

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 18 June 1542 and proved 29 January 1545 of Joan or Jane (nee Fyneux) Roper (d.1544?).

CONNECTIONS TO SHAKESPEARE

The testatrix leaves a bequest to Dionyse (nee Bodley) Leveson (d. 2 December 1560), grandmother of William Leveson (d.1621), who acted as trustee to the Lord Chamberlain's Men, including William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon, in the allocation of shares in the ground lease of the Globe Theatre in 1599.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Testatrix' parents

The testatrix was the daughter of Sir John Fyneux (d.1525) by his first wife, Elizabeth Apuldrefield, the daughter and heir of William Apuldrefield (d.1487). See the *ODNB* entry for Sir John Fyneux, and his will, TNA PROB 11/22/21.

Testatrix' siblings

By her father's first marriage, the testatrix appears to have had two brothers and two sisters of the whole blood:

-Richard Fyneux (d.1520), twice Member of Parliament for Dover. For his burial, see Ireland, W.H., *A New and Complete History of the County of Kent*, (London: G. Virtue, 1829), Vol. II, p. 88 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=twWHAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA88>

-John Fyneux (living 1525). According to the *ODNB* entry for his father, he 'became an Austin canon'. In his father's will he is referred to 'my son John, now being in religion at Ledys'.

-Mildred Fyneux (d. before 1515?), who married James Digges (c.1473-1536x40), esquire, of Barham, Kent, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/28/308.

James Digges (c.1473-1536x40) was the son of John Digges (d. 29 December 1502), esquire, and Joan Clifton, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Gervase Clifton (beheaded 6 May 1471). See the Digges pedigree in Powell, Jason, 'The Network Behind 'Tottel's' Miscellany', *English Literary Renaissance*, Vol. 46, No. 2, (April 2016), pp. 193-224 at p. 211:

<https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/10.1111/1475-6757.12064>

See also Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 81 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=8JcbV309c5UC&pg=RA1-PA81>

For a summary of the will of John Digges (d. 29 December 1502), see Hughes Clarke, A.W., *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, 5th Series, Vol. II, (London: Mitchell Hughes and Clarke, 1916-17), p. 11 at:

<https://archive.org/details/miscellaneagenea2191bann/page/n37>

John Digges (d. 29 December 1502) was the son of John Digges, esquire, and Joan Bruyn, the daughter of Sir Maurice Bruyn (d. 8 November 1466) of South Ockendon, Essex, and the sister of Sir Henry Bruyn (d. 30 November 1461). See also *Magna Carta Ancestry*, *supra*, Vol. II, pp. 359-60. See also the will, TNA PROB 11/6/417, of Sir Thomas Tyrrell (d. 28 March 1477) of Heron in East Horndon, Essex, whose son, Thomas Tyrrell (died c. 13 October 1473), esquire, married Elizabeth Bruyn (d. March 1494), one of the two daughters and coheirs of Sir Henry Bruyn.

By James Digges (c.1473-1536x40), the testatrix' sister, Mildred Fyneux, had a son, John Digges (d.1533), who married, in 1528, Mildred Scott, the daughter of Sir John Scott (c.1484-1553) of Scot's Hall, Kent, and Anne Pympe, by whom he had two sons, William Digges of Barham, and Francis Digges. For John Digges (d.1533), see Cuncer, C.R., 'Heraldic Notices of the Church of St. Martin, Herne, *Archaeologia Cantiana*, Vol. 53, (1940), pp. 89, 99, available online.

William Digges appears to have been the father of Christopher Digges (d. 14 March 1577), who in his will, dated 1 February 1577, stated that he was the son and heir of William Digges, late of Barham, Kent. Christopher Digges (d. 14 March 1577) married Martha Brooke, the sister of John Brooke and Richard Brooke. See Digges' case in Thomas, John Henry, *The Reports of Sir Edward Coke*, New ed., (London: Joseph Butterworth and Son, 1826), Vol. I, pp. 391, 402 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=FGJHAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA391>

See also the Digges pedigree in Powell, *supra*, p. 211, the stirnet pedigree (available online), and the Digges pedigree in Bannerman, W. Bruce, ed., *The Visitations of the County of Surrey*, (London: Harleian Society, 1899), Vol. XLIII, p. 140 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsofcou43beno#page/140/mode/1up>

See also *Magna Carta Ancestry*, *supra*, Vol. IV, pp. 1-2:

John Scott, Knt., of Scott's Hall (in Smeeth), Kent, and in right of his wife, of Thevegat (in Smeeth), Kent, Knight of the King's Bodyguard, Sheriff of Kent, 1527-8, Burgess (M.P.) or New Romney, Kent, son and heir. He married before 22 November 1506 Anne Pympe, daughter and heiress of Reynold Pympe, esquire, of Nettlestead, Kent, by Elizabeth (or Isabel), daughter of John Pashley, Esquire. In 1485 she petitioned Parliament for a [p. 2] reversal of the 1464 attainder of her great uncle, John Gower, esquire. They had five sons, Reynold, knt., John, knt., William, Richard, esq., and George, and seven daughters, Mildred (wife of John Digges, esquire, and Richard Keyes, gentleman), Katherine (wife of Sir Henry Crispe), Isabel (wife of Richard Adams esquire), Alice, Mary (wife of Nicholas Ballard, gentleman), Elizabeth, and Sibyl (wife of Richard Hynde, esquire). Scott's wife, Anne, was living in August 1524, and was probably dead before 16 February 1539/40.

