

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 14 September 1512 and proved 3 July 1515, of John Newport (d. October 1512), esquire, of High Ercall, Shropshire, grandfather of Sir Richard Newport (d. 12 September 1570), owner of a copy of Hall's *Chronicle* containing annotations thought to have been made by Shakespeare. The volume was Loan 61 in the British Library until 2007, was subsequently on loan to Lancaster University Library until 2010, and is now in the hands of a trustee, Lady Hesketh. According to the Wikipedia entry for Sir Richard Newport, the annotated Hall's *Chronicle* is now at Eton College, Windsor. See:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Newport_\(died_1570\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Newport_(died_1570))

Newport's copy of his chronicle, containing annotations sometimes attributed to William Shakespeare, is now in the Library at Eton College, Windsor.

For the annotated Hall's *Chronicle*, see also the will of Sir Richard Newport (d. 12 September 1570), TNA PROB 11/53/456; Keen, Alan and Roger Lubbock, *The Annotator*, (London: Putnam, 1954); and the Annotator page on this website:

<http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/annotator.html>

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For early generations of the Newport family, see Bridgeman, Ernest R.O. and Charles G.O. Bridgeman, 'History of the Manor and Parish of Weston-under-Lizard, in the County of Stafford', William Salt Archaeological Society, ed., *Collections for a History of Staffordshire*, Vol. XX, Vol. II, New Series, (London: Harrison and Sons, 1899), p. 146 at:

<https://archive.org/details/collectionsfora14socigoog/page/n189>

See also the Newport pedigree in Grazebrook, George, and John Paul Rylands, eds., *The Visitation of Shropshire Taken in the Year 1623*, Part II, (London: Harleian Society, 1889), Vol. XXIX, pp. 372-4 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationshrop01grazgoog#page/n100/mode/2up>

Testator's parents

According to the pedigree of Newport of High Ercall and Weston-under-Lizard, the testator was the son of William Newport (d. before 1490/1), esquire, by his second wife, Elizabeth Burgh (d. before 1471), the eldest daughter (and in her issue coheir) of Sir John Burgh (d. 2 June 1471) and his wife. Joan Clopton, daughter and coheir of Sir William Clopton (d. 7 October 1419) of Clopton and Radbroke, Gloucestershire. See Bridgeman, Ernest, *supra*, pp. 169-70 at:

<https://archive.org/details/collectionsfora14socigoog/page/n215>

The testator was heir to his grandfather, Sir John Burgh. See the inquisition post mortem dated 7 July 1471, Shropshire Archives 1037/2/8:

John Burgh died Saturday in the vigil of Pentecost last (1st June) John Newport son and heir of Elizabeth one of the daughters and heiresses of the said John Burgh, and Thomas Leghton son and heir of John Leghton and Ankeret late his wife, another daughter and heiress, and Isabella wife of John Lyngen knight, the 3rd daughter and heiress, and Elizabeth wife of Thomas Mitton, esq., the 4th daughter and heiress, are the next of kin. John Newport was of the full age of 21 at the feast of the purification last; Thomas Leghton was aged 18 at Christmas last and not more. Isabella is 30 and over, Elizabeth is 26. John Leghton, esq., father of Thomas, is still alive.

The estates of Sir John Burgh were divided among the four coheirs by indenture dated 12 May 1501. See Bridgeman, George T.O., *History of the Princes of South Wales*, (Wigan: Thomas Birch, 1876), pp. 275-9 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/historyofprinces00bridiala#page/274/mode/2up>

See also Roskell, J.S., *The Commons in the Parliament of 1422*, (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1954), p. 159 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=StVRAQAAlAAJ&pg=PA159>

See also Lhoyd, H., *The Historie of Cambria 1584* (London: John Harding), p. 158 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=-gEIAAAQAAJ&pg=PA158&lpg=PA158>

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married Alice Swynnerton (living 17 November 1526), the daughter of Sir Thomas Swynnerton (d.1542). For the Swynnerton family, see *Collections for a History of Staffordshire*, (London: Harrison and Sons, 1886), Vol. VII, p. 55-6 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=V204AAAAIAAJ&pg=RA1-PA59>

See also Bridgeman, *supra*, pp. 169-70 at:

<https://archive.org/details/collectionsfora14socigoog/page/n217>

Alice Swynnerton's mother was Alice Stanley. In one source she is said to have been the daughter of Robert Stanley of Lancashire. See Swynnerton, Charles, 'Notes on the Family of Swynnerton' in Llewellynn Jewitt, ed., *The Reliquary Quarterly*

