

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 7 September 1509 and proved 1 February 1510, of Ralph Leigh (d. 6 November 1509), esquire, step-grandfather of Queen Katherine Howard; of Oxford's friend, Sir George Howard; and of Margaret Howard, the mother of Oxford's one-time friend and later bitter enemy, Charles Arundel (d.1587), son of Sir Thomas Arundell (c.1502-1552).

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the testator's family background, see Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, pp. 276-9, and Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. IV, pp. 107-9 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=8JcbV309c5UC&pg=RA3-PA108>

See also the pedigree of Leigh of Stockwell in Allen, Thomas, *The History and Antiquities of the Parish of Lambeth*, (London: J. Allen, 1826), p. 276 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=xvQgAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA276>

It should be noted that the pedigree in Burgon contains significant errors. See Burgon, John William, *The Life and Times of Sir Thomas Gresham*, (London: Robert Jennings, 1839), Vol. I, p. 467 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=ZH8EAAAQAQAJ&pg=PA467>

For wills of members of the Leigh family, see Hooper, Hilda J., 'Some Surrey Wills in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, Part I', *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, Vol. LI, (Farnham: E. W. Langham, 1950), p. 85 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/surreyarchaeolog51surruoft#page/84/mode/2up>

Testator's parents

The testator was the son of Ralph Leigh, esquire, Serjeant of the Acatry, and Customer of London, and Elizabeth Langley (living 1471), the daughter and heir of Henry Langley, esquire, of Rickling, Essex. For the Langley family, see:

'Lolworth: Manor', in *A History of the County of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely: Volume 9, Chesterton, Northstowe, and Papworth Hundreds*, ed. A P M Wright and C P Lewis (London, 1989), pp. 157-159. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/cambs/vol9/pp157-159> [accessed 17 October 2020].

Testator's siblings

According to the pedigree of Leigh of Stockwell, *supra*, the testator had three brothers and five sisters:

-**Sir John Leigh** (d. 17 August 1523), who married Isabel Worsley (c.1460 - 18 April 1527), daughter of Otwell Worsley (c.1410 - 24 March 1470), esquire, of Southwark, Surrey, and widow of Richard Culpeper (c.1430 - 4 October 1484), by whom he had a son, John Leigh, and a daughter, Joyce Leigh, who died as infants, leaving his nephew, Sir John Leigh or Legh (1502-1564?), as his heir. See the will of Sir John Leigh, TNA PROB 11/21/241. See also the will of Isabel (nee Worsley) Culpeper Leigh, dated 6 April 1527, TNA PROB 11/22/332. For summaries of the wills of Sir John Leigh and Isabel Worsley, see Hooper, *supra*, pp. 87-90 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/surreyarchaeolog51surruoft#page/86/mode/2up>

-**John Leigh**, who died without issue.

-**Allen Leigh**, who died without issue.

-**Jane Leigh**, abbess of St Mary's, Winchester.

-**Margaret Leigh** (d. 10 September 1487), who married Sir Edmund Denny (d.1520), Chief Baron of the Exchequer, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/19/409.

-**Alice Leigh**, who died without issue.

-**Katherine Leigh**, who married a husband surnamed Quixley, of London.

-**Margaret Leigh**, who married firstly Henry Frowyk (d. 3 October 1505) of Gunnersbury, Middlesex, by whom she had a son, Thomas Frowyk, aged 14 in 1508. See:

'Inquisitions: Henry VII', in *Abstracts of Inquisitiones Post Mortem For the City of London: Part I*, ed. G S Fry (London, 1896), pp. 5-27. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/inquis-post-mortem/abstract/no1/pp5-27> [accessed 18 October 2020].

Margaret Leigh married secondly Walter Forde, Remembrancer of the Exchequer.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married Joyce Culpeper (born c.1480), the daughter of Richard Culpeper (c.1430 - 4 October 1484), esquire, of Oxon Hoath in West Peckham, Kent, by his second

wife, Isabel Worsley. See *Plantagenet Ancestry, supra*, Vol. III, pp. 276-8, and *Magna Carta Ancestry, supra*, Vol. IV, pp. 107-9 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=8JcbV309c5UC&pg=RA3-PA108>

See also Davis, Walter Goodwin, *The Ancestry of Mary Isaac*, (Portland, Maine, 1955), pp. 348-55 at:

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=wu.89062912860&view=1up&seq=446>

By Joyce Culpeper, the testator had two sons and three daughters:

* **Sir John Leigh** (1502-1564?), eldest son. He was among those knighted (as 'John a Lee') on 2 October 1553, the day after the coronation of Queen Mary. He married a wife named Elizabeth, whose surname is unknown, by whom he had a daughter, Agnes Leigh (d. before 1590), who married firstly, Sir Thomas Paston (c.1515 – 4 September 1550), a gentleman of Henry VIII's Privy Chamber, the fourth but third surviving son of Sir William Paston (c.1479-1554) and Bridget Heydon, and secondly, Edward Fitzgerald, (17 January 1528-1597), a younger brother of Gerald FitzGerald (1525-1597), 11th Earl of Kildare, by whom she was the mother of Gerald FitzGerald, 14th Earl of Kildare.