See also Scott, James Renat, *Memorials of the Family of Scott of Scot's-Hall in the County of Kent*, (London: J. R. Scott, 1876), p. 191 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/memorialsoffamil00scot#page/190/mode/2up>

See also the Scott pedigree in Scott, *supra*, pp. 254-5 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/memorialsoffamil00scot#page/254/mode/2up>

After the death of Mildred Fyneux, James Digges (c.1473-1536x40), married secondly Philippa Engham, the daughter of John Engham, esquire, of Chart, Kent, by whom he was the father of the mathematician, Leonard Digges (d.1559), esquire, for whom see the *ODNB* entry:

Digges, Leonard (c. 1515–c. 1559), mathematician, was the son of James Digges (d. 1535), [sic] of Digges Court, Barham, Kent, and his second wife, Phillippa, daughter of John Engham of Chart, Kent.

-Anne Fyneux (living 1525). In the will of her father, Sir John Fyneux (d.1525), she is referred to as a nun at Dartford. In the will of her brother-in-law, John Roper (d.1524), she is referred to as 'my Lady Fyneux, sub-prioress at Dartford. See also Lee, Paul, *Nunneries, Learning and Spirituality in Late Medieval English Society: The Dominican Priory of Dartford*, (York Medieval Press, 2001, p. 62 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=8dq-t_Yhxp8C&pg=PA62

Testatrix' father's second marriage

After the death of the testatrix' mother, the testatrix' father married secondly Elizabeth Paston (d.1539), the daughter of Sir John Paston (d.1504) and Margery Brewes (d.1494), and widow of William Clere (d.1501), son of Sir Robert Clere of Ormsby and Anne Hopton (d. 23 January 1506), the daughter of Sir William Hopton (d. 7 February 1485)

and Margaret Wentworth (d. 20 April 1478). See *Magna Carta Ancestry, supra*, Vol. II, pp. 401-2 and Vol. III, p. 354, and Rutton, William Loftie, *Three Branches of the Family of Wentworth*, (London: 1891), p. 138 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YhY5AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA138>

See also the will of Sir Robert Clere, TNA PROB 11/24/84, and the Wikipedia entry for Sir John Paston edited by the author of this website at:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Paston_\(died_1504\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Paston_(died_1504))

Sir John Paston (1444 – 28 August 1504), was the second son of John Paston and Margaret Mautby. He succeeded his elder brother, Sir John Paston, in 1479. He fought at Barnet and Stoke with John de Vere, 13th Earl of Oxford, served as his deputy when Oxford was appointed Lord High Admiral of England, and was a member of the Earl's council.

For Sir John Paston as a retainer of the 13th Earl of Oxford, see also Ross, James, *John de Vere, Thirteenth Earl of Oxford (1442-1513)*, (Woodbridge, Suffolk: The Boydell Press, 2011), p. 234.

For the marriage of William Clere (d.1501) and Elizabeth Paston (d.1539), see also TNA C 1/490/33.

For the will of Elizabeth (nee Paston) Clere Fyneux (d.1539), see the summary in Nicolas, Nicholas Harris, *Testamenta Vetusta*, (London: Nichols and Son, 1826), Vol. II, p. 686 at:

<https://archive.org/details/testamentavetus01nicogoo/page/n307/mode/2up>

See also:

www.tudorwomen.com/

*Elizabeth Paston (1482-August 22, 1539) was the daughter of Sir John Paston of Norfolk (d.1503) and Margery Brewes (d.1494). In 1499, she married William Clere of Ormsby, Yorkshire (1478-March 17, 1501). They had no children. In 1502, she married Sir John Fineux or Fyneux of Swingfield, Kent (1441-November 17, 1525), a judge, as his second wife. Their children were William (1506-April 1557) and Anne (1503-October 31, 1530). In 1527, according to Lauren Mackay's *Among the Wolves at Court: The Untold Story of Thomas and George Boleyn*, Elizabeth was at odds with her first husband's stepmother, Alice Clere (née Boleyn). In 1528, Alice was advised to ask Cardinal Wolsey for an injunction against her. Elsewhere this is called an action for debt, but the details of the case are elusive. Elizabeth paid for the brass on the Fineux tomb and had inscribed upon it the statement that she "had ever good fame." When she died, she left £5 to the church so that she might be buried in the chancel at the south side of the high altar.*

By her father's second marriage to Elizabeth Paston, the testatrix appears to have had a brother and a sister of the half blood:

-William Fyneux (d.1557). See the *ODNB* entry for Sir John Fyneux (d.1525):

[Sir John Fyneux's] first wife, Elizabeth, was daughter and heir of William Apuldrefield (d. 1487) of Faversham and Lynsted. Their son Richard (d. 1520) twice served as member of parliament for Dover; another son, John, became an Austin canon. One of their daughters, Jane, married John Rooper (d. 1524) of Eltham, whom Fyneux appointed as chief clerk of his court; their grandson John (d. 1618) sold the chief clerkship to become Baron Teynham in 1616. At the time of Fyneux's death, on 17 November 1525, his only surviving son, and thus his heir, was William (d. 1557), the child of Fyneux's second wife, also Elizabeth (d. 1539), daughter of Sir John Paston and widow of William Clere.

