

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 1 May 1518 and proved 22 January 1519, of John Danyell, servant of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford. The testator was granted an annuity of £10 in the will of the 13th Earl, and was named as one of the Earl's executors. For the will of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford, see TNA PROB 11/17/379. In the will below, the testator requires that a priest sing ten years for his soul and the souls of his family and 'the said priest shall specially pray for the soul of the full noble and valiant knight, my late singular good Lord and master, John de Vere, late Earl of Oxenford'.

For the will of the testator's wife, Margery, dated 20 July 1521 and proved 24 April 1523, see TNA PROB 11/21, ff. 42-3. The testator's daughter, Mary Danyell, married John Newport (d.1524) of Pelham Furneux, and had a daughter, Grace Newport (c.1515–c.1549), who married Sir Henry Parker (d. 1552). See the entry for Henry Parker (1531/2-1577), 11th Baron Morley in the *ODNB*.

The testator's executor and cousin, John Danyell of Messing, was the husband of Grace (nee Denny) Danyell, the daughter of Sir Edmund Denny (d.1520), Chief Baron of the Exchequer, and the sister of Mary (nee Denny) Gates (d.1583?), whose husband, Sir John Gates (1504–1553), was named as an executor in the 1552 will of the 16th Earl of Oxford. See the *ODNB* entry for Thomas Danyell (b. after 1488, d. 1566). For the will of Sir Edmund Denny (d.1520), see TNA PROB 11/19, ff. 235-7.

According to Ross, the testator's son was receiver to Elizabeth (nee Scrope) Beaumont de Vere (d.1537), Countess of Oxford, widow of the 13th Earl:

Item, I give and bequeath to John Danyell, my receiver, a standing cup of silver and gilt with a cover, newly made, weighing 37 ounces di{midium}, di{midium} quarter, to be of the value of £10 sterling.

See the will of Elizabeth de Vere, Countess of Oxford, TNA PROB 11/27/144; and Ross, James, *John de Vere, Thirteenth Earl of Oxford 1442-1513*, (Woodbridge, Suffolk: The Boydell Press, 2011), pp. 200, 231.

However in the will below the testator makes no mention of a son, and it seems likely that it was the testator's cousin, John Danyell of Messing (see above), who was the Countess' receiver.

A John Danyell was also named as an executor in the will of the Countess' brother-in-law, Sir John Seyntclere, TNA PROB 11/31/383, and it seems likely that he too was the testator's cousin, John Danyell of Messing.

RM: Test{amentu}m Ioh{an}nis Danyell

In the name of God, Amen. I, John Danyell of Felsted in the county of Essex, gentleman, being in good and whole mind, not vexed, troubled nor diseased with my bodily sickness, knowing and considering well the uncertainty and unstableness of this wretched life and that there is nothing so certain to every creature in this world living as is departure of the same, and nevertheless nothing so uncertain as the time and hour thereof, ordain and make this my present testament and last will the first day of May in the year of Our Lord God 1500 and 18 and in the 10th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Henry the 8th in manner and form ensuing:

First I give and bequeath my soul to the infinite mercy of Almighty God, Maker and Redeemer thereof, to the most Blessed and Glorious Virgin, Our Lady Saint Mary, Saint John Evangelist, Saint John Baptist, Saint Austin [=Augustine], Saint Anthony, Saint George, Saint Jerome, Saint Gregory, and to all the holy company of heaven, and my body to be buried in the chapel in the south side of the church of Felsted aforesaid before th' image of the Blessed Trinity there if I depart this uncertain life within 10 miles of the same, and if not, then to be buried where it please Almighty God and after the discretions of mine executors and as to them shall seem best;

Item, I will that all my debts sufficiently proved to be due by my writing or otherwise and by me owing to any person be truly and duly content and paid with [sic] my debts do appear and be contained in a schedule hereunto annexed and in my book of reckoning, as well such debts as I do owe to any person as such debts as to me owing;

And also I will that unto all persons duly and sufficiently proving that I have injured or wronged them against reason and good conscience be made restitution, wherein I trust that few or none have or shall have cause to complain;

Item, I give and bequeath to the Holy Sacrament of the high altar in the church of Felsted aforesaid in recompense of my tithes and offerings by me forgotten and omitted 26s 8d;

Item, I will that the most and best disposed priest be provide[d] by mine executors, and shall by the space of 10 years next ensuing my departure sing in the said chapel of the Trinity if my body be buried there, and if not then the five first years next after my decease to be accomplished by the said priest where it shall please Almighty God that my body shall be buried, and the other 5 years in like wise to be accomplished in the said chapel of the Trinity, and my very will is that the said priest shall specially pray for the soul of the full noble and valiant knight, my late singular good Lord and master, John de Vere, late Earl of Oxenford, for my soul, and for the souls of all them that I am bound to pray for, the souls of my father and mother, the souls of my wife's father and mother, for my children's souls, and all Christian souls, and the said priest to have for every of the said 10 years 8 marks sterling money, and that the said priest for that time be charged with dirges, commendations and other prayer as shall be thought by mine executors most expedient for the weal of my soul and the souls before rehearsed, and that the more part of the said Masses by him during the said ten years to be said and sung shall be of the Holy Ghost and of the 5 Wounds of Christ;

Item, I will that forthwith and incontinent after my death my said executors shall cause 8 trentals to be said and done in the said church of Felsted or else whereas my body shall be buried by the most virtuous priests that they can provide or get to sing and pray for my soul and for the souls of them that I am bound to pray for;

