

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 24 February 1597 and 1 March 1597, and proved 23 May 1597, of William Brooke (1 November 1527 – 6 March 1597), 10th Baron Cobham, Lord Chamberlain of the Household and patron of the Lord Chamberlain's Men in 1596/7.

TESTATOR'S ALLEGED DESCENT FROM SIR JOHN OLDCASTLE

Many modern sources assert that the testator was a direct descendant of Sir John Oldcastle (executed 14 December 1417). However a pedigree, CP 225/1, of the Brooke family from the reign of Henry III to 1571 emblazoned by Robert Glover (1543/4 – 10 April 1588), Somerset Herald, at the request of the testator indicates that, on the contrary, the testator was a direct descendant of Joan de la Pole (d. 13 January 1434), Lady Cobham, by her *second* husband, Sir Reginald Braybrooke (d. 20 September 1405). Although Joan de la Pole did indeed marry Sir John Oldcastle as her fourth husband, she had no issue by him. Joan de la Pole (d. 13 January 1434) had, in fact, five husbands. She married firstly Sir Robert de Hemenhale (d. 25 September 1391); secondly Sir Reginald Braybrooke (d. 20 September 1405); thirdly Sir Nicholas Hauberk (d. 9 October 1407); fourthly Sir John Oldcastle (executed 25 [sic?] December 1417); and fifthly Sir John Harpenden (d. May 1438).

On the basis of the testator's alleged descent from Sir John Oldcastle, modern sources claim that he found Shakespeare's portrayal of Oldcastle in *Henry IV* personally offensive, and forced Shakespeare to change the name of the character to Sir John Falstaff. However since Sir John Oldcastle was not the testator's ancestor, and had only held the title Lord Cobham in right of his wife, Joan de la Pole, and only for a few years at that, and had been executed in 1417, a century and a half before Shakespeare's play, there is reason to question whether the testator would have taken personal offense at Shakespeare's portrayal of Oldcastle.

The *ODNB* is among the sources which allege that the testator took personal offence and forced Shakespeare to change the name of the character, but the *ODNB* goes no further than stating that Oldcastle was 'a previous holder of the title', rather than asserting that he was a direct ancestor of the testator:

The perceived insult to a previous holder of his title led to protests by the tenth Baron Cobham, which in turn caused Oldcastle's name to be replaced by that of Falstaff (itself adapted from that of the fifteenth-century soldier Sir John Fastolf).

The *ODNB* then goes on to offer a more plausible reason for the change in the name of the character from Oldcastle to Falstaff. Oldcastle, largely forgotten for more than a century after his death, had been brought to national prominence by the publication in 1563 of John Foxe's *Actes and Monuments*. It thus seems likely that it was the general public, and predominantly Elizabethans with Puritan leanings, who were offended by the

depiction of a prominent Protestant martyr as the ‘malign companion of Henry V’s youth’. From the *ODNB*:

Protestant opinion must also have favoured the change, which in 2 Henry IV resulted in the epilogue's being extended to include a formal disclaimer, 'for Oldcastle died a martyr, and this is not the man'.

It should also be noted that the Falstaff-like individual described by Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex, in a letter to Sir Robert Cecil dated 17 February 1598 is said to be 27 years of age, and therefore born about 1571, and thus must be a different person from the testator’s son and heir, Henry Brooke, 11th Baron Cobham, who was born 28 December 1564. See Hotson, Leslie, *Shakespeare’s Sonnets Dated*, (London: Rupert Hart-Davis, 1949), p. 153:

I pray you commend me to my Lord of Southampton and Sir George Carew, and tell them I do envy their engrossing of all employments both civil and martial by land and sea.

Here is one cried in London of 27 years of age, a round man with little hair of his head, and that like moss, faced like a King Harry goat, of a sanguine complexion and a merry wit. If any such be strayed into your company, I pray you have care he be sent back.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

As noted above, a pedigree of the Brooke family from the reign of Henry III to 1571 was emblazoned by Robert Glover at the testator’s request. See CP 225/1 and McKeen, David, *A Memory of Honour; The Life of William Brooke, Lord Cobham*, (Salzburg: Universitat Salzburg, 1986), 2 vols., pp. 5, 21, 291 at:

<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000901279>

The pedigree contains the statement that the testator, William Brooke, 10th Baron Cobham, ‘is ‘now living in anno 1571’, thus providing an approximate date for the blazoning of the pedigree.

It should be noted that the pedigree contains errors, particularly with respect to the testator’s grandfather’s second and third marriages.

