

SUMMARY: The document below is the will, dated 2 October 1567 and proved 26 January 1568, of Joan Farrington Booth Beconsall Browne, widow of Sir Anthony Browne (d. 16 May 1567), Justice of the Common Pleas, who circa 1554 was a member of the council of John de Vere (1512-1562), 16th Earl of Oxford.

Throughout the PCC copy of the testatrix' will, the abbreviation 'Ede' is used for the Christian name 'Edward'. It has been expanded to 'Edward' in the modern-spelling transcript below.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testatrix was the daughter and heir of William Farrington (d. before 1536) by Isabel Clayton, the daughter of John Clayton, esquire, of Clayton, Lancashire. William Farrington (d. before 1536) was the son of Sir Henry Farrington (d.1549?) by his first wife, Anne Radcliffe, the daughter of Sir Alexander (or William) Radcliffe of Ordsall, widow of Thomas Tyldesley. For Sir Henry Farrington, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/farrington-henry-1471-154951>

He settled Farington and Leyland upon the issue of his first marriage . . . There was litigation after Farrington's death involving Anthony Browne II of South Weald, Essex, who had married Joan, daughter and heiress of another William Farrington, one of Farrington's sons by his first marriage.

The testatrix' brother-in-law, William Farrington (1537 – 3 July 1610) of Worden, Lancashire, was the only child of Sir Henry Farrington by his second wife, Dorothy Okeover, daughter of Humphrey Okeover. He had a lifelong association with the Earls of Derby, and was the writer of the Derby Household Book of 1561. See 'The Derby Household Books', *Remains Historical & Literary Connected with the Palatine Counties of Lancaster and Chester*, Vol. XXXI, (Chetham Society, 1853), pp. xxv-vi at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=Ivw-AQAAMAAJ&pg=PR25>

MARRIAGES AND CHILDREN

The testatrix married firstly Charles Booth, esquire, of Hackensall, Lancashire, by whom she had a daughter, Agnes Booth, who married William Mordaunt, a younger son of John Mordaunt (c.1480x85–1562), 1st Baron Mordaunt, by Elizabeth Vere, eldest of the four daughters and coheirs of Henry Vere (d.1493) of Great Addington, Northamptonshire. 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. 366 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=0alfAAAACAAJ&pg=PA366>

For William Mordaunt's sister, Margaret Mordaunt, see the will, dated 6 October 1581 and proved 1 July 1583, TNA PROB 11/65/430, of Elizabeth Martyn, stepmother of Humphrey Martyn, the addressee of the *Langham Letter* which describes the Earl of Leicester's entertainment of Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575.

See also the *ODNB* entry for John Mordaunt, 1st Baron Mordaunt, his will, proved 1 September 1562, TNA PROB 11/45/213, and Cokayne, George Edward, *The Complete Peerage*, (London: The St Catherine Press, 1936), Vol. IX, pp. 193-5.

See also:

'Parishes : Wavendon', in *A History of the County of Buckingham: Volume 4*, ed. William Page (London, 1927), pp. 489-496. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/bucks/vol4/pp489-496> [accessed 16 October 2017]

These co-heirs, Elizabeth wife of Sir John Mordaunt, kt., afterwards first Lord Mordaunt, Anne wife of Sir Humphrey Browne, and Audrey, brought an action in 1505 to recover seisin of the manor. (fn. 39) Audrey afterwards married John Browne, a nephew of Sir Humphrey, (fn. 40) and their son and heir George Browne succeeded his father in 1550.

See also TNA C 1/340/43:

Reference: C 1/340/43

Short title: Mordaunt v [Unknown].

Plaintiffs: John Mordaunt and Elizabeth, his wife, Humphrey Broun and George, his son, and John Broun and Audrey, his wife.

Defendants: [unknown].

Subject: Disputed will of Edward, late earl of Wilts, to whose mother

Description: *Constance, countess of Wilts, the said Elizabeth, Audrey, and Anne, late the wife of the said Humphrey, daughters of Henry Veer, of Great Addington, were cousins and heirs; a later nuncupative will being set up to disinherit complainants.*

Northamptonshire.

