SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 4 July 1582, together with codicils dated 14 July 1584 and 6 March 1588, and proved 15 April 1588, of Jane (nee Heckington) Cecil (d. 10 March 1588), mother of Oxford's father-in-law, William Cecil (1520/1-1598), Lord Burghley.

The testatrix' three daughters were:

- Margaret Cecil, who married firstly, Roger Cave (for his will, see TNA PROB 11/69, ff. 347-50), and secondly, her late husband's first cousin, Erasmus Smith, (see the will of Dorothy (nee Cave) Smith Poole of Withcote, TNA PROB 11/81, ff. 158-9);

- Elizabeth Cecil (d.1611), who married firstly, Sir Robert Wingfield (d.1580) of Upton, Northamptonshire, and secondly, as his second wife, Hugh Alington (d.1618?) of Tinwell in the county of Rutland, esquire, Registrar of the Court of Requests (Hugh Alington's first wife was Anne Cheke, the sister of Sir John Cheke (1514-1557) and of Lord Burghley's first wife, Mary Cheke (c.1520-1544). See the pedigree of Alington in Crisp, Frederick Arthur, ed., *Visitation of England and Wales*, Vol. 7, (1907), pp. 16-17, 25;

- Anne Cecil, who married Thomas White (d.1580) of Tuxford, said to have exposed the 1556 plot of Henry Sutton alias Dudley against the Crown. See:

'Venice: March 1556, 16-31', *Calendar of State Papers Relating to English Affairs in the Archives of Venice, Volume 6: 1555-1558* (1877), pp. 377-395. URL: http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=100569.

For the testatrix' relationship to her nephews, John Harrington and Francis Harrington, mentioned in the will below, see Poynton, Francis J., *Memoranda Historical and Genealogical Relating to the Parish of Kelston in the County of Somerset*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1885), p. 16, available online.

The testatrix' grandson, Henry Welby (d.1636), to whom she leaves a bequest in the will below, eventually became an eccentric recluse. See the entry for him in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*:

Welby, Henry (d. 1636), recluse, was the eldest son of Adlard Welby (c.1506–1570), gentleman, of Gedney, Lincolnshire, and his first wife, Ellen Hall of Hull. . . . .

Welby bought the country estate of Goxhill in Lincolnshire from Lord Wentworth and, wishing to enlarge his mind, spent some years travelling in the Low Countries, Germany, France, and Italy.

He was married to Alice White, daughter of Thomas White of Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire and his wife, Anne née Cecil, sister of William Cecil, Lord Burghley. They had one daughter, Elizabeth, who was to be his sole heir.

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Welby continued his life of gentlemanly ease until 1592, when his younger half-brother John, angered by Henry's efforts to reform his dissolute habits, attempted to shoot him with a pistol. Profoundly shocked, Henry went into total seclusion for the rest of his life. He took a house on Grub Street, near Cripplegate in London. He lived abstemiously there for forty-four years, reading and praying, eating gruel porridge or salad, and drinking only small beer. . . .

Henry Welby was buried in St Giles Cripplegate on 20 October 1636, only nine days after his long-faithful servant, Elizabeth Villier. Welby's life was eccentric and he achieved some notoriety in his lifetime, and lasting attention from the biography of 1637, The Phoenix of these Late Times, or, The Life of Mr Henry Welby Esq.—'He died living that he might live dying'.

The testatrix' godson, Robert Browne, mentioned in the will below, was the noted separatist, for whom see the entry in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*:

Browne, Robert (1550?–1633), religious separatist, was probably born at Tolethorpe Hall, Rutland, the third of seven children of Anthony Browne (c.1515–c.1590) and his wife, Dorothy (d. 1602), daughter of Sir Philip Butler (or Boteler) of Watton-at-Stone, Hertfordshire, and his wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Robert Drury of Hawstead, Suffolk. The Browne family was well established in the ranks of influential county gentry. Indeed, Browne was distantly related to William Cecil, Lord Burghley, whose later intercessions on his behalf helped to insulate him from the full rigour of the law.

The testatrix' friend, Edmund Hall, was likely related to the translator, Arthur Hall (1539-1605), for whom see the entry in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*:

Hall, Arthur (1539–1605), translator and politician, was the only son of Francis Hall, of Grantham, Lincolnshire, deputy surveyor and comptroller of Calais (where Arthur was probably born), and Ursula, daughter of Thomas Sharington. When Francis died he owned lands in and around Calais, Guînes, and La Marque, in Lincolnshire, and also 'one litle Lordshyp' of 'Knoke in Wilteshire', altogether valued at over £200 per annum (Wright, 24, 173). In his will Francis Hall requested that his widow should be given wardship of their son. After his death on 10 June 1552, however, the wardship was acquired by William Cecil, and Arthur Hall's name appears in Cecil's household papers for Wimbledon in 1555. As Hall later wrote, he and Cecil's heir, Thomas, were educated together 'in my Lord your father's house' (Hall, Iliades, fol. Aiii).