Archaeological Journal and Review, (London: Bemrose & Sons), Vol. XX, 1879-80, p. 107 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=qJs1AAAAMAAJ&pg=PA107>

However see TNA C 1/358/57, a Chancery suit brought by Thomas Swynnerton, esquire, between 1504 and 1515 against his mother, Joan Swynnerton, concerning manors settled on him when he married Alice Stanley, daughter of Sir Humphrey Stanley. It thus appears that Alice Stanley was the daughter of Sir Humphrey Stanley (d. 12 March 1505/6) of Clifton and Pipe, Staffordshire, knight banneret. See *Collections for a History of Staffordshire*, (London: Harrison and Sons, 1886), Vol. VII, p. 55-6 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=V204AAAAIAAJ&pg=RA1-PA55>

See also the brass commemorating Sir Humphrey Stanley in Westminster Abbey at:

<https://www.westminster-abbey.org/abbey-commemorations/commemorations/sir-humphrey-stanley>

On the floor of the chapel of St Nicholas in Westminster Abbey is a brass to Sir Humphrey Stanley, of Clifton and Pike [sic] in Staffordshire. It shows him in plate armour with sword but no helmet. At the top three shields of arms remain showing the arms of Stanley (argent, on a bend azure, three stags heads cabossed or) quartering Lathom, Stanley and Lathom quartering Stafford, Pypes and Camville, and the arms of Stafford. Two shields at the base are now blank. The Latin inscription can be translated:

Here lies Humphrey Stanley, Knight, Esquire of the Body to the most excellent Prince Henry VII King of England, who died the 12th March A.D. 1505, on whose soul God have mercy. Amen

He was the son of Sir John Stanley Knight of the Garter, and his wife Elizabeth and took part in the battle of Bosworth. After this he received a knighthood and was sheriff of the county of Stafford and knight of the body [or chamber] in the royal household. His son was John. The family derived their origin from the house of Audley who acquired the manor of Stanleigh or Stanley and the surname of Stanley was taken.

By Alice Swynnerton the testator had four sons and two daughters:

* **Thomas Newport**, eldest son and heir, who married Anne Corbet, the daughter of Sir Robert Corbet (c.1477 – 11 April 1513) and Elizabeth Vernon, the daughter of Sir Henry Vernon (c.1441 – 13 April 1515) of Haddon, Derbyshire. For the will of Sir Henry Vernon, see TNA PROB 11/18/121. For the will of Sir Robert Corbet, see TNA PROB 11/17/471. For the will of Thomas Newport, dated 24 July 1548 and proved 11 June 1551, see TNA PROB 11/34/176. By Anne Corbet, Thomas Newport was the father of Sir Richard Newport (see above), the owner of a copy of Hall's *Chronicle* thought to have been annotated by Shakespeare. See also the pedigree of Corbet of Morton in

Grazebrook, George, and John Paul Rylands, eds., *The Visitation of Shropshire Taken in the Year 1623*, Part I, (London: Harleian Society, 1889), Vol. XXVIII, pp. 136-7 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationshrop00britgoog#page/n190/mode/2up>

Sir Robert Corbet's sister, Elizabeth Corbet, and her husband Thomas Trentham (d.1518/9) of Shrewsbury, were the great-grandparents of Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham (d.1612). For the will of Thomas Trentham (d.1518/9), see TNA PROB 11/19/252.

* **John Newport**, of whom nothing further is definitely known. He may have been John Newport of Soberton, Hampshire, sergeant at law, for whose will, dated 8 August 1521 and witnessed by Sir Arthur Plantagenet (1460-1542), see TNA PROB 11/20/321. In the will, John Newport leaves bequests to his wife, Elizabeth; to Leonard Wayte; and to Agnes, Elizabeth and Anne Uvedale, daughters of William Uvedale, esquire, of Wickham, Hampshire. For the will, dated 26 April 1527 and proved 13 May 1527, of John Newport's widow, Elizabeth, see TNA PROB 11/22/322.

Sir Arthur Plantagenet and Leonard Wayte may have been related. See the *ODNB* entry:

Plantagenet, Arthur, Viscount Lisle (b. before 1472, d. 1542), soldier, diplomat, and administrator, was the illegitimate son of Edward IV (1442–1483).

The identity of Arthur's mother and his date of birth have given rise to much speculation. The editor of his correspondence, Muriel St Clare Byrne, agrees with most authorities in identifying his mother as Elizabeth Lucy, an obscure lady who was probably the daughter of Thomas Waite of Hampshire.

