

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 10 February 1534 and proved 26 February 1534, of Robert Fabyan, steward of the household to Elizabeth (nee Scrope) Beaumont de Vere (d.1537), Countess of Oxford, second wife of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford. For her will, see TNA PROB11/27/144.

In her will, the Countess mentions another member of the Fabyan family:

*Item, I give and bequeath to John Fabyan, marshal of my hall, for his good faithful service, twenty nobles in money.*

It seems likely the testator and the Countess' servant, John Fabyan, were related to the chronicler, Robert Fabyan (d.1513), for whom see the *ODNB* entry.

There is a connection between the Waldegrave and Fabyan families and the Earls of Oxford in that Sir William Waldegrave was an executor of the 13<sup>th</sup> Earl's will. See the will of Sir William Waldegrave, dated 26 January 1525 and 6 July 1525 and proved 6 March 1528, TNA PROB 11/22/294:

*And whereas I was one of the executors to the noble Earl of Oxenford, I make declaration that none of his goods, jewels nor money do rest in my hands other than I have paid for.*

Anne Waldegrave, sister of Sir William Waldegrave, married John Fabyan, nephew of the chronicler, Robert Fabyan. A 'John Fabyan, esquire', witnessed Sir William Waldegrave's will, and in the will Sir William Waldegrave left a bequest to 'my nephew, Parson Fabyan':

*Item, to my nephew, Parson Fabyan, a book in Latin called Liber Sentenciarum.*

The recipient of this bequest was Anne Waldegrave's son, Thomas Fabyan, parson of Polstead, Suffolk. For his nuncupative will, dated 20 July 1540 and proved 9 May 1542, see TNA PROB 11/29/104.

Moreover Sir William Waldegrave's widow, Margery Wentworth Waldegrave (d.1540), bequeathed a cross of gold set with jewels and a silver goblet to her nephew, John Fabyan, and appointed him as one of her executors. See her will, TNA PROB 11/28/96.

LM: T{estamentum} Roberti ffabian

In the name of God, Amen. The 10<sup>th</sup> day of February in the 25<sup>th</sup> year of our Sovereign Lord King Henry the Eight, I, Robert Fabyan, otherwise called Clerke, steward of household with the right honourable Lady Elizabeth Countess of Oxford th' elder, and prebendary of Stobreclare [sic for 'Stoke Clare'], of whole mind and perfect

remembrance, do ordain and make this my testament and last will in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty Jesus, to Our Blessed Lady, and to all the holy company of heaven, my body to be buried in the parish church of Wivenhoe, or else where it shall chance me to decease, at the only discretion of mine executor, whom I ordain and make my nephew, Thomas Clerke of Wivenhoe, to whom I give all my temporal goods movable and unmovable to distribute as he knoweth and shall know my mind, part to my poor kinsmen and servants at his discretion.

Witnesseth Sir Thomas Westly, priest, and Edward Cole, servants to the said honourable Lady.

Probatum fuit suprascriptu{m} testamentu{m} coram D{omi}no Apud Lamethith xxvjto die mens{is} ffebruarij anno Domini Mill{es}imo Quingentesimo xxxiijo Iuramento Thome Clerke executoris in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento nominat{i} Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et comissa fuit admi{ni}strac{i}o o{mn}i{u}m et singulor{um} bonor{um} iurium et creditor{um} d{i}c{t}i defuncti preno{m}i{n}at{o} Executori De bene et fidel{ite}r admi{ni}strand{o} eadem Ac de pleno et fideli Inuentario o{mn}i{u}m et singulor{um} bonor{um} iurium et creditor{um} h{uius}mo{d}i exhibend{o} Necnon de plano et Vero compoto reddend{o} Ad Sancta Dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{o}

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord at Lambeth on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of the month of February in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 33<sup>rd</sup> by the oath of Thomas Clerke, executor named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased to the prenominated executor, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to exhibit a full and faithful inventory of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the same [+deceased?], and also to render a plain and true account.]