

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 16 November 1582 and proved 16 March 1583, of Lucy Somerset (c.1524 - 23 February 1583), the daughter of Henry Somerset (1495/6–1549), 2nd Earl of Worcester, and his second wife, Elizabeth Browne (c.1502–1565), daughter of Sir Anthony Browne (d.1506).

The testatrix was a first cousin of Anthony Browne (1528-1592), 1st Viscount Montague, grandfather of Henry Wriothesley (1573-1624), to whom Shakespeare dedicated *Venus and Adonis* and *The Rape of Lucrece*.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testatrix was the daughter of Henry Somerset (1495/6–1549), 2nd Earl of Worcester, by his second wife, Elizabeth Browne (c.1502–1565), daughter of Sir Anthony Browne (d.1506).

The testatrix had four brothers and three sisters:

-William Somerset (1526/7-1589), 3rd Earl of Worcester, who married firstly Christian North (b.1533), the daughter of Edward North (c.1504-1564), 1st Baron North. Their son, Edward Somerset (c.1550-1628), 4th Earl of Worcester, married Elizabeth Hastings at Whitehall on the same day Oxford married Anne Cecil. See ERO D/DRg2/24:

Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxenford, did the 16th day of December 1571 anno xiiijto Regine Elizabeth marry the Lady his wife named Anne Cecil, one of the daughters of Sir William Cecil, knight, Lord of Burghley, at the court then being at Whitehall by Westminster. The same day, year and place the Lord Herbert, son and heir of the Earl of Worcester, did marry the Lady Hastings, sister to Henry, Earl of Huntingdon.

William Somerset, 3rd Earl of Worcester, is said to have married secondly Theophila Newton, a sister of Frances Newton, wife of William Brooke (1 November 1527 – 6 March 1597), 10th Baron Cobham, and daughter of John Newton (otherwise Cradock) of East Harptree, Somerset, by Margaret Poyntz, daughter of Sir Anthony Poyntz. However, see:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=697

THEOPHILA NEWTON (d.1577+)

Theophila Newton was one of the twenty-one children of Sir John Newton or Cradock of East Harptree, Somerset and Hanham, Gloucestershire (c.1505-1568) and Margaret Poyntz (c.1505-1559). She married William Butler of Great Badminton, Gloucestershire (1534-August 5, 1577) and was the mother of his son Nicholas and two daughters. According to the History of Parliament he left each daughter £500, £200 to his sister Margaret, and all his goods to his son. The entry does not mention a widow but does

state that the will was not proved until 1586. According to A Memory of Honour: the life of William Brooke, Lord Cobham by David McKeen, Theophila Butler of Badminton is wrongly identified as the wife of William Somerset, 3rd earl of Worcester (1527-February 21, 1588/89) because of a mistake in a manuscript entry made c. 1620. Her second husband was William Paratt of Pantglas, Gwynedd, Wales. Portrait: c. 1567.

See McKeen, David, *A Memory of Honour*, (Salzburg: University of Salzburg, 1986), Vol. I, p. 142.

-Thomas Somerset.

-Sir Charles Somerset.

-Francis Somerset.

-Eleanor Somerset (died c.1584), who married firstly, as his second wife, Sir Roger Vaughan (d. June 1571), and secondly, as his second wife, Sir Henry Jones (d.1586). She had no issue by either marriage. See:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=707

-Anne Somerset (1536-1591) who married Thomas Percy (1528-1572), 7th Earl of Northumberland. See the *ODNB* entries for Anne Somerset and Thomas Percy for whom see the *ODNB* entry, and the will of Mary (nee Harbottle) Fitton, TNA PROB 11/39/471. For the Harbottle/Percy pedigree, see Hodgson, John, *A History of Northumberland in Three Parts, Part II*, (Newcastle, 1832), Vol. II, p. 262 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/historyofnortpt202hodguoft#page/262/mode/2up>

For Anne Somerset, see also:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=707

-Joan Somerset, who married Sir Edward Mansel.