For Sir Arthur Plantagenet and Leonard Wayte, see also TNA E 328/260 and TNA E 211/339 at:

<http://www.rootschat.com/forum/index.php?topic=799215.18>

For Sir William Uvedale (d. 2 January 1525?), see the will of his son, Sir William Uvedale (d. 28 November 1528), TNA PROB 11/23/53, and the Uvedale pedigree in Leveson Gower, Granville, 'Notices of the Family of Uvedale of Titsey, Surrey, and Wickham, Hants.', *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, Vol. III, (London: Lovell Reeve & Co., 1865), pp. 63-192 at p. 186:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=scgxAQAAIAAJ&pg=PA186>

See also the History of Parliament entry for his descendant, Sir William Uvedale (1581-1652) at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/uedale-sir-william-1581-1652>

His ancestor Sir William† (d. 1525) became prominent among the Hampshire gentry under the early Tudors and acquired a position in the royal Household.

Dorothy Troyes (d. 11 May 1530), widow of Sir William Uvedale (d. 28 November 1528), married secondly Lord Edmund Howard. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 277-8, and the will of Sir John Leigh (1502-1564?), TNA PROB 11/48/372.

* **William Newport.** He appears to have been William Newport (d.1559) of Rushock, Worcestershire, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/42B/459.

* **Richard Newport.** He can likely be identified with Richard Newport the elder, gentleman, of Droitwich. See Birmingham Archives MS 3312/396559, an indenture dated 2 December 1516 between Humphrey Rudding, esquire, and his son, Thomas, and Richard Newport, gentleman, concerning a lease of two bullaries in Droitwich; MS 3312/396617, an indenture dated 12 January 1531 between Sir Gilbert Talbot of Grafton and Richard Newport the elder of Droitwich, gentleman; and MS 3312/395948, a document dated 2 February 1533 between Richard Newport senior of Droitwich, gentleman, and Hugh Davys, yeoman of the King's guard, concerning the lease of Salwarp mill and the pannage of the park of Salwarp.

He may have been the father of:

-**Richard Newport** (d. 11 November 1565) of Hunningham, Warwickshire, father-in-law of Dorothy (nee Hatton) Newport Underhill (d.1566x70), who had several connections to Oxford, and whose stepson sold New Place to William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon. See her will, TNA PROB 11/52/36.

According to Keen, Richard Newport (d. 11 November 1565) was a cousin of Sir Richard Newport (d.1570), owner of the annotated Hall's *Chronicle* mentioned above. See Keen, Alan, 'In the Quick Forge and Working-House of Thought', *Bulletin of the John Rylands Library*, Vol. 33, No. 2, March 1951, pp. 256-70 at p. 257:

It may be imaged with what alacrity those of us who believed in the probability of Shakespeare being the annotator leapt, if prematurely, upon the task of identifying our Rychard Newport with one of that name who was owner of Hunningham in the County of Warwick from 1544 to the date of his death, 11th November, 1565. This Rychard Newport, through marriage of his daughter and various other ties, was closed connected with the prominent Warwickshire family of Underhill, one of whom, his son-in-law, in 1567, when Shakespeare was three years old, bought New Place in Stratford-on-Avon. His son sold New Place to Shakespeare in 1597. However attractive this identification seemed to be, the return of the public records at the end of the second world war, and comparison of autographs, blew our neatly-laid provenance sky high. The owner of our annotated Chronicle, the other Sir Rychard Newport – was of High Erccall in Shropshire, and, curiously enough, a cousin to the Sir [sic] Rychard of Warwickshire.

For the will of Richard Newport (d. 11 November 1565), see TNA PROB 11/48/318.

* **Jane Newport**, of whom nothing further is known.

* **Eleanor Newport**, of whom nothing further is known.

The testator may have had another son:

***Thomas Newport**, who married a wife named Maude, who after his death, married successively Sir Peter Newton (d.1524) and Sir Thomas Hanmer (d.1545?). See the will of Sir Peter Newton, TNA PROB 11/22/45. See also TNA C 1/1129/7-0 and TNA C 1/1129/10, lawsuits involving Maude Hanmer which mention her three marriages.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

