

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 20 March 1564, together with a codicil dated 30 December 1564, proved 23 February 1565, of Edward North (c.1504-1564), 1st Baron North.

Testator's connection to Arden of Feversham

According to the *ODNB*:

In 1551 the testator approved the execution of his stepdaughter Alice, née Brigandine, for the murder of her husband, North's former assistant clerk of the parliaments, Thomas Arden.

The anonymous play based on the murder, *Arden of Feversham*, entered on the Stationers' Register on 3 April 1592, is thought to have been written by Shakespeare. The source of the identification of Alice Arden as the testator's stepdaughter is the Wardmote Book of Faversham:

[Thomas Arden] was heinously murdered in his own parlour, about seven of the clock in the night, by one Thomas Morsby, a taylor of London, late servant to sir Edward North, knight, chancellor of the augmentations, father-in-law [=stepfather] unto Alice Arden, wife of the said Thomas Arden.

See Bayne, Ronald, ed., *Arden of Feversham*, (London: J.M. Dent and Co., 1897), p. vi at:

<https://archive.org/stream/ardenoffeversham00bayn#page/n11/mode/2up>

According to Moore and other sources, Alice Brigandine's father was a 'navy captain'. However *quare* whether Moore has confused Alice's father, John Brigandine, with Robert Brigandine, Clerk of the Ships under Henry VII and Henry VIII. See Moore, James, *The Tudor Murder Files*, (Barnsley: Pen And Sword History, 2016), p. 73 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=dyVDDQAAQBAJ&pg=PA73>

According to other sources, Alice's maiden name was Mirfyn, not Brigandine. See Jones, Jennifer, *Medea's Daughters*, (Columbus: The Ohio State University Press, 2003), p. 4 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=FNorKKzWdDEC&pg=PA4>

However this statement is contradicted by the will of Edward Mirfyn, dated 3 March 1527 and proved 11 May 1528, TNA PROB 11/22/480:

Item, I bequeath unto Alice Brygandyn, my wife's daughter, toward her marriage, she living to her lawful age to be married, £20.

Testator's connection to the Blackfriars

The testator's family had connections to the property in the Blackfriars purchased by Cuthbert and Richard Burbage (see the will of Henry Poole (c.1526 – 29 March 1580), TNA PROB 11/62/182, and to the master of fence in the Blackfriars, Rocco Bonetti (see below).

Testator's connection to Oxford

The testator's son-in-law, Henry Scrope (d. 13 June 1592), 9th Baron Scrope, married secondly Oxford's first cousin, Margaret Howard (baptized 30 January 1543, d. 17 March 1591), the daughter of Henry Howard (1516-1554), the poet Earl of Surrey, by Oxford's aunt, Frances de Vere (d.1577).

The testator's niece, Jane Wilkinson (d.1571), married, as his first wife, Michael Lok (c.1532–1620x22), who persuaded Oxford to invest heavily in Martin Frobisher's third expedition in search of a route to Cathay (see below).

Testator's connection to George North

According to a recently published book, George North was living at the North family manor of Kirtling in 1576 when he wrote a manuscript treatise which is said to have served as a source for Shakespeare's plays, and which was dedicated to the testator's son, Sir Roger North. See McCarthy, Dennis and June Schlueter, "*A Brief Discourse of Rebellion and Rebels*" by George North; *A Newly Uncovered Manuscript Source of Shakespeare's Plays*, (Boydell & Brewer, 2018) at:

<https://boydellandbrewer.com/quot-a-brief-discourse-of-rebellion-and-rebels-quot-by-george-north-hb.html>

See also:

<https://www.folger.edu/shakespeare-unlimited/george-north-manuscript>

From the *ODNB* entry for George North:

North was dispatched to Princess Cecilia of Sweden in February 1564, but their amicable relationship soured after various monetary dealings, and Cecilia later wrote to Elizabeth calling North 'a wicked man'. An angry lady-in-waiting to Cecilia claimed that when in Sweden North masqueraded as 'a fine gentleman' (he describes himself as 'gentleman' on the title-pages of his books), yet when the Swedish entourage reached

England he proved to be 'a tailor's son in London' (corroborative evidence for this is unavailable; see Swann).

The evidence of Prince Cecilia's lady-in-waiting that George North was 'a tailor's son in London' suggests that George North was the testator's brother. The testator's father, Roger North (d.1509) is described in the pedigrees as a 'haberdasher', but the source of that description is unclear since he does not describe himself as a haberdasher in his will (see TNA PROB 11/16/7). Moreover the professions of haberdasher and Merchant Taylor were related, and it may be that in describing George North as a 'tailor's son in London', the lady-in-waiting to Princess Cecilia actually confirms that George North was the son of Roger North (d.1509), and the brother of the testator, despite the fact that he is not mentioned in the testator's will.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Family of North of Walkeringham

For a pedigree of the family of North of Walkeringham, see Marshall, George William, ed., *The Visitations of the County of Nottingham in the Years 1569 and 1614*, (London: Harleian Society, 1861), Vol. IV, pp. 82-3 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=2_JMAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA82

The pedigree is problematic in that an additional generation ('Thomas North of London, haberdasher' married to 'Christian, daughter of Richard Warcop of St Nicholas near Appleby in Kent') is inserted between the testator and the London haberdasher, Roger North (d.1509), who according to modern sources was the testator's father.

In favour of the possibility that there might be an element of truth to this aspect of the pedigree, and that the testator might not have been the son of Roger North (d.1509), it should be noted that the very brief will of Roger North (d.1509) makes no mention of any children, its sole provision being the appointment of his wife, Christian, as executrix.

For the present, however, the problem of the additional generation in the pedigree remains unresolved and, if modern sources are accepted, the testator's grandfather, Roger North of Walkeringham, had two sons:

-Thomas North of Walkeringham, Nottinghamshire, eldest son and heir.

- Roger North (d.1509), London haberdasher and father of the testator.

The testator's uncle, Thomas North of Walkeringham, had a son and heir, Roger North (d. 9 April 1557) of Walkeringham, who married Elizabeth Staunton, the daughter of Anthony Staunton of Staunton, by whom he had a son and heir, Edward North. For the inquisition post mortem taken after the death of the testator's first cousin, Roger North (d.

9 April 1557) of Walkeringham, see TNA C 142/108/85 and TNA E 150/765/10. For Anthony Staunton, see 'Nottinghamshire History: The Family of Staunton' at:

<http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/books/staunton1911/staunton6.htm>

Edward North, son of the testator's first cousin, Roger North (d. 9 April 1557) of Walkeringham, is included in an entail in the will below:

And after his decease, then to Edward North, esquire, cousin of the said Lord North, and son of one Roger North, esquire, late of Walkeringham in the county of Nottingham, deceased, for term of his life without impeachment of waste.

Edward North was under the age of 21 at his father's death, and became a ward. See the National Archives online catalogue entry for NRO WAL. 1462, 290X5, an indenture dated 24 April 1562 between the testator, Robert Staunton of Staunton, Nottinghamshire, and Arthur Wallpoule of Walkeringham, esquire, concerning the custody and wardship of Edward North, son of Roger North (d. 9 April 1557).

After the death of Roger North (d. 9 April 1557) of Walkeringham, his widow married, by May 1558, Hugh Thornhill (by 1525-58) of Saundby, Nottinghamshire. See the History of Parliament entry for Hugh Thornhill at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/thornhill-hugh-1525-58>

See also Bailey, Thomas, *Annals of Nottinghamshire*, Vol. II, (London: Simpkin, Marshall and Co., n.d.), p. 449 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=q8c9AAAACAAJ&pg=PA449>

Testator's parents

As noted above, according to modern sources the testator was the only son of Roger North (d.1509) and Christian Warcup, the daughter of Richard Warcup of Sinnington, Yorkshire. For the will of Roger North, see TNA PROB 11/16/7.

