

SUMMARY: The document below is the last will and testament, dated 6 March 1588 and proved 9 December 1589, of William Cooke, the second surviving son of Sir Anthony Cooke (1505/6–1576) and his wife, Anne Fitzwilliam (d.1553), and brother of Oxford's mother-in-law, Lady Burghley. The testator appoints his brother-in-law, Lord Burghley, as overseer of his will.

On 28 Aug 1569 the testator married Frances Grey, the daughter of Sir John Grey (d.1564) of Pirgo and his wife, Mary Browne, the sister of Anthony Browne (1528-1592), 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Montagu. For the will of Sir John Grey (d.1564), see TNA PROB 11/48, ff. 11-12. Sir John Grey's son, Sir Henry Grey (1547-1614) of Pirgo, married Anne Windsor (d. 1604), a sister of Oxford's brother-in-law, Edward (1532?-1575), 3<sup>rd</sup> Lord Windsor. The testator appoints his brother-in-law, Sir Henry Grey (1547-1614) of Pirgo, as one of his executors. Sir Henry Grey's wife, Anne (nee Windsor) Grey, was presumably 'my sister Grey' who stood godmother to the testator's eldest daughter, Anne:

*Item, I give to my daughter, Anne, the gilt beer cup with a cover which my sister Grey gave her at her christening.*

The testator mentions other christening gifts given to his children by his sisters, Lady Burghley and Lady Anne Bacon (c.1528–1610); his brothers-in-law, Lord Burghley and John (d.1584), Lord Russell, and another unidentified brother-in-law, 'my brother Daniell'; Edward Fiennes de Clinton (1512–1585), 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Lincoln; Anne (nee Russell) Dudley (1548/9-1604), Countess of Warwick; and William Burgh (1522-1584), 4<sup>th</sup> Baron Burgh of Gainsborough;.

The testator was appointed Clerk of the Liveries in October 1561 (see Hurstfield, Joel, *The Queen's Wards* (London: Longmans, 1958), p. 228. His deputy, William Tooke, may have been the William Tooke who was Auditor-General of the Court of Wards and Liveries for forty-four years until his death in 1588.

The two witnesses to the testator's will, Thomas Windebank and Vincent Skinner, were both in Lord Burghley's service. See Barnett, Richard C., *Place, Profit and Power; A Study of the Servants of William Cecil, Elizabethan Statesman* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1969), pp. 127-132, 146-154.

The properties bequeathed by the testator in his will include:

- the lease of a house at Fulwell Hatch in the Forest of Waltham, Essex.
- the manor of Mascallsbury and a capital messuage and farm called Hawghams and Wethers in Essex.
- the manor and grange of Hockford, Devonshire.

- the manor of Hartshill, Warwickshire, for which see Bartlett, Benjamin, *Manduessedum Romanorum* (London: J. Nichols, 1791), pp. 128-9, available online, and 'Parishes: Hartshill', *A History of the County of Warwick: Volume 4: Hemlingford Hundred* (1947), pp. 131-133. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=42668>.

- a capital messuage with a garden in the parish of Saint Martin in the Fields.

- a messuage in Thames Street, London, called Cox's Quay, for which see Harben, Henry A., *A Dictionary of London* (London: Herbert Jenkins, 1918), available online at <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=63091#s17>.

- the manor of Old Langport in Lydd, Kent, for which see Philipott, John, *Villare Cantianum*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (London: W. Whittingham, 1776), p. 219, available online.

- a lease of the rectory of St Michael's on Wyre, for which see Fishwick, Caroline, *A Calendar of Lancashire and Cheshire Exchequer Depositions by Commission*, Vol. IX (The Record Society for the Publication of Original Documents Relating to Lancashire and Cheshire, 1885), p. 10, available online.

- an agreement concerning the sale of Blackgrove field made between the testator and Sir Henry Lee (1533–1611), with whom Oxford's former mistress, Anne Vavasour, lived during the last two decades of his life. In his life of Lee, Chambers refers to another document involving Lee and 'his nephew William Cooke', and on the basis of these two documents it seems clear that there was a relationship between the testator and Sir Henry Lee (1533–1611). However Chambers does not provide a source for his statement that the testator, William Cooke, was Lee's nephew. See Chambers, E.K., *Sir Henry Lee* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1936), p. 227. For the will of Sir Henry Lee, see TNA PROB 11/117, ff. 326-8.

- an agreement concerning the tithes of Hartshill between the testator and Sir Henry Goodere (1534–1595) and his daughter, Frances Goodere (b. before 1571, d. 1606).

The testator names as one of his executors his nephew, Francis Bacon (1561-1626), a first cousin of Oxford's wife, Anne Cecil (d.1588). Bacon is also named in the agreements concerning the sale of Blackgrove field and the tithes of Hartshill.

