

SUMMARY: The document below is the last will and testament, dated 4 January 1599 and proved 21 March 1599, of Anne (nee Chapman) Carew, the mother of Thomasine (nee Carew) Amyce Vere (d.1639), who married, firstly, Oxford's servant Israel Amyce, and, secondly, Oxford's first cousin, John Vere (d.1624) of Kirby Hall. In the will below, Thomasine is referred to as 'my daughter Thomasine Amyce'. Property in the parish of St Katherine Coleman in London mentioned in the testatrix' will below is also mentioned in the wills of John Vere (d.1624) of Kirby Hall and Thomasine (nee Carew) Amyce Vere (d.1639). For the will of John Vere (d.1624) of Kirby Hall, see TNA PROB 11/143/706.

The testatrix was the daughter of Robert Chapman (d.1574). In his will, dated 20 February 1571 and proved 29 January 1575, Robert Chapman refers to the testatrix as 'my daughter Anne Carew', and appoints her husband, William Carew, as his sole executor. For the will of Robert Chapman, see TNA PROB 11/57/46.

The testatrix married William Carew (d.1588), by whom she had three sons, William (d.1602), Henry (d.1639) and Thomas, and a daughter, Thomasine (d.1639). See the will of the testatrix' husband, William Carew, TNA PROB 11/73/232; the will of the testatrix' son, William Carew (d.1602), TNA PROB 11/99/203; the will of the testatrix' son, Henry Carew (d.1639), TNA PROB 11/181/428; the will of the testatrix' daughter, Thomasine (nee Carew) Amyce Vere (d.1639), TNA PROB 11/181/273; and the Carew pedigree in Richardson, Joan A. Carew, 'Carew of Stone Castle', in *North West Kent Family History*, Vol. 3, No. 3, December 1983, pp. 114-118, available online.

The testatrix was the sister-in-law of William Leveson (d.1593), whose heir was his nephew, William Leveson (d.1621), one of the trustees used by the Lord Chamberlain's Men, including William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon, in the allocation of shares in the ground lease of the Globe Theatre in 1599. In a codicil to his will dated 24 October 1572, the testatrix' father, Robert Chapman, refers to my 'son-in-law, William Leveson, citizen and mercer of London'. This William Leveson (d.1593) was the husband of the testatrix' sister, Barbara Chapman, and a younger brother of Thomas Leveson (1532-1576). By his wife, Ursula Gresham (1534-1574), Thomas Leveson (1532-1576) had several children, including his eldest son and heir, Sir John Leveson (1555-1615), and Shakespeare's trustee, William Leveson (d.1621).

William Leveson (d.1593) was thus the uncle of both Thomasine (nee Carew) Amyce Vere, and of Shakespeare's trustee, William Leveson (d.1621).

For the foregoing see Hotson, Leslie, *I, William Shakespeare* (London: Jonathan Cape, 1937), pp. 160-1; the entry for Sir John Leveson (1555-1615) in the *ODNB* ; and the pedigrees of Gresham, Leveson and Carrowe in Howard, Joseph Jackson and George John Armytage, eds., *The Visitation of London in the Year 1568* (London: Harleian Society, 1869), Vol. I, pp. 15, 18 and 45 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationoflond00cook#page/44/mode/2up>.

See also the wills of James Leveson (d.1547), TNA PROB 11/31/655; Nicholas Leveson (d.1539), TNA PROB 11/27/552; Dionyse Leveson (d.1560), TNA PROB 11/43/645; Thomas Leveson (1532-1576), TNA PROB 11/58/397; William Leveson (d.1593), TNA PROB 11/82/143; Sir John Leveson (1555-1615), TNA PROB 11/126/409; and William Leveson (d.1621), TNA PROB 11/137/600.

LM: T{estamentum} Anne Carew

In the name of God, Amen. The fourth day of January in the year of our Lord God one thousand five hundred ninety & eight, and in the one and fortieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., I, Anne Carew of Stone Castle in the county of Kent, widow, late the wife of William Carew, esquire, deceased, being at this present in good and perfect memory and yet calling to remembrance the frailty of this life and the short continuance of the same and that there is nothing more uncertain than the time and hour thereof, and therefore not knowing anything more necessary for the peace of conscience and quieting of the mind touching worldly affairs than the disposing of such things as it hath pleased God to lend me to dispose of in this life, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First, I commend my soul to Almighty God, who through the death and passion of Jesus Christ, my Saviour, hath redeemed the same, and my body to be buried in Christian burial according to the discretion of my children or the most part of them present, and with such rites and solemnities as they shall in their discretion think meet and convenient;

& as concerning the disposition of all and singular my goods and moveable chattels, first I do give and bequeath unto Henry Carew, my second son, three new silver bowls gilt;

And also I give to him the chest and five tapestry hangings which he heretofore gave unto me;

Also I give unto him my gold ring with my seal of arms;