John Salter, mentioned in the will below, was John Salter (d.1532) of Salters Hall in Newport, Chief Justice of North Wales, whose will (see TNA PROB 11/24/75) establishes that his daughter, Jane Salter, married Thomas Chetwynd (d. 30 September 1555) of Ingestre, Staffordshire, after whose death Jane Salter married, as her second husband, Sir William Sneyd (d.1571), the grandfather of Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham (d.1612). Moreover Jane Salter's daughter by her first marriage, Mary Chetwynd, married Elizabeth Trentham's maternal uncle and Oxford's trustee, Ralph Sneyd (c.1527 - 15 August 1620), the eldest son and heir of Sir William Sneyd (d.1571). Chancery proceedings (see TNA C 1/888/2) also indicate that John Salter's widow, Elizabeth, married, as her second husband, William Yonge of Caynton, Shropshire, who was likely related to Giles Yonge, who was a co-purchaser in 1597, together with Ralph Sneyd and Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham, of King's Place in Hackney (see TNA C 66/1476).

LM: Test{amentu}m Iohannis Newperd

[f. 58v] In dei nomine Amen. Quartodecimo die mensis Septembris Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo Quingentesimo xijo, I, John Newport of High Ercall within the county of Salop, esquire, being in a whole mind, make my testament in this manner following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God & Our Blessed Lady and all the company of heaven, and my body to be buried within the chancel of the church of High Ercall;

Item, I will have 12 new tapers with 6 new torches to burn about my body at the day of my burying;

Item, I will have 6 black gowns with their hoods to 6 poor men that bear the same torches;

Item, I give and bequeath to my 3 younger sons, that is to say, John Newport, William Newport and Richard Newport, one annuity of £10 sterling, that is to wit, to every one of them 5 marks sterling yearly out of the lordship of High Erccall to be received and paid to them yearly by th' hands of Thomas Newport, my son and heir, or his heirs or assigns during their lives at the feasts of Saint Michael the Archangel and the Annunciation of Our Lady in Lent by even portions, and after the decease of them or any of them, the portion of him or them so deceased to remain again to Thomas Newport, my son and heir, and his heirs forever;

Item, I bequeath to my two daughters, Jane and Eleanor, to their marriage, 200 marks sterling which lieth in the hands of Sir Robert Corbet, knight, that is to say, to every daughter an 100 marks sterling to be paid at such days according to the bargain betwixt the same Sir Robert Corbet and me made afore John Salter, learned, at the marriage of Thomas Newport, my son and heir;

Also I will that my wife, Alice Newport, and Thomas, my son, take and receive of the same Sir Robert Corbet another 100 marks sterling to content and pay my debts and bequests, and [+the?] remnant to dispose for the health of my soul as they see best;

Item, I will that Alice, my wife, have to her proper use the chambers called the New Chambers, and them to have and occupy at her pleasure and liberty during her life;

The residue of all my goods above not bequeathed I give and bequeath and put into the disposition of Alice, my wife, and Thomas, my son, which I ordain and make my true executors to content my debts and to perform and fulfil this my last will according to right and conscience;

And further I ordain and make Sir Robert Corbet, knight, and my cousin, Sir Thomas Leighton, knight, mine overseers of this my last will to be performed and for the health of my soul;

These being witness: Sir Gilbert Heghton(?), vicar of High Erccall, Sir Richard Selebrant, parish priest there, Sir Ralph, clerk of the same priest, and other moe, given the day and year abovesaid.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum coram d{omi}no Apud Lamhith tercio die mensis Iulij Anno domini Mill{es}imo quingentesimo decimo quinto Iur{amento} Executor{um} in persona Will{el}mi Crowland procu{rato}ris sui &c Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et comissa fuit admi{ni}stracio o{mn}i{u}m et singulorum bonor{um} et debitoru{m} dicti defuncti prefatis Execut{oribus} in p{er}sona predicti Will{el}mi De bene et fidel{ite}r admi{ni}strand{o} ead{e}m Ac de pleno et fidei Inuentario

o{mn}i{u}m bonorum et debitor{um} h{uius}mo{d}i conficiend{o} Et nobis citra
festum sancti Mich{ael}is Arch{angeli}i prox{imum} futur{um} exhibend{o} Necnon
de plano & vero compoto calculo nobis aut Successorib{us} n{ost}ris in ea p{ar}te
reddend{o} Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{is}

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord at Lambeth on the third day
of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifteenth by the
oath of the executors in the person of William Crowland, their proctor etc., and probated
and entered, and administration was granted of all and singular the goods and debts of the
said deceased to the forenamed executors in the person of the foresaid William, sworn on
the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to prepare a full and
faithful inventory of all the goods and debts of the same, and exhibit [+it] to us before the
feast of Saint Michael the Archangel next to come, and also to render a plain & true
account [+and?] reckoning to us or our successors in that regard.]