

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 13 May 1490 and proved 3 December 1494, of Margaret (nee Chedworth) Wyfold Norreys Howard (d.1494), Duchess of Norfolk, mother-in-law of John Bouchier, 2nd Baron Berners, translator of *Froissart's Chronicles*, one of Shakespeare's sources.

CONNECTION TO THE EARLS OF OXFORD

The testatrix' stepson, Sir William Norreys (d.1507?), married Joan Vere, daughter of John de Vere (1408-1462), 12th Earl of Oxford, and sister of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford. See the pedigrees in Ross, James, *John de Vere, Thirteenth Earl of Oxford (1442-1513), 'The Foremost Man of the Kingdom'*, Woodbridge, Suffolk: The Boydell Press, 2011, pp. 18, 24.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Testatrix' parents

The testatrix was the daughter of Sir John Chedworth and his wife, Joan. For details of the testatrix' family, see Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 271-3. According to Broughton, Sir John Chedworth's family was from Wiltshire. See Broughton, E.M., 'John Chedworth and the Chedworth Family', *Hill and Valley: Newsletter of the Parishes of Chedworth and District*, Vol. XXXIV, No. 10, pp. 22-4, available online.

MARRIAGES

Testatrix' first marriage

The testatrix married firstly, as his third wife, Nicholas Wyfold (d.1456), Lord Mayor of London in 1450-1, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/4/424. See also Richardson, Douglas, 'Complete Peerage Addition: Elizabeth Wyfold, 2nd wife of Sir Henry Marney, 1st Lord Marney, and her mother, Margaret Chedworth, Duchess of Norfolk' at:

<https://soc.genealogy.medieval.narkive.com/ed8Xdk7L/complete-peerage-addition-elizabeth-wyfold-2nd-wife-of-sir-henry-marney-1st-lord-marney-and-her>

By Nicholas Wyfold, the testatrix had one daughter:

* **Isabel Wyfold** (d. before 10 April 1509), referred to in the will below as 'my daughter Marney'. She is referred to as 'Mistress Isabel' in the household book of the testatrix' third husband, John Howard, 1st Duke of Norfolk. See *Manners and Household Expenses in England*, (London: William Nicol, 1841), p. 586 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/cu31924027939820#page/n695/mode/2up>

Isabel Wyfold married firstly her stepbrother, John Norreys (d.1485), by whom she had a son, Edmund Norreys (1482? - 6 September 1508), who married Julyan Tyrrell (d.1556), and a daughter, Anne Norreys (living 1517), who married, as his second wife, Edward Sulyard (d.1517?), esquire, by whom she was the mother of Eustace Sulyard (d.1547). See the will of Julyan (nee Tyrrell) Norreys Norwich (d.1556), TNA PROB 11/38/70, the will of Edward Sulyard, TNA PROB 11/18/348, and the will of Eustace Sulyard, TNA PROB 11/31/508.

For John Norreys (d.1485) and Isabel Wyfold, see also:

D J Keene and Vanessa Harding, 'All Hallows Honey Lane 11/6', in *Historical Gazetteer of London Before the Great Fire Cheapside; Parishes of All Hallows Honey Lane, St Martin Pomary, St Mary Le Bow, St Mary Colechurch and St Pancras Soper Lane* (London, 1987), pp. 37-44. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/no-series/london-gazetteer-pre-fire/pp37-44> [accessed 8 September 2020].

Nicholas Wyfold died in 1456, and his widow married John Howard, duke of Norfolk (k. 1485). . . . Wyfold's heir was his daughter Isabel, who married John Nores and afterwards Sir Henry Marny, kt. (cr. Lord Marny 1523). The London properties appear to have been settled, by agreement, on Isabel's children by Sir Henry Marny. In 1503 John Marny, esquire, probably the elder son of Sir Henry by a previous marriage, and Robert Sympson, clerk, recovered certain properties in London, including 4 messuages in All Hallows Honey Lane, against Edmund Nores, son of John Nores and Isabel. The recovery was to the use of Thomas Marny, son of Sir Henry and Isabel, and his heirs, with remainders successively to Grace Marny, daughter of Sir Henry and Isabel, Edmund Nores, and Anne, wife of Edmund [sic] Suliard and daughter of John Nores and Isabel. John Marny and Robert Sympson granted the properties to Sir Henry Marny and Robert Badby, clerk, to hold for the former's life with remainders as above. In 1505 Edmund Nores quitclaimed in the property for Sir Henry Marny's life and to Thomas Marny and Grace Marny and their heirs. (fn. 14)

See also the inquisitions post mortem taken after the death of John Norreys (d.1485), TNA C 142/1/110 (Buckinghamshire), TNA C 142/1/132 (Kent), and TNA E 150/290/4 (Hertford).

