1569) married Thomas Bushell, by whom she had a daughter, Elizabeth Bushell. Margaret's Greville's husband, Thomas Bushell, is the 'Mr Bushell' mentioned as a surety in Richard Quiney's letter to William Shakespeare of Stratford, *supra*. With the death of their brother, Charles Greville, on 6 February 1634, the senior Greville male line came to an end. See:

<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/GEN-MEDIEVAL/2015-01/1420676061>

* **John Greville.**

* **William Greville.**

* **Anne Greville**, who married firstly Edward Mytton (d. 28 March 1568), son of Richard Mytton (d. 28 November 1591), and secondly Maurice Wynn, esquire

* **Elizabeth Greville** (d. 11 March 1572), who married Thomas Mytton (buried 16 October 1610), son of Richard Mytton (d. 28 November 1591). See the will of Edward Mytton, dated 3 March 1568, TNA PROB 11/51/47; Whitfield, Christopher, 'Sir Edward Greville III, of Milcote', *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*, 1965, Vol. 84, pp. 82-100, available in pdf format online; and Crisp, Frederick Arthur, *Visitation of England and Wales*, Vol. 13, 1919, pp. 1-2 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=m-zx7FWMnRQC&pg=PP7>

According to Whitfield, *supra*, p. 86, by 1595 the testator's grandson, Richard Mytton, with living with Sir Edward Greville (1525-c.1628) as his servant. He may have been the 'Mr Mytton' mentioned in Richard Quiney's letter to William Shakespeare of Stratford, *supra*, as Whitfield states that a Richard Mytton 'stood surety for the First Fruits of Sezincote' and is 'often mentioned in connection with Greville's affairs, together with Peter Roswell of Welcombe'.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

The testator appoints as overseers his 'loving friends John Throckmorton, esquire, Thomas Underhill and Edward Graunt, gentleman'.

The testator's overseer, John Throckmorton, appears to have been Sir John Throckmorton (c.1520 – 22 May 1580) of Feckenham, Worcestershire, the son of Sir George Throckmorton. See the will of Sir George Throckmorton (c.1489-1552), TNA PROB 11/36/298; the will of Sir John Throckmorton, TNA PROB 11/62/552; and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/throckmorton-john-i-1520-80>

The testator's overseer, Thomas Underhill (c.1517-1603) was of Ettington, Warwickshire, and was a first cousin of Edward Underhill, the 'Hot Gospeller' (Queen Jane Grey stood godmother to the Hot Gospeller's son, Guildford Underhill, and as noted above, Lady Katherine Grey stood godmother to the testator's grandson). Thomas Underhill married Elizabeth Congreve. According to Bellew:

The Pedigree I have given shows that the Underhills came originally from Wolverhampton. They settled at Eatington in the first year of the reign of Henry VIII., owing to John Underhill marrying for his second wife one Agnes Porter, of Eatington. this John obtained a lease for 80 years of the manor of Eatington, from Sir Ralph Shirley, Knight. This was an amorous knight, who married in succession four wives, -- the last in the year 1514. This lady, a daughter of Sir Robert Sheffield, bore him a son, Francis, who was left fatherless in the first year of his life – January, 1517. Being very much his own master, before he was of age this foolish youth married a widow, the relict of Sir [sic] John Congreve, of Stretton, county Stafford, and likewise the daughter of his guardian, Sir John Giffard. The widow Congreve brought with her to her young husband's home two daughters by her late spouse, Elizabeth and Ursula Congreve.

By turning to the Underhill Pedigree, it will be seen that the two sons of Edward Underhill, of Eatington, eventually married these two young ladies, and the reader will not be surprised to hear what followed.

By a lease, dated April 28, 1541, the above-named Francis Shirley was induced to grant the whole of his ancient Warwickshire property, except the right of presentation to the church of Nether Eatington, to Edward Underhill and his eldest son, Thomas, for a term of 100 years. This lease was the cause of much unpleasantness and a long series of lawsuits, which were not finally determined until the year 1652. The Underhills were accused of having obtained this valuable lease of the Shirleys' lands by the procurement of the mother of the young ladies, Dorothy Congreve, who had married Francis Shirley.