Leigh was in Cardinal Wolsey's household as a youth, had travelled to Jerusalem before 1538, was a prisoner in the Tower in that year, was in Antwerp in September 1561, and was a friend of Sir Thomas Gresham; according to Gresham, Leigh was 'the man that preserved me when Queen Mary came to the crown'. In 1541 Leigh was called before the Privy Council to answer for having twice had contact with Cardinal Pole while on the continent. According to Warnicke, Leigh's half-sister, Queen Katherine Howard, had once 'obtained the release from prison of her kinsman John Legh', and it seems likely that it was on this occasion that the Queen exercised her influence on Leigh's behalf. Leigh is perhaps best known for a quarrel with his kinsman (and Oxford's uncle), Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey. On 13 July 1542 Howard was committed to the 'pestilent ayres' of the Fleet by the Privy Council for having struck Leigh. Three weeks later Howard met with the King, and after entering into a recognizance on 5 August in the amount of 10,000 marks to guarantee his future good behaviour towards Leigh, was released from custody. According to Burgon, Leigh himself was subsequently committed to the Fleet in August 1547, released after entering into a recognizance in the amount of £2000 to guarantee his good behaviour, and again confined to prison in November of that year, on both occasions for reasons unknown. See Burgon, John William, *The Life and Times of Sir Thomas Gresham*, (London: Robert Jennings, 1839), Vol. I, p. 469 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=ZH8EAAAQAQAJ&pg=PA469>

Leigh made his last will, TNA PROB 11/48/372, on 30 April 1563, to which he added a codicil on 14 March 1564. The will was proved on 5 February 1566. Leigh's principal heir was his nephew, John Leigh (d. 19 or 20 January 1576), son of his brother Ralph Leigh (d. before 1563). Although Leigh bequeathed his wife, Elizabeth, an annuity, the

will reveals that he had earlier divorced her 'on certain sufficient grounds'. Leigh died in 1564, and was buried in the church of St. Margaret, Lothbury. Stow has preserved his epitaph, which states that he was 'to sundry countries known/ A worthy knight, well of his prince esteemed'.

* **Ralph Leigh** (d. before 1563), who married Margaret Ireland, the daughter of William Ireland, esquire, by whom he had a daughter, Frances Leigh, who married Edward Morgan, and a son, John Leigh (d. 19 or 20 January 1576), esquire, who married Margery Saunders, widow of the London mercer, Robert Wolman (d.1571), and daughter of Thomas Saunders, gentleman, of Uxbridge, Middlesex. As noted above, Ralph Leigh's son, John, was heir to his uncle, Sir John Leigh (1502–1564). After John Leigh's death in 1576, Margery (nee Saunders) Wolman Leigh married thirdly Sir William Killigrew (d. 23 November 1622), by whom she had a son, Robert Killigrew, and two daughters, Katherine Killigrew, who married Sir Thomas Jermyn, and Elizabeth Killigrew, who married Sir Maurice Berkeley (c.1576 – 1617), whose mother, Margaret Lygon (d.1616) was also the mother of Thomas Russell, overseer of the will of William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon. See *Magna Carta Ancestry, supra*, Vol. IV, p. 109; the will of Thomas Saunders, proved 6 November 1565, TNA PROB 11/48/283; the will of Robert Wolman, proved 2 February 1571, TNA PROB 11/53/53; the will of Sir William Killigrew, see TNA PROB 11/140/505; the will of Margery (nee Saunders) Wolman Leigh Killigrew, proved 14 June 1625, TNA PROB 11/146/44; Hotson, Leslie, *I, William Shakespeare Do Appoint Thomas Russell, Esquire*, (London: Jonathan Cape, 1937), pp. 260; and the Wikipedia entry for Sir Maurice Berkeley edited by the author of this website.

