

SUMMARY: The document below is the will, dated 16 January 1580 and proved 27 April 1581, of Wistan Browne, esquire, of South Weald, Essex, who appears to have been the Wistan Browne who is mentioned, together with his father, George Browne (d.1559), in the inquisition post mortem taken after the death of Oxford's father, John de Vere (1516-1562), 16<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford.

According to the IPM, in 1546, in consideration of the service done by George Browne to both the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Earls of Oxford, George Browne and his son, Wistan Browne, were granted the reversion, after the death of Thomas Josselyn, of the offices of master of game and keeper of the park of Stansted Mountfitchet, and bailiff of the honour of Stansted Mountfitchet. The IPM states that both Thomas Josselyn and George Browne had died by the date the IPM was taken on 18 January 1563. See TNA C 142/136/12:

*And the foresaid jurors say that the foresaid late Earl, by a certain deed of his sealed by his seal at arms & subscribed by his own hand dated the 12<sup>th</sup> day of April in the 37<sup>th</sup> year [=12 April 1546] of the reign of the late Lord King Henry the Eighth, for and in consideration of good & faithful service by his beloved servant **George Browne**, gentleman, done to him & to his father, lately Earl of Oxford, granted to the same George Browne and to **Wystan Browne**, son & heir apparent of the said George, the office of master of game of his park of Stansted Mountfitchet in the county of Essex and of chief keeper of the same park, and further the said Earl by his foresaid deed granted to the same George & Wystan for the consideration aforesaid herbage & pannage of & in the said park, excepted sufficient for the game there being, and moreover the said Earl by his said deed granted to the same George and Wystan for the consideration aforesaid the office of bailiff or bailiwick of his honour of Stansted Mountfitchet & of all his manors, lands & tenements in Stansted Mountfitchet aforesaid to the same manor appertaining, to have, hold, enjoy & perceive the foresaid offices with their appurtenances, together with the foresaid herbage & pannage and all profits, commodities & advantages whatsoever to the same offices or to either of them belonging or appertaining, to the same George & Wystan immediately from & after the decease of Thomas Josselyn in the said county of Essex, esquire, for term of life of the same George & Wystan & the survivor of them . . .*

*And the foresaid jurors say that so the foresaid George Browne died after the making of the said deed and also the said Thomas Josselyn at the time of the taking of this inquisition is dead, after whose decease by virtue of the foresaid deed the foresaid Wystan Browne entered into the foresaid offices & the rest of the premises in the said deed specified, as to him it has been well allowed, and is thereof seised in his demesne as of free tenement for term of life of the same Wystan.*

In the early 1570s, Wistan Browne is recorded as receiving an annuity of £15 6s 8d from the 17<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford's revenues. See ERO D/DPr 144.

### **FAMILY BACKGROUND**

For the testator's family background, see the Browne pedigree recorded in 1612 in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex*, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), Vol. XIII, pp. 165-7 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=0m1KAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA166>

The testator was the great-grandson of Sir Wistan Browne. Little is known of Sir Wistan Browne. He and Henry Guildford were knighted on 15 September 1511 by Ferdinand of Aragon at the palace in Burgos for their 'prowess exhibited in African wars'. He was Sheriff of Essex and Hertfordshire in 1514, and had died by 1534/5. See the inquisition taken after his death, TNA PROB E 199/12/11.

Sir Wistan Browne had a younger brother, Sir Humphrey Browne (d.1562), Justice of the Common Pleas, for whom see the *ODNB*:

*Sir Humphrey (d. 1562), judge, was a younger son of Thomas Browne of Longhouse in Abbess Roding, Essex, and Mary, daughter of Thomas Charlton, perhaps Sir Thomas Charlton (d. 1465), speaker of the House of Commons. His elder brother, Wistan, was the father of Sir Anthony Browne, who was for four years a fellow justice of the common pleas. . . . In 1516 he married Elizabeth, the widow of Nicholas Shelton (d. 1515), alderman of London . . . His second wife (shown as the first in the visitation pedigrees) was Anne or Amy Mordaunt, daughter and coheir of Henry Vere of Addington. With his third wife, Agnes, a daughter of John Hussey, Baron Hussey, and granddaughter of Chief Justice Sir William Hussey, he had three daughters: Mary, Christian, and Katherine.*

For the will of Sir Humphrey Browne, proved 14 January 1563, see TNA PROB 11/46/19.

The testator's great-grandfather, Sir Wistan Browne, married Elizabeth Mordaunt, one of the daughters of William Mordaunt (d.1481?) of Turvey, Bedfordshire. According to a Chancery suit dated 1538-1544, Sir Wistan Browne had a daughter, Elizabeth Browne, the wife of Rice Herbert, esquire. See TNA C 1/1003/25-26.

Sir Wistan Browne's two known sons were:

**-John Browne** (d.1550), eldest son and heir, the testator's grandfather, who married Etheldreda or Audrey Vere, one of the three daughters and coheirs of Henry Vere (d.1493) of Great Addington, Northamptonshire. See:

'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.*

For other litigation involving the inheritance of the three daughters and coheirs of Henry Vere, see 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*

**-Sir Anthony Browne** (d.1567), Justice of the Common Pleas, the testator's great-uncle. He died without issue, leaving the testator as his principal heir. See his will, proved 5 June 1567, TNA PROB 11/49/181, and the *ODNB* entry:

*Browne, Sir Anthony (1509/10–1567), judge, was born at Abbess Roding in Essex, a younger son of Sir Wistan Browne, who had been knighted by the king of Aragon, and Elizabeth, daughter of William Mordaunt of Turvey. Three of his uncles were benchers of the Middle Temple. His paternal uncle Sir Humphrey Browne was a justice of the common pleas. On his mother's side were Sir John Mordaunt (d. 1504), serjeant-at-law and chancellor of the duchy of Cornwall, and William Mordaunt (d. 1518), chief protonotary of the common pleas. . . .*

*Browne's marriage was childless, and his residuary estate was settled to pass after his wife's death to the issue of his brother [sic] George, with remainders to other relations . . . His principal estate was in Essex . . . The manor of South Weald (near Brentwood), where he settled at Weald Hall, was obtained from Lord Rich in 1548.*

By Etheldreda Vere, the testator's grandfather, John Browne (d.1550), left three sons, George Browne (d.1559), John Browne, and Henry Browne. Entails in the will of Sir Anthony Browne (d.1567), *supra*, state that of the two younger sons of John Browne (d.1550), one, John Browne, had a son, Anthony Browne (d.1623), while the other, Henry Browne, had two sons, Philip Browne and Coningsby Browne. The eldest of the three sons of John Browne (d.1550) by Etheldreda Vere was the testator's father:

**-George Browne** (d.1559), gentleman, of White Roding, Essex, who married firstly Elizabeth Leventhorpe, by whom he had two sons and two daughters:

**(1) Wistan Browne** (d.1581?), esquire, eldest son, the testator in the will below, who, as noted *infra*, married twice, and had a son, Anthony Browne (d.1583), and two daughters, Katherine Browne and Jane Browne.

