

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 7 September 1509 and proved 1 February 1510, of Ralph Leigh, step-grandfather of Queen Katherine Howard; of Oxford's friend, Sir George Howard; and of Margaret Howard, the mother of Oxford's one-time friend and later bitter enemy, Charles Arundel (d.1587), son of Sir Thomas Arundell (c.1502-1552).

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the Leigh pedigree, see Burgon, John William, *The Life and Times of Sir Thomas Gresham*, (London: Robert Jennings, 1839), Vol. I, p. 467 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=ZH8EAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA467>

For the pedigree of Leigh of Stockwell, see Allen, Thomas, *The History and Antiquities of the Parish of Lambeth*, (London: J. Allen, 1826), p. 276 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=xvQgAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA276>

Testator's parents

The testator was the son of Ralph Leigh, esquire, and Elizabeth Langley, the daughter and heir of Henry Langley.

Testator's siblings

According to the pedigree of Leigh of Stockwell, *supra*, the testator had three brothers and five sisters:

-**Sir John Leigh** (d. 17 August 1523), who married Isabel Worsley (c.1460 - 18 April 1527), daughter of Otwell Worsley of Southwark, Surrey, and widow of Richard Culpeper (c.1430 - 4 October 1484), by whom he had a son, John Leigh, and a daughter, Joyce Leigh, but died without issue, leaving his nephew, Sir John Leigh or Legh (1502-1564?), as his heir. See the will of Sir John Leigh (d. 17 August 1523), TNA PROB 11/21/241. See also the will of Isabel (nee Worsley) Culpeper Leigh, dated 6 April 1527, TNA PROB 11/22/332. For summaries of the wills of Sir John Leigh and his wife, Isabel, see Hooper, *supra*, pp. 87-90 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/surreyarchaeolog51surruoft#page/86/mode/2up>

-**John Leigh**, who died without issue.

-**Allen Leigh**, who died without issue.

-**Jane Leigh**, abbess of St Mary's, Winchester.

-**Margaret Leigh**, who married Sir Edmund Denny (d.1520), Chief Baron of the Exchequer, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/19/409.

-**Alice Leigh**, who died without issue.

-**Katherine Leigh**, who married a husband surnamed Quixley, of London

-**Margaret Leigh**, who married firstly Sir Henry Frowick of Gunnersbury, Middlesex, and secondly Walter Forde, Remembrancer of the Exchequer.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married Joyce Culpeper. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, pp. 277-9; and Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., Vol. II, pp. 417-18 and Vol. IV, pp. 107-9.

See also the will, proved 5 February 1566, of the testator's eldest son and heir, Sir John Leigh, TNA PROB 11/48/372; and Hooper, Hilda J., 'Some Surrey Wills in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, Part I', *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, Vol. LI, (Farnham: E. W. Langham, 1950), pp. 85-7 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/surreyarchaeolog51surruoft#page/84/mode/2up>

RM: Test{amentu}m Rad{ulph}i Lygh

In Dei nomine amen. I, Ralph Leigh, by this my last will made the 7th day of September the first year of King Henry the 8th, I revoke all wills made before the same day, and I bequeath my soul to the mercy of God Almighty, my body to be buried where it shall please God that I shall depart, without my body may be conveyed to Lambeth with the expense of 40s;

I require my wife in the way of charity to cause 3 trentals to be songen for me shortly after my death, one at the Friars of Greenwich, another at Charterhouse of London, and the 3rd at Syon;

I bequeath to God and my brother all my children if my brother will have them, desiring him of brotherhood to be good to them, trusting they will be the servant of God and to pray for him and me and for other of their friends;

My mind is there should not be above £5 spent at my burial;

Mine executor I make my wife, and to God and her I commit the principal rule of my children, goods and lands, trusting in God and that she serve God as I think verily she will, that she and all the children shall have grace and good fortune, Amen.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum coram domino apud Lambeth primo die mensis februarii Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo nono Iuramento Magistri Willielmi Potkyn procuratoris in hac parte Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et commissa fuit administratio omnium bonorum et debitorum dicti defuncti (blank) Relicte & executrici in huiusmodi testamentum nomine in persona dicti procuratoris De bene & fideliter administratione Ac de pleno et fidei Inuentario citra festum sancti Dauid Episcopi proximum futurum exhibendo Necnon de plano & vero compoto reddendo ad sancta dei euangelia(?) in debita iuris forma iuratis

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord at Lambeth on the first day of the month of February in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred ninth by the oath of Master William Potkyn, proctor in that respect, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all the goods and debts of the said deceased to (blank), relict & executrix named in the same testament, in the person of the said proctor, sworn on the Holy Gospels in due form of law to well & faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full and faithful inventory before the feast of Saint David, Bishop, next to come, and also to render a plain & true account.]