

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 28 September 1597 and proved 23 December 1598, of Elizabeth Ramsey Clerke Alford, at whose house in Hitcham Oxford may have stayed for a time in 1564. For a letter dated 9 January 1564 from Sir William Cecil to Bridget (nee Hussey), (1526-1601), then Countess of Rutland, stating that Oxford was at Hitcham near Burnham in Buckinghamshire (and likely at the testatrix' home there), see Historical Manuscripts Commission, Twelfth Report, Appendix, Part IV, *The Manuscripts of His Grace the Duke of Rutland, G.C.B., Preserved at Belvoir Castle*, (London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1888), Vol. 1, p. 89.

The testatrix' grandson, Sir Charles Morison (1587-1628), was suggested as a husband for Oxford's daughter, Susan Vere (1587-1629).

The testatrix' granddaughter, Bridget Morison (1575-1623), married Robert Radcliffe (1573-1629), 5th Earl of Sussex. She and her husband were, respectively, the dedicatees of Robert Greene's *Euphues' Shadow* and *Lady Fitzwater's Nightingale*.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Testatrix' grandparents

The testatrix was the granddaughter of Sir John Baldwin (d.1545), Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and Agnes Dormer. For Sir John Baldwin, see his will, TNA PROB 11/30/580, and the Wikipedia article edited by the author of this website.

For the Baldwin pedigree, see Phillimore, W.P.W., ed., *The Visitation of the County of Worcester Made in the Year 1569*, (London: Harleian Society, 1888), Vol. XXVII, pp. 101-3 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ECoeEAAAIAAJ&pg=PA103#v=onepage&q&f=false>

Sir John Baldwin and Agnes Dormer had a son and three daughters:

-**William Baldwin** (d.1538), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/27/450.

-**Agnes Baldwin**, who married Robert Pakington (1489-1536), who was murdered on the morning of Monday 13 November 1536 while crossing Cheapside on his way to early Mass at the Mercers' chapel of St Thomas of Acre. Robert Pakington was the great-uncle of Humphrey Martyn, the addressee of the *Langham Letter* describing Leicester's entertainment of Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575 (see the will of Robert Pakington, TNA PROB 11/27/46). For the will of Robert Pakington, see TNA PROB 11/27/46.

-Parnell Baldwin (d.1527), the testatrix' mother.

-Alice Baldwin (d.1546), the last Abbess of Burnham Abbey, for whom see her will, TNA PROB 11/31/79, and the Wikipedia article edited by the author of this website.

Testatrix' parents

The testatrix was the only child of Thomas Ramsey (d.1524), son of Thomas Ramsey (d. 30 January 1510) and Margaret Danvers (d.1515), daughter of Sir William Danvers (d. 19 April 1504), Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. See Macnamara, F.N., *Memorials of the Danvers Family*, (London: Hardy & Page, 1895), p. 190 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/memorialsdanver00macngoog#page/n241/mode/2up>

Margaret [Danvers], the fourth of Sir William Danvers' daughters, married Thomas Ramsey of Hedsore and Hitcham, Bucks, of a family descended from Adam Ramsey, squire of the body to Richard II. Thomas and Margaret had a son, Thomas, who married Parnell, daughter and coheir of Sir John Baldwin, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas.

As noted above, the testatrix' mother was Parnell Baldwin (d.1527). See Lipscomb, George, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Buckingham*, Vol. III, (London: J. & W. Robins, 1847), pp. 281, 283 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=c8lOAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA281>

See also 'Parishes: Hitcham', in *A History of the County of Buckingham: Volume 3*, ed. William Page (London, 1925), pp. 231-235. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/bucks/vol3/pp231-235> [accessed 14 May 2019]

His son and heir Thomas Ramsay (fn. 35) died in 1510, (fn. 36) and by his will left a life interest in Hitcham to his wife Margaret. (fn. 37) She died in 1515, and the manorial rights vested in their son and heir Thomas, aged thirteen, (fn. 38) on whose death in 1524 Hitcham was granted in dower to his wife Parnel. (fn. 39) A posthumous daughter Elizabeth, born two months after her father's death, inherited the property on the decease of her mother Parnel in 1527. (fn. 40)

After the death of the testatrix' father, the testatrix' mother, Parnell Baldwin, married secondly the London mercer Edward Borlase (d.1544), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/30/136. By Edward Borlase, Parnell Baldwin had one son, the testatrix' half-brother:

-John Borlase (c.1527 – 6 May 1593), esquire, who married Anne Lytton, the daughter of Sir Robert Lytton (d.1550) of Knebworth, Hertfordshire. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 461. In the will below Anne Lytton is referred to as 'my brother John Borlase' wife'. For John Borlase see his will, dated 25

March 1593, TNA PROB 11/81/387, in which he mentions his wife, Anne, and his son, William Borlase (d. 4 September 1629). See also the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/borlase-john-1527-93>

Although according to the History of Parliament entry John Borlase had only one son, William, in the will below the testatrix refers to ‘my godson, John Borlase’, and my god-daughter, Anne Isham’, both of whom appear to have been the children of the testatrix’ half brother, John Borlase, and his wife, Anne Lytton.

William Borlase (d. 4 September 1629) was a ‘friend of Ben Jonson’, and appears to have painted Jonson’s portrait. In return, Jonson wrote verses to William Borlase beginning:

Why, though I be of a prodigious waist . . .