See also the History of Parliament entry for William Fyneux's son, John Fyneux (1536-92), at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/fyneux-%28fyney%29-john-1536-92>

-Anne Fyneux. According to Mackay, *supra*, she was a daughter of Sir John Fyneux's second marriage to Elizabeth Paston. She married Henry Hobart (d.1561), esquire, of Lodden, Norfolk. In his will, Sir John Fyneux (d.1525) refers to Henry Hobart as 'my son-in-law'. According to the Hobart pedigrees, Henry Hobart was the grandson of Sir James Hobart (d.1517), Attorney to Henry VIII, and the son of Sir Walter Hobart of Hales Hall in Loddon, Norfolk, by his first wife, Elizabeth Heydon, the daughter of Sir Henry Heydon (d.1504) of Baconsthorpe by Anne Boleyn (d.1509/10), the second daughter of Sir Geoffrey Boleyn. See the *ODNB* entry for Sir Henry Heydon, and the Heydon pedigree in Gurney, Daniel, *The Record of the House of Gournay*, (London: John Bowyer Nichols and John Gough Nichols, 1848), p. 412 at:

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=yale.39002006511357&view=1up&seq=454>

By Henry Hobart, Anne Fyneux had a son, James Hobart, who married Frances Drury, the daughter of Sir William Drury (d.1558) of Hawstead, Suffolk, by Elizabeth Sothill (d.1575). See *Magna Carta Ancestry, supra*, Vol. II, pp. 93-4: See also the *ODNB* entry for Sir James Hobart (d.1517), and the Hobart pedigree in Bulwer, Brigadier-General, ed., *The Visitation of Norfolk in the Year 1563*, (Norwich: Agas H. Goose, 1895), Vol. II, p. 60 at:

<https://archive.org/details/visitationnorfo01dashgoog/page/n65/mode/2up>

See also the Hobart pedigree in Rye, Walter, ed., *The Visitation of Norfolk*, (London: Harleian Society, 1891), Vol. XXXII, pp. 164-6 at:

<https://archive.org/details/visitacionnorff00ravegoog/page/n174/mode/2up>

See also Weller, John B., 'The Wives of Sir James Hobart (1440-1517), Attorney-General 1486-1507', pp. 235-6, available as a pdf file online, in which it is argued that Sir James Hobart had four wives, his third wife being Margaret Foderingay (d. 10 February 1514), widow of Nicholas Beaupre (d.1511), and that his four children, Walter Hobart (d. 27 November 1538), Miles Hobart (d.1557?), Katherine Hobart (buried 18 April 1547) and Elizabeth Hobart (d.1551), were the issue of his second marriage to Margaret Lyhart (died c.1494).

See also the monumental brass to Henry Hobart (d.1561) at:

<http://www.mbs-brasses.co.uk/brass%20of%20the%20month%20july%202013.html>

For the connection between John de Vere (c.1482 – 21 March 1540), 15th Earl of Oxford, and the Foderingay and Beaupre families, see TNA SP 14/4/14, ff. 27-9.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

By John Roper, it appears the testatrix had three sons and six daughters:

* **William Roper** (d. 4 January 1578), who married, by licence dated 2 July 1521, Margaret More (1505-1544) of St Stephen's, Walbrook, eldest child of Sir Thomas More (1478-1535). See the *ODNB* entry for Margaret More. For their two sons and three daughters, see the will of William Roper, TNA PROB 11/60/365.

* **Edward Roper** (living 1558), mentioned in his father's will, in the testatrix' will below, and in the will of his brother, Christopher Roper.

* **Christopher Roper** (d.1559), who married Elizabeth Blore, the daughter of Christopher Blore, esquire, of Rainham, Kent. For the will of Christopher Blore's father, William Blore (d.1530?), see TNA PROB 11/24/4.

In his will, Christopher Roper leaves bequests to three sons, John Roper, Edmund Roper and German Roper, and two daughters, Cecily Roper, wife of Norton Grene, and Gertrude Roper, as well as to other unnamed unmarried daughters. See his will, TNA PROB 11/42B/60, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/roper-christopher-15089-5859>

See also Ireland, W.H., *A New and Complete History of the County of Kent*, (London: G. Virtue, 1829), Vol. II, p. 704 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ltUvAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA704>

* **Ellen Roper** (d. May 1563), who married, firstly John Morton (d. 21 August 1522), esquire, of the manor of Bencham, Surrey, the son of Thomas Morton (d. 24 December 1516) by his second wife, Margaret Woodford (1479-1507). John Morton was the half brother of Sir Robert Morton (d.1514?), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/18/83. By her first husband, Ellen Roper had an only child, Mary Morton (15 February 1522-1568), who married Francis Smythe (d.1602?). See Steinman, G. Steinman, 'Some Account of the Manors of Whitehorse, Croham, and Norbury, in the Parish of Croydon, Surrey, and a Pedigree of Elmerugge', *Collectanea Topographica & Genealogica*, (London: John Bowyer Nichols and Son, 1838), Vol. V, pp. 164-5 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=qM0KAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA164>

See also 'The Woodforde Story' at:

<https://www.woodforde.org/margaret-woodford/>

See also the entry for Margaret Woodford at:

www.tudorwomen.com

Margaret Woodford (1479-80-1507) was the daughter of William Woodford of Ashby Folville, Lincolnshire (d. July 28, 1487) and Anne Norwich. When her father died, she inherited the manors of Brentingby, Wyfordby, Freeby, and Garthorpe. She was also the principal heir of her grandfather, Sir Ralph Woodford (1430-March 4, 1498). She married John Turville. When he died soon after their marriage, Margaret married his brother, William Turville. John Morton, archbishop of Canterbury, found this marriage to be irregular and it was annulled. In about 1496, Margaret married Thomas Morton (d. December 15, 1516), a widower with a son who was also the archbishop's nephew. Most sources say they had only one son, John (1498-August 21, 1521), but one online genealogy also lists Thomas, William, Robert (d.1575), Cecilia, Agnes, and Helen. The manor of Bensham (also called Whitechapel) [sic] in Croydon, Surrey was settled on them and the marriage brought them into contact with the circle of Sir Thomas More.