**(2) John Browne**, esquire, of Wickham Hall, the testator's younger brother, who married Anne Staunton, the daughter of Thomas Staunton of Somerset, by whom he had three sons, Sir Anthony Browne, Wistan Browne (who died without issue), and William Browne, who married Mary Sulyard, widow of Thomas Tyrrell, esquire, and daughter of Sir John Sulyard of Wetherden, Suffolk, and four daughters, Jane Browne, who married John Fillol, esquire, Sybil Browne, who married John Christmas, esquire, of Colchester, Anne Browne, who married Thomas Peryent, esquire, and Elizabeth Browne, who married Thomas Cheney, esquire, of Chesham Bois. His eldest son, Sir Anthony Browne (d.1623) of Weald Hall, married Elizabeth Pyrton, the daughter of Edmund Pyrton (d.1609) of Bentley Hall, Essex, by Oxford's first cousin, Constance Darcy, daughter of Thomas Darcy (1506 – 28 June 1558), 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Darcy of Chiche, by Elizabeth de Vere (d. 26 December 1565). After the death of Sir Anthony Browne, Elizabeth Pyrton married Captain Peter Lathom. See the Browne pedigrees in Metcalfe, *supra*, pp. 166-7, 362 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=0m1KAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA167>

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=0m1KAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA362>

See also the Pyrton pedigree in Metcalfe, *supra*, p. 93 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=0m1KAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA93>

See also the pedigree of Leventhorpe of Shingle Hall and Albery in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Hertfordshire*, (London: Harleian Society, 1886), Vol. XXII, p. 150 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=gqwKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA150>

**(3) Anne Browne**, who married Rowland Elliott, third son of John Elliot of Stortford.

**(4) Elizabeth Browne**, who married Henry Jerningham, fourth son of Sir George Jerningham of Somerleyton.

According to the Browne pedigree in Metcalfe, *supra*, p. 166, the testator's father, George Browne (d.1559), married secondly a wife surnamed Wilford. Her Christian name was Elizabeth, and the marriage appears to have taken place shortly after the death of her first husband, Sir Henry Hubthorn or Hubblethorne (d.1556), Lord Mayor of London in 1547. See the fine levied between Richard Tyrrell, plainant, and Etheldreda

Browne, widow, George Browne, esquire, and his wife Elizabeth, and Wistan Browne, gentleman, deforciant, concerning properties in Cambridgeshire, and the fine levied between Thomas Bishop, plainant, and George Browne, esquire, and his wife, Elizabeth, and Wistan Browne, gentleman, his son, of manors and lands in Essex, Wiltshire and Hampshire, TNA CP 25(2)/83/711, No. 2 and No. 9, in Fitch, Marc and Frederick Emmison, eds., *Feet of Fines for Essex, Volume V, 1547-1580*, (Oxford: Leopard's head Press, 1991), pp. 50-1.

A Chancery suit, TNA C 1/1445/41-42, dated between 1556-1558, indicates that the testator's father, George Browne, was alive at that time. However he had died by 7 December 1559, as evidenced in a Chancery decree of that date in a suit brought by Dame Elizabeth Hubblethorne, widow successively of Sir Henry Hubblethorne (d.1556), and of George Browne of White Roding. See TNA C 78/41/9. For the will of Sir Henry Hubblethorne, see TNA PROB 11/38/183. For the IPM taken after the death of George Browne, see TNA C 142/120/94 and TNA E 150/332/6. For a traverse in 1572/3 of the IPM taken after the death of George Browne mentioning the manors of Rookwood Hall, Langenhoe, Abbess Roding and others, see TNA C 43/6/90.

The testator's stepmother may be the Dame Elizabeth Hubblethorne (d.1563) of Roydon, Essex, who made her will, TNA PROB 11/46/302, on 4 July 1563, requesting burial 'by my goodman Fuller, deceased', and appointing as sole executor her son, John Fuller. 'John Fuller of my chamber' is mentioned in the will of Sir Anthony Browne, *supra*, and was a witness to the will, and it thus seems likely that he was the third husband of the testator's stepmother.

### ***MARRIAGES AND CHILDREN***

The testator married firstly Mary Capell, the daughter of Sir Edward Capell (d.1577) by Anne Pelham, the daughter of Sir William Pelham of Burnt Pelham, Hertfordshire. Mary Capell was the granddaughter of Sir Giles Capell (d. 29 May 1556) of Hadham, Hertfordshire and Isabel Newton, daughter and co-heir of Sir John Newton or Caradoc of Wake, Somersetshire. See Baron de Cosson, 'The Capells of Rayne Hall', *The Archaeological Journal*, Vol. XL, (London, 1883), pp. 64-79 at pp. 71, 78-9:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=6coPAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA78>

The testator's first wife, Mary Capell, was a great-niece of Elizabeth Capell (d.1558) and her husband, Sir William Paulet (1474/5?-1572), 1<sup>st</sup> Marquess of Winchester. For Sir William Paulet and Elizabeth Capell, see the *ODNB* entry for Sir William Paulet, and Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 463-4 and Vol. II, p. 676. For Mary Capell, see also the Capell pedigree in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex*, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), Vol. XIII, p. 171 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=0m1KAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA171>

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By Mary Capell, the testator had a daughter:

\* **Katherine Browne**, who married Sir Nicholas Waldegrave, a younger son of Sir Edward Waldegrave (1516/17–1561) of Borley, Essex, by Frances Neville (1518/19–1599), the daughter of Sir Edward Neville (b. in or before 1482, d. 1538), of Addington Park, Kent, one of the younger sons of George Neville (1436–1492), 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Bergavenny. See the *ODNB* entry for Sir Edward Waldegrave; his will, TNA PROB 11/44/318; and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/waldegrave-sir-edward-151617-61>

See also the will of Sir Nicholas Waldegrave, proved 21 November 1621, TNA PROB 11/138/445. See also the will of Robert Forster, TNA PROB 11/39/125, whose granddaughter, Mary Forster, married Robert Waldegrave, a younger brother of Sir Edward Waldegrave (1516/17–1561). Mary Forster Waldegrave was the stepdaughter of Oxford's maternal uncle, Henry Golding (d.1576), for whose will, see TNA PROB 11/59/98.

Katherine Browne and her husband, Sir Nicholas Waldegrave, as well as several of their children, were Catholic recusants. See Foley, Henry, *Records of the English Province of the Society of Jesus*, Vol. I, First Series, (London: Burns and Oates, 1877), p. 648 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=LiIeAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA648>

The testator married secondly Elizabeth Paulet, the daughter of Giles Paulet (d.1580), fourth son of Sir William Paulet, Marquess of Winchester, by whom he had a son and a daughter:

\* **Anthony Browne**, who died in 1583 without issue and was succeeded by his nephew, Anthony Browne (d.1623).

\* **Jane Browne**, who married firstly Edward Wyatt (d. 9 July 1584), esquire, of Tillingham, Essex, son of Edward Wyatt (d.1571) by Mary Waldegrave, who, after the death of Edward Wyatt in 1571, married Sir Walter Mildmay (d. 24 February 1607?), second son of Thomas Mildmay (d.1566) of Moulsham, Essex, elder brother of Sir Walter Mildmay (1520/21–1589). See the *ODNB* entry for Sir Walter Mildmay (1520/21–1589), and Mildmay, Herbert A. St John, *A Brief Memoir of the Mildmay Family*, (London: John Lane, 1913), pp. 138–9 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/briefmemoirofmil00mild#page/138/mode/2up>

See also:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~hwbradley/aqwg2988.htm#81767>

See also Fitch, Edward A., ed., *The Essex Review*, Vol. II, (London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1893), p. 157 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=RDgNAAAAIAAJ&pg=PA157>

Jane Browne married secondly Sir Gamaliel Capell (d.1613), son of the testator's brother-in-law, Henry Capell, esquire, by Katherine Manners, daughter of Thomas Manners (c.1497–1543), 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Rutland, and Elizabeth Paston. For the marriage of Sir Henry Capell and Katherine Manners, see Cosson, *supra*, p. 79 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=6coPAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA79>