MARRIAGES AND ISSUE

First marriage

The testatrix married firstly Nicholas Clerke (d. July 1551), esquire, of North Weston, Oxfordshire, son of Sir John Clerke. See Lipscomb, *supra*, p. 284 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=c8IOAAAYAAJ&pg=PA284>

See also Hitcham, *supra*:

Elizabeth Ramsay married as her first husband Nicholas Clerke, who died in 1551. (fn. 41) In 1553 the manor was settled to the use of Elizabeth Clerke and her heirs, (fn. 42) and on her subsequent marriage with Roger Alford further settlements were made in 1561 and 1562. (fn. 43) Elizabeth was again left a widow on the death in 1580 of Roger Alford, who left instructions for his burial in the chancel of Hitcham Church, his motto, 'trie, trust and mistruste not,' to be placed on his tomb. (fn. 44) The manorial rights were exercised by Elizabeth Alford (fn. 45) until her death in 1598, when she left Hitcham Manor by will to Sir William Clerke, her son and heir by her first husband. (fn. 46)

See also the pedigree of Clerke of North Weston in Lee, Frederick George, *The History, Description and Antiquities of the Prebendal Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Thame*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1883), p. 310 at:

<https://archive.org/details/PrebendalChurchOfTheBVM/page/n183>

See also the pedigree of Clerke of Hitcham in Betham, William, *The Baronetage of England*, Vol. I, (London: W. S. Betham, 1802), p. 118 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=QS8wAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA118>

See also Gage, John, *The History and Antiquities of Suffolk: Thingoe Hundred*, (London: John Deck, 1838), pp. 103-4:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=knVPAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA104>

By Nicholas Clerke the testatrix had two sons and two daughters:

* **Sir William Clerke** (d. 1 February 1624), who according to the Clerke pedigree, *supra*, p. 310, married Margaret Bourn, the daughter of Sir John Bourn of Holt Castle, Worcestershire, Secretary of State to Queen Mary I, by whom he had five sons and three daughters, including a son, Hercules Clerke, mentioned in the will below. See Betham, *supra*, p. 119.

* **John Clerke**, a student at Cambridge. See Lipscomb, *supra*, p. 285.

* **Jane Clerke**, who died unmarried in April 1563 and was buried beside her father at Hitcham. See Lipscomb, *supra*, p. 284.

* **Dorothy Clerke** (d.1618), who married firstly Henry Long (d. 15 April 1573), esquire, the only son of Sir Richard Long (d. 29 September 1546) of Shingay, Cambridgeshire, and Draycot, Wiltshire, and his wife Margaret Donnington (1510 – 20 January 1562?), the widow of Sir Thomas Kitson (d. 11 September 1540) of Hengrave, Suffolk. For Margaret Donnington, see the entry at:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=669

Henry Long's father, Sir Richard Long, bore the canopy over Edward VI at his baptism, and Henry Long was Henry VIII's godson. See the will of Sir Richard Long, TNA PROB 11/31/302, and Burke, John, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland*, Vol. III, (London: Henry Colburn, 1838), p. 213 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=yshsAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA213>

Dorothy Clerke's first husband, Henry Long (d. 15 April 1573), was a first cousin of Sir Robert Long (1517-1581), whose second son, Henry Long (d. 4 October 1594), was slain by the Danvers brothers, whose escape to the continent was assisted by Henry Wriothesley (1573-1624), 3rd Earl of Southampton. See the pedigree in Burke, *supra*, p. 215; the will of Sir Robert Long, TNA PROB 11/63/502; and Akrigg, G.P.V., *Shakespeare and the Earl of Southampton*, (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1968), p. 42.

For the will of Henry Long, dated 30 March and proved 16 April 1573, see TNA PROB 11/55/169.

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By Henry Long, Dorothy Clerke had one daughter:

-Elizabeth Long (d.1611), who on 13 February 1585 married William Russell (c.1553-1613), 1st Baron Russell of Thornhaugh, fourth son of Francis Russell (1526/7–1585), 2nd Earl of Bedford, by his first wife, Margaret St John (d.1562). See the *ODNB* entry for William Russell, and Burke, *supra*, p. 213:

Henry Long, esquire, of Shengay, M.P. for the county of Cambridge 1571, married Dorothy, daughter of Nicholas Clarke, of North Weston, in the county of Oxon, who remarried Sir Charles Morison of Cassiobury. Mr Long died in 1573, and was succeeded by his only surviving daughter and heir, Elizabeth, m. to William, Lord Russell, of Thornhaugh, ancestor to the Duke of Bedford. She died in 1611, and was buried at Watford.

William Russell was the stepbrother of Dorothy Clerke's second husband, Sir Charles Morison (1549 - 31 March 1599), and was the William Russell who was in Paris with Oxford in late March 1576 (see TNA SP 70/137, ff. 322-3). The testatrix' granddaughter, Elizabeth Long, is referred to in the will below as 'my daughter, the Lady Russell'.