Testator’s parents

The testator was the eldest surviving son of George Brooke (c.1497 – 29 September 1558), 9th Baron Cobham, and Anne Bray (c.1510–1558), eldest daughter of Edmund Bray (d.1539), 1st Baron Bray, and his wife, Jane Halighwell, daughter of Sir Richard Halighwell. See the pedigree in CP 225/1, *supra*; Cokayne, *supra*, p. 348; McKeen,

supra, pp. 7-9, 700-702; and ‘Memorials of the Family of Cobham’, *Collectanea Topographica & Genealogica*, Vol. VII, (London: John Bowyer Nichols and Son, 1841), pp. 320-54 at p. 352:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=tL1nsjpJkj8C&pg=PA352>

See also the Bray pedigree in Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, Vol. I, New Series, (London: Hamilton, Adams, and Co., 1874), p. 62 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=Ztjtx2j68AsC&pg=PA62>

For the will, dated 7 October 1558, of the testator’s mother, Anne (nee Bray) Brooke, see CP 198/110, and the *Calendar of the Manuscripts of the Honourable the Marquis of Salisbury, K.G., Preserved at Hatfield House, Hertfordshire, Part I*, (London: Eyre and Spottiswoode, 1883), p. 147 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/calendarmanusc01grea#page/146/mode/2up>

Testator’s siblings

For the testator’s siblings, see his father’s will, TNA PROB 11/43/628.

See also McKeen, *supra*, pp. 700-702; Cokayne, G.E., *The Complete Peerage*, (London: St Catherine Press, 1913), Vol. III, pp. 347-9; the *ODNB* entries for the testator and his father; and the History of Parliament entry for the testator at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/brooke-william-1527-97>

MARRIAGES AND ISSUE

Testator’s first marriage

The testator married firstly, Dorothy Neville (d. 22 September 1559), one of the five daughters of George Neville (c.1469–1535), 3rd Baron Bergavenny, by his third wife, Mary Stafford, youngest daughter of Edward Stafford (1478-1521), 3rd Duke of Buckingham, by whom he had an only daughter:

* **Frances Brooke** (31 July 1549 - c.1598), who married firstly Thomas Coppinger (1546 – 21 March 1580), and secondly, on 5 October 1580, Edward Beecher (c.1545-c.1603). See McKeen, *supra*, p. 700; and the entry for Frances Brooke at:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=646

Through his marriage to Dorothy Neville the testator had four sisters-in-law:

-Ursula Neville (d.1575), who married Sir Warham St Leger, and was the mother of Anne St Leger, who married firstly Thomas Digges (c.1546 – 24 August 1595), and secondly Thomas Russell, the overseer of the will of William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon. See the will of Thomas Digges, TNA PROB 11/86/204; the will of Thomas Russell, TNA PROB 11/165/424; and Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 82, and Vol. III, p. 482.

-Mary Neville (d.1576?), who was present at the christening of the testator's eldest son and heir, Maximilian Brooke; see McKean, *supra*, p. 149. She married Thomas Fiennes (c.1516 – 29 June 1541), 9th Baron Dacre, executed for his part in a murder which occurred while he and friends were poaching on the estate of Sir Nicholas Pelham at Laughton, Sussex. Also executed for his part in the incident was Lord Dacres' brother-in-law, John Mantell, the eldest son and heir of Sir Walter Mantell and Margaret (nee Wood). See the *ODNB* article for Lord Dacre; the will of Sir Walter Mantell, dated 31 August 1523 and proved 4 August 1529, TNA PROB 11/23/158; and:

<http://thesotericcuriosa.blogspot.ca/2010/06/of-reckless-youth-thomas-fiennes-9th.html>

The testator's sister-in-law, Mary Neville, married secondly, before 1546, John Wotton of North Tuddenham, Norfolk, and thirdly Francis Thursby of Congham, Norfolk. She is depicted in two well-known portraits which for many years were wrongly identified. See:

<http://www.somegreymatter.com/wrestparkportrait.htm>

See also:

<http://www.cvma.ac.uk/publications/digital/norfolk/sites/northtuddenham/history.html>

-Margaret Neville, who married firstly John Cheyney, slain at the siege of Montreuil in 1544, son of Sir Thomas Cheyney (c.1485-1558). See the will of Sir Thomas Cheyney, dated 6 December 1558 and proved 25 April 1559, TNA PROB 11/42B/105. She married secondly Henry Pole or Poole, esquire, of London. She was the Margaret Poole who, together with Sir William More of Loseley (1520-1600), leased property in the Blackfriars to the fence-master, Rocco Bonetti (d.1587), alluded to by Shakespeare in *Romeo and Juliet* as 'the very butcher of a silk button'. See Folger MS L.b.352, and Feuillerat, Albert, *Blackfriars Records*, (Oxford University Press: Malone Society, 1913), pp. 55-60.

