

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 22 October 1572 and proved 9 February 1573, of Grissel Waldegrave Eden (d. 12 January 1573?), whose husband, Thomas Eden, was the half brother of the translator, Richard Eden (c.1516-1576).

For an original spelling transcript of the testatrix' will, see Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *The Visitation of Suffolke, Made by William Hervey, Clarenceux King of Arms, 1561, Vol. I*, (Lowestoft: Samuel Tymms, 1866), pp. 9-10 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ExI2AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA9>

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For earlier generations of the Waldegrave family, see the will, dated 26 January 1525 and 6 July 1525 and proved 6 March 1528, TNA PROB 11/22/294, of the testatrix' uncle, Sir William Waldegrave (c.1465 - 30 June 1527), one of the executors of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford. For the will of the 13th Earl, see TNA PROB 11/17/379.

See also the Waldegrave pedigrees taken in Essex in 1558 and 1612 in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex, Part I*, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), Vol. XIII, pp. 119, 308 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsofess1314metc#page/118/mode/2up>

and:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsofess1314metc#page/308/mode/2up>

It should be noted that both pedigrees contain numerous errors.

Confusion concerning the testatrix' identity

Until now, it appears not to have been realized that the testatrix was the daughter of Edward Waldegrave (d.1545?) by his second wife, Grissel Writtle (d.1547).

Confusion concerning the testatrix' identity has arisen partly because neither her will, nor the will of her husband, Thomas Eden, supplies information concerning her parents or siblings, and partly because there are numerous inconsistent and erroneous statements concerning her in the Waldegrave pedigrees. In the 1558 pedigree in *The Visitations of Essex, supra*, p. 119, her Christian name is given as 'Elizabeth', and she is erroneously stated to have been the daughter of Edward Waldegrave who died in the Tower in 1561, thus confusing her father, Edward Waldegrave (d.1545?), with his *grandson*, Sir Edward

Waldegrave of Borley, who died in the Tower in 1561. For Sir Edward Waldegrave (d.1561) of Borley, see his will, TNA PROB 11/44/318, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/waldegrave-sir-edward-151617-61>

b. 1516/17, 1st s. of John Waldegrave of Essex by Laura, da. of John Rochester of Terling, Essex. m. by 1551, Frances, da. of Sir Edward Neville of Aldington, Kent, 2s. 3da. suc. fa. 6 Oct. 1543, gd. fa. 1545. Kntd. 2 Oct. 1553.3

In the 1612 pedigree in *The Visitations of Essex, supra*, p. 308, her Christian name is given as ‘Grace’. See:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsofess13byumetc#page/308/mode/2up>

In the Waldegrave pedigree edited by Rye, her Christian name is also given as ‘Grace’. See Rye, Walter, ed., *The Visitation of Norfolk*, (London: Harleian Society, 1891), Vol. XXXII, p. 297 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=HS8EAAAIAAJ&pg=PA297>

Moreover although her family lived in Suffolk, neither the testatrix nor her parents are included in the Waldegrave pedigree taken in Suffolk in 1612. See Metcalfe, *The Visitations of Suffolk, supra*, p. 75 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=EycAAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA75>

It also seems she is not mentioned by name in the original versions of the pedigrees of her husband’s family taken by the heralds. In the Eden pedigree taken in Suffolk in 1561, she is identified as ‘*Gryssell*, daughter to *Edward Waldegrave* of Sudbury, Esquire’. However the names ‘*Gryssell*’ and ‘*Edward Waldegrave*’ are in italics, and thus appear to have been supplied by the modern editor of the pedigree. Similarly, in the Eden pedigree taken in 1612 she is identified as ‘*Grizell*, eldest daughter of *Edward Waldegrave*, second son of Sir Thomas Waldegrave of Sudbury’, but again the names ‘*Grizell*’ and ‘*Edward Waldegrave*’ are in italics, and appear to have been supplied by the modern editor of the pedigree. See Metcalfe, *The Visitations of Suffolk, supra*, pp. 27, 135 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=EycAAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA27>

and:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=EycAAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA135>

Similarly, Howard supplies the names, in italics, of the testatrix and her father in his edition of the pedigree taken in Suffolk in 1561. See Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *The*

Visitation of Suffolke, Made by William Hervey, Clarenceux King of Arms, 1561, Vol. I, (Lowestoft: Samuel Tymms, 1866), p. 18 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ExI2AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA19>

Further confusion concerning the testatrix' family is introduced by a statement in the History of Parliament entry for the testatrix' husband, in which her father is said to have been Edward Waldegrave of 'the Anyers', Sudbury, an error for 'the Friars'. See:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/eden-thomas-1502-68>

b. c.1502, 1st s. of Henry Eden, and bro. of George. educ. L. Inn, spec. adm. 16 Nov. 1527. m. by 1534, Griselda, da. of Edward Waldegrave of the Anyers, Sudbury, 5s. inc. Richard[†] and Thomas[†] 4da. suc. fa. 1518.1

Testatrix' grandparents

For the testatrix' paternal grandparents, Sir Thomas Waldegrave (d. 28 April 1472) and Elizabeth Fray (b.1441), see the will of the testatrix' uncle, Sir William Waldegrave (c.1465 - 30 June 1527), TNA PROB 11/22/294.

