

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 3 July 1531 and proved 28 November 1533, of Robert Amadas (d. before 7 April 1532), goldsmith of London, and Master of the Jewels to Henry VIII.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the testator's family background, see Hewardine, Anita, *The Yeomen of the Guard and the Early Tudors; The Formation of a Royal Bodyguard*, (London: I.B. Tauris & Co Ltd., 2012), p. 143 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=kSeEw68die8C&pg=PA143>

Testator's parents

The testator was the son of the London goldsmith, William Amadas (d.1491), likely by his second wife, Joan. For the will of William Amadas, see TNA PROB 11/8/577.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married Elizabeth Bryce, the daughter of James Bryce (d. between 1487 and 1492), esquire, and Elizabeth Chester (living 1496).

Elizabeth Bryce's brother, Hugh Bryce (living 1507), was heir to their grandfather, Sir Hugh Bryce (d. 22 September 1496), Lord Mayor of London. He married Margery Tyrrell (living 1518), the daughter of Sir Robert Tyrrell (d.1508), but died without issue. The testator's wife, Elizabeth Bryce, then became her grandfather's heir.

It should be noted that Waters erroneously states that Hugh Bryce died unmarried. See Waters, Robert Edmond Chester, *Genealogical Memoirs of the Extinct Family of Chester of Chicheley*, (London: Robson and Sons, 1878), Vol. I, pp. 17-22 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/genealogicalmem01wategoog#page/n54/mode/2up/>

For Hugh Bryce's marriage to Margery Tyrrell, see the will of her father, Sir Robert Tyrrell, TNA PROB 11/15/683:

And if my said son, Robert, die without issue of his body lawfully begotten, that then my daughter, Margery Bryce, shall have my said lands and tenements to her & to her heirs lawfully begotten. . . .

And also I will that Margery, my daughter, shall have 20 marks sterlings to be paid by mine executors at such time as her said husband shall make her a sufficient jointure in the law in lands and tenements to the yearly value of 40 marks sterlings.

A lawsuit brought by the testator against Margery (nee Tyrrell) Bryce establishes that she was living in the period 1518-1529. See TNA C 1/463/61:

Robert Amadas. v. Margery, daughter of Robert Tyrell, knight, and late the wife of Hugh, grandson and heir of Hugh Bryce of London, knight. The manor of Jenkyns and messuages and land in Barking, Dagenham, and London. Subpoena and injunction. Essex, London. 1518-1529.

She appears to have been living as late as 1531, when she, and the testator's wife, were left bequests in the will of Dame Elizabeth Rede, TNA PROB 11/24/303.

Item, I bequeath to my cousin, Margery Bryce, widow, a dymycynte of gold set upon a tawny ribbon

Item, I bequeath to my cousin, Elizabeth Amadas, sister to Hugh Brice, my ring of gold with a rock ruby which I had of my Lady, her mother, and my best carpet of Turkey making, and mine English book written called Gower, etc.

For the testator's wife, Elizabeth Bryce, see also:

'The ancient parish of Barking: Manors', in *A History of the County of Essex: Volume 5*, ed. W R Powell (London, 1966), pp. 190-214. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/essex/vol5/pp190-214> [accessed 31 August 2020].

In 1456 Thomas Plomer of London, grocer, held Dagenhams of the abbess at an annual rent of 31s. 2d. and a ploughshare. (fn. 228) In 1479–80 Hugh Brown and Henry Wodecock settled Jenkins on (Sir) Hugh Brice, and Elizabeth his wife, who already held Malmaynes. (fn. 229) Brice died in 1496, leaving Jenkins to his grandson Hugh Brice, a minor. The manor then consisted of some 350 a., worth £13 6s. 8d. and held of the abbess at a quit-rent of 4s. 4d. (fn. 230) Hugh Brice the younger died without issue, and was succeeded by his sister Elizabeth, who married Robert Amadas, Master of the Mint to Henry VIII. (fn. 231) Robert and Elizabeth were in possession of Jenkins by 1524. (fn. 232) He died in 1531, and in 1532 she married Sir Thomas Neville, (fn. 233) who was holding the manor jure uxoris in 1540. (fn. 234) By her marriage with Amadas, Elizabeth had had two daughters, Elizabeth and Thomasine. Elizabeth Amadas the younger married Richard Scrope of Castle Combe (Wilts.); she died before her mother, leaving a daughter Frances as her sole heir. (fn. 235) In 1555 Jenkins was settled on Frances and her husband Martin Bowes. (fn. 236) She died in 1556, (fn. 237); in 1567–8 their son Martin sold the manor to Henry Fanshawe. (fn. 238)