For a modern pedigree, see Burke, John and John Bernard Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Peerages of England, Ireland & Scotland, Extinct, Dormant, & in Abeyance*, 3rd ed., (London: Henry Colburn, 1846), p. 399 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=0alfAAAACAAJ&pg=PA399>

See also the *ODNB* entry for the testator, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/north-edward-1504-64>

Although Edward North's father Roger, a younger son, was settled in London at the time of his death, he had been born in Nottinghamshire where the less enterprising members of his family remained. Roger North made no mention of his three young children in the will which he made on 19 Nov. 1509 and which was proved 11 [sic] days later. Apart from two small bequests to the church of St. Michael in Quern, he left all his possessions [sic] to his wife Christian whom he appointed executrix. His only son Edward was sent to the newly founded St. Paul's school, where his contemporaries and friends included Anthony Denny, William Paget, Thomas Wriothesley and John Leland, who later addressed to North a 38-line Latin poem recalling their school-days together.

After the death of Roger North in 1509, the testator's mother, Christian Warcup, married secondly, as his first wife, Sir Ralph Warren (c.1483–1553), Lord Mayor of London in 1536 and 1544. For Sir Ralph Warren, see the *ODNB* entry, and his will, TNA PROB 11/36/217.

According to the History of Parliament, *supra*, the testator had two siblings, neither of whom, nor their children, are mentioned in the will below:

-Alice North, who married Thomas Burnet, esquire. See Burke, *supra*, and *The Peerage of England, Scotland and Ireland*, Vol. I, (London: W. Owen, 1790), p. 287 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=NFwBAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA287>

-Joan North (d.1556). For her will, dated 5 and 13 December 1556 and proved 23 June 1559, see TNA PROB 11/42B/326. She was in the household of Anne Boleyn as a silkwoman from 1533-1535. She became an exile in the reign of Queen Mary, and died at Frankfurt in 1556 at the house of her cousin, Cuthbert Warcup, a London mercer. From her will:

Also I do remit and clearly forgive the Lord North, my brother, so much as remaineth yet unpaid of that bill of two hundred pounds remaining in th' hands and custody of my cousin, William Holland.

She married the London mercer, William Wilkinson (1481-1543), by whom she had three daughters, Christian Wilkinson and Frances Wilkinson, both of whom predeceased her, and Jane Wilkinson (d.1571). Jane Wilkinson married, as his first wife, Michael Lok (c.1532–1620x22), who persuaded Oxford to invest heavily in Martin Frobisher's third expedition in search of a route to Cathay. See the *ODNB* entry for Michael Lok; TNA SP 12/126/34, ff. 65-6; and TNA SP 12/130/19, f. 138. See also the reference to Michael Lok in the will of Sir Thomas Mirfyn (d.1523) below.

Joan North Wilkinson and her husband were bequeathed rings in the will, TNA PROB 11/27/46, of the London mercer, Thomas Pakington (d.1536), together with Katherine

(nee Geddyng) Hall, mother of Edward Hall (1497-1547), whose Hall's *Chronicle* was a major source of Shakespeare's English history plays:

Item, I bequeath to every one of these hereafter following a ring, price 40s, that is to say, to . . . Mrs Wilkinson, Mrs Hall, Mr Wilkinson. . . .

See the *ODNB* entry for Joan North Wilkinson, and Sutton, Anne F., *The Mercery of London: Trade, Goods and People, 1130-1578*, (Aldershot, Hampshire: Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2005), pp. 392-4.

See also the entry for Joan North at:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=697

MARRIAGES AND CHILDREN

The testator married firstly Alice Squire (d.1560), the daughter of Oliver Squire (born c.1474) of Southby, Hampshire. She was the widow successively of John Brigandine of Southampton, and of Edward Mirfyn. From the *ODNB*:

About 1525 [North] was appointed counsel to the corporation of London (perhaps through the influence of his brother-in-law, the alderman William Wilkinson), and two years later he became a freeman of the Mercers' Company. North secured his economic and social status in 1528 by marrying Alice (d. 1560), daughter of Oliver Squire of Southby, Hampshire, and widow of the wealthy London merchant Edward Murfyn and of John Brigandine.

For Alice Squire's son, John Brigandine, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/brigandine-%28brykynden-brockenden%29-john-1523-63-or-later>

In the will below the testator bequeaths an annuity of £10 to his stepson, John Brigantine, and his wife, Katherine.

For Alice Squire's second husband, Edward Mirfyn, citizen and skinner of London, brother-in-law of Sir Andrew Judde (c.1492-1558), and son of Sir Thomas Mirfyn, Lord Mayor of London, and his wife, Alice, see his will dated 3 March 1527 and proved 11 May 1528, TNA PROB 11/22/480. See also the transcript of the will, TNA PROB 11/21/217, of Sir Thomas Mirfyn (d.1523), Lord Mayor of London, in which he leaves £10 to his sister, Agnes Mirfyn, the wife of Michael Lok, and £11 to Michael Lok, his sister's son, at:

<http://patp.us/genealogy/wills/thomasmerfyn.aspx>

From the *ODNB* entry for Sir Andrew Judde:

Judde married three times: first, in 1523, Mary, daughter of Sir Thomas Mirfyn, himself a skinner and lord mayor of London in 1518. . . . Three children survived from the first marriage, John, Richard, and Alice, who married Thomas Smythe (1522–1591) the customs official, and one daughter from the third, Martha, who married Robert Golding in Essex.

By Alice Squire, the testator had two sons (Roger North, 2nd Baron North, and the translator Sir Thomas North) and two daughters (Christian North and Mary North):

* **Roger North (1531-1600), 2nd Baron North**, for whom see his will, TNA PROB 11/97/26, the *ODNB* entry, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/north-roger-1531-1600>

For the will of Roger North, 2nd Baron North, see also *Collectanea Topographica & Genealogica*, Vol. VI, (London: John Bowyer Nicholas and Son, 1840), pp. 99-101 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=mycAAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA99>

Roger North, 2nd Baron North, married Winifred Rich (d. November 1578), the daughter of Richard Rich (1496/7-June 12, 1567), 1st Baron Rich. At the time of the marriage she is said to have been the widow of Sir Henry Dudley (1525-1544), although there is some doubt about this. See the entry for Winifred Rich at:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=705

By Winifred Rich, Roger North, 2nd Baron North, had three sons (see below) and one daughter, Mary North, about whom nothing further is known:

-**Thomas North**, who died in infancy.

-**Sir John North** (c.1551 – 5 June 1597), eldest surviving son and heir, for whom see his will, TNA PROB 11/90/25, the *ODNB* entry, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/north-john-1551-97>

Sir John North married, about 1580, Dorothy Dale (d.1618), the daughter of Sir Valentine Dale (c.1520-1589). For their four sons and two daughters, see the will of Sir John North, TNA PROB 11/90/25.

For letters dated 10 October, 6 November 1585, and 2 December 1585 and 27 January 1586 from Sir John North to Sir William More (d.1600) of Loseley on behalf of the

Italian fencing master, Rocco Bonetti (d.1587), requesting More to extend a lease in the Blackfriars which Bonetti had purchased from Oxford's servant, John Lyly, see Surrey History Centre LM/COR/3/382, LM/COR/3/383, LM/COR/3/387 and LM/COR/3/388.

-Sir Henry North (1556-1620), for whom see his will, TNA PROB 11/136/512, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/north-roger-1531-1600>

Sir Henry North married Mary Knyvet, the daughter and coheir of Richard Knyvet of Norfolk, by whom he had two sons (Roger North and Henry North) and three daughters living on 22 October 1600 (Elizabeth North, Mary North, and another daughter whose Christian name is unknown). For the children of Sir Henry North, see the will of his father, Roger North, 2nd Baron North, *supra*, and *Collectanea, supra*.

* **Sir Thomas North** (1535-1603?) translator of *Plutarch's Lives*. According to the *ODNB*, he married firstly Elizabeth Rich (nee Colville) of London, by whom he had a son, Edward North, and a daughter, Elizabeth North, who according to the will of her uncle, Roger North, 2nd Baron North, married a husband surnamed Stutvile, and secondly Judith Vesey, the daughter of Henry Vesey of Isleham, Cambridgeshire, and widow of Robert Bridgwater, by whom he had no issue.