See Bellew, J.C.M., *Shakespeare's Home at New Place, Stratford-Upon-Avon*, (London: Virtue Brothers and Co., 1863), pp. 353-4 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=psIjAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA353>

As noted above, Thomas Underhill's younger brother, William Underhill (c.1523 – 31 March 1570), married Elizabeth Congreve's younger sister, Ursula Congreve (d. 13 May 1561), by whom he was the father of a son, William Underhill (d.1597), and four daughters. After Ursula's Congreve's death, William Underhill (c.1523 – 31 March 1570) married secondly Dorothy Hatton (d.1569), widow of Richard Newport of Hunningham, Warwickshire, and sister of Queen Elizabeth's favourite, Sir Christopher Hatton. In 1567 William Underhill (c.1523 – 31 March 1570) purchased New Place, the second-largest dwelling in Stratford upon Avon, and in 1567 or 1568 also purchased the manor of Idlicote from the testator's son, Lodowick Greville. After William Underhill's death in 1570, the wardship of his son, William Underhill (d.1597), was purchased by Sir

Christopher Hatton. In Easter term 1597, William Underhill (d.1597) sold New Place to William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon. See the will of John Newport (d.1566), TNA PROB 11/48/466; the will of Dorothy (nee Hatton) Newport Underhill, TNA PROB 11/52/36; the will of William Underhill (c.1523 – 31 March 1570), TNA PROB 11/52/126; and the will of William Underhill (d.1597), TNA PROB 11/90/176.

For the testator's overseer, Thomas Underhill, see also the pedigree in Underhill, Arthur, *The Staffordshire Underhills in England*, available online; the pedigree in Fetherston, *supra*, p. 31, and the Wikipedia article on Hercules Underhill created by the author of this website:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hercules_Underhill

For Sir Ralph Shirley (d. 6 January 1517), see Shirley, Evelyn Philip, *Stemmata Shirleiana*, pp. 58-60 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/cu31924029787250#page/n81/mode/2up>

For Francis Shirley and his wife, Dorothy Gifford, daughter of Sir John Giffard, see Shirley, *supra*, pp. 62-4 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/cu31924029787250#page/n85/mode/2up>

The testator's overseer, Edward Graunt, appears to be Edward Grant of Snitterfield, Warwickshire, gentleman, who was appointed overseer of the will of his cousin, Isabel (nee Graunt) Spencer (d. 1558). For her will, see TNA PROB 11/40/348.

For the testator's brass in the church of All Saints at Weston-on-Avon, see *Warwick Castle and its Earls*, (London: Hutchinson & Co., 1903), Vol. II, p. 609 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/warwickcastleits02warw#page/608/mode/2up>

For the testator's manor in Welford-on-Avon, Gloucestershire (now Warwickshire) see:

'Parishes: Welford-on-Avon', in *A History of the County of Warwick: Volume 5, Kington Hundred*, ed. L F Salzman (London, 1949), pp. 189-193 <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/warks/vol5/pp189-193> [accessed 10 November 2015].

The testator was knighted 2 October 1553. See Shaw, William A., *The Knights of England*, (London: Sherratt and Hughes, 1906), Vol. II, p. 68 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/knightsofengland02shawuoft#page/n77/mode/2up>

LM: T{estamentum} Edwardi Grevell

In dei nomine Amen. Forasmuch as nothing is more certain to man that [sic] death, nor anyt[h]ing more uncertain than the time thereof, know ye me, Edward Greville of Milcote in the county of Warwick, knight, sick in body and of perfect remembrance, thanked be God, to have made and declared and by these presents do make and declare this my present testament and last will as well of my manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments within the realm of England as of all my goods and chattels real and personal whatsoever in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God, and will my body to be buried in the parish church of Weston Wick Maior;

The order and charges of my funerals I refer to the discretion of mine executors;

And I give and bequeath to every of my servants one year's wages and a black coat;

And where my well-beloved wife, Dame Margaret Greville, hath one state and interest of and in the manor of Meyne in the county of Gloucester in the name of her jointure, and is also entitled to the third part of all my manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever for her dower, and where also she hath a joint estate with me of and in the manor of Welford in the said county of Gloucester of the gift of William Willington, esquire, her father, deceased, I will bequeath, devise and give unto my said wife in full recompense and satisfaction of her said joi[n]ture and dower and of her estate, right, title and interest in Welford aforesaid all that my manor of Sezincote with th' appurtenances in the said county of Gloucester, and all my lands, tenements and other hereditaments in Sezincote aforesaid, together with all my stock of cattle and other stuff and goods now being within the said manor and other the premises in Sezincote aforesaid or in any part or parcel thereof, and 2 hundred marks of current money of England in recompense of all my household stuff, goods and cattle being at Milcote aforesaid, which I will she shall leave to Lodowick, my son, and she not to meddle with any part thereof except her own apparel and her jewels, which I give her;