Ellen Roper married secondly William Digby (d. by 1529), esquire, of South Luffenham, eldest(?) son of Sir John Digby (d.1533) of Kettleby by his first wife, Katherine Griffin (d. by 1517), daughter of Nicholas Griffin (d. 6 June 1482), esquire, and Katherine Curzon, by whom she had several children, including a son, John Digby. For Katherine Griffin, see Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 288, Vol. III, pp. 86, 469, and the Griffin pedigree in Burke, Bernard, *A Genealogical History of the Dormant, Abeyant, Forfeited and Extinct Peerages of the British Empire*, New ed., (London: Harrison, 1866), p. 255 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=OpxfAAAACAAJ&pg=PA255>

See also the Griffin pedigree in Nichols, J., *The History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester*, (London: 1798), Vol. II, Part II, p. 592 at:

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=pst.000032377088&view=1up&seq=244>

For Sir John Digby, see his will, TNA PROB 11/31/309, in which he mentions his daughter-in-law, Ellen Roper:

Also I will that my daughter [=daughter-in-law] Elene Mountague, late wife to my son, William Digby of Luffenham, now deceased, and daughter of John Roper, late General Attorney to our Sovereign Lord the King

See also the transcript in Peacock, Edward, 'The Will of John Digby, of Eye Kettleby, Leicestershire, 1529' in *Leicestershire and Rutlandshire Notes and Queries*, (London: Elliot Stock, 1895), Vol. III, pp. 82-5,142-5 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=h8kGAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA82>

Ellen Roper married thirdly, as his third wife, Sir Edward Montagu (d.1557), Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, by whom she is said to have had at least five sons and six daughters, including Eleanor Montagu, who married George Tyrrell (d. 10 May 1571). For Sir Edward Montagu, see the *ODNB* entry, and his will, TNA PROB 11/39/74. For George Tyrrell, see the will, TNA PROB 11/32/613, of his father, Humphrey Tyrrell (d.1549), esquire, of South Ockendon, Essex. George Tyrrell's mother, Jane Ingleton, was a ward of John de Vere, 13th Earl of Oxford.

For Ellen (nee Roper) Morton Digby Montagu (d. May 1563), see her nuncupative will, TNA PROB 11/46/225, and the WikiTree profile at:

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Roper-331>

See also the entry for Ellen Roper at:

www.tudorwomen.com

Eleanor (Ellen/Helen) Roper (1500-May 1563) was the daughter of John Roper (c.1453-March 29, 1524), attorney general to Henry VIII, and Jane Fineux (1475-April 7, 1544). In about 1520, she married John Morton of Bencham, Surrey (1498-August 21, 1521). Their daughter Mary (February 15, 1522-1568) was born posthumously. Her second husband, as his second wife, was William Digby (d. by 1529). Their five children included William, Lebbaeus, Margery, and Isabella. Her third husband, as his third wife, was Sir Edward Montagu (d. February 10, 1556/7). Their five sons and six daughters included Edward (1532-1602) and Eleanor.

* **Agnes Roper** (buried 8 March 1573), likely the unmarried daughter, Agnes Roper, mentioned in her father's will. She married, in 1529, as his third wife, Sir Edward

Maddison (d. 14 February 1554) of Fonaby in Caistor, Lincolnshire, who participated in the Lincolnshire uprising and is said to have lived to 100 years of age. By Sir Edward Maddison, Anne Roper had three sons, Edward Maddison (d.1560), Christopher Maddison and John Maddison, and a daughter, Alice Maddison. See Maddison, A.R., *Lincolnshire Pedigrees, Vol. II*, (London: Harleian Society, 1903), Vol. LI, p. 624 at:

<https://archive.org/details/lincolnshirepedi51madd/page/624/mode/2up>

See also the Maddison pedigree in Crisp, Frederick Arthur, ed., *Visitation of England and Wales*, (Privately printed, 1906), Vol. 6, p. 52 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=2JY5M_pcdvQC&pg=PA52

For the Maddison family, see also Maddison, A.R., *Lincolnshire Wills*, (London: James Williamson, 1888), p. 84 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=zuhMAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA84>

See also the monument to Sir Edward Maddison in the church of St Peter and St Paul in Caistor, Lincolnshire at:

<http://www.caistorparishchurch.co.uk/history/>

According to the pedigrees, Sir Edward Maddison's brother, John Maddison, who died without issue, was yeoman usher to Queen Katherine Howard.

* **Margaret Roper** (living 1545), who married Henry Appleton (d.1545), esquire, of South Benfleet, Essex, the son of Roger Appleton (d.1529), gentleman, and Jane Sulyard, daughter of Sir John Sulyard (d. 18 March 1488) and Anne Andrew (whose sister, Elizabeth Andrew, was the mother of Andrew Windsor (d.1543), 1st Baron Windsor, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/29/416). In his will, TNA PROB 11/30/568, Henry Appleton mentions his wife, Margaret, two sons, Roger Appleton (d. 26 February 1557) and Edward Appleton, and a daughter, Margaret Appleton. He also mentions the testatrix' son, William Roper (d.1578), John Pilborow (see below), and his cousin, Edmund Tyrrell, esquire, whom he appoints as overseer. For Edmund Tyrrell (c.1513 - 8 November 1576) of Ramsden Barrington, see his will, TNA PROB 11/58/499.

Margaret Roper's son, Roger Appleton (d. 26 February 1557), married Agnes Clarke, the daughter of Walter Clarke, gentleman, of Hadleigh, Suffolk (for whom see below).

For the Appleton family, see Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 101, Vol. II, pp. 468-9.