2 documents

Note: *Mutilated.*

Date: *1504-1515*

By William Mordaunt, the testatrix' daughter, Agnes Booth, had two sons and four daughters:

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- * **Edward Mordaunt**, eldest son.
 - * **Robert Mordaunt**. He is not mentioned in the will below, but is left a bequest in the will of the testatrix' third husband, Sir Anthony Browne.
 - * **Jane or Joan Mordaunt**.
 - * **Audrey Mordaunt**, under the age of 18 when the testatrix made her will.
 - * **Anne Mordaunt**, under the age of 18 when the testatrix made her will.
 - * **Elizabeth Mordaunt**, under the age of 18 when the testatrix made her will.

The testatrix married secondly Henry Beconsall of Beconsall, Lancashire, by whom she had a daughter, Dorothy Beconsall (d.1615), wife of Sir Edward Huddleston. Sir Edward Huddleston appears to have inherited the manor of Sharpenhoe mentioned in the will below from Sir John Huddleston (d. 4 November 1557). See the will of Sir John Huddleston, dated 17 September 1557 and proved 5 February 1558, TNA PROB 11/40/61:

And my full mind and intent is and I wholly and freely give, grant and bequeath unto my son, William Huddleston, and to his heirs forever all that my manor of Sharpenhoe with th' appurtenances in the said county of Bedford.

For the Huddleston family, see also Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 514-17.

By Sir Edward Huddleston, the testatrix' daughter, Dorothy Beconsall, had a son and two daughters:

- * **John Huddleston**, under the age of 16 when the testatrix made her will.
- * **Joan Huddleston**.
- * **Frances Huddleston**, under the age of 21 when the testatrix made her will.

Dorothy Huddleston's husband, Sir Edward Huddleston, is recorded as serving as a Justice of the Peace on 8 March 1585 with the 17th Earl of Oxford and others. See ERO T/A 418/42/4.

The testatrix married thirdly Sir Anthony Browne (d. 16 May 1567), Justice of the Common Pleas, who circa 1554 was a member of the council of John de Vere (1512-1562), 16th Earl of Oxford. For Sir Anthony Browne, see the *ODNB* entry, his will, TNA PROB 11/49/181, and the *History of Parliament* entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/browne-anthony-ii-150910-67>

There were no issue of the testatrix' third marriage.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

For Wistan Browne (d.1581?), great-nephew and principal heir of the testatrix' third husband, Sir Anthony Browne, see his will, TNA PROB 11/63/226.

The testatrix appoints Sir Gilbert Gerard (d. 4 February 1593), Queen Elizabeth's Attorney General, one of the supervisors of her will, referring to him as her 'cousin'. They may have been related through the Radcliffe family. Sir Gilbert Gerard married Anne Ratcliffe, daughter and heir of Thomas Ratcliffe of Winmarleigh, Lancashire, and, as noted above, the testatrix' grandmother was Anne Radcliffe, the daughter of Sir Alexander (or William) Radcliffe of Ordsall. For Sir Gilbert Gerard, see the *ODNB* entry, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/gerard-sir-gilbert-1593>

The testatrix also appoints as supervisor Sir Edward Saunders (1506–1576), Chief Baron of the Exchequer, who had also been appointed overseer of her husband's will. For Sir Edward Saunders, see the *ODNB* entry and his will, TNA PROB 11/58/517.

For George White (c.1530-1584), who witnessed the testatrix' will, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/white-george-1530-84>

TESTATRIX' LANDS

Manor of Maylards

'Hornchurch: Manors', in *A History of the County of Essex: Volume 7*, ed. W R Powell (London, 1978), pp. 31-39. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/essex/vol7/pp31-39> [accessed 22 October 2017].

The manor of MAYLARDS GREEN and WYBRIDGE was about a mile south-west of Hornchurch village. . . .

Sir Anthony Browne (d. 1567) appears to have been holding the manor of Maylards and Wybridge at his death, for in the same year his widow, and John Fowler, conveyed it to Robert Charnock and William Fawkenor. (fn. 168)

Manor of Sharpenhoe

'Parishes: Streatley with Sharpenhoe', in *A History of the County of Bedford: Volume 2*, ed. William Page (London, 1908), pp. 381-384. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/beds/vol2/pp381-384> [accessed 22 October 2017].