The testator was succeeded by his son, Sir William Cooke of Highnam Court in Gloucestershire, who in 1597 married the daughter of Thomas Lucy (1551–1605), son of the Sir Thomas Lucy (d.1600) of Charlecote who allegedly prosecuted Shaksper of Stratford for deer poaching. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2004), p. 361, and the entry for Sir Thomas Lucy (d.1600) of Charlecote in the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*.

For the pedigree of the Cooke family of Gidea Hall, see *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society*, Vol. III (London: J.B. Nichols, 1870), p. 306, available online.

For the will of the testator's father, Sir Anthony Cooke (1505/6–1576), see TNA PROB 11/59, f. 72. For the will of the testator's elder brother, Richard Cooke (d.1576), see TNA PROB 11/61, ff. 348-9.

It is said that the testator died on 14 May 1589 and was buried on 19 May 1589 at St Martin in the Fields. See [http://www.belnapfamily.org/John\\_Belknap\\_Descendants.htm](http://www.belnapfamily.org/John_Belknap_Descendants.htm).

LM: Testamentum Willelmi Cooke

In the name of God, Amen. The sixth day of March a thousand five hundred eighty-seven and in the thirtieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, I, William Cooke of the parish of Saint Martin in the Fields in the county of Middlesex, esquire, son of Sir Anthony Cooke, late of Gidea Hall in the county of Essex, knight, deceased, being whole of body and perfect of mind at this present, I praise God for it, do revoke and make frustrate all my former wills, and do make and ordain this only to be my last will and testament and none other, wherein first I commend my soul unto Almighty God, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, his only Son, my only Saviour and Redeemer, through whose death and passion only I hope assuredly and verily look to be made partaker of eternal life, and through his glorious resurrection to be raised up again in flesh at the last day, till which day I commit my body to the earth [-to the earth] to be buried in the parish church of Saint Martin or where else it shall please mine executors, without any more blacks at my funeral than for one chief mourner, my wife, children and servants; all the rest of my friends I pray and desire to accompany my body to the church with all my neighbours, where I desire that there may be some godly learned preacher appointed to make a sermon, and then to be enclosed in the earth with some stone over my grave with some few words engraved upon it as shall please mine executors;

Then, my soul being bequeathed to God and my body to the earth, I give unto mine eldest daughter, Anne Cooke, if she be married with the consent and good liking of her mother and two of mine executors, the sum of one thousand pounds, to be paid unto her at the age of eighteen years if she shall then be married, and if she tarry unmarried till she be past the age of eighteen years, then to be paid unto her by mine executors at the day of her marriage, so that then also she marry with the consent of her mother and two of mine executors, but if she shall happen to remain unmarried and uncontract till she be of the age of six and twenty years, then to be paid unto her own self at that age to dispose for herself and best preferment;

Item, I give to my second daughter, Mildred Cooke, if she marry with the consent and good liking of her mother and two of mine executors, the sum of one thousand pounds, to be paid unto her at the age of eighteen years if she shall then be married, and if she shall tarry unmarried till she shall be past the age of eighteen years, then to be paid unto her at the day of her marriage if she then also marry with the consent and good liking of her mother and two of mine executors, but if she shall happen to remain unmarried and

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unaffied till she be past the age of six and twenty years, then to be paid unto her own self at that age to dispose for herself and for her best preferment;

Item, I give to my third daughter, Frances Cooke, if she be married with the consent and good liking of her mother and two of mine executors, the sum of eight hundred pounds, to be paid unto her at her age of eighteen years if she then shall be married, and if she shall tarry unmarried till she be past the age of eighteen years, then to be paid unto her at the day of her marriage if she then also marry with the consent and good liking of her mother and two of mine executors, but [+if] she shall happen to remain unmarried and uncontract till she be past the age of six and twenty years, then to be paid unto her own self at that age to dispose for herself and for her best preferment;

Also my will and meaning is that if any of my daughters shall happen to die before they be married or have their portions delivered unto them, that then the portion of her that so dieth shall go and be bestowed upon her two other sisters that overlive, so that mine executors bestow two parts of that portion upon her that remaineth unmarried and not preferred at that time;

Item, I give to my daughter, Anne, the gilt beer cup with a cover which my sister Grey gave her at her christening, and the silver porringer with the four spoons occupied commonly by my children in the nursery, or if those pieces of plate be changed, then some other fair cup of better value;

Item, I give unto my daughter, Mildred Cooke, the gilt standing cup with a cover that my sister, my Lady of Burghley, gave her at her christening, and two little gilt cups, one in another, given her by my brother Daniell at her christening;

Item, I give unto my daughter, Frances Cooke, such plate as was given her at her christening, and my other silver porringer beside;

Item, I give unto mine eldest son, William Cooke, one hundred pounds, to be paid unto him at his full age toward suing out his livery or ouster-le-main;