Testatrix' parents

As noted above, the testatrix was the daughter of Edward Waldegrave (d.1545?), esquire, of the Friars, Sudbury, by his second wife, Grissel Writtle (d.1547), widow successively of John Rochester (d.1506?) and Thomas West (d. August 1508).

For the will of the testatrix' father, Edward Waldegrave, see TNA PROB 11/30/620. See also Doyle, Anthony I., 'Borley and the Waldegraves in the Sixteenth Century', *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society*, Vol. XXIV, New Series, (Colchester: Essex Archaeological Society, 1951), pp. 17-31, available online at;

esah1852.org.uk/images/pdf/new-series/T2240000.pdf

Testatrix' father's first marriage to Isabel Cheney

The testatrix' father, Edward Waldegrave, married firstly Isabel Cheney (c.1472-c.1506), by whom he was the father of one son, the testatrix' half brother:

-John Waldegrave (c.1494 - 6 October 1543), who married his stepsister, Lora Rochester, daughter of the testatrix' mother, Grissel Writtle, by her first husband, John Rochester (d.1506?), son of Robert Rochester (d. 15 May 1508), esquire.

The Rochester family had numerous connections to the Earls of Oxford, for which see the will, TNA PROB 11/42A/105, of the testatrix' nephew, Sir Robert Rochester (d. 28 November 1557), who 'may have been brought up in the household of the earls of Oxford'.

Testatrix' father's second marriage to Grissel Writtle

As noted above, the testatrix was the daughter of Edward Waldegrave (d.1545) by his second wife, Grissel Writtle (d.1547), widow successively of John Rochester (d.1506?) and Thomas West (d. August 1508). For Grissel Writtle's family background and her children by her first two husbands, see her will, dated 18 May 1547 and proved 22 June 1547, TNA PROB 11/31/550.

Edward Waldegrave and Grissel Writtle had two daughters:

-Grissel Waldegrave, the testatrix in the will below.

-Margery Waldegrave, the testatrix' sister of the whole blood. Margery Waldegrave married, as his second wife, Robert Ryce (before 1487 – 10 August 1544), esquire, of Preston, Essex. For the will of Robert Ryce, dated 10 August 1544 and proved 2 September 1544, see TNA PROB 11/30/192. After the death of Robert Ryce, Margery Waldegrave married secondly John Gray, gentleman. See Harlow, C.G., 'Robert Ryce of Preston, 1555-1638', *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*, Vol. XXXII, Part 1 (1970), pp. 44-70 at p. 53, available as a pdf file online at:

<http://www.suffolk-institute.org.uk/proceedings-of-the-suffolk-institute-for-archaeology-history-online>

See also the Ryce pedigree in Metcalfe, *The Visitations of Suffolk, supra*, p. 205 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=Ru1DAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA205>

For a fine in 1537 stating that Margery Waldegrave and Grissel Eden were the daughters of Edward Waldegrave and Grissel Writtle, see Reaney, P.H. and Marc Fitch, eds., *Feet of Fines for Essex, Vol. IV, 1423-1547*, (Colchester: Essex Archaeological Society, 1964), p. 215, available as a pdf file online at:

esah1852.org.uk/images/pdf/ffines/F1400000.pdf

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testatrix married Thomas Eden (c.1502-1568), esquire, Clerk of the Star Chamber. For his family background, and for their children, see his will dated 1 October 1565 and

proved 2 December 1568, TNA PROB 11/50/383.

According to Sperling, the testatrix died 12 January 1573. See Sperling, C.F.D., *A Short History of the Borough of Sudbury in the County of Suffolk*, (Sudbury: B.R. Marten, 1896), p. 208 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/shorthistoryofbo00sper#page/n249/mode/2up>

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

Quare whether the testatrix' godson, Charles Caesar, was the son of the court physician Cesare Adelmare (1540-1569) and Margery Peryent (d.1583). After the death of Cesare Adelmare, his widow, Margery, married Michael Lok. See:

<http://cupboardworld.blogspot.com/2014/05/the-caesars-of-elizabethan-london.html>

See also:

'Cabell-Chafe', in *Alumni Oxonienses 1500-1714*, ed. Joseph Foster (Oxford, 1891), pp. 228-254. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/alumni-oxon/1500-1714/pp228-254> [accessed 23 June 2018]

Charles Caesar of London, gent. Magdalen Hall, matric.-entry under date 20 Dec., 1577, aged 16; 'an eminent soldier,' brother of Julius 1575.