By Elizabeth Bryce, the testator had two daughters:

* **Elizabeth Amadas**, who married Richard Scrope (d. December 1572) of Castle Combe, Wiltshire. They are stated in most sources to have had an only daughter, Frances Scrope. However Richard Scrope and Elizabeth Amadas had a second daughter, Elizabeth Scrope. See TNA C 1/1063/72, a Chancery suit brought during the period 1538-1544 by Richard Stapleton, esquire, Thomasine, his wife, and Frances and Elizabeth Scrope against Sir Thomas Neville:

Detention of deeds relating to manors and lands in Barking, Dagenham, Standhill and London, late of Robert Amadas and Elizabeth his wife, deceased, parents of the said Thomasyn and grandparents of the said Frances and Elizabeth.

The testator's granddaughter, Frances Scrope, married Martin Bowes (d.1573), the son of Sir Martin Bowes (d.1566). According to Machyn's *Diary*, Frances (nee Scrope) Bowes, was buried 29 December 1566. See Nichols, John Gough, ed., *The Diary of Henry Machyn, Citizen and Merchant-Taylor of London*, (London: J.B. Nichols and Son, 1848), pp. 122-3, 354-5 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/henrymachyncit00camduoft#page/122/mode/2up>

The 29 day of December was buried at Barking town young Mistress Bowes, the [daughter] of my Lord Scrope, with 2 white branches and (blank) dozen torches and 4 great tapers, and a 3 dozen of scutcheons of arms, and after a great dinner.

After his first wife's death, Martin Bowes married Frances Clopton (d.1619), the daughter of Richard Clopton and Margery Playters, daughter of William Playters of Sotterley, Suffolk. After Martin Bowes' death in 1573, his widow married, as his third wife, on 20 November 1583, Matthew Hutton, Archbishop of York. Owing to the fact that both wives of Martin Bowes (d.1573) were named Frances, confusion has arisen as to which of them married Matthew Hutton; it was clearly Bowes' second wife, Frances (nee Clopton), who married the Archbishop. For her will, which was proved 3 November 1619, see Raine, James, "Marske" in *Archaeologia Aeliana*, (Newcastle-upon-Tyne: William Dodd, 1861), pp. 1-91 at p. 55. Frances Clopton's half-sister, Mary Clopton, married Sir William Cordell, Master of the Rolls.

* **Thomasine Amadas**, who married, as his first wife, Sir Richard Stapleton (d. 11 January 1585), by whom she had a son, Sir Bryan Stapleton (d. 13 December 1606) of Carleton, Yorkshire. Sir Bryan Stapleton married firstly Eleanor Neville, daughter of Ralph Neville, 4th Earl of Westmorland, and sister of Dorothy Neville, first wife of John de Vere, 16th Earl of Oxford, and secondly Elizabeth Darcy, the daughter of George Darcy, 2nd Baron Darcy de Darcy. See Foster, Joseph, *Pedigrees of the County Families of Yorkshire*, Vol. II, (London: W. Wilfred Head, 1874) at:

<http://archive.org/stream/pedigreesofcount02fost#page/n187/mode/2up>

After the testator's death, his widow, Elizabeth (nee Bryce) Amadas, married, on 28 August 1532, as his second wife, the lawyer and Speaker of the House of Commons Sir

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Thomas Neville, (d. 29 May 1542), fifth son of George Neville (1436–1492), 2nd Baron Bergavenny, by his first wife, Margaret Fenne, the daughter of Hugh Fenne. Neville had earlier been married to Katherine Dacre, the daughter of Humphrey Dacre, 1st Baron Dacre of Gilsland, by whom he had an only child, Margaret Neville, who on 1 May 1536 married Sir Robert Southwell (d.1559), Master of the Rolls.

Sir Thomas Neville died 29 May 1542 and was buried at Mereworth, Kent. His second wife, Elizabeth, predeceased him. For the will of Sir Thomas Neville, see TNA PROB 11/29/193.