* **Elizabeth Roper**, who married firstly John Pilborow (d.1547?) of Lincoln's Inn, Baron of the Exchequer, by whom she had at least six children. For the will of John Pilborow,

see TNA PROB 11/32/23. Elizabeth Roper married secondly Leonard Sandell (d.1570), for whom see his will, TNA PROB 11/52/495, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.histparl.ac.uk/volume/1509-1558/member/sandell-leonard-1533-70>

* **Elizabeth Roper**, mentioned as unmarried in her father's will, but not mentioned in the testatrix' will below. According to Collins, she married John Dawney of Herke [sic?], second son of Sir John Dawney (d.1553) of Cowick, Yorkshire, and Dorothy Neville, daughter of Richard Neville (c.1467-1530), 2nd Baron Latimer, by whom she had a son, John Dawney. See Brydges, Egerton, *Collins's Peerage of England*, (London: F.C. and J. Rivington, 1812), Vol. VIII, p. 455 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=JFc5AAAAMAAJ&pg=RA1-PA455>

See also the *ODNB* entry for Oxford's kinsman, John Neville (1493-1543), 3rd Baron Latimer.

In contrast, the Dawney pedigree in Foster states that John Dawney was of Heck in the parish of Snaith, Yorkshire, and makes no mention of a wife or son. See Foster, Joseph, *Pedigrees of the County Families of Yorkshire*, (London: W. Wilfred Head, 1874), Vol. III, at:

<https://archive.org/stream/pedigreesofcount03fost#page/n101/mode/2up>

See also Burke, John, *A General and Heraldic Dictionary of the Peerage and Baronetage of the British Empire*, 4th ed., (London: Henry Colburn and Richard Bentley, 1832), Vol. I, p. 384 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=Cq8KAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA384>

* **Agnes Roper**, a nun at Dartford until the Dissolution, mentioned in the wills of her father, John Roper (d.1524), and in the will below.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

In the will below, the testatrix leaves bequests to Dionyse Leveson (d.1560) and to two god-daughters, Dionyse Leveson and Mary Crafford:

Item, I bequeath to Mrs Dionyse Leveson, widow, late wife of Nicholas Leveson, one salt of silver with Saint Barbara upon the cover.

Item, I bequeath to Dionyse Leveson, my god-daughter, a rose-water pot of silver and gilt.

Item, I give to Mary Crayford [=Crafford], my god-daughter, a little long wreathed pot of silver and gilt with a cover.

The Leveson and Crafford families were related to the testatrix through the marriage of the testatrix' daughter, Ellen Roper, to Sir Edward Montagu (d.1557), Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. As noted above, by Sir Edward Montague, Ellen Roper had a daughter, Eleanor Montagu, who married George Tyrrell (d. 10 May 1571), the son of Humphrey Tyrrell (d.1549), esquire, of South Ockendon, Essex. These family relationships are shown in the pedigree in Sutton, Anne F., 'Lady Joan Bradbury (d.1530)' in Barron, Caroline M. and Anne F. Sutton, eds., *Medieval London Widows 1300-1500*, (London: The Hambledon Press, 1994), p. 211 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=3-veBAAQBAJ&pg=PA211>

See also the Bodley pedigree in Bannerman, W. Bruce, ed., *The Visitations of the County of Surrey*, (London: Harleian Society, 1899), Vol. XLIII, p. 147 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationscoun01banngoog#page/n160/mode/2up>

For Dionyse Leveson (d.1560), see her will, TNA PROB 11/43/645. For Mary Crafford (b. by 1530, d.1599), see her will, TNA PROB 11/93/439, the will of her father, Guy Crafford (d. 31 January 1553), esquire, TNA PROB 11/36/76, and the will of her mother, Joan (nee Bodley) Crafford, TNA PROB 11/67/367, the niece of Dionyse (nee Bodley) Leveson (d.1560).

The relationship between Dionyse Leveson (d.1560) and the testatrix' eldest son, William Roper (d.1578), was close. In her will Dionyse Leveson refers to 'Mr Roper's chamber' in her house in Lime Street:

Item, I bequeath to my said son, Thomas Leveson . . . all the bedsteads, hangings, cupboards and testers of beds in the great chamber where the chapel is, and in the chamber called Mr Roper's chamber. . . .

As noted above, Dionyse (nee Bodley) Leveson (d. 2 December 1560) was the grandmother of William Leveson (d.1621), who acted as trustee to the Lord Chamberlain's Men, including William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon, in the allocation of shares in the ground lease of the Globe Theatre in 1599.

John Sethe of Herne mentioned in the will below can likely be identified with the John Sethe who was appointed Mayor of Faversham by letters patent dated 27 January 1546. See Kent History and Library Centre Fa/I/10.

Henry Haddes is mentioned in a Chancery suit concerning property in Wichling, Kent, TNA C 3/94/112.

John Keble has not been identified.

TESTATRIX' LANDS

For Lynsted Lodge and the manor of Bedmangore see:

http://lynsted-society.co.uk/resources_places_lynsted_lodge_and_park.html

For Teynham, see:

http://lynsted-society.co.uk/resources_documents_historic_sources_teynham_manor_and_hundred_selby.html

RM: T{estamentum} Joanne Roper

In the name of God, Amen. The (blank) day of (blank) in the 34th year of the reign of King Henry th' Eight and in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred forty and two, I, Joan Roper, widow, late wife of John Roper, esquire, deceased, being of whole mind and perfect memory, laud be to Almighty God, ordain and make my testament and last will in manner and form under-written:

First I commend my soul wholly to the Blessed Trinity;

And this my body to be buried in the chapel of Saint Nicholas in the parish church of Saint Dunstan without the walls of Canterbury, to be laid in the burial-place and tomb of the aforementioned John Roper, my late husband;

And I will to be given and distributed to the poor people without any common dole making at my burial, my month day and twelvemonth day and at every of them four pounds;

Item, I give to the reparation of the rood loft within the church of Saint Dunstan five marks;

