

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 7 February 1551(?) and proved 24 June 1557, of Sir Nicholas Wentworth (d.1553?), Chief Porter of Calais, who married Jane Josselyn, the daughter of John Josselyn, auditor to John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford, and one of the executors of the Earl's will.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the testator's family background, see the pedigrees of Wentworth of Gosfield and Wentworth of Lillingstone Lovell in Rutton, William Loftie, *Three Branches of the Family of Wentworth*, (London: 1891), pp. 193, 300 at:

<https://books.google.com/books?id=YhY5AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA300>

See also the will, dated 12 March 1540 and proved 11 May 1540, of the testator's half sister, Margery (nee Wentworth) Waldegrave (buried 7 May 1540), TNA PROB 11/28/96.

The testator was the only child of Henry Wentworth (d. 22 March 1482) by his second wife, Joan Fitz Simon, the only daughter and heiress of Robert Fitz Simon or Fitz Symond (d.1474) by Katherine Manfield, the daughter of Sir Robert Manfield.

The testator's mother married firstly Robert Timperley, by whom she had two sons, Robert Timperley (d.1494), who married the testator's half sister, Agnes Wentworth, and Thomas Timperley (d.1505), who married the testator's half sister, Mary Wentworth. See Rutton, *Three Branches, supra*, p. 193.

After the death of the testator's father, Joan Fitz Simon or Fitz Symond, married thirdly, as his second wife, Philip Fitz Lewes, third surviving son of Sir Lewes John and Alice de Vere (see below).

For Joan Fitz Simon, see also Rutton, William Loftie, 'Notes to the Pedigree of Wentworth of Gosfield', *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society*, Vol. III, New Series, (Colchester: Wiles & Son, 1889), p. 223 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=50Y-AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA223>

As noted above, Sir Lewes John (d. 27 October 1442) married firstly, before 1 January 1414, Alice de Vere (died c.1431), daughter of Aubrey de Vere (c.1338 – 15 February 1400), 10th Earl of Oxford, and widow of Francis de Court (d. 11 September 1413) of Byfleet, Surrey, and secondly Anne Montagu or Montacute (d. 28 November 1457), widow of Sir Richard Hankford (d. 8 February 1431), and daughter of John Montagu, 3rd Earl of Salisbury. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 334-5 and Vol. IV, pp. 270-1; and Elliot, H.L., 'Fitz Lewes, of West Horndon, and

the Brasses at Ingrave', *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society*, Vol. VI, New Series, (Colchester, 1898), pp. 32-5, at:

<https://archive.org/stream/transactionssess04socigoog#page/n45>

In his will, dated 2 June 1440 and proved 31 December 1442, Sir Lewes John mentions five sons and four daughters. According to Elliot, *supra*, pp. 35-9, three sons can be identified as his children by his first wife, Alice de Vere, and two daughters as the children of his second marriage to Anne Montagu:

-Lewes Fitz Lewes, eldest son of Sir Lewes John and Alice de Vere. He was attainted, and died between 1477 and 1480, leaving by Margaret Stonor(?) a son and heir, Sir Richard Fitz Lewes (born c.1446, d. 12 July 1528), who married firstly, before 1466, Alice Harleston, one of the two daughters of John Harleston of Shimpling, Norfolk, by Margaret Bardwell, the daughter and heir of William Bardwell of Bardwell, Suffolk; secondly (possibly) a wife named Maud, a relative of Elizabeth Latimer; thirdly Elizabeth Shelton (d. 2 January 1523), the daughter of Sir Ralph Shelton; and fourthly Jane Hornby (d.1535), who after his death married Sir John Norton of Faversham and Milton near Sittingbourne, Kent. Sir Richard Fitz Lewes survived all his sons, as well as his father's male descendants, his next heir at his death being Ella Fitz Lewes (1510 – 2 June 1543), daughter of John Fitz Lewes, eldest son of Sir Richard Fitz Lewes, who was then the wife of John Mordaunt (1508-1571), 2nd Baron Mordaunt, son of Sir John Mordaunt (d.1563), 1st Baron Mordaunt of Turvey. Alice Harleston, first wife of Sir Richard Fitz Lewes, had a sister, Margaret Harleston (d.1489), who married Thomas Darcy (d. 25 September 1485), esquire, of Danbury, by whom she was the ancestress of the Barons Darcy of Chiche.

