

SUMMARY: The documents below are the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copies of the will dated 24 April 1623 and codicil dated 25 April 1623 of Sir Edward More of Odiham, one of the executors of the will of Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth (nee Trentham) de Vere, Countess of Oxford. For her will, see TNA PROB 11/121, ff. 74-5.

By his first marriage to Mary Poynings, daughter and co-heir of Sir Adrian Poynings (1512?-1571) of Wherwell, Hampshire, the testator was a brother-in-law of Sir George More (1553-1632), only son and heir of Sir William More (1520-1600) of Losely. Sir John Wolley (d.1596), the Queen's Latin secretary, was one of Oxford's trustees in connection with legal agreements for the benefit of Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham, and in 1577 Sir John Wolley (d.1596), had married Sir William More's daughter, Elizabeth (1552-1600), and was thus also a brother-in-law of Sir George More (1553-1632). Sir Edward More's family connections with Oxford's trustee, Sir John Wolley (d.1596), perhaps help to explain why Elizabeth Trentham chose Sir Edward More as one of her executors.

The memorial to Sir Edward More's first wife, Mary Poynings, in All Saints Church, Odiham, reads:

*Here lieth the body of MARY, late w . . . .  
EDWARD MORE, Esquire, eldest daugh . . . .  
coheir of Sr Adrian Poynings Kt. . . .  
and brother to Thomas last Lord Poy . . . .  
that died without yssue, and of Mary wife  
to the said Sr Adrian, daughter and sole heyre  
of Sr Owen West, Knight, next brother and hey  
re male to Thomas last Lord La Warre that  
died without yssue, which Mary deceased at  
Odyam the 29<sup>th</sup> daye of October, Ao. Dni 1591,  
And she had yssue Edward More, Adryan, John,  
Will. and Thomas, and Elizabeth, her first chyld.*

It would appear from the will below that all Sir Edward More's sons by Mary Poynings mentioned in the memorial had predeceased him, and that the only surviving child of the marriage was their daughter, Elizabeth, the wife of Sir Thomas Drew of the Grange, Broadhembury, Devonshire.

After Mary Poynings' death in 1591, Sir Edward More married Frances Brooke (b.1562), one of the twin daughters of William Brooke (1527-1597), 10<sup>th</sup> Baron Cobham, who at the time was the widow of John (1553-1588), Lord Stourton. The precise date of the marriage is unknown, but it appears to have taken place in the winter of 1595-6. Sir Edward More bore the great banner at the funeral procession of his father-in-law, Lord Cobham, in April 1597. Oxford's brother-in-law, Robert Cecil (1563-1612), 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Salisbury, had married Frances Brooke's twin sister, Elizabeth (1562-1597) in August 1589, and Sir Edward More was thus both Lord Cobham's son-in-law and Sir Robert

Cecil's brother-in-law. Sir Robert Cecil is said to have held Sir Edward More in extraordinary esteem, and in the will below More bequeaths a ring with a blue sapphire which had been given to him by Cecil. For the foregoing details of Sir Edward More's second marriage to Frances Brooke, see McKeen, David, *A Memory of Honour; The Life of William Brooke, Lord Cobham*, Vol. II (Salzburg: Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik, 1986), pp. 609, 614, 641 and 681. Sir Edward More's family connections with Sir Robert Cecil also perhaps help to explain why Elizabeth Trentham chose Sir Edward More as one of her executors.

By his marriage to Frances Brooke, Sir Edward More had one daughter, Frances More (1598-1633), who married Sir William Stourton. She and her husband are mentioned in the codicil to the will below.

