

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 22 March 1593 and proved 24 May 1598, of Robert Sandford (d.1597?), esquire, whose wife, Isabel Egerton, was the half sister of Sir Thomas Bromley, one of the trustees appointed in Oxford's indenture of 20 January 1575. See SRO D615/D 45(1). She was also a second cousin (of the half blood) of Margaret Bromley, wife of Sir Richard Newport (d.1570), owner of a copy of Hall's *Chronicle* thought to contain annotations by Shakespeare, formerly Loan 61 in the British Library and now in the possession of a trustee, Lord Hesketh. See Keen, Alan and Roger Lubbock, *The Annotator*, (London: Putnam, 1954).

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the Sandford pedigree, see Burke, Bernard, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain & Ireland*, Vol. II, (London: Harrison, 1871), p. 1219 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=qmh2AAAAMAAJ&pg=PA1219>

According to the Stafford pedigree the testator was the second son of Hugh Sandford (d.1530), esquire, by Jane Dod, daughter of John Dod, esquire, of Cloverley [=Claverley?], Shropshire, by his second wife, Elizabeth Egerton, the daughter of Sir Ralph Egerton (b. before 1476, d.1528) of Ridley, Standard Bearer to Henry VIII. The Dod pedigree also mentions the marriage of John Dod and Elizabeth Egerton. See Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, Vol. I, (London: Hamilton, Adams, & Co., 1868), p. 222 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=76xBAAAcaAAJ&pg=PR10&lpg=PR10&dq=%22Dod+pedigree%22&source=bl&ots=3HaWEbbhMO&sig=FplX_a3IDKjZaQcWDBPZMWa56l0&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjh5t3M2NfVAhUBU2MKHSABAYEQ6AEINzAB#v=onepage&q=%22Dod%20pedigree%22&f=false

In his will, however, Sir Ralph Egerton (b. before 1476, d.1528) makes no mention of a daughter, Elizabeth. The only children mentioned in the will are his heir, Sir Richard Egerton, and several illegitimate children: Ralph, my bastard son', 'my bastard daughter, Mary', and 'my other bastard daughters' (names not given). See his will, TNA PRO 11/22/507.

According to the *ODNB* entry, Sir Ralph Egerton (b. before 1476, d.1528), was a younger son of Hugh Egerton (d.1505) of Wrinehill, Cheshire:

Egerton, Sir Ralph (b. before 1476, d. 1528), courtier and administrator, was a younger son of Hugh Egerton of Wrinehill in Cheshire, who died in 1505, about eighty years old. His mother was possibly the Margaret Dutton whom Hugh married in 1446, but Ralph's omission from the entail of the Egerton estate suggests that he may have been the son of a

second wife, also named Margaret. He was probably of age by 1496 when his father made him independent by the gift of a wick of six leads in Nantwich, and so was born not later than 1475.

Sir Ralph Egerton's son and heir, Sir Richard Egerton (d. November 1579), married firstly Dorothy Harpur (d.1548), the divorced wife of Sir Anthony Kingston (c.1508-1556), and secondly Mary Grosvenor (d.1599), widow of Thomas Legh of Adlington (d. 17 May 1548), and was the father, by a liaison with Alice Sparke, of Queen Elizabeth's Lord Chancellor, Thomas Egerton (1540-1617). See the *ODNB* entry for Sir Ralph Egerton (b. before 1476, d.1528):

As well as his heir, Richard, [Sir Ralph] Egerton left two named bastard children and other bastard daughters whose names he could not remember. Richard's bastard son was Thomas Egerton first Viscount Brackley, lord chancellor.

See also the *ODNB* entry for Thomas Egerton:

Egerton, Thomas, first Viscount Brackley (1540–1617), lord chancellor, was born on 23 January 1540, the illegitimate son of Sir Richard Egerton, landowner, of Ridley, Cheshire, and a servant girl called Alice Sparke. His grandfather was Sir Ralph Egerton.

See also the Egerton pedigree in Rylands, John Paul, ed., *The Visitation of Cheshire in the Year 1580*, Vol. XVIII, (London: Harleian Society, 1882), p. 96 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofches00glov#page/96/mode/2up>

For Dorothy Harpur (d.1548), see the will of Sir William Kingston, TNA PROB 11/28/542.