-Katherine Neville, who married Sir John St Leger (c.1516-1593x6); their daughter, Mary St Leger, married the naval commander, Sir Richard Grenville (1542–1591). See the *ODNB* article for Sir Richard Grenville, and the History of Parliament entry for Sir John St Leger at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/st-leger-%28sellenger%29-sir-john-1516-9396>.

-Joan Neville.

Testator's second marriage

The testator married secondly Frances Newton (d. 17 October 1592), the daughter of Sir John Newton (d.1568) of Hanham, Gloucestershire, and his first wife, Margaret Poyntz, the daughter of Sir Anthony Poyntz. The testator's second wife was one of Queen Elizabeth's longest-serving gentlewomen and closest friends. By his second wife the testator had four sons and three daughters:

* **Maximilian Brooke** (1560-1583), who died without issue.

* **Henry Brooke** (22 November 1564 – 24 January 1619), 11th Baron Cobham, who married, by contract dated 27 May 1601, Frances Fitzgerald (1566-1628), widow of Henry, Earl of Kildare, and daughter of Charles Howard (1536–1624), 1st Earl of Nottingham, but had no issue. Henry Brooke was attainted in 1604 and condemned to death, although his execution was not carried out.

* **Sir William Brooke** (1565-1597).

* **George Brooke** (1568–1603), who in 1599 married Elizabeth Burgh (died c.1637), eldest daughter and coheir of Lord Burgh (d.1602), and was executed 5 December 1603 for his part in the so-called Bye Plot. His widow married secondly Francis Reade.

* **Elizabeth Brooke** (1562-1597), who married Oxford's brother-in-law, Robert Cecil (1563–1612), 1st Earl of Salisbury.

* **Frances Brooke** (b.1562), who married firstly John Stourton (1553-1588), Lord Stourton, and secondly, Sir Edward More (d.1623). See the will of Sir Edward More, dated 24 April 1623 and proved 19 May 1623, TNA PROB 11/141/530.

* **Margaret Brooke** (1563-1621), who married Sir Thomas Sondes (1544-1593) of Throwley, Kent, and at some time during her marriage went mad. She had a daughter, Frances Sondes (1592–c.1634), whom Sir Thomas Sondes refused to acknowledge as his child. Frances Sondes married Sir John Leveson (d.1613), the son of the testator's executor, Sir John Leveson (1555–1615). See McKeen, *supra*, pp. 424-9.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

The testator appoints four executors: his 'cousin', Edward Wotton (1548–1628), 1st Baron Wotton, Sir John Leveson (1555–1615), Sir Thomas Fane (d.1607), and the

antiquary and lawyer, William Lambarde (1536–1601). See the *ODNB* entries for Wotton, Leveson and Lambarde, and for Fane's brother of the same name, Sir Thomas Fane (d.1589).

The testator appoints as overseers his close friend, William Cecil (1521-1598), 1st Baron Burghley, and Burghley's son, Sir Robert Cecil (1563–1612), the testator's son-in-law, for whom see the *ODNB* entries.

RM: T{estamentum} Domini Will{el}mj Brooke

In the name of God, Amen. The four and twentieth day of February in the nine and thirtieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France & Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., I, William Brooke of the most noble Order of the Garter knight, Lord Cobham, and by the benignity of her most excellent Majesty Lord Warden of the Five Ports, Lord Chamberlain of her Highness' Household, and one of her Majesty's most honourable Privy Council, being of perfect mind and memory, thanks be given to Almighty God, do ordain and declare this my last will & testament in manner and form following:

First I commend and commit my soul into the hands of the Almighty God, and, as every good Christian ought to do, I trust and assuredly hope (my sins and offences for Christ his sake being clearly forgiven) wholly and only by the merits of his death and passion to come unto and have salvation and joy everlasting;

And if by the providence of Almighty God it shall happen me being within the realm of England to depart out of this mortal life, I will that by the discretion of mine executors my body be buried after a laudable manner [+and?] sort without vain pomp in the parish church of Cobham in the county of Kent where mine ancestors are buried;