After the death of John Norreys (d.1485), Isabel Wyfold married secondly, as his second wife, Henry Marney (1456/7-1523), 1st Baron Marney, son and heir of Sir John Marney (d.1470-2), by whom she had a daughter, Grace Marney (1487-c.1553), who married Sir Edmund Bedingfield (d.1553). For Henry Marney, 1st Baron Marney, see the *ODNB* entry; his will, TNA PROB 11/21/156; and Wedgwood, Josiah C., *History of Parliament*, (London: His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1936), p. 575 at:

<https://archive.org/details/in.ernet.dli.2015.210096/page/n643/mode/2up>

Henry Marney's wardship and marriage were granted by Edward IV to Richard, Duke of Gloucester, later Richard III, on 1 April 1472, and by him sold to Robert Tyrrell and Thomas Greene, esquires, on 31 July 1472. See TNA E 40/6298. The Robert Tyrrell who purchased the wardship of Henry Marney may have been Sir Robert Tyrrell (d.1508), controller of the household to John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford. For the will of Sir Robert Tyrrell, see TNA PROB 11/15/683.

See also the will of Sir Edmund Bedingfield, TNA PROB 11/36/267.

A clause in the will, TNA PROB 11/17/379, of John de Vere, 13th Earl of Oxford, establishes that Isabel Wyfold had died by 10 April 1509, the date on which the Earl made his will:

Item, I will that my cousin, Sir Henry Marney, knight, shall have £40 in money in full recompense of such goods as the same Sir Henry claimeth or may claim in the right of his late wife, the daughter of Wyfold, if the same Sir Henry can make mine executors a lawful discharge for it against all manner persons, or else not.

Testatrix' second marriage

The testatrix married secondly, as his third wife, John Norreys (d. 1 September 1466), esquire, Treasurer of the Queen's Chamber. See his will, TNA PROB 11/5/240, and the transcript in Kerry, Charles, *The History and Antiquities of the Hundred of Bray in the County of Berks.*, (London: Savill and Edwards, 1861), p. 116-20 at:

<https://archive.org/details/historyandantiq00kerrgoog/page/n131/mode/2up>

In the will, John Norreys (d. 1 September 1466) mentions three wives, Alice [nee Merbrooke], Eleanor [nee Clitherow] and Margaret [nee Chedworth], a brother, William Norreys, and four sons and two daughters: Sir William Norreys (d.1507?), eldest son and heir, John Norreys the elder, John Norreys the younger, and William Norreys, youngest son, as well as Anne [sic for Jane?] Norreys, eldest daughter, and Lettice Norreys, youngest daughter.

A fine dated 1 July 1462, TNA CP 25/1/294/74, No. 8, establishes that the elder John Norreys and Sir William Norreys were the sons of John Norreys (d. 1 September 1466) by his first wife, Alice, that the younger John Norreys was the son of John Norreys (d. 1 September 1466) by his second wife, Eleanor, and that the younger William Norreys was the son of John Norreys (d. 1 September 1466) by the testatrix. See:

http://www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk/fines/abstracts/CP_25_1_294_74.shtml

[Manor of Tythrop] . . . to hold to John Norreys and Margaret and the male heirs of their bodies, of the chief lords for ever. In default of such heirs, successive remainders (1)

to John Norreys, son of the aforesaid John Norreys and of Alice, formerly the wife of the same John Norreys the father, and the male heirs of his body, (2) to William Norreys, knight, son of the aforesaid John Norris the father and of Alice, and the male heirs of his body, (3) to John Norreys, son of the aforesaid John Norreys the father and of Eleanor, late his wife, and the male heirs of his body and (4) to the right heirs of the aforesaid John Norreys the father. . . .

[Manor of Purley Parva] to hold to John Norreys the father and Margaret, without impeachment of waste, of the chief lords for the lives of John Norreys the father and Margaret. And after the decease of John and Margaret the same manor and tenements shall remain to the aforesaid John Norreys, son of the aforesaid John Norreys the father and of Alice, and the male heirs of his body, to hold of the chief lords for ever. In default of such heirs, successive remainders (1) to the aforesaid William Norreys, knight, son of the same John Norreys the father and of Alice, and the male heirs of his body, (2) to the aforesaid John Norreys, son of the aforesaid John Norreys the father and of Eleanor, and the male heirs of his body, (3) to William Norreys, son of the aforesaid John Norreys the father and of Margaret, and the male heirs of his body and (4) to the right heirs of the aforesaid John Norreys the father.

