

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 31 August 1523 and proved 4 August 1529, of Sir Walter Mantell (d.1529), whose widow, Margaret (nee Wood), commenced the lawsuit *Hales v Petit*, alluded to in the gravedigger's speech in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator is said to have been the son of John Mantell (living 1495), esquire. See the pedigree of Mantell of Wellington in Burke, Bernard, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Colonial Gentry*, (London: Harrison & Sons, 1891), p. 175 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/genealogicalhera01burk#page/174/mode/2up>

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married Margaret Wood (d. 18 September 1567), the daughter of Oliver Wode or Wood by Joan Cantelowe, daughter of Henry Cantelowe (d. 19 November 1490), Merchant of the Staple. See:

'Introduction', *Survey of London: volume 19: The parish of St Pancras part 2: Old St Pancras and Kentish Town* (1938), pp. 1-31. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=64859>:

The field which formed the site of Francis Street, called Cantlowe Close, belonged to Henry Cantlowe, who died on 19th November, 1490, and then to his son, Richard, who died without issue in 1517. Richard's sister, Joan, married in 1497 Oliver Woode of Collington, Northants, who died in 1521, leaving a daughter, Margaret, afterwards the wife of Sir William Hawte of Bishopsbourne, Kent.

For the will of Henry Cantelowe, dated 5 November 1490 and proved 20 December 1490, which mentions his wife, Joan, and his children Richard Cantelowe (d.1517) and Joan Cantelowe, see TNA PROB 11/8/508. For the will of Oliver Wode, dated 21 March 1522 and proved 4 March 1523, bequeathing properties in Over Heyford and elsewhere and ordering his burial in St Katherine Cree, see London Metropolitan Archives CLC/210/G/BHD/002/MS13361A. For a record dated 5 February 1509 mentioning Oliver Wode as a member of the Middle Temple, see Hopwood, Charles Henry, ed., *Middle Temple Records*, (London: Butterworth & Co., 1904), pp. 27-8 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/middletemplereco01hopwuoft#page/26/mode/2up/>

By Margaret Wood the testator had three sons and five daughters:

* **John Mantell** (c.1516-1541), eldest son, one of Henry VIII's Gentlemen Pensioners. He has been identified as the compiler of the Blage Manuscript (Trinity College, Dublin, MS 160, f. 72r), a collection of poems attributed to Sir Thomas Wyatt (1503-1542). See:

<http://www.celm-ms.org.uk/authors/wyattsirthomas.html>

John Mantell married firstly Anne Browne (likely of the Browne family of Betchworth), by whom he is said to have had a son, Walter Mantell, 'who was attainted and executed at Sevenoaks, 1st May 1533' [sic]. See Burke, *supra*, p. 175.

John Mantell married, secondly, by dispensation dated 4 November 1538, Anne Fiennes. See Brigden, Susan, Thomas Wyatt; *The Heart's Forest*, (Faber and Faber), at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=8hK0igxSD1UC&pg=PT285>

and:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=8hK0igxSD1UC&pg=PT300>

Anne Fiennes was the only sister of Thomas Fiennes (c.1516 – 29 June 1541), 9th Baron Dacre, hanged at Tyburn (see below). Anne Fiennes and her brother, the 9th Baron Dacre, were the children of Sir Thomas Fiennes (d. 26 October 1528) and Jane Sutton (d. August 1539), daughter of Edward Sutton (d.1531), 2nd Baron Dudley, and the grandchildren of Thomas Fiennes (c.1472 – 9 September 1533), 8th Baron Dacre, and Anne Bouchier, daughter of Sir Humphrey Bouchier (slain at Barnet 14 April 1471) and Elizabeth Tilney d. 4 April 1497), the daughter and heir of Frederick Tilney, esquire. After the death of Sir Humphrey Bouchier, Elizabeth Tilney married secondly Thomas Howard (1443-1524), 2nd Duke of Norfolk. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 358.

