

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 19 January 1501 and proved 16 March 1501, of Nicholas Chedworth, esquire, brother-in-law of Sir William Carew (d.1501), a descendant of Robert de Vere (d.1221), 3rd Earl of Oxford, one of the 25 Magna Carta barons, and a half brother of John de Vere (d.1486), father of John de Vere (c.1482-1540), 15th Earl of Oxford.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the testator's family background, see the will of his sister, Elizabeth (nee Chedworth) Blake Audley, TNA PROB 11/29/21, and the will of his brother-in-law, Sir William Carew, TNA PROB 11/12/390.

MARRIAGE

The maiden name of the testator's wife is unknown. After the testator's death she married George Conghurst, mentioned in the will below, by whom she had two daughters:

-Barbara Conghurst, who married Richard Bishop.

-Mildred Conghurst, who married firstly Thomas Scott, by whom she was the mother of George Scott, and secondly John Eston. See TNA C 1/123/38-40, a Chancery suit from the period 1554-1551 brought by Richard Bishop of Cranbrook and Barbara, his wife, against George Scott and John Eston concerning lands in Hawkhurst and Sandhurst, 'late of George Congherst and Margaret his wife, parents of the said Barbara and of Mildred, mother of the said Scott and [afterwards the wife] of the said Eston. Kent'.

LM: Test{amentum} Nich{ola}i Chedworth

In the name of Jesu, Amen. The 19 day of the month of January in the year of Our Lord God 1500 and the 16 year of the reign of King Henry the 7th, I, Nicholas Chedworth, squire, of Hackney, whole in mind, being laud unto Almighty God, revoking and renouncing all other my wills and testaments before this present day by me before made, make and ordain now this my testament and last will:

First I recommend my soul unto Almighty God and Blessed Lady Saint Mary and to all saints, and my body to be buried in the parish church of Stepney in the county of Middlesex in the chapel of the Holy Trinity in the said church where that my father and mother be;

Item, I bequeath to the high altar of Stepney for my tithes forgotten 10s;

Item, I bequeath to the wardens of the said church for breaking and making of my grave in the said chapel 6s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to the wardens of the parish church of Hackney toward the reparations there 6s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to George Conghurst my best gown furred with foins;

Item, I bequeath for my expenses to be done on the day of my sepulture and month's day 20 marks;

The residue of all my goods and chattels movable & unmovable, my debts paid and legacies performed, I give and bequeath unto Margaret, my wife, the which I ordain and make to execute this my last will and testament mine executrice;

Item, as to the disposition of all my lands and tenements as well in the city of London as in the shires of Middlesex and Essex and elsewhere within the realm of England, I will that Margaret, my wife, have and enjoy them in like form and effect to her and to her heirs for evermore according to the effect of certain estates made and taken to her & to me by my feoffees at my request in my said lands and tenements, without any interruption or contradiction of any of mine heirs or any other persons by me or by mine ancestors, any other will or feoffment made to the contrary;

In witness whereof to this my present last will I have set to my seal and subscribed the same with mine own hand the day and year abovesaid in the presence of John Bettys, baker of Hackney, Robert Ecclysfeld, clerk, Richard Dene, John Skylle, Robert Lawrence, Thomas Shaa & other.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum coram Magistro Willmo Barons legum doctore prerogative ecclesie xpi Cantuariensis sede Archiepiscopali vacante commissario xvjo die mensis Marcij Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo Iuramento Valentini Mason ltrati procuratoris in hac parte Ac approbatum et insinatum Et commissaria fuit admistratio Margarete Relicte et executori in huiusmodi testimonio nominatim in persona dicti procuratoris De bene et fideliter admistratio Ac de pleno et fideliter Inuentario citra festum Pasche proximum futurum exhibendo Necnon de plano et vero comperto reddendo in debita Iuris forma iuratim

[=The above-written testament was proved before Master William Barons, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Church of Christ of Canterbury, the Archiepiscopal seat [now being] vacant, on the 16th day of the month of March in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundredth by the oath of Valentine Mason, learned, proctor in that behalf, and probated and entered, and administration was granted to Margaret, relict and executor

named in the same testament in the person of the said proctor, sworn in due form of law to well and faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full and faithful inventory before the feast of Easter next to come, and also to render a plain and true account.]