Item, I do give and bequeath unto Thomas Carew, my youngest son, three plain white silver bowls, and the beds, bolsters, pillows, rugs, blankets, curtains, valence, bedstead and all other the furniture thereunto belonging, standing and being in the middle chamber in my house at Stone Castle;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my daughter, Thomasine Amyce, all and singular my apparel whatsoever;

Item, I do give and bequeath to William Wiseman, my servant, forty shillings of good and lawful money of England, and to Margaret, my maid, twenty shillings, to Mother

Wood, twenty shillings, and unto Al[i]ce Wood, her daughter, other twenty shillings of like lawful money, to be paid to them within one half year next after my decease;

Also I do hereby further limit and appoint that so much of my household stuff, linen and other things as I have in Stone Castle in the county of Kent as my said brother Rogers and my well beloved sister, his wife, shall think meet to perform my meaning which I will declare to them, or shall set down in an inventory therefore to be made by my appointment, shall be left and delivered to my son, William, after the last day of September next after th' end of half a year after my decease, to remain for the furniture of my house at Stone Castle;

Item, I do give and bequeath to my brother and sister Rogers five pounds apiece, and to every of their sons and daughters forty shillings apiece to be bestowed on rings for the remembrance of me;

And all the residue of my goods and chattels moveable I will, devise and appoint to be divided and be given to and amongst my said daughter and youngest sons in such sort and in such portions as my said brother and sister shall think meet to perform my meaning which I will declare unto them, or as shall be set down in an inventory therefore to be made by my appointment;

And as touching & concerning the disposition of all and singular my lands, tenements and hereditaments whereof I stand seised of to me and to my heirs, and also of all such leases whereof I stand and am now possessed or of interested in, I do hereby devise the same in manner and form following, that is to say:

First, I do give, will and devise the manor of Stone Castle in the foresaid county of Kent to my brother [=brother-in-law], Francis Rogers, for the term and time of six weeks next after my decease, and after I devise the same manor and all the lands, tenements and hereditaments with the appurtenances thereunto belonging, and all other my lands and tenements in the said county, unto William Carew, my eldest son, for term of his natural life, and after his decease then I do devise the same manor and all other the premises aforesaid to William, his eldest son, for term of his natural life, and after his decease I do devise and bequeath the same to Henry Carew, my second son, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue then I devise the same manor and other the premises with their appurtenances to Thomas Carew, my youngest son, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such heirs of his body lawfully begotten then I do give and bequeath the same to Thomasine Amyce, my daughter, and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten, and for default of such heirs then I will and bequeath the same to the said William Carew, my son, and to his heirs forever;

Item, I do further give and bequeath as well all and singular my messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments called Northumberland Place in the parish of Saint Katherine Coleman within the city of London and all other my lands, tenements and hereditaments in the said city which I have not heretofore disposed of by conveyance standing now in force, unto Henry Carew, my second son, and Thomas Carew, my

youngest son, and to the heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten, and for default of such heirs then I will and bequeath the same to Thomasine Amyce, my daughter, and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue then I will and bequeath the same to the said William Carew, my son, and his heirs forever;

Item, I do further give and bequeath to the said William all my interest which I have of and in certain lands called the Downs in Darrent and Dartford in the said county of Kent for the term of divers years yet to have continuance;

Item, I do further will and devise all and singular my leases of and in certain messuages, tenements and gardens in the said parish of Saint Katherine Coleman, London, [+to] the said Henry and Thomas during the continuance of the residue of the terms therein comprised;

Item, I do also give and bequeath unto my sister, Elizabeth Taylor, widow, during her life the yearly rent of five pounds of lawful money of England out of my lands and tenements in the county of Kent and city of London, payable quarterly by four even portions yearly, and if the said rent shall happen to be behind and unpaid in part or in all after any of the said feasts in which the same ought to be paid, that then it shall and may be lawful for her to distrain upon the premises or any part thereof;

And of this my testament and last will I constitute and appoint the said Francis Rogers to be my sole executor, and I nominate and appoint my brothers Francis Rogers, Thomas Death and Thomas Druce [=Darcy?] to be my overseers of this my last will and testament;

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first above-written. The mark of Mistress Carew.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum tes{tamen}tum Apud London coram venerabili viro mag{is}tro Iohanne Gibson legum Doctore Curie Prerogative Cant{uariensis} m{agist}ro Custode sive Com{m}issario l{egi}time deputato vicesimo primo die mens{is} Martij Anno Domini iuxta cursum et computac{i}o{n}em Eccl{es}ie Anglicane mill{es}imo Quingen{tesim}o nonagesimo octavo Iuramento ffancisci Rogers executoris in h{uius}mo{d}i tes{tamen}to nominat{i} Cui Com{m}issa fuit Admi{n}istracio bonorum &c De bene & In debita iuris for{m}a Iur{ato}

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Master John Gibson, Doctor of the Laws, lawfully deputed Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the twenty-first day of the month of March in the year of the Lord according to the course and reckoning of the English church the thousand five hundred ninety-eighth by the oath of Francis Rogers, executor named in the same testament, to whom administration of the goods etc., having sworn in due form of law to well etc.]