The 9th Baron Dacre married, in 1536, Mary Neville, the daughter of George Neville (c.1469–1535), 3rd Baron Bergavenny, and his third wife, Mary Stafford (d. before 1530), youngest daughter of Edward Stafford (1478-1521), 3rd Duke of Buckingham, by whom he had a son, Thomas Fiennes, a ward of the Queen, who died 25 August 1553, aged 15. The heir to the Dacre barony was his younger brother, Gregory Fiennes (1539 – 26 September 1594), 10th Baron Dacre, who died without male issue and was succeeded by his sister, Margaret Dacre (1541 – 10 March 1612), who married Sampson Lennard (d. 20 September 1615). See Cokayne, G.E.C., *The Complete Peerage*, Vol. IV, (London: The St Catherine Press, 1916), pp. 9-11. For Mary Neville, see the entry at:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=697

For Mary Stafford, see the entry at:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=707

By Anne Fiennes, John Mantell is said to have had two sons, one of whom died young while the other died unmarried. See Burke, *supra*, p. 175.

John Mantell was executed for felony in 1541, together with his brother-in-law. For the executions in June 1541 of John Mantell and his brother-in-law, Thomas Fiennes, 9th Baron Dacre, see “‘Of Reckless Youth!’ Thomas Fiennes, 9th Baron Dacre’ at:

<http://theesotericcuriosa.blogspot.ca/2010/06/of-reckless-youth-thomas-fiennes-9th.html>

See also Dean, Dennis R., *Gideon Mantell and the Discovery of Dinosaurs*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999), p. 6 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=37AT511DnaQC&pg=PA6>

In 1541, however, John Mantell and some others ventured upon a “nocturnal frolic,” poaching deer from Sir Nicholas Pelham’s park in Sussex. Caught by three of Pelham’s men, they murdered one, and were subsequently executed, the greater portion of their estates being forfeited to the crown. As if to complete the ruin of his house, John’s son Walter then joined Sir Thomas Wyatt’s Kentish rebellion of 1554, which tried but failed to prevent Queen Mary’s union with the powerful Catholic monarch Philip of Spain. Walter, his nephew, and Wyatt himself were executed the same year.

According to Burke, *supra*, p. 175, and Dean, *supra*, p. 6, John Mantell had a son, Walter Mantell, who was executed. However both sources are unreliable, since Burke states that John Mantell’s son, Walter, was executed in 1533, and Dean states that John Mantell’s son, Walter, was executed with his ‘nephew’.

It does appear that two members of the Mantell family were executed in 1554 for their participation in Wyatt’s Rebellion. Foxe speaks of ‘the two Mantels’ sent into Kent to be executed on 27 February 1554:

Vpon the Tuesday in the same weeke, being the 27. of February, certayne Gentlemen of Kent were sente into Kent to be executed there. Their names were these, the two Mantels, two Kneuetts, and Bret: with these, Maister Rudston also and certayne other were condemned, and should haue bene executed, but they had their pardon.

Moreouer, as touching the sayid M. Mantell, for that he was reported falsely to haue fallen from the constancie of his profession, to cleare himselfe thereof, and to reprove the sinister surmise of his recantation, he wrote this briefe Apologie in purgation of himselfe: the copie whereof you shall heare.

See Foxe’s *Actes and Monuments* at:

<http://www.johnfoxe.org/index.php?realm=text&gototype=modern&edition=1583&pageid=1492>

It thus appears that John Mantell (c.1516-1541) had a son, Walter Mantell, who was executed in 1554 for his participation in Wyatt's Rebellion, and that the other Walter Mantell executed for the same cause was John Mantell's brother, also named Walter Mantell (see next).

* **Walter Mantell**, second son. He was the brother-in-law of Sir Thomas Wyatt, leader of the Wyatt rebellion, who had married Walter Mantell's stepsister, Jane Haute. See Lempreys, S.C., *A Brief Historical and Descriptive Account of Maidstone and its Environs*, (Maidstone: J. Brown, 1834), p. 28 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/briefhistoricald00lamp#page/28/mode/2up>

According to Burke, *supra*, p. 175, he was 'attainted and executed at Maidstone, 1st May 1533' [sic].

