

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the undated will, proved 15 May 1515, of Margaret (nee Scrope) de la Pole (d.1515), Countess of Suffolk, whose sister, Elizabeth (nee Scrope) Beaumont de Vere (d.1537), Countess of Oxford, was the second wife of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testatrix was born Margaret Scrope, one of the daughters and co-heirs of Richard Scrope (d.1485) by Eleanor Washbourne (d.1505/6), the daughter of Norman Washbourne (1433-1482). Her father was the second son of Henry Scrope (1418-1458/9), 4th Baron Scrope of Bolton, by his wife, Elizabeth Scrope (d. 10 May 1504), the daughter of John Scrope (c.1388 - 15 November 1455), 4th Baron Scrope of Masham, Lord Treasurer of England, and his wife, Elizabeth Chaworth (d.1466?). Through his grandparents, Richard Scrope (d. 29 August 1420), 3rd Lord Scrope of Bolton, and Margaret Neville (d.1463/4), daughter of Ralph Neville, 1st Earl of Westmorland, and Margaret Stafford (d. 9 June 1396), Richard Scrope was descended from Geoffrey Plantagenet (1113–1151), King Henry II (1133–1189) and King Edward I (1239–1307) of England. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 612, Vol. III, pp. 187-90, 290, 412, 670-3; Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. IV, pp. 199-200; the entries for Scrope of Bolton and Scrope of Masham in *The Complete Peerage*, Vol. XI, pp. 543-4, 548; and the *ODNB* entries for Henry Scrope (c.1376-1415), 3rd Baron Scrope of Masham, and John Scrope (1437/8-1498), 5th Baron Scrope of Bolton.

For the will of the testatrix' father, Richard Scrope (d.1485), see the copy on this website and in Raine, James, ed., *Testamenta Eboracensia*, Vol. III (London: Surtees Society, 1865), pp. 297-9, available online. For the will of the testatrix' mother, Eleanor (nee Washbourne) Scrope Wyndham (d.1505/6), see TNA PROB 11/15/3. The testatrix is not mentioned in her mother's will, perhaps because the testatrix' husband, Edmund de la Pole (1472?-1513), 8th Earl of Suffolk, was an outlawed exile at the time.

By Richard Scrope, Eleanor Washbourne (d.1505/6) had a son, Stephen, and a daughter, Dorothy, who died young, and seven daughters who survived to adulthood:

-Margaret Scrope, the testatrix.

-Elizabeth Scrope (d.1537), who 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 11/27/144. For the will of the 13th Earl, see TNA PROB 11/17/379.

-Eleanor Scrope, who married her stepbrother, Sir Thomas Wyndham (d.1522) of Felbrigg. For his will, see TNA PROB 11/21/53. Their eldest son, Sir Edmund

Wyndham (d.1569) married Susan Townshend, the daughter of Roger Townshend (d.1551) and Amy Brewes. See Moreton, C.E., *The Townshends and Their World* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1992), p. 39.

-Mary Scrope (d. 25 August 1548), who 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 11/32/320.

-Katherine Scrope, who married Richard Audley of Swaffham, Norfolk, eldest son and heir of Sir John Audley (died 18 April 1530) of Swaffham Market, Norfolk and his first wife, Muriel Brewes, daughter of Sir Thomas Brewes (d. 17 June 1482) of Little Wenham, Suffolk, and his second wife, Elizabeth Debenham (d.1503). The will of Sir John Audley, dated 12 January 1527 and proved 6 June 1532, indicates that his son, Richard, had predeceased him, leaving a son, John Audley. In 1531 Roger Townshend (d.1551), who had married Amy Brewse, the granddaughter of Sir Thomas Brewes (d. 17 June 1482) by his first wife, Margaret Calthorpe, sold the wardship of John Audley to Elizabeth de Vere (d.1537), Countess of Oxford, for £300, while keeping the wardship of Edmund Audley, John's younger brother, for himself (see Moreton, *supra*, pp. 6, 96, 125). By the time Elizabeth (nee Chedworth?) Blake Audley (d.1542), widow of Thomas Blake, esquire, and Sir John Audley (d. 18 April 1530) made her will on 30 April 1541, Richard Audley's son, John Audley, appears to have died. For the will of Thomas Blake, see TNA PROB 11/15/341. For the will of Sir John Audley (d. 18 April 1530), see TNA PROB 11/24/210. For the will of Elizabeth (nee Chedworth?) Blake Audley (d.1542), see TNA PROB 11/29/21.