To have and to hold the said manor and other the premises in Sezincote aforesaid to my said wife for term of her life and the said stock of cattle, stuff and goods in Sezincote aforesaid and 2 hundred marks in ready money with her apparel and jewels to her own proper use, upon condition that she within one month next after my death shall by her writing sufficient in the law grant, release or otherwise assure unto Lodowick Greville, my son and heir apparent, and to his heirs forever all such estate, right, title, interest, possession, term and demand which she hath or in any wise ought to have of, in or to the said manor of Meyne and Welford or any of them, or of, in or to any other my manors, lands, tenements or hereditaments whatsoever or any parcel thereof other than the said manor and premises in Sezincote aforesaid by colour of jointure, dower or other assurance, and shall further do and suffer to be done within one whole year next after my death all such further reasonable act and acts, thing and things as shall be devised or advised by the learned counsel of the said Lodowick or his heirs for the farther and better

assurance of the premises in manner and form aforesaid at the costs and charges in the law of the said Lodowick;

And in consideration thereof I will that the said Lodowick and his heirs shall from time to time during the space of one year next after my death do and suffer to be done all and every such reasonable act and acts, thing and things as shall be devised or advised by the counsel learned of my said wife for her better assurance of the said manor and other the premises in Sezincote aforesaid for term of her life in manner and form aforesaid at the costs and charges in the law of the same Dame Margaret, my wife;

And further I will that the said Lodowick shall within 3(?) months next after my death perform, execute and accomplish all such covenants, grants and agreements as on my part are to be observed, performed and fulfilled comprised, specified and declared in one pair of indentures bearing date the 26 day of May annis quarto et quinto Phillippi et Marie [=26 May 1558] made between Sir William Petre, knight, of the one party, and me, the said Sir Edward, of the other part, for and concerning a marriage to be had and solemnized between the said Lodowick, my son, and Thomasine Petre, one of the daughters of the said Sir William Petre, according to the true intent and meaning of the said indentures;

And also I give and bequeath to my said wife all the plate which was the said William Willington's, her father's, to her own proper use freely forever;

And further I will that my executors shall receive, perceive and take all the issues, rents, revenues and profits of my said manor of Meyne and of all my lands, tenement and hereditaments in Mean aforesaid together with the stock there for and during the term of 12 years next after my death for and towards the performance of this my last will and testament and the help and advancement of John Greville and William Greville, my younger sons, whom I will mine executors shall keep and bring up in virtue and learning until they be of the full age of 24 years, finding them all things necessary meet for their degree;

And by that time they shall accomplish the full age of 24 years, I will that mine executors shall purchase for either of them lands, tenements or hereditaments of the clear yearly value of £50 discharged of all charges and encumbrances, and the same lawfully to assure to either of them and their heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten to their own proper uses without condition at such time as either of them shall accomplish the full age of 24 years unless my said executors do in the meantime advance them to as much yearly living of estate of inheritance by marriages or otherwise;

And if mine executors do not assure to either of my said younger sons lands, tenements or other hereditaments of the said yearly value of fifty pounds nor otherwise advance them to as much yearly living in manner and form aforesaid, then I will that mine executors shall pay to either of them at their said age of 24 years one thousand pounds of current money of England which I give and bequeath to either of them freely to their own uses for their preferment and relief;

And if my said wife refuse to assure, give and release all her estate, right, title, interest and term which she hath in Meene, Welford or any other my manors, lands, tenements or hereditaments whatsoever except Sezincote aforesaid to my said son, Lodowick, according as before is appointed, by reason whereof th' estate made to her of Sezincote shall be then void and determined and th' appointment of the issues and profits of Meene for the term of 12 years next after my death to the performance of this my will shall be also then of no force in the law, then I will and devise that all the issues, rents, revenues and profits of the manor of Sezincote and of all other the premises in Sezincote aforesaid with the stock there and all other legacies before appointed and given to my said wife upon condition afore rehearsed shall be wholly con[v]erted(?), received and employed by my said executors for th' advancement and preferment of my said younger sons until they and either of them be advanced to one thousand pounds apiece in money or to lands of the clear yearly value of £50 as is before appointed;

