

SUMMARY: The document below is the will, dated 4 April 1485 and proved 28 June 1485, of Richard Scrope (d.1485), whose daughter, Elizabeth (d.1537), was the second wife of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford.

The testator was the second son of Henry Scrope (1418-1458/9), 4th Baron Scrope of Bolton, and his wife, Elizabeth Scrope (d. in or after 1498), the daughter of John Scrope, 4th Baron Scrope of Masham, and his wife, Elizabeth, the daughter of Sir Thomas Chaworth of Wiverton, Nottinghamshire. The testator's patrimony included the estate of Bentley near Doncaster, Langley Castle near Durham, and Weighton in Yorkshire.

By licence dated 25 November 1547, the testator married Eleanor Washbourne (d.1505/6), the daughter of Norman Washbourne (1433-1482) and Elizabeth Kniveton or Kynaston. She is said to have been from Worcestershire. After the testator's death, his widow, Eleanor (d.1505/6), married Sir John Wyndham (d.1502), whose first wife was Margaret, fourth daughter of John Howard (d.1485), 1st Duke of Norfolk. The Lady Norfolk to whom the testator bequeaths a French book in the will below has been identified as Margaret (d.1494), the second wife of John Howard (d.1485), 1st Duke of Norfolk. The relationships evidenced by this bequest perhaps explain the subsequent marriage of the testator's widow, Eleanor (d.1505/6), to Sir John Wyndham. By Sir John Wyndham (d.1502), Eleanor (d.1505/6) had an only daughter, Frances, who married Sir John Seyntclere. For her will, see TNA PROB 11/15.

The testator and his wife, Eleanor (d.1505/6), had a son, Stephen, and a daughter, Dorothy (d.1491), who died young, and seven daughters who lived to adulthood:

-Elizabeth (d.1537), married firstly, William (1436-1507), 2nd Viscount Beaumont and Lord Bardolf, and secondly, in 1508, John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford (for her will, see TNA PROB 11/27, ff. 84-6; for the will of the 13th Earl, see TNA PROB 11/17, ff. 82-90);

-Eleanor, married her stepbrother, Sir Thomas Wyndham (d.1522) of Felbrigg;

-Margaret (d.1515), married Edmund de la Pole (1472?-1513), 8th Earl of Suffolk, a claimant to the throne who was executed in 1513. For her will, see TNA PROB 11/18, ff. 44-5. Edmund de la Pole's paternal grandparents were William de la Pole (1396-1450), 1st Duke of Suffolk (executed 1450), and Alice Chaucer (d.1475), the grand-daughter of Geoffrey Chaucer, author of *The Canterbury Tales*. At one time the Earls of Oxford owned the Ellesmere manuscript of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, which contains a 'balade' on the House of Vere by one Rotheley in a hand dating from 1450-1480. The de Vere ownership of the Ellesmere manuscript may thus have some connection to the 13th Earl's widow, Elizabeth (d.1537), Countess of Oxford, who was the sister-in-law of Edmund de la Pole (1472?-1513), grandson of Alice Chaucer;

-Mary (d.1548) married firstly, Sir Edward Jerningham (d.1515) of Somerleyton and, secondly, Sir William Kingston (c.1476-1540), Constable of the Tower of London (for her will, see TNA PROB 11/32, ff. 168-9);

-Katherine, married Richard Audley of Swaffham, Norfolk, eldest son and heir of Sir John Audley of Cokefield & Wytellisham, Suffolk (died 18 April 1529) and his first wife, Muriel Brewes;

-Jane, married Thomas Brewes or Brewse (d.1514), of Wenham, Suffolk, son of Robert Brewes of Little Wenham (d.1513) and Katherine Wingfield (d.1525), the daughter of Sir John Wingfield of Letheringham;

-Anne, a nun at Barking.