Also I will that first and principally all and every the debts which I owe shall be satisfied and paid out of my movable goods and chattels other than such as in this my present last will and testament or in any codicil which I shall make to be added to this my said will and testament now be or hereafter shall be otherwise devised, willed or disposed by me;

Also I will that my whole families both at Cobham Hall in Kent and at the Blackfriars, London, be continued and kept together with allowance of meat, drink and lodging until the full end of ten days next after the accomplishment of my funeral solemnities, within the which time I will that there be given and paid to every of my servants then being in the check-roll of my household as well the whole of his or her wages of that quarter of the year in which it shall happen me to die as also one whole half year's wages after the rate of his or her covenant of service;

And I will that immediately after the end of the said ten days my said houses at Cobham and Blackfriars be delivered into the hands of mine eldest son and heir apparent, Henry

Brooke, together with all such implements, utensils of household and other goods movable as I do in this my present last will and testament specially appoint to and for him;

Also I will that for the performance of my said funerals and payment of my debts and legacies and for and towards the making of moneys(?) as well for the continual maintenance of poor people at Cobham as for some other purposes which I have declared to Sir John Leveson, knight, and William Lambarde of Halling, gentleman, all which I require them faithfully to accomplish according to that special and secret trust which I have reposed in them, they, the said Sir John Leveson and William Lambarde or the survivor of them shall sell all and every my jewels, ornaments, plate of gold and silver of whatsoever sort, except one cup of gold given to me by my late deceased servant, John Taylor, gentleman, to remain as an heirloom to such as shall from time to time be Lord Cobham, the which also I do leave to my said son, Henry, and except also all such my said jewels, ornaments and plate as in and by this my last will and testament shall be otherwise disposed by me;

And I give to my said son, Henry, all and singular the implements and utensils of household that shall be at the time of my death remaining in or about my said houses at Cobham and Blackfriars or any of them except always [+such?] jewels, ornaments, plate and money and all & singular such trunks, chests, coffers, caskets and boxes, together with all manner of things in every of them contained, as his good mother, my late wife, usually in her lifetime had and kept, and except all those few pieces of hangings which I myself do usually occupy at her Majesty's court whilst I do attend there, and except also all such damask linen and diaper linen as I have in any my said houses or at the Palace in Canterbury;

[f. 1v] Also I give to my said son, Henry, all mine armours, guns, weapons & furnitures for the war whatsoever, together with these my horses and their proper furnitures, viz., Quasto, mine eldest horse, my youngest horse, also called Grey Canterbury, Grey Mott, and Bay Mott;

And to my said son, Henry, I will and give my basin and ewer of silver that is second in price or value, together with twelve of my best dishes of silver vessel;

Also I give to my second son, Sir William Brooke, knight, my basin and ewer of silver that is the third in price or value, together with twelve of my dishes of silver vessel that shall be next in price or value to the former twelve, and together with all or every my implements and utensils of household which at the time of my death shall be at the said Palace at Canterbury, together with all the before-expected damask and diaper linen, and together with these my horses and their proper furnitures, viz., Bay Gainsford, Bay Sheppey & Grey Penbroke [=Pembroke?];

Also I give to my youngest son, George Brooke, my basin and ewer of silver that is the fourth in price or value, together with twelve of my dishes of silver vessel next in price and worth to those former four and twenty that I have before given to his brothers;

And to him I also give all and singular my books, writings and papers of whatsoever learning written or imprinted in whatsoever language, not meaning to include or comprehend in this my gift any evidences, charters, muniments, bonds, plots or drafts concerning any my lands or leases not assured or bequeathed to him, nor any books, rolls or papers concerning any my accounts, receipts or reckonings;

And to him I also give those pieces of hangings before excepted which I do use at the court;

And whereas for some portion of living in lands to be had to my said son, George, I have already by act executed in my lifetime conveyed to his use in writing under my hand and seal all my lands, tenements & hereditaments wherein I had any estate of inheritance lying within the Isle of Grain in the county of Kent, yet nevertheless for the increase of his said portion I will and give to him all those my several leases, interests and terms for years which I have of or in any lands, tenements or hereditaments within the said Isle of Grain together with the several deeds, leases and writings concerning every of the same;

Also I will and give to the said George, my son, and to his assigns one annuity or yearly rent of threescore and six pounds thirteen shillings & four pence of lawful money of England to be issuing & going out of all and singular my manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever within the realm of England, to have, hold, levy and take the said annuity or yearly rent during the life natural of my said son, George, in the feasts of th' Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist, Saint Michael th' Archangel and the Nativity of Our Lord God by four equal portions yearly to be paid, and the first payment thereof to begin and to be made at and upon such one of the said four feasts as shall first happen next after my decease;