As Cosson notes, in the Capell pedigree the father of Sir Gamaliel Capell, Henry Capell, *esquire*, is conflated with his childless uncle, *Sir* Henry Capell (c.1507-1560). See Gosson, *supra*, p. 79, and Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex*, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), Vol. XIII, p. 171 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=0m1KAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA171>

For Sir Edward Capell (d.1577), mentioned in the will below, see also the pedigree of Capell of Little Hadham in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Hertfordshire*, (London: Harleian Society, 1886), Vol. XXII, p. 36 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsofher222732cook#page/n53/mode/2up>

See the will of Sir William Capell, proved 17 March 1516, TNA PROB 11/18/292; the will of Margaret Arundel Capell, proved 18 April 1522, TNA PROB 11/19/456; the will of Sir Giles Capell, proved 19 February 1557, TNA PROB 11/39/76; the will of Sir Henry Capell, proved 4 March 1558, TNA PROB 11/40/136; the will of Sir Edward Capell, proved 28 January 1577, TNA PROB 11/59/443; and the will of Henry Capell, proved 13 July 1588, TNA PROB 11/72/645.

## ***OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL***

### ***Dorothy Huddleston***

For Dorothy Huddleston (d.1615), daughter of Joan Farrington by her second husband, Henry Beconsall. and stepdaughter of Sir Anthony Browne (d.1567), see the will of Sir Anthony Browne, *supra*, the will, dated 2 October 1567 and proved 26 January 1568, of Dorothy's mother, Joan Farrington Booth Beconsall Browne, TNA PROB 11/50/19, and '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>

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

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

### ***Sir John Petre***

The testator appoints Sir John Petre as one of his executors, and entrusts him with the upbringing of his daughters. He also asks that Lord Burghley assist in obtaining the Queen's consent that Sir John Petre be granted the custody and marriage of his son, Anthony Browne:

*And I do most heartily wish and pray that it might stand with the Queen's Majesty's goodwill and pleasure to grant unto my said good friend and neighbour, Sir John Petre, knight, the custody, bringing up and marriage of my said son, Anthony Browne.*

*And I likewise humbly pray and beseech my honourable good Lord, the Lord Burghley, Lord High Treasurer of England, to give his consent and furtherance thereunto and to be a mean for me to her Highness in that behalf.*

For Sir John Petre (1549-1613) of Ingatestone, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/petre-sir-john-1549-1613>

As noted in the History of Parliament entry, Sir John Petre, married Mary Waldegrave, the daughter of Sir Edward Waldegrave of Borley. As noted above, the testator's daughter, Katherine Browne, later married Sir Nicholas Waldegrave of Borley, the eldest son and heir of Sir Edward Waldegrave.

### ***Thomas Wallinger***

In the will of Sir Anthony Browne (d.1567), *supra*, he is mentioned as one of his clerks.

### ***QUEEN ELIZABETH'S VISIT TO ROOKWOOD HALL***

For Queen Elizabeth's visit to the testator's house at Rookwood Hall from 9(?) August – 18 August 1578, see Dovey, Zillah, *An Elizabethan Progress: The Queen's Journey into East Anglia 1578*, pp. 138-42 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=0S5hRUfyv6AC&pg=PA138>

See also Cole, Mary Hill, *The Portable Queen*, (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1999), p. 209.



## **TESTATOR'S LANDS**

### **Markes**

On 12 September 1570, the testator was granted licence to sell the manor of Markes in White Roding. See ERO D/DP T1/1841.

### **South Weald**

'Parishes: South Weald', in *A History of the County of Essex: Volume 8*, ed. W R Powell, Beryl A Board, Nancy Briggs, J L Fisher, Vanessa A Harding, Joan Hasler, Norma Knight and Margaret Parsons (London, 1983), pp. 74-90. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/essex/vol8/pp74-90> [accessed 15 October 2017].

*In 1541 the manor [of South Weald] was granted by the Crown to Sir Brian Tuke. (fn. 99) Sir Brian (d. 1545) devised it to his second son George Tuke, who in 1548 sold it to Richard Rich, Lord Rich, the lord chancellor. (fn. 100) Rich sold it in 1548 to (Sir) Antony Browne, later chief justice of Common Pleas, and founder of Brentwood school. (fn. 101) Browne, who also bought Calcott and Costed, (fn. 102) died in 1567, leaving his South Weald estate to his stepdaughter Dorothy, wife of Sir Edmund Huddleston, for life, with reversion to Sir Antony's great-nephew Wistan Browne. (fn. 103) Dorothy and her husband held manor courts at South Weald until 1575, (fn. 104) but Wistan Browne disputed their possession, (fn. 105) and obtained part of the estate before Dorothy's death, which did not occur until 1615. (fn. 106) Wistan was holding manor courts at South Weald from 1575. (fn. 107) At his death in 1580 he was said to hold a third of the manors of South Weald, Calcott, and Costed. (fn. 108) He was succeeded by his son Anthony Browne (d. 1583), and then by his nephew (Sir) Anthony Browne. (fn. 109) From Anthony (d. 1623) the manor passed to his son John Browne (d. 1658), whose heir was (Sir) Anthony Browne. (fn. 110)*

### **Abess Roding**

'Abess Roding: Manors', in *A History of the County of Essex: Volume 4, Ongar Hundred*, ed. W R Powell (London, 1956), pp. 190-193. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/essex/vol4/pp190-193> [accessed 14 October 2017].

*In 1599, however, the manor [of Abess Roding] was restored to Richard Glascock, (fn. 12) who sold it in the same year to Gamaliel Capel of Rookwood (see below), younger brother of Arthur Capel (d. 1632), lord of Much Hadham (Herts.) and of Berwick Berners. (fn. 13) Gamaliel was later knighted, and died in 1613. (fn. 14)*

....

*The manor of ROOKWOOD HALL alias BROWNES was first so styled in 1488, when it was held of the Earl of Oxford as of his honor of Hedingham. (fn. 78) The same tenure was apparently still acknowledged in 1632. (fn. 79) It is not unlikely that this part of Abbess Roding was included in the manor of Roding held in 1086 by Aubrey de Vere, ancestor of the earls of Oxford, of Alan, Count of Brittany. (fn. 80) The main part of that Domesday manor was undoubtedly in Beauchamp Roding (q.v.). (fn. 81) . . . .*

*In 1467 John Browne died seised of the manor of Abbess Roding (i.e. Rookwood). He had inherited it from his brother Baldwin, who had died without issue; his own heir was another brother Thomas. (fn. 86) Thomas Browne died in 1488 leaving Rookwood Hall alias Browne's manor to his son (Sir) Wistan. The manor then comprised 300 acres of land, 200 acres of pasture, 26 acres of meadow, 10 acres of wood, and also a toft, garden, and ½ acre of land, in Abbess Roding and neighbouring parishes. (fn. 87)*

*Rookwood descended in the direct male line of the Brownes until 1580 when Wistan Browne, son of George, died leaving as his heir his son Anthony. (fn. 88) Anthony died without issue in 1583. (fn. 89) Rookwood was then divided between his sisters Jane, wife of (Sir) Gamaliel Capel, and Katherine, wife of Nicholas Waldegrave of Borley. (fn. 90) Capel apparently acquired Waldegrave's share in addition to his own. He certainly lived at Rookwood Hall, (fn. 91) and there is no evidence of a continued Waldegrave connexion with the manor. After 1599, when Capel bought the manor of Abbess Roding, Rookwood formed part of a larger estate in the parish and does not seem to have been named as a separate manor.*

