

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 10 March 1558 and proved 3 April 1558, of Elizabeth (nee Gage) Jenyn Adams (d. 14 March 1558), whose niece and executrix, Mary (nee Browne) Grey Capell (d. 4 February 1617), was the sister of Anthony Browne (1528-1592), 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Montagu, grandfather of Henry Wriothesley, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Southampton, to whom Shakespeare dedicated *Venus and Adonis* and *The Rape of Lucrece*.

### ***FAMILY BACKGROUND***

For the testatrix' family background, see the Gage pedigree in Questier, Michael, *Catholicism and Community in Early Modern England*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006).

#### ***Testatrix' parents***

The testatrix was the daughter of Sir John Gage (d.1556) and Philippa Guildford, the daughter of Sir Richard Guildford (c.1450-1506), comptroller of the royal household. See the *ODNB* entries for Sir John Gage and Sir Richard Guildford, and the latter's will, TNA PROB 11/17/381.

#### ***Testatrix' siblings***

According to the Gage pedigree, *supra*, the testatrix had four brothers and three sisters:

**-Sir Edward Gage** (d. 26 December 1567), who married Elizabeth Parker, the daughter of John Parker of Ratton in Willingdon, Sussex. For Sir Edward Gage, see the will of Sir Thomas Saunders (c.1505 - 18 August 1565) of Charlwood, Surrey, TNA PROB 11/48/525. Sir Edward Gage is mentioned in the will of the testatrix' first husband, Sir John Jenyn.

**-James Gage** (d.1573) of Bentley, an official in the royal household, who married Joan Delve. His daughter, Elizabeth Gage, is mentioned in the will below. According to the Gage pedigree in Questier, *supra*, she married George Chute. James Gage is mentioned in the will of the testatrix' first husband, Sir John Jenyn.

**-Robert Gage** (c.1518-1587), who married Elizabeth Wilford. Robert Gage is mentioned in the will of the testatrix' first husband, Sir John Jenyn.

**-William Gage** (living 1558). He is mentioned in the will of the testatrix' first husband, Sir John Jenyn.

-**Alice Gage** (d.1540), who married, as his first wife, the courtier Sir Anthony Browne (c.1500-1548), for whom see the *ODNB* entry. After the death of Alice Gage, Sir Anthony Browne married secondly Elizabeth Fitzgerald (1528?–1589), for whom see the *ODNB* entry. Henry Browne, one of the sons of Alice Gage and Sir Anthony Browne, is mentioned in the will below. See the Browne pedigree in Questier, *supra*. It should be noted, however, that the pedigree erroneously assigns all of Alice Gage's children to Sir Anthony Browne's second wife, Elizabeth Fitzgerald.

-**Cecily Gage** (d.1585), who married firstly Sir George Baynham (d.1548?), son and heir of Sir Christopher Baynham (d. 22 June 1540). For the will of Sir George Baynham, see TNA PROB 11/32/282. Cecily Gage married secondly Sir Charles Herbert (d.1557?) of Troy, Monmouthshire, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/43/1. For her will, see TNA PROB 11/68/452. Her daughter, Mary Baynham, is mentioned in the will below.

-**Anne Gage**, who married John Thatcher.

## ***MARRIAGES AND ISSUE***

### ***Testatrix' first marriage***

The testatrix married firstly Sir John Jenyn (d.1545), gentleman of the Privy Chamber to Henry VIII, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/31/493. Sir John Jenyn was the son of Thomas Jenyn (d. before 1533?), and the grandson of Thomas Jenyn (d.1508). See the WikiTree profile for Sir John Jenyn at:

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Jenyns-13>

See also the WikiTree profile for Thomas Jenyn (d. before 1533?) at:

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Jenyn-6>

See also the WikiTree profile for Thomas Jenyn (d.1508) at:

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Jenyn-2>

By Sir John Jenyn, the testatrix had one son:

\* **Edward Jenyn**. He was living in 1544 when his father, Sir John Jenyn, made his will but is not mentioned in the will below and thus appear to have predeceased the testatrix.