For John Mordaunt and Ella Fitz Lewes, see also TNA PROB C 54/1118, Part 24.

For Lewes Fitz Lewes, see also 'Brass of the Month' at:

<http://www.mbs-brasses.co.uk/page94.html>

-Sir Henry Fitz Lewes, second son of Sir Lewes John and Alice de Vere. He was knighted at the battle of Northampton. He married firstly Elizabeth Beaufort (d. before 1475), the youngest daughter of Edmund Beaufort (born c. 1406, slain at the Battle of St Albans 22 May 1455), 2nd Duke of Somerset, by whom he had a daughter, Mary Fitz Lewes (born c.1465), who married firstly Anthony Woodville, 2nd Earl Rivers, by whom she had no issue, and secondly Sir George Neville, illegitimate son of Sir Thomas Neville, by whom she had a daughter, Anne Neville, who married Sir John Markham of Cotham, Nottinghamshire. Sir Henry Fitz Lewes married secondly Eleanor Hungerford, daughter of Robert Hungerford, 2nd Baron Hungerford, and widow successively of John White (d.1469) of South Warnborough, Hampshire, and Sir William Tyrrell of Heron. Sir Henry Fitz Lewes died without male issue on 9 May 1480. See Elliot, *supra*, p. 37; and Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, pp. 227-32.

-Philip Fitz Lewes, third surviving son of Sir Lewes John and Alice de Vere. According to Elliot, *supra*, p. 38 he married a wife surnamed Turney, by whom he was the father of Anne Fitz Lewes, who married William Cromer, second son of Sir William Cromer, and grandson of William Cromer, Lord Mayor of London in 1413 and 1423. He is said to have been the third husband of the testator's mother, Joan Fitz Simon. According to Elliot, Joan Fitz Simon's husbands were Robert Timperley, esquire, Henry Wentworth, and thirdly, after 1482, Philip Fitz Lewes, esquire. Elliot notes that:

If the Philip last mentioned was the third son of Sir Lewes John, the family of Fitz Lewes by this marriage became connected with the Tyrells, -- the sister of Robert Fitz Symond having married Sir Wm. Tyrell of Beeches, in Rawreth; and we find the name of Fitz Lowes mentioned more than once in the series of Tyrell Wills printed . . . in the Transactions.

In that connection, it should be noted that in an entail in the will below the testator leaves his manor of Mucking Hall in remainder to his cousin, Edward Tyrrell of Beeches:

And for lack of such issue to the use of my cousin, Edward Tyrrell of Beeches Hall in the said county of Essex, in general tail.

For the Tyrrell family of Beeches, see the will, dated 20 December 1493 and proved 28 November 1494, of John Tyrrell (d. 25 October 1494) of Beeches, TNA PROB 11/10/311.

-Elizabeth Fitz Lewes (born c.1436), daughter of Sir Lewes John by Anne Montagu. Elliot writes:

There is no doubt that she married Sir John Wingfield about 1455, as we learn from an Inquisition p. m., that Sir John died 11th May, 1481, leaving a son and heir, John, then aged 24. . . . She was, in fact, as we read in Harvey's Visitation of Suffolk, 1571, the daughter of Anne Montacute, and was born about 1434.

See *Magna Carta Ancestry, supra*, Vol. II, pp. 335-6; Elliot, *supra*, p. 38; the will, dated 14 July 1497 and proved 22 December 1500, NRO 135-138 Cage, of Elizabeth Fitz Lewes Wingfield, and the Wingfield pedigree at:

<http://www.letheringhamlodge.com/wingfield-of-wingfield-and-letheringham/>

Her grandson, Sir Anthony Wingfield (d. 15 August 1552) of Letheringham, Suffolk, married Elizabeth Vere (d.1557), eldest daughter of Sir George Vere (died c.1503) and sister of John de Vere (1499-1527), 14th Earl of Oxford. For the will of Sir Anthony Wingfield (d. 15 August 1552), see TNA PROB 11/36/112. For the will of Elizabeth Vere Wingfield (d.1557), see TNA PROB 11/42B/640.

-Margaret Fitz Lewis (d. 4 August 1466). According to Elliot, *supra*, p. 39, she was likely the youngest daughter of Sir Lewes John by his second wife, Anne Montagu. She

married firstly, as his second wife, Sir William Lucy (d. 10 July 1460), of Richard's Castle, Herefordshire, and secondly John Wake (died c.1496), esquire, of Great Staughton, Huntingdonshire. See *Magna Carta Ancestry, supra*, Vol. II, p. 335, and Vol. III, p. 66, and Elliot, *supra*, pp. 41-2.