And to the reparation of the foresaid chapel of Saint Nicholas 20s;

And to the reparation of Our Lady chapel in the parish church of Lynsted five marks;

Item, I will to six brothers of Harbledown and to six brothers of Saint John's house 40s to bear torches at the burial of my body;

Item, I bequeath to the high altar of the parish church of Lynsted for tithes omitted and forgotten 13s 4d;

Item, I will there be given amongst poor people dwelling in the parishes of Lynsted, Teynham, Norton, Kingsdown and Doddington and to every of the said parishes 6s 8d;

Also I will there be bestowed in the parish of Lynsted the space of five years next after my decease in the time of Lent amongst the poor people one barrel of white herring;

Item, I will there be given to them that shall go with the carriage of my body to burying as much black cloth as it shall be thought necessary by my executors;

Also I give and bequeath to my son, Christopher Roper, one hundred pounds, whereof I will the plate to him delivered shall be indifferently apprized and to be parcel of the said hundred pounds;

And I will that he shall be contented with the said hundred pounds whereof the said plate to be part and parcel of the said hundred pounds without making any claim to any other part or parcel of my movable goods by gift, price or sale;

And I will that all other legacies to him at any time given or bequeathed shall be void and of none effect;

And I will that he shall not meddle nor have any parcel of my movable goods by price or otherwise, any clause or sentence in this my present testament to the contrary notwithstanding, saving that it shall be leeful to my executors to sell to him such goods as they will;

I bequeath to the said Christopher my lease and years of and in my marsh in the parish of Teynham which I late had of the grant and of lease of the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury;

Item, I bequeath to Sir Edward Montagu, knight, Lord Chief Justice of England, one basin of silver, a pax of silver and two cruets of silver;

Item, I bequeath to my daughter, Ellen, Lady Montagu, a bolster of down, two pillows of down, two fustians, a pair of fine sheets of 3 breadths, the best counterpoint without my husband's arms and mine thereon wrought, and a little black chest bound with iron;

Item, I bequeath to my daughter, Agnes, Lady Maddison, a standing cup of silver with a cover gilt, a frock of damask, a kirtle of black satin, a tablecloth and a towel of diaper;

Item, I bequeath to my daughter, Margaret Appleton, a standing cup of silver and gilt with a cover, a kirtle of black damask, a tablecloth and a towel of diaper;

Item I bequeath to my daughter, Elizabeth Pilborow, a standing cup of silver with a cover gilt and a kirtle of black satin;

Item, I bequeath to my daughter, Agnes Roper, late nun at Dartford, a standing cup of silver with a cover gilt;

And if my son, Christopher, will give to her ten pounds sterling for the said cup, then he, so the money to her paid, shall have the said cup;

Also I will to her one flat piece of silver, a tablecloth and a towel of diaper;

And further I will that all my other apparel before not willed I will to be distributed and equally divided between my daughters Agnes, Lady Maddison, Margaret Appleton, Elizabeth Pilborow and Agnes Roper at the discretion of my executors;

Item, I give to my son, William Roper, two quart pots of silver;

And to the [f. 188v] wife of the said William one drinking-pot of silver and gilt with a cover;

Item, I will to my sister [=half-sister], Jane Sandes [=Sondes], one gilt pot wrought of silver with a cover;

Item, I bequeath to Christopher Maddison towards the keeping of him to his learning ten pounds, and to be paid by mine executors;

Item, I bequeath to Mrs Dionyse Leveson, widow, late wife of Nicholas Leveson, one salt of silver with Saint Barbara upon the cover;

Item, I bequeath to Dionyse Leveson, my god-daughter, a rose-water pot of silver and gilt;

Item, I give to Mary Crayford [=Crafford], my god-daughter, a little long wreathed pot of silver and gilt with a cover;

Item, to John Keble a standing nut with a cover;

Item, I bequeath to John Sethe of Herne two long round salts of silver with one cover of th' old making;

I bequeath to Francis(?) Sethe one goblet of silver with a cover;

Item, I bequeath to Master Robert Colyns one salt of silver with a cover gilt with shell;

Item, I bequeath to Agnes, Lady Maddison, Henry Appleton, Margaret Appleton, John Pilborow, Elizabeth Pilborow and to Agnes Roper and to every of them to buy a black gown 26s 8d;

Item, I will my executors to bestow upon my son, Edward Roper, 40s to buy him clothes for his body;

Item, I bequeath to Sir Hugh Crompton, my chaplain, the bed wholly with the apparel the which he usually lieth in, a close press [=clothes-press?] and all the implements of the said chamber and being within his chamber within the manor of Logge [=Lodge] and twenty pounds of money in a remembrance to pray for my soul and other my friends' souls;

Item, I bequeath to the chantry of Saint Dunstan a great ship-chest bound with iron;

I bequeath to Margaret, my servant, 40s;

To Mother Andrewe 20s;

To Alice Roberts 13s 4d;

And to every of my other servants their whole quarter's wages after my decease;

I bequeath to the mending of the highway between Lynsted and Teynham ten pounds;

Item, I will and bequeath to the mending and reparation of the highway between Whitstable and Canterbury one hundred marks, and to be bestowed according to the will of my late husband by the discretion of my executors;

Item, I bequeath to the church of Saint Dunstan a cope of blue baudekin;

