

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 29 March 1567 and proved 5 June 1567, of John Englefield (d. 1 April 1567), whose sister, Anne Englefield, married, as her second husband, Sir John Huband (d. 24 December 1583), who held the lease of the tithes later purchased by William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon. For the will of Sir John Huband, see TNA PROB 11/66/331.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Testator's parents

The testator was the son of Sir Thomas Englefield (1488-1537) and Elizabeth Throckmorton (d.1543), the daughter of Sir Robert Throckmorton (d.1518) of Coughton Court, Warwickshire. For the will of the testator's father, see TNA PROB 11/27/152. For the will of the testator's mother, see TNA PROB 11/30/47.

Testator's siblings

The testator is said to have had two brothers and nine sisters (for whom see the will of his father, *supra*).

In the will below the testator mentions his elder brother, Sir Francis Englefield (1522-1596), and his sister Susan, the wife of Humphrey Burdett (spelled 'Burdell' in the PCC copy of the testator's will) of Sonning, Berkshire. For the will of Humphrey Burdett, see TNA PROB 11/69/110.

The testator also mentions a debt to his 'cousin, Mr Thomas Carew', the son of the testator's sister, Margaret Englefield (d.1563), by her first marriage to George Carew (d.1538). After the death of George Carew, the testator's sister, Margaret, married secondly, Sir Edward Saunders (1506-1576), Chief Baron of the Exchequer, for whom see the entry in the *ODNB* and his will, TNA PROB 11/58/517.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married Margaret Fitton (d. 29 August 1612), the daughter of Sir Edward Fitton (d. 17 February 1548) of Gawsworth, Cheshire, by Mary Harbottle (d. 12 December 1556), the daughter of Sir Guiscard Harbottle. See the will of Mary (nee Harbottle) Fitton, TNA PROB 11/39/471; the will of the testator's wife, Margaret (nee Fitton) Englefield, TNA PROB 11/121/212; and the Fitton pedigree in *Gossip from a Muniment-Room*, (London: David Nutt, 1898), p. 1 at:

https://archive.org/stream/gri_33125008386944#page/n29/mode/2up/search/.

Margaret Fitton's great-niece, Mary Fitton (d.1641), is conjectured by some scholars to have been the Dark Lady of Shakespeare's *Sonnets*.

By Margaret Fitton the testator was the father of Sir Francis Englefield (d. 26 October 1631), who married Jane Browne, the daughter of Anthony Browne (1552 – June 1592), eldest son of Anthony Browne (1528 – 19 October 1592), 1st Viscount Montague. See the pedigree of Browne in Questier, Michael C., *Catholicism and Community in Early Modern England*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006), pp. 521-2; the pedigree in Keen, Alan and Roger Lubbock, *The Annotator; The Pursuit of an Elizabethan Reader of Halle's Chronicle*, (London: Putnam, 1954); and:

<http://www.berkshirehistory.com/bios/fenglefieldjr.html>.

See also:

<http://babeldiary.blogspot.ca/2013/08/>.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

The testator's brother-in-law, Francis Fitton (d. 17 June 1608), mentioned in the will below, in 1587 married Katherine Neville (d. 28 October 1596), eldest daughter and coheir of John Neville (d.1577), 4th Baron Latimer, son of John Neville (1493–1543), 3rd Baron Latimer, by Dorothy de Vere (d. 7 February 1527), sister of John de Vere (1499-1526), 14th Earl of Oxford. John Neville, 3rd Baron Latimer, later married, as his third wife, Katherine Parr, who after his death became the sixth wife of Henry VIII. At the time of her marriage to Francis Fitton, Katherine (nee Neville) was the widow of Henry Percy (d. 20 June 1585), 8th Earl of Northumberland. See the *ODNB* entries for John Neville, 3rd Baron Latimer, and Henry Percy, 8th Earl of Northumberland; the will of John Neville, 3rd Baron Latimer, TNA PROB 11/29/303; and the will of Francis Fitton, TNA PROB 11/112/118.

For Thomas Vachell (d. 3 May 1610) mentioned in the will below, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/vachell-thomas-ii-1528-1610>.

For the lawyer Edmund Plowden (d. 6 February 1585), mentioned in the will below, see the *ODNB* entry and his will, TNA PROB 11/68/650.