Walter Mantell married Jane Hales, the daughter of Sir James Hales (d.1554), by whom he had four sons, including Matthew Mantell (before 1550 - 1589), for whom see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/mantell-matthew-1550-89>

b. bef. 1550, 1st s. of Sir Walter Mantell (exec. 1554), of Horton, by Mary or Jane, da. of Sir James Hales of Canterbury. educ. I. Temple 1568 or 9. m. Lucrecia, da. of John Wake of Hartwell, Northants., 2s.1

As noted below, Walter Mantell's mother, Margaret (nee Wood), married Sir James Hales (d.1554) as her third husband.

The executions of the testator's two sons, John Mantell (d.1541) and Walter Mantell (d.1554), are mentioned in a case concerning the manors of Milton and Collingtree in Northamptonshire brought in the Exchequer in Easter term, 25 Elizabeth [=1582/3] by the testator's third son, Thomas Mantell, against the testator's grandson, Matthew Mantell (before 1550 - 1589), eldest son of the testator's second son, Walter Mantell (executed 1554). See Leach, Thomas, ed., *Reports of Sir George Croke, Knight*, 4th ed., Vol. I, (London: E. & R. Brooke, 1790), p. 28 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=s2oDAAAQAAJ&pg=PA28>

See also the will, proved 15 October 1589, of the testator's grandson, Matthew Mantell (before 1550 - 1589), TNA PROB 11/74/295.

* **Thomas Mantell**, who in 1582/3 brought suit against the testator's grandson, Matthew Mantell (d.1589). See Leach, *supra*, p. 28.

* **Ellen Mantell**.

* **Margaret Mantell** (d.1540), who married Robert Goche (d. 5 May 1557) and was the mother of the poet, Barnabe Googe (1540-1594). See the will of Robert Goche, TNA PROB 11/40/86; Taylor, John, ed., *Northamptonshire Notes & Queries*, Vol. III, (Northampton: The Dryden Press, 1890), p. 227; and the *ODNB* entry for Barnabe Googe:

Googe, Barnabe (1540–1594), poet and translator, was born on 11 June 1540, probably in Kent, the son of Robert Goche (d. 1557) of Lincoln and Margaret (d. 1540), daughter of Sir Walter Mantell. His mother died when he was six weeks old, and he was probably brought up in Kent by his grandmother Lady Hales. His father married his second wife, Ellen Gadbury Parris, in 1552; Googe came to dislike his stepmother intensely, and subsequently he spent a great deal of time at the Hales family manor Dunjeon (Dane John).

Barnabe Googe (11 June 1540 – February 1594), was both a kinsman of Lord Burghley, and one of his servants:

During the Queen's visit to Theobalds in 1572, [Googe] was 'placed high on the list of servants and referred to as the first server for the first meal. In 1581 he was on hand for the feasting of the French Commissioners when he was assigned as a server in the great chamber, along with Walter Cope, another Cecil relation. He again appeared among the servants on the occasion of the Queen's visit to Theobalds in 1591, though in this case the list does not include assignments.

In 1563 Barnabe Googe was appointed one of the Queen's Gentleman Pensioners. See the *ODNB* entry, and Barnett, Richard, *Place, Profit and Power: A Study of the Servants of William Cecil, Elizabethan Statesman*, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1969), pp. 65-7.

* **Mary Mantell.**

* **Anne Mantell**, who married Richard Neville (c.1510-1599), and was the mother of Alexander Neville (1544-1614), translator of Seneca. From the *ODNB*:

Neville, Alexander (1544–1614), author, was the sixth of the eleven children of Richard Neville (c.1510–1599) of South Leverton, Nottinghamshire, and his wife, Anne (b. c.1512), daughter of Sir Walter Mantell of Heyford, Northamptonshire, and aunt of the poet Barnabe Googe. . . . Neville's skill in Latin had already been demonstrated in 1560 by his translation into fourteeners of Seneca's Oedipus, subsequently printed in 1563 and then found worthy of inclusion, in a version which was extensively but tacitly revised and stressed the author's youth at the time of its first composition, in Thomas Newton's anthology of Seneca translations, 'Seneca his Tenne Tragedies', published in London in 1581.