### **Colville Hall**

For Colville Hall, see:

<http://www.colvillehallwedding.co.uk/historic-wedding-venue-essex-hertfordshire>

*In 1537 Colville Hall was established as a manor in its own right when John Browne purchased it from his uncle Sir Humphrey Browne.*

LM: T{estamentum} wistani Browne Armig{eri}

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, my Creator, my Redeemer and my Sanctifier, three persons and one almighty, merciful and everliving God, Amen. I, Wistan Browne of South Weald in the county of Essex and in the diocese of London, esquire, son and heir of George Browne, late of White Roding in the said county, esquire deceased, son and heir of John Browne, late of Abbess Roding in the said county, esquire, deceased, son and heir of Sir Wistan Browne, late of Abbess Roding aforesaid, knight, likewise deceased, and cousin and next heir of Sir Anthony Browne, late of South

Weald aforesaid, knight, and late one of the Justices of the Common Pleas at Westminster, likewise deceased, being whole of body and of good and perfect remembrance, thanks be given to the same Almighty God, the 16<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year of Our Lord God after the computation of the Church of England one thousand five hundred threescore and nineteen and in the 22<sup>nd</sup> year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth, Queen of England etc., do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to the same merciful God, Jesus Christ, my Saviour, by the merits of whose bitter passion, death and resurrection I steadfastly believe and do perfectly hope and trust to rise again alive in this flesh at the general Day of Doom, and to be glorified and made a partaker of the everlasting joys in his heavenly kingdom;

Item, I will my body to be buried in the chancel of the parish church of South Weald aforesaid near to the body of Mary, my late dear & virtuous wife, one of the daughters of Sir Edward Capell, knight, there buried, with such charges about my grave & funerals as shall be thought meet for a Christian man of my calling by the discretions of my executors hereafter named, and as in the Catholic Church of God is used;

Item, I will that at the day of the solemnization of my funerals dole be given to the poor people by my executors of my money and goods, viz., 6d apiece to so many of them as will hold up their hands to take it, besides sufficient of meat, bread and drink to every of them [f. 124r] for that day;

Item, I give to the poor people inhabiting at the time of my death in White Roding where I was born and christened thirty shillings;

And to the poor people inhabiting at the time of my death in Abbess Roding aforesaid twenty shillings;

And to the poor people inhabiting at the time of my death in South Weald where I have appointed to be buried forty shillings;

And to the poor people likewise inhabiting in Langenhoe where I am lord of the manor and patron of the parish church ten shillings;

And to the poor people likewise inhabiting in Paglesham where I have land and living ten shillings;

All which several sums of money amounting to the sum of five pounds ten shillings I will that my executors do pay within one month after my burial;

Item, I give to the reparations of the parish churches of White Roding, Abbess Roding, South Weald, Langenhoe and Paglesham five pounds of lawful money, viz., to the reparations of each of them twenty shillings apiece, to be paid to the churchwardens of those churches by my executors within one year next after my decease;

Item, my debts being first paid and discharged, or my creditors sufficiently agreed with, I give and bequeath all the residue of my money, plate, jewels, goods, chattels, household stuff, leases and debts owing unto me which I have in Abbess Roding, South Weald, White Roding, Langenhoe, Paglesham, Dagenham or elsewhere within the realm of England or without as hereafter followeth, that is to say:

First I will and appoint that all the joined ceilings and joined work which shall be in any of my three mansion houses, viz., Weald Hall, Rookwood Hall and Colville Hall, at the time of my death of what sort soever they be and of what stuff soever they be made of, whether of oak, wainscot, chestnut, walnut-tree or otherwise, being by any means annexed or made fast to the walls or freehold of those house[s] or any of them or not, shall remain and continue there to the owners of those houses forever without change, alterations or diminution of them or any of them except it be to the enlarging and amendment of them;

Secondly I will and appoint that all the bedsteads, presses, chests, coffers, tables, frames, benches, forms, stools, cupboards and chairs that shall be commonly used in any of the chambers within any of the said three mansion houses or in the three halls or in any of them or in any the parlours of the said three mansion houses or in any room of any of the said three houses at the time of my death shall likewise remain and continue there to the owners of those mansion houses as heirlooms;

Thirdly I will and appoint that all brewing vessels by what name soever they be or shall be called, and all vessels for beer or ale, as firkins, kilderkins, barrels and hogsheads, and all stalls to lay beer, ale or wine upon that shall be in any the said three houses at the time of my death shall likewise continue and remain there to the owners of the said houses as heirlooms, and as they decay, some(?) convenient times to be amended and repaired or changed for so many other as good by th' occupiers thereof;

Fourthly I will and appoint that the copper pan and the great cistern of lead in the kitchen at South Weald Hall, and the great cistern of lead in the pump house there, and the two great mustard querns in the kitchen at Weald Hall and Rookwood Hall aforesaid, and all dresser-boards, tables, planks, shelves, troughs, tubs, cheese presses, cups, bowls, pans, cowls [=tubs], bins and standards that shall be in the butteries, pantries, kitchens, larders, pastries, bakehouses, brewhouses, dairies, milkhouses or wash-houses in any of the said three mansion houses at the time of my death shall likewise remain there to the owners of those houses as heirlooms forever;

Fifthly I will and appoint that all doors, gates, casements, glass of windows, locks, keys and all ironwork and all gutters, spouts, pipes, conduits and cisterns of lead and all lead-work and all horse-mills with their stones, frames and utensils and all mangers, racks, planks and byres [=cow-houses] that be necessarily used at or in the said three mansion houses or any of them at the time of my death, and all other things annexed to the freehold of those three houses shall remain and continue there to the owners of those

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houses as heirlooms forever without diminution or alteration except it be to the enlarging, amending or bettering of them;

All which heirlooms, dormans(?) and stuff of household aforesaid other than such and so many of them as shall hereafter in this my will be appointed or bequeathed otherwise, my meaning is shall remain in the said houses as aforesaid, and the said owners of those houses to have only the use of them in the said houses without any further right, interest or property in them or any of them;

Item, I will and bequeath to Elizabeth, my dearly beloved wife, all her apparel, linen, chains, bracelets, borders, biliments, rings and jewels which she is wont to wear; also the gold ring with the three three rubies which I had of her, and all the money which she is wont to have in her custody without any account making;

Item, I give to my said wife the gilt bowl with the cover which my Lady Marquess Dowager of Winchester sent us to our marriage;

Also my second gilt salt-cellar with the cover having the manikin broken off;

Also my little gilt salt with the cover;

Also six of the second dozen of silver spoons with round knops, and six of the said spoons with maidenhead tops;

Also my two silver tankards;

Also my great gilt bowl that is without a cover;

Item, I give to Katherine, my daughter, one of my silver bowls parcel gilt, three silver spoons of the second dozen and three of my silver spoons with maidenhead tops, and my white stoned pot covered and trimmed with silver;

Also the little casket trimmed with white and black bone which was her own mother's;

Item, I give to Jane, my daughter, my silver goblet parcel gilt which my cousin, John Cobden, gave me by his will;

Also three gilt silver spoons which were sent me by my Lady Jane Browne, mine aunt, at the christening of my said daughter, Jane;

Also [f. 124v] three of the silver spoons with maidenhead tops and my brown stone pot covered and trimmed with silver;

The residue of all my plate not here specially bequeathed I give to my son, Anthony, the parcels of all which plate are contained in an inventory hereunto annexed with my hand unto it;