I give also unto him beside a basin and an ewer of silver parcel gilt that my father gave me by his will, or if that should happen to be changed, then that basin and ewer that cometh for the exchange;

Also I give unto him a gilt salt-cellar graven with the cover which the right honourable my Lord of Burghley, Lord Treasurer of England, gave him at his christening;

Item, I give unto my son, John Cooke, a pair of silver flagons that my father gave me by his will;

Also I give unto him a fair standing cup with a cover and a fair gilt bowl with a cover, the which my good brother-in-law, my Lord Russell, deceased, and my good sister Bacon gave him at his christening;

Item, I give unto my son, Edward Cooke, the dozen of silver spoons that my father gave me by his will, and also two standing gilt cups with covers, and also a gilt salt-cellar with a cover, all which were given him at his christening by the right honourable Lord, the Earl of Lincoln, Lord Admiral of England, and by my good Lord, the old Lord Burroughe [=Burgh], and by the right honourable my very good Lady, the Countess of Warwick;

All the residue of my plate, jewels, silver vessel, and all my household stuff saving the hangings and cushions of the great chamber and inner chamber next to it and the chairs and stools to the same chambers belonging, of which nevertheless I give her the use during her life, and the lease of my house at Fulwell Hatch in the Forest of Waltham, I give unto my well-beloved wife, Frances Cooke, trusting in God that she will be a kind mother unto my children after my death;

Item, I give to my old servant, Henry Lowgher [=Lowther?], ten pounds, and to Weston Shawe, my servant, if he be my servant at the time of my death, five pounds;

Item, I give unto John Hill, that teacheth my children, ten pounds;

Item, I give to James Adams, my servant, if he be my servant at the time of my death, five pounds;

And to every manservant with me at the time of my death, twenty shillings, and to every maiden-servant except Nan Baiefoote, ten shillings (and I give to her, if she be not married before my death, ten pounds towards her marriage) over and besides their wages, and such of mine apparel as may be fittest for my men, I pray mine executors to distribute amongst them;

Item, I give unto the afflicted French and Dutch church ten pounds, to be paid unto them immediately after my death;

Item, I give unto the parish of Romford in Essex where I was born ten pounds to be bestowed upon the poor of that parish;

And this I make and ordain to be my last will and testament for the disposing of my goods;

Also, whereas by gift and good conveyance in the law from my father I am seised in fee-tail of the manor of Mascallisburie [=Mascallsbury?] and of a capital messuage and farm called Hawghams and Wethers in two parts divided, being within the county of Essex, if it shall so please God that I shall die, mine heir being within age, then I leave the said manors of Mascallysburie and the moiety of the said capital messuage and farm of Hawghams and Withers now in the tenure of Richard Mathewe of Abridge to descend upon mine heir for a full third part due unto the Queen's Majesty of all my manors, lands and tenements for wardship, livery and primer seisin according to the laws and statutes of this realm;

Also, whereas I am seised in my demesne as of fee of and in the manor and grange of Horford [sic?] in the county of Devon, and of the manor of Hartshill otherwise called Hardishill in the county of Warwick, and of one capital messuage or mansion-house with a garden in the parish of Saint Martin in the Fields in the county of Middlesex wherein I now dwell, and also of one messuage or tenement in Thames Street in the city of London called Coxkey [=Cox's Quay] in two parts divided, and of two parts of the manor of Old Langport in the county of Kent;

And whereas also the said manor of Hartshill alias Hardishull is diversly demised and leased for term of years, that is, the demesne lands of the said manor, late in the tenure of Edmund Parker, are now in mine own hands and is by me letten for this year to divers persons for the rent of four score and (blank) pounds, the tenements of the said manor are severally in lease to divers tenants of the said manor for the yearly rent of six and twenty pounds and a noble, and the woods of the said manor are in the tenure and occupation of Edmund Parker or his assigns by virtue of an old lease yet enduring for divers years whereupon is reserved and payable the yearly rent of twenty pounds;

And whereas also the said demesne lands of the said manor late in the tenure of Edmund Parker and now by me let for this year to divers persons for four score and (blank) pounds were a little while before my purchase demised and let by my nephew, Anthony Cooke, esquire, for term of one and forty years to one Thomas Foster, gentleman, for the yearly rent of thirty pounds, which said term and interest for years was heretofore by mine appointment conveyed and assured unto my trusty servants, John Churchill and Henry Lowgher, as in trust and confidence to be at my disposition, now I do give and dispose of all the foresaid manors, lands, tenements and lease and term of years in manner and form following:

First, I do give unto my well-beloved wife, Frances Cooke, my said capital messuage or mansion-house with the garden in the parish of St Martin in the Fields and all that to the same belongeth, and all that my said messuage or tenement in the city of London called Cox's Quay being now in the two several tenures or occupations, with the rents payable for the same for and during her natural life;

