

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 1 May 1526 and proved 16 February 1527, of Sir John Wiltshire (d. 28 December 1526), whose son-in-law, Sir Richard Wingfield, leased the mansion at London Stone later granted to the Earls of Oxford.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Little is known of the testator's family background. He is said to have been the son of Nicholas Wiltshire by the daughter and heir of Acklevit [=Hakluyt?] of Normandy. See St George, Richard, *The Heraldic Visitation of Westmoreland Made in the Year 1615*, (London: John Gray Bell, 1753), p. 32 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=kbFfAAAACAAJ&pg=PA32>

For the testator's manor of Stone mentioned in the will below, see Richardson, Joan A. Carew, 'Carew of Stone Castle', *North West Kent Family History*, pp. 114-18, available online.

See also:

<http://www.letheringhamlodge.com/>

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The identity of the testator's wife, Margaret, is obscure. In one pedigree she is said to have been the daughter of John Graund of Normandy. However in several pedigrees she is said to have been the daughter of Sir Simon le Grand of Normandy, 'who came from France into England with Henry VI', and Catherine Percy, the daughter of Sir Ralph Percy (slain at Hedgeley Moor, 1464) by Jane Tey, the daughter and heir of Sir John Tey of Bursted, Essex. See St George, Richard, *The Heraldic Visitation of Westmorland*, (London: John Gray Bell, 1753), p. 32 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=kbFfAAAACAAJ&pg=PA32&lpg=PA32>

See also the pedigree in *The Visitations of Essex, Part II*, Vol. XIV, (London: Harleian Society, 1879), p. 737 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=g6wKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA737>

See also the pedigree in Vivian, J.L., *The Visitations of Cornwall, Comprising the Heralds' Visitations of 1530, 1573 & 1620*, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1887), p. 489 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=t0U7AQAIAAJ&pg=PA489&lpg=PA489>

By his wife, Margaret, the testator had one daughter:

* **Bridget Wiltshire** (d. by 1536), who married firstly Sir Richard Wingfield (d. 22 July 1525), who, as noted above, leased the mansion at London Stone later granted to the Earls of Oxford. From the will of Sir Richard Wingfield, TNA PROB 11/22/51:

Also I will that the said Dame Bridget, my wife, shall have th' occupation of my stuff of household and implements of the same now being in my house in London Stone

For Sir Richard Wingfield's lease of the mansion at London Stone, see also TNA C 66/688, m. 8.

In his will, Sir Richard Wingfield mentions a gilt drinking-pot given to him by his relative by marriage, Elizabeth (nee Scrope) Beaumont de Vere (d.1537), Countess of Oxford (for whose will see TNA PROB 11/27/144):

Item, a drinking-pot all gilt which I had of the gift of the Countess of Oxford.

Bridget Wiltshire married secondly Sir Nicholas Hervey (c.1491-1532), by whom she was the mother, among other sons and daughters, of Henry Hervey (d.1589), who married Jane Thomas, by whom he was the father of Sir William Hervey (d.1642), who married, as her third husband, Mary Browne (d.1607), Countess of Southampton. See the *ODNB* entry for Sir Nicholas Hervey, and the 'Hervey Family Tree', which can be downloaded at the Ickworth Church Conservation Trust at:

<http://www.ickworthchurch.org.uk/hervey-family>

See also the inscription on the monument to Bridget Wiltshire's daughter, Anne Hervey Carew, in Romford church in Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *The Visitation of Suffolke Made by William Hervey*, Vol. II, (Lowestoft: Samuel Tymms, 1868), p. 158 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsuffo00howagoog#page/n182/mode/2up>

Here lieth Anne Carew, daughter of Sir Nicholas Hervey, knight, and of Dame Bridget, his wife, daughter and sole heir of Sir John Wiltshire, knight, widow of Sir Richard Wingfield, Knight of the Garter & Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, which Sir Nicholas, being a gentleman of the Privy Chamber to King Henry the 8th, was twice employed ambassador unto the Roman Emperor. His wife, Dame Bridget, was a Lady of the Bedchamber to Queen Anne Boleyn. This Anne married George Carew, third son to Sir Edmund Carew (alias Montgomery), Baron of Carew, & by her said husband, who died the 15 day of June Anno Domini 1583, & [sic] had issue two sons and two daughters. The eldest, Sir Peter Carew, knight, slain in the wars in Ireland the 25 of August, 1580, married Audrey, daughter of William Gardener of Grove in Buckinghamshire, esquire, and had issue Peter, that died young, & Anne, his only daughter & heir, married first to William, son & heir to Sir Thomas Wilford of Kent,

knight, deceased, & is now the wife of her second husband, Sir Allen Apsley, knight. The second son, Sir George Carew, knight, Lord President and Governor of the Province of Munster in Ireland under Queen Elizabeth, now of late by our Sovereign Lord King James is created Baron Carew of Clopton, and hath to wife the Lady Joyce, eldest daughter and coheir of (blank) Clopton of Clopton in the county of Warwick, esquire. The eldest daughter, Mary, who married with Walter Dowrishe of Devonshire, esquire, died 1604. The youngest, Elizabeth, died an infant. This Anne Carew deceased the 27 of August 1604 at the age of 76 years, in memory of whom the Lord Carew, her son, for his last duty hath erected this monument the 20 day of March, year of grace 1605.