For the Fitz Lewes family, see also Corder, Joan, *The Visitation of Suffolk 1561, Vol. 2*, (London: Harleian Society, 1982), pp. 217-18; and the *ODNB* entry for John Montagu, 3rd Earl of Salisbury.

See also the History of Parliament entry for John Lewes (d. 27 October 1442), of London and West Horndon, Essex, at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1386-1421/member/john-lewis-1442>

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married Jane Josselyn (d. August 1569), the daughter of John Josselyn, esquire, of High Roding, Essex, and Hyde Hall, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, by his second wife, Philippa Bradbury, the daughter of William Bradbury of Braughing, Hertfordshire, by Margaret Rokell, the daughter of Thomas Rokell. Philippa Bradbury was the sister of Thomas Bradbury (d.1510), mercer and Lord Mayor of London. See Sutton, Anne, 'Lady Joan Bradbury (d. 1530)', in Barron, Caroline M. and Anne F. Sutton, eds., *Medieval London Widows 1300-1500*, (London: The Hambleton Press, 1994), pp. 209-238 at p. 211:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=uc3RLXFANoMC&pg=PA211>

See also the will of Philippa Bradbury, dated 15 October 1530, see ERO D/ABW 21/8.

See also *Magna Carta Ancestry, supra*, Vol. II, pp. 462-3; the will, dated 1 August 1524 and 12 July 1525, and proved 13 February 1526, TNA PROB 11/22/61, of John Josselyn; and Rutton, *Three Branches, supra*, pp. 193, 214 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YhY5AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA193>

By Jane Josselyn, the testator had four sons and a daughter:

* **Peter Wentworth** (1524 – 10 November 1597), who married firstly, Lettice Lane, the daughter of Sir Ralph Lane of Horton, Northamptonshire, first cousin of Queen Katherine Parr, and secondly, Elizabeth Walsingham (buried 21 July 1596), sister of Queen Elizabeth's principal secretary, Sir Francis Walsingham (c.1532–1590), and widow of Geoffrey Gates. Elizabeth Walsingham Gates Wentworth died in the Tower, and was buried in the chapel of St Peter ad Vincula. See the will, dated 12 August 1550, of Geoffrey Gates, TNA PROB 11/37/210. Geoffrey Gates was the brother of the 16th Earl of Oxford's executor, Sir John Gates, uncle of Jane Josselyn, whose second husband,

Roger Harlakenden, defrauded Oxford in the sale of Colne Priory, and father of Geoffrey Gates, who dedicated *The Defense of Military Profession* to Oxford.

* **Henry Wentworth.**

* **Paul Wentworth** (1534 – 13 January 1594), who married Helen Agmondesham (d.1615), the daughter of Richard Agmondesham of Heston, Middlesex, widow of William Tyldsley of Burnham.

* **Francis Wentworth.**

* **Clara Wentworth**, who married Edward Boys (d.1599) of Fredvill in Nonington, Kent.

TESTATOR'S LANDS

For the testator's manors, see TNA C 1/455/3. For the testator's exchange of lands with Henry VIII in 1545, see TNA E 305/7/D69. The testator's manor of Lamport in Buckinghamshire has not been identified.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

In an entail in the will below, the heirs of Margaret Huntington are left an interest in remainder in the testator's manor of Mucking Hall:

And for default of such issue to th' heirs of the body lawfully begotten of Margaret Huntington, [f. 145r] whose daughters and heirs were married, one to my cousin, William Mordaunt of Essex, and thother to my cousin Pares [=Paris] of Cambridgeshire.

For William Mordaunt (d.1527), brother of Sir John Mordaunt (d. 1505), see McLeod, Ronald F., *Massingham Parva Past and Present*, (London: Waterlow & Sons Limited, 1882), p. xiv (pedigree), and p. 48 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=H_IVAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA48

William [Mordaunt], John's brother, became Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas. In June, A.D. 1495, he married Anne, one of the daughters of Thomas Huntington of Hempstead, Essex, . . . By his wife, William Mordaunt had four sons and eleven daughters. Two of his sons died childless. His third son married Agnes, the daughter of Lord Rich, who by pliancy and profligacy, and, it is said, perjury, made his way to honour and became Lord Chancellor. William Mordaunt died in A.D. 1527. . . .