Also I give and devise unto the said Frances Cooke, my wife, all the said demesnes of the said manor demised aforesaid unto the said Thomas Foster, to have and to hold all the said demesnes and rent payable for the same for and during all the said term of one and forty years, if she live so long, for her better preferment and maintenance, beside the jointure made to her by my father;

And I will that the said John Churchill and Henry Lowgher shall permit and suffer the said Frances, my wife, to have and enjoy to her proper use and behoof all the said demesne lands and rents payable for the same for and during the said term of one and forty years, if she so long live, without any rent or other thing to be paid for the same unto them or either of them, their executors or administrators;

And after the decease of my said wife, my will and meaning is that the said John Churchill and Henry Lowgher and the survivor of them shall permit and suffer my son, William Cooke, or such of my sons as shall be mine heir, to have, take and perceive the whole profits and commodities of the said demesnes for and during the residue of the said term of one and forty years;

Further, I devise and give my said two messuages and houses with the reversions of the same and the reversion of the said demesnes of Hartshill alias Hardishill after the decease of my said wife unto mine eldest son, William Cooke, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to my son, John Cooke, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to my third son, Edward Cooke, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to the heirs males of me, the said William Cooke, lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to my nephew, Anthony Cooke, for and during his natural life, and after his decease then to his second son, Hercules Francis Cooke, and the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue, then to William Cooke, third son of my said nephew, Anthony Coke, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue then to Edward Cooke, eldest son of my said nephew, Anthony Cooke, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to the heirs males of the body of my said nephew, Anthony Cooke, lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue then to the heirs females of me, the said William Cooke, lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to my right heirs forever;

Also, where it is meet for me to set out some of my lands towards the finding and bringing up of my children during their minority and till my daughters be preferred in marriage, in consideration thereof I give unto my said wife, Frances Cooke, my manor and grange of Hocksford [=Hockford] in the county of Devon, and my two parts of my manor of Old Langport in the county of Kent, and the reversion and the rents of the tenements of Hartshill alias Hardishill demised unto divers persons, and the reversion and the rents of the woods of Hartshill alias Hardishill in lease for many years yet to come to Edmund Parker, to have and to hold the said manor and grange of Hockford, and the two parts of the manor of Old Langport, and the reversion and the rents of the said tenements of Hartshill alias Hardishill, and the rent reserved upon the lease of the woods to my said wife, Frances Cooke, for and during the term of ten years to begin immediately from and after my decease for and towards the bringing up and finding of all my children, except William Cooke, my eldest son, or such one of my sons as shall be mine heir, till my daughters be married and till my sons have accomplished, every one of them, the age of five and twenty years;

Provided that if my said wife do marry, then my will is that her estate in these two manors of Hockford and the grange and Old Langport, and of the reversion and rents of the tenements of Hartshill, and of the reversion and rents of the woods of Hartshill shall cease and determine, and that mine executors shall have the same and the reversion and rents of the said tenements [RM: and woods of Hartshill from the time of her marriage for and during the residue] of the said term and time of ten years towards and for the finding

and bringing up of my children till my daughters be married and my youngest sons be of the age of five and twenty years;

And from and after the said term of ten years, I give and devise the said manor of Hockford with the grange unto my second son, John Cooke, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to my eldest son, William Cooke, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to my son, Edward Cooke, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to the heirs males of the body of me, the said William Cooke, and for default of such issue to my nephew, Anthony Cooke, esquire, for and during his natural life, and from and after her [sic] decease then to Hercules Francis Cooke, second son of my said nephew, Anthony Cooke, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to William Cooke, third son of my said nephew, Anthony Cooke, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to Edward Cooke, eldest son of my said nephew, Anthony Cooke, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to the heirs females of the body of me, the said William Cooke, lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to my right heirs forever;

Provided always that neither my wife nor mine executors shall make any lease, nor grant any copies of any part of those two manors of Hockford with the grange and Old Langport or the tenements of Hartshill for any longer time than during the time of their estates;

Also I give and devise to my son, Edward Cooke, my two parts of my manor of Old Langport from and after the end of the said term of ten years, to have and to hold to him and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to my son, William Cooke, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to my son, John Cooke, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to the heirs males of the body of me, the said William Cooke, lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to my nephew, Anthony Cooke, esquire, for and during his natural life, and from and after his decease then to Hercules Francis Cooke and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to William Cooke, third son of my said nephew, Anthony Cooke, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to Edward Cooke, eldest son of my said nephew, Anthony Cooke, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to the heirs males of the body of my said nephew, Anthony, lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to the heirs females of the body of me, the said William Cooke, lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to my rights heirs forever;

