

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 25 March 1504 and proved 30 April 1504, of John Writhe, Garter King of Arms, great-great-grandfather of Henry Wriothesley (1573-1624), 3rd Earl of Southampton, to whom Shakespeare dedicated *Venus and Adonis* and *The Rape of Lucrece*.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

According to the *ODNB*, the testator was probably the son of William Writhe, receiver to John Beaufort (1404–1444), Duke of Somerset, by Agnes Gibbes, daughter of John Gibbes.

For a biography of the testator and a summary of his will, see also Noble, Mark, *A History of the College of Arms*, (London: J. Debrett, 1804), pp. 81-6 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/ahistorycollege00noblgoog#page/n104/mode/2up/>.

MARRIAGES AND CHILDREN

The testator had three wives.

First marriage

* Barbara Dunstanville or Castlecombe (d.1480/1483), daughter and heir of John or Januarius (Janvier) Dunstanville or Castlecombe, said to have been a descendant of Reginald (d.1175), Earl of Cornwall, an illegitimate son of Henry I, by whom the testator had two sons and two daughters:

-Sir Thomas Wriothesley (d. 24 November 1534), Garter King of Arms, who married firstly, before 1500, Jane Halle (d. after 1510), the daughter of William Halle. William Halle was the son of John Halle (d. 18 October 1479), four times mayor of Salisbury, and the brother of Christian Halle (d.1504), whose son married the testator's daughter, Barbara Wriothesley (see below). For John Halle (d. 18 October 1479), see Halle of John Halle and the Gaumont Cinema 1931, available online.

By Jane Halle, Sir Thomas Wriothesley had ten children. However his only surviving son by that marriage was Charles Wriothesley (1508-1562), Windsor Herald, for whom see the *ODNB* entry. He married secondly Anne Ingleby (d. before 1525), daughter of Sir William Ingleby of Ripley, Yorkshire, and widow successively of Richard Goldesborough and Robert Warcop, by whom he had a daughter who died young. He may also have married thirdly a wife named Anne. Although Noble mentions a will under which Sir Thomas Wriothesley left his 'all his books relative to the office of arms to Thomas Hawley, esquire, for life', according to the *ODNB* entry 'no will of his has

been found', and 'his library may have stayed intact until the death of his son Charles in 1562'. According to the *ODNB*, Charles Wriothesley also 'left no will, and the great library of books that he had inherited from his father was sold after his death, many of its contents to Sir Gilbert Dethick and his son William'. For the Wriothesley Garter Book compiled by Sir Thomas Wriothesley (d. 24 November 1534), see:

<https://www.royalcollection.org.uk/collection/1047414/the-wriothesley-garter-book>.

-William Wriothesley (d.1513?), York Herald, who married Jane Drayton (b.1482, d.1538?), by whom he had four children, including Thomas Wriothesley (1505-1550), 1st Earl of Southampton, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/34/154.

-Katherine Wriothesley, who married John Mynne, esquire, York Herald.

-Katherine Wriothesley (again), who married firstly Richard Horton, and secondly, John Trahern. Another source states that she was the wife of Thomas Treheyron, Somerset Herald circa 1538. See Add Ms 38691 at:

http://www.ampltd.co.uk/digital_guides/medieval-and-early-modern-women-part-2/detailed-listing.aspx?h=viii.

For the heraldic shield on the Wriothesley monument at Titchfield which includes the arms of the testator's first wife, Barbara Dunstanville, see Greenfield, Benjamin W., 'The Wriothesley Tomb in Titchfield Church', in Minns, G.W., ed., *Papers and Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club*, (Southampton: F. A. Edwards, 1890), Vol. I, pp. 72, 75-7 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=LsFAAQAAMAAJ&pg=RA3-PA76-IA3&lpg=RA3-PA76-IA3&dq=%22In+describing+the+heraldic+insignia+on+the+Wriothesley+tomb%22&source=bl&ots=tsWAQiPgYh&sig=G3GQ7NMFk0TfHYLKYoskp981Sh8&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjLnbG0hP3TAhVW7WMKHTJiAbYQ6AEIjAA#v=onepage&q=%22In%20describing%20the%20heraldic%20insignia%20on%20the%20Wriothesley%20tomb%22&f=false>.

