

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 1 May 1531 and proved 8 February 1536, of Sir Robert Drury (b. before 1456, d. 1535), lawyer and speaker of the House of Commons, and chief steward and executor to John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford. His first wife, whom he had married by 1494, was Anne, the daughter of Sir William Calthorpe (d.1494) of Burnham Thorpe, Norfolk, a descendant of King Edward I and Eleanor of Castile. His second wife, whom he had married by 1531, and by whom he had no children, was Anne, the daughter of Edward Jerningham (d.1515) of Somerleyton, Suffolk, and his first wife, Margaret Bedingfield (b. about 1476, died 24 March 1504). The testator's second wife, Anne (nee Jerningham) was successively the wife of Lord Edward Grey (1478?-1516?), the son of Thomas Grey (c.1455-1501), 1st Marquess of Dorset; one [Henry?] Berkeley; Henry Barlee [Barley] of Albury, Hertfordshire, who died 12 November 1529; the testator, Sir Robert Drury (b. before 1456, d. 1535); and Sir Edmund Walsingham (b. before 1480, died 10 February 1550). For the will of the testator's second wife, Lady Anne Grey, see TNA PROB 11-42B, ff. 137-9.

By his first wife, the testator had two sons, Sir William Drury (d.1500-1558) and Sir Robert Drury (died 21 May 1577), and four daughters: Anne (d.1572), who married firstly, George Waldegrave (d.1528), esquire, of Smallbridge, and secondly, Thomas Jermyn (d.1552) of Rushbrook, Suffolk; Elizabeth (died 11 December 1574), who married Sir Philip Boteler (died 28 March 1545); Bridget, who married Sir John Jerningham; and Ursula (d.1523), who married Sir Giles Alington (d.1586).

The testator's name appears in the Ellesmere manuscript of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* (Huntington Library EL 26 C 09) which was at one time owned by the Earls of Oxford. It is said that the testator received the manuscript as a legacy from the 13th Earl. For a description of the Ellesmere manuscript and names of members of the Drury family found in it, see Digital Scriptorium, available online at <http://www.scriptorium.columbia.edu/>.

The testator died on 2 March 1535, probably at Hawstead. He asked to be buried in St Mary's Church, Bury St Edmunds, where a stone monument with effigies of himself and his first wife bears the inscription 'Such as ye be, sometimes were we, such as we are, such shall ye be. Miserere nostri.'

For information in the foregoing paragraphs, see the entry for Sir Robert Drury in the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*, and Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2004), pp. 276, 359, 741-2.

LM: Testamentum Roberti Drury militis

In dei nomine, Amen. This is the testament of me, Sir Robert Drury, knight, made the first day of May in the 23rd year [=11 May 1531] of the reign of our Sovereign Lord

King Henry the 8th, and all other testaments afore this time by me made I revoke, annul and make void;

First I bequeath my soul to the Holy Trinity and to the blessed merciful Lady the Mother of Christ Jesus, and my body to be buried in the chancel of Saint Mary Church in Bury by my first wife;

And to fulfil my testament and everything that is or shall be therein contained I make my executors my son, William, and my son, Robert, and every of them, and I make and [sic for 'Anne'?] my Lady Grey, my wife, my daughter Jermyn and her husband, to be as supervisors to call upon my said sons for the true performance of this same my testament and last will;

And I will that the costs and charges of mine funerals be done with reasonable expenses after my degree, and not sumptuously;

And I will that my said sons and their wives and all my sons-in-law and all my daughters have black gowns, and all my household servants being women to have black gowns, and all my household servants, men, to have black coats, and my said sons-in-law and their wives to have every of them a black gown, and for 3 men coats and for one woman of every of their wives a black gown;

And Edward Stube [=Stubbe?] and his wife to have every of them a black gown, and my cousin Lee and my cousin Croftes, every of them a black gown; Henry Kyrke and William Pleasans, every of them a black coat; and my keeper of my place in London and his wife to have black gowns;

And I require my said executors that my debts be paid incontinent after my decease, so that no person be hurt for lack of payment at his day;

Item, I require my executors that they cause a thousand Masses to be said for the weal of my soul afore my thirty day if they may, or else as soon after as they may or can;

Item, I will that my house be kept conveniently and not sumptuously at my costs and charges after my decease by the space of 2 months, and at the day of my burial and at my thirty day I will have a convenient diet for such as shall be there, and not much superfluous;

And at my thirty day I will have every man and woman aforenamed that shall have the black gowns to be there if the[y] will and may, and that day I will have that every man and his wife dwelling in Hawstead have delivered them 12d to give for my soul to such as be of their household where they think best and most need, and every widow there to have 12d also, and this to be delivered them at my Mass the same thirty day;

And I will that every man and his wife and widow dwelling in Whepstead, Lawshall, Much Hornyngeshorth, Brockley and Nowton after my decease to have 8d at Mass in

their own towns upon my thirty day, and every curate for their Mass and dirge said there 8d, and all other priests then being there 4d, every of them, and all the persons dwelling in the said towns to take their rewards at time of the Mass said in their said towns the said thirty day, and none of them then to come to Hawstead nor to the town where it shall happen me to be buried;