For the foregoing, see Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2004), pp. 236, 645; the entries for the testator's brother, John Scrope (1437/8-1498), 5th Baron Scrope of Bolton, John Howard (d.1485), 1st Duke of Norfolk, Edmund de la Pole (1472?-1513), 8th Earl of Suffolk, and Thomas Wyndham (d.1554) in the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*; the testator's will in *Testamenta Eboracensia*, Vol. III (London: Surtees Society, 1865), pp. 297-9, available online; and the Scrope pedigree in Norcliffe, Charles Best, ed., *The Visitation of Yorkshire in the Years 1563 and 1563* by William Flower, Vol. 16, (London: Harleian Society, 1881), p. 280, available online.

In Dei nomine, Amen. I, Richard Scrope, being in full mind and whole wit and in charity with all the world, the 4th day of April the year of Our Lord God 1485 make my will and testament in this wise:

First I bequeath my soul to God Almighty, Our Lady Saint Mary, and to all the saints in heaven, and my body to be buried in the church of the Friar Preachers in London, and the said Friar Preachers to have £10 paid in hand, and of the said £10 I will 5 marks be for my burial and 5 marks for my month's mind, and 5 marks for my year's mind;

Also I will that Mr Perrys [=Paris?], my confessor, have 10 marks to sing for me a whole year;

Item, to every other of the three orders in London, each of the said orders to have 20s;

Item, to the Friars of Ware, 6s 8d;

Item, to the Gray Friars at Walsingham, 6s 8d;

Item, I will my wife have, if she live sole, all my lands and goods, movable and unmovable, except such as I bequeath to other folk and such as must be bestowed for my soul by the discretion of mine executors, and if it fortune my said wife to be wedded, I will then that she have Weighton and Langley the term of her life; also to have £20 in

plate and £20 in money, and all her jewels, and all that belongs to her chamber, with all her arrayment;

Item, if this child that my wife is with be a son, I will that it be married by the discretion of mine executors, and if it be a daughter, and my wife happen to be married, then I will that Bentley be sold unto the behalf of my children if mine executors think it to be done;

I will that if it happen John Scrope to have a son, my wife having none, that then the said John Scrope's son to have one of my daughters and the lordship of Weighton after my wife's decease, to them and to the heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten;

Item, I bequeath my ring with the shield to my Lady, my mother;

Item, to my Lord, my brother, my hoop of gold;

Item, to my brother, Mr Ralph, my porteous, and Powes, my horse;

Item, to my brother, Robert, my short velvet . . . of black, and my harness complete;

Item, to my nephew, Harry Scrope, my great gelding and my horse-harness of velvet, and my battle-axe, and the harness I brought from France;

Item, for my crimson velvet . . . I will my executors make a cope thereof, and to spend 5 marks in the garnishing thereof, and to deliver it to the same place thereas I lie;

Item, I will that my feoffees of all my lands, that they make a state over to mine executors whensoever they require them;

Item, I will my mother-in-law have my primer and a little cross of gold;

Item, I will that the vicar of Sabrygwortht [=Sawbridgeworth?] have two nobles, and do me a dirge there at the church, and a Mass;

Item, to the church['s] behoof, 6s 8d;

Item, to Sir Richard, my chaplain, my great porteous;

Item, I will that Thomas Smyght [=Smyth?] have his quarter wage at midsummer, and 20s;

Item, his wife her wage and 13s 4d;

Item, John Lele his wage and 4 nobles and his horse;

Item, John Mason his wage and 4 nobles;

Item, Thomas Fotte his wage and 13s 4d;

Item, William Jenyn his wage and 13s 4d;

Item, John Walker his wage, 10s;

Item, Water, his wage . . . Margery, her wage and 4 nobles;

Annas Plowght, 20s;

Item, to tother Anna, 10s and her wage;

Item, Gybbis, 10s;

Item, Morton, 6s 8d;

Item, to my Lady Norfolk . . . French book;

Item, the remainder of French books to my Lord, my brother;

Item, to Rich, 10s;

Item, to . . . 3s 4d;

Item, to Edward Plowght, 6s 8d;

Item, a covercop of silver with drappis of gold I will that Dame Anne, my daughter, have when she comes to the age of 24 years;

Item, to John Borrell's wife, 20s;

Also I make my wife, my Lord Scrope, and Mr Ralph Scrope, my brethren, to be mine executors;

Witness whereof I set to mine sign manual and my seal.