

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 1 April 1583 and proved 11 February 1584, of Sir John Huband (d. 24 December 1583), who held the lease of the tithes later purchased by William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon. The testator bequeathed his interest in the Stratford tithes to his brother, Ralph Huband, whose wife was a first cousin of both the wife of Oxford's brother-in-law, Francis Trentham, and the wife of the half-brother of Thomas Russell, the overseer of the will of William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon. See the pedigree in Keen, Alan and Roger Lubbock, *The Annotator*, (London: Putnam, 1954); and Lewis, B. Roland, *The Shakespeare Documents*, (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1941), Vol. II, pp. 373-85.

The testator was the son of Nicholas Huband (d.1554), esquire, by Dorothy Danvers (d. 16 May 1558), daughter and co-heiress (with her two sisters, Anne Danvers, wife of Reginald Digby, esquire, of Colehill, Warwickshire, and Elizabeth Danvers, wife of Sir Thomas Cave (d.1558) of Stanford, Northamptonshire) of John Danvers (d. 30 October 1508?), esquire, of Thatcham, Berkshire. See the will of John Danvers, proved 4 May 1509, TNA PROB 11/16/352; the will of Sir Thomas Cave (d.1558), TNA PROB 11/41/34; the will of Lord Burghley's brother-in-law, Roger Cave (d. 26 July 1586), TNA PROB 11/69/479; and the pedigree of Digby in Fetherston, John, ed., *The Visitation of the County of Warwick in the Year 1619*, (London: Harleian Society, 1877), Vol. XII, p. 17 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationcount01britgoog#page/n40/mode/2up>.

See also Macnamara, F.N., *Memorials of the Danvers Family*, (London: Hardy & Page, 1895), pp. 154-5, 169, 187-8, 226 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/memorialsodanve00macn#page/186/mode/2up>.

In the will below the testator mentions two brothers, William Huband and Nicholas Huband; an unmarried sister, Jane Huband; a sister, Frances Huband, late the wife of Michael Nashe (d.1577), gentleman; a sister, Anne Huband, wife of John Egeock; and a sister, Mary Huband, wife of Ralph Sheldon of Broadway, the eldest son of Baldwin Sheldon (buried 5 July 1548) of Broadway by Jane (nee Wheeler) Sheldon Combe Lewknor. See the wills of Jane's third husband, Thomas Lewknor, TNA PROB 11/53/434, and her son, William Combe (d.1610), TNA PROB 11/17/573. See also the Sheldon pedigree in Phillimore, W.P.W., ed., *The Visitation of the County of Worcester Made in the Year 1569*, (London: Harleian Society, 1888), Vol. XXVII, pp. 127-8 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationcount01mundgoog#page/n143/mode/2up>.

The testator states that his servant, Thomas Nashe (buried 2 June 1587), has a wife named Anne. According to the pedigree of the Nashe family given by Lewis on pp. 583-4, *supra*, she was Anne Bulstrode, daughter and heir of James Bulstrode of Oxfordshire, and the son of Michael Nashe (d.1577), mentioned in the will below as the husband of the

testator's sister, Frances Huband. According to Lewis, Thomas Nashe and Anne (nee Bulstrode), were the parents of Anthony Nashe (d.1622), who married Mary Baugh, the daughter of Rowland Baugh of Twynning, Gloucestershire, by whom he had a son, the lawyer Thomas Nashe (1593-1647), who married Elizabeth Hall (1608-1670), the granddaughter of William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon, who in 1649 married Sir John Barnard (1605-1674). Both Anthony Nashe and his brother, John Nashe, are bequeathed 26s 8d in Shakespeare's 1616 will. For the will of Michael Nashe, see:

http://wills.oxfordshirefhs.org.uk/az/wtext/nash_007.html.

For the marriage of Ralph Huband and Anne Daston, see the pedigree of Daston, in Fetherston, *supra*, p. 21 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationcount01britgoog#page/n44/mode/2up>.

The testator married firstly Anne Englefield, the daughter of Sir Thomas Englefield (d.1537) and widow of Humphrey Coningsby (d. 4 April 1559). By his first marriage the testator was the stepfather of Thomas Coningsby (1550-1625), who travelled on the continent with Sir Philip Sidney (for his licence to travel, see TNA E 157/1, f. 1). The testator married secondly Mary Throckmorton, the daughter of Sir George Throckmorton (d.1552). See the will of Sir George Throckmorton, TNA PROB 11/36/29, and the pedigree of Throckmorton in Fetherston, *supra*, p. 88 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationcount01britgoog#page/n114/mode/2up>.