Dorothy Clerke married secondly Sir Charles Morison (1549 - 31 March 1599), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/94/168. Charles Morison was the son of Bridget (nee Hussey) Morison Manners Russell (1526-1601), Countess of Bedford, who had the care of Oxford's daughters, Bridget Vere (1584-1631) and Susan Vere (1587-1629), after the death of their grandfather, Lord Burghley, in 1598, and whose nephew, Francis Norris (1579-1622), 2nd Baron Norris of Rycote, married Oxford's daughter, Bridget Vere. For the Countess' will, see TNA PROB 11/97/10.

By Sir Charles Morison, Dorothy Clerke had a son and a daughter:

-Sir Charles Morison (1587-1628), who married Mary Hicks, the daughter of Baptist Hicks (1551?-1629), younger brother of Lord Burghley's secretary, Sir Michael Hicke (1543-1612). For a letter from Dorothy Clerke dated 3 February 1602 to Sir Robert Cecil concerning a proposed marriage between her son, Sir Charles Morison (1587-1628), and Oxford's youngest daughter, Susan Vere (1587-1629), see CP 85/8. For a letter from Oxford's daughter, Susan Vere, to her uncle, Sir Robert Cecil, assuring him she would never marry without his consent, see CP 183/123.

-Bridget Morison (1575-1623), who married Robert Radcliffe (1573-1629), 5th Earl of Sussex, to whom, respectively, Robert Greene dedicated *Euphues' Shadow* and *Lady Fitzwater's Nightingale*. From the *ODNB*:

In or before 1592 [Robert Radcliffe (1573-1629), 5th Earl of Sussex] married Bridget (bap. 1575, d. 1623), the eldest daughter of Sir Charles Morison of Cassiobury, Hertfordshire. The couple gained a reputation as literary patrons in the 1590s. In 1592

Robert Greene dedicated to Lord Fitzwalter Thomas Lodge's Euphues Shadow and to his wife Philomela, which he subtitled The Lady Fitzwater's Nightingale.

The testatrix' granddaughter, Bridget Morison, is referred to in the will below as 'my Lady, the Countess of Sussex'.

Second marriage

The testatrix married secondly, about 1560, Roger Alford (d. 16 July 1580), for whose family background see the *ODNB*:

The Alfords were Sussex gentry who traced their origins back to Richard, lord of Aldford, Cheshire, who held Newton manor in Sussex in 1200; another ancestor fought at Agincourt. Edward's direct line came into the county in the fifteenth century. His grandfather, Robert Alford (d. 1546), married Anne Brydges, a member of the prominent Gloucestershire and Somerset family, while his father made the transition from the local to the national stage as secretary to Sir William Cecil and as MP (for Bletchingley, Surrey, in 1558 and for Preston, Sussex, in 1559). Roger's brother, Sir Francis Alford, was also an MP in Elizabeth's parliaments.

See also Lipscomb, *supra*, p. 285 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=c8lOAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA285>

For Roger Alford's long career in the service of William Cecil, Lord Burghley, 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. 24-8.

For Roger Alford's role as a trustee in Lord Burghley's purchase of the manor of Theobalds from Robert Burbage (d.1575), see TNA C 54/662, mm. 8-11.

By Roger Alford the testatrix had a son and a daughter:

* **Edward Alford** (c.1565-1632), who on 11 April 1589 married Judith Downing, the daughter of Edmund Downing of Suffolk, by whom he had six sons and a daughter: Sir Edward Alford (1592-1653), John Alford (1590-1649), Henry Alford, Lancelot Alford, Robert Alford, William Alford and Elizabeth Alford. See the *ODNB* entry, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/alford-edward-1565-1631>

* **Anne Alford** (d.1651) who married Sir Edmund Fettiplace (d.1613) of Chorley. For their son, John Fettiplace (1583-1658), see the History of Parliament entry at

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/fettiplace-john-1583-1658>

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

William Walter of Wimbledon, named as one of the testatrix' overseers in the will below, may have been 'William Walter the younger' mentioned in the will of the testatrix' son-in-law, Henry Long, TNA PROB 11/55/169. He was perhaps the William Walter who was Oxford's servant and to whom Oxford granted a 40-year lease in reversion of Colne Park by indenture dated 12 April 1580 (see TNA C 54/1080).

'Mr William Walter th' elder of Wimbledon' is mentioned in the will of the testatrix' second husband, Roger Alford.

'Mistress Burden' mentioned in the will below may have been the wife of George Burden mentioned in the will of the testatrix' second husband, Roger Alford. For George Burden (d.1593), another of Lord Burghley's servants, see Barnett, *supra*, pp. 43-4.

TESTATRIX' LANDS

For a description of a fine *sur conusans de droit, come ceo que il ad de son done*, mentioned in the will below, see Coke, Edward and William Hawkins, *Three Law Tracts*, (London: J. Worrall, 1764), p. 230 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=zCQ0AAAAIAAJ&pg=PA230>

TESTATRIX' MONUMENT

For the monument erected by the testatrix for herself and her second husband, Roger Alford, see Lipscomb, *supra*, p. 285 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=c8lOAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA285>

LM: T{estamentum} Elizabeth{e} Allford

The Blessed Trinity prosper me and give me good success to all these my intents and purposes.