[Simon Felbrigge] was holding in 1428, (fn. 35) and between that date and 1485 there is another break in the continuity of the descent of Sharpenhoe manor, which reappears at the latter date as the property of William Tyndale and Mary his wife, who settled it on Roger Townshend. (fn. 36) He died seised of it in 1492, and by his will he bequeathed the manor, after the death of Eleanor his wife, to his son Thomas, with remainder in default for sale 'for the benefit of his and her souls, and the souls of their friends and benefactors for whom they are most bounden.' (fn. 37) Eleanor Townshend was still alive in 1543, when the manor was settled on Roger Townshend, her son, and his heirs, Thomas having probably died in the meanwhile. (fn. 38)

Roger Townshend transferred it to Sir John Huddleston before the latter's death in 1557, when he left a son William as heir; (fn. 39) and he before 1578 alienated Sharpenhoe manor to Edmund Mordaunt, who at that date sold it to Thomas Norton. (fn. 40)

RM: T{estamentum} d{omi}ne Iohanne Broun

In the name of God, Amen. The second day of October in the year of Our Lord God 1567 and in the ninth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith, etc., I, Dame Joan Browne, widow, late wife of Sir Anthony Browne, knight, deceased, and sole executrix of the last will and testament of the same Sir Anthony, being sick of body but of good and perfect remembrance, thanks be unto God, do ordain and make this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to the great mercy of Almighty God, my Maker and Redeemer, and my body to be buried within the parish church of South Weald in the county of Essex as near the corpse of my said late husband as may be, with such funerals as shall appertain to my calling;

And I will there shall be distributed in alms and deeds of charity the day of my burial and within one year next after (blank) of current money of England, in South Weald ten pounds, in Hornchurch three pounds, in Hatfield three pounds, in Abbess Roding forty

shillings, and in Leyland where I was born and christened, ten pounds, to whom it shall be thought most meet and expedient to mine executors;

And my will and mind is that first and principally above all other things my said late good husband's will and testament be performed, fulfilled, kept and accomplished in all and every point, article, clause, sentence, gift, grant and bequest so far-forth as law, equity, good conscience and upright dealing may, should or ought move me unto;

And that done and provided for, my will and mind is, and I do freely give and bequeath unto Audrey Mordaunt, one of the daughters of William Mordaunt esquire, and Agnes, his wife, one of my daughters, one hundred marks of current English money;

And unto Anne Mordaunt, one other of the daughters of the said William and Agnes, forty pounds of like money;

And unto Elizabeth Mordaunt, one other of the daughters of the said William Mordaunt & Agnes, his wife, twenty pounds of like money;

All which sums of money my will and meaning is should be made, levied, perceived and taken by the said William and Agnes and the longer liver of them, their executors or assigns (the lord's rent being yearly discharged), of the yearly overplus of rent, the profits and commodities of my farm of Wyars Hall in Saint Osyth's in Essex now let for divers years yet to come to Thomas Welde, yeoman, and his assigns, and the said several sums to be paid to the said Audrey, Anne & Elizabeth or to the survivor of them at their several ages of eighteen years;

And also my will is and I do give to Anthony Jebbe, my servant, as of my gift one annuity of forty shillings by the year to be paid yearly during his life at two feasts in the year usual by even portions, and for not payment thereof to distrain in the said farm of Wyars Hall and in every part thereof;

Item, I give & bequeath after my decease out of the said farm of Wyars Hall to John Fowler, gentleman, ten pounds yearly during his life in consideration of his annuity by me to him granted;

And I do give, will & bequeath my lease of the said Wyars Hall and my interest therein and all the commodities thereto belonging charged & chargeable by my late husband's will and by this my will as aforesaid from and after my decease unto Edward Mordaunt, son and heir apparent of the [f. 15v] said William Mordaunt and Agnes, his wife, paying yearly unto the said William and Agnes during the life of the said Agnes twenty pounds of English money over and above all other charges before specified and mentioned, discharging the lord's rent yearly and keeping all other covenants in the same lease declared;