Second marriage

* Eleanor Arnold, daughter of Thomas Arnold and sister and heir of Richard Arnold (likely the chronicler, who died c.1521), by whom the testator had a son and two daughters:

-John Wriothesley, who died young.

-Agnes Wriothesley, a nun at Sion.

-Barbara Wriothesley, who married Anthony Hungerford, second son of Sir Thomas Hungerford (d.1494) of Down Ampney, by Christian Halle (d.1504), the daughter of John Halle (d. 18 October 1479). As noted above, Christian Halle's niece, Jane Halle, married the testator's eldest son and heir, Sir Thomas Wriothesley (d. 24 November 1534), Garter King of Arms.

In her will, Christian Halle Hungerford leaves bequests to her son, Anthony Hungerford, and to his two sons, John Hungerford and Walter Hungerford. See the will of Christian Hall Hungerford, TNA PROB 11/14/263. For the arms of Hungerford impaling Halle, and Hungerford impaling Wrythe, see Jackson, John Edward, *Wiltshire: The Topographical Collection of John Aubrey*, (Devizes: The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, 1862), p. 413 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=E6BOAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA413&lpg=PA413&dq=%22Hungerford%22+%22Wriothesley%22&source=bl&ots=PztEdIpJvx&sig=v7LOQH3N4mMSeYXkr8oeOiA_fcw&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwibg42w9JjUAhUol1QKHbh6AAEQ6AEIKDAB#v=onepage&q=%22Hungerford%22%20%22Wriothesley%22&f=false.

According to the Hungerford pedigree, Anthony Hungerford had an elder brother, Sir John Hungerford (d.1524) and three sisters: Ann Hungerford, who married Walter Langley; Elizabeth Hungerford, who married Thomas Higford; and another sister who married Morris Blount of Gloucestershire. For the marriage of Anne Hungerford and Walter Langley, see the will of Elizabeth Tracy Langley Baynham (d. 19 October 1526), TNA PROB 11/22/255. See also the Hungerford pedigree in Maclean, John and W.C. Heane, eds., *The Visitation of the County of Gloucester Taken in the Year 1623*, Vol. XXI, (London: Harleian Society, 1885), pp. 87-8 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofcoun00inchit#page/88/mode/2up>.

See also the *ODNB* entry for the chronicler Richard Arnold, and Hamilton, William Douglas, ed., *A Chronicle of England During the Reigns of the Tudors from A.D. 1485 To 1559*, Vol. I, (Camden Society, 1875), pp. viii-ix at:

<https://archive.org/stream/chronicleofengla01camduoft#page/n13/mode/2up>.

Third marriage

* Anne Mynne (perhaps a relation of John Mynne, York Herald), by whom the testator had two daughters:

-Margaret Wriothesley, who married firstly a husband surnamed Vaughan, and secondly a husband whose name is unknown.

-Isabel Wriothesley, who married firstly William Gough, and secondly John Danvers, esquire, of Worminghall, Buckinghamshire. By John Danvers, Isabel Wriothesley is said to have had four sons: Rowland Danvers; John Danvers, slain at Boulogne; Luke Danvers, slain at Newhaven; Mark Danvers of Cleare Hall, Suffolk, who married firstly Jane Beale, the daughter of Richard Beale, and secondly Joan de le Hoo, daughter of John de la Hoo, by whom he had a son, John Danvers, esquire. See Macnamara, F.N., *Memorials of the Danvers Family*, (London: Hardy & Page, 1895), pp. 526-7 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/memorialsdanver00macngoog#page/n607/mode/2up>.

For the Mynne family, see also Hamilton, *supra*, p. ix, and:

http://www.werelate.org/wiki/Person:John_Mynne_%281%29

The Mynne family were originally from Gloucestershire, and perhaps through their association with the Wrthe family, became Heralds, for the eminent Garter Herald, Sir [sic] John Wrythe, had married an Anne Mynne. During the time of Henry VIII, a John Mynne of Windrush, Gloucestershire, son of Henry Mynne and probably a relation of Anne Mynne, served as York Herald. He succeeded William Wriothesley (who died in 1513) as York Herald, and married William's sister Catherine Wriothesley.