I, Elizabeth Alford of Hitcham in the county of Buckingham, widow, being of good health and perfect remembrance, for the which I thank God, do ordain this my last will and testament for my lands, goods and chattels in manner and form following:

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First of all I betake my soul to the Almighty God, trusting that through his precious death and passion and all other his actions and performance of all things mentioned in his Old and New Testament touching the same to have remission of my sins and to be partaker and an inheritor of his blessed kingdom;

And I will my body to be buried in decent and comely manner in the right side of the chancel of the parish church of Hitcham aforesaid next unto the body of my late husband, Roger Alford, esquire, deceased, and in that tomb that I have erected and made both for my said husband and myself in that chancel according to the discretion of my executors without having of any heralds at my burial or any other superfluous or vain pomp;

And whereas it hath pleased God to endue me with lands for my better maintenance while I do live in this world which I know I must leave behind me unto such as shall live after me, and because I would willingly, if it shall be so pleasing to the Almighty God, that all my manors, lands, tenements & hereditaments should be and come to such and in such manner and sort as I hereafter do by this my last will and testament limit, mention and express, therefore I, the said Elizabeth Alford, by indenture bearing date the thirtieth day of May in the nine and thirtieth year [=30 May 1597] of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith etc., made between me, the said Elizabeth Alford of thone party and William Lambert and Edward Alford, esquires, of thother party, have covenanted and granted with them that I, the said Elizabeth, shall and will in due form of law levy and acknowledge one fine unto the said William Lambert and Edward Alford and unto the heirs of one of [f. 337r] them *san [sic?] conusans de droit come ceo q{ue} ils ad de son done* of all that the manor of Hincham alias Hitcham with the appurtenances and of all the lands, tenements and hereditaments, rents, profits, services and commodities whatsoever to the same belonging or appertaining or then reputed, taken or known as part, parcel or member of the same situate, lying and being in the parishes, towns & fields of Hitcham aforesaid and Taplow or in either of them in the foresaid county of Buckingham;

And of the manor of Losemere with th' appurtenances and of all the lands, tenements and hereditaments, rents, profits, services and commodities whatsoever to the same belonging or appertaining or then reputed, taken or known as part, parcel or member of the same situate, lying and being in the parishes, towns and fields of Little Marlow and Obourne [=Wooburn?] or in any of them in th' aforesaid county of Buckingham;

And of all that the capital messuage called Ickenhams alias Icknames in the parish of Burnham and of all those the lands, tenements and hereditaments belonging unto the same or usually occupied, enjoyed or demised with the same in Burnham, Hitcham and Dorney in th' aforesaid county of Buckingham;

And also of all that my parcel of land called Westharris in Burnham aforesaid;

And also of all other my lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances in any of the parishes, towns and fields aforesaid or within any other parish, town or field within th' aforesaid county of Buckingham;

Which fine should be had, levied and acknowledge by the names of such manors and by the names of so many of acres as in and by the same indenture doth and may at large and plainly appear;

And which fine so to be had, levied and acknowledged and the records thereof and the proclamations thereupon to be had and made shall be and shall be adjudged, deemed and taken to be immediately from and after the said fine had, levied, acknowledged and perfected;

And the said William Lambert and Edward Alford and their heirs and assigns and the survivor of them and the heirs and assigns of the survivor of them from thenceforth shall stand and be seised of all the aforesaid premises with their appurtenances unto the use of me, the said Elizabeth Alford, my heirs & assigns, until such time as I, the said Elizabeth Alford, shall be minded to revoke, alter or change the same use so limited to me, my heirs and assigns as aforesaid, and shall signify the same my mind by any writing sealed with my seal and whereunto shall be three sufficient witnesses at the least testifying the sealing and delivering of the same, and by the same writing I shall declare, limit or appoint the same use or any other use of or upon the same fine in any other manner or form or unto any other person or persons, or by my last will and testament sealed and subscribed by my hand whereunto shall be three sufficient witnesses at the least testifying the sealing and subscribing of the same shall signify or declare the same my mind and thereby declare, limit or appoint the same use or any other use in any other manner or form or unto any other person or person;

That then and immediately from and after such signifying of my mind by the same last will and testament and sealing, delivery, declaration, limitation or appointing as aforesaid the said fine and the records thereof and the proclamations thereupon to be had and made shall be and shall be adjudged, deemed and taken to be and the said cognisees and their heirs and assigns and the survivor of them and the heirs and assigns of the survivor of them shall stand and be seised of the premises and of every part thereof with their and every of their appurtenances unto such uses and in such manner and form and unto such person and persons as I, the said Elizabeth Alford, by the said writing or by the said last will and testament shall declare, limit or appoint, and in such manner, sort and form and under such provisos, limitations and conditions as I, the said Elizabeth, in and by the [f. 337v] said writing or by the said last will and testament shall mention, express, limit or appoint as in and by the said indenture doth and may appear;

Since the sealing and delivering of the said indenture I, the said Elizabeth, in the term of the Holy Trinity in the aforesaid nine and thirtieth year of the reign of our said Sovereign Lady the Queen's Majesty have according unto the said covenant levied and acknowledged one fine of all th' aforesaid premises with their appurtenances unto the said William Lambert and Edward Alford and unto the heirs of the said William by such

names of manors and of so many messuages, gardens, dovehouses and so many acres of land, meadow, pasture, wood and heath-ground and of so much as in and by the said fine doth and may appear;