Item, I give and devise to my son, William Cooke, all those woods and underwoods of the manor of Har[t]shill in the county of Warwick now in lease for many years yet to come to the said Edmund Parker, and the rent reserved upon the said lease and the ground and soil of the said woods from and after th' end of the said term of ten years, to have and to hold to my said son, William Cooke, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten,



and for default of such issue to my son, John Cooke, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to my son, Edward Cooke, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to the heirs males of the body of me, the said William Cooke, lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to my nephew, Anthony Cooke, esquire, for and during his natural life, and from and after his decease to William Cooke, third son of my said nephew, Anthony Cooke, and my godson, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to Hercules Francis Cooke, second son of my said nephew, Anthony Cooke, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to Edward Cooke, eldest son of my said nephew, Anthony Cooke, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to the heirs males of the body of my said nephew, Anthony Cooke, lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to the heirs females of me, the said William Cooke, lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to my right [+heirs] forever;

Moreover I give and devise the reversion and rents of the tenements of the said manor of Hartshill immediately from and after th' end of the said term of ten years unto my son, William Cooke, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to my son, John Cooke, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to my son, Edward Cooke, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to the heirs males of the body of me, the said William Cooke, and for default of such issue to my nephew, Anthony Cooke, esquire, for and during his natural life, and after his decease to Hercules Francis Cooke, second son of my said nephew, Anthony, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to William Cooke, third son of my said nephew, Anthony Cooke, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to Edward Cooke, eldest son of my said nephew, Anthony Cooke, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to the heirs males of the body of my said nephew, Anthony Cooke, esquire, and for default of such issue to the heirs females of me, the said William Cooke, of my body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to my right heirs forever;

Moreover where by this my will I have given and devised unto my second son, John Cooke, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten my manor and grange of Hockford in the county of Devon, which my gift will be void to him for a third part because it is holden of the Queen's Majesty in chief by knight's-service, which I well considering and weighing with myself that I have no other land of that value to prefer my said son, John, by because that all the lands that my father, Sir Anthony Cooke, gave me be entailed by my said father, therefore I do by this my said will order and set down that my son, William Cooke, at his full age of one and twenty years, shall suffer his brother, John Cooke, to enjoy all and every part of the said manor and grant of Hockford peaceably according to my gift unto him, and that my said son, William Cooke, at his full age of one and twenty years or within one year after at the request of my son, John Cooke, or his heirs, shall make good assurance of the said manor and grange unto his brother, John Cooke, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten such as his learned counsel shall reasonably devise for his better quietness and peaceable enjoying of

the same in as full and ample manner as I have by this my last will and testament given it to him;

And if my son, William Cooke, at his full age shall sue and molest his said brother, John Cooke, for the said manor and grange or any part or parcel thereof, or shall not within the time aforesaid or at the furthest within three years after his full age (if it be required and sought for by his brother, John Cooke) make such good and perfect assurance of the said manor and grange unto his said brother, John Cooke, for his quietness as is aforesaid, then my will and mind is that where after the death of my wife, Frances Cooke, I have given before by this my will unto my said son, William Cooke, the reversion of my messuage in Thames Street in London called Cox's Quay to him and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, that that gift and devise so made unto him of the reversion of the said messuage and tenement called Cox's Quay shall cease and be utterly void, and I will then that the reversion of the said messuage and tenement called Cox's Quay shall be and remain to my said son, John Cooke, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, with like remainders over as are before by this my last will and testament limited and expressed;

And because I can leave unto my executors but small rents and commodities in respect of the great charge that will arise in finding and bringing up so many young children, I desire and heartily pray mine executors, as they can conveniently and with safety, to employ those sums of money that shall come unto their hands after my death by any kind of means toward the finding and bringing up of my children in virtue and good learning and the better sustaining of my wife, so as a third part of the profit I would have them bestow upon my wife during the time that she remain unmarried toward her better stay of living, and thother two parts I would they should take unto themselves toward the better maintenance of my children during their minority and toward the increase of my daughter Frances' portion, if any can be spared;

Also by this my will I give full power and authority to mine executors or to three of them that when either the mortgagers or debtors have paid them the money that they owe me, to surrender, cancel and make frustrate any deed, bond or record made unto me either by the mortgagers or debtors, but not before payment in any wise;

Further, where I am possessed of a lease of the rectory of Saint Michael alias Michelchurche alias Mickle Kirke upon Wyre [=St Michael's on Wyre?] in the county of Lancaster for many years yet to come, paying unto our Sovereign Lady the Queen's Majesty the yearly rent of twenty-seven pounds fifteen shillings four pence at two usual feasts in the year, now that lease and all the term of years yet to come and the profit of the same lease I give unto mine executors during the minority of my two younger sons, John and Edward Cooke, towards their better finding and bringing up, and after they shall be every of them at their full age of one and twenty years, then I pray mine executors to take the pains to devise some good way between them that the Queen's rent may be paid unto the receiver of the shire every half year duly so that the lease be not forfeited for not payment of the Queen's rent in due time through the negligence and carelessness of such youths to their utter spoil and undoing, and that the yearly profits of the said lease of the