Item, I give to my said son, Anthony, all his and mine apparel and wearing linen for our bodies;

Also the flagon-chain that he is wont to wear, the serjeant's ring of gold which mine uncle, Sir Anthony Browne, gave me by his will;

Also my border of gold buttons that are for a cap;

Also my little brooch with the agate in it;

Item, I give to Katherine, my daughter all her apparel and linen that she is wont to wear, and the borders of goldsmith's work which she is wont to wear, and her own mother's wedding ring;

Also the little brooch with the agate that Mrs Fynche gave her;

Also the flagon-chain of gold which she is wont to wear;

Item, I give to Jane, my daughter, all her apparel and linen and the borders of goldsmith's work which she is wont to wear;

Also my round tablet of gold with the pearl hanging upon it;

Item, my debts paid, which I will shall be levied out of my goods and chattels, and my legacies herein mentioned performed, all other my goods and chattels herein not given, bequeathed or devised, I give, will and bequeath unto the foresaid Elizabeth, my said wife, my forenamed son, Anthony, and unto my said two daughters in four parts to be equally divided by the discretion of my executors or by the more part of them, and by them or some of them to be delivered unto my said wife, son and daughters;

Item, as concerning my manors, lands, tenements, hereditaments, leases and bargains that I have within the realm of England, I make and ordain my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say:

First, whereas Elizabeth, my second wife, standeth jointly seised with me for term of her life of and in the manor of Colville Hall alias Knights alias Brownes manor with th' appurtenances in White Roding, Aythorpe Roding, Abbess Roding, Matching and King's Hatfield [=Hatfield Broad Oak] in the said county of Essex;

And also of and in the manor of Church Hall in Paglesham with th' appurtenances;

And of certain lands and tenements called Much Biggins and Little Biggins in Much Stambridge [=Great Stambridge] with th' appurtenances in the said county;

And also of and in the moiety of certain lands and tenements with th' appurtenances in Langenhoe in the said county called by the several names of Haynes, Lexdans, Evelettes and Wades with sundry remainders over, as in and by sundry deeds and conveyances in law of the premises may more plainly appear, which manor of Colville Hall with th' appurtenances, as well by the office found after the death of the said John Browne, esquire, my grandfather, as also by th' office found after the death of the said George Browne, esquire, my father, was valued and extended at the clear yearly value of eleven pounds;

And which manor of Church Hall with th' appurtenances in Paglesham and the lands and tenements called Much Biggins and Little Biggins aforesaid were by office found after the death of the foresaid Sir Anthony Browne, knight, late one of the Justices of the Common Pleas, my great-uncle, to be of the clear yearly value of twenty-two pounds thirteen shillings four pence;

And which moiety of the lands and tenements in Langenhoe aforesaid called Haynes, Lexdens, Evelettes and Wades were purchased by me at the clear yearly value of three pounds six shillings eight pence;

My will and intent is for the further and more perfect declaration of the estate and assurance of the premises to my said wife during her life that my said wife shall have, hold and enjoy the said manors, lands and tenements and every part and parcel thereof with th' appurtenances with all rents, profits, commodities and advantages to the same and to every part thereof belonging during her life in as free, large and ample manner as the same be, appear or are meant to be by assurance in law conveyed unto her;

And I do give and bequeath to my said wife all my foresaid manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments with th' appurtenances during her natural life;

And I do further give and bequeath unto my said wife during her life the yearly sum of ten pounds by the year which Richard Pease, farmer of the said manor of Church Hall and Biggins, hath by his indenture dated the last day of January in the one and twentieth year of the reign of the Queen's Majesty aforesaid covenanted and agreed to pay unto me, my heirs, executors or assigns yearly for certain years yet to come in consideration and stead of certain wethers, horse pasture, fowl and fish which otherwise by his covenants in the indenture of lease made to him of the said manor and premises for sundry years yet to come he ought yearly to pay, upon condition that my said wife nor her assigns do not demand the said wethers, horse pasture, fowl and fish during the said term;

And I do give unto my said wife during her life upon the condition aforesaid all the yearly profit and advantage that I, mine heirs, executors or assigns may at any time hereafter have, use or take of the said Richard Pease by virtue of any his said covenants and against the said Richard for the breach of any covenant or band contained in the said indenture of lease made by me unto him of the foresaid manor of Church Hall and Biggins for certain years yet to come or for the breach of any covenant made by the said

Richard Pease in the indenture aforesaid wherein, amongst other things, he covenanteth to pay the said yearly sum of ten pounds;

Item, I will that John Wright of Markes [f. 125r] in White Roding, my servant and bailiff of that manor, shall have the occupation during the minority of Anthony, my son, of my lease that I have of the tithes of the demesnes of Colville Hall and Markes in White Roding aforesaid made unto me by Sir Harry Bankes, now parson there, for sundry years yet to come to his own use, paying unto the said parson yearly the rent of six pounds reserved upon the said lease, and paying unto my said wife yearly ten quarters of good, sweet and merchantable malt during the nonage of my said son according as he doth now pay unto me in consideration of the holding & occupying of the said tithe;

And if it shall happen my said son to die before his full age of one and twenty years, then I will that the said John Wright, his executors, administrators and assigns, shall pay unto my said wife yearly the said ten quarters of malt for and during the whole term of years which he then shall have in the said tithes in manner aforesaid;

And after my said son, Anthony, shall come to his full age of one and twenty years, I give the said lease to my said son to use and dispose thereof at his pleasure;

Provided that then from and after the said full age of my said son the said yearly payment of the said ten quarters of malt to cease and be void, and my said son to hold the said term discharged thereof;

And if it shall happen my said wife to die before my said son shall accomplish his said full age, then I will that the said John Wright shall pay yearly the said ten quarter[s] of malt to my said son for and during his nonage;

And if it shall happen my said son to die before his said full age of one and twenty years, then I will the residue of the said term which shall be then to come in the said tithe to him or her that shall be owner of my manor of Markes;

Item, whereas I have suffered in [sic for 'a?'] recovery of the said manor of Markes with th' appurtenances in White Roding and of the advowson of the parish church of White Roding to the use of myself during my life, the remainder to Anthony Bowne, my son and heir apparent, and to the heirs males of the body of the said Anthony, with other remainders over, as by the conveyance thereof may appear, upon which conveyance a question may grow whether the whole manor or but two parts thereof shall pass to the said Anthony in tail, and that the fee simple of the third part thereof remaineth still in me and mine heirs notwithstanding that conveyance, for that the said manor being holden of the Prince by knight's service in chief there was not licence of alienation sued upon the same conveyance, to avoid all ambiguity that may grow thereof after my death, I will and bequeath the said third part of the said manor of Markes with th' appurtenances and the third part of the advowson of the parish church of White Roding (whereof doubt may grow as aforesaid whether it shall pass according to the said conveyance or no) unto my



said son, Anthony, and to th' heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, with like remainders over as in the same mentioned conveyance is limited and appointed;

And I give and bequeath the said manor of Markes with th' appurtenances and the advowson of the parish church of White Roding unto my said son, Anthony, and to the heirs males of the body of my said son, Anthony, lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue I will that the said manor with th' appurtenances and the said advowson do remain unto me and to th' heirs males of my body lawfully begotten, with like remainders over as in the said conveyance is expressed, which manor of Markes with th' appurtenances and the advowson of the parish church of White Roding by office found after the death of my said father, George Browne, were valued and extented at the clear yearly value of ten pounds;