And because that I, the said Elizabeth Alford, have a full power to dispose of the premises as to me seem good, and because I am minded to change the same use so limited unto me, my heirs & assigns by the said indenture as aforesaid;

Now therefore do I, the said Elizabeth Alford, by this my last will and testament signify the same my mind and by this my last will and testament I do appoint the same use so limited to me, my heirs and assigns as aforesaid in such manner and form and unto such person and persons as hereafter in this my present last will and testament is expressed or mentioned;

And I also do by this my present will appoint the same fine and the records thereof and the proclamations thereupon had and made shall be and shall be adjudged, deemed and taken to be and that the said William Lambert and Edward Alford and the survivor of them and the heirs and assigns of the said survivor of them shall stand and be seised of all th' aforesaid manors, lands, tenements & hereditaments unto the use of such person and persons and unto such uses and in such manner and form as hereafter in this my present last will and testament it is appointed, and I do devise and give the said manors, lands, tenements & premises unto the person and persons hereafter in this my present will mentioned in manner and form following, that is to say:

To Sir William Clerke, knight, my eldest son, and the heirs males of his body coming;

And for default of such heirs males to John Clerke, my second son, and the heirs males of his body;

And for want of such heirs males to my son, Edward Alford, and to the heirs males of his body;

And for want of such heirs males to the heirs of the body of the said Sir William Clerke;

And for want of such heirs to the heirs of the body of the said John Clerke;

And for want of such heirs to the right heirs of the said Edward Alford forever;

Provided always and my will, intent and meaning is that if any of the persons aforesaid to whom by this my present last will I have limited or appointed any use, remainder, estate or interest of or in the premises or any parcel thereof or any of the heirs males or females of them of their or any of their bodies lawfully begotten or to be gotten that shall be inheritable by force and virtue of this my present last will or any limitation or appointing in the same or by force of th' aforesaid fine, being of full age, shall be fully and finally resolved and determined and shall willingly and wittingly attempt or go about to suffer any recovery, levy any fine, or make any discontinuance of the premises or of any part or

parcel thereof, or do or suffer to be done any act or acts, thing or things, devise or devises whereby the said several uses, remainders, estates or interests limited or appointed by this my present last will or any of them shall or may be discontinued, barred, undone, altered, defeated or changed or whereby the same uses, remainders, estates and interests or any of them shall not or may not at all times hereafter be, remain, come and enure according to this my present last will and the true intent and meaning thereof;

That then the use and uses, estate and estates, and other interests whatsoever before by [f. 338r] these presents limited or appointed to such of the said person or persons which so shall attempt to discontinue, make frustrate, bar, alter, defeat or change any of the uses, remainders, estates or interests before specified or do any of the acts, things or devises before mentioned shall only during the life of him which so shall attempt to do any of the said acts and only of and in so much of the premises whereof any such act or acts shall be so attempted or gone about, cease and be determined, and that then and thenceforth the use, estate and interest of so much of the premises of the which such attempt shall be so made shall immediately thereupon remain and be and I do appoint that the use aforesaid shall be and the said fine shall be and shall be adjudged, deemed and taken to be and the said cognisees and the survivor of them and the heirs and assigns of the survivor of them shall stand and be seised of and in all th' aforesaid premises of the which such attempt shall be so made unto the use of that person, his heirs and assigns, as the same should then have [+been?] if the said person so attempting were naturally dead without issue of his or her body;

And from and after the decease of the person so attempting then unto the heirs of the body of the person so attempting as the same should have been if the person so attempting had never so attempted;

Provided also and it is my full intent and meaning and I do appoint by this my last will and testament that it shall and may be lawful to and for any of the persons aforesaid who are to have by mine appointing in this my last will and testament any estate of inheritance of, in or to the premises or any part thereof to make estate and estates for the jointure of such wife or wives as they have or do intend to marry, and which estates so made shall continue no longer than during the natural life of such wife or wives unto whom they shall be so limited for her or their jointure;

And also to make lease and leases, demises and grants for the term of one and twenty years or three lives at the most from the making of the said lease, and whereupon shall be reserved and payable yearly during such estates so to be made or granted unto the person or persons who are to have and enjoy the premises by any limitation in this my last will and testament or by force of the said fine the accustomed yearly rent or more which hath been usually reserved and paid for the same so to be demised and granted by the space of twenty years next before the said lease, demise or grant so to be made as aforesaid;

And I do further will and appoint that the said use shall be and the said fine shall be and shall be adjudged, deemed and taken to be and that th' aforesaid cognisees and the

survivor of them and the heirs and assigns of the survivor of them shall stand and be seised of so much of the premises as so by any of th' aforesaid persons that are to have any state of inheritance by any limitation in this my present will shall convey or assure for a jointure as aforesaid or otherwise leade [sic?], demise or grant in manner and form last abovesaid unto the use of those persons and their assigns unto and for whom the said jointure shall be made as aforesaid and unto the use of those persons, their executors and assigns, unto whom any such lease, demise or grant shall be made for lives or years in manner and form aforesaid, any thing or matters in these presents contained to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding;

