

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 30 April 1540 and proved 5 June 1540, of Margery (nee Trafford) Longford Gerard Port (d. 10 May 1540), whose daughter, Katherine Gerard, was the sister-in-law of Alexander Hoghton (d.1581), who employed William Shakshafte, considered by Honigmann to have been William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon. See Honigmann, E.A.J., *Shakespeare: The Lost Years*, (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1985), pp. 8-30 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=rKMWPwtV7BoC&pg=PA5>

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testatrix was the daughter of Sir Edmund Trafford (d. 14 August 1513) of Trafford in Manchester, Lancashire, son of Sir John Trafford and Elizabeth Ashton, daughter of Sir Thomas Ashton of Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire. The testatrix' mother was Margaret Savage, widow of John Honford (died c.1480), esquire, and daughter of Sir John Savage (d. 22 November 1495) of Clifton and Rocksavage, Cheshire, by Katherine Stanley, daughter of Sir Thomas Stanley (1406 – 11 February 1459), 1st Baron Stanley. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, pp. 491-3, and Vol. IV, pp. 207-8; and:

<http://library.uwinnipeg.ca/people/dobson/genealogy/ff/Mainwaring/Trafford.cfm>.

See also the pedigree of Hondford or Handford, in Earwaker, J.P., *East Cheshire: Past and Present*, (London, 1877), Vol. I, p. 251 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=VwMcAQAAAJ&pg=PA251>

According to Richardson, *supra*, Vol. IV, p. 207, the testatrix had three brothers, Sir Edmund Trafford (d. 28 June 1533) (see below), William Trafford (appointed overseer in the will below), and Henry Trafford (d. 1 August 1537), Chancellor of York, and a sister, Alice Trafford, who married Thomas Butler. For the testatrix' brother, Henry Trafford (d. 1 August 1537), see Earwaker, *supra*, pp. 88-9 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=VwMcAQAAAJ&pg=PA88>

The testatrix' brother, Sir Edmund Trafford (d. 28 June 1533), married Elizabeth Longford (d. 27 January 1548), the daughter of Sir Ralph Longford (d. 1 February 1513), by Mabel Ferrers (referred to in most sources as 'Isabel Ferrers'), the daughter of Sir Thomas Ferrers, by whom he had five sons, Sir Edmund Trafford (d. 10 December 1563) (see below); George Trafford, for whose will, erroneously dated 30 March 1575, see Piccope, *infra*, pp. 157-62; Henry Trafford (d. 3 September 1591), rector of Wilmslow, for whose will see Piccope, *infra*, pp. 18-19; Thomas Trafford; and Richard Trafford) and five daughters: Margaret Trafford, who married Sir William Radcliffe; Cecily Trafford,

who married firstly Robert Langley, and secondly Edward Holland; Alice Trafford, who married firstly Sir William Leyland, and secondly Sir Urian Brereton; Helen Trafford, who married Thomas Willet, gentleman; and Elizabeth Trafford, who married firstly George Booth (18 December 1515 – 3 August 1543), esquire, secondly James Done, esquire, and thirdly Thomas Fitton, esquire. See Richardson, *supra*, Vol. I, pp. 259-60, Vol. III, pp. 35-6, and Vol. IV, pp. 207-8. See also Cox, J. Charles, *Notes on the Churches of Derbyshire*, (London: Bemrose and Sons, 1875), Vol. I, p. 159:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=Ph1NAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA159>

See also the pedigree of Trafford in Burke, John, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland*, (London: Henry Colburn, 1838), Vol. IV, p. 249 at:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=D_8UAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA249

It would appear that Elizabeth Longford (d. 2 January 1548), who married the testatrix' brother (see above), was the sister of the testatrix' first husband, Nicholas Longford (d.1510) (see below). See Booker, John, 'A History of the Ancient Chapels of Didsbury and Chorlton', in *Remains Historical & Literary Connected with the Palatine Counties of Lancaster and Chester*, (Chetham Society, 1857), Vol. XLII, p. 122 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/historyofancient00bookrich#page/122/mode/2up>

See also Earwaker, *supra*, p. 64 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=VwMcAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA64>

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The testatrix' nephew, Sir Edmund Trafford (d. 10 December 1563), son of the testatrix' brother, Sir Edmund Trafford (d. 28 June 1533), and Elizabeth Longford (d. 27 January 1548),, married Anne Ratcliffe, daughter of Sir Alexander Ratcliffe of Ordsall in Manchester, Lancashire.