See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 180 and Vol. III, pp. 235-7, and entries for members of the Browne and Somerset families in the *ODNB*.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

About 1545 the testatrix married John Neville (d. 22 April 1577), 4th Baron Latimer, the son of John Neville (17 November 1493 – 2 March 1543), 3rd Baron Latimer, by his first wife, Dorothy de Vere (d. 7 February 1527), sister and coheir of John de Vere (14 August 1499 - 14 July 1526), 14th Earl of Oxford. For the will of John Neville, 3rd Baron Latimer, see TNA PROB 11/29/303. See also the entry in the *ODNB*.

The testatrix' father-in-law, John Neville, 3rd Baron Latimer, was the eldest son and heir of Richard Neville (c.1467–1530), 2nd Baron Latimer, by Anne Stafford, daughter and heir of Sir Humphrey Stafford of Grafton, Worcestershire, and Blatherwyk, Northamptonshire. By 1520 he had married Dorothy de Vere, the daughter of Sir George Vere (died c.1503), and Margaret Stafford. For the will of Sir George Vere, see TNA PROB 11/13/444.

Dorothy Vere Neville died on 7 February 1527, and on 20 June 1528 the testatrix' father-in-law, John Neville, 3rd Baron Latimer, obtained a licence to marry Elizabeth Musgrave, daughter of Sir Edward Musgrave of Hartley, Westmorland, and Edenhall, Cumberland.

The testatrix' father-in-law married thirdly, in the summer of 1534, Katherine Parr (1512–1548), daughter of Sir Thomas Parr of Kendal, Westmorland, and widow of Sir Edward Burgh, for whom see the will of Oxford's foe, Thomas Knyvet (1546 – 27 July 1622), TNA PROB 11/140/169.

By John Neville (d.1577), 4th Baron Latimer, the testatrix had four daughters:

* **Katherine Neville** (d. 28 October 1596), who married firstly Henry Percy (c.1532-1585), 8th Earl of Northumberland, and secondly Francis Fitton (d. 17 June 1608), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/112/118.

* **Dorothy Neville** (1548-1609), who married Oxford's brother-in-law, Thomas Cecil (1542-1632/3), 1st Earl of Exeter.

* **Lucy Neville** (c.1549-1608), who married Sir William Cornwallis (c.1551-1611), who purchased Oxford's lease of Fisher's Folly. For a discussion of Oxford's interest in Fisher's Folly, see the will of Jasper Fisher, TNA PROB 11/61/541. For correspondence between Sir Thomas Cornwallis (1518/19-1604) and Lord Burghley concerning the purchase of Oxford's lease of Fisher's Folly, see CP 166/80 and CP 17/60. For the will of Sir William Cornwallis, see TNA PROB 11/118/441.

Anne Cornwallis (d.1635), one of the daughters of Lucy Neville and William Cornwallis, has been identified as the 'Anne Cornwaleys' of the anthology of sixteenth century poetry known as the Cornwallis-Lysons manuscript, now in the Folger Library (Folger MS V.a.89). See the *ODNB* entry for Anne Cornwallis.

Elizabeth Cornwallis, another of the daughters of Lucy Neville and Sir William Cornwallis, married Sir William Sandys (c.1575 – 28 October 1628), son of Sir Walter Sandys (d.1609) by Mabel Wriothesley, aunt of Henry Wriothesley (1573-1624), 3rd Earl of Southampton, to whom Shakespeare dedicated *Venus and Adonis* and *The Rape of Lucrece*. Elizabeth Cornwallis and Sir William Sandys were married at the house of her father, Sir William Cornwallis, in St Botolph's, Bishopsgate (i.e. Oxford's former mansion), on 23 November 1592. See the Cornwallis pedigree in *The Private*

Correspondence of Jane Lady Cornwallis, 1613-1644, (London: S. & J. Bentley, 1842), p. xxxvii at:

<https://archive.org/stream/privatecorrespon00baco#page/n45/mode/2up>.

See also Chester, Joseph Lemuel, ed., *The Marriage, Baptismal and Burial registers of the Collegiate Church or Abbey of St. Peter, Westminster*, (London, 1876), p. 150 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/marriagebaptism02chesgoog#page/n168/mode/2up>.