And I, the said Elizabeth, do by this my present will give and bequeath unto my nephew, Hercules Clerke, son of my said son, Sir William Clerke, all that my messuage, tenement or farm set, lying and being in Little Marlow in the said county of Buckingham now in the tenure or occupation of Edmund King by reason of a lease thereof to him made for the term of certain years yet enduring, with all lands, tenements and other the profits and appurtenances thereunto belonging with the herbage and mast of and in the woods thereupon growing in Little Marlow aforesaid and Hedford [=Hedsor?];

And also one acre of [f. 338v] meadow ground lying in the parish of Cookham in the county of Berkshire, all woods, underwoods and trees now growing or that hereafter shall grow in or upon the premises or any part thereof to me, the said Elizabeth, and mine heirs always reserved and excepted;

To have and to hold the said messuage, tenement or farm and all other the last recited premises with their appurtenances unto the said Hercules Clerke and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten with such limitations, penalties, forfeitures, restraints and provisions as in this my present last will touching the disposition of my other lands above mentioned are expressed and declared, and not otherwise, yielding and paying therefore yearly to the heirs of me, the said Elizabeth, during the natural life of the same Hercules one peppercorn, and from and after the decease of the said Hercules the sum of five pounds of good and lawful English money;

And my further will and meaning is that my said nephew, Hercules, and the heirs males of his body, being owners of the premises in manner and form aforesaid, shall and may take in any the premises yearly twelve cart-load of firewood to be upon the said messuage, tenement or farm and not elsewhere occupied and spent, as also convenient and sufficient timber for the necessary reparations of the houses and edifices upon the premises, as also sufficient hedge-bote, ploughbote and cart-bote for the necessary and convenient use and occupation of the said farm by the bailiff or woodward thereof for the time being to be allowed & appointed;

And whereas my late husband, Roger Alford, did by his last will bequeath unto the said Edward Alford divers goods and chattels to be delivered & paid unto him at several times in the said will expressed, and of the said will made the said Edward sole executor, and for that the said Edward in respect of his nonage was unable and unmeet to take upon him forthwith the execution of the said will, th' administration thereof during the minority of

the said Edward was committed unto me, the said Elizabeth, in respect whereof I have upon the full age of the said Edward yielded a true and just account unto him for the greatest part and portion of his said father's goods, debts, rents, annuities and ready money which I during his minority received to his use amounting in the whole to the sum of one thousand nine hundred fifty and four pounds eighteen shillings and one penny, and have received from the said Edward in writing under his hand and seal sufficient acquittances for the same as by two several writings indented between us and by two books of accounts thereof made more plainly appeareth, besides the delivery of divers other things since as by a book thereof made appeareth, so for the rest of the goods and chattels which as yet remain undelivered & unaccounted for by me to the said Edward (the time of the delivery thereof not being before the death of me, the said Elizabeth, as by the will of my said late husband, Roger Alford, doth and may appear), for the full accomplishment of the which will in that behalf my full mind and meaning is that my said son, Edward, be within three months next after my decease duly and justly answered and satisfied of all the residue of the goods and chattels of his father due unto him in form aforesaid;

And if any part thereof which hath since the decease of his said father come to the possession of me, the said Elizabeth, have been or at the time of my death shall happen to be embezzled, spoiled or lost, I will that according to the true value thereof my said son be recompensed for the same by the discretion of the overseers of this my last will and testament or the greater part of them;

And if my said son, Sir William Clerke, or his heirs or any other person by his or their procurement shall impeach, [f. 339r] hinder or do any act whereby my said son, Edward, shall not obtain the residue of the said goods and chattels according to the last will and testament of his said father and according to th' intent and meaning of these presents, that then the said Edward shall and may by force and virtue of these presents take and procure to his own use and behoof out of my woods in the said county of Buckingham so much woods, underwoods and trees, other than the great timber trees and other great old trees growing within one half mile of my manor house of Hitcham, as shall amount to the full value of so much of the said goods and chattels whereof the said Edward shall not be satisfied in form aforesaid by or by reason of any impeachment, hindrance or act of the persons aforesaid, any thing or matter in these presents contained to the contrary notwithstanding;

To my children, friends and servants such blacks at my burial as shall seem good to my executor and overseers;

To my executor's wife and servants blacks as shall be meet for them at his discretion, and to his wife my nest of white bowls which I bought last;

To my godson, John Alford, ten pounds to buy him books;

To Sir William Russell, knight, a ring of gold with my word engraven in it (*Non nobis nascimur*);

To my son [=son-in-law], Sir Charles Morison, knight, and to my daughter, his wife, her woman, and four of their servants such blacks as shall be meet for them;

To the said Sir Charles twenty marks to buy him a gelding;

To my daughter, his wife, my gilt salt with a cover having the ram's head upon it and a ring of gold with my said word engraven in it;

To my lady the Countess of Sussex my bracelets;

To my daughter [=granddaughter], the Lady Russell, my chain;

To Francis Russell and Charles Morison to buy them books ten pounds apiece;

To my son [=son-in-law] Fettiplace and my daughter, his wife, her woman and four of their men, blacks;

To my said son [=son-in-law] to buy him a gelding twenty marks;

To my daughter Fettiplace all things, as well bills of debt and all sums of money as then shall be due unto me thereupon, and all other money and money's worth whatsoever, together with all other implements which shall remain and be at the time of my decease in my closet at Hitcham, except evidences belonging to my sons;

