

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 10 July 1551 and proved 20 October 1551, of Sir Michael Lyster (d. 1 August 1551), whose eldest son and heir, Richard Lyster (b. 23 November 1532, d.1558?), esquire, married Mary Wriothesley, aunt of Henry Wriothesley (1573-1624), 3rd Earl of Southampton, to whom Shakespeare dedicated *Venus and Adonis* and *The Rape of Lucrece*.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator predeceased his father.

For details of the testator's family background, see the will of his father, Sir Richard Lyster (c.1480 – 16 March 1553), Chief Justice of the King's Bench.

MARRIAGES AND ISSUE

Testator's first marriage

The testator married firstly, before May 1529, Elizabeth Delabere, daughter and heir of Senacre Delabere of Herefordshire, and granddaughter of Sir Richard Delabere (see TNA C 1/1024/70). For Sir Richard Delabere, see also Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 58 and Vol. IV, p. 218; and:

<https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=48118492>

By Elizabeth Delabere, who died in childbirth on 23 November 1532, the testator had his eldest son and heir:

* **Richard Lyster** (b. 23 November 1532, d. 1558?), who married Mary Wriothesley, daughter of Thomas Wriothesley (21 December 1505 – 30 July 1550), 1st Earl of Southampton (for whose will see TNA PROB 11/34/154). For the marriage settlement, dated 1 July 1545, see Hants. RO 5M53/932, and an indenture dated 2 January 1570 entered into by Mary Wriothesley's brother, Henry Wriothesley (21 April 1545 – 4 October 1581), 2nd Earl of Southampton, in which it is stated that Mary Wriothesley married 'Richard Lyster, esquire', that both Mary and Richard had died by the date of the indenture, and that Michael Lyster was their son and heir (see TNA C 54/830 on this website).

Two inquisitions post mortem indicate that the testator's son, Richard Lyster, died in 1558/9 (see TNA C 142/123/83 (Hereford) and TNA C 142/124/222 (Hampshire)).

After the death of the testator's son, Richard Lyster, Mary Wriothesley is said to have married William Shelley (14 September 1538 - 15 April 1597), the son of John Shelley,

and grandson of Sir William Shelley (c.1479 - 4 January 1549). For Sir William Shelley (c.1479 – 4 January 1549), see the *ODNB* entry; his will, TNA PROB 11/32/341; and Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. IV, pp. 142-3.

William Shelley's trial for treason is described in Howell, T.B., *A Complete Collection of State Trials*, Vol. I, (London: Longman, Hurst, 1816), p. 1119 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=AVdTAAAcAAJ&pg=PA1119>

In one Shelley pedigree, Mary Wriothesley, wife of William Shelley, is called 'Margaret, daughter of Thomas Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton. See Berry, William, *County Genealogies: Pedigrees of the Families of the County of Sussex*, (London: Sherwood, Gilbert, and Piper, 1830), p. 62 at:

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=npj.32101007240102;view=1up;seq=80>

William Shelley's first wife is also called 'Margaret' in Hutchinson, Robert, 'The Brasses & Monuments in St. Mary the Virgin Church, Clapham, West Sussex', at:

https://www.google.ca/search?q=%22William+Shelley%22+%221597%22&ei=GfJyW5npH4SO0gL8_q-oAg&start=10&sa=N&biw=1726&bih=866

For the funeral of Mary Wriothesley on 13 December 1561, see Nichols, John Gough, ed., *The Diary of Henry Machyn*, (Camden Society, 1848), p. 273 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/diaryofhenrymach00machrich#page/272/mode/2up>

The 13 day of December was buried at Saint Katherine Christ Church my Lady Lyster, sometime the wife of Master Shelley of Sussex, and the daughter of the Earl of Southampton, late Lord Chancellor of England. Wriothesley, with a herald of arms and a 2 dozen of scutcheons of arms.

After the death of Mary Wriothesley, William Shelley (14 September 1538 - 15 April 1597) married Jane Lyngen, the daughter and sole heiress of John Lyngen (or Lingen) of Sutton Freene, Herefordshire. See Harley, John, *William Byrd: Gentleman of the Chapel Royal*, (Ashgate Publishing, 1997), p. 114 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=6CsxDwAAQBAJ&pg=PT114>

William Shelley died in April 1597. His widow Jane was the daughter and sole heiress of John Lyngen (or Lingen) of Sutton Freene in Herefordshire. She suffered a period of imprisonment as a Catholic, and failed in an attempt during Queen Elizabeth's reign to regain the whole of the property she brought to her marriage. According to Mrs Shelley's account it was soon after her husband's death that [William] Byrd began a suit in the Court of Exchequer, in an effort to obtain her ratification of the lease given to him by Queen Elizabeth. The case dragged on until Mrs Shelley's death in 1609/10