For the manor of Purley Parva, see also:

'Parishes: Purley', in *A History of the County of Berkshire: Volume 3*, ed. P H Ditchfield and William Page (London, 1923), pp. 417-422. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/berks/vol3/pp417-422> [accessed 18 September 2020].

Nothing further appears to be known about the elder John Norreys, son of John Norreys (d. 1 September 1466) and Alice Merbrooke, and it appears he died without issue.

It thus appears that it was the younger John Norreys (d.1485), son of John Norreys (d. 1 September 1466) and Eleanor Clitherow, who married Isabel Wyfold since the manors in Kent mentioned in the inquisitions post mortem taken after his death descended to their son, Edmund Norreys (1482? - 6 September 1508), from Eleanor Clitherow (see above). See TNA C 142/1/110 (Buckinghamshire), TNA C 142/1/132 (Kent), and TNA E 150/290/4 (Hertford), and 'Notes for John Norreys and Isabel Wyfold' at:

<https://www-personal.umich.edu/~bobwolfe/gen/mn/m21334x12215.htm>

See also the inquisition post mortem taken after the death of Edmund Norreys, TNA C 142/22/33, and *Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem, Henry VII*, Vol. III, (London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1955), p. 303 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/calendarofinquis03great#page/303/mode/1up>

As noted above, Sir William Norreys (d.1507?), the son of John Norreys (d. 1 September 1466) by his first wife, Alice Merbrooke, married Joan Vere, daughter of John de Vere

(1408-1462), 12th Earl of Oxford. For Sir William Norreys (d.1507?), see Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 350-1.

By John Norreys (d. 1 September 1466), the testatrix had a son and two daughters:

* **William Norreys.** He is referred to as ‘Master William’ in a list of persons in the household of his stepfather, John Howard, 1st Duke of Norfolk, but appears to have predeceased the testatrix, as he is not mentioned in the will below.

* **Jane Norreys** (d. 20 February 1501). She is referred to as ‘Mistress Jane’ in a list of persons in the household of her stepfather, John Howard, 1st Duke of Norfolk, and in the will below as ‘my daughter Redmyll’. It is difficult to establish her parentage with certainty since the PCC copy of the will of her father, John Norreys (d. 1 October 1466) does not mention a daughter named Jane; the will does, however, mention a daughter named Anne. Crawford, *infra*, notes that ‘the names Anne and Jane are easily confused’, and suggests that the transcriber of the PCC copy of the will of John Norreys may have mistakenly written ‘Anne’ instead of ‘Jane’.

Jane Norreys married Sir William Radmyld (d.1499), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/11/582. She is not mentioned in the will, which names two children by his mistress, Anne Herbert, and two children by another unnamed mistress. For the will of Jane (nee Norreys) Radmyld, in which she requests burial ‘at the end of the tomb of my Lady, my mother, sometime Duchess of Norfolk’, see TNA PROB 11/12/387. For her monumental inscription, see Torlesse, C.M., ‘Stoke-by-Nayland Church’, *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, (Bury St Edmunds, 1774), Vol. IV, pp. 183-207 at p. 189:

<http://books.google.com/books?id=cQIVAAAAQAAJ&pg=RA1-PA189>

Forster erroneously states that Jane was the daughter of the testatrix’ third husband, John Howard, 1st Duke of Norfolk. See Foster, Joseph, *The Royal Lineage of Our Noble and Gentle Families*, (London: Hazell, Watson, and Viney, Limited, 1884), p. 164 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=fT8IAwAAQBAJ&pg=PA197-IA57&lpg>

Crawford states that Sir William Radmyld married the testatrix’ daughter, Lettice Norreys (see below); however in light of the monumental inscription and the will of Jane Radmyld, this also appears to be an error. See Crawford, Anne, *Yorkist Lord: John Howard, Duke of Norfolk c.1425-1485*, (London: Bloomsbury Academic), at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=RzPF_dPtpQC&pg=PT168

For Jane Norreys, see also ‘Margaret Chedworth, Duchess of Norfolk’s middle daughter, Joan (or Jane), wife of William Radmylde, Knt.’ at:

<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!topic/soc.genealogy.medieval/hr8-Qedir5M>

* **Lettice Norreys.** She is referred to as ‘Mistress Lettice’ in a list of persons in the household of her stepfather, John Howard,, 1st Duke of Norfolk. Nothing further is known of her, and it appears she died without issue.