To my said daughter Fettiplace my great gilt jug and one of my great silver jugs, my little gilt salt with a cover, and a gold ring of the value of forty shillings with my said word in it;

To John Fettiplace, my godson, thirty pounds to buy him books;

And to Elizabeth, his sister, six silver plates parcel gilt having the ram's head graven on them, and twenty marks in money;

To Edward Fettiplace ten pounds;

And to the rest of the children of my said daughter forty pounds amongst them, viz., forty pounds;

To my son Sir William Clerke his wife, her woman and four servants, blacks;

To my said son a basin and ewer of silver;

And to his wife ten pounds to buy her a pair of bracelets;

To Hercules Clerke to buy him books ten pounds and a black cloak;

To John Clerke, his brother, six pounds thirteen shillings four pence;

And to the rest of the said children of the said Sir William to be divided amongst them forty pounds;

To my son, John Clerke, and his man blacks, my silver jug double-eared with the cover;

To Edward Alford, my son, forty marks, my wedding-ring wherewith I married his father, and his father's signet;

To my brother [=half brother] Mr John Borlase' wife and to her woman and three servants, blacks;

And to my godson, John Borlase, five pounds to buy him books;

And to my god-daughter, Anne Isham, a gilt cup of the value and price of five pounds;

To my cousin, John Alford, blacks for him and his man, and a ring of the value of forty shillings with my said word in it;

To Mrs Wentworth blacks, & for her two servants;

And to my god-daughter, Bess Wentworth, a [f. 339v] [-a] black gown, a ring of gold of the value of forty shillings with my word in it, my silver wine ewer;

To Mistress Woodford a black gown;

To Robert Woodford, her son, my godson, my great pounced bowl and a black cloak;

To Mr Skidmore [=Scudamore] blacks for himself, and a ring of gold of the value of forty shillings with my word in it;

To Mistress Hinde a black gown;

To Mr John Lee blacks for himself and his man, with a ring of forty shillings' value with my word in it;

To William Walter of Wimbledon a black cloak, and forty shillings to make him a ring with my word in it;

To Mistress Burden blacks for herself and her man, and a dozen of silver spoons, my best gown and my best kirtle, and a ring of the value of forty shillings with my word in it, and my silver ladle and porringer;

To Mr Atkinson and his wife, my old servant, blacks meet for them, and a ring of the value of forty shillings with my word in it;

Item, I give to the gentlewoman that at the time of my death shall attend and serve me a black gown and one year's wages over and above that which then shall be due unto her;

Item, I give unto the gentlewoman and chambermaid that shall serve me at the time of my death all the linen that I shall then have for my own body and such other of my apparel as by my executor and overseers shall be thought fit for them being not heretofore nor hereafter particularly bequeathed to any other, the said apparel and linen to be divided and parted between them according to the discretion of my said executor and overseers;

Item, I give to all such household serving-men that at the time of my decease shall fortune to serve me, as also to George Styles, black coats fit for them;

Item, I give to my said serving-men forty shillings apiece over and besides their wages except such whom I shall otherwise remember in this my will;

Item, I give to all my hinds and husbandmen black coats and a quarter's wages besides that which at my death shall be due unto them;

Item, I give unto all my maidservants that shall serve me at the time of my death twenty shillings apiece over and besides their wages and also black gowns;

Item, I give to Walter, my cook, besides a black coat and his wages, twenty nobles in money;

Item, to Tully a black coat;

To Humphrey Grimshawe a cloak;

To Ralph Thornton and his wife blacks fit for them, and twenty shillings in money to his wife;

To the minister of the church at Hitcham a black gown and ten shillings in money;

Item, I give to the poor people of Little Marlow three pounds six shillings eight pence;

To the poor almsfolk of Walthamstow three pounds six shillings eight pence;

To Sheppard, my almoseman [=almshouse man?] or whosoever shall be in his place at the time of my death a black coat and ten shillings;

Item, to six poor women that shall be appointed to be at my burial, whereof one to be William Cutler's wife of Taplow, if she be then living, and thother five of my poor tenants of Little Marlow, six gowns ready made for them;

Item, I give and bequeath ten pounds among other poor people that shall come to my burial to be distributed at the discretion of my executor and some of my overseers wherein I recommend to their special consideration the poor people of Burnham, Taplow and other neighbour towns;

Item, my will is that the gentlemen to whom I have given blacks as aforesaid shall have so much cloth apiece as will make them long cloaks;

And that the blacks which shall be provided for the gentlemen and their wives shall be of the price of sixteen shillings the yard at the least;

And for those gentlemen and gentlewomen that be of the better sort to be furnished with cloth of greater price at the discretion of mine executor, the waiting-women and other meaner women and persons to be furnished with cloth of twelve [f. 340r] shillings the yard, the serving-men and suchlike with cloth of ten shillings the yard, the hinds and maids with cloth of eight shillings the yard, and the poor women aforesaid with cloth of six shillings eight pence the yard;

I do also will and require my said son, Sir William Clerke, that he do well use and entreat my old servants and tenants, amongst them especially George Styles, his wife & his son, William, and I do charge him on my blessing to deal favourably with them and to suffer the said George to continue in his office of bailiff and woodward at Little Marlow during his life, and not to displace him so long as he shall be willing to exercise the same;