* **Dorothy Mantell.**

After the testator's death his widow, Margaret (nee Wood), married Sir William Haute (d.1539), by whom she had no issue. By his first wife, Mary Guildford, Sir William Haute had two daughters:

- **Elizabeth Haute**, who married Thomas Culpeper (d. 13 May 1558), esquire, of Bedgebury in Goudhurst, Kent. For his will, see TNA PROB 11/41/336. Thomas Culpeper was the eldest of the three sons of Sir Alexander Culpeper (d.1541) by Constance (nee Chamberlain) Harper, and elder brother of Sir Thomas Culpeper, executed 23 November 1541 for alleged indiscretions with Henry VIII's fifth wife, Katherine Howard. Sir Anthony Culpeper (1560-1618), grandson of Thomas Culpeper and Elizabeth Haute, married Anne Martyn, half sister of Humphrey Martyn, the addressee of the *Langham Letter* which describes the Earl of Leicester's entertainment of Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575. See the will of Anne Martyn's mother, Elizabeth (nee Castlyn) Knolles Martyn, TNA PROB 11/65/430.

-**Jane Haute** (d. in or after 1595), who married Sir Thomas Wyatt, executed 11 April 1554 for instigating the Wyatt rebellion, by whom she had, according to the *ODNB*, at least four sons and three daughters. Two of her sons were dead by 1555. Arthur Wyatt died before reaching the age of majority. George Wyatt (1553–1624), born a few days before his father's rebellion, married Jane Finch, daughter of Sir Thomas Finch (d.1563) and Katherine Moyle, daughter of Sir Thomas Moyle (d.1560). For the will of Sir Thomas Moyle, dated 30 March and proved 14 November 1560, see TNA PROB 11/43/593. Of her daughters, Mary Wyatt died unmarried, Jane Wyatt married Charles Scott of Egerton, Kent, and Anne Wyatt married Roger Twisden.

See also the *ODNB* entries for the Culpeper family, Katherine Howard, and Sir Thomas Wyatt; Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. IV, p. 383; and the will of Sir William Haute, dated 12 January 1539 and proved 16 June 1539, TNA PROB 11/26/240.

The testator's widow, Margaret (nee Wood), married, as her third husband, Sir James Hales (d.1554), and as Lady Margaret Hales commenced the lawsuit *Hales v Petit* alluded to in *Hamlet*.

Margaret (nee Wood) Mantell Haute Hales is buried in the south or Woods chancel in St Mildred's Church, Canterbury, where there is a monument to her memory. According to an inquisition post mortem taken 18 March 1568, she died 18 September 1567 (see TNA C 142/165/132). See also Leach, *supra*, p. 28, and:

'Parishes: Milton Malzor', in *A History of the County of Northampton: Volume 4*, ed. L F Salzman (London, 1937), pp. 271-276. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/northants/vol4/pp271-276> [accessed 12 November 2018]

The eldest son of John Mantell was convicted of felony and put to death, leaving a son Walter who later suffered the same fate on being convicted of treason. Walter Mantell, the second son, was also attainted on a charge of treason, and on the death of Margaret,

then the widow of Sir James Hales, in 1567, the manor passed to Walter's eldest son Matthew who was aged 21 years. (fn. 67)

However the will of Margaret Wood's stepson, Humphrey Hales, suggests that he was unaware of her death when he made his will on 8 August 1568 ('if it shall fortune Dame Margaret Hales to die'). See the will of Humphrey Hales, dated 18 August 1568 and proved 13 May 1571, TNA PROB 11/53/261.

Brayley describes Margaret Wood's monument in St Mildred's Church, Canterbury:

On the south aisle is a neat mural monument for the Lady Margaret Hales, daughter and heiress of Oliver Wood, Esq. She died in 1577, having been married in succession to three Knights; viz. Sir William Mantel, Sir William Haute, and Sir James Hales. At the bottom is a genealogical tree, bearing her shield of arms, with impalements. The slabs in the pavement, which covered the remains of the Atwoods, have been long deprived of their brasses: the whole Chapel, indeed, is in a ruinous state.