LM: T{estamentum} Jane Cecill

In the name of God, Amen. I, Jane Cecil, late wife of Richard Cecil of Burghley in the county of Northampton, esquire, being of good and perfect remembrance (God be praised for it), do make this my last will and testament the fourth day of July in the four and twentieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith etc.:

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First I bequeath my soul unto the hands of Almighty God, hoping and believing steadfastly that through the only merits of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, I shall be saved;

And my body to be buried in such place whereas it shall please my Lord my good son to think best;

And as touching the disposition of my lands, tenements and hereditaments and copyholds, first I do give and bequeath all my lands, tenements, hereditaments and copyholds with their appurtenances which I have in Nassington, Yarwell and Collyweston unto my said Lord my son, his heirs and assigns, forever;

And I will that there be so much black cloth bought and made in gowns and given to poor men and women dwelling in the [f. 182r] parish where I shall be buried at the day of my burial as be and come to the value of three pounds;

And I will that there be so much black cloth bought and given unto my said Lord my son and unto my Lady, his wife, and unto my son [=grandson], Sir Thomas Cecil, knight, and unto my Lady, his wife, and unto my three daughters and their husbands, and unto my nephews, John Harrington and Francis Harrington, and to my sons [=grandsons] Robert Wingfield and John White, as shall make them gowns;

And I do require my said Lord my son, in consideration of six score pounds already given and delivered, for to cause such a monument for to be made at the place of my burial for me and my late husband as he shall think good;

And I require my said Lord, my son, for to deliver and give unto my Lady, his wife, and unto Robert, their son, twenty pounds apiece as of my gift of such money as he doth owe unto me;

And I do require my said son [=grandson], Sir Thomas Cecil, knight, for to deliver unto Richard Cecil, his son, my godson, twenty pounds, and unto all the residue of his children three score pounds equally to be divided amongst them at the day of their marriages or full ages as of my gift of the money which he doth owe unto me;

And also for to deliver unto the said Richard, his son, my godson, one pottle pot of silver, the which I did deliver unto my said son, Sir Thomas Cecil, to the use of the said Richard;

And I do give unto him and to my Lady, his wife, twenty pounds apiece;

And I do earnestly desire them for to be good and loving unto his aunts, my said daughters, and to their children;

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And I have delivered and given unto my daughter, Anne White, one gilt drinking-bowl, two drinking-pots of silver, one less than the other, one pair of silver salts, one dozen of silver spoons, and one hundred pounds;

And I have given and delivered unto her to the use of Robert White one gilt goblet with a cover having my husband's arms upon it;

And I do remit and forgive unto my said daughter, Anne White, all such money as her late husband did owe unto me;

And I do give unto her the table in the gallery, one cistern of lead in the kitchen, and the pump, with all the conduits in my houses in Stamford;

And I have given and delivered unto my said daughter, Anne, to the use of her daughter, Elizabeth, one silver pot gilded, and twenty pounds in money;

And I have given and delivered unto my son [=grandson], John White, twenty pounds, and do require him for to perform his promise made unto me, which is for to make a good assurance to his brother, Robert, and to the heirs of his body of all the lands in Stilton or thereabouts which their father bought and I gave and delivered unto their said father eight score pounds to buy those lands for the said Robert and the heirs of his body;

And I give unto my daughter Jobson one white bowl of silver;

Item, I give unto my son [=grandson], Henry Welby, and his wife two pieces of gold of twenty shillings apiece, and to either of his daughters a little silver cup with a cover;

Item, I have given and delivered unto my daughter, Elizabeth Alington, one pair of gilt salts, one gilt drinking-bowl with a cover, two drinking-cups of silver, the one less than the other, and one dozen of silver spoons, and three silver spoons gilt;

Item, I have given and delivered unto her to the use of all her children except Robert, John and Elizabeth, twenty pounds apiece for to be given unto them whenas they shall come to one and twenty years of age or be married, which of them shall first happen, as of my gift;

Item, I have given and delivered unto Robert, her son, one drinking-jug of silver with a cover, and twenty pounds;