For the memorial to Mary Poynings and other information concerning Sir Edward More, see *Collectanea Topographica & Genealogica*, Vol. VIII (London: John Bowyer Nicolls, 1843), pp. 223-4, available online. According to the same source, Sir Edward More was the son of John More of Crabit in the parish of Worth, and descended from the Mores of Larden, Shropshire. The family arms were sable, a swan argent, within a bordure engrailed or. According to John Burke's *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners*, Vol. III (London: Henry Colburn, 1838), p. 427, Sir Edward More was a descendant of very old families on both his father and his paternal grandmother's sides. His father, John More, was a Clerk of the Exchequer, and his paternal grandparents were Edward More, esquire, of Larden, and Elizabeth, the daughter of Edward Cludde, esquire, of Orleton.

RM: Testamentum Domini Edwardi More militis

In the name of God, Amen. The four and twentieth day of April Anno Domini one thousand six hundred twenty-three and in the one and twentieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord James by the grace of God King of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., and of Scotland the six and fiftieth, I, Sir Edward More of Odiham in the county of Southampton, knight, being sick in body but sound in mind and memory, thanks be given to Almighty God, do make and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say:

First I bequeath my soul into the hands of the glorious Trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, hoping verily to be saved by that bitter death and bloody passion which I believe that Jesus Christ suffered for me, and not by any other works or means;

Item, I bequeath my body to be buried in the chancel of the parish church of Odiham aforesaid in the said county of Southampton near unto my two wives in such sort as it shall seem good to my executors hereafter named;

And as touching such manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments, goods and chattels wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me, first I do hereby confirm unto Sir Thomas Drew and Sir William Pitt, knights, one lease by indenture by me made unto them for the term of one and twenty years to commence from my death of all my manors, lands, tenements & hereditaments in the counties of Sussex and Surrey and the reversions and remainders thereof bearing date the one and twentieth day of this instant April;

And I do also hereby confirm and ratify another indenture bearing date the two and twentieth day of [-of] this instant month of April made between me on the one party and the said Sir Thomas Drew and Sir William Pitt on the other party whereby I have settled or have mentioned to settle all my manors, lands, tenements & hereditaments in the counties of Sussex, Surrey, Middlesex and Anglesey in such sort as by the said several indentures may appear;

And whereas Edward More, the son of my youngest son, William More, deceased, who is now mine heir apparent, is very young, and if it shall please God to call me to his mercy will be in ward to his Majesty, I having divers lands holden of his Majesty by knight's-service in chief, I do humbly desire the right honourable the Master of the Wards and the Council of that Court that according to his Majesty's gracious instructions the wardship of the body of my said grandchild and of his lands and his marriage may be granted to my executors hereafter named in trust for the benefit and behoof of my said grandchild, my said executors being allowed their reasonable charges in and about the same and for & concerning his education;

And whereas by mine indenture bearing date the two & twentieth of this present April I have bargained and sold unto the said Sir Thomas Drew and Sir William Pitt and their heirs all my freehold lands in Odiham aforesaid upon trust and confidence for the sustentation and maintenance of an alms-house by me erected in Odiham aforesaid, and of eight poor people placed and to be placed therein forever, in such sort as by the said indenture doth appear, my further will and meaning is that if it shall happen the profits of those lands shall not be sufficient for the maintenance of the said alms-house and payment of the weekly allowance intended to the said eight poor people after the rate of eighteen pence every week to every of those poor people, then my will and meaning is and I do hereby authorize and appoint my said executors and their heirs to purchase so much lands more as shall be sufficient to supply the said wants out of that part of the profits which they shall receive of my said lands in the county of Surrey which I have limited to charitable uses;

And my will likewise is that my said executors shall with all convenient speed purchase a mortmain from the King's Majesty or take such other course as shall be sufficient by the laws of this kingdom for the settling and safe holding of the said lands to the use of the said poor people and their successors forever, and also therein to procure sufficient authority to themselves and their heirs to make and ordain such good and necessary laws and orders as shall be thought fit for the well government of the said alms-house and of all the poor people from time to time there abiding according to such orders and articles as are made for the government of Emanuel Hospital in Westminster heretofore founded at

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the charges of the right honourable the Lady Dacres, deceased, with further addition of such other orders and articles as shall seem good to my said executors and their heirs;