And also I give, devise and bequeath to Isabel Meysey, my sister, one annuity or yearly rentcharge of £6 13s 4d going out of all my manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments except the said manors of Sezincote and Meene to have to her and to her assigns for term of her life;

And further I give and bequeath to Edward Mytton, my son-in-law, and to Anne, his wife, two hundred pounds of current money of England, and to Thomas Mytton and to Elizabeth, his wife, other 2 hundred pounds of like money, to be paid to them by mine executors within 2 years next after my death;

Also I give and bequeath to my said son, Lodowick, all my household stuff, plate, jewels and other goods in Milcote except the apparel and jewels before given to my said wife;

And after my debts and legacies paid and this my will fully performed, I will that all my whole stocks of cattle in all places except Sezincote and all my other goods, chattels and debts except such as be by this my will disposed shall wholly remain to my said son, Lodowick, to whom I freely give the same to his own use;

And for th' execution of this my last will I constitute, ordain and make the right honourable and my dear friend, Sir William Petre, knight, one of the Queen's Majesty's most honourable Privy Council, the said Dame Margaret Greville, my wife, and the said Lodowick Greville, my son, mine executors in manner and form and upon conditions hereafter ensuing, that is to say, that the said Sir William Petre before he shall enter into the probate of this my will or take upon him to do anything as mine executor shall enter into band in the sum of one thousand marks to my said wife and son, Lodowick, to execute, perform and accomplish all such covenants, grants, articles, payments and agreements comprised, specified and declared in the said indentures between him and me which on his part are to be performed and kept, and that my said wife before she shall enter into the probate of this my will or take upon her to do anything as mine executor shall enter into band in the sum of one thousand marks to the said Sir William Petre and Lodowick, my son, to release her jointure and dower and all her right in Welford and all

other my lands, tenements and hereditaments except Sezincote aforesaid according to the true intent and meaning of this my will, and that my said son, Lodowick, before he shall enter into the probate of this my will or take upon him to do anything as mine executor shall enter into band in the like sum of one thousand marks to the said Sir William Petre and to my said wife to execute, perform and accomplish this my said will and all such covenants, grants, articles and agreements comprised, specified and declared in the said indentures which on the part or behalf of me, the said Sir Edward, my heirs or executors, are to be performed and kept, and such and so many of them as shall refuse to enter into the said bonds I revoke to be any of mine executors or to take any benefit of any legacy to them or any of them given by this my last will, and will the others to take upon them the execution thereof;

And I give and bequeath to the said Sir William Petre for his pains to be taken herein £20 in money and a gelding;

And I will and ordain that my loving friends John Throckmorton, esquire, Thomas Underhill and Edward Graunt, gentleman, shall be mine overseers of this my will, and I give and bequeath to every of them £10 in money and a gelding;

And in witness that this is and shall be taken and reputed to be my last will and testament and all others heretofore made to be from henceforth revoked and annihilated, I, the said Sir Edward, have to this my will containing six sheets of paper subscribed my name and set my seal the 17 day of December in the second year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth etc. 1559 in the presence of these persons hereunder written: John Throckmorton, E[d]ward Greville.

Probatum fuit h{uius}mo{d}i Testamentum coram Mag{ist}ro Waltero Haddon legum Doctore Curie Prerogative Cant{uariensis} Comissario apud London vltimo die Mensis Iulij Anno Domini mill{es}imo quingentesimo sexagesimo primo Iuramento Lodevici Grevell executoris in h{uius}mo{d}i Testamento nominat{i} Cui comissa fuit administrac{i}o etc de bene etc Ac de pleno Inventario Necnon de vero et plano computo Reddend{o} Ad sancta Dei Evangelia Iurat{o} Res{er}uata potestate &c Will{el}mo Peter Milliti et Domine Margarete Grevell eius Relicte executoribus etiam cum venerint etc

[=The same will was proved before Master Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the last day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixty-first by the oath of Lodowick Greville, executor named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., and [+to exhibit] a full inventory and also to render a plain and true account, with power reserved etc. to William Petre, knight, and Dame Margaret Greville, relict of the same, also executors, when they shall have come etc.]