The testatrix' great-nephew, Sir Edmund Trafford (23 June 1526 – 14 May 1590), son of the above, married firstly Mary Howard, by whom he had no issue, and secondly Elizabeth (nee Leycester), widow of Sir Randle Mainwaring (d. 6 September 1557) of Peover, and daughter of Sir Ralph Leycester (d. 23 February 1573) of Toft (for his will, see Piccope, *infra*, pp. 244-6), by whom he had a son, Sir Edmund Trafford (d. 19 May 1620), who married firstly Margaret Booth, daughter and heir of John Booth, esquire, of Barton, and secondly Mildred Cecil, second daughter of Oxford's brother-in-law, Thomas Cecil (1542-1623), 1st Earl of Exeter.

Mary Howard, first wife of the testatrix' great-nephew, Sir Edmund Trafford (23 June 1526 – 14 May 1590), was the sister of Queen Katherine Howard, and the daughter of Lord Edmund Howard (c.1478 – 19 March 1539) by his first wife, Joyce Culpeper (c.1480-c.1531). Lord Edmund Howard's sister, Elizabeth (nee Howard) Boleyn, was the

mother of Queen Anne Boleyn. See Richardson, *supra*, Vol. II, pp. 417-18, and Vol. IV, pp. 108-9; and the pedigree of Trafford in Raines, F.R., ed., *The Visitation of the County Palatine of Lancaster Made in the Year 1613, in Remains Historical & Literary Connected with the Palatine Counties of Lancaster and Chester*, (Chetham Society, 1871), Vol. LXXXII, p. 10 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofcoun00sainrich#page/10/mode/2up>

See also the Wikipedia article on Lord Edmund Howard edited by the author of this summary at:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lord_Edmund_Howard

See also the History of Parliament entry for Sir Edmund Trafford (23 June 1526 – 14 May 1590) at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/trafford-edmund-i-1526-90>

For the funeral certificate of Sir Edmund Trafford (d. 19 May 1620), see King, Thomas William, ed., *Lancashire Funeral Certificates*, in *Remains Historical & Literary Connected with the Palatine Counties of Lancaster and Chester*, (Chetham Society, 1869), Vol. LXXV, p. 47 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=Fg8-AAAACAAJ&pg=PA47>

For Sir Randle Mainwaring (d. 6 September 1557), see Burke, John, and John Bernard Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies of England*, (London: Scott, Webster and Geary, 1838), p. 335 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=K1kBAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA335>

MARRIAGES AND CHILDREN

First marriage

The testatrix married firstly Nicholas Longford (d.1510), son and heir of Sir Ralph Longford (d. 1 February 1513) by Isabel Ferrers, daughter of Sir Thomas Ferrers (d. 22 August 1498) of Tamworth by Anne Hastings (born c.1429), daughter of Sir Leonard Hastings (d. 20 October 1455) of Kirby and Alice Camoys, daughter of Sir Thomas Camoys (d. 28 March 1421) and Elizabeth Louches. Anne Hastings was the sister of William Hastings (d. 13 June 1483), 1st Baron Hastings, executed by Richard III. For Sir Thomas Camoys, see the Wikipedia article edited by the author of this summary:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_de_Camoys,_1st_Baron_Camoys

By her first husband, Nicholas Longford (d.1510), who predeceased his father, the testatrix had a son:

* **Sir Ralph Longford** (d.1543), esquire, who at four years of age was heir to his grandfather, Sir Ralph Longford, in 1513. Sir Ralph Longford (d.1543) married Dorothy Fitzherbert, daughter of Sir Anthony Fitzherbert (d. 26 or 27 May 1538), (for the will of Sir Anthony Fitzherbert, see TNA PROB 11/26/312), by whom he had a son, Nicholas Longford, the last male heir of the family, who died without issue in 1610. His heirs were his sisters, Elizabeth Longford, who married Humphrey Dethick, esquire, of Newhall, and Matilda or Magdalen Longford (d.1596), who married firstly Sir George Vernon (d. 31 August 1565) of Haddon, Derbyshire, and secondly Sir Francis Hastings (c.1546–1610), fifth son of Francis Hastings (1513/14–1560), 2nd Earl of Huntingdon, by Katherine Pole (d.1576). See the *ODNB* articles for Sir John Port and Sir Francis Hastings; and Booker, *supra*, pp. 112-13. See also:

<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/GEN-MEDIEVAL/2012-09/1346917880>

See also:

<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/GEN-MEDIEVAL/2013-11/1385102439>

For Sir George Vernon, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/vernon-george-1518-65>

Second marriage

The testatrix married secondly Sir Thomas Gerard (born c.1488, slain 7 November 1523 fighting against the Scots at Berwick-upon-Tweed), by whom she had five sons and four daughters:

* **Sir Thomas Gerard** (d.1553), who married Jane Legh, the daughter of Sir Peter Legh (d. 4 December 1541) of Haydock, Lancashire, and Lyme, Cheshire, by his second wife, Margaret Tyldesley, the daughter of Nicholas Tyldesley, by whom he had a son, Sir Thomas Gerard (d. September 1601) of Bryn, Lancashire, who married Elizabeth Port, eldest daughter of the testatrix' third husband, Sir John Port (see below), by whom he was the father of the Jesuit, John Gerard (4 October 1564 – 27 July 1637). See the funeral certificate for Sir Thomas Gerard (d. September 1601) in King, Thomas William, ed., *Lancashire Funeral Certificates, in Remains Historical & Literary Connected with the Palatine Counties of Lancaster and Chester*, (Chetham Society, 1869), Vol. LXXV, pp. 88-96 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/lancashirefunera00collrich#page/88/mode/2up>

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<http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/>

See also Richardson, *supra*, Vol. III, p. 15; the *ODNB* article for John Gerard; and the History of Parliament entry for Sir Thomas Gerard at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/gerard-sir-thomas-1601>

See also the pedigree of Gerard of Bryn in Baines, Edward, *History of the County Palatine and Duchy of Lancaster*, (New York: Fisher, Son & Co., 1836), Vol. III, p. 641 at:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=P_RTAAAcAAJ&pg=PA641

See also the pedigree of Legh in Burke, John, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland*, (London: Henry Colburn, 1835), Vol. II, p. 686 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=RgpBAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA686>

See also the pedigree of Legh of Lyme Hall in Foster, Joseph, *Pedigrees of the County Families of England*, (London: Head, Hole and Co., 1873), Vol. I, at:

<https://archive.org/stream/pedigreesofcount00fost#page/n217/mode/2up>

* **Peter Gerard**, mentioned in the will below.

* **William Gerard**, mentioned in the will below.

* **Henry Gerard**, mentioned in the will below.

* **James Gerard**, mentioned in the will below.

* **Margaret Gerard**, mentioned in the will below, who, by dispensation dated 27 August 1518, married Sir Peter Legh (23 Apr 1514 – 6 December 1589) of Lyme, Cheshire, knighted at Leith in 1544, High Sheriff of Lancashire in 1551 and of Cheshire 1544, buried at Winwick. Margaret Gerard's husband, Sir Peter Legh (23 Apr 1514 – 6 December 1589), was the son of Sir Peter Legh of Haydock, Lancashire, and Lyme, Cheshire, by Margaret Tyldesley, the daughter of Nicholas Tyldesley, and thus the brother of Jane Legh, husband of Margaret Gerard's brother, Sir Thomas Gerard (d.1553) (see above). By Sir Peter Legh (23 Apr 1514 – 6 December 1589), Margaret Gerard had five sons, Peter Legh (who married Katherine Venables, but died without issue in 1570, predeceasing his father), James Legh, Robert Legh, Thomas Legh, and John Legh, and two daughters, Ellen Legh and Margery Legh. See:

<http://www.thornber.net/cheshire/htmlfiles/lyme.html>

* **Katherine Gerard**, mentioned in the will below, who married Thomas Hoghton (1518 – June 1580) (see below).

* **Elizabeth Gerard**, who married, as his second wife, Richard Bold (d.1558/9), esquire, son of Sir Richard Bold (d. 16 November 1528) of Bold, Lancashire, by Margaret Butler, the daughter of Sir Thomas Boteler (1461-1522) and Margaret Delves. The History of Parliament entry for Richard Bold (d. 1 April 1602) states (it would appear erroneously) that Elizabeth Gerard, wife of Richard Bold, was the daughter of Sir Thomas Gerard (d. September 1601) and Elizabeth Port.