The testator's grandson, Michael Lyster, son of Richard Lyster and Mary Wriothesley, married Elizabeth Southwell, eldest daughter of Richard Southwell (d.1600), illegitimate son of the Privy Councillor Sir Richard Southwell (1502/3-1564), and sister of the Jesuit, Robert Southwell (1561-1595). For Elizabeth Southwell's grandfather, Sir Richard Southwell (1502/3-1564), see the *ODNB* entry, his will TNA PROB 11/47/231; and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/southwell-richard-15023-64>

For Elizabeth Southwell's father, Richard Southwell (d.1600), see his will, TNA PROB 11/96/175, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/southwell-richard-1531-1600>

For Elizabeth Southwell's brother, the Jesuit, Robert Southwell (1561-1595), see the *ODNB* entry.

After the death of the testator's grandson, Michael Lyster, Elizabeth Southwell married secondly Gyles Nanfan. See TNA C 2/Eliz/N3/36, and the Southwell pedigree in Dashwood, G.H., ed., *The Visitation of Norfolk in the Year 1563*, (Norwich: Miller & Leavins, 1878), p. 126 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=qkpFAAAAYAAJ&pg=RA4-PP14>

Testator's second marriage

After the death of Elizabeth Delabere, the testator married secondly, before November 1537, Margery Horsman, by whom he had a son:

* **Charles Lyster** (died c.1613), for whom see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/lister-charles-1534-1613>

See also Denny, Henry Lyttleton Lyster, *Memorials of an Ancient House; A History of the Family of Lister or Lyster*, (Edinburgh: Ballantyne, Hanson & Co., 1913), p. 260 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/memorialsOfFancie00denn#page/260/mode/2up>

For the testator's second wife, Margery Horsman, Maid of Honour to Henry VIII's first three Queens, see the entry at:

<http://www.kateemersonhistoricals.com/TudorWomenHi-Hu.htm>.

See also Levin, Carole, ed., *A Biographical Encyclopedia of Early Modern Englishwomen*, at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=RjNuDQAAQBAJ&pg=PT935>

FUNERAL AND WILL

The testator's funeral is inaccurately recorded in Machyn's diary as the funeral of Sir 'Richard' Lyster. See Nichols, *supra*, pp. 8-9, 323:

<https://archive.org/stream/diaryofhenrymach00machrich#page/8/mode/2up>

The 22 day of August was buried Sir Richard [sic] Lyster, son and heir to the Lord Chief Justice, with standard, pennon, and a bannerol, target, helmet and 6 dozen of scutcheons.

The testator's will was proved by his eldest son, Richard Lyster, who died in 1558/9. On 12 April 1575, administration was granted to the testator's younger son, Charles Lyster.

RM: Mich{ael}is Lyster milit{is}

[f. 223r] In the name of God, so be it. Forasmuch as every man is ordained to die, be it therefore known to all good Christian men that I, Michael Lyster of the county of Hampshire, knight, being whole in body and of perfect memory, thanks be to God, do make & ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to wit:

First I yield and bequeath unto Almighty God, my Maker and Redeemer, my soul, lamenting mine offences greatly, and from the bottom of my heart most lamentably ask mercy, not doubting my salvation by the merits of his passion by whom only I trust to be saved;

Item, I bequeath my body to the earth, to be buried in the next church whereat it shall please God to call me to his mercy;

And farther I give and bequeath to Dame Margery Lyster, my dear wife, my lease and grant that I have in the parsonage of Husborn [=Hurstbourne Priors?] & Born [=St Mary Bourne], with also all my sheep in Husborne Park;

Item, I pray God to give to Richard Lyster his blessing, to whom I give my lease for term of forty years of the parsonage of Mottisfont;

Item, I pray God to bless my son, Charles Lyster, to whom I give my lease of the manor and farm of Hartley Masdyd [=Hartley Mauditt?], reserving all such years as I have granted to Robert Myll, farmer there, by his indenture, and his mother to have the profits growing of the same by any means due by virtue of such lease as I have granted by the King's Majesty of his Duchy, and if it please God to call the said Charles afore th' end of the said lease, his mother living, then I give and bequeath the said term and years with all profits growing by virtue of the same clearly unto Dame Margery, my said wife;

Farther I bequeath unto my servant, Edward Cresset, one of my best gelding[s] and also ten pounds of money;

Item, I give to John Gyles one other of my geldings and five pound of money;

Item, farther I give and bequeath to all the residue of my household servants every one a gelding or nag and one quarter's wages, to be delivered by th' oversight of mine executors;

Item, more I give and bequeath to every retainer for their honest goodwills towards me twenty shillings for a remembrance;