Anne Hervey Carew was the mother, as noted in the inscription, of Sir George Carew (1555-1629). Mary (nee Browne) Wriothesley (d.1607), Countess of Southampton, describes Sir George Carew as ‘my good and loving friend’, and appoints him as overseer of her will (see TNA PROB 11/110/388).

Bridget Wiltshire married thirdly Sir Robert Tyrwhitt (d. 10 May 1572).

See also the entry for her in ‘A Who’s Who of Tudor Women’ at:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=715

BRIDGET WILTSHIRE (d. by 1536)

Bridget Wiltshire was the daughter and heir of Sir John Wiltshire of Stone Castle, Kent (c.1434-December 1526), comptroller of Calais under Henry VII, and his wife Margaret. The date of her birth is listed in some accounts as 1477, but this seems too early in light of the birthdates of some of her children, which go as late as 1532. She married Sir Richard Wingfield of Kimbolton, Huntingdonshire (1469-July 22, 1525) as his second wife. He was Lord Deputy of Calais and later ambassador to Spain and died in Toledo. Their children were Cecily (d.1525), Elizabeth (d.1522), Charles (1513-May 24, 1540), Thomas, Maria (c.1516-1557), Jacques (c.1519-1587+), Lawrence, Jane (b.c.1525), Mary, Margaret, and Catherine. As Lady Wingfield, she was at the Field of Cloth of Gold in 1520 and was invited to court by Anne Boleyn in 1530 when Anne was still only Lady Anne Rochford. The text of a letter Anne wrote to her at this time is still extant. Some accounts say Lady Wingfield was at court in 1532 and that she served as Mother of Maids while Anne Boleyn was queen. By 1529, she married Sir Nicholas Hervey or Harvey of Ickworth, Suffolk (c.1490-August 5, 1532), gentleman of the Privy Chamber and ambassador to Ghent, who was out of England from the end of June 1530 until March 1531. Bridget may have continued to call herself Lady Wingfield but she had five children by Hervey: Henry (b.1526), George (1527-1599), another George (1532-1605), Mabel, and another daughter. She inherited Backenho from Hervey and in 1534 it passed to her third husband, Sir Robert Tyrwhitt of Mortlake, Surrey and Leighton Bromswold, Huntingdonshire (d. May 10, 1572). They had no children. According to Retha Warnicke, Anne Boleyn and the king visited Lady Wingfield’s house en route to Calais in 1532, before they were married. In 1536, Lady Wingfield’s name came up when Anne Boleyn was charged with adultery. It was said that she had made a deathbed confession concerning the queen’s misconduct. Exactly what she is supposed to have confessed is

not specified, although Warnicke concludes that the confession accused Anne of sexual misconduct before her marriage to the king. The date of Lady Wingfield's death is unknown, but she was still alive in January 1534.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

For Sir Richard Weston (c.1465-1541), one of the testator's residuary legatees, see the *ODNB* entry.

For Sir Thomas Cheney or Cheyne (c.1485-1558), another of the testator's residuary legatees, see the *ODNB* entry and his will, TNA PROB 11/42B/105. Sir Thomas Cheney's second wife, Anne Broughton (d.1562), was the granddaughter of Katherine de Vere, illegitimate daughter of John de Vere, 13th Earl of Oxford.

For the testator's overseer, Thomas Boleyn (1476/7-1539), father of Henry VIII's second wife, Anne Boleyn, see the *ODNB* entry.

RM: Test{amentu}m Ioh{ann}is Wilshire Milit{is}

In the name of God, Amen. The first day of May the year of Our Lord God 1500 and 26 and the 18th year of the reign of King Henry the Eight, I, Sir John Wiltshire, knight, whole of mind and in perfect remembrance being, thanked be Almighty God, make, ordain and declare this my present testament containing my last will in manner and form following, that is to wit:

First I bequeath and recommend my soul unto Almighty God, my Maker and Redeemer, to his glorious Mother, Our Blessed Lady Saint Mary the Virgin, and to all the blessed company in heaven;

And my body to be buried in the north side of the chancel of the parish church of Stone in the county of Kent where I am now parishen;