And also unto Elizabeth when she was married twenty pounds, and one goblet of silver double gilt with a cover;

And I will that John Wingfield, my godson, have the goblet with a cover which I gave him when he was christened delivered unto him at the day of his marriage, and his mother to have the use of it till that day, the which goblet and cover my said daughter, Elizabeth, hath in her custody;

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And I will that my daughter Alington do bestow the hundred and eight pounds residue of eight score pounds which Robert Wingfield, her late husband, had of me upon and for the use of her son, John Wingfield, and of the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, with remainder over as I have done the like for the younger children of my other daughters;

Item, I will that the twenty pounds which her late husband did owe unto me shall be accounted as parcel of the money delivered to the use of her children;

Item, I do give unto Richard Wingfield my swan-mark called the losenges [=lozenges?], and my greater stone jug covered with silver and gilt;

And unto Peregrine Wingfield the lesser jug covered in like sort;

And unto Dorothy Wingfield one silver salt with a cover;

And to Cecil Wingfield one goblet double gilt, and three pounds to make a cover for the same;

And I have given and delivered unto my daughter, Margaret Cave, one goblet gilded with a cover, the which hath [f. 182v] her father's arms upon it, and one dozen of silver spoons, and a gilt bowl, one pair of my best salts, two drinking-pots of silver, one less than the other;

Item, I do require and will my son Cave for to give unto every of her children (except the second son) whenas they shall come to full age of one and twenty years or be married, which of them shall first happen, as of my gift twenty pounds of the first two hundred pounds that he borrowed of me, and the residue of the same two hundred pounds for to be paid to my said daughter Cave for her own use and benefit, and the other hundred pounds lately lent unto my said son Cave I do remit and forgive it unto him in consideration of such charges that he is at and likely for to be yet more for the recovery of his wife's health and the continuance thereof;

And I have given and delivered unto him to the use of William Cave, his son, one drinking-jug of silver with my husband's cognizance upon it;

Item, I do give unto Margaret Cave that is with my Lady Zouche one little gilt cup with a cover;

And I do give unto my nephew, John Harrington, and to his wife forty shillings, and to Anne, their daughter, a piece of gold called a portague, and to every other of his children living at my decease ten shillings apiece;

Item, unto my nephew, Francis Harrington, 40s, and to every of his children living at my decease 10s apiece;

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And I have given and delivered unto his daughter, Jane, my god-daughter, one silver pot gilded;

And I do give unto my cousin Jane, daughter of my niece Cutlerde(?), twenty shillings;

Item, I give unto William Baker, my godson, twenty shillings;

Item, I give unto Jane Cecil, my god-daughter, one cow or quoy(?), and twenty pounds, and one red chest with the linen now remaining in the same, one bedstead, one bolster, one featherbed, one pair of blankets, one coverlet of tapestry, and twenty sheep, and one goblet of silver, four silver spoons, and one little coffer barred with iron standing under my cupboard, with all the stuff in the same;

And I do remit unto the executors and administrators of Robert Coye the twenty shillings which they do owe unto me;

And where William Hadden [=Haddon?] doth owe unto [+me?] certain money, I do forgive one half thereof, and the other half I will that he do deliver unto Jane Hadden, his daughter, as of my gift;

And I do give unto Hugh Homes [=Holmes?] one ewe and one lamb;

And I forgive and remit unto Thomas Tidde all such money as he doth owe unto me;

And I do give towards the reparations of the churches of St George and Barnack ten shillings apiece, and of St Martin's twenty shillings;

Item, I do give to the parson of St George and to the vicar of St Martin's and to the minister at Barnack ten shillings apiece, and to the preacher at my burial ten shillings;

Item, I do give unto Mr John Wingfield and his wife ten shillings apiece;

item, unto the said Jane Hadden one cow, one ewe and a lamb, and twenty shillings, and one whole year's wages;

And I do give unto Anne Nurse six shillings eight pence;

Item, I give to every servant in the house twelve pence;

Item, I have given and delivered unto Elizabeth Birde one silver spoon;

And I do will and give unto William Caywood [=Cawood?] and James Asheley six shillings eight pence apiece;

Item, to Mrs Baker, widow, twenty sheep;

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And to Matthew Baker and his wife fifteen shillings apiece in gold;

And to Mr Edmund Hall and his wife, and Mr Anthony Browne and Edward, his son, fifteen shillings apiece;

Item, I do give unto my godson, Robert Browne, ten shillings;