* **Christian North** (b.1533), eldest daughter, who about 1549 married William Somerset (1526/7-1589), 3rd Earl of Worcester, eldest son of Henry Somerset (1495/6-1549), 2nd Earl of Worcester, by his second wife, Elizabeth Browne (c.1502-1565), the daughter of Sir Anthony Browne (d.1506), and sister of Sir Anthony Browne (c.1500-1548). The first wife of Henry Somerset, 2nd Earl of Worcester, whom he married by papal dispensation dated 15 June 1514, was Margaret Courtenay (d. before 15 April 1526), the daughter of William Courtenay (1475 - 9 June 1511), 1st Earl of Devon, by Katherine, the daughter of King Edward IV. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 180 and Vol. III, pp. 235-7, and entries for members of the Browne and Somerset families in the *ODNB*.

By William Somerset, 1st Earl of Worcester, Christian North was the mother of a son and two daughters:

-Edward Somerset (c.1550-1628), 4th Earl of Worcester, for whom see the *ODNB* entry. He married Elizabeth Hastings at Whitehall on the same day Oxford married Anne Cecil. See ERO D/DRg2/24:

Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxenford, did the 16th day of December 1571 anno xiiijto Regine Elizabethe marry the Lady his wife named Anne Cecil, one of the daughters of Sir William Cecil, knight, Lord of Burghley, at the court then being at Whitehall by Westminster. The same day, year and place the Lord Herbert, son and heir of the Earl of Worcester, did marry the Lady Hastings, sister to Henry, Earl of Huntingdon.

William Somerset, 3rd Earl of Worcester, is said to have married secondly Theophila Newton, a sister of Frances Newton, wife of William Brooke (1 November 1527 – 6 March 1597), 10th Baron Cobham, and daughter of John Newton (otherwise Cradock) of East Harptree, Somerset, by Margaret Poyntz, daughter of Sir Anthony Poyntz. *Quare*, however, whether this marriage took place. See McKeen, David, *A Memory of Honour*, (Salzburg: University of Salzburg, 1986), Vol. I, p. 142, and the entry for Theophila Newton at:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=697

-Elizabeth Somerset, who married Oxford's brother-in-law, William Windsor, said to have been the 'seventh and youngest son' of William Windsor, (1498-1558), 2nd Baron Windsor, by his first wife, Margaret Samborne. See the will of William Windsor, 2nd Baron Windsor, TNA PROB 11/42A/91; Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 180 and Vol. III, pp. 235-6; and *A Genealogical History of the Royal Families of England*, (London: R. Whitworth, 1753), p. 99 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=ZH76T_JZwu8C&pg=PA99

-Lucy Somerset, who married Henry Herbert, esquire.

* **Mary North** (buried 27 November 1558), second daughter, who married Henry Scrope (d. 13 June 1592), 9th Baron Scrope of Bolton by whom she had one child, Mary Scrope, mentioned in the will below, who married Sir William Bowes (d.1613) of Streatlam Castle, Durham.

After the death of Mary North, Henry Scrope, 9th Baron Scrope, married secondly Oxford's first cousin, Margaret Howard (baptized 30 January 1543, d. 17 March 1591), the daughter of Henry Howard (1516-1554), the poet Earl of Surrey, by Oxford's aunt, Frances de Vere (d.1577). See the will of George Carey (26 February 1548 - 8 September 1603), 2nd Baron Hunsdon, TNA PROB 11/102/245, and the History of Parliament entry for Thomas Scrope, 10th Baron Scrope of Bolton, at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/scrope-thomas-1567-1609>

Second marriage

The testator married secondly the thrice-widowed Margaret Butler (d. 2 June 1575). For the pedigree of Boteler of Biddenham, see Blaydes, Frederic Augustus, ed., *The Visitations of Bedfordshire, Annis Domini 1566, 1582, and 1634*, (London: Harleian Society, 1884), Vol. XIX, pp. vii, 6 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=HbwKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA6>

See also the will, dated 27 November 1528 and proved 11 February 1534, TNA PROB 11/25/123, of Sir William Butler, Lord Mayor of London in 1515, in which he states that Margaret Butler was his niece, i.e., the daughter of his brother, Richard Butler:

Item, I bequeath to Margaret, my brother Richard's daughter, 10 marks to her to be delivered within 2 years after my decease. [f. 63v]

Sir William Butler also leaves a bequest to the London clothworker, Andrew Fraunces (1495 – March 1543), who later became Margaret Butler's first husband;

Item, I bequeath to Andrew Fraunces a ring or [sic for 'of'] 40s and a black gown.

After the death of Andrew Fraunces, Margaret Butler married secondly, in 1544, the London alderman and mercer, Robert Chertsey (1498 – October 1555); and thirdly, in 1557, Sir David Broke (by 1491 – 1559/60), Chief Baron of the Exchequer, whose first wife was Katherine Brydges (d.1556), the daughter of Sir Giles Brydges of Coberley, widow of Leonard Poole (d. 30 September 1538) of Sapperton. For Katherine Brydges, see the will of Florence Brydges Morgan (d.1545), TNA PROB 11/30/367. It appears there was a further connection to the Brydges family in that Sir William Butler's son and heir, William Butler of Biddenham, married, as his first wife, Bridget Brydges, the daughter of Sir John Brydges, Lord Mayor of London. See the Butler pedigree in Blaydes, *supra*, p. 7 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=HbwKAAAYAAJ&pg=PA7>

For Andrew Fraunces, see his will, dated 22 January 1542 and proved 9 March 1543, TNA PROB 11/29/301, in which he bequeaths to his wife, Margaret:

. . . my lease of certain houses and waste ground lying in the nether end of Paris Garden belonging to the Bishop of Winchester during her life, and after her decease I bequeath the said lease and the residue of the years then to come in the same to William Johnson, haberdasher, and to Alice, his wife, during their lives, and after their decease to the children of the said Alice.

It is possible that there is a connection between this William Johnson and the William Johnson who was associated with William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon in the mortgage of the Blackfriars gatehouse in 1613. See Halliwell, James Orchard, *The Life of William Shakespeare*, (London: John Russell Smith, 1848), p. 252 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=OFcZAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA253&lpg=PA252>

For Robert Chertsey, see his will, TNA PROB 11/37/450, and the entries for Robert Chertsey and Margaret, Lady North, in Sutton, Anne F., *The Mercery of London: Trade, Goods and People, 1130-1578*, (Aldershot, Hampshire: Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2005), pp. 527-8, 544-5, 652.

For Sir David Broke, see his will, TNA PROB 11/43/91; the will of Sir William Morgan, TNA PROB 11/29/194; and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/broke-david-1491-155960>

Margaret Butler made her will as ‘Lady Margaret North of the Charterhouse near London, late wife of the right honourable Sir Edward North, knight, Lord of Kirtling in the county of Cambridge, deceased’, on 29 December 1574. See TNA PROB 11/57/602.

She appointed as executor ‘my well-beloved Robert Halton, gentleman’. On 13 September 1582, administration was granted to Robert Halton’s widow, Jane, described in the grant as Lady North’s next of kin.

According to the Halton pedigree, Jane was the daughter of John Drayner of Hoxton, Middlesex, and his wife, Elizabeth Butler, the daughter of (blank) Butler of Rydenham [sic for ‘Biddenham’?], Bedfordshire. See Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitation of the County of Lincoln in 1562-4*, (London: George Bell & Sons, 1881), p. 37 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofcoun00cook#page/n393/mode/2up/search>

In her will, Lady North leaves bequests to ‘my cousin, Elizabeth Drayner’ and her son, Thomas Drayner’, and to ‘my cousin, Jane Halton’ and her heirs, her tenement and tavern called the King’s Head.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

For the testator’s executor, Sir William Cordell (d.1581), see his will, TNA PROB 11/63/590. Sir William Cordell was one of five trustees appointed by Oxford in an indenture of 30 January 1575 prior to his departure on his continental tour. See ERO D/DRg2/25.