See also the History of Parliament entry for Humphrey Coningsby (d. 4 April 1559) at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/coningsby-humphrey-1516-59>.

See also the History of Parliament entry for the testator's stepson, Thomas Coningsby (1550-1625) at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/coningsby-sir-thomas-1550-1625>.

The testator was in the service of Queen Elizabeth's favourite, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. See the History of Parliament entry for the testator at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/huband-john-1544-83>.

As stated in the will below, the testator acquired from the Queen the wardship of Anthony Maria Browne, grandson of Anthony Browne (1528–1592), 1st Viscount Montagu. From the *ODNB*:

His grandson and heir, Anthony Maria Browne, second Viscount Montagu (1574–1629), inherited a fortune worth between £3600 and £5400 per annum.

For the testator's ward, Sir Richard Verney, mentioned in the will below, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/verney-sir-richard-1564-1630>.

For an arbitration award dated 5 October 1591 concerning the testator's estate see SBTRO ER 2/22 at:

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/rd/490cfe9b-c77f-485a-9f85-a6833ff2ac23>

Award by Sir Foulke Grevill, knt., and Raffe Sheldon, Thomas Morgan, and Edward Holte, esqs., arbitrators between the bailiff and burgesses of Stratford upon Avon and John Edgeock and Richard Clarke, executors, of the will of Sir John Hubaud, knt., Lady Abigale Digbie, daughter of Sir Arthur Heveningham and widow of Sir George Digby, Raffe Hubaud, esq., and Anthony Nashe, gent., to the effect that.

i) the Bailiff and Burgesses shall release to J. Edgeock and R. Clarke an indenture dated 4 February 17 Elizabeth [1575] whereby Sir J. Hubaud covenanted with the said Bailiff, etc. to make void a lease from Anthony Barker, warden of the dissolved College of Stratford upon Avon and Gyles Coventrye, subwarden, and the chapter of the same, to William Barker

ii) Lady Abigale Digbie, Raffe Hubaud, J. Edgeock and R. Clarke may enjoy the lands, etc. mentioned in the lease aforesaid for the term unexpired, unless forfeited or surrendered

iii) J. Edgeock, R. Clarke and R. Hubaud shall pay to the said Bailiff etc. £100, viz. £40 on 1 May 1592 and £20 on 1 May in each of the three years following.

iv) J. Edgeock and R. Clarke shall release all actions of covenants on a lease from the Bailiff, etc. to Sir J. Hubaud, dated 6 February 17 Elizabeth [1575];

v) R. Clarke shall not demand of the inhabitants of Stratford any tithe-herbage of the after-crop of any lands in Stratford 'soe as the said inhabitantes doe eate the same with their owne proper cattell' and, if they 'assist' the after-crop he shall abide by the award of the same arbitrators

vi) the Bailiff, etc. without interruption of R. Clarke or Anthony Nashe shall enjoy the church-yard of Stratford and take trees in the same for the repair of the church

vii) all the said parties 'shall from henceforthe be lovers and fryndes'.

RM: T{estamentum} D{omi}ni Ioh{ann}is Hubande militis

[f. 232r] In the name of God, Amen. Forasmuch as it is most certain that every man shall die and change this mortal life, and the time and hour thereof most uncertain and cannot be appointed, therefore I, John Huband of Leominster in the county of Hereford, knight, being somewhat sick in body and in good and perfect sound mind and memory, thanks be unto Almighty God, the first day of April in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred eighty and three do make this my present testament and last will in form following:

First I give and bequeath unto my brother, William Huband, all my lands, tenements and hereditaments in the counties of Berkshire and Southampton or any of them, to have and to hold the same lands, tenements and hereditaments to him, his heirs and assigns, forever, to be sold and employed for a stock or otherwise to be disposed at his will and pleasure,

Provided always that [+if?] my said brother do or shall demand, distrain or sue for any annuity or rent heretofore to him granted or devised by Nicholas Huband, my father, or Dorothy Huband, my mother, that then the said legacy & devise of my said lands and tenements in the counties of Berkshire and Southampton by me devised to him shall cease and be determined;

And whereas my said father hath give unto my sister, Jane, one legacy of one hundred pounds, and my said mother hath also given unto my said sister one other legacy of twenty marks, I will and give unto my said sister one yearly rent of forty pounds to be paid to her out of my manor and all other my lands, tenements and hereditaments in Hilbarowe and Temple Grafton in the county of Warwick, to be paid at the feasts of th' Annunciation of Our Lady and Saint Michael th' Archangel by equal portions until she shall have received of the said rents the said sums of one hundred pounds and twenty marks;