And if it shall happen the said annuity or annual rent of threescore and six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence or any part or parcel thereof to be behind and unpaid at any of the said feasts in which it ought to be paid by the space of twenty and eight days, being in the meantime lawfully demanded at my said dwelling-house called Cobham Hall in the said county of Kent, that then for every such default of payment my said heir at the common law and his heirs shall forfeit unto my said son, George Brooke, and his assigns the sum of six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence for and in the name of a pain, and that then also and at all times after it shall be lawful to and for my said son, George Brooke, and his assigns into all and singular the said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments or into any part or parcel thereof to enter and distrain, and the distress so taken to lead, drive, carry away, impound, detain and keep until the said annuity or annual rent so being behind and the arrearages of the same, if any shall happen to be, and also the said pain or [f. 2r] penalty of six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence and every part thereof be to the said George Brooke or his assigns fully satisfied, contented and paid;

And if it shall happen my said son, Henry, to die without issue male of his body lawfully begotten in the lifetime of my said son, Sir William Brooke, I will that then my said son,

George, and his assigns shall have one other annuity or yearly rent of threescore and six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence of lawful money of England to issue out of all and singular my said lands and tenements, to be paid at the like quarterly days upon the like forfeiture and with like power to distrain as for the said former annuity is before provided and appointed, and the first payment of this latter annuity to begin at the one of those said feasts that shall first happen after the decease of my said son, Henry, without such issue male of his body in the lifetime of my said son, Sir William Brooke;

Nevertheless I will and give both the said annuities or yearly rents of the several threescore and six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence and pains and distresses to my said son, George, and his assigns upon this condition following, viz., that if the said George Brooke, his heirs or assigns, shall by the custom of gavelkind demand or take any part of the manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments whereof I, the said William, Lord Cobham, have been or shall be seised in possession or reversion at any time before or at my decease, or if the said George Brooke shall not within one year next after he shall be by Henry Brooke, mine eldest son and heir apparent (or by such mine heir male as for that time being shall be Lord Cobham) thereunto reasonably required, make unto the said Henry and to his heirs (or to such mine heir male or to his heirs as is last aforesaid) at his or their proper costs and charges so requiring the same such good and sufficient release and assurance with warranty only against him, the said George, and his heirs and assigns of all the right, title, interest and demand that he, the said George Brooke, his heirs or assigns shall have in or to the said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments of me, the said William, Lord Cobham, or in or to any part or parcel thereof by virtue or colour of the said custom, except always the said several yearly rents of threescore and six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence devised or given to the said George Brooke by this my present will and testament and the pains for non-payment and the distresses therein limited, as by the learned counsel in the law of the said Henry (or of such heir male as is last aforesaid) or of his heirs shall be reasonably devised or advised, that then the said several annuities or annual rents, payments and distresses so as is aforesaid devised to the said George Brooke, my son, shall from thenceforth cease and be utterly void and of none effect;

Also I will and give to the said Sir John Leveson, knight, Thomas Fane, esquire, my Lieutenant of Dover Castle, and the said William Lambarde and to their heirs forever all those edifices, ruined buildings and soil and ground with th' appurtenances lying in Cobham aforesaid which sometime were the site of the College of Cobham and which do lie on the south or south-east part of the parish church of Cobham aforesaid, together with all that close of pasture ground with th' appurtenances containing by estimation three acres adjoining on the south and southeast of the said edifices and ruined buildings, to th' end that they or the survivors or survivor of them shall re-edify and make there one college for poor people to inhabit, continue and be relieved and maintained there forever which I will to be called the New College at Cobham, the said poor to be in such number, so elected, weekly relieved and by such rules and ordinances to be governed, and by such persons to be visited, corrected and expelled as I intend, if God give me life, to prescribe in writing, and, in default of such prescript, then to be in such number, so elected, weekly relieved and by such rules and ordinances governed, visited, corrected and expelled from

time to time as by the good discretion and good conscience of the said Sir John Leveson, Thomas Fane and William Lambarde or the survivor or survivors of them shall be in writing set down and appointed, so always that if I shall so prescribe in my life, then they or some [f. 2v] [-some] of them shall perform and finish the same within three years next after my decease, and if I shall not so prescribe, that then they or some of them perform and finish the same within four years next after my decease, as my special desire and trust is that they will do;