Item, I give to every quarter keeper of the King's Majesty's park of Claringdon 20s;

And to every under keeper, 3s 4d;

Farther, I give and bequeath to Dame Margery Lyster, my wife, a basin and ewer of silver parcel gilt with her arms & mine, with also my lesser pair of gilt pots and four white bowls parcel gilt; item, 12 silver trenchers; item, two white pots of silver with a little tankard and a little skillet with the cover of silver; item, one pair of my less Almain cups gilt;

Farther I give and bequeath unto my said wife in recompense of such lands of her jointure as I have sold all my household stuff & napery, reserving one chamber furnished with a bed of silk and a pallet bed more to the same chamber which I give to Richard Lister;

And farther I give unto my son, Charles, a gilt bowl with a cover;

Item, more I give and bequeath unto Richard Lyster, my son, my chain of gold with also all my best apparel meet for him, praying and charging him that he be good to all his poor tenants of whom I have had money for any leases or grants;

Item, more I give unto him all my harness and my tent for the field;

Item, I give and bequeath to my brother [=brother-in-law], Sir Richard Blount, knight, one of my best gilt cups with a cover, praying him most heartily to be good unto my poor wife as he hath loved me;

Item, I give to my sister [=half sister], Dame Elizabeth Blount, a ring graven with a death's head;

And to my godson, Michael Blount, a ring graven with a seal;

Item, I will that all the corn and wool grown and to be grown for this year upon the parsonages of Husborn and Mottisfont, the rents being paid, and reserving to my wife twenty quarters of wheat and twenty quarters of barley which I give to her freely, the rest to be sold for the payment of my debts by the oversight of mine executors;

Item, more I will that all such brick as I have made this year at the Mount be employed by the discretions of mine executors, which freely I give unto them, paying the charges of the workmen yet unpaid;

Item, I give unto my chaplain, Sir John Starke, £3 6s 8d for his pains taken in my service;

Item, I give & bequeath unto my father, Sir Richard Lyster, knight, Chief Justice of England, my great pair of Almain cups gilt, praying him to pray for me and to be good father to my dear wife and to his sons [=grandsons], Richard and Charles;

Farther I will that if it so please God to call to his mercy my son, Richard, afore he shall happen to marry, that then such goods as I have bequeathed him to the value of two hundred pounds to go to the payment of such money as I received of the late Earl of Southampton for his marriage;

Item, farther I give and bequeath unto my father, Sir Richard Lyster, knight and to my son, Richard Lyster, all that my lease of the manors of Iwes church [=Ivychurch?] and Aldarsbyre [=Alderbury?] in the county of Wiltshire with the residue of all my goods and chattels not afore bequeathed, whom I make and ordain my full and sole executors, most humbly praying my said good father to forgive me all mine offences done to himwards, and that of his charity more than for my goods he will see all my true and lawful debts and creditors(?) paid and this my will performed, as I shall pray to Christ for him, Amen;

Written the tenth day of July the fifth year of our Sovereign Lord King Edward the Sixth.

Probatum fuit suprascriptu{m} test{amentu}m coram d{omi}no Cant{uariensis} Archiep{iscop}o apud London vicesimo [f. 223v] die mens{is} Octobris Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingentesimo quinquagesimo primo Iuramento Thome Willet procuratoris Rich{ard}i Lister Executoris in h{uius}mo{d}i test{ament}o no{m}i{n}at{i} Ac Approbatu{m} et insinuat{m} Et com{m}issa fuit admi{n}istrac{i}o o{mn}i{u}m bonoru{m} &c d{i}c{t}i defunct{i} De bene &c Ac de pleno Inventario &c exhibend{o} Ad s{an}c{t}a dei Eu{a}ngelia in debita Iuris forma Iurat{o} Res{erua}ta p{otes}tate Rich{ard}o Lyster milit{i} executor{i} &c cum venerit &c

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the twentieth day of the month of October in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-first by the oath of Thomas Willet, proctor of Richard Lyster, executor named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all the goods etc. of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels in due form of law to well etc., and to exhibit a full inventory etc., with power reserved to Richard Lyster, knight, executor etc., when he shall have come etc.]

RM: Duodecimo Aprilis 1575 emanavit commissio Charolo Lister filio naturali et legitimo Michaelis Lister militis defuncti ad administrandum bona iura et credita dicti(?) defuncti pro Richardum executorem(?) iam defunctum non administratam De bene etc In persona magistri Iohannis Iment(?) notarii publici procuratoris etc Iurati

[=On twelfth April 1575 a grant issued to Charles Lyster, natural and legitimate son of Michael Lyster, knight, deceased, to administer the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased by Richard Lyster, executor, now deceased, not administered, sworn to well etc. in the person of Master John Iment(?), notary public, proctor etc.]