And if it happen the said yearly rent of forty pounds to be behind unpaid at any feast when it ought to be paid, that then it shall be lawful to the said Jane and her assigns to enter into my said manor, lands and tenements in Hilbarowe and Temple Grafton and there to distrain, and the distress and distresses there taken to detain and keep until the said rent with the arrearages thereof be fully satisfied and paid, and also to make the said sums of one hundred pounds and twenty marks to amount and come to two hundred pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my said sister the sum of four score six pounds thirteen shillings four pence, to be paid to her at the day of her marriage if she marry by the consent of my executors;

And if she be married before my death, then the same [f. 232v] to be paid so soon as my executors shall have sufficient in their hands for the payment thereof;

Also I will that Robert Smith, my servant, shall have, hold and enjoy to him and his assigns one messuage with the appurtenances wherein he now dwelleth in Ipsley in the said county of Warwick with all lands, tenements, meadows, leasows and pastures thereunto belonging or commonly occupied with the same for term of his natural life, yielding and paying therefore yearly unto my heirs the sum of twenty shillings at the feasts aforesaid, provided that if the said Robert do refuse to serve my said heirs in any reasonable services, they giving him sufficient wages in recompense thereof, that then this my present grant of the messuage and other the premises to him made to be utterly void;

Also I give unto my servant, Thomas Dowre, the house wherein Thomas Turner now dwelleth in Ipsley aforesaid with the lands, tenements and hereditaments thereunto belonging, to have and to hold the same to him and his assigns from the death of the said Thomas Turner during the natural life of the said Thomas Dowre, paying the accustomed rents therefore at the feasts aforesaid by equal portions;

Also I will and bequeath that my servant, Richard Keme(?), shall have and enjoy the house and lands in Ipsley aforesaid which he now holdeth during all the years in the said lease and according to the said lease;

Also I give and bequeath unto my servant, Richard Clarke, one yearly rent of six pounds thirteen shillings four pence, to be paid unto the said Richard and his assigns out of my said manor, lands and tenements in Hilbarowe and Temple Grafton during his natural life at the feasts aforesaid, to be paid by even portions, and if it happen the same rent or any part thereof to be behind at any of the said feasts, that then it shall be lawful for him to enter into the said manors, lands and tenements in Hilbarowe aforesaid and there to distrain, and the distresses there found and taken to detain until the same rent with the arrearages be fully satisfied and paid;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my servant, Oliver Hannes, the messuage or tenement wherein his father lately dwelt and wherein Richard Parke now dwelleth, to have & to hold to him for term of his life, yielding therefore yearly to my heirs the old rent thereof at the days usual, provided always that if the said Oliver shall refuse to serve my said heirs, that [-that] this my gift to him made shall be void;

Also I give and bequeath unto my servant, Richard Cooch alias Smithes one messuage or tenement in Ipsley aforesaid wherein one Matthew Bagott lately dwelled with all lands, meadows, leasows and pastures thereunto belonging, to have and to hold the same to him and his assigns during his natural life, yielding the old accustomed rent thereof, provided always that if the said Richard shall refuse to serve my heirs, then I will that the said demise to him made shall cease and be utterly void, and then I give and bequeath unto him, the said Richard Coochs, one annuity or yearly rent of forty shillings to be paid to

him at the feasts aforesaid by equal portions out of my said manors of Hilbarowe and all the lands thereunto belonging by equal portions during his natural life;

Item, I give to Katherine Spaniard one hundred pounds to be paid so soon as my executors shall have sufficient in their hands for the payment thereof;

