

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 23 February 1602 and proved 19 March 1602, of William Carew of Stone Castle, Kent, brother of Thomasine (nee Carew) Amyce Vere (d.1639), who married, firstly, Oxford's servant Israel Amyce, and, secondly, Oxford's first cousin, John Vere (d.1624) of Kirby Hall.

The testator was the son of William Carew (d.1588) and Anne Chapman (d.1599), the daughter of Robert Chapman (d.1574). He had two brothers, Thomas and Henry, and a sister, Thomasine. See the will of the testator's father, William Carew, TNA PROB 11/73/232; the will of the testator's mother, Anne (nee Chapman) Carew, TNA PROB 11/93/220; the will of the testator's brother, Henry Carew, TNA PROB 11/181/428; the will of the testator's sister, Thomasine (nee Carew) Amyce Vere, TNA PROB 11/181/273; and the Carew pedigree in Richardson, Joan A. Carew, 'Carew of Stone Castle', in *North West Kent Family History*, Vol. 3, No. 3, December 1983, pp. 114-118, available online.

The testator married Lucretia Brooke of Ilford, by whom he had three sons, William, Robert and Henry, and two daughters, Lucretia and Anne. According to bequests in the will of his brother, Henry Brooke (d.1639), *supra*, the testator's son, Henry, married a wife named Mary (by whom he had four sons, Henry, Thomas, Frederick and William), while his daughter, Lucretia, married Thomas Mann, and his daughter, Anne, married John Spencer. It would appear that the testator's other two sons, William and Robert, died without issue. The testator's son, William, may perhaps be identified with the William Carew of Stone Castle who was admitted to the Inner Temple in November 1612, and the 'William Carew of the Inner Temple, esquire' who left a will dated 11 March 1625(?), proved 19 June 1627, TNA PROB 11/152/151. See *Students Admitted to the Inner Temple 1571-1625*, p. 128 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/studentsadmitted00inne#page/128/mode/2up/>.

According to Hasted there is an inscription for a William Carew who died in 1625 in the church at Stone:

*On a gravestone is an inscription for William Carew, gentleman, eldest son of William Carew, esquire, obijt 1625, being owner of Stone Castle; above, the arms of Carew.*

See Hasted, Edward, *The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent*, (Canterbury: W. Bristow, 1797), Vol. II, pp. 390-1 and 396-7 at:

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=62821>.

The testator was the nephew of William Leveson (d.1593), whose heir was his nephew, William Leveson (d.1621), one of the trustees used by the Lord Chamberlain's Men, including William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon, in the allocation of shares in the ground lease of the Globe Theatre in 1599. For the will of William Leveson (d.1593),

see TNA PROB 11/82/143. For the will of William Leveson (d.1621), see TNA PROB 11/137/600.

The testator's friend and executor, Anthony Weldon, may have been related to Sir Anthony Weldon (bap. 29 January 1583, d.1648), the eldest son of Ralph Weldon (1545/6–1609) of Swanscombe, Kent, and the reputed author of *The Court and Character of King James*.

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

[f. 60v] In the name of God, Amen. The three and twentieth day of February in the four 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, William Carew of Stone Castle in the county of Kent, esquire, being sick of body but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be given to Almighty God, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my Maker, and hope to be saved and have remission of all my sins and life everlasting by the death and passion of Our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Item, I bequeath my body to the earth to be decently buried at Stone Castle aforesaid in the county of Kent where my father and grandfather do lie;

Item, I give to the poor of the parish of Stone Castle aforesaid five pounds to be distributed at the discretion of mine executors;

Item, I give to the poor of the parish where it shall please God that I shall die ten shillings;

Item, I give to my second brother, Sir Henry Carew, knight, the sum of ten pounds;

And to my sister, Thomasine Amyce, the sum of ten pounds;

Item, I give to William, my eldest son and heir apparent, all my leases in the county of Kent, and my mind and will is that my manors of Stone Castle and all other my lands in the said county of Kent not sold away or otherwise disposed of by act executed in my lifetime shall descend and come to my said son, and by this my will and testament I devise the same to my said son, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns forever;