LM: T{estamentum} Roberti Amadas

In the name of God, Amen. The third day of the month of July in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred thirty and one in the 23 year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Henry the Eight, I, Robert Amadas, Citizen and Goldsmith of London, being in good health of body and whole and perfect of good mind and memory, lauds and thanks be to Almighty God, make, ordain and dispose this my present testament and last will in manner and form following, that is to say:

First and principally I commit and dispose my soul unto Almighty God, and to his Blessed Mother Our Lady Saint Mary, and to all the holy company of heaven, and my body to be buried in the church of Saint Mary Woolnoth in London;

Item, I bequeath unto the high altar of the same church of Saint May Woolnoth of London where I am now parishioner for my tithes, oblations or other duties negligently withholden or forgotten, if any such be, 10s;

Item, I bequeath to be bestowed in alms to poor people of the same parish and ward, being householders, immediately after my decease £6 13 4d;

Item, I bequeath to Newgate, Ludgate, the King's Bench and Marshalsea in Southwark in bread and other necessaries as shall be thought necessary by the discretion of mine executors £6 13 4d, to be distributed by even portions to pray for my soul and all Christian souls;

Item, I bequeath to the two Counters, Fleet and Gatehouse at Westminster, to every of them 20s;

Item, I will that I have about my bier after the time of my decease burning in the time of dirge and Mass 20 convenable torches of wax with 4 tapers, which 20 torches after mine exequies all done, I will there be given to the same church of Saint Mary Woolnoth 5 torches to be burned upon solemn days at sacring time at the high altar to have my soul prayed for, and 5 of the same torches to be given to the Abbey of Barking in the county

of Essex, and to the parish church there five torches, and five torches to Saint Matthew's church in Friday Street in London;

Item, I bequeath to the brotherhood of clerks here in London to pray for my soul and all Christian souls 10s;

Item, I bequeath to the 7 lazar-houses next adjoining here to London, to every of them 20s to be divided egally;

Item, I bequeath to the five spital houses in and about London, to every of them 10s;

Item, I bequeath to these my servants following, that is to say, to Thomas Starkey £4; item, to John Freman £5; to Margaret Fowle 53s 4d, and to her husband 53s 4d;

Item, I bequeath to the high altar of the said church of Saint Mary Woolnoth an image of Our Lord for the Resurrection of silver and clean gilt of £10 to pray for my soul;

Item, I bequeath to the church of Saint Matthew in Friday Street in London another like image of Our Lord of the same valour of £10, and like fashion for resurrection there;

Item, I will that mine executors give and distribute every year during the space of ten years to the poor people of the parish of Saint Mary Woolnoth aforesaid 3 loads of coals, that is to say, at three times in the year, viz., Hallow-tide, Christmas and Candlemas, to have my soul in remembrance and prayed for;

Item, I bequeath to the highways here about London in such places where most need is, in the county of Essex and also in the parishes of Dagenham and Barking, two hundred pounds;

Item, I bequeath to the monastery of Barking, to have my soul and all Christian souls in their daily remembrance, £10;

Item, I bequeath to the parish [+church?] there in Barking in Essex a chalice of silver and gilt, price thereof £5, to pray for my soul and all Christian souls;

Item, I bequeath to the parish church of Dagenham where the holy rood is, a chalice of silver and gilt of the valour of £4, to pray for my soul and all Christian souls;

Item, I bequeath to the Fellowship of Goldsmiths the sum of £20 to th' intent that they be good and loving to my wife and children, and also to every of them of the same Fellowship being in the livery and hath been Wardens 6s 8d, and to all them being in the livery and have not been Wardens 3s 4d;

Item, I bequeath my two houses being in the parish of Saint Nicholas in Lombard Street, being of the yearly value of £4 13s 4d, wherein dwelleth now one Ralph Johnson, capper, for an yearly obit to be kept for me, my wife, my children, my father's soul, my mother's

soul in the parish of Saint Mary Woolnoth by the parson and churchwardens there for the time being, and each of them to have for their labours 2s apiece, and I will that there be spent at the same obit to the priest and clerks thereat being, with ringing of the bells and wax there occupied for the time and drinking by the discretion of the parson and churchwardens for the time there being;

Item, I will that there be yearly taken up of the said £4 13s 4d by the said parson and churchwardens then being 20s, to remain with the church goods and to be kept only for the reparations of the same two houses whensoever they shall need, and 40s of the same to be given to poor householders of the same parish being yearly at my said obits to pray for my soul and all Christian souls;

And if the said parson and churchwardens revoke and will not see my said obits yearly kept as is aforesaid, that then I will that the Fellowship of Goldsmiths to take upon them to see my said obit yearly kept as aforesaid, and if the said Fellowship of Goldsmiths revoke and will not see my said obits yearly kept, that then mine executrix underwritten and my heirs shall take upon them and see my said obit kept in manner and form as is above declared;