And if it happen the said rents aforesaid to my said servants devised or any of them to be behind in part or in all at any of the said feasts in which it ought to be paid, then I will that it shall be lawful to them and every of them severally to whom the same rents be severally devised severally to enter into the said lands and tenements out of which the said several rents are severally devised and severally to distrain for the rents severally to them due, and the distress and distresses there so taken to keep and detain until they and every of them shall be of the said several rents so to them or any of them severally, with the arrearages thereof if any be, be severally satisfied and paid;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my servant, Katherine Spaniard, all that my manor house or capital messuage of Lawton in the county of Hereford with the water-mill and all other lands, tenements and hereditaments thereunto belonging or so accounted or taken, to have and to hold the same to her and her assigns during her natural life, if she so long shall keep herself sole and unmarried or marry a husband that shall make her a jointure of lands to the clear yearly value of forty pounds by the year, yielding and paying therefore yearly to my heirs and assigns the old and accustomed rent thereof, viz., eight pounds of lawful money at the feasts of St Michael th' Archangel and th' Annunciation of Our Lady by even portions, so that she do find, provide for and give unto Edmund Tompson sufficient and convenient meat, drink and lodging to be taken at Lawton aforesaid during his life, and if she or her assigns refuse to give and provide to and for the said Edmund Tompson sufficient and convenient meat, drink and lodging as aforesaid, then the same devise to her made of the said [f. 233r] manor of Lawton shall be utterly void;

Provided also that if she, the said Katherine, do fortune to die, living the said Edmund Tompson, or that the said Katherine or her assigns refuse to find the said Edmund Tompson meat, drink and lodging as aforesaid, then I will, give and bequeath unto the said Edmund Tompson and his assigns one yearly rent of six pounds thirteen shillings four pence out of the said manor of Lawton towards his finding of meat, drink and lodging, to have and to hold the said annual or yearly rent of six pounds thirteen shillings four pence to the said Edmund and his assigns from and after the decease of the said Katherine or after such refusal as is aforesaid during his natural life;

And if it fortune the said yearly rent of six pounds thirteen shillings four pence or any part thereof to be behind, then I will that it shall be lawful to the said Edmund Tompson and his assigns into the said manor of Lawton and into every part thereof to enter and distrain, and the distress so there taken to drive away and detain until he be of the said rent with the arrearages thereof, if any happen to be behind, be fully satisfied and paid;

Item, I give and bequeath unto her my lease of certain parcels of ground called Fullford in the parish of Leominster in like sort and upon the same condition;

Item, I give her six oxen and ten kine to be chosen out of all my kine at Leominster and Lawton;

Item, I give and bequeath to every of my maidservants, being my servants at the time of my death, twenty shillings;

Item, I give and bequeath to Frances, my sister, late wife of Michael Nashe, gentleman, the sum of one hundred marks in money;

Also I give unto Anne, my sister, wife of John Egecock [=Egeock?], gentleman, towards the preferment of her daughter in marriage, the wardship, custody and marriage of Anthony Browne in as large and ample manner as I have the same, together with th' exhibition granted by her Majesty to me for his finding, and also my lease, title and term of years that I have from her Majesty of all the lands and tenements being the inheritance of the said Anthony Browne;

Also I give unto my sister, Mary, wife of Ralph Sheldon, gentleman, the sum of one hundred marks in money, which two several sums bequeathen unto my said sisters last mentioned I will to be paid so soon as my executors shall have sufficient in their hands for the payment thereof;

And also whereas I have a lease of the Bury of Stockton in the county of Hereford now in the holding of John Vale, and all lands, tenements and hereditaments thereunto belonging or appertaining for and during divers years to commence and begin after the expiration of a lease which the said John now holdeth, my will and intent is that my executors at my charges of the profit of my said lease shall bestow six such of the children of the said Vale as he shall appoint apprentices to some good trade or occupation, and shall at the like charges disburse with every one of them the sum of six pounds thirteen shillings four pence of lawful money of England to be paid to the same child when he or she shall come forth of the same apprenticeship;

Item, I will and bequeath to Reginald Digby, gentleman, the sum of one hundred pounds in money to be paid out of the profits of the said lease of the said Bury of Stockton;

Item, I will, give and bequeath unto my executors all that my manor of Hilbarowe with all lands, tenements and hereditaments thereunto belonging, together with all other lands, tenements and hereditaments lying in the said county of Warwick being the inheritance of Richard Verney, the Queen's Majesty's ward, and which I had by the assignment of the lease thereof from her Majesty to the right honourable the Earl of Leicester during the minority of the said Richard Verney, and also the moiety or one half of all those tithes, as well great tithes as small tithes, which I had by the lease from the bailiff and burgesses of the town of Stratford in the county of Warwick and which I now hold by lease thereof made from the late College there to one William Barker, gentleman, and assigned over unto me by John Barker, gentleman, to my executors to the performance of this my last will and testament;

To have and to hold the said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments, parsonage, tithes, profits, commodities, emoluments & advantages last mentioned and devised to my executors to the performance of this my last will and testament and every part thereof with their appurtenances to my executors for and during so long time and until they shall have taken and received of the issues and profits thereof so much as, with those other things in this my will to that purpose willed, limited and appointed, shall be sufficient to discharge, bear and pay my funeral, debts and legacies;