And further I will by this my testament that if any person or persons before rehearsed [+or?] their heirs to whom anything is given or bequeathed by this my testament at any time hereafter by any way or mean do or make or procure to be done or made any act or acts, thing or things to the let [+or?] hindrance of this my testament or of any article in the same contained, or to the breach of the same my testament or of any article or part thereof, or do disturb my executors or any of them to perform my said testament, or do any act or acts, thing or things whereby any person or persons named in my said testament or the assigns of any of them shall be, should be, might be or may be hindered or in peril or danger to lose any thing real or personal or thing or things to them or to any of them given, willed or bequeathed by this my present testament, that then all legacy and bequests by me willed, given or bequeathed by this my testament to all and every such person or persons shall be from thenceforth utterly void and of none effect, and that any such person or persons, their heirs or assigns shall not have, enjoy, take or claim to have any benefit or advantage by this my testament or by anything in the same contained, any article, sentence or matter before or hereafter in this my testament contained notwithstanding;

The residue of all my goods, my debts and legacies being fully contented and paid, I will to be bestowed in deeds of charity at the discretion of my executors, whom I ordain and make Master Robert Collins, John Sethe of Herne, Sir Hugh Crompton, my chaplain;

And I bequeath to every of them for their pains and labour in that behalf taken a black gown and five marks of money;

And also I make and ordain Sir Edward Montagu, knight, and Ellen, Lady Montagu, my daughter, my overseers of this my testament and last will, and I will to them for their pains 40s apiece;

Then and there being present Anthony Browne, curate of Lynsted, William Bouncker, parson of Tunstall, Leonard Stringer, Mawde Fryer, Agnes Roper, John Darnall, William Alborne, clerk, and other moe.

This is the last will of me, the said Joan Roper, widow, made the 18th day of June in the 34th year of the reign of King Henry th' Eight:

First I will by this my last will my manors of Bedmangore and the Lodge with their appurtenances with all and singular other my lands, tenements and other hereditaments lying and being in the parishes of Lynsted, Doddington, Rodmersham, Kingsdown, Norton, Teynham and Bapchild or elsewhere within the county of Kent shall be charged to and with one annuity or annual rent of ten pounds which I will to be paid to Agnes Roper, my daughter, sometime nun at Dartford, and to be had to her for term of her life and to be paid at the feasts of Saint Michael th' Archangel, the Nativity of Our Lord, th' Annunciation of Our Lady, and Saint John Baptist yearly by even portions, and the first payment thereof to be made at the next of any of the said feasts after my decease;

And if it fortune the said annuity or annual rent of ten pounds or any part or parcel thereof to be behind and not paid at and in any of the said feasts in the which it ought to be paid, that then it shall be leeful to the said Agnes Roper and her assigns to enter into the foresaid manors to and with all thother lands and tenements as is aforesaid, and to distrain, and the distress so taken the same to withhold until the said Agnes with th' arrearages thereof be fully contented and paid;

And if it fortune the said annuity or annual rent or any part or parcel thereof to be behind and not paid by the space of one month after such feasts at any time in which it ought to be paid, that then for every such time that [f. 189r] it shall be unpaid I will my said daughter, Agnes, shall have out of my said manors and lands fifty shillings over and above the said annuity;

And for non-payment of the said 50s it shall be leeful to the said Agnes to distrain in as ample manner as she might or may for the non-payment of the whole annuity or annual rent of ten pounds or any part thereof;

Provided by this my last will that as long as the said Agnes Roper do take or receive or any other to her use the pension or sum of six pounds to her granted for term of her life by the King, our Sovereign Lord, by reason that she was nun at Dartford, that then I will by this my last will the said Agnes Roper shall have and receive but four pounds yearly during her natural life as parcel of the aforesaid grant of annuity of ten pounds;

And for the non-payment of the said four pounds it shall be leeful to the said Agnes Roper to distrain in as ample manner as she may for the whole rent of ten pounds as though the yearly pension or payment of six pounds were clearly withholden and taken away from the said Agnes and not paid;

And also I, the said Joan Roper, by this my last will give and grant to William Roper, William Fyneux, Anthony Sondes, esquires, and Henry Haddes, gentleman, or any one of them one annuity or annual rent of forty shillings to be perceived and taken out of my manors of Bedmangore and the Lodge aforesaid with all the aforesaid other lands, tenements and hereditaments, to be had to the said William Roper, William Fyneux, Anthony Sondes and Henry Haddes and to their assigns for the term of twenty years and to commence at the first feast of Saint Michael th' Archangel next after my decease, and the same annuity or annual rent to be paid to the said William Roper, William Fyneux, Anthony Sondes and Henry Haddes and their executors and assigns yearly at the feasts of th' Annunciation of Our Blessed Lady Saint Mary, the Virgin, and the said Saint Michael by even portions;

And if it shall fortune the said annuity or annual rent of forty shillings to be unpaid at any of the said feasts in the which it ought to be paid, that then it shall be leeful to the said William Roper, William Fyneux, Anthony and Henry and to every of them, their executors and assigns from time to time as often and when need shall require into all the said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments and every part and parcel thereof to enter and distrain in the said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments, and the distress there so taken the same to withhold until the same rent and every parcel thereof be with the arrearages fully contented and paid;

Provided and I will by this my last will also that the said annuity or annual rent of forty shillings be bestowed in manner and form following, that is to say, that the said William Roper, William Fyneux, Anthony and Henry and every of them, their executors and assigns during the said term of twenty years shall keep for my soul, my said husband's and all Christian souls yearly in every of the parish churches of Lynsted aforesaid and of Saint Dunstan without the walls of Canterbury one obit with the said yearly annuity or annual rent of forty shillings, and the said two obits yearly to be done in such time of the year as it shall be thought most convenient by the said William Roper, William Fyneux, Anthony and Henry and every of them, their executors or assigns;

Also I, the said Joan Roper, will by this my last will my manors of Bedmangore, the Lodge and all my other lands aforesaid with th' appurtenances to my executors for all the term of one year and one day after my decease towards the performance of my testament;