* **Elizabeth Neville** (1545x50-1630), who married Sir John Danvers (1540-1594) of Dauntsey. Their sons, Sir Charles Danvers (c.1568-1601) and Sir Henry Danvers (1573-1644), were ‘among the closest friends’ of Henry Wriothesley, 3rd Earl of Southampton, and after a quarrel in 1594 in which the Danvers brothers killed Henry Long, Southampton ‘hid them from the authorities’ at Whitley Lodge, and ‘ensured their escape into exile across the channel’. They were eventually pardoned by the Queen, and returned to England in 1598. See the *ODNB* entries for Sir Charles Danvers and Sir Henry Danvers.

In 1601 Sir Charles Danvers was attainted and executed for his part in the Essex rebellion, as a result of which the lands which he inherited from both his father and his mother escheated to the Crown. Several of Oxford’s extant letters describe his involvement on the Queen’s behalf in the Danvers escheat case, and the lands which had descended to Sir Charles Danvers from the Lords Latimer are specifically referred to in a letter written by Oxford to his brother-in-law, Sir Robert Cecil, in January 1602 (see CP 181/99).

LM: T{estamentum} D{omi}ne Lucie Lattimer

In the name of God, Amen. The sixteenth day of November Anno Domini one thousand five hundred eighty-two, I, Lucy, Lady Latimer, widow, late wife to the right honourable Sir John Neville, knight, Lord Latimer, deceased, and also one of the daughters of the right honourable Henry, late Earl [-Earl] of Worcester, deceased, considering that there is nothing more certain to man and womankind than death of the body by separation of the soul from the same, and that the time, place and manner thereof are uncertain and unknown unto all but only unto God, and being both in convenient health of body and also of good and perfect memory, do make and declare this my present last will and testament touching my goods, chattels and debts in manner and form following:

And first and principally I commend and commit my soul unto Almighty God and to his great mercy and goodness, steadfastly hoping and trusting that by the same his mercy and goodness and by the benefit of the blessed passion, death, resurrection and ascension of our Saviour Jesus Christ that my soul immediately after the departure thereof from this

my earthly body shall be saved from damnation and received into the blessed and joyful kingdom of heaven;

And as touching my earthly body, the creature of God, without opening or cutting thereof I will to be buried in the earth in decent order immediately after my decease within the parish church of Hackney in the county of Middlesex, yet I will that the funerals for the burial of my said body after the burial thereof shall be had, made and done in such [-&] manner as by mine executors shall be thought most meet and necessary;

And I will also after my decease and burial of my body that the executors of this my will shall provide a tomb of alabaster to be set upon and over the place of my said burial, with the pictures of myself and of my four daughters with the arms of the late Lord Latimer, their father, and of the several husbands of my said daughters to be set, cut and graven upon and about the same tomb in such manner and order as by th' executors of this my last will shall be thought meet and convenient, and my desire is that my servant, William Hargill, may by the appointment of mine executors cause the said tomb to be made, furnished and set up accordingly for their more ease;

And for and concerning the charges doing and performing of my said burial, funerals and tomb above-mentioned, I will that th' executors of this my will shall bestow and disburse in and about the same five hundred marks;

Also I will and bequeath to the right honourable the Earl of Northumberland, one of my sons-in-law, my black tablet and picture in the same;

And I give and bequeath also to my daughter, the Countess, his wife, my cross of diamonds and my newest carpet, in and for a remembrance of me after my death;

Also I will that mine executors shall bestow the sum of ten pounds upon a diamond, which diamond I do give and bequeath to the Earl of Northumberland his eldest son named the Lord Henry Percy;

Also I give and bequeath unto Thomas Percy, son unto the said Earl, a chain of gold of the value of twenty pounds, to be bought and provided for him by th' executors of this my will;

Also I give and bequeath to the Lady Lucy Percy the jewel of rubies and diamonds that doth hang in chains of diamonds, in and for a remembrance of me after my decease;

Also I give and bequeath to my daughter, the Lady Cecil, my jewel named Cupid, my chafing-dish of silver and spice-box of silver, and also my hangings of tapestry that were at Snape, together with my field-bed of peach [-of peach] colour cloth, my tissue chair with the cushion and stool in it, and also two of my new carpets, in and for a remembrance of me after my decease;