And I will also that every poorhouse in Bury such as shall be appointed and named by both the curates of both the parishes, my cousin Lee, and my cousin Croftis, to have 8d, and every prisoner in Bury gaol to have in money 4d, and 2s in bread, and 3s(?) good wood amongst them all;

Item, I will that the friars of Babwell have 40s amongst them, to be divided by the discretion of the warden then being, to pray for my soul, my wife's soul, my father's soul and mother's soul, and for the souls that I am bound to pray for;

And I will that the convent of Babwell have 10 coombs wheat and 20 coombs barley or malt, to pray as is aforesaid;

Item, I bequeath to the friars of Clare 40s amongst them, to pray in like wise, and to the friars of Sudbury 40s amongst them to pray as is aforesaid;

Item, I will have no common dole published in no wise, albeit such as shall be there present at my burial to have as shall be thought convenient by my executors then, showing them that every poor man shall have in his own house given him at my thirty day to pray for me and such as I am bound to pray for;

Item, I will my Lady Grey, now my wife, have one hundred marks' worth of my plate after the rate of 4s the ounce all gilt, all the residue after 3s 8d the ounce;

And I will and bequeath to William, my son, one hundred pounds' worth of my plate after the rate aforesaid;

Also I bequeath to my son, Robert, one hundred marks' worth of my plate after the rate aforesaid;

And I will that my son, William, have the first choice, my said wife the second choice, and my son, Robert, the third choice;

Also I give to my said wife 2 cruets of silver, a Mass book, and a vestment wherein is the Assumption of Our Blessed Lady, with the alb and other things that belong to the same, 2 sparvers of silk now hanging in my own chamber, and all the bedding in the same chamber, and all the coffers that shall be there at time of my decease, and the bedding and hangings of my maid's chamber, and all the bedding and hangings with the sparver where my son Butler [=Boteler] was wont to be, and all my beds, counterpoints, stuff and plate which my said wife brought with her to me, and 2 counterpoints of tapestry which afore her coming were wont to lie on the beds in my own chamber, six carpet cushions of the

best that she shall choose, 3 cushions of crimson velvet vigure(?), with one cushion of silk quilted, one long pillow of black velvet, one other long pillow of blue satin embroidered, and all her apparel with her chains, brooches and rings that she hath used to wear;

Also I bequeath to my said wife 6 pair of good sheets and 4 pair sheets for yeomen(?) to lie in, 6 pair of good blankets, my brass pots and 2 spits;

And I give to my son, William, all the bedding and hanging in his own chamber, and the coffers in the same, and all the evidences concerning all the hereditaments which I have willed him and the boxes which the same be in;

Also I will and bequeath to my said son, William, all the hanging that hangeth in the great chamber, the parlour and the hall, all my bedding and hanging in the chapel chamber and the chamber over the gate, the garden chamber, the green chamber and the corner chamber at my place in Hawstead, and all the coffers in the great chamber, the chapel chamber, the chamber over the gate and the corner chamber, and all the carpets usually belonging to the same or to any of them, and all burdis [=boards?], stools and chairs being within any of the said chambers, the hall and the parlour, and 4 beds that yeomen(?) lie on when strangers come, whereof one is in the corner chamber, and 2 without next the said chamber, and one next to the garden chamber, the great copper, the brewing-fats and all the brewing vessels, 3 of my great brass pots, and 2 great racks of iron, and 3 spits, at his choice;

And I will also that my said son, William, have my chain with my cross and half my apparel, and my son, Robert, the other half, and my son, William, to have the first choice, and my son, Robert, to have the second choice of every garment;

Item, I give and bequeath to my said son, Robert, all my hangings, bedding & stuff of household which shall be at my place in Saint Clements parish in London at time of my decease;

Item, I will that my son, Robert, have 2 cruets of silver, a Mass book and a porteous of written hand, a vestment, 2 featherbeds, 2 bolsters, 2 counterpoints, 2 coverlets, 2 pair of blankets and 4 pair of sheets now being in Hawstead, whereof the said 2 beds be in the wardrobe, when he goeth to household;

Item, I will that my said son, Robert, shall have my best bed of tawny cloth of baudekin with counterpoints and curtains belonging to the same, and all the beds and hangings in his own chamber and in his maid's chamber, with the cupboards and coffers therein, and all my hangings and stained cloths, counterpoints and beds of say and of cloth in the wardrobe over my son William's chamber which shall be there at time of my departure;

And I will that every of [+my] daughters have a standing cup gilt and covered to the value of 10 marks new made as soon as may be conveniently after my decease;

And I will that Robert Alington, my daughter Ursula's son, when he cometh to the age of 21 years, have a gilt cup covered, price 10 marks sterling;

The residue of all my goods and stuff of household not afore bequeathed, I bequeath and give unto my son, William, except always my money, plate, cattle and debts;

And also I will that my wife have my white ambling gelding, my sumpter horse, and 2 of her nags;