* **Isabel Leigh** (d. 16 February 1573), Lady of the Privy Chamber to her half sister, Queen Katherine Howard, who married firstly, by 1531, as his second wife, Sir Edward Baynton (c.1495 - 27 November 1544), son of Sir John Baynton (d. 31 October 1516) by Joan Digges, the daughter of Thomas Digges; secondly, as his second wife, Sir James Stumpe (d. 29 April 1563); and thirdly Thomas Stafford, esquire, of Bromham, Wiltshire. For Sir Edward Baynton, see *Magna Carta Ancestry, supra*, Vol. I, p. 131-2, the *ODNB* entry for the Baynton family, and the will of Sir Edward Baynton, TNA PROB 11/30/431. For Sir James Stumpe, see his will, TNA PROB 11/46/257, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/stumpe-sir-james-1519-63>

* **Joyce Leigh**, who married John Stanney, esquire, son of John Stanney, esquire, whom she predeceased, and by whom she had two sons William Stanney of Easton in Sidlesham, Sussex, who married Gertrude Wells, the daughter of Thomas Wells, and John Stanney, and four daughters, Joyce Stanney, who married Henry Mychell (see TNA C 1/1310-40-44), Mary Stanney, Cecily Stanney and Constance Stanney. See the will of John Stanney, proved 28 October 1553, TNA PROB 11/36/263; the will of William Stanney, proved 10 October 1567, TNA PROB 11/49/281; and Bannerman, W. Bruce,

ed., *The Visitations of the County of Sussex*, (London: Harleian Society, 1905), Vol. LIII, p. 67 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationscoun00owengooog#page/n62/mode/2up>

* **Margaret Leigh**, who married William Rice, an illegitimate son of Sir Rhys ap Thomas (d.1525), K.G. Margaret Leigh's husband, William Rice, was the step-uncle of Sir Griffith Rhys (executed 1531), who married Katherine Howard (d.1554), the daughter of Thomas Howard, 2nd Duke of Norfolk. See 'RICE family, of Newton and Dynevor, Carmarthenshire' at:

<https://biography.wales/article/s-RICE-NEW-1500>

See also:

<https://soc.genealogy.medieval.narkive.com/HdWcf6d4/burkes-peerage>

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<https://soc.genealogy.medieval.narkive.com/HdWcf6d4/burkes-peerage>

By William Rice, Margaret Leigh had three sons, Thomas, Henry and Richard Rice and a daughter, Eleanor Rice. See Hooper, Hilda J., 'Some Surrey Wills in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, Part I', *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, Vol. LI, (Farnham: E. W. Langham, 1950), p. 91 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/surreyarchaeolog51surruoft#page/90/mode/2up>

See also the Rhys pedigree in Clark, Nicola, 'Dynastic Politics: Five Women of the Howard Family During the Reign of Henry VIII, 1509-1547', Ph.D thesis, University of London, 2013, p. 312, available as a pdf file online.

After the testator's death, Joyce Culpeper married secondly Lord Edmund Howard (c. 1478 – 19 March 1539), a younger son of Thomas Howard, 2nd Duke of Norfolk, by his first wife, Elizabeth Tilney, daughter and heiress of Frederick Tilney, esquire, of Ashwellthorpe, Norfolk, by whom she had three sons and three daughters:

(1) Henry Howard (living 1541) of Lambeth, eldest son. Although most sources state that he died young, he was in fact a Gentleman of the Privy Chamber to Henry VIII, and married a wife named Anne who was in the service of Queen Katherine Howard and was implicated in her downfall. See Brenan, Gerald and Edward Phillips Statham, *The House of Howard*, (London: Hutchinson & Co., 1907), Vol. I, pp. 235, 282-3, 325 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/houseofhoward01bren#page/n369/mode/2up>

To these were added some of the Queen's train, such as her sister-in-law, Ann Howard, "wife to her eldest brother, Henry Howard, esquire, of Lambeth" . . . Henry Howard himself does not appear to have been implicated, although a few weeks before, while the scandal was still young, Marillac had notified the King of France that "the Lord Henry Howard, the Queen's brother, a gentleman of the King's Privy chamber, had been exiled from Court, without being told the cause or reason of it."

See also Brenan, *supra*, Vol. II, pp. 282-3, 307, 325, 339-41 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/houseofhoward01bren#page/282/mode/2up>

and:

<https://archive.org/details/houseofhowar02bren/page/338/mode/2up>

(2) Sir Charles Howard, (living 1545), second son, banished from court by Henry VIII for falling in love with Margaret Douglas (1515-1578), later Countess of Lennox, while she was serving as first lady of honour to his sister, Queen Katherine Howard. He accompanied Edward Seymour, Earl of Hertford, on an incursion into Scotland, and was knighted at Leith on 13 May 1544. See the *ODNB* entry for Margaret Douglas; Brenan, *supra*, Vol. I, pp. 283, 305-7, 321, and Vol. II, pp. 341, 358, 382; and Shaw, William A., *The Knights of England*, (London: Sherratt and Hughes, 1906), Vol. II, p. 55.