And I give and bequeath to Joan Mordaunt, one other of the daughters of the said William and Agnes, over and above the legacy due to her by my husband's will, as by the

same appeareth, one hundred pounds of current English money and all my new hangings which be or usually have been occupied and had in the chamber in my mansion house in South Weald called the chapel chamber, and the bedstead, curtains, tester, valances, irons, bed, bolster, bedclothes, covering and all that belongeth to that bed which are or have been usually occupied in the chamber there called the red chamber, and the quilt that usually hath been worn, laid or occupied in, upon or with the same bed in the said red chamber;

And also I do give and bequeath to the said Joan Mordaunt all the stuff, of what kind, nature or condition soever it be of, or by what name soever it be termed or called, and all the plate, jewels and money that is or shall be the day of my death in the chamber in my mansion house in South Weald aforesaid in the new building there, by west from the lodging that my husband and I did use to lie in, commonly called Joan Mordaunt's chamber;

Item, I give to the said Joan my book of gold, one pair of bracelets of gold, and the old whole habiliment [=biliment?] that she is wont to wear;

Item, I do give and bequeath to every of my manservants that shall serve me the time of my death twenty shillings, and to every of my woman servants that shall then serve me ten shillings over and above every of their several wages, both men and women;

Item, I give and bequeath to such as shall be from time to time the owners and possessors of the mansion house in South Weald called South Weald Hall all the tables and forms in the hall there and in the great parlour there, and all the stools there, the pan of copper in the kitchen wherein is used to boil beef, and the lead and all the brining vessels in the brining house by what name soever they be called;

And my will and intent is that all the premises given as aforesaid by this my will to the owners of South Weald Hall shall remain and continue to the owners thereof as heirlooms forever;

Item, I do give and bequeath to mine old servant, John Charnock, one annuity of five marks yearly during his life to be paid at the two feasts of the year usual by even portions, and for non-payment to distrain in the vicarage and tithes of Crofton in the county of Lancaster and in every parcel thereof;

Item, I do give and bequeath to Elizabeth Charnock, my servant, and to Joan Gerratt, my daughter Huddlestone's servant, to each of them six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence, and to my servants, John Fuller and John Hasilwood, to each of them for the pains they took with my late husband five pounds, which four several sums of money my will and meaning is should be paid of the yearly revenues and profits of the said vicarage and tithes of Crofton;

Item, I will & bequeath the revenues and profits coming and growing of the said vicarage and tithes of Crofton yearly, over and above so much thereof as shall satisfy and

accomplish the legacies, bequests and grants of my said husband's will and of this my will charged and chargeable in or upon the said vicarage of Crofton by my said husband's will or by this my will, to my executors towards the paying of my debts and performing of this my will until John Huddlestone, son and heir apparent of Edward Huddlestone, esquire, and Dorothy, his wife, one other of my daughters, shall be and accomplish the age of sixteen years, at which age my will is and I do give and bequeath to the said John Huddlestone my lease of the said vicarage & tithes of Crofton and all tithes, profits, commodities and advantages thereto belonging, charged and chargeable with my said husband's will, as by the same will appeareth, and by this my will and treatment as aforesaid, upon condition that the said John Huddlestone, his executors or assigns, do pay or cause to be paid to Frances Huddlestone, his sister, one of the daughters of the said Edward and Dorothy, at her age of one and twenty years forty pounds;

And where I have purchased to me & to mine heirs of John Fowler, gentleman, from and after the decease of the same John Fowler the manors of Maylards otherwise Malardes Green, Naperstye and Wybridge with th' appurtenances in Hornchurch and Havering in the said county of Essex, my will and meaning is and I do give, will and bequeath the said manors and all other the premises by me purchased as aforesaid from and after my death and the death of the said John Fowler to the said Edward Huddlestone and Dorothy and to the longer liver of them without impeachment of waste;

And after their decease to the said John Huddlestone and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue to remain to Joan Huddlestone, one other of the daughters of the said Edward and Dorothy & to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue to remain to the said Frances Huddlestone and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten;

And for lack [+of?] such issue to my right heirs forever;

Upon condition that the said Edward Huddlestone and Dorothy and their heirs by good and sufficient conveyance and assurance in the law do convey and assure or cause to be conveyed and assured the manor of Sharpenhoe with th' appurtenances in the county of Bedford, and all his lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever in Sharpenhoe aforesaid or elsewhere [f. 16r] to the said manor belonging or in any wise appertaining from and after the death of me, the said Dame Joan, and of the said John Fowler, to the said Edward Mordaunt and to the heirs of the body of the same Edward Mordaunt forever;