-Jane [Joan] Scrope, who married Thomas Brewes [Brewse] (d.1514), of Little Wenham, Suffolk, son of Robert Brewes of Little Wenham (d. 7 December 1513) and Katherine Wingfield (d.1525), the daughter of Sir John Wingfield (d. 10 May 1481) of Letheringham and his wife Elizabeth FitzLewis (b. about 1426, d.1500?), and grandson of Sir Thomas Brewes (d. 17 June 1482) of Little Wenham, Suffolk, and his second wife, Elizabeth Debenham (d.1503). Through his maternal grandparents, Sir John Wingfield (d. 10 May 1481) of Letheringham and his wife Elizabeth FitzLewis (b. about 1426, d.1500?), Thomas Brewes (d.1514) was a descendant of King Edward I and Eleanor of Castile (see Richardson, *supra*, pp. 373-4). Jane Scrope and Thomas Brewes (d.1514) had three children: Ursula, a nun at Denny, buried at Little Wenham 9 December 1598; Sir John Brewes of Little Wenham, born 13 December 1512, died 13 February 1585, aged 73; and Giles Brewes of Denton, Norfolk (d.1558/9). For the foregoing, see the Brewes pedigree in Crisp, Frederick Arthur, *Fragmenta Genealogica*, Vol. VIII (Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, 1996), pp. 57-60, available online; the discussion of the Brewes family in Moreton, C.E., *The Townshends and Their World* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1992), pp. 95-100; the will of Elizabeth (nee Debenham) Brewes (d.1503), TNA PROB 11/13/418; and the will of Thomas Brewes (d.1514), see TNA PROB 11/18/97. Since Robert Brewes and Muriel Brewes were brother and sister, their children, Thomas Brewes (d.1514) and Richard Audley were first cousins. Jane Scrope and her sister Katherine Scrope therefore married husbands who were first cousins.

-Anne Scrope, a nun at Barking.

For the Scrope pedigree, see Norcliffe, Charles Best, ed., *The Visitation of Yorkshire in the Years 1563 and 1563* by William Flower, Vol. XVI, (London: Harleian Society, 1881), p. 280, available online. See also the daughters named in the will of the testatrix' mother, Eleanor (nee Washbourne) Scrope Wyndham (d.1505/6), TNA PROB 11/15/3.

The testatrix' relations are known to have been owners of books and manuscripts:

The Foyle manuscript is an excellent example of the kind of 'reading circle' mentioned above; as Meale points out, it 'is richly suggestive of the kind of relationships, often encompassing a shared piety which joined women together . . . ' (Meale, oft sibus 35). The manuscript evidently remained at Barking until the dissolution; an inscription records that the book was given by Margaret Scrope, who was a nun at Barking prior to the dissolution, to Mistress Agnes Goldwell, a gentlewoman in the household of her sister, Elizabeth Scrope Peche. This inscription connects the manuscript with the book-owning female Scropes. The need for a detailed study of the reading habits of the female Scropes has been pointed out before. However a brief summary is not amiss. The children and grandchildren of Henry, Fourth Baron Scrope of Bolton and his wife, Elizabeth Scrope (a distant cousin) were avid readers and patrons of vernacular literature, especially the women. The Scrope women, in particular, provide evidence of the extent to which manuscripts passed between lay and religious women readers, suggesting that the needs and tastes of devout laywomen were not so very different from their religious sisters.

See Wada, Yoko, ed., *A Companion to Ancrone Wisse* (Cambridge: D.S. Brewer, 2003), pp. 166-8, available online.

MARRIAGE

The testatrix married Edmund de la Pole (1472?-1513), 8th Earl of Suffolk, a claimant to the throne who was executed in 1513. Edmund de la Pole's paternal grandparents were William de la Pole (1396-1450), 1st Duke of Suffolk (executed 1450), and Alice Chaucer (c.1404-1475), only child of Thomas Chaucer (c.1367-1434), son of the poet, 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 have resulted from the fact that the 13th Earl's wife, Elizabeth (d.1537), Countess of Oxford, was the sister-in-law of Edmund de la Pole (1472?-1513), grandson of Alice Chaucer.

The testatrix and her husband, Edmund de la Pole, had only one child, Elizabeth de la Pole, a nun at the Minories without Aldgate in London.

During the last years of her life, the testatrix lived with her first cousin, Elizabeth (nee Scrope) Peche (d.1544), and her husband, Sir John Peche (c.1473-1521/2), at Lullingstone, Kent. See Harris, Barbara J., *English Aristocratic Women 1450-1550* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), p. 173, available online). For the will of the testatrix' first cousin, Elizabeth (nee Scrope) Peche (d.1544), see TNA PROB 11/30/166. For the will of Sir John Peche (c.1473-1521/2), see TNA PROB 11/20/389.