And that then and from thenceforth the said manor of Hilbarowe and all lands, tenements and hereditaments thereunto belonging shall be and remain to my brother, Ralph Huband, and his heirs forever;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my said brother, Ralph Huband, the other moiety of the said tithes of Stratford which I hold by the said lease assigned over unto me by the said John Barker, [f. 233v] to have and to hold the same to him and his assigns during all the years yet to come in the same, paying the one half of the rent and other charges due or going out of or for the same, that is to say, the one half of ten pounds by year to be paid to the said John Barker over and above the rents thereof reserved upon the said lease for the same;

Also I give and bequeath unto my said brother, Ralph, the one half as well of all my part or portion of a certain grant of silver mines or other mines granted to divers persons whereof I have a certain portion, and of all my title and interest thereunto and of all manner of benefits rising thereby, as also the one half of all such sums of money as I have in the stock of or for the same works or for the building thereof;

And I give and bequeath unto George Digby, esquire, the other moiety, as well of the said part or portion, interest, title and commodity as well of the said grant as of the said stock, or the said moiety of the said tithes of Stratford before given and bequeathed to my said brother, Ralph, as aforesaid in such manner and form as I have bequeathed the same to my said brother at the election and choice of the said George Digby to be made and determined within one year after my decease;

And if the said George Digby shall make choice to have the said moiety of the said tithes of Stratford, then I will that my said brother shall have the other moiety of the said grant and commodities of mines and stock, so that then he shall have the whole thereof wholly;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my servant, Thomas Hyde, thirty pounds in money;

And to my servant, Richard Parry, twenty pounds in money;

Item, I give to my servant, William Monyngton, ten pounds in money;

Item, I give unto my servant, John Warmecombe, in money twenty pounds;

Item, I give to my servant, Richard Greene, in money twenty pounds;

Item, I give to my servant, Thomas Dowre, in money twenty pounds;

Item, I give unto my servant, Henry Marshe, in money ten pounds;

Item, I give unto my servant, John Peter alias Clerk, in money twenty pounds;

Also I give unto my servant, Robert the coachman, ten pounds;

Item, I give unto my servant, Griffith Penry, in money ten pounds;

Item, I give unto Richard Butler five pounds in money;

Item, I give unto my servant, Matthew Askewe, in money ten pounds;

Item, I give unto my servant, Thomas Whetestone, in money ten pounds;

Item, I give unto my servant, Richard Owen, ten pounds in money, and also I do give unto him one annual or yearly rent of forty shillings to be paid out of the Bury of Stockton and all the lands thereto belonging, to have, hold & perceive the said rent of forty shillings to him, the said Richard Owen, and his assigns from and after th' expiration of the lease whereby the said Vale now holdeth during all the years in the same if the said Richard Owen do so long live, to be paid at the days or feasts aforesaid;

And if it happen the said yearly rent of forty shillings or any part thereof to be behind and unpaid at any of the said feasts or days aforesaid, then I will it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Richard Owen and his assigns into the said Bury of Stockton and all the lands thereto belonging or any part thereof to enter and distrain, and the distress or distresses there taken to lead, carry away and detain until the said yearly rent with the arrearages thereof, if any be, be fully satisfied and paid;

Item, I give to my servant, Richard the carter, in money five pounds;

Item, I give to my servant, John Whetstone, in money five pounds;

Item, I give to my servant, Thomas Musgrave, in money five pounds;

Item, I give to my servant, William the brewer, in money five pounds;

Item, I give to my servant, John Harries, in money five pounds;

Item, I give to my servant, William Ryve, six pounds thirteen shillings four pence;

Item, I give to my servant, Philip, in money ten pounds;

Item, I give to my servant, Thomas of the kitchen, in money forty shillings;

Item, I give to my servant, Robert Molyneux, in money twenty pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my servant, Richard Hetheridge, all that my land, meadow, arable and pasture called Verndale in the parish of Hape in the said county of Hereford, to have and to hold the same to him and his assigns during his natural life, yielding therefore the rent of three shillings four pence, being the old rent thereof;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Thomas Coningsby, esquire, and his heirs forever the reversion and inheritance of the said land called Vernedale;

Item, I give to the said Thomas Coningsby all my lease of the parsonage of Bodenham in the county of Hereford and all my estate, right, title, interest and term of years of, in and to the same;