As was customary at the time, a child of the testatrix by her first husband married into the family of the testatrix’ second husband. As noted above, by his second wife, Eleanor Clitherow (living 1455), John Norreys (d. 1 September 1466) was the father of John Norreys (d.1485), who married his stepsister, the testatrix’ daughter, Isabel Wyfold (see above).

Testatrix’ third marriage

The testatrix married thirdly John Howard, 1st Duke of Norfolk, slain at the Battle of Bosworth 22 August 1485. The testatrix’ third husband was the son of Robert Howard (d.1436), half brother of Sir John Howard (1385-1410), father-in-law of John de Vere (1408-1462), 12th Earl of Oxford. See the pedigree in Ross, *supra*, p. 24.

By her third husband the testatrix had a daughter:

* **Katherine Howard** (d.1536), who married John Bouchier (1467-1533), 2nd Baron Berners, translator of *Froissart’s Chronicles*, by whom she had three sons and four daughters, including Joan Bouchier (d. 17 February 1562), who married Sir Edmund Knyvet (d. 1 May 1539), sergeant porter to Henry VIII, and was her father’s heir. See the monumental inscription at Ashwellthorpe, Norfolk, at:

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/106857405/jane-knyvett>

JANE KNYVET resteth here, the only heir by Right, / Of the Lord BERNERS that Sir JOHN BOURCHIER hight, / Twenty Years and three, A Widdows Lyff she ledd, / Always keeping howse, where Rych and Poor were fedd, / Gentyll, just, quyet, void of Debate and Stryff, / ever doying Good; Lo! thus she led her Lyff, / Even unto the Grave, where Erth on Erth doth lye, / On whose Soul GOD grant of his aboundant Mercy / The xvii of February Ao. Dni. MDLXI.

Sir Edmund Knyvet (d. 1 May 1539) was the son of Sir Edmund Knyvet (d.1504) and Eleanor Tyrrell (d.1514), the daughter of Sir William Tyrrell (executed 23 February 1462) of Gipping, Suffolk, by Margaret Darcy, the daughter of Sir Robert Darcy. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 190 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=kjme027UeagC&pg=RA1-PA190>

Sir William Tyrrell was allegedly involved in a conspiracy with John de Vere (1408-1462), 12th Earl of Oxford, and was beheaded on Tower Hill 23 February 1462:

And the 12 day of February th' Earl of Oxenford and ther [sic] Lord Aubrey Vere, his son, Sir Thomas Tuddenham, William Tyrrell and other were brought into the Tower of London. And upon the 20 day of the said month the said Lord Aubrey was drawn from Westminster to the Tower Hill and there beheaded. And the 23 day of the said month of February Sir Thomas Tuddenham, William Tyrrell and John Montgomery were beheaded at said Tower Hill. And upon the Friday next following, which was the 26 day of February, th' Earl of Oxenford was led upon foot from Westminster unto the Tower Hill, and there beheaded, and after the corpse was had unto the Friar Augustines', and there buried in the choir.

See Ross, James, *John de Vere, Thirteenth Earl of Oxford (1442-1513)*, (Woodbridge, Suffolk: The Boydell Press, 2011), p. 39, 42.

See also the *ODNB* entries for John Howard, 1st Duke of Norfolk, and John Bouchier, 2nd Baron Berners; the Wikipedia entry for John Bouchier edited by the author of this website; the will of Edmund Knyvet, esquire, of Ashwellthorpe, proved in 1546 in the Norwich Consistory Court, Will Register Hyll 241; and the will of Jane Knyvet, proved in 1562 in the Norwich Consistory Court, Will Register Cowlles 197.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

The testatrix' executor, Edmund Danyell (d.1498?) of Stoke by Nayland, Suffolk, was the son of Sir Thomas Danyell of Rathwire, Ireland, constable of Dublin Castle, by Margaret Howard, sister of John Howard (d.1485), 1st Duke of Norfolk, and was thus the Duke's nephew of the whole blood. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, pp. 270-3, and the will of Edmund Danyell, TNA PROB 11/11/526. For Thomas Danyell, see:

<http://www.prattens.co.uk/THOMAS/THOMAS.HTML>

Edmund Danyell's son, John Danyell (c.1486 - 5 September 1556) of Messing, was receiver to Elizabeth (nee Scrope) Beaumont de Vere, Countess of Oxford, widow of John de Vere, 13th Earl of Oxford. See her will, TNA PROB 11/27/144.

Alison Walys mentioned in the will below is also mentioned, together with her sister, Jennet Wales, and brother, John Wales, in the will of the testatrix' second husband, John Norreys (d. 1 September 1466). The names of Jennet, Alison and John Wales are included in the will of John Norreys without any indication of their relationship to him, and it seems possible they were his illegitimate children.