A 'Mr Cesar' is also mentioned in the will of the testatrix' husband:

And to Mr Cesar I give 40s, willing with the same some pretty thing be made for remembrance.

T{estamentum} Grissile Eden

In the name of God, Amen. The 22nd day of the month of October in the year of Our [f. 44r] Lord God 1572 and in the fourteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., I, Grissel Eden th' elder of Sudbury in the county of Suffolk, widow, the late wife of Thomas Eden, esquire, deceased, whole of mind and in my good and perfect remembrance being, praised be God for all his benefits, do ordain and make this my present testament and last will, utterly revoking and annulling all other former wills and testaments by me at any time heretofore made, devised or declared either by word or writing, and confirming this only to stand and be taken as my whole, true and last will, as followeth:

First and principally I give and bequeath my soul into th' hands of Almighty God, [+my?] Maker and Redeemer;

And I will my body to be buried in the chapel of the parish church of All Saints in Sudbury where the body of my good husband lieth buried in such sort as shall seem best to mine executor;

Item, I give to the poor people dwelling in Sudbury eight pounds, whereof I will that £4 be given and distributed upon the day of my burial and thother £4 to be given and distributed within one year next following when my executor shall think the same most needful;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Charles Caesar, my godson, ten pounds to be paid at his age of 18 years, if he live so long;

Item, I give unto Mr Senter forty shillings to be paid unto him within one month next after my decease;

Item, I give unto the widow Heywarde a mourning gown, one of my best partlets and a pair of ruffs to it, and one of my fine smocks;

Item, I give unto Robert Sharpe, her son, one bed furnished standing in the little chamber within the parlour chamber, that is to say, a field bedstead with a tester of red and yellow satin of Bruges, 3 curtains of red and yellow say, three curtain-rods, one good featherbed, a pair of new blankets, one bolster and one counterpoint or covering of tapestry, which I will shall be delivered unto him within 8 days next after my decease;

Item, I give unto such of my servants as hath dwelt with me sithence the death of my husband and shall fortune to dwell with me at the time of my death, to each of them forty shillings;

Item, I will that my executor shall give and reward every one of my other servants, as well maidservants as menservants, that shall happen to dwell with me at the time of my death according to his discretion;

Item, I give unto Edward Wistowe, the boy in my kitchen, if he dwell with me at the time of my death, 13s 4d to be paid unto him within one month next after my decease;

Item, I give unto Margery, my little maid, 20s to be paid her within one month after my decease, so that the said Margery shall serve my daughter Sulyard during the term which she is bound to serve me if my daughter Sulyard be content to keep her;

Item, I give unto my said daughter Sulyard one pair of fine sheets of three breadths, one damask tablecloth stitched at both ends, a dozen of damask napkins belonging to it wrought with black silk, & a damask towel likewise wrought with black silk;

Item, I give unto my daughter, Grissel Eden, a damask tablecloth, a damask cupboard cloth and a damask towel, a pair of fine sheets of 2 breadths and a half, two fine plain tablecloths, one fine plain cupboard cloth, and a dozen of plain table napkins;

Item, I give and bequeath to the said Grissel Eden, my daughter, all the apparel belonging to mine own person, as silk, velvet, woollen, cloth, linen, furs or whatsoever other sort or condition the same shall be, all which napery and apparel I will shall be delivered to the said Grissel, my daughter, within one month next after my decease;

All the residue of my goods and chattels, ready money, plate, jewels, debts, implements and household stuff for the true and faithful execution of this my present testament and last will I give and bequeath them wholly to Richard Eden, my son, whom I do ordain and make th' only and sole executor of this my said last will and testament, these being witnesses: Martyn Coole, Charles Eden, Robert Sharpe, with other.

Post scriptum: Item, I give and bequeath to my nephew, Charles Eden, forty shillings to be paid unto him within one month next after my decease.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum coram mag^{ist}ro Will^{el}mo Drury legum doctore curie p^{re}rogatiue Cantuarien^{sis} com^missario apud London nono die mens^{is} february anno d^{omi}ni Mill^{es}imo quingen^{tes}imo septuagesimo secundo Iuramento m^{ag}istri Georgij Harryson no^{ta}rij pu^{bli}ci procur^{atoris} Executor^{is} in testamento h^{uius}mo^di no^miⁿatⁱ Cui com^miss^a fuit admiⁿⁱstracⁱo o^{mn}ium et sing^ulor^{um} bonor^{um} &c De bene &c Ad sancta dei Evangelia Iuratⁱ

[=The above-written testament was proved before Master William Drury, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the ninth day of the month of February in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred seventy-second by the oath of Master George Harrison, notary public, proctor of the executor named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc.]