According to the Sandford pedigree in Burke, *supra*, the testator was heir to his nephew, George Sandford. For the inquisition post mortem taken in 1563/4 after the death of George Sandford, see TNA E 150/877/3, TNA C 142/140/163, and WARD 7/40/152. The testator's nephew may have been the George Sandford who married Jane Grosvenor (see below), sister of Mary Grosvenor (d.1599), who married, as her second husband, Sir Richard Egerton (d. November 1579).

For the former Sandford chapel in St Chad's church at Prees in which, in the will below, the testator requests burial with his ancestors, see:

<http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101213100-church-of-st-chad-prees>

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

The testator married Isabel Egerton, the daughter of William Egerton of Betley by Jane Lacon (born c.1505), the daughter of Sir Thomas Lacon (d.1536) of Willey (for the will

of Sir Thomas Lacon, see TNA PROB 11/25/371). See the Egerton pedigree in Rylands, *supra*, p. 98 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofches00glov#page/98/mode/2up>

The parish register of Betley records the burial of William Egerton, esquire, on 22 November 1571, and Jane Egerton, widow, on 22 October 1578. These burial records are presumably those of the parents of the testator's wife, Isabel Egerton. See Adams, Percy W.L., ed., *Betley Parish Register*, pp. 22, 26 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/betleyparishregi00pari#page/24/mode/2up>

Before her marriage to William Egerton, Jane Lacon had been the wife of George Bromley (d.1545). For Jane Lacon's two marriages, see the pedigree of Lacon in Grazebrook, George, and John Paul Rylands, eds., *The Visitation of Shropshire Taken in the Year 1623, Part II*, Vol. XXIX, (London: Harleian Society, 1889), p. 307 at:

https://archive.org/stream/TheVisitationOfShropshireV.29/VisitationshrophshireTaken1623_treswellVol.28P2#page/n29/mode/2up

By her first husband, George Bromley (d.1545), Jane Lacon was the mother of George Bromley (c.1526-1589), Chief Justice of Cheshire, and of Queen Elizabeth's Lord Chancellor, Sir Thomas Bromley (c.1530-1587). See the Bromley pedigree in Grazebrook, George and John Paul Rylands, eds., *The Visitation of Shropshire, Part I*, Vol. XXVIII, (London: Harleian Society, 1889), p. 78 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationshrop00britgoog#page/n132/mode/2up>

See also the History of Parliament entry for George Bromley (c.1526-1589) at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/bromley-george-1526-89>

See also the *ODNB* entry for Lord Chancellor Bromley:

Bromley, Sir Thomas (c.1530–1587), lord chancellor, was a younger son of George Bromley (d. 1545) of Hodnet, Shropshire, and his wife, Jane (b. c.1505), daughter of Sir Thomas Lacon of Willey, Shropshire. His was a legal family: his father was a bencher of the Inner Temple, as were his uncle Sir Thomas Bromley (d. 1555), chief justice of the king's bench, and his brother George, chief justice of Chester, whose son Edward Bromley became a baron of the exchequer in the time of James I.

The testator's wife, Isabel Egerton, was thus a half sister of Lord Chancellor Bromley, and was also a second cousin (of the half blood) of Margaret Bromley, daughter of Sir Thomas Bromley (d.1555). Margaret Bromley married Sir Richard Newport (d.1570), owner of a copy of Hall's *Chronicle* thought to contain annotations by Shakespeare,

formerly Loan 61 in the British Library, and now in the possession of a trustee, Lord Hesketh. See the *ODNB* entry for Sir Thomas Bromley (d.1555):

Bromley and his wife, Isabel, had only one child, Margaret, who married Sir Richard Newport (d. 1570), MP and member of the Inner Temple.

See also the will of Sir Richard Newport, TNA PROB 11/53/456, and the will of Margaret Bromley Newport, TNA PROB 11/93/149.

The testator and his wife were bequeathed gold rings by Lord Chancellor Bromley in his will dated 10 April 1587, TNA PROB 11/70/219.