For the testator’s executor, Sir James Dyer (1510-1582), see the *ODNB* entry.

For the testator’s overseers, Oxford cousin, Thomas Howard, 4th Duke of Norfolk, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, and Sir William Petre, see the *ODNB* entries.

For Richard Alington of Westley, see ‘Landed Families of Britain and Ireland’ at:

<http://landedfamilies.blogspot.ca/2013/11/86-alington-of-horseheath-hall-and.html>

For the testator’s will, see also *Three Men of the Tudor Time*, p. 38 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/threemenoftudort00bushuoft#page/38/mode/2up/search/Thornton>

For the testator's will, see also Mayer, Thomas F. and Courtney B. Walters, *The Correspondence of Reginald Pole*, (Ashgate Publishing, 2008), Vol. 4, p. 384 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=7no2DwAAQBAJ&pg=PA384>

Testamentum Edwardi North militis Lord North

In the name of Almighty God the Father, the Son and the Holy [+Ghost?], three persons and one God, unto whom be all honour and glory, world without end, Amen. The twentieth day of March in the year of Our Lord God one thousand five hundred threescore and three, I, Edward North, knight, Lord North of Kirtling in the county of Cambridge, being of whole mind and perfect remembrance, thanks be given unto Almighty God, calling to mind the mutability and sudden chances of this transitory life and how suddenly men do slip from the same, considering also that death unto all living creatures is most certain although the time, hour and place thereof is most uncertain, do therefore by God's sufferance and grace make this present testament and last will in manner and form following, that is to wit:

First, I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God, my Maker, trusting that by the precious death and merits of his only Son, my Redeemer and Saviour, to have the fruition of everlasting life with our Blessed Lady, Saint Mary, Mother of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, virgin maculate, and all the holy company of heaven, my body to be buried at Kirtling aforesaid besides my well-beloved wife, deceased, as shall seem most meet to mine executors, th' interment whereof with the expenses about the same I do refer likewise wholly to the discretion of my said executors, requiring and instantly desiring them so to order it that the same may be to the glory of Almighty God and to the relief and comfort of the poor and needy people there and in the place where it shall please Almighty God that I shall end this transitory life;

[f. 49v] And now concerning the disposition of all my goods, chattels and debts which I have by the goodness, favour and grace of Almighty God attained unto:

First I do give and bequeath unto the Lady Margaret, my well-beloved wife, all those her own jewels and apparel together with all other jewels and apparel which I have given unto her since my marriage with her and before;

And likewise all her own household stuff and implements of house with the bedding and other utensils which she did bring unto me at and sithence the time of my marriage unto her and which she hath in her own custody and keeping (the great chain of fine gold which my wife did give me before my marriage with her and all plate and money only excepted), saving such as hereafter shall be particularly mentioned and declared;

And I do further give unto the said Lady Margaret all that stuff and implements of household and plate which are particularly hereafter mentioned and declared and written, that is to say:

Two basins and two ewers with their covers, the one all gilt and embossed, and the other basin with the ewer and cover parcel gilt; one round basin being parcel gilt; two pair of pottle pots, the one all gilt and the other parcel gilt; four salts with two covers, two whereof with one cover all gilt and the other two with the covers [sic?] parcel gilt; two standing cups with their covers all gilt; one Maudlin box with the cover all gilt; one great cup with the cover and a lion upon the top all gilt; three dozen of spoons, whereof one dozen all gilt and the other two dozen parcel gilt with the Apostles at the ends of them; two chafing-dishes of silver all white; two nests of bowls with two covers all gilt; one nest of bowls without covers parcel gilt; six silver jugs with covers all white; twelve ale pots with one cover all gilt, one grate and one pair of snuffers of silver all gilt;

Moreover I do give unto her in ready money to be by mine executors delivered into her hands as soon as they may prepare the same the sum of five hundred pounds;

Also I do give and bequeath unto my said wife all the leases of all the lands, tenements and other hereditaments lying in London, Southwark, Chertsey and elsewhere which I have in my disposition at the time of my death by reason of my marriage with her;

Item, I do give and bequeath unto my niece, Mary Scrope, daughter to the Lord Scrope and my daughter, his late wife, to be delivered unto her immediately after her marriage, so as the same be when she shall accomplish the age of sixteen years or after, if she shall so long live, by mine executors these parcels of plate and money hereafter following, viz., one basin and ewer with the cover parcel gilt; one standing cup with a cover all gilt; one ale pot with a cover all gilt; two spoons with flat knops at the ends of them all gilt; one dozen of spoons parcel gilt; the bedstead of walnut-tree standing in the chamber over the pastry in my house near London with the tester and counterpoint to the same of yellow and blue satin paned, with the bed of down to the same and the hangings of the said chamber; and in like wise in ready money to be delivered as is aforesaid by mine executors or one of them the sum of two hundred pounds;

Item, I do give and bequeath unto Sir Roger North, knight, my son, all the implements, utensils and household stuff, plate only excepted, remaining in my house at Kirtling in the charge and custody of Hugh Wood and of his wife by inventory indented;

I do likewise give and bequeath unto him all my armour remaining at London together with such furniture as there is for horsemen and footmen belonging thereunto, and also my hayle(?) and tent remaining there also in the charge and custody of John Waters;

Item, I do give unto John North, esquire, his son and heir apparent, these parcels of plate ensuing, viz., one basin and one ewer with a cover all gilt; two square salts with a cover all gilt; one standing cup with a cover all gilt; one nest of bowls with a cover all gilt; two

dozen of spoons parcel gilt; one dozen of silver plates parcel gilt; one round basin of silver white; one chafing-dish of silver white;

And the said Sir Roger, my son, to have the use and occupation of the premises during his natural life, putting in sufficient bonds to my executors to redeliver the same to the use of the said John North as is aforesaid at the time of his decease upon condition following, viz., that he shall permit and [f. 50r] suffer mine executors to have the use of my house at Kirtling and the stuff and implements therein during two months next ensuing my decease, within which time it shall be lawful for them to take and carry away such stuff and other things there remaining as are not given nor bequeathed here before;

And in case he do quietly permit and suffer my executors and every of them to use, take and perform all things mentioned and expressed in this my will and testament, that then my said executors shall pay for him into the Court of Wards and Liveries so much money as the whole value of his lands there in possession and reversion shall be justly, truly and indifferently taxed unto, to be paid at such days and times unto the Queen's Majesty's use as shall be stalled, limited and appointed by the Master of the Wards and Liveries for the time being, albeit my meaning and intent is not that my executors shall be burdened or charged to become sureties or bounden for the payment thereof, but my said son, Sir Roger, to be bound with such sureties as he shall procure and get for the same, and he to do all things therein for the benefit and commodity of him and of his heirs in such wise as though this present legacy and bequest had not been made or given at all;

And in case he do refuse so to do, then this my present bequest and legacy to him bequeathed and all other bequests of any goods given by any clause in this my present testament unto him to be utterly void and of none effect;

I do also give and bequeath unto my said son, Sir Roger, two of my best gowns of black velvet, the one faced with sables and the other faced with [-with] unshorn velvet having ten pair of square aglets of gold upon the sleeves of the same gown, and my Parliament robes, beseeching Almighty God most humbly to bless him and to give unto him his grace truly and faithfully to serve the Queen's Majesty and this realm, and to beware of pride and prodigal expenses, and to live with poor honesty and so to die, to the comfort of himself, wife and children and friends;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Edward, Lord Herbert, son and heir unto the right honourable William, Earl of Worcester, and of the Lady Christian, his wife, my daughter, twenty pounds in money by year to be paid by my executors half yearly unto him for and towards his finding so long as my Lord, his father, shall think meet and will keep him to follow his study at Cambridge, and not any longer, so it be not after his age of eighteen years;