And I will that my said Lady Grey, my wife, shall have all my sheep which shall be at my departure in Tuddenham, and if it shall fortune that there be not 4(?) hundred at my departure, my son, William, to make them up of such wethers as I have bequeathed him;

Item, I will that my said Lady, my wife, have £40 in money delivered her after my decease with such things as I have given her before, and my house in the College street in Bury, to her, her heirs and assigns forever in full satisfaction of all grants and covenants by me made afore her marriage;

Item, I will that my son, William, have all my sheep that shall be when I shall decease at Feltwell, Downham, Elveden, Needham, Higham, and Wordwell, and all my term and interest that I have by lease or taking to farm within the said towns and every of them;

And I will my said son, William, have my sheep in Lyuermere [=Livermere?], being there at time of my decease, except such and as many sheep as shall be spent in keeping my house the said 2 months after my decease, and the interest that I have by taking to farm within the same town, so alway that my debts be paid and my will fulfilled of the residue of my goods not yet bequeathed;

And I will that my son, William, have all my carts and ploughs with their apparel except one cart with all that thereto belongeth which I give to my son, Robert;

And I will that my son, William, have all the residue of my great cattle not bequeathed except such neat and bullocks as shall be killed after my decease for the keeping of my house, and except such as shall be sold by my executors and the money thereof coming to be disposed for the execution of my testament and the health of my soul; also except six milch kine which I give to my son, Robert;

And also I will that my said son, William, have 7 of my mares and 10 milch beasts of the best that he will choose, and my daughter, his wife, my ambling nag, and my son Robert's wife to have one of the best of the residue of my hackneys;

And all my other horses, mares and geldings to be divided betwixt my 2 sons in form following, that is to say: my son, William, to choose 3 first, and my son, Robert, 2, and William to choose 3 again, and Robert 2 again, and then of the residue William to take one and Robert to take another until they have all chosen;

And I will that my son, Robert, shall have all my sheep at my departure at Rydilswurthe [=Riddlesworth?] in the county of Norfolk, Euston and Barnham in the county of Suffolk;

Item, I give to my said son, Robert, all my title and farm that I have in Barnham aforesaid, and I will that my said son, Robert, have all my evidences concerning all the hereditaments which I willed him;

And forasmuch as I will in no wise there shall be no variance betwixt my said wife and my son, William, I make these 2 provisios [sic?] following as parcel of my very last will and testament, that is to say, provided alway that my said wife shall neither have the said plate nor money nor other bequests to her afore limited and bequeathed till she hath by her deed clearly released all her dower to my son, William, and of and in all my manors, lands and tenements in Suffolk beside and except her jointure, provided also that my said son, William, shall not have the plate aforesaid nor other bequests to him bequeathed until he hath confirmed my said wife's estates in all my late manors, lands and tenements in Tuddenham and Awbrewykes which she hath in jointure for term of her life, which confirmation is ready made and signed with my hand;

Also I will that every of my servants shall have their whole wages for that quarter that I shall happen to decease in, and 6s 8d over that quarter wages, and to depart after my thirty day as soon as they will;

Item, I will that William Mynsterchamber have my tenement in Chevington that John Awnd dwelleth in after my decease, to him and to his heirs forever;

Item, I give to Johan Awnd, my servant, 53s 4d, and to Henry Payne, my servant, 40s;

Item, I gave to William Canham, my servant, 20s;

Item, I give to John Hawkens 20s;

Item, I give to Sir Robert Woode, my chaplain, 20s, to pray for my soul;

Item, I give to the parson of Hawstead for my tithes forgotten 6s 8d;

Item, I give to John Butler and William Butler, sons of Sir Phillip Butler, knight, and every of them, 40s;

The residue of all my goods and chattels not afore bequeathed, I will be disposed for the weal of my soul and my late wife's soul, and the souls of my father and mother, my children's souls, my grandfather and grandmother's souls, and the souls that I am bound to pray for, in ame[n]ding highways and other alms-deeds by the discretion and good conscience of my executors;

And I will that they shall make none account nor be compelled to make any declaration how they have disposed all the residue of my goods and chattels not afore given, but clearly do give it them and remit the whole execution of this my testament to the discretion and loving goodness of my said executors and none other, for in them I put my trust above all ordinaries and above all other living creatures in the world;

In witness of all which the premises comprised in this my present testament I have set to my seal and sign manual the day and year above-written.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum coram domino Apud London octauo die mensis ffebruarij Anno Domini Millesimo Quingentesimo tricesimo quinto Iuramento executorum in huiusmodi testamento nominatorum Ac Approbatum et Insinuatam Et commissam fuit Administracio omnium et singulorum bonorum Iurium et creditorum dicti defuncti prefatis executoribus De bene etc Ac de pleno et fideli Inuentario etc conficiendo Necnon de plano et vero compoto calculo siue racionio reddendo Ad sancta dei Euangelia Iuratis

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord [+Archbishop] at London on the eight day of the month of February in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred thirty-fifth by the oath of the executors 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 forenamed executors, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., and to prepare a full and faithful inventory etc., and also to render a plain and true account, calculation or reckoning.]