And after the said year and day, then I, the said Joan Roper, will by this my last will my said manors of Bedmangore, the Lodge and all my aforesaid other lands, tenements and hereditaments lying and being within the said county of Kent with all and singular their appurtenances to Christopher Roper, my son, for term of his life without any impeachment of waste;

The remainder thereof after the decease of the said Christopher to John Roper, th' eldest son of the same Christopher, and to th' eldest heirs male of the body of the same John begotten, and so to descend from eldest heir male to th' eldest heir male so long as the said John shall have issue male of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such heir male the remainder thereof to th' eldest heir male of the body of the said Christopher begotten, and so to descend from th' eldest heir male to th' eldest heir male so long as the said Christopher shall have issue male of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such heir male, the remainder thereof to th' eldest heir female of the body of the same Christopher, and so to descend from th' eldest daughter to th' eldest daughter as heir female so long as the same Christopher shall have issue female of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issues and heirs males [+and?] females of the said John Roper and Christopher, then I will all the said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments wholly to remain to my daughter Ellen, Lady Montagu, and to th' heirs of her body lawfully begotten by the body of Sir Edward Montagu, knight, now Lord Chief Justice of England, upon condition that the said Sir Edward and Lady Ellen pay or th' heirs of them do or cause to be paid to Agnes, Lady Maddison, Margaret Appleton and Elizabeth Pilborow, my daughters, and to every of them or th' heirs of every of them forty pounds of lawful money of England;

And for lack of such issues, then I will [f. 189v] my said manors of Bedmangore and the Lodge with their appurtenances and all other the premises to remain to Agnes, Lady Maddison, my daughter, and to th' heirs of her body lawfully begotten upon condition that the said Agnes, Lady Maddison, or th' heirs of her body pay or cause to be paid to Margaret Appleton and Elizabeth Pilborow or to th' heirs of the said Margaret and Elizabeth and to every of them forty pounds of lawful money of England;

And for lack of issue of the body of the said Agnes, I will the said manors with th' appurtenances and all and singular the premises to remain to Margaret Appleton, my daughter, and to th' heirs of her body lawfully begotten upon condition that the said Margaret Appleton or the heirs of her body pay or cause to be paid [-to be paid] to the said Elizabeth Pilborow or to her heirs forty pounds of lawful money of England;

And for lack of issue of the body of the said Margaret Appleton, then I will the aforesaid manors with their appurtenances and the premises to remain to Elizabeth Pilborow and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue, then I will the said manor[s] with th' appurtenances wholly to remain to the right heirs of me, the said Joan Roper, and to their heirs forever;

Further I will by this my present last will that if any person or persons before rehearsed or their heirs to whom any right, title or interest is willed or given in possession, in reversion or remainder by this my last will of and in all the said manors and other the premises, lands, tenements and hereditaments [+at?] any time hereafter by any mean do make or procure to be done or made any act or acts, thing or things to the hindrance of this my present last will in any article, clause or sentence thereof whereby the same shall or may not take effect according to the tenor and true meaning thereof, then and from thenceforth all the said right, title and interest of the same person or persons and his, her or their heirs so doing, making or procuring to be done or made any act or acts, thing or things to the let or hindrance of this my present last will as is aforesaid shall be utterly and to all purposes determined, void and of none effect, any article, sentence or matter before or hereafter in this my will declared notwithstanding;

And I will that such person or persons or their heirs which shall be immediately next in the remainder or reversion to the right, title and interest of the person or persons or his heir [sic for 'his, her?'] or their heirs so doing, making or procuring to be done or made any act or acts, thing or things to the let or hindrance of this my present last will as is aforesaid shall thenceforth have and enjoy in possession his, her or their right, title and interest of and in all the said manors and other the premises, lands, tenements and hereditaments by force of remainder or reversion in like manner, form and condition to all intents as she, he or they should have had and enjoy[ed] the same if the said right, title and interest of the said person or persons, his, her or their heirs so doing, making or procuring to be done or made any act or acts, thing or things to the let or hindrance of this my present last will as it afore had or should have been determined by his, her or their death or deaths without issue or otherwise according to the form, tenor and effect of this my will concerning the same;

Witness at the delivering hereof to my executors, Master Robert Collyns, Anthony Browne, clerk, William Bouker, clerk, and other which hath set their marks to the book which was delivered.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum xxixno die Mens{is} Ianuarij Anno D{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingen{tesim}o quadragesimo quarto iuramento Hugonis Crompton cl{er}ici et Iohannis Sethe executorum in h{uius}mo{d}i testament{o} no{m}i{n}atorum Ac approbatum et insinuatum Com{m}issaq{ue} fuit administrac{i}o o{mn}iu{m} et sing{u}lorum bonoru{m} iuriu{m} et credi{to}r{um} dictum defunctum et e{ius} testamentum qual{ite}rcumq{ue} co{n}cernen{tium} dict{is} executoribus De

bene et fidel{ite}r admi{ni}strand{o} ead{em} Ac de pleno Inuentario &c conficiend{o}
&c Necnon de plano co{m}put{o} &c reddend{o} ad sancta dei eua{n}gelia iurat{is}
Res{er}uat{a} p{otes}tate m{agist}ro Roberto Colyns ex{ecutori} cum venerit &c

[=The above-written testament was proved on the 29th day of the month of January in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred forty-fourth by the oath of Hugh Crompton, clerk, and John Sethe, executors named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted to the said executors of all and singular the goods, rights and credits whatsoever concerning the said deceased and her testament, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to prepare etc. a full inventory etc., and also to render a plain account etc., with power reserved to Master Robert Colyns, executor, when he shall have come etc.]