Also I will and bequeath unto William Cecil, son to Sir Thomas Cecil, a chain of gold of the value of twenty pounds, to be provided and delivered unto him by th' executors of this my last will and testament;

Also I give unto Lucy Cecil, daughter unto the said Sir Thomas Cecil, two hundred pounds in money to be bestowed by th' executors of this my will in chains or other jewels to her use, always provided that my daughter Cecil, her mother, be made privy to the bestowing of the same;

Also I give and bequeath to the said Lucy Cecil my basin and ewer, caudle-cup, porridge dish and candlestick of silver belonging or commonly used or occupied in my chamber;

Also I will and bequeath unto my daughter Cornwallis my great chain of gold, one dozen of silver plates, three dishes of silver, two dishes of silver of a less sort for boiled meat, one platter and two saucers of silver;

Also I give and bequeath unto her my bed of tissue, the chair and stool accustomed to it, and the hangings of tapestry which is [+in?] my bed-chamber at Cheshunt, together with two of my new carpets, four pair of my best sheets, and all my damask cloths, in and for a remembrance of me after my decease;

And I give and bequeath to John Cornwallis, son to my said daughter Cornwallis, a chain of gold of the value of twenty pounds, to be provided and delivered unto him by the' executors of this my will;

Also I will and bequeath to Frances Cornwallis, sister to the said John Cornwallis, forty pounds in money, to be bestowed by the executors of this my will in a chain of gold or other jewels to her use, always provided that my said daughter Cornwallis be made privy to the bestowing of the same;

Also I will and bequeath unto my daughter, the Lady Danvers, my rose of diamonds, one dozen of silver plates, three dishes of silver, two dishes of silver for boiled meat, a platter and two saucers of silver;

Also I give unto her my bed of scarlet, the chair, cushion and stool belonging to it, and also the hangings of tapestry in that chamber where the said bed of scarlet standeth, together with the great carpet usually laid on the dining-table and the cupboard carpet belonging to the same, in and for a remembrance of me after my decease;

Also I give and bequeath to Charles Danvers, son of Sir John Danvers, knight, one chain of gold of the value of twenty pounds, to be provided and delivered unto him by th' executors of this my will;

Also I give and bequeath to Lucy Danvers, daughter to the said Sir John Danvers, forty pounds in money, to be bestowed by th' executors of this my will in a chain of gold or

other jewels to her use, always provided that my said daughter Danvers, her mother, be made privy to the bestowing of the same;

Also I give and bequeath unto my niece, Elizabeth Percy, twenty pounds, and to her sister, Lucy Stanley, twenty pounds;

Also I give and bequeath to Mrs Blanche Apparrie [=Parry] one piece of gold called a portague of the value of three pounds ten shillings;

Also I give and bequeath unto my cousin, Elizabeth Eynne, widow, a portague of the value of three pounds ten shillings;

Also I give and bequeath unto Mrs Bridget Keys, the wife of John Keys, esquire, my little ring of gold set with opals and rubies, and also the picture of the old Lady Lennox, and I will and bequeath to Lucy Keys, her daughter and my god-daughter, a portague of the value of three pounds ten shillings;

Also I give and bequeath to my friend, Robert Mann, my ring with a toadstone, in and for a remembrance of me after my decease;

Also I will and bequeath to William Hargill and Elizabeth, his wife, my servants, two hundred marks of lawful money, my nest of tun cups of silver, my three little silver balls, one dozen of silver spoons, my bed of white satin and muzzey velvet with the curtains of black and red sarsenet and the quilt of the same, my field-bed embroidered with the LL with the whole furniture thereof, two good featherbeds with the whole furniture thereof, and all my hangings of dornick and say;

And I give and bequeath to the said William Hargill all my books, and to the said Elizabeth, his wife, all my diaper cloths, plain linen, napery linen belonging to my own body, and all my pewter and pewter vessel, together with all the carpets of my own making;