LM: Test{amentu}m Nich{ola}i Wentworth

In the name of God, Amen. The 7th day of the month of February in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred fifty and one and the fifth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Edward the Sixth, King of England, France and Ireland, I, Nicholas Wentworth, knight, Chief Porter of Calais, late dwelling in the county of Oxford, being of whole and good mind and health of body, thanks be to God Almighty, make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, and my body to be buried in some convenient place where my executors do think most best to provide for the same;

And as touching the devise and disposition of all and singular my manors, meses, lands and tenements, rents, revenues & services and all other mine hereditaments within the counties of Essex, Oxford, Northampton, Buckingham and in the city of London or elsewhere within the realm of England, I make and ordain my last will in form following:

First I will that all such persons as now stand and be seised or that hereafter shall stand and be seised, their heirs and assigns, of and in all and singular my manors, lands and tenements, rents and services with their appurtenances set and lying in the county of Essex (my three marshes called Gardners marsh, On marsh and Crapnelles marsh, a tenement called Motes, a tenement called Babbis, a tenement called Stevens only excepted);

And also that all such persons, their heirs and assigns, as now stand seised or that hereafter shall stand and be seised of and in my manor of Lillingstone Lovell in the county of Oxford, and of all other my lands and tenements, rents and services with their appurtenances set and lying in the counties of Buckingham and Northampton (a tenement called Mantelles, my lands and tenements in Stow, Lamport and Towcester only excepted) incontinently after my death shall stand and be seised of and in all the said manors, lands and tenements and other the premises, except before excepted, to the use of Jane, my wife, for term of her life according to such covenants and estates as I have heretofore made and executed;

And after the deaths of me and my said wife, then I will my said feoffees, their heirs and assigns, shall stand and be seised of and in my manor of Mucking Hall with th' appurtenances in the said county of Essex to the use of th' heirs of my body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue to the use of my cousin, Edward Tyrrell of Beeches Hall in the said county of Essex, in general tail;

And for default of such issue to th' heirs of the body lawfully begotten of Margaret Huntington, [f. 145r] whose daughters and heirs were married, one to my cousin, William Mordaunt of Essex, and thother to my cousin Pares [=Paris] of Cambridgeshire;

And for default of such issue to th' use of my right heirs forever;

Also I will that my said feoffees, their heirs and assigns, incontinently after the deaths of me and my wife shall stand and be seised of and in my said manor of Lillingstone Lovell, the pastures called Torneacar in the counties of Oxford and Buckingham, to the use of the heirs males of my body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue in tail, then to the use of my right heirs forever;

And all such persons as stand and were seised in fee of and in my manor of Howthleigh [=Howleigh?] in the parish of Reigate in the county of Surrey whereof the Duke of Norfolk hath lately me deforced, and for the profits thereof received by the said Lord that last died my Lady's Grace, his wife, hath lately made me recompense in discharge of the soul of her late husband, trusting also that my Lord's Grace that now is will restore the said manor in time coming in discharge of his conscience, then I will that the said manor with th' appurtenances, after such restitution or otherwise obtained, shall go to them to inherit other;

And for lack of such issue, then to go to such like uses and intents as be declared by the last will of my mother, Dame Jane Fitz Lewes, whose soul God pardon;

And if it fortune after my death Jane, my wife, for to die before my son and heir apparent shall come to his or their full age of 21 years, then I will that mine executors & their assigns incontinently after the death of my said wife shall yearly take, levy and receive all manner of rents, revenues, issues and profits then coming and growing of all and singular such manors, meses, lands and tenements as here above be to her willed and devised for term of her life until such time as my said such heir shall fulfil his or their full age of 23 years to the preferment of my younger sons egally to be divided;

And if it happen all the younger sons for to die, then I will that all such sums of money to be taken and perceived by mine executors and their assigns and every of them, as well of the said marshes as of the said lands before willed unto my said wife unspent or bestowed in setting forth and preferment of my said younger sons in form aforesaid remaining then in th' hands of my executors, their assigns, or any of them, shall be converted and bestowed to the use of such my daughters as I shall then have unmarried or unbestowed;

And in case I shall have no such daughters upon whom the said revenues shall be bestowed in form aforesaid, then I will that the said revenues so remaining in the hands of mine executors and their assigns be spent and distributed to the marriage of poor maidens [+and?] mending of highways after the discretion of mine executors;