And further I will and my intent is that th' exchange made with the farmer of Markes for the time being by my foresaid grandfather, John Browne, in his lifetime, and continued by my said father, George Browne, and also by me until this time of certain lands called Alderdownes, Spitles croft, Hawkyns pightle [=a small field or enclosure] or garden, and Hawkins' lane, parcel of the said manor of Colville Hall for certain lands called Wilbrooke field, Wilbroke mead and Wilbrooke lane, parcel of the said manor of Markes, shall stand, continue and be firm and stable, and that the owners, occupiers and farmers of Colville Hall and of Markes shall at all times hereafter content themselves, every of them, with the said exchange so made and continued as aforesaid, and hold the lands so exchanged yearly in place and lieu of the other lands so exchanged without impeachment or denial of either of them to the other of them;

And so I desire my said wife and my said son, Anthony, and his heirs, each of them to hold the said parcels of lands so exchanged in place of th' other of them quietly, peaceably and contentedly without question or controversy to grow between them for the same;

Item, I will that the churchwardens of White Roding and their successors shall have my lite [sic for 'little?'] pightle in Aythorpe Roding containing by estimation one half acre now in the occupation of (blank) Davye for so many years as they shall suffer me, my heirs and assigns, to have and enjoy one parcel of ground there called Church Hope, and no longer;

Item, whereas by good assurance in law I have conveyed unto me from Sir Edward Capell, knight, now deceased, and Thomas Leventhorpe, esquire, by indenture of lease under their hands & seals for and during the time and term of four score years if the Lady Dorothy Huddlestone, wife of Sir Edmund Huddlestone, knight, shall so long live, two parts of the manor of South Weald with th' appurtenances and two parts of the parsonage of South Weald in the county of Essex in three parts to be divided;

And also two parts of the manor of Costed Hall with th' appurtenances and two parts of the market and fair in Brentwood [f. 125v] with th' appurtenances in three parts to be divided;

And also two parts of the manor of Calcotts alias Caldecotte with th' appurtenances in the said county in three parts to be divided;

And also two parts of the free chapel or chantry in Brook Street, and two parts of one hundred acres of land, meadow, pasture and woods with th' appurtenances commonly called the Spittell lands in Brook Street and South Weald aforesaid in three parts to be divided;

And also two parts of all such manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments in South Weald, Brentwood, Brook Street, Shenfield and Doddinghurst with th' appurtenances in three parts to be divided as lately were the inheritance of the foresaid Sir Anthony Browne, knight, my great-uncle, deceased, at the day of his death, yielding and paying to the said Sir Edward and Thomas Leventhorpe and their executors the yearly rent of one penny, as in and by the deeds thereof more plainly appeareth;

And also whereas I am seised of a lawful estate of inheritance in fee simple of and in the third parts of all the foresaid manors of South Weald, Costed Hall and Calcotts, and of the third part of the said parsonage of South Weald, and of the third part of the said market and fair in Brentwood, and for [sic for 'of?'] the third parts of all the lands, tenements and hereditaments in South Weald, Brentwood, Brook Street, Shenfield and Doddinghurst that late were the inheritance of the said Sir Anthony Browne, my great-uncle, at the day of his death and now th' inheritance of me, Wistan Browne, by descent as next cousin and heir unto the said Sir Anthony Browne, of all which third parts I have sued my livery, being found by office after the death of the said Sir Anthony Browne at the clear yearly value of twenty-one pounds eleven shillings farthing, viz., the third part of the manor of South Weald with th' appurtenances and the third part of the parsonage of South Weald at the yearly value of ten pounds thirteen shillings four pence, and the third part of the said manor of Costed Hall with th' appurtenances and of the fair and market in Brentwood at the yearly value of six pounds 13d 1/3, and the third part of the said manor of Calcotts with th' appurtenances at the yearly value of three pounds 12d 1/3, and the third part of the chantry in Brook Street and of the hundred acres of land, meadow, pastures and woods in Brook Street and South Weald with the appurtenances commonly called the Spittle lands at the yearly value of thirty-five shillings six pence ob 1/3, I give and bequeath for and during the first ten years next and immediately after my decease, if the said Lady Dorothy Huddlestone shall so long live, all the rents, revenues, issues, profits, commodities, tithes and advantages whatsoever that shall yearly grow, come, renew or be due out of every and all and singular the said two parts and every part and parcel thereof in three parts to be divided (the woods and underwoods now growing and hereafter to grow in and upon the premises excepted) unto the said Anthony Browne, my son and heir apparent, and to Katherine Browne and Joan alias Jane Browne, my two daughters, equally to be divided amongst them, chargeable with such annuities, fees,

yearly rents and pensions and th' arrearages thereof as the said two parts are now lawfully charged with;

And further I will and bequeath for and during the first ten years next after my decease all the rent, revenues, issues, profits, commodities, tithes and advantages whatsoever that shall yearly grow and renew or be due out of or by reason of all & singular my foresaid third parts of all such manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments as lately descended unto me by the death of my said great-uncle, Sir Anthony Browne, as cousin and next heir unto him (the wood and underwoods now growing and which shall hereafter grow in and upon the premises excepted) unto my said two daughters, Katherine and Jane Browne, equally to be divided between them, chargeable with all such annuities, fees, rents and pensions and th' arrearages thereof as the said third parts are now lawfully charged with and no further;

Provided always and my will, intent and plain meaning is, any matter here in this my last will and testament before expressed to the contrary notwithstanding, that my said daughters, Katherine & Jane, shall have of th' issues, revenues and profits of my manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments aforesaid but only the full sum of one thousand pound of lawful English money and no more, that is to say, every of them five hundred pounds to be paid unto them in such manner and form and at such times as in this my last will and testament is expressed;

And the residue of th' issues, profits and revenues of the said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments, the said sum of one thousand pounds answered and paid in manner and form aforesaid, I will shall be employed towards the bringing up of my said two daughters, the payment of my debts and legacies, and towards the discharge of my funerals;

And after my debts, funerals and legacies discharged, and the charges of the bringing up of my said two daughters answered, I will that my said son, Anthony, shall have and receive the whole issues, revenues and profits of the same premises;

And I will that my said two daughters shall be brought up by the oversight and direction of the foresaid Sir John Petre, knight;

And I will that the right worshipful and my very good friend & neighbour, Sir John Petre, knight, my brother [=brother-in-law], Henry Capell, esquire, my cousin, Richard Cutte, esquire, and my loving friend, [f. 126r] Thomas Wallinger, gentleman, whom I do ordain and make executors of this my last will and testament, shall have the dealing, letting and setting of all the said two parts and of all the said third parts (except before excepted), and the receiving of all the said rents, issues and profits that shall yearly rise, come, renew or be due out of or by reason of the said two parts and out of or by reason of the said third parts;

And the same perfectly shall account once in the year amongst themselves yearly between Hallow-tide and Christmas, and the revenues thereof so accounted shall take

order to lay up and safely keep amongst themselves to the uses of my said three children to be divided amongst them as aforesaid;

I will therefore that with the keeping of the revenues and profits of the first year after my decease the said Sir John Petre be charged and accountable, and of the revenues and profits of the second year my said cousin Cutte be charged and accountable, and of the revenues and profits of the third year the said Thomas Wallinger be charged and accountable, and so to begin again with the said Sir John Petre in order;

Item, upon the account. the money to be delivered to Sir John Petre and to Mr Capell by even portions;

And I will that George Monke, my servant, be bailiff, collector and gatherer of all the yearly rents, revenues and profits that shall yearly grow of my said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments during the said ten years if the said George shall so long live;