rectory of Saint Michael may be divided amongst them in manner and form following, that is to say, unto my son, John Cooke, and his heirs during the term thirty pounds yearly, and to my son, Edward Cooke, during the term other thirty pounds yearly, and because that after sixteen or seventeen years be past the profits of the same lease will be much better worth than now they are because that many leases that were made before my purchase of the same will be by that time expired and determined, then I will and devise that from and after all those leases be expired and determined, the yearly profits of the said grand lease shall yearly be divided in this manner following, that is to say, to my son, John Cooke, and his heirs during the lease fifty pounds yearly, and to my son, Edward Cooke, and his heirs during the term forty pounds by year, and to my eldest son, William, Cooke, I give and devise the lease and all the residue of the profits of the said rectory during the term yet to come, to have and to hold unto the said William Cooke and to his heirs;

And whereas I am in some question before the right honourable the Lord Chancellor of England in the High Court of Chancery for this lease of the rectory of Saint Michael's which is not yet ended by my Lord, neither can I judge what the end will be, therefore whereas I have paid already for the lease of the said rectory to Robert Worsley of the county of Lancaster, esquire, the sum of nine hundred pounds, and am to pay more unto the said Robert for the said lease two hundred pounds, my will and devise is that if the lease should be decreed from me by my Lord Chancellor, that then all the money that of necessity must come to me again in place of the said lease shall be bestowed by mine executors upon my two younger sons, John and Edward Cooke, at the age of five and twenty years, to be equally divided between them;

And if there shall be any more goods and chattels than hereby is given amongst my children, then I will that mine executors shall divide the same equally amongst them;

Furthermore, where it hath pleased the Queen's most excellent Majesty, my most gracious and dread Sovereign Lady, at my most humble suit unto her Majesty, by her letters patents dated the second day of August in eight and twenty year [=2 August 1586] of her most happy reign to grant unto mine eldest son, William Cooke, being then within age, the reversion of mine office of the Clerkship of the Liveries in the Court of Ward and Liveries, to have and to hold unto my said son, William Cooke, during his natural life with all profits and commodities to the said office belonging, and hath further in the said letters patents granted that if I should happen to die, the said William Cooke, my son, being within age of one and twenty years, that it shall be lawful for me, his father, by my last will in writing, or mine executors after my death, to nominate and appoint one sufficient deputy or deputies during his minority to execute the said office of the Clerkship of the Liveries in the Court of Wards and Liveries, now my will and testament is that if I happen to die before my son, William Cooke, shall be of full age, that then William Tock [=Tooke], gentleman, that now serveth me as deputy under me in the execution of my said office shall also be deputy unto my son, William Cooke, and shall exercise and execute the office after my death during the minority of my son, and shall take and receive all usual fees and commodities and profits to the said office of the Clerkship of the Liveries belonging or appertaining to the use and behoof of my said son,

William Cooke, and to render account and to make payment twice every year to mine executors during his minority, and after his full age to himself;

And if it should happen the said William Tooke to die before me, or after my death during the minority of my son, William Cooke, then in his place I nominate and appoint my loving servant, John Churchill of London, gentleman, chief clerk now in mine office, to be deputy under my son during his minority, to exercise and occupy the said office of the Clerkship of the Liveries in the Court of Wards and Liveries, and to take and receive all usual fees and commodities to the said office of the Clerkship of the Liveries belonging or appertaining to the use and behoof of my said son, William Cooke, and to render account and to make payment twice a year to mine executors during his minority, and after my son be of full age then to himself, mine executors allowing both to the said William Tooke, or if he die to the said John Churchill, all such fees and profits as I suffered them to take and enjoy under me during my life, and if the said John Churchill should happen to die during the minority of my said son, William Cooke, then I will that mine executors shall nominate and appoint some sufficient and expert man to be deputy to my son during his minority, and to render account as is before expressed;

Finally, whereas I, the said William Cooke, in and by one indenture tripartite bearing date the eighteen day of February last past before the date hereof made between me, the said William Cooke, of the first part, Sir Henry Lee of Quarrendon in the county of Buckingham, knight, of the second part, and Francis Bacon of Gray's Inn in the county of Middlesex, esquire, and George Throckmorton of Fulbrook in the county of Buckingham, esquire, of the third part, for and in consideration of two thousand eight hundred threescore and twelve pounds of good and lawful money of England to be paid unto me, the said William Cooke, by the said Sir Henry Lee, his heirs, executors or administrators, at the several days, times and place in the same indenture tripartite mentioned and expressed, did covenant and grant for me, mine heirs and assigns, to and with the said Sir Henry Lee, his heirs and assigns, that I, the said William Cooke, should and would before the feast of Pentecost now next ensuing at the cost and charges in the law of the said Sir Henry Lee, his heirs and assigns or some of them, and as by the counsel learned in the laws of the said Sir Henry Lee, his heirs or assigns, should be reasonably devised or advised and required, with warranty of me, the said William Cooke, and of mine heirs against me and mine heirs only, or without warranty by feoffment or otherwise, convey and pass unto the said Frances Bacon and George Throckmorton and to their heirs and assigns and [sic] that pasture ground and great field commonly called or known by the name of Blackgrove field containing by estimation three hundred and threescore acres of pasture, were it more or less, and one meadow plat to the same adjoining containing by estimation five and twenty acres, were it more or less, together with such freeboard(?) as to the said pasture ground and meadow or either of them was then adjoining or belonging in the common fields there, and all woods, underwoods and trees growing and being of, in or upon the premises or any parcel thereof, and all messuages, houses, edifices and buildings whatsoever situate or being of, in or upon the premises or any parcel thereof, lying or being within the several parishes, hamlets or fields of Waddesdon, Fleet Marston and Quanton or any of them in the said county of Buckingham, and then or then late being in the tenure, holding or occupation of one George Ball, gentleman, or his assigns,