Elizabeth Harte, to whom the testatrix leaves bequests in the will below, was Elizabeth (nee Peche) Harte, the sister of Sir John Peche (c.1473-1521/2). Elizabeth (nee Peche) Harte is said to have married, as her second husband, George Brooke, a younger brother of Thomas Brooke (d.1529), 8th Baron Cobham. See McKeen, David, *A Memory of Honour; The Life of William Brooke, Lord Cobham* (Salzburg: Institut fur Anglistik und Amerikanistik, 1986), p. 701.

A transcript of the Latin will of the testatrix is in Clay, John William, *North Country Wills*, pp. 84-6, available online.

LM: Test{amentum} Margaret{e} Suffolke

In the name of God, Amen. I, Margaret Suffolk, being of sound mind, make my testament in this manner following:

Firstly, I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, and my body to be buried among the Minoresses with my husband;

Item, I leave to Master John Peche, knight, all my silver vessel or plate which came by his hand [=he brought?] from parts beyond the seas, and three gilt goblets with a cover and an 'M' of diamonds;

Item, I bequeath to his wife a gown furred with leopards;

Item, and a pair of beads of gold;

Item, to Doctor Standish, a cup of silver, gilt;

Item, to my daughter among the Minoresses, a standing cup;

Item, to my sister, the Countess of Oxford, a Saint Michael with pearls and precious stones;

Item, to my sister Jerningham, a new tablecloth and a new towel and twelve napkins of glover-work(?);

Item, to my sister, Anne, at Barking a silver pot with 2 ears;

Item, to my sister Brewes, a standing cup of silver, gilt;

Item, to my sister Seyntclere, all my pearl;

Item, to my sister Jerningham, a new pair of sheets, and another pair to my sister Brewes;

Item, all mine old plate, being the residue of all my plate, chains, jewels and other stuff, to be sold and disposed for my soul;

Item, I bequeath to my servant, Margery, a large cloth for a board with towels and napkins to the same;

Item, to the same, three pair of Holland sheets next to the best;

Item, to the same Margery, my trussing bed of russet and red with a counterpoint of the Birth of Our Lord;

Item, to Elizabeth Harte, two pair of new Holland sheets and a new piece of Holland with twelve cushions of beyond-sea work;

Item, just as many to my servant, Margery;

Item, my 2 trussing beds to my cousin Peche, and two pair of fustians;

Item, to Robert Wright a chair and a featherbed and a coarse counter point and a pair of blankets;

Item, to Stanley, a featherbed and a pair of blankets with a coarse counterpoint;

Item, to Bekensawe, a featherbed and a pair of blankets with a coarse counterpoint;

Item, to Archer, a featherbed with blankets and a counterpoint to the same(?)

Item, to Wright, 40s;

Item, to Stanley, 40s;

Item, to Archer, 40s;

Item, to Parys, 40s;

Item, to Woodhouse, 40s;

Item, to John, 20s;

Item, to Crayforde, 20s;

Item, to the cook & the butler and the horse-keeper, to every of them 10s;

Item, to Katherine, 10s;

Item, to Margery, £4 and a kirtle of russet satin;

Item, to Elizabeth Harte, £3 and a kirtle of black satin;

Item, to the making of vestments among the Minoresses, a nightgown furred with black coney and another gown of black velvet furred [+with] black;

Item, a tawny gown of velvet;

Item, 40s for a scholar;

Item, to Doctor Standish, 40s;

Item, a ring with a diamond to Master John Car, knight;

Item, a pot with 2 ears to my Lady Calthorpe;

Item, to Margaret, my god-daughter, 40s;

Item, to George Hall, 20s;

Item, all the whole residue of my goods to be at the disposition of my executor;

Item, for my executor I ordain and appoint my cousin, John Peche, knight;

Item, I appoint Doctor Standish supervisor of this my last testament.