And that he shall pay over the revenues of the first half year yearly to that my executor which for that year shall be charged with the keeping of the said revenues;

And that my said executors shall upon his account made as aforesaid of his yearly receipts of the said revenues at every year's end yearly between Hallow-tide and Christmas as aforesaid pay unto the said George for his pains taken therein forty shillings of lawful money to be deducted out of the said revenues;

And I will that the portions that shall happen to my two daughters of so many years as shall be then gathered shall be paid unto them at the day of their marriages or else at their ages of twenty-one years, which shall first happen;

And that my son Anthony's portion of so many years as shall be then gathered shall be paid to him at his age of twenty-one years and not before;

Provided always that if it should(?) happen any of my said three children to die before their marriage or before their ages of twenty-one years as aforesaid, then I will that that part of the two parts before in this my will first bequeathed which by the true intent and meaning of this my last will and testament should have been paid to that or those of my children as so shall fortune to die if she or they had lived, be paid to such of my said children as then shall be living at his, her or their marriage or ages of twenty & one years as aforesaid;

And that that part of my foresaid third parts before in this my will last bequeathed be given wholly to that my daughters that shall happen to survive her said sister, my other daughter;

And I will that the residue of the rents and profits that shall yearly grow due out of the said two parts and out of the said third parts after their marriages or their ages of twenty-

one years as aforesaid during the residue of the foresaid ten years shall be yearly paid unto them within the space of forty days next after my said executors or any of them shall have received the same;

And if it shall fortune any of my said three children to die after their foresaid marriage or after their foresaid age of twenty-one years and before the expiration of the said ten years, then I will that the residue of their portions as they shall grow after yearly to be due out of the said two parts or out of the said third parts as aforesaid shall be paid to the husband of such of my said daughters as shall happen to die, if any husband be, and to the wife of my said son, if any be, and for lack thereof to the next heir of the body of that my child that shall so happen to die after marriage or after the age of twenty-one years, if any such heir shall be, and for lack thereof (blank);

And I will that if any of my said executors shall happen to die, then that the survivors or survivor of them shall deal in the whole matter of this my will as aforesaid;

Provided always that the said executors nor any of them shall fell nor sell any woods, underwoods or timber upon any of the two parts nor upon the third parts aforesaid but for necessary fuel to be spent in the mansion house of South Weald Hall and for necessary reparations of the said mansion house of South Weald Hall and of other the edifices and farm-houses that appertain to and are part or portion of the premises;

Provided also that none of my said executors shall fell or cut down or shall give licence to any copyholder that holdeth copy or customary lands of any of the said manors of South Weald, Costed Hall or Calcotts or to any other person or persons to fell or sell any woods, underwoods or timber upon any of the said copyhold lands until my said son, Anthony, shall accomplish the age of twenty-one years;

And then I will that all such fines as shall be then and from thenceforth made for licence to any copyholder or other to fell or sell the said woods or timber shall be wholly to the use and profit of my said son, Anthony;

Item, I will and my intent & meaning is that if my said son, Anthony, after he shall accomplish the age of twenty-one years, be desirous to have the mansion house of South Weald Hall and the foresaid two parts and the said third parts of the manors, [f. 126v] lands, tenements and hereditaments aforesaid into his own hands and occupation, and that if he shall put in sufficient bonds with sureties to my said executors, or to such person or persons as by my said executors or by the survivors of them shall be limited and appointed, to pay or cause to be paid yearly unto my said two daughters or to the survivor of them such yearly portions of money during the residue of the foresaid ten years then to come and not expired as I have before devised unto them and in such manner and form as before I have devised by this my will to be paid out of the rents, revenues and profits that shall yearly grow or be due out of all the said two parts and of the said third parts, then I will that he, the said Anthony, shall have and take all the said lands, tenements and hereditaments into his own use and possession;

And I will all the foresaid third parts of all the manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments aforesaid after the end of the said ten years unto my said son, Anthony Browne, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully to be begotten;

And for lack of such issue, the remainder and remainders thereof to the same person & persons to whom the said other two parts of the premises be by the last will and testament of my said great-uncle, Sir Anthony Browne, limited and appointed, and of such estate and estates as by the said last will of my said great-uncle is appointed and limited for the said other two parts:

Item, whereas the patronage of the grammar school of Anthony Browne, serjeant at law, in Brentwood, and the gift and disposition of the schoolmastership and of the two gardens of the same school, and also the nomination and placing of five almsfolk in South Weald aforesaid when any of their rooms and places shall happen to be void is descended and come unto me and mine heirs in fee simple as next cousin and heir unto the said Sir Anthony Browne, my great-uncle, I give and bequeath the said patronage and the gift and disposition of the said schoolmastership and of the said two gardens and also the placing of every of the said five almsfolk when any of their rooms shall happen to be void unto my said son, Antony Browne, and to th' heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue, the remainder thereof to the heirs males of my body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue, the remainder thereof to my brother, John Browne, for term of his life, the remainder thereof to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue, the remainder thereof to the right heirs of me, the said Wistan Browne, forever;

Provided always and yet nevertheless I will and bequeath to my said brother Capell and to my said cousin, Richard Cutte, and to the survivor of them during the minority of my said son, Anthony, and if he shall happen to die before his full age of one and twenty years, then during the minority of such issue male as shall inherit the same after the death of my said son, Anthony, by virtue of this my will, the said gift of the schoolmastership and of the two gardens of the same school and also the nomination and placing of the said five almsfolk and of every of them when and so often as any of their rooms or places shall happen to become void during all the said term;

Item, touching my manor of Rookwood Hall and other my lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances in Abbess Roding not before bequeathed, Beauchamp Roding, Margaret Roding and Little Laver with their appurtenances valued at thirteen pounds six shillings eight pence by the year in the office found after the decease of my father, George Browne, esquire, deceased, I do give, will and dispose as hereafter followeth:

First, in consideration of the service of Edward Humberstone, yeoman, heretofore and hereafter to be done unto me, my heirs and assigns, I do give, will and bequeath unto the said Edward the office of the keepership or keeping of my park called Rookwood Hall park;

And I do by this my last will and testament ordain, constitute and appoint the same Edward Humberstone keeper of the same park for & during the life of the said Edward;

And I do will and bequeath to him, the said Edward, all such fees, rewards and commodities as unto the keeper of a park properly belongeth, and also pasture, walk and feeding for six milch beast, one mare and one hunting nag within the said park;

Also for and in consideration aforesaid I do give, will and bequeath unto the said Edward Humberstone for and during the life of the said Edward two parcels of land lying near unto the said park, the one of them called Langelondes and thother Potters croft;

Item, I will that there be yearly every year delivered unto the said Edward or unto the keeper of the said park for the time being six loads of sweet hay to be taken of the grass in Howe mead and Carters leaze [=pasture] yearly, and to be inned in the new hay-house within the park aforesaid at the charges of my said executors to be employed for the feeding of the deer within the same park within [f. 127r] the time of winter;

And the overplus of the said hay, if any shall remain, I will that the same shall be to the cattle of the said Edward and such other cattle as my heirs, executors or assigns from time to time shall have within the same park;

Item, I will and my mind is that the said Edward shall from time to time have and take sufficient browse for the deer within the same park, to be lopped by himself of such trees as are within the same park and that beforetime have been lopped, and the wood thereof remaining from and after the deer have browsed the same, I will shall remain to the use of such person and persons as shall be resident and dwelling within my house of Rookwood Hall, there to be spent for firewood, and not elsewhere;