Item, I further give and bequeath unto the said Thomas Coningsby and his heirs forever all that my park called Ashwood park in the said county of Hereford with all lands and tenements thereunto belonging, and that my lease of the priory of Leominster and all my estate, right, title, interest and term of years of and in and to the said [f. 234r] priory of Leominster and all other things contained in the said lease thereof, so that the said Thomas Coningsby, his heirs or assigns, within one year next after my decease do pay or cause to be paid to my executors the sum of one hundred pounds, and to John Sheldon, gentleman, the sum of one hundred pounds of lawful money of England, and also unto Robert Fulwood, gentleman, or his executors the sum of one hundred pounds of like money, and also do permit and suffer the said Robert Fulwood to have, hold, occupy and enjoy quietly during his natural life all those tenements of copyhold now in the holding of the said Robert Fulwood in the right of Elizabeth, his wife, whereof the said Thomas is a taker in the copy thereof together with Thomas Alexander, her late husband, and the said Elizabeth, without any let, interruption, vexation or disturbance of the said Thomas Coningsby or any his assigns or any other that shall claim the same by, from or under him;

Provided always that if he, the said Thomas Coningsby or his executors do make default of payment of the said several sums or any of them within one year after my decease, or if the said Thomas Coningsby or any other lawfully claiming from or under him shall molest, disturb or evict the said Robert Fulwood in or from the occupation of the said copyholds, then I will and bequeath that all my said legacies given or bequeathed to the said Thomas Coningsby shall be void, and then I will and bequeath that the said park called Ashwood park and lands thereunto belonging with th' appurtenances shall remain unto the said Robert Fulwood and his heirs until my heirs shall pay unto him or his executors the sum of two hundred pounds of lawful money;

And the said priory of Leominster and all the lands, tenements and hereditaments thereto belonging or so accounted with th' appurtenances and all my interest and estate therein to remain to my executors, and then I will that they shall pay to my cousin, John Sheldon,

son of Ralph Sheldon of Broadway, the sum of an hundred pounds in money and ten pounds yearly until they shall pay unto him the said hundred pounds;

And then I further will that as well the said priory of Leominster and the lands occupied to or with the same as also all other things before by me given or bequeathed to the said Thomas Coningsby shall remain to my executors until such time as with the profits thereof and of such other things as I have appointed unto my executors for the performing of this my will they shall have received so much money as will defray and pay my said legacies, debts and funerals;

Also I will that all my goods, chattels, plate, jewels and household stuff being within the said county of Hereford, saving such thereof as I have or shall give or devise away, shall remain to my executors to the payment of my debts, legacies and funerals;

Also I will my executors shall give in alms to the poor at the day of my burial such sums of money as my overseers shall think convenient;

Also I will that if any ambiguity, doubt, variance or question shall at any time hereafter rise, grow or happen by reason of any word, sentence or clause in this my last will and testament, then I will the full intent, construction and plain meaning thereof shall be from time to time expressed, discussed, judged and declared by the right honourable Earl of Leicester, whom I constitute and appoint to be my overseer of this my last will and testament, and the construction, judgment and declaration of him therein in the behalf to be made shall be a full determination, construction and end of every such doubt, ambiguity, variance or question;

Also I give and bequeath all my household stuff and usual and common stock of cattle which I have and commonly and usually keep at Ipsley and Hilbarowe aforesaid for the maintenance & composting of my lands there to my brother, Ralph Huband;

And further I will that all my stock of quick cattle remaining at Compton shall remain upon the grounds there during the term for the better increasing and augmenting the revenue thereof;

Also I will and my intent and meaning is that all and singular debts due to me and all other my goods and chattels as well real as personal not by this my will given, bequeathed or devised or otherwise limited or appointed by the same shall be and remain to my executors towards the performance of this my last will and testament;

Also I give and bequeath to Thomas Dudley, esquire, all my profits, interest, commodities and advantage rising, happening or growing upon or by reason of the licence granted to Acerbo Velutelli for bringing of currants into this realm, and do also discharge and forgive him, the said Thomas Dudley, of and for all sums of money due by him unto me over and above such sums as I owe unto him;

Also I give and bequeath unto my servant, Thomas Nashe, and Anne, his wife, the messuage or tenement in Ipsley aforesaid called Whomans house with all lands, tenements and hereditaments thereunto belonging, to have and to hold to them in form following, viz., to the said Thomas Nashe during his natural life, and after his decease to the said Anne [f. 234v] during so long time as she shall be sole and unmarried, yielding and paying therefore yearly the accustomed rent at the days accustomed;

