

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the undated will, proved 26 September 1508, of Dorothy Clopton, aunt of Mary Clopton (d.1584), who married Sir William Cordell, one of the five trustees appointed by Oxford in an indenture of 30 January 1575 prior to his departure on his continental tour.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testatrix was the daughter of Sir William Clopton (1450 – 20 February 1531) by his first wife, Joan Marowe (b.1470), daughter of William Marowe (c.1419-c.1464), three times Master of the Grocers' Company, and Lord Mayor of London in 1455. For the will of William Marowe, see TNA PROB 11/5/139.

In the will below, the testatrix leaves a bequest to her father's third wife, Thomasine Knyvet:

Item, I give to my Lady Clopton a ring with a daisy, and a double frontlet of blue velvet the which my Lady Broughton gave unto me.

For Thomasine Kynvet (c.1475-1538), see Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 520; and the will of William Marowe, *supra*.

'Lady Broughton' appears to have been one of the two wives of Sir Robert Broughton (d. August 1506), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/15/535. Sir Robert Broughton married firstly Katherine de Vere, illegitimate daughter of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford, and secondly, Dorothy Wentworth, the daughter of Sir Henry Wentworth (d. August 1499). Dorothy Wentworth's sister, Margery Wentworth, married Sir John Seymour, by whom she was the mother of Queen Jane Seymour. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, p. 237; and Rutton, William Loftie, *Three Branches of the Family of Wentworth*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1891), pp. 138-9 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YhY5AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA138>

In view of the fact that the testatrix mentions Nettlestead in her will, it seems likely that 'my Lady Broughton' was Sir Robert Broughton's second wife, Dorothy Wentworth.

In the will below the testatrix refers to a gift from her 'uncle Marowe':

Item, I give to my brother, Robert, my great beads of white ivory, and 20 nobles which mine uncle Marowe gave me.

According to the *OED*, a noble was worth half a mark:

noble, a. An English gold coin first minted by Edward III, usually valued at 6s. 8d. (half a mark).

The testatrix' bequest is thus a reference to the will, TNA PROB 11/14/514, of her uncle, Thomas Marowe (d.1505), which contains these bequests:

Item, I bequeath to Robert Clopton, my servant, £20, to be ordered and delivered after the discretion of mine executors.

Item, I bequeath to Dorothy Clopton, sister to the said Robert, 10 marks to her marriage.

The testatrix' uncle, Thomas Marowe (d.1505), married Isabel Brome, the daughter of Nicholas Brome (d. 10 October 1516) of Baddesley Clinton, Warwickshire. See the will of Thomas Marowe, *supra*, Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 381; and Dugdale, William, *The Antiquities of Warwickshire*, (London: Thomas Warren, 1656), pp. 710-12 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/antiquitiesofwar00dugd#page/710/mode/2up>

For the testatrix' brothers, John, William, Francis and Richard, and her 'sister Poley', 'sister Gates' and 'sister Katherine', see the will of William Marowe, *supra*. The testatrix' 'sister Anne Darcy' has not been identified.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

The testatrix' cousin, Katherine Froxmer, may have been the sister of John Cornwallis (d.1506), i.e., Katherine Cornwallis, who married Francis Froxmer, esquire. See Rye, Walter, ed., *The Norfolk Antiquarian Miscellany*, Vol. III, (Norwich: Agas H. Goose & Co., 1887), p. 119 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=kevR9inkJdgC&pg=PA119>

For the will, proved 7 May 1515, of the testatrix' executor, William Skerne, see TNA PROB 11/181/23.

For the testatrix' will, see also Parker, William, *The History of Long Melford*, (London: Wyman & Sons, 1873), p. 180 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=VsbWA_Q1NR4C&pg=PA180

RM: Test{amentum} Dorothee Clopton

These been the bequests of me, Mistress Dorothy Clopton:

First I will the parson of Long Melford have a pair of beads of jet gaudied with jaspers and a purse of black velvet not fully finished lying in a coffer of mine;

Item, I give unto my father a serpentine bead and a brooch of gold with an image in it and a tablet of silver and gilt, beseeching him of his daily blessing and to be so good father to me to do such goods as I have to be delivered unto such persons as I have put in trust, and they to deliver them that I have given unto;

Item, I give to my Lady Clopton a ring with a daisy, and a double frontlet of blue velvet the which my Lady Broughton gave unto me;

Item, I give unto my sister Poley my best frontlet of crimson velvet and half a dozen yard kerchers, the which she hath in her keeping;

Also I give her a pair of coral beads, the lenger beads of the 2 pair, & a bonnet of black velvet;

Item, I give to my sister Gates my best bonnet of black velvet garnished with crimson velvet, a[n]d a frontlet of orange colour, and a black gown furred with black, and my best kirtle of worsted;

Item, I give my brother, John, a pair of beads and [sic for 'of?'] white amber gaudied with silver and gilt;

Item, I give unto my sister, Katherine, a bonnet of black velvet that is at Nettlestead, with my purled frontlet and my best tawny gown, the best;

Item, I give to my cousin, Katherine Froxmer, my beads of coral gaudied with 10 beads of gold, and a dark tawny velvet frontlet, and a gette [sic?] of minks, the which she gave me herself;

Item, I give unto my brother, William, a pair of beads of black jet gaudied with ivory;

Item, I give to my brother, Robert, my great beads of white ivory, and 20 nobles which mine uncle Marowe gave me;

Item, I give to my brother, Francis, my pomander of silver;

Item, I give unto my brother, Richard, my little ring of gold;

Item, I give unto little John Poley my ring with the visage;

Item, I give to my brother Poley my golofer [=gillyflower?] with a sapphire;

Item, I give little John Gates a pair of aglets of silver;

Item, I give to my sister, Anne Darcy, my best medley tawny gown lined with black velvet, & a pair of hooks of silver and gilt, and a pair of beads of jasper gaudied with amber;

Item, unto Henry Clovyle a tippet of sarsenet;

Item, I give to his wife my best tawny gowns [sic for 'gown?'] lined with black velvet, and a frontlet of violet satin;

The which I put my trust to be mine executor Master William Skerne, the parson of Long Melford, to fulfil these my bequests, and to dispose the residue of my goods for my soul.

Probatum fuit suprascriptu{m} test{amentu}m cora{m} d{omi}no apud Lamethith xxvjto die mens{is} Septembr{is} Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quinge{n}tesimo octauo Iur{amento} exec{utore} onus executionis eiusdem test{ament}i in se assumere refutan{te} Et com{m}issa fuit admi{ni}stra{ci}o o{mn}i{u}m bonor{um} d{ic}t{e} defuncte M{agist}ro Will{elm}o Skerne ad viam intestati p{ro} eo q{uod} execut{ionem} refutauit De bene & fidelit{er} admi{ni}strand{o} Ac de pleno & fideli Inue{n}tario cit{ra} f{estu}m s{an}c{t}i Mich{ael}is Arch{angel}i p{ro}x{imum} futur{um} exhibend{o} Necno{n} de plano & vero comp{o}to reddend{o} ad s{an}c{t}a dei eu{a}ng{elia} in debita iur{is} forma iurat{o}

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord at Lambeth on the 26th day of the month of September in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred eighth by oath, the executor having refused to assume the burden of the execution of the same testament, and administration was granted of all the goods of the said deceased to Master William Skerne by way of an intestacy because he refused the execution, sworn on the Holy Gospels in due form of law to well & faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full & faithful inventory before the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel next to come, and also to render a plain & true account.]