and all the estate, right, title, interest, use, possession, reversion, reversions, remainder and remainders of me, the said William Cooke, of, in or to the premises before mentioned (except such lands, tenements and hereditaments as sometime were parcel of the late dissolved monastery of Medneham [=Medmenham] in the said county of Buckingham), which said feoffment or other conveyance to be had or made as is aforesaid and every of them should be and should be adjudged, esteemed and taken to be, and the said feoffees and grants in the said feoffment or other assurances to be named and their heirs and assigns and every of them, [+and?] all other persons then standing or being seised or which at any time then after should stand and be seised of or in the premises before mentioned and of and in every or any of them, immediately from and after the making and executing of the said feoffment or other conveyance to be had or made as is aforesaid, should stand and be seised of and in the said pasture ground and great field called or known by the name of Blackgrove field and the said meadow, messuages, houses, edifices, buildings, lands, tenements and all and singular the premises (except before excepted) to the uses, intents and purposes then after in the said indenture tripartite expressed, mentioned and declared, and to none [-none] other use, intent or purpose, that is to say, to the use of the said Sir Henry Lee and of his heirs and assigns, and yet nevertheless with, by and under such proviso, condition and limitation as is after in the said indenture tripartite limited, expressed and declared, that is to say, it was by the same indenture tripartite always provided and fully covenanted, granted, concluded and agreed by and between the said parties thereunto and every of them, and the said Sir Henry Lee for himself, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns and for every of them, did covenant and grant to and with me the said William, Cooke, my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns and every of us, that if it should fortune the said Sir Henry Lee, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns and every of them to make default of or in the payment of the said sum of two thousand eight hundred threescore and twelve pounds of good and lawful money of England or of any part thereof at any the several days, times or place before in or by the said former indenture limited or appointed for payment thereof, contrary to the true intent or meaning of the same, that then and at all times from thenceforth the use in the said former indenture limited and appointed unto the said Sir Henry Lee and his heirs, and the full force and effect thereof, together with all and every the covenants, grants and articles therein mentioned and which in the part or behalf of me, the said William Cooke, my heirs or assigns, then should or ought to be observed and kept, should not only cease, determine and be utterly void and of none effect, but also that then and at all times from thenceforth the said feoffment should be, and the said Francis Bacon and George Throckmorton and their heirs and all and every other person or persons which should then stand or be seised of or in the said pasture ground, meadow and other the premises or of or in any part thereof with their appurtenances and their heirs should stand and be seised of and in the same and of and in every part or parcel thereof (except only before excepted) to the only use and behoof of me, the said William Cooke, if I should then be living, and of mine heirs and assigns forever, and if I should be then dead, then to such use and uses as I, the said William Cooke, by my last will and testament in writing or by any other writing to be subscribed with my hand and sealed with my seal should sufficiently limit and appoint, and from and after the same uses being ended and as they should [-sufficiently limit and appoint, and from and after the same uses] severally end and determine, or for default of any such

sufficient limitation or appointment to be had or made, whichsoever of them should first happen, then to the use and behoof of the heirs and assigns of me, the said William Cooke, forever, and to none other use, intent or purpose, any matter or thing whatsoever in the said former indenture tripartite hereinbefore expressed to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding, as [+by] the said former indenture amongst other things therein contained more at large appeareth;

