

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 12 November 1588 and proved 28 January 1589, of William Carew, father of Thomasine (nee Carew) Amyce Vere (d.1639), who married, firstly, Oxford's servant Israel Amyce, and, secondly, Oxford's first cousin, John Vere (d.1624) of Kirby Hall.

The testator married Anne Chapman (d.1599), the daughter of Robert Chapman (d.1574), by whom he had three sons, William (d.1602), Henry (d.1639) and Thomas, and a daughter, Thomasine (d.1639). See the will of the testator's wife, Anne (nee Chapman) Carew, TNA PROB 11/93/220; the will of the testator's father-in-law, Robert Chapman, TNA PROB 11/57/46; the will of the testator's son, William Carew (d.1602), TNA PROB 11/99/203; the will of the testator's son, Henry Carew (d.1639), TNA PROB 11/181/428; the will of the testator's daughter, Thomasine (nee Carew) Amyce Vere (d.1639), TNA PROB 11/181/273; and the Carew pedigree in Richardson, Joan A. Carew, 'Carew of Stone Castle', in *North West Kent Family History*, Vol. 3, No. 3, December 1983, pp. 114-118, available online.

The testator was the brother-in-law of William Leveson (d.1593), whose heir was his nephew, William Leveson (d.1621), one of the trustees used by the Lord Chamberlain's Men, including William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon, in the allocation of shares in the ground lease of the Globe Theatre in 1599. For the will of William Leveson (d.1593), see TNA PROB 11/82/143. For the will of William Leveson (d.1621), see TNA PROB 11/137/600.

LM: T{estamentum} Will{el}mi Carewe

In the name of God, Amen. The twelfth day of November a thousand five hundred eighty-eight and in the thirtieth year of the reign of our most gracious Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth etc., I, William Carew of Stone in the county of Kent, gentleman, being sick in body but of good and perfect memory, I praise th' Almighty God therefore, do ordain and make this my last will and testament (disannulling all former wills whatsoever) in manner and form following;

First, I bequeath my soul unto the Almighty God, my Creator and Redeemer, by whose merits only I trust to be made one of his elect children;

And this my mortal body I yield to the earth from whence it came, and the same to be buried where it shall seem good unto mine executrix, unto whom I refer the ordering of all things thereunto appertaining;

Touching those worldly goods wherewithal God hath endued me, my very will and mind is that all my moveable goods and chattels, as well corn, cattle, household stuff, leases of houses or lands and all other things whatsoever to me appertaining in London and Kent

or elsewhere within the realm of England, shall remain wholly unto my well-beloved wife, Anne Carew, unto whom I give the same to dispose at her will and pleasure;

Touching my lands as well in London and in Kent as elsewhere within the realm of England, my very will and mind is that as they all came unto me by my well-beloved wife, Anne Carew, except one parcel of meadow, the which I purchased of John Rogers, called Pollard's mead lying in the parish of Stone, so I do by this my last will and testament give unto the said Anne Carew, my well-beloved wife, all the said lands that came by her, as well in London as in Kent, and also that parcel of meadow called Pollard's meadow lately purchased of John Rogers unto her and her heirs unto whom she shall seem good to dispose the same forever;

And of this my last will and testament I constitute and make my well-beloved wife, Anne Carew, my sole executrix, and my well-beloved friend, John Oldham, my overseer, and I will and bequeath unto him for his pains and travail many ways taken for me for a token of goodwill forty shillings;

In witness that this is my very will and mind concerning all my temporal goods and lands I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year abovesaid in the presence of us whose names are hereunder written. By me, William Carew. Per moy Laurens Feron, John White his mark, John Lake, Thomas Caroll.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram venerabili viro magistro Willmo Drury Legum doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cantuariensis commissario & vicesimo octavo die mensis Ianuarij Anno domini iuxta computationem ecclesie Anglicane millimo quingentesimo octogesimo octavo iuramento Thome Iles notarij publici procuratoris Anne relicte dicti defuncti et executricis in huiusmodi testamento nominatæ cui commissaria fuit administratio bonorum iurium et creditorum eiusdem defuncti de bene et fideliter administrandis & ad sancta dei evangelia iuratis

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Drury, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Count of Canterbury etc., on the twenty-eighth day of January in the year of the Lord according to the reckoning of the English Church the thousand five hundred eighty-eighth by the oath of Thomas Iles, notary public, proctor of Anne, relict of the said deceased and executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of the goods, rights and credits of the same deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer etc.]