For an original spelling transcript of the will below, see Manley, F.H., ed., *Wiltshire Notes and Queries*, 7, Part 2, 1913, pp. 448-50 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/wiltshirenotesqu72unse#page/n145/mode/2up>.

RM: Test{amentu}m Io{hannis} Writh

In the name of God, Amen. The 25th day of March the year of Our Lord God a thousand 504, I, John Writh, otherwise called Garter King of Arms etc., whole of mind, nevertheless feeble of body;

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, Our Blessed Lady and all the holy company of heaven, my body to be buried in the choir of Saint Giles without Cripplegate in the same place where my wife, Eleanor, is buried;

Also I bequeath to the high altar of Saint Giles for forgotten tithes 40s;

Item, to every priest of Saint Giles Church that shall be at my burials, dirge and Mass, 20d;

Item, to the clerks after the rate;

Item, to 4 poor men to hold 4 tapers; item, to 6 poor men to hold 6 new torches, every man 4d;

Item, I will that my wife have my house in Cricklade in the which Richard Horton now dwelleth in with the 2 shops during her life natural, the reversion to my son, Thomas, with all the lands that ever was my father's in Salisbury, Cricklade, Chelworth or the Bibery;

Item, I bequeath my son, Thomas, and after him to his son, John, a standing cup gilt, the which the King of Romans gave me;

Item, I bequeath to my son, Thomas, a gilt flat piece that was my father's;

Item, I will and [f. 71v] order that my son, William, have all my lands in Harrow the Hill or within Middlesex that I bought of March [sic for 'Machado?'], King of Arms, and if he die without issue of his body lawfully begotten, I will the reversion be unto my son, Thomas, and to his issue lawfully begotten;

Item, I bequeath my son, William, all my books of pedigrees;

Item, I bequeath my son, Thomas, all my French books;

Item, I bequeath to my son, John Mynnue [=Mynne?] and to my daughter, Katherine, his wife, that land that I bought in Winrich called dunnis(?), so that they annex it to their own manor;

Item, I bequeath to my son, John Mynnue, and to my daughter, Katherine, his wife, a standing cup covered which I had of Nicholas Coke and is in the keeping of my son, Thomas;

Item, I bequeath to John Mynnue a book of statutes which I bought of Pinnok;

Item, I bequeath to Agnes Writh a salt with a cover which was my godfather's;

Item, I bequeath to Barbara the fellow of it, the other salt without covering;

Item, I bequeath my 2 young daughters my 2 swaged gilt salts;

Item, as the law will all the lands and tenements in cicestr [=Cirencester?] and Mynty [=Minety?] to be divided between my daughters, Agnes and Barbara;

Item, I will that Agnes have the great pot that is at Winrich;

Item, I will that Agnes and Barbara have such stuff of household as my mother has ordered(?) for them;

Item, I will that all such writings as concern my cousin Stone be delivered to him;

Item, I trust to John Minnue that he will forbear every year £5 upon my stock unto the time that £50 be paid unto my godson, John Stone, and so doing I bequeath him the whole stock;

And I make & order my sons, Thomas Writh and John Minnue, my executors;

And will that the residue of all my goods to be divided into 3 parts, the first part to my wife and such stuff as she brought unto me, the second part to pay such debts as I owe and to be distovoid [sic for 'bestowed'?] for the wealth of my soul by the discretion of my executors, the 3rd part to be divided between my children.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum test{amentu}m coram domino vltimo die Mensis Aprilis Anno Dominj Millesimo quingentesimo Quarto Iuramento Thome Writh Et Iohannis Minne exec{utorum} Et com{m}issa fuit ad{ministraci}o etc Dict{is} execut{oribus} etc de bene etc Ac de pleno Inue{n}tario etc Necnon de plano et vero compoto et etc ad sancta Dei Euangelia Iurat{is}

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord on the last day of the month of April in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fourth by the oath of Thomas Writh and John Mynne, executors, and administration was granted etc. to the said executors etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., and a full inventory etc., and also a plain and true account [-and] etc.]