I do also give and bequeath unto the said Edward, Lord Herbert, in ready money to be delivered unto him by mine executors at such time as he shall accomplish his full age of 21 years the sum of one hundred pounds, and the same money to be and remain in the custody of Mr Doctor Perne, Dean of Ely, until he shall accomplish his said age, putting

in good sureties to mine executors for the true answering of the same, and if he die before that age, then he to repay it unto mine executors;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the Lady Elizabeth and Lady Lucy, daughters of the said William, Earl of Worcester, and Lady Christian, to be delivered unto them by mine executors immediately after their marriages so as the same be when they shall accomplish the ages of sixteen years or after, if they shall so long live, to each of them the sum of one hundred pounds, and if it fortune any of them to die after their said ages of 16 and before marriage, then it wholly to be delivered to the survivor of them;

Item, I do give and bequeath unto Mary North, daughter unto the said Sir Roger North, my son, towards her marriage when she shall be married, so as she be not married before she shall accomplish the age of sixteen years, the sum of one hundred pounds to be paid by mine executors at that time and not before;

And I do give and bequeath likewise unto Edward North, the son and heir apparent of my son, Thomas North, esquire, when he shall accomplish the age of 21 years, the sum of one hundred pounds to be paid at that time by mine executors and not before;

Moreover I do give [f. 50v] and bequeath unto Elizabeth, daughter of the said Thomas North, towards her marriage when she shall be married, so as she be not married before she shall accomplish the age of 16 years, the sum of one hundred pounds to be paid by mine executors at that time and not before;

Item, I give and devise and bequeath unto my servant, Hugh Wood, and Mary, his wife, the demesne lands, tenements, hereditaments and all tithes and other profits and commodities belonging to the parsonage or rectory of Kirtling which he, the said Hugh, now already hath in lease for certain years not yet expired, to have and to hold the same unto the said Hugh and Mary and their assigns in as large and ample manner and form as he now hath and holdeth the same immediately from and after the expiration of the interest and term which he now hath in the same for and until 21 years be fully and wholly expired and ended, yielding such rents and other charges and duties as he now doth and performing such like covenants as been now contained in his indenture of lease;

And the reversion or residue of the term and years therein to come after the end of the said 21 years expired and ended and the rents reserved thereupon, together with the original indenture of lease thereof, I devise and bequeath in manner and form following, that is to say, unto the same Sir Roger North, knight, my son and heir apparent, for and during so many years thereof as the same Sir Roger shall fortune to live;

And after his decease then I will, devise and bequeath the same unto John North, esquire, son and heir apparent of the same Sir Roger, for and during so many years of the same term as he, the same John North, shall fortune to live;

And after his decease then unto the first-begotten son of the body of the same John North during such number of years of the same term as the same first-begotten son of the same John North shall fortune to live;

And after his decease then to such person and persons as next shall owe, have and enjoy the freehold of my mansion house of me, the said Lord North, at Kirtling aforesaid for and during so many of the years mentioned in the same term as he, the same person or persons, shall live;

And after that, then to such next person or persons as shall next after that owe, have and enjoy the freehold of the same house and to his executors forever;

Provided nevertheless that my said son, Sir Roger North, shall within one year next ensuing my decease put in good sureties unto mine executors which shall be bound in the sum of two hundred pounds to them that the same Sir Roger, at the time of the making of the same bond, hath not made nor at any time after shall make any alienation, forfeiture or surrender of the same lease and term of the parsonage aforesaid or any part thereof, or otherwise do any act whereby the same term or interest thereof shall or may be put away from the said John, the son of the said Sir Roger, or any of his sequel or other person or persons that shall have and enjoy the same mansion house after the decease of the same Sir Roger otherwise than by devise or lease at will or for years always determinable upon the death of the same Sir Roger, but that the same lease, interest and term shall and may continue and remain as an heirloom to and with the owners of the same house during all the term of years in the said original lease contained;

And provided also that the said Sir Roger North, John North, and every such other person and persons to whom the possession of the same term or lease of the rectory shall come by virtue of this my devise shall yearly content and pay unto Thomas Aderley, clerk, now vicar of Kirtling, during his life, if he shall so long continue vicar of the same church of Kirtling aforesaid, the sum of three pounds six shillings 8d at the feasts of [f. 51r] [-of] the Annunciation of Our Lady and Saint Michael the Archangel by even portions;

And I further give and devise unto the said vicar of Kirtling for a better remembrance of me, the said Lord North, the sum of forty shillings;

And of this my testament and last will I make, constitute and ordain my very friends, Sir William Cordell, knight, Master of the Rolls, and Sir James Dyer, knight, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, mine executors of the same last will;

And I most humbly require & desire the right honourable the Duke of Norfolk's Grace and my very good Lord, the Earl of Leicester, and my very loving and old assured friend, Sir William Petre, knight, to be supervisors of this my present testament and last will, most humbly and instantly desiring them that they will vouchsafe to be aiding & assisting unto my said executors in the due accomplishment and execution of this my testament and last will, for the which, besides the reward they shall have at Almighty God's hands, I do in signification of my goodwill and in some recompense of their pains to be taken

herein give unto the said Duke's Grace and to the said Earl of Leicester to every of them one piece of plate to the value of forty marks at least, and to the said Sir William Petre one piece of plate of the value of twenty pounds at the least;

Moreover as concerning the disposition of all such my manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments as it pleased Almighty God of his infinite goodness to endue and bless me withal either in possession or reversion of an estate of fee simple as been holden of the Queen's Majesty by knight's service *in capite* or otherwise by knight's service of her Majesty or of any others set, lying and being in the counties of Middlesex, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Huntingdon or elsewhere within the realm to th' intent a perfect stay may be thereof had, my mind therein observed(?), my wife, children, servants and friends provided for according to my said mind and intent, I, the said Edward, Lord North, do therefore ordain and make this my last will concerning my said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments in the places aforesaid which I at the time of my decease have or shall have in possession or reversion of an estate of fee simple in manner and form following, that is to say:

First and especially, considering my duty to my Sovereign Lady the Queen's Majesty as I am thereunto bound by the laws and statutes of this realm, I do leave and relinquish one whole and full third part of all my said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments holden of our Sovereign Lady the Queen's Majesty *in capite* by knight's service or otherwise of her Highness by knight's service set, lying and being in the counties of Middlesex, Cambridge, Suffolk and Huntingdon or elsewhere within the realm of England to descend and come to my son & heir apparent, Sir Roger North, knight, or in default of the same Sir Roger to other my heir apparent which shall be *in esse* or have being at the time of my decease to th' intent the said Queen's Majesty may thereof be satisfied of such wardship, premyes [=sic for 'primer'?] seisin, livery and other profits as to her Majesty appertaineth by the laws of this realm to have, requiring and heartily desiring that it will please them of her Highness' Court of Wards and Liveries and other her Majesty's officers of the same Court for the time being [f. 51v] to elect and choose the same full and whole third part and to divide and dissever the same from other the two parts residue by such order as to their wisdoms may seem best to stand with equity and the order of the realm and least to the prejudice or hindrance of this my present will and testament or of any other assurance by me heretofore made to the end my legacies and bequests of the other two parts may the better take place according to my said will & intent herein expressed;

And as touching the said two parts residue thereof, I, the same Edward, Lord North, do make such disposition and bequest thereof and of some part of the profits thereof and of the revenues of the same in manner and form as hereafter followeth, that is to say:

First I do give and bequeath the same residue and two parts remaining to my said son, Sir Roger North, and to his assigns for term of his life without impeachment of waste;

And after his decease then to John North, esquire, son and heir apparent of the same Sir Roger, for term of the life of the same John without impeachment of waste;

And after his decease then to the first-begotten son of the body of the same John North and to the heirs males of the body of the same first-begotten son lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to the second-begotten son of the body of the same John North lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to the third-begotten son of the body of the same John North lawfully begotten and to the heirs males of the body of the same third-begotten son lawfully begotten;

And so forth to the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth-begotten sons of the body of the same John North one after other successively and to the heirs males of their several bodies lawfully begotten orderly, one inheritance succeeding other as is afore limited to the first, second and third-begotten son of the body of the said John North;