### ***Testatrix' second marriage***

The testatrix married secondly Stephen Adams (d.1556) of Boxgrove, Sussex, by whom she had no issue. For his will, see TNA PROB 11/38/171. Stephen Adams' sister, Eve

Adams, married firstly John Levett of Hillingdon, Sussex, and secondly Lawrence Ashburnham. She and her daughters, Anne Levett and Anne Ashburnham, are mentioned in the will below.

### ***OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL***

The testatrix' niece and executrix, Mary (nee Browne) Grey Capell (d. 4 February 1617), was the daughter of Sir Anthony Browne (29 June 1500 – 6 May 1548) and his first wife, Alice Gage (d. 31 March 1540). See her will, TNA PROB 11/130/133; the Browne and Gage pedigrees in Questier, *supra*; and Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 180-3, Vol. II, pp. 172-3 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=kjme027UeagC&pg=RA1-PA172>

See also 'A Who's Who of Tudor Women' at:

[www.tudorwomen.com](http://www.tudorwomen.com)

*Mary Browne (c.1527- February 4, 1616/17) was the daughter of Sir Anthony Browne of Cowdray Park, Sussex (June 27, 1500-May 5, 1548) and Alys Gage (d. March 31, 1540). She married Lord John Grey, a younger son of the marquis of Dorset (c.1527-November 19, 1564). He was imprisoned along with his brother, Henry, duke of Suffolk, after Wyatt's Rebellion in 1554, but Mary's family, who supported Queen Mary, contrived his release. Under Queen Elizabeth, in 1559, Grey was granted Pyrigo and the queen visited him there in 1561. In 1563, Lady Catherine Grey was held there in Lord John's custody. Mary's children with John Grey were Henry (1547-July 26, 1614), Frances, Elizabeth, Edward, Thomas, John, Jane (c.1550-c.1619), Anne, and Margaret (1559-August 14, 1604). In 1558, Mary and her husband purchased a capital messuage called the Minories near Aldgate, London, with a stable and three gardens, for £100. They conveyed a fourth part of this in 1562 to George Medley. The rest was sold to William Paulet in March 1561/2 for £1000. In 1569/70, now a widow, Mary and her son Henry purchased land in Rivenhall, Essex. Her second husband was Henry Capel or Capell of Little Hadham, Hertfordshire (1514-June 22, 1588). She was his second wife. Her daughter Margaret married his eldest son Arthur. Capell's will mentions a marriage settlement with Lord Montagu by which Mary received Rayne's Hall in Essex and other lands in Bocking, Braintree, Panfield, and Felstead. The queen visited Hadham Hall on progress on September 13, 1578. On Capel's death, Mary inherited, among other things, her coach and the two horses that went with it and half the ready money in the house at Hadham, plus valuable bequests of plate. She moved to her dower house at Rayne, Essex, while Arthur took possession of Hadham Hall. Mary was the defendant in a lawsuit in 1616, during which she declared she was near 100 years old. Her will is dated July 17, 1615 and was proved July 15, 1617.*

The testatrix' 'cousin, Richard Eldrington', can perhaps be identified with Richard Elrington (d.1569?) of Wiston, Sussex, for whom see his will, TNA PROB 11/52/50.

RM: T{estamentum} d{omi}ne Elisabethe Jenyns vidue

In nomine Dei amen. In the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred fifty and seven the tenth day of March, I, Dame Elizabeth Jenyns, widow, whole of mind and perfect remembrance, thanks be given to God, and in indifferent state of health, do ordain, make and declare this my last will and testament of my soul, body and goods as hereafter followeth, renouncing all former wills and testaments any manner of way by me heretofore made or declared:

First I commit my soul into th' hands of God the Father and his Son, Jesus Christ, my Redeemer;

My body I yield unto th' earth, and to be buried after the order of the Catholic Church in the most convenient place of the parish church where it shall please God I may die and to my executrice shall seem meet;

All my goods, chattels movable and unmovable, debts and other things whatsoever and wheresoever they be or remain, I will, dispose and devise as hereafter doth ensue:

To my niece, Mary Baynham, I give and bequeath one hundred marks in ready money, my black enamelled tablet of gold, my best and high standing cup of silver with a cover all gilt, a dozen of my middle sort of silver spoons with knops gilt, and my gilt salt with a pepper box and a ca [sic] casting-bottle in it, to be delivered to my said niece within one year after my decease or at [f. 103v?] the day of her marriage if it be afore, in which her marriage I do advise and pray her to follow the counsel and advice of her mother specially and other of my friends;

Also I give and bequeath to my said niece all my gown[s], kirtles and petticoats that I have, saving all my gowns and kirtles that be of velvet and saving my two black cloth gowns and two black cloth kirtles to them, to be delivered unto her within one month after my decease;

To my servants I give and bequeath as followeth, viz:

To William Foster, bailiff of Westminster, my own curtal and twenty pounds in ready money;

To Thomas Gratewike my gelding called Graystmarde and twenty pounds in ready money;

To Henry Fawconer may [sic] bay colt and twenty pounds in ready money;

To John Hilles my gelding called Donne Hylles and his year's wages;

To (blank) Tupper my gelding called White Sly and my lease I took of Master Carowe, which lease if he refuse for the £15 I owe him, I will my executrice shall deliver him the said gelding called Slye and £20 in ready money;

To Anthony Polly [=Poley?] my dun nag and five pounds in ready money;

To Piero forty shillings in ready money;

And to every of my said servants a black coat to be delivered immediately after my decease;

All which geldings I will within one month and the ready money within one year after my decease to be delivered unto them by mine executrice;

Item, I give to my sister [=sister-in-law] Ashburnham my nag called Gray Hilles;

To Sir John Arnoldes, priest, my gelding called Stafford;

And to my nephew, Henry Browne, my gelding called Gray Browne, to be delivered to them as the rest appointed before;

Item, I give and bequeath to Anne Levett ten pounds in ready money and my black cloth gown and kirtle I wear every day;

To Anne Ashburnham that waiteth upon me my best cloth gown and cloth kirtle before excepted, to be delivered unto them both within one month after my decease;

And also I give to the said Anne Ashburnham other ten pounds in ready money, to be delivered unto them both within one year after my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath to my brother, William Gage, ten pounds which he oweth me;

Item, I give and devise to Elizabeth Gage, my god-daughter, one of my brother James' daughters, my great gilt salt of silver with a cover and my next gilt standing cup of silver with a cover, and one of my gilt beer-pots of silver to be delivered unto her use within one month after my decease;

Item, I give to my cousin, Richard Eldrington, each of them [sic?] one other of my gilt beer-pots of silver with a cover to be delivered within one month after my decease;

Item, I give unto my Lord John Grey my cloke [=clock?] and my chain of gold which was my late husband's, Mr Adams;

All the rest of my goods, chattels, debts, obligations, specialties, household stuff, stock and store upon Bosgrave farm alias Boxgrave or elsewhere, my debts, legacies and

funerals paid and discharged, I will, give and bequeath wholly to my niece, Dame Mary Grey, wife of the said John, Lord Grey, which said Dame Mary Grey I ordain, make and appoint the sole and whole executrice of this my last will and testament, sealed, subscribed and delivered the day and year above-mentioned;

Witnesses to the sealing, making and delivery hereof: Peter Aborne, Richard Maister, Robert Pala.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum test{amentu}m coram d{omi}no apud London tertio die mens{is} Aprilis Anno Domini Mill{es}imo quingentesimo quinquagesimo octauo Iuramento Will{elm}i Walker procur{atoris} D{omi}ne Marie Gray Executric{is} in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}ate Ac approbatu{m} et insinuat{um} &c Comissaq{ue} fuit admi{ni}strac{i}o o{mn}iu{m} bonor{um} iuriu{m} et creditor{um} &c prefate executrici De bene &c Ac de pleno et fideli Inventario &c Necnon de plano et vero compoto reddend{o} &c iurat{i}

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord at London on the third day of the month of April in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-eighth by the oath of William Walker, proctor of Dame Mary Grey, executrix named in the same testament, and probated and entered etc., and administration was granted of all the goods, rights and credits etc. to the forenamed executrix, sworn to well etc., and [+to exhibit?] a full and faithful inventory etc., and also to render a plain and true account etc.]