According to the Egerton pedigree in Rylands, *supra*, p. 98, the testator's wife, Isabel Egerton, had two brothers, and two sisters:

-Ralph Egerton (d. 17 April 1610), esquire, of Betley, whom the testator appoints as one of his overseers in the will below. For the will of Ralph Egerton (d. 17 April 1610), see TNA PROB 11/116/142.

-Richard Egerton, who died without issue.

-Anne Egerton, who on 19 September 1574 married John Biest (d. 30 June 1587), gentleman, the only son of William Biest, and grandson of Roger Biest, both of Atcham, but died without issue. See Adams, *supra*, p. 24 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/betleyparishregi00pari#page/24/mode/2up>

For their monument at Atcham, see:

https://www.shropshirearchives.org.uk/collections/getrecord/CCA_X7381_15_106.

See also Harwood, H.W. Forsyth, ed., *The Genealogist*, Vol. XXXV, (London: George Bell & Sons, 1919), pp. 100-101 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/genealogist3519selb#page/n223/mode/2up>

For the pedigree of Biest, see Grazebrook, George, and John Paul Rylands, eds., *The Visitation of Shropshire Taken in the Year 1623, Part I*, Vol. XXVIII, (London: Harleian Society, 1889), p. 38 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationshrop00britgoog#page/n92/mode/2up>

-Dorothy Egerton, who married Sir Thomas Vernon (d. 9 May 1616) of Haslington, Cheshire. See the Vernon pedigree in Grazebrook, George and John Paul Rylands, *The Visitation of Shropshire Taken in the Year 1623, Part II*, Vol. XXIX, (London: Harleian Society, 1889), p. 473 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=HW5KAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA473>

Dorothy Egerton and her husband, Sir Thomas Vernon, were bequeathed gold rings by Lord Chancellor Thomas Bromley in his will dated 10 April 1587, TNA PROB 11/70/219.

By Sir Thomas Vernon, Dorothy Egerton was the mother of George Vernon (1575/6-1639), Justice of the Common Pleas, for whom see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/vernon-george-15756-1639>

After the testator's death, his widow and son, as well as Hercy Wolfreston and his wife, Mary (nee Egerton), were defendants in a lawsuit concerning lands in Audley and Betley brought by the testator's brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Sir Thomas Vernon and Dorothy Egerton. See TNA C 2/JasI/U2/9.

For a copy, dated 17 April 1620, of the inquisition post mortem taken after the death of Sir Thomas Vernon of Haslington, see Cheshire Archives DAR/A/24/1 at:

http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/r?_ep=DAR%2FA%2F24%2F1&_dss=range&_ro=any&_st=adv

For a note stating that Sir Thomas Vernon died 9 May 1616, and that his son, Sir George Vernon, was born in 1576, see Cheshire Archives DAR/D/68/35 at:

http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/r?_ep=DAR%2FD%2F68%2F35&_dss=range&_ro=any&_st=adv

For Dorothy Egerton's signature in a copy of Chaucer now in the Folger Library, STC 5074 Copy 2, see:

<https://luna.folger.edu/luna/servlet/detail/FOLGERCM1~6~6~74344~105774:The-workes-of-Geffray-Chaucer---new>

The copy of Chaucer was owned firstly by Dorothy Egerton, secondly by Anne Vernon, thirdly by Mary Egerton, daughter of Sir Ralph Egerton (d.1596) of Wrinehill and Anne Fitton, who married Hercy Wolfreston, and fourthly by their daughter-in-law, Frances Middlemore Wolfreston (1607-1677), who inscribed it 'Frances Wolfresston her bouk given her by her motherilaw mary wolfreston'. See Wiggins, Alison, 'Frances Wolfreston's Chaucer' in Lawrence-Mathers, Anne and Phillipa Hardman, eds., *Women and Writing c.1340-c.1650*, (York: The University of York, 2010), pp. 77-9 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=AfUrUZqv_2EC&pg=PA77

Only two of the testator's children are mentioned in the will below, a son, Arthur Sandford, and a daughter, Mary Sandford. According to the Sandford pedigree in Burke, *supra*, the testator had another son, Thomas Sandford, who fought on the Royalist side in the Civil War, and was 'killed at the taking of Nantwich in 1643'.