Item, I give and bequeath unto William Clerke, son and heir apparent of my said son, Sir William Clerke, a mourning cloak, my best gelding and ten pounds in money;

Item, to William Leonard of Watford a mourning cloak and a ring of gold of forty shillings with my word in it;

Item, I do give and bequeath to (blank) Sheppard now dwelling in a cottage within the parish of Hitcham called the almshouse twenty shillings yearly during his life to be paid unto him by my said son, Sir William Clerke, and his heirs with such convenient firewood and other relief out of my house at Hitcham as hath been accustomed;

And after his decease my will is that my heirs of my manor of Hitcham shall forever successively choose, place and admit into the said almshouse, which I will shall be by them forever conveniently repaired, one other poor man or woman or married couple being of honest conversation, and comfort them and no more, to whom I give and bequeath forever the like alms, relief and comfort in every respect as before I have appointed to the said Sheppard;

And my will is that the said persons so admitted and placed in the said almshouse shall duly frequent divine service at the parish church of Hitcham and there pray unto God for the prosperous estate of the inheritor of my said manor of Hitcham;

Item, my further will and mind is that William Cutler and Iue(?) [=Ivy?], his wife, shall hold the house and land which they hold of me in Taplow for term of their lives, paying their old rent and doing the reparations thereof;

Item, that my house and family at Hitcham shall be continued and kept at Hitcham by my executor and at his charge for the space of three months after my decease for the stay of my servants during that time, whom during that time I will not have them removed, but to have their meat, drink, lodging and wages during that time if they will tarry so long there;

And I do give and bequeath all the residue of my goods and chattels, my funerals, debts and legacies set down(?) and expressed in the margent of this my will or endorsed on the back side hereof being paid and discharged, unto my said son, Edward Alford, whom I do make and ordain sole executor of this my last will and testament;

And overseers thereof my loving sons-in-law, Sir Charles Morison, knight, Edmund Fettiplace, esquire, my son, Sir William Clerke, knight, Philip Skidmore [=Scudamore], esquire, William Walter of Wimbleton, whom I heartily desire to aid and assist my said son, Edward, with their good advice and counsel in the execution of this my will, to whom I do likewise refer the final determination of all such questions, doubts and controversies as shall fortune to arise amongst my children touching any matter contained in this my will;

And forasmuch as I do mean to leave, by the grace of God, to mine executor a sufficient portion of money with some overplus for the full performance of this my last will and testament, my will is that my said son, Edward, before he take upon him to deal in th' execution of this my last will shall put in sufficient sureties to my said overseers or to my said sons-in-law for the true and just performance of this my will in all things on his part to be performed, which if he wilfully refuse to do, my will is that he shall lose the benefit of his executorship, [f. 340v];

And then I do ordain and appoint my said son, Sir William Clerke, executor of this my said will, he putting in to the rest of my overseers such security for the performance of my said will as is aforesaid;

Which if he likewise refuse, then I do make and appoint my said sons-in-law executors of this my will, who I trust will take upon them the execution of the said will with the said condition, having sufficient left unto them to perform the will, and that with advantage;

In witness whereof that this is my true last will and testament and none other, I, the said Elizabeth Alford, have hereunto put my seal and have subscribed two letters for my name the eight and twentieth day of September in the nine and thirtieth 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. Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of William Leonard, Robert Lloyd, Swithin Comley.

Memorandum: That for and towards the performance of this my last will and testament there are in the hands of the persons hereunder named these sums of money following:

In the hands of Sir Charles Morison, knight, two hundred pounds;

In the hands of Edmund Fettiplace, esquire, two hundred pounds;

In the hands of my son, Edward Alford, esquire, three hundred pounds;

The bands and specialties whereof are together with my last will and testament locked and sealed up in a box remaining in the custody and keeping of my son and daughter Fettiplace, the key of which box I have in my own keeping.

A codicil to be annexed to the will.

Item, I give and bequeath to Charles Clerke, my grandchild, ten pounds;

Item, to Margaret Lenthrope, my waiting-woman, ten pounds;

Item, to Mistress Dowinge blacks for herself and a ring with my word in it;

Item, to Mr Fludd, with that in my will, twenty shillings;

Item, my will is that John Tully shall hold his farm and lands till Michaelmas come twelvemonth after my decease, paying eight pound rent yearly.

Probatum fuit Testamentum unacu{m} Codicill{o} suprascriptum} apud London coram venerabili viro Magistro Iohanne Gibson Legum Doctore Curie prerogatiue Cantuariensis magistro Custode siue Comissario Legitime constituto Vicesimo tertio die mensis Decembris Anno Domini Milesimo Quingentesimo Nonagesimo Octauo Iuramento Thome Browne notarij public{i} procuratoris Edwardi Allford filij et Executoris d{i}c{t}e Defuncte in huiusmodi Testamento nominati Cui comissa fuit Admi{ni}stratio bonoru{m} Iurium et Creditorum eiusdem Defuncte de bene et fideliter admi{ni}strand{o} &c Iurat{i}

[=The above-written testament together with the codicil was proved at London before the worshipful Master John Gibson, 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 December in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred ninety-eighth by the oath of Thomas Browne, proctor of Edward Alford, son and executor of the said deceased named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of the goods, rights and credits of the same deceased, sworn to well and faithfully administer etc.]