Also I will that my manor of Lamport and(?) tenements of the same within the county of Buckinghamshire with all rents, commons, woods and services thereunto belonging shall immediately after my decease [-shall] descend and come to Paul Wentworth, my son, and to his heirs forever;

Also I will that my manor of Orchester [=Irchester?] within the county of Northamptonshire with all rents, commons, woods and services thereunto belonging after the decease of me and my wife shall remain to Henry Wentworth, my second son, for term of his life;

And after his decease to my right heirs;

Also I will that all such persons as now stand and be seised or that hereafter shall stand and be seised, their heirs and assigns, of and in my manor of Westhall in the county of Essex with all rents, commons, woods and services thereunto belonging shall stand and be seised after the decease of me and my wife to the performance of this my last will, that is to say, if my son and heir apparent, Peter Wentworth, nor his heirs, executors nor assigns do not interrupt nor let the performance of this my last will, that then they shall stand and be seised to the use of my said son, Peter, and of his heirs in fee;

And in case he do interrupt any part of this my last will whereby his younger brethren be hindered (as I trust he will not be so unnatural), then I will my said manor of Westhall to be sold by mine executors and the money thereof to be egally divided between my younger sons then living;

Furthermore as touching the disposition of my goods and chattels, first I will, give and bequeath to Jane, my wife, all manner my household stuff with all her apparel and jewels;

Also I give to my wife all my plate;

Also I give to Paul, my son, twenty pounds;

To Henry, my son, a hundred pounds to be bestowed to his preferment after my wife's discretion;

To Francis, my son, whom I do intend to make a priest, forty pounds;

To my son [=son-in-law] Boys my coat of plate covered with tawny satin;

Also I give to Nicholas Bradley, my godson, 20s;

Also I give to John Shepard(?), my servant, 20s;

Also I give to the reparation of the church of Lillingstone 20s;

Also I give to Peter, my son, two of my best gowns and a cassock of black velvet and all my harness;

And if anything willed or bequeathed in this my last will be not set forth after the form of law, then I will that mine executors after my death do cause the same to be set forth in

form of law accordingly as my wife doth declare it was my will in my lifetime, whom I make and ordain to be my chief executrix & ruler [f. 145v] of this my last will;

And also I do make and ordain Peter Wentworth, my eldest son, and my son-in-law, Edward Boys, esquire, and Paul Wentworth, my third son, to be mine other executors;

Also I will that my wife incontinent after my death enjoy all the profits of the land in Lillingstone I have by exchange of the King's Majesty's father with all rents, commons, woods and services thereunto belonging in recompense of her gentle consent to depart toward my daughter-in-law's jointure, my son Peter's wife, three tenements called Motes Babbys and Taylers, parcel of her jointure;

And a[s] concerning my land(?) I purchased at Orellios(?) wherein my wife is joint purchaser, I leave her to do her will with;

In witness that this is my very true and last will I have written this with mine own hand, put to my seal, and subscribed my name the day and year above-written. Nicholas Wentworth.

Probatum fuit testamentu{m} Coram Mag{ist}ro Will{el}mo Cooke Legum Doctore Curie prerogative Reuerendissimi in xpo patris etc d{omi}ni n{ost}ri d{omi}ni Reginaldi Cant{uariensis} Archiep{iscop}i Custode siue comissario vicesimo quarto die Mens{is} Junij Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo Quingentesimo quinquagesimo septimo Iuramento M{agist}ri Rob{er}ti Johnson procuratoris d{omi}ne Jane Relicte et Executric{is} in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}at{e} Cui com{m}issa fuit administracio o{mn}i{u}m bonoru{m} &c De bene et fideli{te}r admi{n}strand{o} eadem Ac de pleno Inuentario &c exhibend{o} Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{i} Res{er}u{a}ta p{otes}tate alijs Ex{ecutoribus} in h{uius}mo{d}i test{ament}o no{m}i{n}at{is} cum venerint &c

[=The testament was proved before Master William Cooke, Doctor of the Laws, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of the Most Reverend Father in Christ etc., our Lord, the Lord Reginald, Archbishop of Canterbury, on the twenty-fourth day of the month of June in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-seventh by the oath of Master Robert Johnson, proctor of Dame Jane, relict and executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all the goods etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to exhibit a full inventory etc., with power reserved to the other executors named in the same testament when they shall have come etc.]