(3) Sir George Howard (c.1519-1580), Oxford's friend, for whom see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/howard-sir-george-1519-80>

(4) Margaret Howard (d. 10 October 1571), who married Sir Thomas Arundell (beheaded 26 February 1552), by whom she had two sons, Sir Matthew Arundell of Wardour Castle, and Oxford's one-time friend and later bitter enemy, Charles Arundel (d.1587), and two daughters, Dorothy Arundell (c.1536-78), who married Sir Henry Weston (1535 – 11 April 1592), and Jane Arundell, who married Sir William Bevill (d.1600). For the will of Sir Matthew Arundell, see TNA PROB 11/93/86. See also *Magna Carta Ancestry*, *supra*, Vol. I, p. 44.

(5) Queen Katherine Howard (c. 1521 - 13 February 1542), fifth wife of Henry VIII.

(6) Mary Howard, who married, as his first wife, Edmund Trafford (23 June 1526 – 14 May 1590), the eldest son of Sir Edmund Trafford and Anne Ratcliffe, the daughter of Sir Alexander Ratcliffe of Ordsall, by whom she had no issue. He was knighted at Leith on 11 May 1544. See Shaw, *supra*, p. 55, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/trafford-edmund-i-1526-90>

After the death of Joyce Culpeper, Lord Edmund Howard married secondly Dorothy Troyes (d. 11 May 1530), daughter of Thomas Troyes, esquire, of Kilmeston, Hampshire, and widow of Sir William Uvedale (d. 28 November 1528), and thirdly, before 12 July 1537, Margaret Munday (d. 1565), daughter of Sir John Munday (d. 1537), Lord Mayor of London, and widow of Nicholas Jenyn (d. 1532). See the will of Sir John Munday, TNA PROB 11/27/118.

For Dorothy Troyes and Sir William Uvedale, see his will, TNA PROB 11/23/53, and the Uvedale pedigree in Leveson Gower, Granville, 'Notices of the Family of Uvedale of Titsey, Surrey, and Wickham, Hants.', *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, (London: Lovell Reeve & Co., 1865), Vol. III, pp. 63-192 at p. 186:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=scgxAQAAIAAJ&pg=PA186>

For further details see *Plantagenet Ancestry, supra, Magna Carta Ancestry, supra*, and Davis, *supra*, pp. 348-55 at:

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=wu.89062912860&view=1up&seq=446>

See also the Wikipedia entry edited by the author of this website at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joyce_Culpeper

RM: Test{amentu}m Rad{ulph}i Lygh

In Dei nomine amen. I, Ralph Leigh, by this my last will made the 7th day of September the first year of King Henry the 8th, I revoke all wills made before the same day, and I bequeath my soul to the mercy of God Almighty, my body to be buried where it shall please God that I shall depart, without my body may be conveyed to Lambeth with the expense of 40s;

I require my wife in the way of charity to cause 3 trentals to be songen for me shortly after my death, one at the Friars of Greenwich, another at Charterhouse of London, and the 3rd at Syon;

I bequeath to God and my brother all my children if my brother will have them, desiring him of brotherhood to be good to them, trusting they will be the servant of God and to pray for him and me and for other of their friends;

My mind is there should not be above £5 spent at my burial;

Mine executor I make my wife, and to God and her I commit the principal rule of my children, goods and lands, trusting in God and that she serve God as I think verily she will, that she and all the children shall have grace and good fortune, Amen.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum coram domino apud Lambeth primo die mensis februarii Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo nono Iuramento Magistri Willielmi Potkyn procuratoris in hac parte Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et commissum fuit administratio omnium bonorum et debitorum dicti defuncti (blank) Relicte & executrici in huiusmodi testamentum nominata in persona dicti procuratoris De bene & fideliter administrando Ac de pleno et fidei Inuentario citra festum sancti David Episcopi proximum futurum exhibendo Necnon de plano & vero computo reddendo ad sancta dei euangelia(?) in debita iuris forma iuratum

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord at Lambeth on the first day of the month of February in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred ninth by the oath of Master William Potkyn, proctor in that respect, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all the goods and debts of the said deceased to (blank), relict & executrix named in the same testament, in the person of the said proctor, sworn on the Holy Gospels in due form of law to well & faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full and faithful inventory before the feast of Saint David, Bishop, next to come, and also to render a plain & true account.]