Item, I bequeath to Sir John Dauncy, knight, to pray for my soul £10;

Item, I bequeath to my kinsfolk to be disposed by the discretion of mine executrix where she shall think most need £20;

Item, I bequeath to my cousin Grene's wife £4, and to Thomas Mille £5, to William Davy 50s, to Anthony Pontisbury £3, and to Brian Barwike £3;

And all the residue of my goods, debts and chattels after my debts paid, my funerals done and performed, and this my present testament and last will fulfilled [*bequest of residue omitted?*], I make & ordain by this my present last will and testament mine executrice my wife, Elizabeth;

And overseers of my said will I make and ordain my Lord Duke of Norfolk and Sir Thomas More, knight, Lord Chancellor of England, and [f. 39r] [-and] I bequeath to my Lord of Norfolk and to my Lord Chancellor for their pains to be had, either of them £20;

And also over and besides I make Richard Rich, gentleman at the law, another overseer, and I bequeath to the said Richard Rich for his pains therein to be had £6 13s 4d;

And if that my foresaid executrice and overseers do see that my said bequests will not perform or extend accordingly as I have declared herein afore, that then I will my said executrix and overseers do ratify and order every of my said bequests after their good minds and discretion as they shall seem most convenient;

And if my said goods and debts amounteth to the performance of this my present last will and testament in everything according as is afore specified, that then I will and charge

mine executrix and overseers to make a cup of gold of a goodly fashion to the valour of one hundred pounds or above after their discretions, and the same cup to be given to our Sovereign Lord the King to th' intent that his Grace will be good and gracious to my said wife and children in their suits and causes;

In witness whereof I, the said Robert Amadas, to this my present testament containing my last will I have subscribed my name with mine own hand the day, month and years abovesaid. Per me Robert Amadas. Per me Robertum Cressy manu propria. Per me D{omi}n{u}m Thomam Clere. Per me Thomam Bentley.

Vicesimo octauo die mens{is} Nouembris Anno d{omi}ni Mill{esi}mo quingentesimo tricesimo terciio Comissa fuit admi{ni}stracio bonor{um} et creditorum d{i}c{t}i defuncti Thome Nevill militi viam intestati pro eo q{uod} executrix renuntiauit De bene et fideli{te}r admi{ni}strand{o} Ac de pleno et fideli Inuentario o{mn}i{u}m bonor{um} etc conficiend{o} Necno{n} de plano et vero compoto reddend{o} ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{i}

[=On the twenty-eighth day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred thirty-third administration was granted of the goods and credits of the said deceased to Thomas Neville, knight, by way of an intestacy, because the executrix has renounced, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer, and to prepared a full and faithful inventory of all the goods etc., and also to render a plain and true account.]

Memorand{um} q{uod} h{uius}mo{di} l{itte}re primo erant concess{e} Relict{e} et Deinde d{i}c{t}e Relicte et D{omi}no Thome Nevill pred{i}c{t}o et postremo eidem D{omi}no Thome Nevill vt plenius apparet in act{is} xxvjo Maij anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingentesimo xlijo die(?) L{itte}re admi{ni}stra{tio}nis(?) erant de n{o}uo comiss{e} d{i}c{t}o d{omi}no Thome Nevill Will{elm}o barker Alueredo Randell Thome raynes et Rob{er}to Nynne(?) p{ro}curatoris(?) de bene etc Iurat{is}

[=Memorandum: that the same letters were first granted to the relict, and afterwards to the said relict and to Sir Thomas Neville aforesaid, and finally to the same Sir Thomas Neville, as more fully appears in the acts of the 26th of May in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 42nd on which day(?) letters of administration were granted anew to the said Sir Thomas Neville, William Barker, Avery Randall, Thomas Raynes and Robert Nynne(?), proctor(?), sworn to well etc.]

quinto Iulij anno d{omi}ni 1592 pred{i}c{t}e L{itte}re comiss{e} xxvijo maij anno d{omi}ni 1592 [sic?] pred{i}c{t}e eram erant (illegible) et de n{o}uo(?) eidem quinto Iulij erant concess{e} D{omi}no Rob{er}to Southwell milit{i} ffrancisco southwell Ioh{ann}i Corbet et Alueredo Randall { } Iurat{is}(?)

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[=On the 5th day of July in the year of the Lord 1592 the foresaid letters granted on the 26th May in the year 1592 [sic?] aforesaid were (), and on the fifth July were granted to Sir Robert Southwell, knight, Francis Southwell, John Corbet and Avery Randall, esquires(?)]