And I will that the forty pounds lent unto the poor inhabitants of the town of Stamford and Saint Martin's parish shall be bestowed again at the year's end upon the poor artificers and occupiers in Stamford and St Martin's parish aforesaid as my sons, Hugh Alington and Robert Wingfield [=grandson], and my said nephews John Harrington and Francis Harrington, and my friends Mr Edmund Hall and Mr Anthony Browne shall think good, the same poor putting in sufficient sureties for the repayment thereof at the year's end, and my meaning is not that any one shall have above five pounds for one year, and so from year to year during the lives of my said sons and nephews and Mr Edmund Hall and Mr Anthony Browne and the longer liver of them, and of all their heirs of full age from time to time at their discretions;

And this for to be overseen from time to time by Sir Thomas Cecil, knight, and the lords and owners of Burghley House for the time being, provided always that if my said sons Hugh Alington and Robert Wingfield [=grandson], and nephews John Harrington and Francis Harrington, and friends Edmund Hall and Anthony Browne and the longer liver of them shall by th' advice of my said Lord my son, or [+my?] son [=grandson] Sir Thomas Cecil make any further or other order for the good occupying or bestowing of the said sum of forty pounds amongst the said poor artificers and occupiers and other th' inhabitants in Stamford and St Martin's, that then the same further or other order shall stand and be in force and continue forever, anything aforesaid to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding;

Item, I have given and delivered unto my nephew, John Harrington, to the use of the said Edmund Hall, John Harrington and Francis Harrington to and for the maintenance and relief of the poor in Bourne twenty pounds for to be bestowed, ordered and used either by way of lending from year to year or by buying of some things [f. 183r] for to set and keep the poor in work, or by way or [sic?] gift, or by repairing of the church there, or by any other way or means else whatsoever as the said Edmund Hall, John Harrington and Francis Harrington with the advice of my said Lord my son or my son Sir Thomas Cecil shall think meet and convenient;

And whereas any person or persons doth owe unto me any money and have anything given unto them by me in this my last will, my meaning and devise is that they and every of them shall answer unto my executrix so much as shall be over and besides my legacies given unto them if that I have not otherwise disposed it in and by these presents;

The residue of my goods and chattels I give unto my daughter Alington for and in consideration of such charges as she is at by me, and for and to the performance of this

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my last will and testament, whom I do make my full and sole executrix of this my last will and testament;

And I do make my said son, Sir Thomas Cecil, knight, and my said nephew, Francis Harrington, the supervisors of this my last will and testament;

And I do revoke all other my former wills;

In witness whereof I have to the last of these three sheets containing and being my full and whole last will and testament set to my seal the day and year first abovesaid. Sealed and published by the said Jane the day and year first above-written in the presence of the persons who have hereunto subscribed their names, being thereunto required. George Quarles 1582, Thurston Morrey, John Birde the elder, John Rwe(?).

In the name of God, Amen. This codicil made the fourteenth day of July a thousand five hundred eighty-four in the six and twentieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., by me, Jane Cecil, late the wife of Richard Cecil of Burghley in the county of Northampton, esquire, deceased, witnesseth and showeth that I do will and establish that my will made the fourth day of July in the four and twentieth year of her Majesty's reign shall be good and effectual in all things saving as hereafter followeth, and that this also which doth follow shall be taken and adjudged together with the former will as my full last will and testament, viz.,

Whereas I have given unto Cecil Wingfield, now deceased, twenty pounds and one goblet doubt gilt, and three pounds to make a cover thereto, I do give the said twenty pounds and goblet unto Dorothy Wingfield, his sister;

And I do further give unto her one silver salt with a cover, one pepperbox, and half a dozen of silver spoons;

Item, I do further give unto my nephew, Francis Harrington, for his pains taken about my causes, forty shillings more;

Item, I will that Jane Cecil, my god-daughter before-named in my will, shall only have these things following and no more, that is to say, one cow or quoy(?) and six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence, one featherbed, one bolster, one pair of blankets, a coverlet of tapestry lined, and two pair of sheets, whereof one to be flaxen and thother harden;

Item, I remit to William Hadden the whole debt which he doth owe unto me, and I do further give unto him one mare, and to his wife six ewes, and I will that Jane Hadden, their daughter, shall only have one quoy(?) and no more;

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And where I have given to Mr Edmund Hall, Mr Anthony Browne, and Edward, his son, fifteen shillings apiece, it is in consideration of their pains which they shall take for the employment of the money given by me to the use of the poor in Stamford and Bourne;

And I will that the ten shillings given by me to my godson, Robert Browne, shall be fifteen shillings;