Item, I will that my said executors shall within one year next after my departure distribute and give for the weal of my soul to 5 the poorest men in the said parish of Felsted having wives and children, in the worship of the 5 Wounds of Christ and to th' intent that they shall specially pray for my soul and for the souls of them that I am bound to pray for, to every of them 5s in ready money or else in garments and clothes after the discretions of my said executors after the rate of the said money;

And where I have and hold the manors of Felsted and Gr{a}unt Court{es} [=Grandcourts] by lease of my Lady th' Abbess and Convent of the Monastery of Syon for term of certain years, to have and enjoy the same to mine executors, administrators and assigns during the said years as by the same lease more at large doth appear, I will and ordain by this my last will and testament that my cousin, John Danyell of Messing, my nephews, Doctor Knightley and William Knightley, his brother, shall have and enjoy all my right, interest and estate in the same to th' intent that they shall suffer Margery, my loving wife, to take the profits thereof by all the years that she shall fortune to live after my decease, paying yearly to my said Lady and to her successors such sums of money as I by my life paid for the same farm by the time that I occupied the same, and immediately after her decease I then will that the said John Danyell, Doctor Knightley and William Knightley shall suffer Mary, my daughter, to take the profits of the premises during her life, she paying to my said Lady and to her successors as my said wife is before limited to pay;

And if the said Margery, my wife, and Mary, my daughter, decease within and during the years of my said lease, I then will that the profits of the residue of the years so then not expired nor runnen [=run] and the money thereof coming to be bestowed towards the finding of poor priests, and scholars to the universities, and other charitable deeds as far as it will stretch and extend after their discretions for the most weal of my soul;

Provided always that my said cousins, John Danyell, Doctor Knightley and William Knightley, shall make no grant of the said term ne of any part thereof to my said daughter, Mary, during the time of her coverture;

And over this I will that all my feoffees that now be and hereafter shall be of and in my tenement called Woodes and of and in all other lands and tenements which I have purchased lying and being within the parish of Felsted aforesaid shall stand and be seised in the same to th' use and performance of this my testament and last will, and the revenues thereof coming shall be employed towards the finding and salary of the priest before rehearsed during the time of the said ten years, and after the said 10 years be expired, then I will that the said feoffees shall stand and be seised of and in the premises

to th' use of my said wife during her life, and after her death to th' use of my said daughter, Mary, and of her heirs forever;

Item, I give and bequeath to the marriage of my cousin, Katherine Danyell, five marks, to be paid to her within one year next after my departure if she be in my service at the time of my said departure, or else not;

The residue of all my goods movable and unmovable I give and bequeath to my said wife to her own proper use, and if I had much more than I have now at my said departure I could and would be right well content that she should have the same forsomuch as she hath taken great pains and labours in and about the getting thereof, and trust verily for the great love that hath been continually between us that she therefore will have my soul the rather in her special remembrance as may stand in her power, not doubting but she will leave to our said daughter, Mary, when God shall call my said wife to his mercy, such of her substance as she may conveniently, if my said daughter be then if life;

And for the performance of this my testament and last will I ordain and make mine executors Margery, my said loving wife, my cousin, John Danyell of Messing, my nephews, Doctor Knightley and William Knightley his brother, and my said cousins to have for their pain and labour as my said wife shall seem best for th' execution of this my testament and last will;

In witness whereof I the said John Danyell, to this my testament and last will have set my seal and sign manual the day and year abovesaid, and written the same by good deliberation with mine own hand the day and year abovesaid.

Probatum fuit testamentum supradicti defuncti h[ab]entis &c Coram domino apud Lameth xxijdo Die mensis Ianuarij Anno D[omi]ni Mill[es]imo quingentesimo xvijjo Iurament[is] Iohannis Danyell personal[ite]r p[rese]nt[is] et Margerie Relicte In p[er]sona Thome Argall procu[r]atoris executoru[m] in h[uius]modi test[ament]o no[m]inat[orum] Ac approbatum & insinuat[um] &c Et Com[miss]a fuit admi[n]istracio om[n]iu[m] bonorum & debitorum d[ic]ti defuncti prefatis executorib[us] De bene & fidel[ite]r admi[n]istrand[o] Ac de pleno & fidei Inue[n]tio citra festum s[an]c[t]i Mathie prox[imum] futur[um] exhibend[o] Necnon de plano & vero compoto reddend[o] Ad s[an]c[t]a dei eu[ang]elia Iurat[is] Reseruat[ur] potestate similem com[mission]em faciend[um] alijs executorib[us] &c cum venerint xiiijdo die Iunij Anno d[omi]ni Mill[es]imo quingen[tes]imo xxvjo comissa fuit consimilis admi[n]istrand[o] bonoru[m] p[re]dicti defuncti Mr Mathei Knightly cl[er]ico executori etiam etc in p[er]sona Ric[hard]i ffelde notarij pu[bli]ci procu[r]atoris sui etc Ad sancta dei Eu[ang]elia Iurat[o]

[=The testament of the abovesaid deceased, having etc., was proved before the Lord [+Archbishop] at Lambeth on the 22nd day of the month of January in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 18th by the oath of John Danyell, personally present, and

Margery, relict, in the person of Thomas Argall, proctor, executors named in the same testament, and probated & entered etc., and administration was granted of all the goods & debts of the said deceased to the forenamed executors, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well & faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full & faithful inventory before the feast of Saint Matthew next to come, and also to render a plain & true account, with power reserved for a similar grant to be made to the other executors etc. when they shall have come. On the 14th day of June in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 25th a similar administration was granted of the goods of the foresaid deceased to M{aster} Matthew Knightley, clerk, also executor, in the person of Richard Field, notary public, his proctor in that respect etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels.]