For the Wales family, see also 'Anne Norreys, 2nd wife of Edward Sulyard, daughter of Isabell/Elizabeth Wyfold, granddaughter of Margaret Chedworth sometime Duchess of Norfolk' at:

https://groups.google.com/forum/#!topic/soc.genealogy.medieval/1_1_wIP3TEg

RM: Testamentum d{omi}ne Margarete nup{er} duciss{e} Norff

In Dei nomine amen. I, Margaret, Duchess of Norfolk, the 13 day of May in the year of Our Lord God 1490, being of good and perfect mind, make my testament in this wise:

First I bequeath my soul to the Holy Blessed Trinity, Our Lady, and to all the saints in heaven, my body to be buried in the choir of the church of Our Lady in Stoke before her image on the side of the high altar;

Item, I bequeath unto the said high altar 40s;

Item, to the reparations of the said church 5 mark;

Also I will that immediately after my decease, beside the day of my burying, that mine executors do find 300 priests, secular and religious, to say 300 Masses and dirges for my soul, so that it be done within 8 or 10 days after my decease, every priest having for his labour 4d;

Moreover I will that mine executors, as hastily as they may do, find 2 virtuous priests to sing in the church of Stoke by the space of 3 year for my soul, my lords John Norreys, esquire, Nicholas Wyfold, and for all other that I have be[en] behold[en] to;

I will also that the house of Saint John of Colchester have 26s 8d to keep mine obit and to pray for me;

And to the house of Saint Botolph's to keep mine obit day and to pray for me 20s;

Item, to the Grey Friars to keep mine obit and pray for me 20s;

Item, to the nuns of Bruisyard to keep mine obit and pray for me 26s 8d;

Item, to the friars of Clare to keep the day of mine obit 26s 8d;

And to Doctor Stokys to say a trental for me 13s 4d;

Item, to the friars of Sudbury to keep the day of mine obit 20s;

Item, to the guild of Saint John in Stoke 20s to pray for me and that they say [f. 127v] for my soul 5 dirges and 5 Masses within a quarter of a year after my decease;

Moreover I bequeath and give to my daughter, the Lady Barnes [=Berners], and to my son [=son-in-law], her husband, after my decease all the stuff that longeth to my household except my plate;

Also I give them the stuff of my chapel with the chalice;

Also I will that they have 2 great pots of silver, 2 flagons of silver, 6 great bowls with a covering, for the which I have required mine executors to show my mind therein;

Also I bequeath to Alison Walys 53s 4d;

And to Agnes Banyard [=Baynard?] 26s 8d to pray for me;

Item, I bequeath to my daughter Redmyll [=Radmyld] a plain basin and an ewer of silver;

Item, I give to her an ewer parcel gilt;

Item, I bequeath to my daughter Marney a chain of water flowers;

Item, to Margaret West(?) 26s 8d;

Item, to Katherine Frere 5s;

To William Frettysham 6s 8d;

And to Bullok 26s 8d;

And to all other of my servants after the disposition of mine executors, whom I ordain and make Edmund Danyell, esquire, and Thomas Swayne, vicar of the church of Stoke Nayland;

And supervisor of this my Lord and son [=stepson] th' Earl of Surrey, to whom I give a cope(?) of cloth of gold and a cross with a foot(?) silver and gilt;

The residue of my goods not bequeathed I give to the disposition of mine executors, and that they dispose them after the mind I have showed them;

These being witness: John, the Lord Barnes [=Berners], John Stokes, Doctor, Sir William Tyler, priest, and other.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentu{m} Coram etc Apud Lamehith iijcio Die mens{is} decembris Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo CCCC Nonagesimo iiijto Iuramento Edm{u}ndi Danyell & Thome Swayne executorum &c Ac approbatu{m} &c Et com{m}issa fuit admi{ni}stracio omniu{m} bonoru{m} &c Dictis executoribus De bene &c Ac de pleno Inuentario &c citra festum sancti Nich{ola}i proximo etc Necnon de plano & vero compoto &c iurat{is} &c

[=The above-written testament was proved before etc. at Lambeth on the 3rd day of the month of December in the year of the Lord the thousand 400 ninety 4th by the oath of Edmund Danyell & Thomas Swayne, executors etc., and probated etc., and administration was granted of all the goods etc. to the said executors, sworn etc. to well etc., and [+to exhibit] a full inventory etc. before the feast of Saint Nicholas next etc., and also [+to render?] a plain & true account etc.]