Also I give and bequeath unto Charles Hargill, son to the said William and Elizabeth, twenty marks in money;

Also I give and bequeath to Lucy Hargill, daughter to the said William and Elizabeth, twenty pounds in money and my silver jug with two ears;

Also I will and bequeath to Mary Thornell, my servant, if she be with me in my service at the time of my decease, ten pounds in money;

Also I give and bequeath to Lucy Preston, my servant, if she shall be with me in my service at the time of my decease, twenty pounds in money, and also I give unto her one of the new bedsteads which is at Hackney, a featherbed, a bolster, two blankets, a coverlet, a rug and two pair of hemp sheets, the featherbed to be none of the worst sort;

Also I give and bequeath to Elizabeth Kyrkebye, my servant, five pounds in money;

Also I give and bequeath to Francis Gower, my servant, if he be in my service at the time of my decease, six pounds thirteen shillings four pence in money;

Also I give and bequeath unto Thomas Howe, my servant, if he be with me in my service at the time of my decease, twenty pounds in money;

Also I give and bequeath to John(?) Coke, my servant, if he shall be with me in my service at the time of my decease, ten pounds in money;

Also I give and bequeath to Thomas Baynebrigge, my servant, if he shall be with me in my service at the time of my decease, six pounds thirteen shillings iiijd in money;

Also I give and bequeath to John Eden, my servant, if he shall be in my service at the time of my death, six pounds thirteen shillings four pence in money;

Also I give and bequeath to James Nightingale, my servant, if he shall be in my service at the time of my decease, five pounds in money;

Also I give and bequeath to Thomas Morgan, my servant, if he shall be with me in my service at the time of my decease, five pounds in money;

Also I will and bequeath to every other of my servants that shall be in my service at the time of my decease that receiveth or taketh wages of me, one half year's wages over and above his or their wages that shall be due by his or her service covenant or bargain;

And my will is that all the legacies, bequests and wages due unto my said servants by virtue of this my last will and testament shall be paid and delivered unto them and every of them within one month next after my decease;

And furthermore I give and bequeath unto my brother, Sir Charles Somerset, knight, my coach and coach-horses with all the furniture belonging to the same;

Also I will that there be distributed and given to the poor people of the parishes of Hackney and Cheshunt at the time of my death the sum of ten pounds;

And of this my last will and testament I do ordain and make my very trusty & good friends David Lewes, Doctor of the Civil Laws, and John Keyes, esquire, Avener of the Queen's Majesty's Stable, my executors [-to executors] to execute and perform this my present will and testament in all things as my trust is in them, and do give and bequeath to the said Mr Doctor Lewes for his pains and travail therein one of my basin and ewers of silver and my best silver bowl with the cover for it, and I give to the said John Keyes, esquire, thother of my basins and ewers of silver and my silver bowl and cover next in value to the bowl and cover before bequeathed to Mr Doctor Lewes for his pains and travail therein;

The residue of all my goods and chattels not before given, willed or bequeathed, my debts being paid, my legacies and funerals being also paid, done and performed, I give, will and bequeath unto the said William Hargill and Elizabeth, his wife.

Witnesses of this my present last will & testament, LL. Robert Man, by me, Apolito Lynnett, Arthur Kaye(?), John Thomsons's mark.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum apud London coram venerabili viro mag{ist}ro Will{el}mo Drury Legum Doctore curie prerogatiue cantuarien{sis} commissario etc Decimo sexto Die mens{is} Martij Anno Domini iuxta cursum et computac{i}o{n}em eccl{es}ie anglicane mill{es}imo quingentesimo octogesimo secundo Iuramento mag{ist}ri Davidi Lewes Legum Doctoris et Ioh{ann}is Keyes Ar{migeri} executor{um} etc Quibus commissa fuit administracio etc. De bene etc Iurat{orum}

[=The above-written will was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Drury, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury etc., on the sixteenth day of the month of March in the year of the Lord according to the course and reckoning of the English Church the thousand five hundred eighty-second by the oath of Master David Lewes, Doctor of the Laws, and John Keyes, esquire, executors etc., to whom administration was granted etc., sworn to well etc.]