And whereas I have a full purpose and desire to make payment to all men of such debts as I do owe and that with convenient speed after my decease, I do hereby for the accomplishment thereof authorize and appoint my said executors hereafter named to make sale as conveniently as may be and to the best & utmost advantage of all my plate, silver vessel, armour, hangings, ornaments and furniture of my house, stock of cattle, corn, implements of household or household stuff and of all other my goods whatsoever, and out of the moneys arising by such sale to give due satisfaction of my said debts accordingly;

Item, I do give and bequeath unto my daughter, Elizabeth, Lady Drew, the lease of the manor, lordship and hundred of Odiham aforesaid in the said county of Southampton, paying eight hundred pounds of current English money for the same to my executors hereunder named within twelve months next after my decease towards the payment of my debts, provided always that if the said eight hundred pounds shall not be paid by the time before limited, than I do hereby authorize and appoint my said executors to make sale of my said lease to the best advantage towards payment of my said debts, and the overplus thereof to be employed and converted to such uses as hereafter in this my will are expressed, or otherwise as I shall direct and appoint by any writing under my hand and seal testified by three sufficient witnesses;

Nevertheless my will and meaning is that my servant, Edward Seager, gentleman, shall have and enjoy during the continuance of the said lease of Odiham, if he live so long and do exercise the place himself and as under the said Sir Thomas Drew without assigning it to any other, the dwelling-house called the lodge with the gardens and backsides thereunto belonging, and such allowances for kine and horses as he hath had going in the park there by the space of two years last past [LM: and all such fees for killing of deer as he had or lawfully might have had there by the space of two years likewise last past];

Item, my further will and meaning is that Richard Florey of Odiham, servant to Sir James Wolveridge, knight, shall have and enjoy such arable grounds in the parish of Odiham as he or his father or mother did heretofore agree for with George Goring, esquire, deceased, during such term and for such rent as a note under the hand of the said George Goring doth express;

Item, I do give and bequeath unto Mrs Julian Seager, wife to the said Edward Seager, ten pounds yearly during her natural life, to be paid half yearly at two usual feasts in the year, viz., at the feast of St Michael th' Archangel and th' Annunciation of [-of] the Blessed Virgin Mary by even portions out of the rents of my freehold lands in the county of Surrey;

Item, I do give to Charle[s] More, my kinsman, one annuity of ten pounds yearly during his natural life, to be paid unto him half yearly at the two usual feasts before mentioned by even portions out of the rents of my said freehold lands in the said county of Surrey;

Item, I do give and bequeath unto my daughter-in-law (blank) More, widow, late the wife of my deceased son, William More, out of the rents and profits of my said freehold lands in Surrey for her maintenance during her natural life one annuity of thirty pounds per annum, to be paid unto her half yearly at the two usual feasts in the year last before mentioned by even portions upon this condition nevertheless, that neither she nor any other for her do endeavour or attempt to get the wardship of the body and lands of my grandchild, Edward More, her son, nor do interrupt my executors in their obtaining the same as I have before desired;

Item, I do give to the two daughters of my sister, Frances, sometime the wife of Mr Thomas Evelinge, twenty pounds apiece;

Item, I do give to my servant, John Sharpe, gentleman, forty pounds, to be paid within six months next after my decease and payments of my debts out of the profits of my said freehold land in Surrey;

Item, I do give to Frederick Porter, my servant, twenty marks, to be paid unto him likewise within six months next after my decease and payment of my debts out of the profits of my said lands in Surrey;

Item, I give to the two sons of Daniel Lixico, my servant, to either of them six pounds thirteen shillings four pence, to be paid by the discretion of my executors towards the binding of them apprentices or other breeding whereby they may be ye better enabled to get their living in the world, and my will and meaning is that the said Daniel Lixico shall be paid within three months next after my decease all such sums of money as shall then appear to be due unto him by me, upon account and reckoning to be made by my said servant, John Sharpe, who is best acquainted with the same;