And for lack of such issue to remain to the said William Mordaunt and Agnes, his said wife, and to the heirs of the body of the said Agnes forever;

And for lack of such issue to remain to the said Edward Huddlestone and to his heirs forever;

Provided always that if the said William Mordaunt or Agnes, his wife, their heirs or assigns, or any other by his or their consent, commandment or procurement at any time hereafter do molest, vex, trouble or interrupt the possession, estate, title and interest of the said Edward Huddlestone and Dorothy or any the heirs or assigns of them or any of them in and to the said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments in Hornchurch and Havering aforesaid limited, assigned and appointed by this my last will and testament in manner and form aforesaid contrary to the true meaning of this my said last will and testament, that then and thenceforth all gifts, legacies, grants and bequests heretofore by this my said last will and testament made to the said William Mordaunt and Agnes or to any their children of my said lease of Wyars Hall aforesaid or of any profit, commodity or advantage thereof or of any part thereof shall cease and be frustrate and void to all intents and purposes towards them or any of them;

And my will and meaning is that the assurance and conveyance appointed and limited to be made by the said Edward Huddlestone and Dorothy and their heirs of the said manor of Sharpenhoe and other the premises in the said county of Bedford to the said Edward Mordaunt and to the heirs of his body with the other remainders over as is aforesaid shall be under such condition as is expressed in the proviso aforesaid;

Item, I give and bequeath to the said Edward Huddlestone, whom for the especial trust & confidence I have in him I make my sole executor of this my last will and testament, for his pains twenty pounds, and to my Lord Chief Baron of th' Exchequer, and my cousin, Mr Gilbert Gerard, the Queen's Majesty's Attorney General, whom I make supervisors of this my last will and testament, to each of them ten pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath to the said Edward Huddlestone from and after the end and expiration of the lease and demise of the said Wyars Hall made as aforesaid to Thomas Welde all my stock of cattle and sheep there then being and the prices(?) thereof for and towards the payment of such money as is now and shall be due for the purchase of the said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments in Hornchurch & Havering aforesaid;

Item, my will and meaning is if my cousin, Wistan Browne, do with speed perform my late husband's will truly and effectually according to the true meaning thereof and according to such institutions as be already drawn in paper by my said late husband, then I do give & bequeath all my lands, tenements and hereditaments in Brook Street and South Weald in the said county of Essex to my said cousin Browne and his heirs in such manner and sort as by the said last will and testament they be given, bequeathed, conveyed and assured;

And if he, the said Wistan, do refuse to perform the said will as aforesaid, then I give and bequeath my said lands, tenements and hereditaments in Brook Street and South Weald aforesaid to the schoolmaster of the Grammar School of Anthony Browne, Sergeant at Law, and to the guardians of the lands and possessions of the same and to their successors forever;

Item, I give to John Huddleston aforesaid the hangings of my great chamber in South Weald aforesaid;

All the rest of my goods, chattels, plate, jewels, corn, household stuff and other thing or things whatsoever not before given nor bequeathed, my debts and legacies truly paid, I give and bequeath to the said Johan [=John?] Huddleston;

And this I make my last will and testament, and all other former wills I do renounce;

In witness whereof I have set to my hand, and sealed the same. Joan Browne. Subscribed and sealed in the presence of us, George White, Robert Charnock and others.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum coram Mag^{ist}ro Waltero Haddon legum doctore Curie prerogative Cantuarien^{sis} commissario apud London vicesimo sexto die Ianuarij Anno D^{omi}ni Mill^{es}imo Quingen^{tes}imo Sexagesimo Septimo Iuramento Edmundi Huddleston Executorⁱ in Testamento h^{uius}mo^di no^miⁿatⁱ Cui comiss^a fuit admiⁿⁱstracⁱo omⁿⁱum et sing^ulor^{um} bonor^{um} &c De bene &c Ad sancta dei Evangelia Iuratⁱ

[=The above-written testament was proved before Master Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the twenty-sixth day of January in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixty-seventh by the oath of Edmund Huddleston, executor named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc.]