And for default of such issue then to Henry North, esquire, second son of the body of the same Sir Roger North, for term of the life of the same Henry without impeachment of waste;

And after his decease then to the first-begotten son of the body of the same Henry lawfully begotten and to the heirs males of the body of the same first-begotten son lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to the second-begotten son of the body of the same Henry and to the heirs males of the body of the same second-begotten son lawfully begotten;

And so in order successively to the use of the third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth-begotten sons of the body of the same Henry lawfully begotten successively in order one after another and to the several heirs males of their several bodies lawfully begotten successively in order, one inheritance succeeding another in manner and form as is of the second and first-begotten sons of the body of the same Henry, one succeeding other before limited and appointed;

And for default of such issue to the third-begotten son of the body of the same Sir Roger lawfully begotten for term of life of the same third-begotten son without impeachment of waste;

And after his death to the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth-begotten sons of the body of the same third-begotten son of the body of the same Sir Roger North lawfully begotten successively in order one after another and to the several heirs males of their several bodies [f. 52r] lawfully begotten successively, one inheritance succeeding another in manner and form as it is of the sons of the same John North before limited and appointed;

And for default of such issue then to the fourth-begotten son of the body of the same Sir Roger lawfully begotten for term of the life of the same fourth-begotten son without impeachment of waste;

And after his decease to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and twelfth-begotten sons of the body of the same fourth-begotten son of the said Sir Roger successively in order, one succeeding other, and to the several heirs males of their several bodies lawfully begotten successively, one inheritance succeeding another in manner and form as is of the first, second and third sons of the body of the said John North lawfully begotten first limited and appointed;

And so forth in order unto the 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and twelfth-begotten sons of the body of the same Sir Roger lawfully begotten and to so many of their several sons of the several bodies lawfully begotten of such an estate for lives of themselves and to their assigns without impeachment of waste and of such estates of inheritance to their heirs males of their several bodies orderly and successively one after another in such order and form as is in all points limited and appointed to the third and fourth sons of the body of the same Sir Roger lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue then to Thomas North, esquire, second son of the same Edward, Lord North, and brother unto the said Sir Roger, for term of his life without impeachment of waste;

And after his decease then to Edward North, son and heir apparent of the same Thomas North, esquire, for term of his life without impeachment of waste;

And after his decease then to the use of the first, second, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12th-begotten sons of the body of the same Edward, the son of Thomas, lawfully begotten and of the heirs males of the several bodies lawfully begotten of such estates of inheritance in succession and in such order, manner and form as is to the sons of the body of the same John North first before limited and appointed;

And for default of such issue then to the 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12th-begotten sons of the body of the same Thomas North and of the heirs males of their several bodies lawfully begotten of such estates for lives unto themselves and their assigns without impeachment of waste and of such estates of inheritance after to their several heirs males of their several bodies begotten orderly one after another in such sort, manner, order and form to all respects and purposes as is before limited to the sons and issues males of the body of the said Sir Roger North lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue then to the Lady Christian, Countess of Worcester, daughter of the said Lord North, for term of her life without impeachment of waste;

And after her decease then to the use of Edward, Lord Herbert, son and heir apparent of William, Earl of Worcester, and of the said Christian, his wife, for term of the life of the said Lord Herbert without impeachment of waste;

And after his decease, then to Edward North, esquire, cousin of the said Lord North, and son of one Roger North, esquire, late of Walkeringham in the county of Nottingham, deceased, for term of his life without impeachment of waste;

And after his decease, then to the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth-begotten sons of the body of the same Edward, son of the said Roger North of Walkeringham, lawfully begotten and to the several heirs males of their several bodies lawfully begotten successively and orderly one inheritance succeeding other in manner and form as is before limited unto the sons of the said Sir Roger North;

And for default of such issue then to the right heirs of the same Edward, son of the said Roger North of Walkeringham, forever;

Provided always and my will and intent is that if it fortune hereafter the same Sir Roger North, [f. 52v] knight, or any other by his mean or procurement by any ways or means to infringe, subvert, defeat, annul or avoid this my last will and testament in part or in the whole or in any article, clause, legacy or bequest in this my said last will and testament contained, or otherwise to hinder, defeat or evict any person or persons of or in any gift or bequest thereof or of any lands, tenements or hereditaments or any annuities, fees or profits or of any goods or chattels, plate, jewels or ready money or other commodities or profits in the same will and testament given, bequeathed, disposed, contained or mentioned, or of any annuities or fees heretofore granted by me or after the date hereof by me to be given and granted at any time under my hand and seal to any person or persons touching the quiet possession, occupation, enjoying or seisin of the same according to th' intent of the same will and testament to be possessed, occupied, owned or enjoyed;

Or if it chance the same Sir Roger or any by his means hereafter earnestly, effectually and advisedly to intend and go about or by any overt and apparent act, deed or devise practise or put in ure to do or cause to be done or willingly, purposely and wittingly to permit or suffer or consent unto any act or acts, thing or things to be done or wrought to th' intent to frustrate, destroy or annihilate in part or in the whole any estate or estates, assurance or assurances of the lands, tenements and hereditaments by me lately assured unto Sir William Petre, knight, and other his co-feoffees, their heirs and assigns, to certain uses, or otherwise conveyed or hereafter to be conveyed in performance of covenants comprised in certain indentures between the right honourable Lord Rich on the one party and me, the said Lord North, of the other party dated the (blank), or otherwise any other legacy, bequest, assurance or conveyance in this my will and testament or either of them limited and specified, or to encumber or charge any the said manors, lands, tenements or hereditaments or any part thereof otherwise than of encumbrances and charges for term of his own life wherein(?) no estate of freehold shall be made, conveyed or created, or to alter or change any the said estates or assurances to the said Sir William Petre and his co-feoffees and their heirs made or conveyed or any of the uses thereof in certain indentures between me, the said Edward, Lord North, and the said Sir William

Petre and other had and made, or the estates and assurances in the indentures of the said Lord Rich mentioned and comprised, or any other hereafter to be made in performance of the covenants therein contained in the whole or any part of any of them contrary to the purport and true meaning of the same assurances and indentures or any of them;

Then and from henceforth my will is that the gifts and legacies of the same residue and two parts of the lands, tenements and hereditaments to the same Sir Roger before in this my will bequeathed and his estate therein shall cease and determine in him;

And that then and from thenceforth I will and devise the same residue or two parts and the profits thereof unto mine executors in this my will and testament named and to the survivor of them and to the executors and administrators of the survivor of them during the natural life of the same Sir Roger;

And for default of not naming executors, then I will and bequeath the same residue and two parts to the said Sir William Petre and other his said co-feoffees, their heirs and assigns, during the natural life of the same Sir Roger, to be employed by their discretions to the relief and benefit of such of my children and of their children as they shall think meet and convenient;

And after the decease of the same Sir Roger, then I will and [f. 53r] devise the same residue to the same John North for term of his life without impeachment of waste;

And after his estate and interest ended, then I will and devise the same residue and two parts to go and remain to such other person and persons in order as been before appointed and limited in this my will to take in remainder or otherwise to inherit or enjoy the same of such estate and interests as is before limited;