See Brayley, Edward Wedlake, *The Beauties of England and Wales*, Vol. VIII, (London: Thomas Maiden, 1808), p. 907 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/beautiesengland17braygoog#page/n317/mode/2up>

It appears that the date '1577' in Brayley's description is a typographical error for '1567'.

Margaret (nee Wood) Mantell Haute Hales is said to have left a will in which she mentions her son, Thomas Mantell. See *The Hales Newsletter*, *supra*.

See also the entry for Margaret Wood at:

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

LM: Test{amentu}m Walteri Mawntell milit{is}

[f. 73v] In dei nomine amen. I, Walter Mantell, being of good mind & remembrance, make my last will and testament under this manner and form following:

First, I bequeath my soul to Almighty God;

Item, I bequeath to every church hereafter following, that is to say, Heyford, Bugbrooke, Flore, Farnynghoo, Kings Sutton, Charleton, Chapell, and to every of them 10s sterling;

Item, I will that all my feoffees stand seised in all my lands to this use following:

First, I will that my wife have and enjoy the manor of Heyford with all the appurtenance in Over Heyford and Nether Heyford, provided always that she nor none for her do no waste thereupon nor on the woods, and she to occupy and enjoy the said manor during her life;

Item, I will that my said feoffees stand seised in my manors of Farnynghoo, Norton, Grymscott, Wootton, Westotton [=West Cotton?] and all other hamlets, as Roade and Asshen [=Ashton?], Flore, Clanstropp, Bugbrooke, Astrop, Preston and Farthingston, and in all other lands that I have till my son, John Mantell, be or may come to the age of 21 years, to this use following:

I bequeath to my brother, Thomas Fowler, besides his patent that I have given him out of Norton, £3 6s 8d more during his life;

Item, I bequeath to my brother-in-law, Thomas Eyton, 40s yearly during his life;

Item, I bequeath to Richard Woode during his life four marks yearly;

Item, I bequeath every of my household servants, both men & women, 40s in money;

Item, I will that my brother, Thomas Fowler, receive the profits and revenues of all these foresaid lands, finding surety to my said feoffees once a year to pay and make due account to my said feoffees, and the money thereof coming I will by the discretion of my said feoffees be employed and indifferently divided amongst my daughters Ellen, Margaret, Mary, Anne and Dorothy to their marriages, and my brother for his pain therein to have all the wastes, strays, fines and heriots of all the foresaid lands except Heyford;

Also I will that my wife have all the residue of my goods movable and unmovable, whom I make and ordain mine executrix to see my debts paid;

And also I will that all my feoffees, being assembled, appoint two or three of them to have the custody of this money, whereof one of them to be Master William Spencer.

Dated the last day of August the 15 year of King Henry the Eight.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascripti defuncti Coram prefatis Com^missarijs in eccl^{es}ia Cath^{edrali} diui Pauli London iijto die mensis Augusti Anno D^{omi}ni Mill^{es}imo quingen^{tes}imo xxix Iurameⁿt^o Margarete Relicte & executricis in h^{uius}mo^di test^{ament}o no^miⁿat^e In p^{er}sona Antonij Wood l^{ite}ratⁱ(?) procur^{atoris} in hac p^{ar}te Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et com^missa fuit admiⁿⁱstracio auct^{orit}ate prefatoru^m R^{everendissi}mor^{um} patrum omⁿi^{um} & singulorum bonorum Iuriu^m & creditorum dicti defuncti prefat^e executrici In p^{er}sona dicti procur^{atoris} De bene & fidel^{ite}r admiⁿⁱstrand^o Ac

de pleno & fideli In{uentar}io secundo Die post festum s{an}c{t}i Edwardi prox{imum}
futur{um} exhibend{o} Necnon de plano & vero compoto reddend{o} Ad s{an}c{t}a dei
eu{a}ng{elia} in debita iur{is} forma Iurat{e}

[=The testament of the above-written deceased was proved before the forenamed Commissaries in the Cathedral Church of Saint Paul, London, on the 4th day of the month of August in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 29th by the oath of Margaret, relict & executrix named in the same testament in the person of Anthony Wood, learned(?) proctor in that regard, 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 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 & faithful inventory on the second day after the feast of Saint Edward next to come, and also to render a plain & true account.]