Also I give unto Edmund Tompson forty pounds to be paid within two months after my decease;

Also I give unto my servant, Alexander Vaughan, in money twenty pounds;

Also I give unto my servant, Richard Hill, in money five pounds;

Also I give unto my servant, Richard Lewes, ten pounds;

Also I give to my cousin, Elizabeth Sheldon, twenty pounds;

Also I give & bequeath unto my servant, William Greenehill, in money ten pounds;

Also I give and bequeath unto my said servant, Richard Parry, one yearly rent of six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence to be paid out of the said Bury of Stockton and the lands thereto belonging from the commencement of my lease thereof during all the years therein to come, if he so long do live, to be paid at the said feasts of the Annunciation of Our Lady and St Michael th' Archangel by even portions, and if it happen the same rent of six pounds thirteen shillings four pence to be behind and unpaid at any of the said feasts, that then it shall be lawful to and for the said Richard Parry and his assigns into the said Bury of Stockton and the lands thereunto belonging to enter and distrain, and the distress and distresses there found to carry away and detain until the said annuity or yearly rent with the arrearages thereof, if any be, be fully satisfied and paid;

Also I give and bequeath unto my said servant, Alexander Vaughan, one yearly rent of six pounds thirteen shillings four pence to be paid out of the said Bury of Stockton and the lands thereto belonging from the commencement of my lease thereof during all the years therein to come, if he so long live, to be paid at the said feasts of th' Annunciation of Our Lady and Saint Michael th' Archangel by even portions, and if it happen the same rent of six pounds thirteen shillings four pence to be behind and unpaid at any of the said feasts in which it ought to be paid, that then it shall be lawful to and for the said Alexander Vaughan or his assigns into the said Bury of Stockton and the lands thereunto belonging to enter and distrain, and the distress or distresses there taken to carry away and detain until the said annuity or yearly rent with the arrearages, if any be, be fully satisfied and paid;

Item, I will that after my debts, legacies and funerals paid, defrayed and discharged, that my said lease of the Bury of Stockton and all the lands thereto belonging, and the said moiety of the said tithes of Stratford, and also the said manor of Crompton with all other

lands in the said county of Warwick being the inheritance of the said Richard Verney, all which are before limited and appointed to the performance of this my last will and testament, shall remain to my said brothe[r], Ralph, and his assigns for all the years which shall be then to come in every of them unexpired;

Also I will and my intent and meaning is that all the rest of my lands, tenements, tithes and other hereditaments being late parcel of the possessions of the late supposed dissolved College of Stratford upon Avon and which are also assigned over unto me by the said assignment from the said John Barker, and all my estate, right, title and interest to the same shall remain and be to my said servants, Richard Clarke and Thomas Nashe, and their assigns during all the years yet to come in the same, they paying the rents thereof to the Queen's Majesty and discharging the other charges due for [+and?] out of the same, that is to say, seventeen pounds thirteen shillings four pence by year to be paid to the said John Barker and his assigns according to the agreement of the bargain betwixt us;

Provided always that if my said brother, Ralph Huband, or his heirs or any other by his commandment shall deny, molest or interrupt any person or persons to whom I have or shall by this my last will and testament willed or bequeathed any legacy or bequest to have, receive, occupy and enjoy the same according to this my last will and testament, that then as well all the legacies and bequests by this my said will given and bequeathed or hereafter to be willed or bequeathed to my said brother, Ralph, shall be void;

And that then I will, give and bequeath to my executors and the survivor of them my said manor of Hilbarowe, and all that my messuage or tenement in Ipsley called Whore Place and all the lands tenements and hereditaments thereunto or to any of them belonging to be by them or the survivor of them sold towards the payment of my debts and performance of this my will;

Item, I will and bequeath unto my said servants, Richard Parry and Alexander Vaughan, six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence apiece to be paid unto every of them severally by my said executors at the feasts of Saint Michael the Archangel and th' Annunciation of Our Lady yearly by even portions until such time as their said annuities before by me willed unto them out of the said Bury of Stockton shall commence and begin;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my servant, John Hosey, fifty pounds in money to be paid as my executors may levy the same of those things appointed [f. 235r] for the performance of this my will;

Item, I give and bequeath to Nicholas Goer(?) twenty pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my servant, John (blank), the horse-keeper, in money five pounds;

Item, I give unto my servant, John Williams, my footman, in money ten pounds;

Item, I give unto Elizabeth Lytleton, wife of Gilbert Lytelton, esquire, in money twenty pounds;

And further I do ordain, constitute and make my well-beloved cousin, George Digby, my brother, John Egeock(?), and my well-beloved servant, Richard Clarke, executors of this my last will and testament;

And do by the same revoke and make frustrate all other wills and testaments whatsoever before this time by me made, and all legacies, gifts and grants in them or any of them comprised;

Also I do ordain and constitute and humbly entreat my especial good Lord the Earl of Leicester to be overseer of this my last will and testament, to whom I bequeath my chain, to be bestowed upon my young Lord. John Huband.