And where I, the said William, Cooke, by my deed sufficient thereof made, bearing date the nineteenth day of February last past before the date hereof, did convey and assure the same premises and every part thereof unto the said Francis Bacon and George Throckmorton and their heirs to the uses and according to the true meaning of the said former indenture hereinbefore recited, as by the same indenture and deed aforesaid more at large appeareth, now know that I, the said William Cooke, by and according to the liberty, power and authority to me given by the said former indenture do by this my present last will limit, will and appoint that if default in payment of the said sum of two thousand eight hundred threescore and twelve pounds or any part thereof shall happen to be had or made contrary to the intent and true meaning of the said former indenture, that then and at all times from thenceforth the said pasture ground, meadow, lands, tenements and other the premises by the said former indenture covenanted or mentioned to be conveyed or assured as before is recited, together with the said deed, grant and assurance hereinbefore mentioned, and the full force and effect of them and every of them, shall be and remain and all persons standing or being thereof seised shall stand and be seised of and in the same and every part thereof to the use of mine executors hereafter named and to their heirs forever, and yet nevertheless upon hope, trust and confidence that they or the survivors of them or the heirs of the same survivors, within such short and convenient time from and after my decease as well they may, shall and will make sale thereof to such person and persons and to their heirs and to the use of them and of their heirs forever as will give most money for the same, and the money coming of the sale thereof dispose in and about the payment of my debts, discharge of my funerals, and performance of my last will in all things according to my true intent and meaning herein expressed and set down;

And of this my last will and testament I make and ordain mine executors my very good brother-in-law, Sir Henry Grey of Pirgo, knight, my loving brother-in-law, Henry Killigrew, esquire, and my nephew, Francis Bacon of Gray's Inn, esquire, my loving cousin, James Morice of Ongar, esquire, and my loving friend, Francis Rame of Hornchurch, gentleman, my father's old and trusty servant, and I give unto every one of mine executors except my sons twenty pounds apiece towards their pains to be taken in and about th' execution of this my last will and testament, most heartily praying them not to refuse to administer for the natural love and goodwill that they bear to me and mine more than for so simple a recompense;

And I make the right honourable my most especial good Lord and dear brother-in-law, my Lord of Burghley, Lord Treasurer of England, mine overseer of this my last will and testament, to whom for want of ability to give any such thing as is worthy to present to

so great a personage, I yield all my whole heart and prayer to God for him long to preserve him in health to the great comfort of all his country;

Also whereas the greatest part of the money that shall come unto mine executors' hands after my death towards the performance and execution of this my last will and testament resteth in some men's hands upon assurance of lands and in some others' upon bands, my will and meaning is that mine executors shall use the said parties that be debtors with as great favour and conscience as they may, so that it stand with the performance and execution of this my last will and not with the destruction of it;

And this I declare and ordain to be my last will and testament, in witness whereof I have written it all with mine own hand and sealed it with the seal of mine arms in the first leaf and in the last the day and year above-written. William Cooke.

Witnesses of the sealing and subscribing of this will: Thomas Windebank, Vincent Skinner.

Furthermore, whereas Sir Henry Goodyear [=Goodere], knight, and Frances, his daughter, have conveyed and assured unto Francis Bacon, esquire, and Weston Shawe, servant to me, the said William Cooke, and their heirs all and all manner of tithe and tithes whatsoever of all manner corn and hay, and all other tithes whatsoever predial and personal with th' appurtenances rising, coming and accruing due or demandable in the town and fields, lordship and territory of Hartshill or any of them in the county of Warwick, which conveyance nevertheless was and is in trust and confidence to the benefit of me and of mine heirs, now therefore I, the said William Cooke, this tenth day of May a thousand five hundred eighty-nine do limit, appoint and declare by this addition to this my last will and testament that mine intent and meaning is that the above-named Frances, my wife, shall have and enjoy during her natural life all the said tithes with th' appurtenances, and that the said Francis Bacon and Weston Shawe and their heirs shall permit and suffer her to have and enjoy the same during her life, and shall convey and assure the same to her accordingly, and afterward my heirs to have and enjoy the same forever. William Cooke. Witnesses to this addition: James Morice, Henry Medley, James Adams.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram venerabili viro magistro Willelmo Drury Legum doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cantuariensis magistro Custode siue Commissario &c Nono Die mensis Decembris Anno Domini millesimo quingentesimo octogesimo nono iuramento Anthonij Lawe notarij publici procuratoris domini Henrici Greye militis de Pirgo Henrici Killegrewe et ffrancisci Bacon armigeri necnon ffrancisci Rame generosi executorum in huiusmodi testamento nominatorum Quibus commissa fuit administratio bonorum iurium et creditorum dicti defuncti de bene et fideliter administrando &c ad sancta dei evangelia iurati Iacobo Morris armigero executore etiam in

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huiusmodi testamento nominato ex certis causis eum in hac parte moventibus oneri executionis huiusmodi testamenti expresse renuntiante

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Drury, Doctor of the Laws, Master, Keeper or Commissary etc. of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the ninth day of the month of December in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred eighty-ninth by the oath of Anthony Law, notary public, proctor of Sir Henry Grey, knight, of Pirgo, Henry Killigrew and Francis Bacon, esquire, and also Francis Rame, gentleman, executors 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., James Morice, esquire, executor also named in the same testament, for certain causes him in that respect moving, expressly renouncing the burden of the execution of the same testament.]