And I will that mine executors in convenient haste after my decease cause a chapel of lime and stone to be made and builded over me, with a convenient marble stone to be laid upon my grave there, and I will that they bestow and expend in and about the same thirty pounds sterling;

Item, I bequeath to the high altar of the said parish church of Stow where I am parishen 10s;

Also I will that mine executors underwritten in convenient haste after my decease pay and content all such debts as any man or woman can say or duly thereof make proof that I

do owe him or them by specialty or by credible or substantial witness, which is not 40s to my knowledge;

Item, I bequeath to be distributed and given to poor maidens' marriages in the said parish of Stone and in the parishes there near about within two years next after my decease the sum of twenty marks after their discretions, that is to say, to either of them 13s 4d sterling;

Item, I bequeath to every of my yeomen servants, Coke, Butler and such other, 20s in money and a black gown;

Item, I bequeath to every of my ploughmen 11s 8d in money and a black coat;

Item, I bequeath to every of my ploughboys 3s 4d in money and a black coat;

Item, I bequeath to every of my women servants 10s in money and a black gown;

Item, I bequeath to the prioress and convent of Dartford in the said county of Kent £3 6s 8d to th' intent that they shall solemnly sing and say within their conventual church in the day of my burial a solemn dirge by note overnight, and on the morrow following Mass of Requiem by note for my soul, the souls of my father and mother, my friends' souls and all Christian souls;

Item, I bequeath to the use of eight parishes churches next adjoining and about the said parish church of Stone, that is to say the parish churches of Dartford, Crayford, Wilmington, Sutton, Darenth Hills, Swanscombe and Northfleet, to every of them 10s to th' intent that there be songen and said in the said day of my burial a solemn dirge by note overnight, and in the morrow following Mass of Requiem by note for my soul and the souls aforesaid;

Item, I bequeath to the said parish church of Stone a chasuble and a tunicle with the albs, amices, stoles and other their apparel for a priest and his deacon to sing or say Mass in, of the value of ten pounds, in the which chasuble and tunicle I will that mine arms shall be broidered for a remembrance after the best manner by the discretions of my executors;

Item, I bequeath to every poor householder being man and wife together, or poor widow keeping household, to every such household within the parish of Stone aforesaid 6s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to the parish church of Dartford a cope of the value of ten marks to th' intent that the parishens there may have my soul and the souls aforesaid in the more perfect remembrance among their devout prayers, in the which cope I will there shall be embroidered mine arms in the best manner after [+the?] discretions of my executors;

Furthermore, as to the disposition as well of all and singular those my lands and tenements, meadows, leases, marshes, pastures, rents, reversions and services with all and

singular their appurtenances which I now have or to me of right belong within the said parish of Stone or elsewhere within the county of Kent or within the realm of England:

As to the disposition of all that my right, title, interest and term of years which I now have of and in all that site of the manor of Stone aforesaid, and of and in certain woods and woodlands called Howod in the county of Kent which I have and hold of the Lord Bishop of Rochester and Prior of Saint Andrews in Rochester aforesaid under their seals, as by their indentures of form thereof made at large shall appear;

First I will that as well all my said lands and tenements with all other the premises, as the said term of years of the said site of the manor of Stone and the said parcels of wood and woodlands called Howood, immediately after my decease remain unto Dame Margaret Wiltshire, my wife, to have and to hold to the said Dame Margaret and to her assigns during the natural life of the same Dame Margaret without impeachment of waste;

And also that she shall keep and repair the housing and building of the same, and also shall bear the quit-rents and out-charges due out of the same, and over that yield and pay the yearly rent or farm due for the same site of the said manor of Stone and the woods and woodlands as I am bound to do by virtue of the said indentures;

And after the decease of the said Dame Margaret, I will that all my lands and tenements [+and?] terms of years of the said site, wood and woodlands then for to come of and in the same remain unto my daughter, Dame Bridget Wingfield, to have and to hold unto the same Dame Bridget and to her assigns during her natural life under like manner, form and condition as to the foresaid Dame Margaret, her mother, before is devised;

And after the decease of the said Dame Bridget, then I will that all the said lands and tenements and the said terms of years of the site of the manor of Stone [+and?] wood and woodlands called Howood which at the decease of the said Bridget shall then be to come shall clearly remain unto the heirs males now begotten between Sir Richard Wingfield, knight, and the said Dame Bridget, to have and to hold to the said heirs males of the same Sir Richard Wingfield and Dame Bridget, and to the heirs males of the foresaid heirs males of the said Sir Richard and Dame Bridget forever;