Item, whereas there is due unto me by Sir Hugh Cholmeley and other gentlemen money to the value of thirteen hundred pounds for the great suit touching the land of the Dean and Chapter of Chester, I will and my intent and meaning is that my executors so soon as they can levy the same shall employ the same in manner and form following, viz., six hundred pounds thereof to the uses of such cities and towns as hereafter are specified in such sort as is hereafter limited, and the rest thereof to be employed to the performance of the rest of this my last will and testament, which said six hundred pounds, parcel thereof, I will my executors shall employ to the uses of the said cities and towns in manner and form following, that is to say:

That the executors of this my last will and testament shall deliver unto the corporation of the city of Coventry one hundred pounds, to the corporation of the city of Hereford one hundred pounds, to the corporation of the town of Leominster the sum of one hundred pounds, so as every of the said corporations at or before the said several sums be to them delivered be bound to my said executors in the sum of two hundred pounds that the said corporations from time to time for the time being forever shall freely, without gain or recompense or other consideration, lend and lay out to thirty such persons of every of the said three several towns, being young beginners to occupy any trade or course of traffic in the same as they shall think best, the said several hundred pounds by equal portions, that is to say, to every of the said thirty persons severally five marks for the space of three years next after the lending thereof without anything to be paid for the loan thereof, the same persons to whom the same shall be so lent putting in to them that shall so lend the same several bands wherein each of them severally to whom the same shall be so lent shall be bound with two sufficient sureties to repay the same at the end of the said three years, and then after the end of the said years that they and their successors for the time being shall in like wise and sort lend and lay out the same to so many such other persons in such like and the same sort from time to time forever;

And I will that my said executors shall likewise deliver unto the corporations of the town of Stratford upon Avon in the county of Warwick two hundred marks more, parcel of the said six hundred pounds, to the use of the towns of Stratford aforesaid and Henley in Arden in the said county, viz., to the use of each of them one hundred marks, taking sufficient bonds likewise wherein the said corporation shall be bound to my said executors in the sum of four hundred marks that they and their successors from time to time for the time being forever shall likewise lay out the same to forty such persons as aforesaid, that is to say, one hundred marks to 20 such persons of the town of Stratford and the other hundred marks to twenty such persons of the town of Henley aforesaid, viz., to every of those persons five marks, taking like bonds of every of them with sufficient sureties as is aforesaid for the repayment thereof at the three years' end;

And further that my executors shall likewise deliver unto the corporation of the town of Warwick the sum of one hundred threescore six pounds thirteen shillings & four pence, being the residue of the said sum of six hundred pounds, to the use of the towns of Warwick and Kenilworth in the said county, viz., to the use of the said town of Warwick one hundred pounds, and to the use of the town of Kenilworth one hundred marks, taking like bonds of the said corporation wherein they shall be bound to my executors in the double value that they and their successors from time to time forever shall likewise lay out the same to fifty such persons as aforesaid, that is to say, one hundred pounds to thirty such persons of the town of Warwick and one hundred marks to twenty such persons of the town of Kenilworth, viz., to every of the said persons five marks, taking like bonds of every of them with sureties as is aforesaid for [f. 235v] the repayment thereof at the three years' end as is aforesaid. John Huband.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum apud London Coram venerabili viro magistro Willmo Drury Legum Doctore curie prerogative cantuariensis commissario etc Vndecimo Die mensis february Anno Domini iuxta cursum et computationem ecclesie Anglicane millesimo quingentesimo octogesimo tertio Iuramento Willmi Bedell notarij publici procuratoris executorum etc Quibus commissa fuit administracio etc De bene etc Iurat

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Drury, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary etc. of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the eleventh day of the month of February in the year of the Lord, according to the course and reckoning of the Church of England, the thousand five hundred eighty-third by the oath of William Bedell, notary public, proctor of the executors etc., to whom administration was granted etc., sworn to well etc.]