Item, I give to my servant, William Shonke, coachman, ten pounds, to be paid within three months next after my decease;

Item, I give unto John Minashe, my servant, ten pounds, to be paid within three months next after my decease;

Item, I give to (blank) Wattes, my servant & cook, ten pounds, to be paid within three months next after my decease;

Item, I give to George, my under-cook, six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence, to be paid within three months next after my decease;

Item, I give to all my other household servants one whole year's wages over and above such wages as shall be due unto them at the time of my funeral, to be paid within three months next after my decease, together also with diet and entertainment to all my servants by the space of two months next after my decease;

Item, I do constitute, ordain and appoint my loving son-in-law, the said Sir Thomas Drew, and my very good friend, the said Sir William Pitt, to be the executors of this my last will and testament;

In witness whereof I, the said Sir Edward More, have to this my last will & testament set my hand and seal, given the day and year first above-written, 1623. Edward More.

Signed, sealed, delivered, published and declared by the within-named Sir Edward More, knight, the testator, to be his last will and testament in the presence of Robert Jermen, Edward Seagaye, John Cooke, Francis Frye, teste me, Thoma Ridge, John Sharpe, Frederick Porter, John Plucknett, scrivener.

A codicil to be annexed to the will of Sir Edward More, knight, published and declared the 25<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1623.

Item, I do will and appoint that my daughter, the Lady Stourton, shall have and enjoy my house at Hatmere [=Hurtmore?] in the county of Surrey, and the orchard, garden and lands which she and her husband do now hold of me at the rent of £45 or £46 per annum for so long time as she and the right honourable the Lord Stourton shall live, without paying any rent for the same for the time to come after my decease, and I do pray my son, Sir Thomas Drew, and Sir William Pitt, to whom I have made a lease of my manor of Hartmere [=Hurtmore?] and of other lands, to allow of and permit the same;

Item, I do give to my said daughter Stourton my late wife's cabinet and all her books, and her pall-colour velvet gown and a crimson velvet petticoat, both laced with gold, and a doublet of cloth of gold to it;

Item, my wearing apparel to be distributed amongst my servants at my executors' discretion, whereof my black satin suit made against Christmas last to my servant, John Sharpe, and my wife's wearing linen, silk and thread, to Mrs Seager, and some of her gloves to the Lady Wolveridge;

Item, I give to my son Drew my coach and four coach-mares with their furniture, and to his eldest son my gilt basin and ewer which was my first wife's, with the Poynings' arms in the bushel of the basin;

Item, I give to my good friend, Sir Robert Heath, his Majesty's Solicitor, my salt which standeth upon pillars of crystal, as a remembrance of my love to him;

Item, I give to my good friend, Sir William Pitt, my ring with a fair blue sapphire in it which my Lord of Salisbury gave me, and my great double gilt salt with the cover.

Witnesses hereunto: John Sharp, Frederick Porter.

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Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum cum Codicillo apud London coram magistro Edmundo Pope legum doctore Surrogato venerabilis viri Domini Willelimi Birde militis legum etiam doctoris Curie Prerogatiue Cantuariensis magistri Custodis siue commissarij legitime Constituti Decimo nono die mensis Maij Anno Domini Millesimo sexcentesimo vicesimo tertio Iuramento Domni Thome Drew et Domini Willelimi Pitt militum Executorum eodem testamento nominatorum Quibus Commissa fuit administracio omnium bonorum iurium et creditorum dicti defuncti De bene et fideliter administrando eadem &c Ad sancta dei Evangelia Iuratorum Examinatus

[=The above-written testament was proved with the codicil at London before Master Edmund Pope, Doctor of the Laws, surrogate of the worshipful Sir William Birde, knight, also Doctor of the Laws, lawfully constituted Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the nineteenth day of the month of May in the year of the Lord the thousand six hundred twenty-third by the oath of Sir Thomas Drew and Sir William Pitt, knights, executors named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same etc. Examined]