And I commit the guardianship, tuition and education of my said son and all his lands and leases to the executors of this my last will and testament until my said son shall accomplish the full age of one and twenty years, and that they, my said executors, shall during his minority receive and take the rents, issues and profits of my said lands and

leases, and therewith bring up and maintain my said son in the fear of God and in good learning, and at his said full age shall account with him for the said rents, issues and profits of the said lands and leases, and after all needful and necessary charges allowed and the sum of six pounds thirteen shillings four pence a year deducted (which I allow yearly to my said executors for their pains), my mind and will is that the residue of all the said rents, issues and profits shall be paid to my said son;

And if he die afore he shall accomplish the said age of one and twenty years, then my mind and will is the said lands and leases shall remain to his next brother, my said executors doing and performing, taking and receiving to all purposes as is afore limited by and towards my said eldest son;

The residue of all my goods and chattels, as well real as personal, my plate, jewels, leases and household stuff, my will is that the same shall be equally divided into three parts, whereof I bequeath one third part to Lucretia, my wife, and the other two third parts, together with all my debts whatsoever to me owing, after my funerals and all my debts and legacies paid, I will shall be equally divided into four parts, and be distributed to my four younger children, Robert, Henry, Lucretia and Anne, and to be paid unto them severally every one his part [f. 61r] at their full ages of one and twenty years or the day of their marriages;

And if any of them do die afore they have received their portions, then my will is that they that survive shall have the portion of those that shall be deceased;

And of this my last will and testament I make executors my loving friend, Anthony Weldon, esquire, and my loving brother, Thomas Carew, gentleman, and I give to either of them twenty pounds of lawful English money for their pains in this behalf to be taken, and am content that upon the account with my said children they be allowed all necessary charges by them disbursed about the execution of this my will and testament;

In witness whereof to these presents I have set my hand to every leaf of this my will, and thereto have also put my seal. William Carew.

Vicesimo quarto die Februarij Anno 1601

Memorandum: That whereas my brother, Thomas Carew, oweth me one hundred pounds by recognizance, my will and mind is that the said debt shall not be extinguished by reason that he, the said Thomas, is made my executor, but my mind and will is that he be accountable for the same to my estate, and that the same shall be employed towards the payment of my debts. This clause was added to the will aforesaid in the presence of me, Henry Sterrell, per me Ioh{ann}em Pierson, test{es}.

This was published to be the last will and testament of William Carew, esquire, in the presence of us, Henry Sterrell, John Pierson, Richard Goldner, William Cox, Phillip Hole his mark.

Memorandum: That this will was opened in the presence of us, J. Cauell and John Peirson, the twelfth day of March Anno 1601, the label of the seal being then put through the ends of the sheets of paper at both ends which we were fain to cut before we could peruse the said will. J. Cavell, John Peirson.

Probatum fuit Testamentum huiusmodi apud London Coram venerabili viro magistro Iohanne Hone Legum Doctore Surrogato venerabilis viri magistri Iohannis Gibson Legum etiam Doctoris Curie Prerogative Cantuariensis Magistri Custodis sive Commissarii legitime constituti Decimo nono Die mensis Martij Anno Domini Iuxta Cursum et Computacionem Ecclesie Anglicane Millesimo Sexcentesimo primo Iuramento Thome Carewe generosi vnius Executorum in huiusmodi Testamento nominatorum Cui Commissa fuit administracio & De bene et fideliter administrando & Ad sancta Dei Evangelia Iurat Reservata potestate similem Commissionem faciendi Anthonio Welden Executori etiam in dicto Testamento nominato cum venerit petitur & in debita Iuris forma admissur

[=The same testament was proved at London before the worshipful Master John Hone, Doctor of the Laws, Surrogate of the worshipful Master John Gibson, also Doctor of the Laws, lawfully constituted Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the nineteenth day of the month of March in the year of the Lord according to the course and reckoning of the English Church the thousand six hundred first by the oath of Thomas Carew, gentleman, one of the executors named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer etc., with power reserved for a similar grant to be made to Anthony Weldon, executor also named in the same testament, when he shall have come to petition etc. in due form of law to be admitted.]