And to that end I give unto them one hundred thousand of such burned bricks as shall be within my park or about my house at Cobham Hall aforesaid, and forty tons of timber to be taken in any my lands within the county of Kent, the parks at Cobham and Cooling only excepted;

Also I will and give to the said Sir John Leveson, Thomas Fane and William Lambarde and to their assigns forever all and singular my leases, interests and terms of or for any years whatsoever which I have of or in the Palace, park and lands at Canterbury, of or in any the manors or tenements and lands of or at Denton, Chalk, Ickham, Islingham and Stoneclarke or any of them, of or in the parsonage of Cobham, the prebend of Cobhambury in the said county of Kent, or of or in the farm called Brookes farm within the county of Sussex upon this trust and confidence following, viz., that if my said son, Henry, shall quietly and without disturbance, let, molestation, contradiction or impeachment permit & suffer the executors of this my last will and testament to execute and perform the same my will and meaning in all points, as well according to the express meaning thereof as according to such secret and special trust and confidence as I have reposed in the said Sir John Leveson, Thomas Fane and William Lambarde, and shall and will also within one year next after my decease upon reasonable request thereof ratify and assure by such good conveyance in law as shall be advised and required to his said brothers, Sir William Brooke and George, and to the said Sir John Leveson, Thomas Fane and William Lambarde, all and every the edifices, buildings, lands, leases and yearly rents which I have either heretofore by any writing or in and by this my last will and testament given and appointed severally unto them or any of them according to such several estates and interests and such several conditions and limitations as I have annexed to every of them, then they, the said Sir John Leveson, Thomas Fane & William Lambarde or the survivors or survivor of them shall within one month next after such ratification and assurances so by him, my said son, Henry, to be made, assign and set over to him and his assigns all and singular my said interests, terms and leases for years so to them given, as is aforesaid, upon good security and bond to be made or given by him unto them that immediately after his decease the said leases, interests and terms for years and every of them shall come and be to such as shall be from time to time Lord Cobham, and to none other;

And of this my last will and testament I ordain my loving cousin, Sir Edward Wotton, knight, the said Sir John Leveson, Thomas Fane and William Lambarde to be th' executors, giving to every of them that shall take pains either in the execution of this my will or in or about the College aforesaid the sum of forty pounds in money, together with allowance of all their reasonable charges and expenses in that behalf;

And I desire my most honourable friend the Baron of Burghley, Lord High Treasurer of England, and mine honourable son-in-law, Sir Robert Cecil, knight, to be overseers of the same my will, and countenance th' execution of the same and of all my said confidences with their honourable counsel and authority, to which my said good Lord I give fifty pounds of money in gold to make him a cup of gold, and to the said Sir Robert I give the best one of all my silver basins and ewers;

In witness whereof I, the said Lord Cobham, to this my present last will have put my hand and seal the day and year first above-written. W. Cobham.

Be it remembered that this present last will and testament within written was sealed and published by the within-named testator, the Lord Cobham, as his very last will and testament this first day of March in the year first within written in the presence of us thereunto specially called as witnesses by him whose names be here subscribed by us, viz., Peter Turner, Doctor of Physic, [f. 3r] Thomas Laughton in medicinis Doctor{em}, Richard Williams, Thomas Lanman, John Price and Launcelot Botflower, servants to the said Lord then present also. We, John Leveson, knight and William Lambarde were then present also.

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram venerabili viro Magistro Will{el}imo Lewin legum Doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cantuariensis Magistro Custode siue Commissario legitime constituto Vicesimo Tertio die mensis Maij Anno Domini Millesimo Quingestesimo Nonages{im}o Septimo Iuramento Iohannis Robinson notarij publici procuratoris Domini Iohannis Leveson militis et Will{el}mi Lambard Executorum in huiusmodi testamento nominatorum Quibus comissa fuit administratio bonorum Iurium et creditorum dicti defuncti De bene et fideliter administrand{o} &c ad sancta Dei evangelia Iurat{i} D{omi}no Edwardo Wotton milite et Thoma ffane executoribus etiam in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento nominat{is} ex certis causis &c renu{n}tiau{erunt}(?) vt ex actis liquet

[=The above-written will was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Lewin, Doctor of the Laws, lawfully constituted Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the twenty-third day of the month of May in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred ninety-seventh by the oath of John Robinson, notary public, proctor of Sir John Leveson, knight, and William Lambarde, 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., Sir Edward Wotton, knight, and Thomas Fane, executors also named in the same testament, for certain causes etc. having renounced, as by the acts appears.]