LM: Test{amentum} Margaret{e} Suffolke

1 In dei nomine amen. Ego Margareta Suffolke compos ment{is} Testamentu{m} meu{m} Condo

2 hoc modo qui sequitur Inprimis Lego a{n}i{m}am meam om{n}ipotenti deo Et corpus meum sepiliend{um} int{er} min{or}issas cu{m}

3 sponso meo Item Lego Mag{ist}ro Iohanni pechy Militi om{n}ia vasa argentea vel plate que venerunt p{er} manus illius

4 de p{ar}tib{us} vltra marinis et tria gilt gobblet{es} cum coop{er}torio et vnu{m} M
of dyamondis It{e}m lego eius vxori

5 vnam togam furred with Lepardis It{e}m et vnu{m} par preclaru{m} de auro Item
Doctori Standishe vnu{m}

6 chiphum de argento de aurat{o} It{e}m filie mee Int{er} min{or}iss{as} vnu{m}
ciphum stantem It{e}m Lego sorori mee comitiss{e}

7 Oxonij sanctu{m} Michaellem cum perles et Lapidibus preciosis It{e}m sorori mee
gernyng{a}m nouam mappam

8 et nouu{m} tuale et duodecim natkyns of gylou{er} warkis It{e}m sorori mee Anne
apud Berkyng a sylver potte

9 with ij eyres It{e}m sorori mee Bruys vnu{m} ciphum stantem de argento de aurat{o}
It{e}m sorori sent clere

10 all my perle It{e}m sorori mee gernyng{a}m vnu{m} nouu{m} par Linthiaminu{m}
et Aliud par sorori mee bruys It{em}

11 all myn old plate hoc est residuu{m} meu{m} totum of plate cheynes Ioyell{es} and
other stuff to be sold and dispo-

12 sed for my soule Item Lego famule mee Margerie vnam optimam mappam pro mensa
cum tualibus et

13 napkyns de eod{e}m It{e}m eodem tria paria Linthiaminu{m} de holond next to the
best It{e}m eodem Margerie

14 my trussing bed of russett and Reed with a count{er}poynt of the byrth of our Lorde
It{e}m Elizabeth{e} Hart duo

15 paria lintheaminu{m} noua de holond et vnam nouam peciam de holond cum
duodecem chusshens of be-

16 yond see warke It{e}m totidem Margerie famule mee It{e}m my ij trussing beddis to
my cosyng pechy et duo

17 paria de fustians It{e}m Roberto Wryhte vnam cathedram et vnu{m} Lectum de
plumis and a cowrse counter

18 poynte et vnu{m} par de blankett{es} It{e}m to Stanley vnu{m} Lectum de plumis et
vnu{m} par de blankett{es} with a

19 course counterpoynt It{e}m to Bekenssawe vnu{m} Lectum de plumis et vnu{m} par de blankett{es} with a course

20 counterpoynt It{e}m to Archer vnu{m} Lectu{m} de plumis cum blankett{es} et counterpoynt de eadem forma It{e}m to

21 Wryhte xls It{e}m to Stanley xls Item to Archer xls It{e}m to parys xls Item to Wodhouse xls Item

22 Iohan{n}i xxs Item to Crayforde xxs It{e}m to the cooke & the butteler and the horse kep{er} cuili{be}t ip{s}orum xs

23 Item, Katerine xs Item Margerie iiijli and a kyrtell of russett Satten It{e}m Elizabeth{e} Hart iijli

24 And a kyrtell of blake satten Item Ad faciend{a} vestymenta Int{er} Min{or}iss{as} a nyght gowne ffurred with

25 blake coney et aliam togam de nigro velveto ffurred blake It{e}m a tawny gowne de velveto It{e}m xls pro

26 vno scolare It{e}m Doctori Standysshe xls It{e}m vnu{m} Annulum with a dyamond Mag{ist}ro Iohan{n}i Car militi It{e}m

27 a potte with ij eres to my Lady caltrope It{e}m to Margarett my goddoughter xls It{e}m Georgio hall xxs It{e}m

28 totum residuu{m} om{n}i{um} bonorum meor{um} ad disposicionem executoris mei It{e}m pro meo Executore ordino et Institutio

29 consanguineu{m} meu{m} Ioh{ann}em pechy militem It{e}m Institutio Doctorem Standisshe istius mei vltimi testamenti

30 Supervisorem

Probatum fuit suprascriptum test{amentu}m coram d{omi}no Apud Lameth xvo die mensis Maij Anno d{omi}ni Millesimo quingentesimo decimo quinto Iur{amento} Executoris onus executionis test{ament}i eiusdem expresse refutan{tis} Et com{m}issa fuit admi{n}istracio om{n}i{um} et singulor{um} bonor{um} et debitoru{m} dicte defuncte ad viam intestati pred{i}c{t}o Executori De bene et ffideliter admi{n}strand{o} ead{e}m etc Iurat{i}

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord [+Archbishop] at Lambeth on the 15th day of the month of May in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred

fifteenth by the oath of the executor, expressly refusing the burden of the execution of the said testament, and administration was granted of all and singular the goods and debts of the said deceased by way of an intestacy to the forenamed executor, sworn to well and faithfully administer the same etc.]