And provided also that if it fortune the same John North, Henry North or any other the sons of the said Sir Roger, or the heirs males of the bodies of the said sons lawfully begotten, or the said Thomas North, the said Edward North, the son of Thomas, or any of the heirs males of any of the [ir]? several bodies begotten, or any other person or persons having any interest, estate or possession of freehold or otherwise of & in the lands, tenements and hereditaments assured unto the said Sir William Petre and other his co-feoffees as is aforesaid or any part thereof, or in the indenture of the said Lord Rich mentioned or conveyed or that hereafter shall be assured in performance of the covenants in the same indenture, or in the lands, tenements and hereditaments in this my will given and bequeathed or otherwise suffered to descend or any part thereof, or any other by his or any of their means, assent or procurement at any time hereafter earnestly, effectually and advisedly to intend and go about or by any overt and apparent act, thing, deed or device to practise or to put in ure to do or cause to be done or willingly, purposely & wittingly to permit and suffer any act or acts, thing or things, deed or devise whereby the lands, tenements and hereditaments or any part thereof unto the said Sir William Petre and others assured in form aforesaid, or any of the lands, tenements and hereditaments in this my will mentioned being either suffered to descend or otherwise bequeathed and devised or any part thereof, or the lands, tenements & hereditaments so assured or to be

assured in the indentures of the said Lord Rich or by reason of the covenants thereof or any part of any of them may or shall be alienated, discontinued, avoided, estranged or altered from and out of the same John, Henry, Thomas and Edward, the son of Thomas, or any of them or any of the heirs of their bodies begotten or from or out any other person or persons to whom the premises so several[y](?) assured or to be assured as is aforesaid or any part thereof or other the lands, tenements and hereditaments in this my will bequeathed or suffered to descend or of any part thereof shall go, remain, descend, revert or come by virtue of the same assurances or any of them or of the indentures leding [=leading?] the uses thereof by virtue of this my last will and testament or otherwise by the order of the common law, or whereby the uses mentioned in the said indentures of the lands, tenements and hereditaments therein contained or any part thereof shall be altered or changed and not take place according to the limitation in those indentures leding [=leading?] the uses contained, or otherwise to entangle, charge or encumber the said lands, tenements or hereditaments or any part thereof in the said indentures mentioned or any of them assured or hereafter to be assured or the lands, tenements and hereditaments in this will bequeathed or otherwise suffered to descend or any part thereof otherwise than of charges and encumbrances for life only of the person and persons so charging or encumbering the same wherein nevertheless no freehold in use or possession shall be transferred or conveyed away, and otherwise than of such encumbrances as been hereafter permitted and provided for;

Then and from thenceforth my will, intent and devise is that the estates and interests of the same John, Henry, Thomas, Edward, the son of Thomas, and every the heirs males of their several bodies begotten and every other person or persons having any interest, estate, use or possession of freehold or otherwise which shall so intend or go about to practise, put in ure or permit, suffer or consent unto any the acts and things before mentioned in manner and form aforesaid, or which so shall charge or encumber as is aforesaid, shall cease and determine for their only life or lives;

And then and thenceforth I will and devise the same residue and two parts by this my will first before bequeathed unto the next person or persons or to whom the same residue or two parts should descend, remain, revert or come of such estate as is limited by [-by] this my will and as is meant and intended to them by the same, and so successively to all other persons following according to such estates and interests as in these presents is bequeathed and devised;

Provided always and nevertheless my will and intent is that it shall and may be lawful at any time hereafter for the same Sir Roger North, knight, John North, esquire, Henry North, Thomas North, Edward North, the son of the same Thomas, and all other person or persons and every of them which from henceforth shall have any freehold or any estate of inheritance by virtue of any gift or bequest before had in this my will or otherwise by any the conveyance or conveyances aforesaid or the uses declared thereof to assure, assign, devise and bequeath to any and every their lawful wives, or to any other person which they or any of them shall take to their wives, or to any other person or persons to his and their uses for and in the name of her or their jointure, lands, tenements and hereditaments, parcel of the premises, in all or any of the same conveyances and in this

last will mentioned or any of them in his or their possession being at the time of the said jointure by virtue of this will or of the assurances aforesaid or any of them or of the use thereof expressed not exceeding the value of the third part of the same;

To have and to hold the same premises so to be conveyed for a jointure or jointures to the same wife or wives or other person or persons to their uses for the term of threescore years, if such wife or wives so long live, [f. 53v] next after the making of the same lease, assignment or devise so that the same lease, assignment or demise so made shall not be of the chief mansion house of Kirtling, and do not extend to any estate without impeachment of waste, or do not exceed the value of the third part of the premises as is aforesaid, and to be determined and terminable by the death of every such wife or wives and not otherwise;

And likewise shall and may at their like will and pleasure from time to time make leases for twenty and one years or under from the time of making thereof of all and singular such of the lands and tenements and hereditaments either holden in socage or otherwise as been by me conveyed in my life or otherwise devised by this my will or left to descend in the same as were before the time of the lease made most accustomedly and usually let to farm within twenty years next before the making thereof, so that thereupon the old rents or more, either in rent or in value, shall be reserved and shall continue yearly payable to those in reversion or reversions, remainder or remainders thereof or to such other to whom the same ought to come by th' intent of the same assurances or of any of them or of this will during the same several terms as if no such lease had been had ne made;

And shall also make like leases for like number of years of all such other the same lands, tenements or hereditaments that may conveniently be spared and be letten to farm, not being the same mansion house of Kirtling or any part of the demesnes necessary to be used to the same, albeit the same lands, tenements and hereditaments so to be demised have not before that time usually been demised, so that thereupon the yearly value reasonably rated of the same lands, tenements or hereditaments so to be letten shall be thereon reserved incident to the reversions or remainders then upon every such lease, devise or assignment so as is aforesaid had and made;

My mind and will is and I will and devise every the same premises so from time to time letten, assigned or devised to the said leases and wives according to their interest therein;

And after to the other person or persons to whom the same ought to descend, revert, remain or come by virtue of the same conveyances or any of them or the uses thereof or of this my will according to the several estates therein;

And after to such other person and persons or uses as been further expressed and limited for the same demised premises to go, remain, descend and be in such sort, manner and form as if no such lease thereof, devise or assignment thereof had been had or made;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my well-beloved friends, Sir William Cordell, knight, Master of the Rolls, and to Sir James Dyer, knight, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, to Richard Alington of Westley and William Thorneton and to their heirs and assigns forever all that my rectory, patronage and advowson of the parish church of Ellington in the county of Huntingdon upon condition & to the intent that they or the survivor of them within two years next after my decease shall do what in them is or shall lie and be for their parts at my costs & charges to procure a licence at the hands of the Queen's Majesty, her heirs or successors, to impropriate the said patronage or advowson unto the Master and Fellows of Peterhouse in Cambridge and their successors forever according to the nature, quality and capacity of their corporation for the relief of some poor scholars;

And if the same Sir William Cordell, Sir James Dyer, Richard Alington and William Thorneton or the survivor of them cannot within the same time of two years obtain a licence of her Majesty, her heirs and successors, for the appropriation of the said advowson in form aforesaid to be made and assured, then I will that the same Sir William Cordell, Sir James Dyer, Richard Alington and William Thorneton and the survivor of them and the heir of the survivor of them shall within one year next following give and assure the same advowson and patronage unto the said Master and Fellows of the same house of Peterhouse & their successors forever according to the nature, quality and capacity of their corporation if they have any sufficient licence or authority, notwithstanding the statute of mortmain, to receive the same;

Or else I will and require the [f. 54r] said Sir William, Sir James Dyer, Richard Alington and William Thorneton or the survivor of them and the heirs of the survivor of them at my like costs and charges to obtain, procure and get the same licence, and then further to proceed in the assurance of the same as is aforesaid;

Item, where I was minded once to have given the park of Kirtling to certain persons after the rate and value of forty pounds by year to the end they should have bestowed and employed the profits thereof towards the maintenance of living and finding of my well-beloved daughter, the Countess of Worcester, during the time of this her separation or absence from the company of the said Earl, her husband, and every other separation or absence that hereafter shall happen or chance between them, if any such be, now nevertheless for the avoiding of the unnatural strife that might thereby have grown between the said Sir Roger, her brother, or any his children or other that shall have and enjoy the same mansion house of Kirtling whereunto the said park lieth very necessary, my will and intent therefore now is that the said persons shall have only an annuity or annual rent of forty pounds by year to be employed and bestowed to the same use;

And therefore I do by these presents give, devise and bequeath unto the same Sir William Cordell, Sir James Dyer, Richard Alington and William Thorneton and their heirs and assigns during the life natural of my said daughter one annuity or yearly rent of forty pounds by year issuing out my said two parts and residue of the lands, tenements and hereditaments holden in capite by knight's service as is aforesaid;

