

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 1 April 1569 and proved 4 July 1570, of Jane (nee Crews) Cope of Wollaston, Northamptonshire, whose grandson, Sir Walter Cope (1553?-1614), a long-time servant of Lord Burghley, employed Shakespeare's fellow Globe Theatre shareholder, Cuthbert Burbage (1564/5-1636). See the *ODNB* articles on Sir Walter Cope and Cuthbert Burbage, and Barnett, Richard C., *Place, Profit, and Power; A Study of the Servants of William Cecil, Elizabethan Statesman*, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1969), pp. 50-1.

The testatrix was the daughter of Matthew Crews of Pynne in Stoke English, Devonshire, 'a younger son of the ancient family of Cruwys of Cruwys Morchard in that county'. See Cope, William H., ed., *Meditations on Twenty Select Psalms by Sir Anthony Cope, Chamberlain to Queen Katharine Parr*, (London: John Ollivier, 1848), p. xii, citing Vincent's Collections for Northamptonshire, no. 114, f. 91, in the College of Arms:

<https://archive.org/stream/meditationsontwe00copeuoft#page/n11/mode/2up>.

The testatrix married Sir Anthony Cope (d.1551), by whom she had a son, Edward Cope (d.1557), and a daughter, Anne Cope (d.1602). For the will, dated 5 January 1551 and proved 2 November 1551, of the testatrix' husband, Sir Anthony Cope, see TNA PROB 11/34/433.

The testatrix' son, Edward Cope, married Elizabeth Mohun (d. 1587), the daughter of Walter Mohun of Overstone, Northamptonshire, by whom, according to the *ODNB*, he had four sons and three daughters, including William Cope (d. by 1569), Sir Anthony Cope (1548x50-1614), 1st Baronet Cope, and Sir Walter Cope (1553?-1614). The testatrix' eldest grandson, William Cope, had died by 1569, as her will below states that Anthony Cope (1548x50-1614) was her son Edward's heir.

After Edward Cope's death, Elizabeth Mohun married George Carleton (1529-1590) of Overstone, Northamptonshire, by whom she had a son, Castle Carleton, and two daughters, Elizabeth Carleton, who married Anthony Berners of Thoby, Essex, and Joyce Carleton, who married a husband surnamed Plumsted. See the Carleton pedigree in Turner, William Henry, ed., *The Visitations of the County of Oxford*, (London: Harleian Society, 1871), pp. 122-4.

After the death of Elizabeth Mohun, George Carleton married the 'Mistress Crane' of the Marprelate tracts, who was born Elizabeth Hussey, the eldest daughter of Sir Robert Hussey (d.1546) of Linwood, Lincolnshire, and his second wife, Jane Stydolf, the daughter of Thomas Stydolf of Surrey.

George Carleton's involvement with the publication of the Marprelate tracts is described in the *ODNB*:

In the last year of his life Carleton's connections with the tightly knit puritan gentry of the midlands involved him in the puritan literary conspiracy of the Marprelate tracts. Also in 1589 he married Elizabeth Crane, daughter of Sir Robert Hussey of Linwood, Lincolnshire, and widow of Anthony Crane of St Martin-in-the-Fields. It was at her house at East Molesey, Surrey, that the first Marprelate tracts were printed, and she was to be heavily fined in the Star Chamber for her involvement. The Marprelate press then moved to Fawsley, the Northamptonshire seat of Sir Richard Knightley, an enthusiast not entirely compos mentis, whose affairs were in Carleton's hands. Several elusive references in the tracts themselves suggest that Carleton's involvement in this illicit venture may have been more than merely managerial.

For the will of the testatrix' son, Edward Cope, esquire, dated 20 June 1557 and proved 28 July 1557, see TNA PROB 11/39/306.

For the will of George Carleton, dated 1 January 1590 and proved 16 January 1590, see TNA PROB 11/75/14.

The testatrix' daughter, Anne Cope (d.1602), married Kenelm Digby (by 1518 - 1590) of Stoke Dry, Rutlandshire, by whom she was the grandmother of Sir Everard Digby (c.1578-1606), executed for his part in the Gunpowder Plot, and the great-grandmother of the philosopher, Sir Kenelm Digby (1603-1665). See Cope, *Meditations*, *supra*, p. xix, and the History of Parliament entry for Kenelm Digby at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/digby-kenelm-1518-90>.

For the monument to Anne Cope and Kenelm Digby, see:

'Parishes: Stoke Dry', *A History of the County of Rutland: Volume 2* (1935), pp. 221-227. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=66239>.

The testatrix' servant and executor, John Jervis, was a witness to the will of the testatrix' son, Edward Cope.

RM: T{estamentum} Iane Cope

In the name of God, Amen. I, Jane Cope of Wollaston in the county of Northampton, late the wife of Sir Anthony Cope, knight, being of a good mind and zeal, do make this my last will & testament the first day of April in the eleventh year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth in manner and form as hereafter followeth:

First I do bequeath my soul unto Almighty God, and my body to be buried within the church of Hanwell in the county of Oxon;

Also I bequeath to my son Digby's children £20, and to my son Edward Cope's children £20;

And I bequeath to my daughter Digby my velvet gown;

And to my daughter [=daughter-in-law] Caletton [=Carleton] my damask gown;

And to Robert Smythe, my servant, £4;

And to Thomas Keling, servant to George Carleton, esquire, 20s;

Also I do bequeath to the poor of Banbury £3, and to the poor folk of Hanwell 40s, and to the poor folk of Wollaston 20s, and to the poor folk of Overstone 10s;

Also I do bequeath to John Jervis, my servant, £4, whom I do make my whole executor to see this my body be honestly brought to the ground and this my last will to be truly performed and kept;

And the residue of all my goods unbequeathed I do give unto Anthony Cope, son and heir of Edward Cope, my son;

Witness to the making hereof: Thomas Keling, Robert Smyth, Thomas Minster, with other mo [=more].

Probatum fuit huiusmodi testamentum Coram Magistro Thoma Yale Legum Doctore Curie prerogative cantuariensis commissario apud London iiiijto Iulij 1570 Iuramento Iustinian Kydd procuratoris Iohannis Iervis executoris &c Cui commissaria fuit administratio bonorum &c de bene &c ad sancta dei Evangelia Iurat &c

[=The same testament was proved before Master Thomas Yale, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the 4th day of July 1570 by the oath of Justinian Kyd, proctor of John Jervis, executor etc., to whom administration was granted of the goods etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels etc. to well etc.]