The testator's appointment of his 'son-in-law, Arthur Chamber', as one of his overseers indicates that the testator had another daughter, who it appears had predeceased him, as she is not mentioned in the will below. Nothing definitive is known of the testator's son-in-law, Arthur Chamber.

He may have been the Arthur Chamber *alias* Milward who appears in the Middle Temple records in 1554. See Martin Charles Trice, *Minutes of Parliament of the Middle Temple*, Vol. I, p. 98 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/middletemplerec00englgoog#page/n136/mode/2up>

Arthur Chamber alias Milward, son and heir apparent of Richard Chamber, of Petton, Shropshire, gentleman, generally, to Clerks' commons. Pledge, William Fowler.

In addition, the pedigree of Grosvenor shows connections between the Sandford, Chamber and Grosvenor families. The pedigree states that George Sandford (almost certainly the testator's nephew of that name), married Jane Grosvenor, daughter of Sir Richard Grosvenor (d.1542). After George Sandford's death, Jane Grosvenor married Sir William Holles. See the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/holles-sir-william-150910-91>

As noted above, Jane Grosvenor's, sister, Mary Grosvenor (d.1599), married firstly Thomas Legh (d.1548), and secondly Sir Richard Egerton (d. November 1579). Jane and Mary's brother, Sir Thomas Grosvenor (d.1549), was succeeded by his eldest son, Thomas Grosvenor (d.1579), esquire, who was in turn succeeded by his eldest son, Richard Grosvenor (d.1619), esquire, whose daughter, Eleanor Grosvenor, married Arthur Chamber, esquire, of Petton, Shropshire. See Burke, Bernard, 30th ed., *A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Peerage and Baronetage of the British Empire*, (London: Harrison, 1868), p. 1167 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=NiVNAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA1167>

RM: T{estamentum} Roberti Sandford

In the name of God, Amen. The two and twentieth day of March in the five and thirtieth 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, Robert Sandford of Sandford in the

county of Salop, esquire, being in good and perfect remembrance, thanks be unto Almighty God, do make my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First and principally I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God, assuredly believing that through his infinite mercy and the death and passion of my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, I shall inherit the kingdom of heaven;

And in charity I ask all persons' forgiveness whom I have offended, and I heartily forgive all those that have offended me;

My body I commit to be buried in the parish church of Prees in the chapel there called Saint Mary's chapel in the which my ancestors have been buried;

And I give to the reparations of the same church twenty shillings;

Also I give and bequeath to Arthur Sandford, my son and heir apparent, as heirlooms my best pot, my best pan, my brazen mortar with the pestle, my best spit and my best bed with all things thereunto belonging or for the furniture thereof, and all my implements of husbandry, all which goods so devised to my said son I will that after his death the[y] be and remain to such person or persons as then ought to have the inheritance of my manor of Sandford by force of the conveyance made concerning, amongst other things, the marriage of my said son;

The residue of all my goods, chattels, & cattles whatsoever, I do give and bequeath unto Mary Sandford, my daughter;

And I do ordain and make the said Mary Sandford my true and lawful executor of this my last will & testament;

And I do make my brother-in-law, Ralph Egerton, esquire, and Arthur Chamber, my son-in-law, overseers of the same;

In witness hereof I have hereunto put my seal, these being witness: Arthur Sandford, Arthur Chamber, George Barker, John Preston, John Preston th' younger.

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum Apud London coram venerabili viro mag^{ist}ro Iohanne Gibson legum doctore Curie prerogative Cant^{uariensis} m^{agist}ro Custode sive comissario L^{egi}time Constituto Vicesimo quarto die mensis Maij Anno Domini millesimo Quingentesimo nonagesimo Octavo Iuramento Anthonij Oulton notarij publici procur^{ator}is Marie Sandford filie dicti defuncti et Executricis in h^{uius}mo^di Testamento no^miⁿat^e Cui comissa fuit administracⁱo etc De bene et fidelit^er administrand^o etc Ad Sancta Dei Evangelia Iurat^e

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Master John Gibson, Doctor of the Laws, lawfully constituted Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the twenty-fourth day of the month of May in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred ninety-eighth by the oath of Anthony Oulton, notary public, proctor of Mary Sandford, daughter of the said deceased and executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer etc.]