RM: Test{amentu}m Ioh{ann}is Englefelde

[f. 126r] In the name of God, Amen. The twenty and ninth day of March a thousand five hundred threescore and seven and in the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc. the ninth, I, John Englefield of Englefield in the county of Berkshire, esquire, make this my testament and last will in manner and form following:

First I will my body to be buried in the parish church of Englefield by my mother;

Item, I give to the reparations of the said church forty shillings;

Item, I will that all such tithes as shall appear to be owing by me either to the parson of Englefield or to the vicar of Sonning for Sindlesham be paid by my executors without delay;

Item, I will that my cousin, Mr Thomas Carew, be paid thirty and eight pounds six shillings eight pence which I owe unto him, and the same to be paid out of the threescore pounds which William Bayly must pay unto me for my woods in Northamptonshire as soon as the same shall be levied;

Item, that Mr Thomas Berington have his bow with the black knots redelivered that I had of him;

Item, I will that my brother [=brother-in-law], Francis Fitton, shall have my other bows and all arrows, with my gilt rapier and dagger and my wearing apparel except such as I shall hereafter otherwise appoint;

Item, I will unto Robert Harteborne forty shillings;

Item, I give unto my son, Francis Englefield, my chain, and to be delivered unto him when he cometh to the age of twenty-four years;

Item, I give unto my said son the two carpets made by my wife, and my wife to have the occupation of them during her life;

Item, I will that my executors shall deliver unto the hands of Edmund Plowden, esquire, and Humphrey [+Burdett?], the sum of three hundred pounds within one month after my decease, to be employed as I have appointed them;

Item, I give unto Mr Vachell my goshawk;

Item, I give unto my brother [=brother-in-law], Francis Fitton, my stoned horse coloured roan;

Item, I give unto my sister, Susan Burdett, forty marks, to be by her employed to the marriage of two of her daughters;

Item, I will if Francis, my son, shall happen to die without any issue of his body lawfully begotten, that then all my own lands of inheritance shall go wholly to the children of my sister, Susan Burdett;

Item, I give unto Mr Edmund Plowden, esquire, and Humphrey Burdett all my leases and interest of them and all my household stuff and implements [f. 126v] of household and all other things given unto me by my brother, Sir Francis Englefield, except the stock or stocks of cattle, and also I give unto them ten pounds in money;

Item, I will that twenty pounds in money be distributed immediately after my decease in alms by the discretion of my overseers;

All other my goods, chattels, plate, jewels not bequeathed, my debts being paid, I give unto Margaret, my wife, whom I make my executrix, and make my overseers of this my last will Mr Edmund Plowden and my brother-in-law, Humphrey Burdett, and I give to Mr Plowden for his pains my best gelding except my wife's double gelding, and to Humphrey Burdett the second gelding;

Item, I will that six pounds thirteen shillings four pence be distributed amongst Mr Vachell's servants in his house, and three pounds six shillings eight pence amongst the household servants of Humphrey Burdett;

Item, I will that all such leases or other assurances as I have granted be performed, and my wife to have the use and profits of all my lands during her life, as well of those not granted her in jointure as otherwise;

Item, my will and desire is that my wife should have the keeping and bringing up of my son;

Item, I give to Roger Kelsall three pounds six shillings eight pence; to Henry Bradock three pounds which he oweth me; to John Caldicolt forty shillings; to James Ippwell(?) three pounds six shillings eight pence; to Lawrence (blank) three pounds six shillings eight pence; to Robert Watson three pounds six shillings eight pence; to John Woodsonne forty shillings besides forty shillings which he oweth me; to William Baylie three pounds six shillings eight pence that I delivered him beforehand for his meat and drink; to Edward Syvian all that which he oweth me; to Margaret Berington ten pounds at the day of her marriage; To Agnes forty shillings.

Francis Fitton, Robert Harteborne. Testamentum Iohannis Englefelde.

Probatum fuit testamentum Suprascriptum coram Magistro Waltero Haddon Legum Doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cantuariensis Comissario apud London quinto die mensis Iunii Anno Domini Millesimo Quingentesimo Sexagesimo Septimo Iuramento Edwardi Bellingham procuratoris Margarete Relicte et Executricis in testamento

h{uius}mo{d}i nominat{e} Cui comissa fuit Administratio om{n}iu{m} et singuloru{m} bonoru{m} &c De bene &c Ad sancta Dei Evangelia Iurat{e}

[=The above-written testament was proved before Master Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the fifth day of the month of June in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixty-seventh by the oath of Edward Bellingham, proctor of Margaret, relict and executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc.]