To have, perceive, receive and enjoy the same annuity or yearly rent unto the said Sir William, Sir James, Richard and William and their heirs and assigns during every such absence and separation of my said daughter to the end they or the survivor of them or the heirs of the survivor of them shall yearly employ and bestow the same according to their wisdoms and discretions towards the maintaining, finding and living of my said daughter during every such time or times of her separation or absence from her said husband, the same annuity or yearly rent to be paid yearly at two usual feasts of the year, viz., the feast of the Annunciation of Our Lady and Saint Michael the Archangel during the times of every the absence aforesaid;

Item, I give, devise and bequeath unto my late wife's son, John Birganten [=Brigandine?], gentleman, and to Katherine, his wife, one annuity or yearly rent of ten pounds issuing and going out of the said two parts of the lands, tenements and hereditaments so holden as is aforesaid over and besides the yearly rent or annuity of ten pounds by year already assured unto them, the same annuity or yearly rent to be paid unto the same John and Katherine and the longer liver of them out of the same lands, tenements and hereditaments at the said two usual feasts & terms of the year by such even portions as is aforesaid;

Provided always that if the same John Brigantine [=Brigandine?] at any time hereafter shall fortune to depart out of this realm during the life of his said wife, unless he be licenced by the Queen's Majesty, her heirs or successors for some especial service or cause so to do, then I will the same annuity or annual rent shall cease and determine during such departure or absence of the same John;

And then I will and devise unto the same Sir William Cordell, Sir James Dyer, Richard Alington and William Thornton, their heirs and assigns, during such absence an annuity of four pounds by the year to be issuing and going out of the same two parts of the lands, tenements and hereditaments so holden as is aforesaid and payable at such times and terms as is aforesaid;

To have and to hold to them, their heirs and assign[s], during all and every such time and times as the same John shall so be and remain beyond the seas to the end the same Sir William, Sir James, Richard and William and their heirs and assign[s] shall during every such absence relieve, aid and comfort the same Katherine therewithal;

Also further my mind and intent is and I devise by these presents that every of the said several annuities shall commence and begin immediately after my death and be paid and payable at the next feast of the feasts of th' Annunciation and Saint Michael the Archangel aforesaid that shall chance next after my decease;

And when and how often it fortune any [f. 54v] of the said several annuities or annual rents to be behind and unpaid in part or in the whole after any of the feasts aforesaid in which any or every of them ought to be paid, then and so often I will and devise that it shall and may be lawful unto the said several devisees thereof and their heirs and assign[s] during the continuances of them and every of them severally into the said two

parts of the lands, tenements and hereditaments so holden as is aforesaid to enter and distrain, and the distress or distresses so taken to lead, drive and carry away and with him and them to detain until they and every of them of the same several annuities and every part thereof with the arrearages of the same, if any such be, be fully and wholly contented, satisfied and paid;

Item, I devise and bequeath unto my son, Thomas North, esquire, and Elizabeth, his wife, the patronage and advowsons of the church, parsonage and vicarage of Moulton in the county of Suffolk;

To have and to hold the same patronages and every of them unto the same Thomas and Elizabeth and to the longer liver of them for term of the lives of the same Thomas and Elizabeth and the longer liver of them;

Provided always and my mind and intent is that no conveyance or assurance heretofore made of my said lands, tenements or hereditaments holden in socage unto Sir William Petre and other his co-feoffees made, nor the uses declared thereupon, be not by any act or devise of this my will or testament construed, deemed or judged to be subverted, revoked, overthrown or made void, but that the same assurances and the uses thereof shall go, remain and be wholly, always saving and excepting for the interest for lives of the patronages and the advowsons of Moulton [-of Multon] aforesaid in such order, manner and form as is intended and limited by the said assurance and conveyance, anything in this will contained(?) to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding;

And in witness that this is the last will and testament of me, the same Edward, Lord North, I, the same Lord North, to these presents set to my hand and seal, these whose names be subscribed being called to be witnesses, viz., John Caius(?), William Thorneton, Roger Gisse, William Necton, Thomas Rey, Thomas Jones, John Smith(?).

The codicil of me, Edward, Lord North, made the thirty day of December 1564, which codicil, I, the said Edward, Lord North, will shall be inserted into my testament and to be accepted as part or parcel thereof

Item, I give and bequeath unto every servant, being male or female, of mine that taketh wages at the time of my death and decease their wages until the day of burial and one whole year's wages more;

Item, I give unto my servant, William Necton, twenty pounds in money to be paid by the hands of my executors immediately after my decease;

Item, I give to Mrs Gillian Clopton, my wife's gentlewoman, the sum of twenty pounds to be delivered as aforesaid;

Item, I give unto Thomas Jones, my servant, the patronage of the church of Ashley and the patronage of the vicarage of Silverley to hold during his natural life, and the sum of five pounds in money to be delivered as is aforesaid;

Item, I give to William Cosen, my servant, the sum of twenty marks in money to be delivered as is aforesaid;

Item, I give unto Edward Pigott and to John Thorneton, my servants, each of them the sum of ten pounds the piece;

Item, I give to John Waters, gentleman, the wages due at my death and four pounds over and besides to be delivered as is aforesaid;

Item, I give unto William Gerard and Richard Alington, my servants, to each of them the sum of twenty pounds to be delivered as is aforesaid;

To William Johnson(?), my servant, £10 to be delivered as is aforesaid;

Item, I give to my maidservants, Elizabeth Denham and to Dorothy Johnson, each of them five pounds the piece over and besides their wages due at my decease to be delivered as aforesaid;

Item, unto the parson of Moulton, my chaplain, the bedding and whole furniture of the chamber where he lieth and ten pounds of money to be delivered as aforesaid;

Item, I give to my servant, John Horton, the sum of four marks in money to be delivered as aforesaid;

Item, where Robert Porter hath but four marks by year paid him, I will he shall have that wages made up four pounds by year and the same to be paid him by mine executors yearly during his life;

Item, unto William Minter(?), my old porter, for remembrance of me 20s in money to be paid as is aforesaid;

Item, I remit all debts and duties owing to me by Richard Mylicene(?), the carpenter, and further I give him 40s in money to be paid him after my decease as is aforesaid;

Item, I give to William Thorneton, brother of the said John Thorneton, the sum of ten pounds to be paid him immediately after my death by the hands of my executors as aforesaid;

Item, I will that if my goods, chattels and debts be not able to pay the legacies of my will and of this codicil and the bearing of my funeral charges and other charges necessary, then I will that the residue be levied of the money of the sale of my house wherein I now dwell;

Item, I do will and devise that when my said house is sold, then my executors shall of the sale thereof pay the sum of four hundred pounds for my son, Sir Roger, of his debts over and above such sums of money which I have already paid, which is eight hundred pounds [f. 55r] and which I do now stand bound unto one Smith of the Middle Temple to pay of his said debts, that is, three hundred pounds which is my free gift over and besides my lands, tenements and hereditaments in the county of Middlesex which I have now left him and had once appointed to have been sold towards the payment of the debts of the said Sir Roger;

In witness whereof I, the said Edward, Lord North, have hereunto put my hand and seal the day and year above-written in the presence of these whose names be underwritten.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptu{m} vnacu{m} Codicillo annexo coram mag{ist}ro Waltero Haddon Legum doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cantuar{iensis} Commissario apud London vicesimo tercio die mens{is} ffebruarij anno d{omi}ni mill{es}imo quingentesimo sexagesimo quarto Iura{men}to Iustiniani Kidd procuratoris l{egi}timi Will{el}mi Cordell et Iacobi Dyer militum Executoru{m} in testamento h{uius}mo{d}i no{m}i{n}at{orum} Quibus com{m}issa fuit Administratio o{mn}ium et singulorum bonoru{m} de bene &c ad sancta dei Evangelia Iurat{i}

[=The above-written testament, together with the codicil annexed, was proved before Master Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the twenty-third day of the month of February in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixty-fourth by the oath of Justinian Kidd, lawful proctor of William Cordell and James Dyer, knights, executors named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc.]