And if it shall happen, as God defend, the said heirs males without heirs males of their bodies lawfully begotten to die, then I will that all my said lands and tenements and also the terms of years aforesaid then being for to come, with all other the premises, remain unto Sir Richard Weston, knight, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue male, then I will that all my said lands, tenements, terms of years of the premises then for to come wholly remain unto Sir Thomas Cheney, knight, and to the heirs males of his body coming lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue male, then I will that my foresaid lands and tenements [and?] terms with all other the premises aforesaid shall be sold by mine executors, if they then shall be living, or their executors, or by as many of them as then shall be living, and

for lack of them by the Bishop of Rochester and the parson of Stone for the time being jointly together, to the most advantage they can, and the money coming of the same sale I will shall be distributed and disposed by my said executors or their executors or by as many of them as then shall be living, or by the said Bishop and parson, towards poor maidens' marriages, mending and making of highways, building and renewing of churches and chapels, and in all other charitable deeds and works as by their discretions shall be thought best to please God and profit of my soul, as they will answer before God at the Day of Judgment;

Provided always that there shall be taken and levied out of all my lands and tenements lying and being within the parish of Stone aforesaid an annuity or yearly rent of ten marks by year to be perceived quarterly for the space of fifty years next ensuing my decease, notwithstanding any grant or devise by me of my said lands and tenements before made or willed, which annuity or rent yearly I will shall be made sure unto the parson and churchwardens of the parish church of Stone aforesaid and to their successors as sure as can be devised by law and learned counsel, with sufficient clause of distress for the non-payment thereof to be taken in all my lands and tenements in Stone aforesaid [f. 129r] to the intent that they shall be bound to find an honest secular priest daily to sing and pray for my soul and the souls aforesaid within the foresaid chapel during the said fifty years;

And I will and require all such persons as be now enfeoffed in all my foresaid lands and tenements, when they thereunto shall be lawfully required, make or cause to be made all such estate or estates as they now have of and in the same my lands and tenements according to the tenor, true meaning and effect of this my last will and testament, and none otherwise;

And furthermore I will that if my said goods shall not be able to content and pay my debts, legacies and devises, that then it shall be levied and paid of the issues and profits that shall yearly arise, come and grow of my said lands and tenements till such time as all such things shall be clearly paid, fulfilled and content, any devise before made notwithstanding and to take none effect until these things be performed;

The residue of all and singular my goods, ready money, plate, jewels, stuff of household, chattels and debts, whatsoever they be, after my debts paid, my funerals done and this my testament fulfilled, I wholly give and bequeath the same unto the said Dame Margaret Wiltshire, my wife, she to dispose them at her free will and pleasure;

Which said Dame Margaret, Sir Richard Weston and Sir Thomas Cheney, knights, and John Bere of Dartford of this my present testament and last will I constitute my faithful executors, and I bequeath to every of them a horse of the best in my stable, or else to either of them five marks in money at their pleasure for their labour in the premises to be had;

And overseer of the same testament and last will I make and ordain Sir Thomas Boleyn, knight, Lord of Rochford, and I bequeath to him for a remembrance my ring with the turquoise which I have daily worn of long continuance;

In witness whereof to this my present testament and last will I have set my seal, given the day and year above-written, these being witness: Sir Hugh Wynkynson, curate of the said parish church of Stone, George Ryder, gentleman, Sir Robert Fletcher, chaplain to the said Sir John Wiltshire, Reynold Woodward, William Aleyn, John Cannon, William Hilles, John Hobby, William Whatton, William Alwyn and other.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascripti defuncti Coram prefatis Com^missarijs in eccl^{es}ia Cath^{ed}rali diui Pauli London xvjo die mensis ffebruarij Anno d^{omi}ni Mill^{es}imo quingentesimo xxvjo Iurament^o d^{omi}ne Margarete Relicte & executricis in h^{uius}mo^di test^{ament}o no^miⁿat^e Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et co^missa fuit admiⁿⁱstracio auct^{orit}ate prefator^{um} R^{euerendissi}mor^{um} patrium o^mnⁱum & singulorum bonoru^m Iuriu^m & creditorum dⁱc^ti defuncti prefate executrice De bene et fideliter admiⁿⁱstrand^o Ac de pleno & fideli In^{uent}ario secundo die post festum Annuⁿciat^{ionis} dominice prox^{imum} futur^{um} exhi^{bend}o Necnon de plano et vero compoto reddend^o Ad s^{anc}t^a dei Eu^angelia Iurat^e Reseruat^a p^{otes}tate alijs executorib^{us} & cum venerint &c

[=The testament of the above-written deceased was proved before the forenamed Commissioners in the Cathedral Church of St Paul, London, on the 16th day of the month of February in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 26th by the oath of Dame Margaret, relict & executrix named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted by the authority of the forenamed Most Reverend Fathers of all & singular the goods, rights & credits of the said deceased to the forenamed executrix, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full & faithful inventory on the second day after the feast of the Annunciation of Our Lady next to come, and also to render a plain and true account, with power reserved to the other executors etc. when they shall have come etc.]