

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.

The testatrix was born Margaret Scrope, the daughter and co-heir of Richard Scrope, the second son of Henry Scrope (1418-1458/9), 4th Baron Scrope of Bolton, and his wife, Elizabeth Scrope (d. 10 May 1504), the daughter of John Scrope (b. c. 1388, d. 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* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2004), pp. 254-5, 538-1, 645, 670-3; the entry for Scrope of Masham in *The Complete Peerage*, p. 564-6; and the entries for Henry Scrope (c.1376-1415), 3rd Baron Scrope of Masham, and John Scrope (1437/8-1498), 5th Baron Scrope of Bolton in the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*.

For the will of the testatrix' father, Richard Scrope (d.1485), see the copy on this website and in *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. The testatrix is not mentioned in her mother's will, perhaps because her husband, Edmund de la Pole (1472?–1513), 8th Earl of Suffolk, was an outlawed exile at the time.

The testatrix had six sisters who lived to adulthood:

-Elizabeth (d.1537), 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, ff. 84-6; for the will of the 13th Earl, see TNA PROB 11/17, ff. 82-90);

-Eleanor, married her stepbrother, Sir Thomas Wyndham (d.1522) of Felbrigg. For his will, see TNA PROB 11/21, ff. 19-21A. 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 (d.1548) 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, ff. 168-9);

-Katherine, 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, pp. 6, 96,125). By the time Elizabeth (d.1542), widow of Thomas Blake, esquire, and the second wife of 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 Sir John Audley (d. 18 April 1530), see TNA PROB 11/24, ff. 112-13. For the will of Elizabeth Blake Audley (d.1542), see TNA PROB 11/29, f. 3;

-Jane [Joan], 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 (d.1500?), and grandson of Sir Thomas Brewes (d. 17 June 1482) of Little Wenham, Suffolk, and his second wife, Elizabeth Debenham (d.1503). 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, ff. 150-1; and the will of Thomas Brewes (d.1514), see TNA PROB 11/18, f. 29. 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, 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. 16, (London: Harleian Society, 1881), p. 280, available online.

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 (d.1475), the grand-daughter of 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' 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 Scopes. The need for a detailed study of the reading habits of the female Scopes 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 Ancrene Wisse* (Cambridge: D.S. Brewer, 2003), pp. 166-8, available online.

The testatrix and her husband, Edmund de la Pole (1472?-1513), 8th Earl of Suffolk, had only one child, Elizabeth, 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, ff. 92-3. For the will of Sir John Peche (c.1473-1521/2), see TNA PROB 11/20, ff. 200-1.

Elizabeth Harte, to whom the testatrix leaves bequests in the will below, was Elizabeth (nee Peche) Harte (d.1543), the sister of Sir John Peche (c.1473-1521/2). Elizabeth (nee Peche) Harte (d.1543) 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 für 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: Testamentum Margarete Suffolke

Modern spelling transcript copyright ©2010 Nina Green All Rights Reserved
<http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/>

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: Testamentum Margarete Suffolke

1 In dei nomine amen. Ego Margareta Suffolk compos mentis Testamentum meum Condo

2 hoc modo qui sequitur Inprimis Lego animam meam omnipotenti deo Et corpus meum sepeliendum inter minorissas cum

3 sponso meo Item Lego Magistro Iohanni pechy Militi omnia vasa argentea vel plate que venerunt per manus illius

4 de partibus vltra marinis et tria gilt gobbletes cum coopertorio et vnum M of dyamondis Item lego eius vxori

5 vnam togam furred with Lepardis Item et vnum par preclarum de auro Item Doctori Standisshe vnum

6 chiphum de argento de aurato Item filie mee Inter minorissas vnum ciphum stantem Item Lego sorori mee comitisse

7 Oxonij sanctum Michaellem cum perles et Lapidibus preciosis Item sorori mee gernyngam nouam mappam

8 et nouum tuale et duodecim natkyns of gylouer warkis Item sorori mee Anne apud Berkyng a sylver potte

9 with ij eyres Item sorori mee Bruys vnum ciphum stantem de argento de aurato Item sorori sent clere

10 all my perle Item sorori mee gernyngam vnum nouum par Linthiaminum et Aliud par sorori mee bruys Item

11 all myn old plate hoc est residuum meum totum of plate cheynes Ioyelles 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 eodem Item eodem tria paria Linthiaminum de holond next to the best Item eodem Margerie

14 my trussing bed of russett and Reed with a counterpoynt of the byrth of our Lorde Item Elizabethe Hart duo

15 paria lintheaminum noua de holond et vnam nouam peciam de holond cum duodecem chusshens of be-

16 yond see warke Item totidem Margerie famule mee Item my ij trussing beddis to my cosyn pechy et duo

17 paria de fustians Item Roberto Wryhte vnam cathedram et vnum Lectum de plumis and a cowrse counter

18 poynte et vnum par de blankettes Item to Stanley vnum Lectum de plumis et vnum par de blankettes with a

19 course counterpoynt Item to Bekenssawe vnum Lectum de plumis et vnum par de blankettes with a course

20 counterpoynt Item to Archer vnum Lectum de plumis cum blankettes et counterpoynt de eadem forma Item to

21 Wryhte xls Item to Stanley xls Item to Archer xls Item to parys xls Item to Wodhouse xls Item

22 Iohanni xxs Item to Crayforde xxs Item to the cooke & the butteler and the horse keper cuilibet ipsorum xs

23 Item, Katerine xs Item Margerie iijli and a kyrtell of russett Satten Item Elizabethe Hart iijli

24 And a kyrtell of blake satten Item Ad facienda vestymenta Inter Minorissas a nyght gowne ffurred with

25 blake coney et aliam togam de nigro velveto ffurred blake Item a tawny gowne de velveto Item xls pro

26 vno scolare Item Doctori Standysshe xls Item vnum Annulum with a dyamond
Magistro Iohanni Car militi Item

27 a potte with ij eres to my Lady caltrope Item to Margarett my goddoughter xls Item
Georgio hall xxs Item

28 totum residuum omnium bonorum meorum ad disposicionem executoris mei Item pro
meo Executore ordino et Institutio

29 consanguineum meum Iohannem pechy militem Item Institutio Doctorem Standisshe
istius mei vltimi testamenti

30 Supervisorem

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum coram domino Apud Lameth xvo die mensis
Maij Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo decimo quinto Iuramento Executoris onus
executionis testamenti eiusdem expresse refutantis Et commissa fuit administracio
omnium et singulorum bonorum et debitorum dicte defuncte ad viam intestati predicto
Executori De bene et ffideliter administrando eadem etc Iurati

[=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.]