Item, I will that my executors within convenient time after my decease shall with part of the issues and profits of the premises build up one convenient house for a lodge for the said keeper within the park aforesaid near the middle gate of the same park within the compass of the old moat now dorved(?) up near unto a parcel of land called Watkyns field;

And I will that the said Edward shall have his lodging in the chamber wherein he now lieth until the said lodge shall be builded up and made fit to lodge in, with free ingress, egress and regress unto the same;

Item, I will that my executors for the enlarging of the said park shall take into the same park certain crofts of land and wood-ground called Brickells, the field called Watkyns

field, one croft of those pastures called Costes crofts, and the same shall enclose with post, rail and pale of the timber which I have felled for the same purpose;

And if there shall not be sufficient timber of the same, then I will that my executors shall fell other timber-trees meet for that purpose within any my said grounds last mentioned where the same may be best spared for th' enclosing of the same;

And also I will that my said executors shall lay forth and sever out of and from the said park parcel of that lawn next adjoining unto my mansion house called Rookwood Hall now parcel of the same park, that is to say, such of the said lawn as lieth between the said mansion house and one bank with a ditch which boundeth(?) by a watering in the midst of the said lawn, and the same parcel of the said lawn to be severed from the residue of the same lawn with posts and rails, that is to say, with three rails between every of the posts, as by the said Edward shall be partly devised or advised;

Item, I do give, will and bequeath unto my said executors my manor of Rookwood Hall with th' appurtenances in Abbess Roding and all my lands, tenements and hereditaments not before bequeathed in Abbess Roding, Beauchamp Roding, Margaret Roding and Little Laver with their appurtenances in the county aforesaid for and during the term of ten years next after my decease to th' use & intents following, that is to say:

First I will that they suffer my said wife immediately after my death to dwell in the mansion house of the said manor of Rookwood Hall, and to have the use of all the edifices and buildings thereunto belonging and now in mine own use and occupying except the study, with free egress and regress to the same etc., for and during all the said term of ten years if she, my said wife, shall so long live sole and unmarried, the chamber before appointed unto the keeper aforesaid only except until such time as there shall be a convenient lodge builded for the said keeper within the said park as is aforesaid;

And to hold and have th' occupation of all the yards, gardens, orchards, ponds, waters and so much of the lands, tenements and hereditaments thereunto belonging and by such yearly rents as my said executors and she can agree of, lying and being within the foresaid parishes of Abbess Roding, Beauchamp Roding, Margaret Roding and Little Laver aforesaid and now in the tenure of me, the said Wistan Browne (the park aforesaid and the foresaid two pieces of ground called Langelandes and Potters croft, and the foresaid certain crofts of lands and woodgrounds called Brickelles, and the foresaid field called Watkyns field, and one croft of the pasture called Costes crofts, and the foresaid six loads of hay to be had and taken yearly in Howe mead and Carteps [sic?] lease only excepted), and by such yearly rents as my said executors and she can agree upon for and towards the performing of this my last will and testament;

And if it shall happen my said wife to marry within the said term of ten years or otherwise to decease within that term, then I will that my said executors shall let the said house, lands, tenements and other the premises (except before excepted) by their discretion during the residue of the said term of ten years to some other person or persons



for so much yearly rent as will be given for the same without fraud or covin, the same rent to be converted to the use and performance of this my last will and testament;

And also I will that my said executors, allowing unto the keeper aforesaid pasture and walk for his said six beast, mare and nag, and maintaining a convenient number of deer within the park aforesaid, shall employ the residue of the same park and other the premises to some advantage by their discretion for and during the said term of ten years towards the performing of this my last will and testament;

And I will that my said wife shall at her costs and charges keep the houses and buildings of the said manor of Rookwood Hall in reparations of tiling and daubing;

Item, I leave to descend unto my [f. 127v] said son, Anthony Browne, my manor of Langenhoe to answer unto the Queen's Majesty for the full third part of all my manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments which I have within the realm of England;

And I do most heartily wish and pray that it might stand with the Queen's Majesty's goodwill and pleasure to grant unto my said good friend and neighbour, Sir John Petre, knight, the custody, bringing up and marriage of my said son, Anthony Browne;

And I likewise humbly pray and beseech my honourable good Lord, the Lord Burghley, Lord High Treasurer of England, to give his consent and furtherance thereunto and to be a mean for me to her Highness in that behalf;

Item, I will that my wife and children and my family now in South Weald shall be and remain together in the said place and be maintained there with such goods and provision as is in and upon the demesnes of the said manor of South Weald by the space of six weeks next after my decease;

Item, I will that my servants, as well menservants as women servants, shall every of them have one half quarter of a year's wages over and besides their due wages;

Item, I will and bequeath all my books, as well of divinity as law-books, and all other my books to my son, Anthony, and also all my armour and weapons in Weald Hall and Rookwood Hall, all which I will they shall remain in such studies, galleries and other rooms as they now be to th' use of my said son, and there to be used by my said executors for and at such times as need shall require;

Item, I give to every of my said executors for their pains to be taken herein ten pounds apiece.

Memorandum: that if my Lady Huddleston shall die within ten years, whereby the two parts shall come to Mr Anthony Browne or to any other, then so much as shall be valued of one thousand pound for the portions of the said two daughters shall be levied of the issues and profits of the third parts of the premises and of such woods as shall be to be

felled in South Weald, Calcotts, Costed Hall or elsewhere within any of my manors lands, tenements or hereditaments, and of the issues and profits of Rookwood Hall.

Vicesimo septimo die mens{is} Aprilis Anno Domini mill{es}imo quingentesimo octogesimo primo in Edibus m{agist}ri Drewrie commissarij etc et coram eo p{rese}nte me Anthonio Lawe notario publico Comp{ar}uit p{er}sonal{ite}r m{agiste}r ffranciscus Clerk notarius publicus et exhi{ib}uit procuratoriu{m} suu{m} pro Richardo Cutt{es} Armig{ero} et Thoma Wallinger gener{oso} executor{ibus} in testamento suprascript{o} nominat{is} vnacum L{itte}ris missivis manibus proprijs eoru{n}d{em} executorum subscript{is} et iuxta tenorem et effectum earundem l{itte}rarum expresse renu{n}ciauit oneri execucionis testamenti predict{i} quam renu{n}ciac{i}o{n}em d{om}inus ad suis petitionem admisit quatenus de iure est admitten{dem} Quo facto statim et incontinenti probatum fuit testamentu{m} h{uius}mo{d}i Iuramento dicti ffrancisci Clerk notarij pu{bli}ci p{ro}cu{ra}toris d{omi}ni Ioh{an}nis Petre militis et Henrici Capell armig{eri} executoru{m} in h{uius}mo{d}i testament{o} nominat{orum} &c Quib{us} com{m}issa fuit Administracio etc de bene etc Iurat{i}

[=On the twenty-seventh day of the month of April in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred eighty-first at the house of Master Drury, Commissary etc., and before him being present me, Anthony Lawe, notary public, Master Francis Clerk, notary public, appeared personally and exhibited his proxy for Richard Cuttes, esquire, and Thomas Wallinger, gentleman, executors named in the above-written testament, together with letters sent by the same executors subscribed by their own hands, and according to the tenor and effect of the same letters expressly renouncing the burden of the execution of the testament aforesaid, which renunciation the Lord at their petition admitted to the extent the law allows, which done, the same testament was immediately and incontinently proved by the oath of Francis Clerk, notary public, proctor of Sir John Petre, knight, and Henry Capell, esquire, executors named in the same testament etc., to whom administration was granted etc., sworn to well etc.]