And I will that the forty pounds lent to the poor of Stamford and St Martin's shall be at the next loan fifty pounds, to be ordered as is appointed in my foresaid will;

And I do give thirty pounds more to Edmund Hall, John Harrington and Francis Harrington, esquires, to such uses of the poor in Bourne and town of Bourne as they have twenty pounds already;

Item, I did will that the legacies given to the old Lady Zouche, my niece Catherine Cutlerd, Elizabeth Todd and Mr Byrde should be drawn and put out of my said will;

And I do further give unto my daughter, Anne White, my tuftaffety gown furred, and twenty pounds;

And to my daughter Cave my velvet cloak, and twenty pounds to buy her a suit of apparel;

And to my son Cave one of my sealing rings;

Item, I give to my daughter Alington my gown of fugered [=figured?] satin with a kirtle of velvet, and one hundred pounds for the bringing up of her children, Richard, Peregrine and Dorothy;

Item, I give to my son Alington twenty pounds;

Item, I give to my daughters [=granddaughters] Elizabeth Morison [f. 183v] and Elizabeth Welby my gowns of tuftaffety and damask with the two foreparts of kirtles of satin, and my daughter Morison to have the choice;

And I will and desire my son [=grandson], Robert Wingfield, to join with the said Edmund Hall, John Harrington and Francis Harrington for the employment of the money for the town of Bourne;

In witness whereof I have to this one side set to my seal the day and year abovesaid. Sealed and delivered and published the day and year abovesaid in the presence of Thurstan Morrey, Robert Mobbage, Isake Pall, Edward Hodgson, John Howell.

Memorandum: That the sixth day of March in the thirtieth year [=6 March 1588] of the reign of our Sovereign Lady the Queen's Majesty, Mrs Jane Cecil did utter these words

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following, and willed the same to be taken as parcel of her will with the said codicil heretofore made, and confirming all the residue according to the meaning thereof, and of these presents:

Whereas I have appointed and given in my codicil annexed to my will bearing date the fourteenth day of July in the six and twentieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady the Queen's Majesty twenty pounds and one gilt goblet double gilt and three pounds to make a cover thereto given by my will to Cecil Wingfield should by the same codicil be given to Dorothy Wingfield, and whereas also I have declared in my will that I had delivered twenty pounds to my daughter Alington amongst other money to the use of the said Dorothy, my meaning is not to charge my executors with the said things or any part thereof for that the same or the value thereof were bestowed and delivered by me unto her, the said Dorothy, at the day of her marriage;

Item, I give unto Anne Robinson one silver bowl;

And I do also give unto Margery Asheley one year's wages over and besides one quoy already delivered unto her father for her;

Item, I do give unto Margaret Leadbeater one mattress, one rug of blue and white colours, and one year's wages over and besides the sheep already delivered unto her;

And whereas Freshewater doth owe unto me five pounds, for payment whereof John Browne of St Leonard's standeth bound with him unto, I will that they shall equally divide the same betwixt them;

And whereas the said John Browne doth owe unto [+me?] certain money, I will that he pay the same unto my executrix at some convenient time;

Item, I do give more [-more] unto Richard and Peregrine Wingfield five pounds to be equally divided betwixt them;

In the presence of Henry Jefferson, Robert Dobson.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum vnacum codicillis eidem annex{is} apud London coram m{agist}ro Will{el}mo Mowse Legu{m} doctore surrogato venerabilis viri m{agist}ri Will{el}mi Drewrey Legu{m} etiam doctoris curie prerogatiue cant{uariensis} mag{ist}ro [sic?] custodis siue com{m}issarij l{egit}ime deputati Decimo quinto die mensis Aprilis Anno Domini mill{es}imo quingentesimo octogesimo octauo Iuramento Thome Iles notarij publici procuratoris Elizabethe Allington filie d{i}c{t}e def{uncte} et executric{is} in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento nominat{e} cui com{m}issa fuit administratio bonoru{m} iuriu{m} et creditoru{m} dicte def{uncte} de bene et fidel{ite}r administrand{o} &c ad sancta dei evangelia Iurat{e} Ex{aminatu}r

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[=The above-written testament was proved, together with the codicils annexed, at London before Master William Mowse, Doctor of the Laws, Surrogate of the worshipful Master William Drury, also Doctor of the Laws, lawfully deputed Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the fifteenth day of the month of April in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred eighty-eighth by the oath of Thomas Iles, notary public, proctor of Elizabeth Alington, daughter of the said deceased and executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer etc. Examined.]

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