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/bold-richard-1602>

See Richardson, *supra*, Vol. II, p. 250, and Emerson at:

<http://www.kateemersonhistoricals.com/TudorWomenBrooke-Bu.htm>

See also Raines, F.R., *A History of the Chantries within the County Palatine of Lancaster*, Vol. I, in *Remains Historical & Literary Connected with the Palatine Counties of Lancaster and Chester*, (Chetham Society, 1862), Vol. LIX, p. 78 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/remainshistorica59chetuoft#page/78/mode/2up>

See also Croston, James, ed., *The History of the County Palatine and Duchy of Lancaster*, (London: John Heywood, 1893), rev. ed., Vol. V, pp. 23-4 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=7k8MAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA23>

See also the pedigree of Bold in Burke, John, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland*, (London: Henry Colburn, 1836), Vol. III, p. 85 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=gQpBAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA85>

See also:

'Townships: Bold', *A History of the County of Lancaster: Volume 3* (1907), pp. 402-409. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=41356>

* **Anne Gerard**, who married Richard Ashton, esquire. See:

'Townships: Ashton', *A History of the County of Lancaster: Volume 4* (1911), pp. 142-148. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=41396>.

See the summary of the will, dated 13 September 1522, of Sir Thomas Gerard (d. 7 November 1523) in Fishwick, Henry, ed., *Pleadings and Depositions in the Duchy Court*

of Lancaster Time of Henry VIII, (The Record Society for the Publication of Original Documents Relating to Lancashire and Cheshire, 1897), Vol. XXXV, pp. 233-5 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/recordsociety35recouoft#page/234/mode/2up>

See also TNA C 1/992/14, in which Sir Ralph Longford and Thomas Gerard of Bryn are referred to as ‘brothers’; and Richardson, *supra*, Vol. II, p. 250 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=8JcbV309c5UC&pg=RA1-PA250>

See also Richardson, *supra*, Vol. III, pp. 14-15.

See also Betham, William, *The Baronetage of England*, (Ipswich: William Miller, 1801), Vol. I, pp. 60-1 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=5ikwAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA61>

The testatrix’ son-in-law, Thomas Hoghton (1518 – June 1580), was the son and heir of Sir Richard Hoghton (1498 - 5 August 1559) by his first wife, Alice Ashton. He erected Hoghton Tower about 1564, and entertained Cardinal William Allen at about that time. A Catholic recusant, he fled to the continent in 1569, and died an exile at Liege. He helped to found the English seminary at Douay, and was buried there. His estates in England were seized by the Queen. He was succeeded by his brother, Alexander Hoghton (d.1581), who married firstly Dorothy Ashton, daughter of Sir Richard Ashton, esquire, of Middleton by his second wife, Katherine Bellingham, daughter of Sir Robert Bellingham, and secondly Elizabeth Hesketh (d.1599?), daughter of Gabriel Hesketh, esquire, of Aughton, and sister of Thomas Hesketh of Gray’s Inn. Alexander Hoghton (d.1581) had no issue by either of his marriages. His heir was his half-brother, Thomas Hoghton (d. 21 November 1589), son of Sir Richard Hoghton (1498 - 5 August 1559) and his second wife, Alice Morley, to whom, in his will dated 3 August 1581 he bequeathed:

all my instruments belonging to music and all manner of play-clothes if he be minded to keep and do keep players, and if he will not keep and maintain players, then it is my will that Sir Thomas Hesketh, knight, shall have the same instruments and play clothes, and I most heartily require the said Sir Thomas to be friendly unto Fulke Gyllome and William Shakshafte now dwelling with me, and either to take them unto his service or else to help them to some good master.

See the will of Alexander Hoghton in Piccope, G.J., ed., *Lancashire and Cheshire Wills and Inventories from the Ecclesiastical Court, Chester*, in *Remains Historical & Literary Connected with the Palatine Counties of Lancaster and Chester*, (The Chetham Society, 1860), Vol. LI, pp. 237-41 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=kIVBAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA237>

Thomas Hoghton (d. 21 November 1589) was auditor to the Earl of Derby. He married Anne Kighley. He was slain in a family feud at Lea on 21 November 1589, and his son, Sir Richard Hoghton, twenty years of age at his father's death, was made a ward of Sir Gilbert Gerard (d. 4 February 1593), Attorney-General and Master of the Rolls, whose daughter, Katherine Gerard, he married. See the pedigrees following p. 216 in Keen, Alan, and Roger Lubbock, *The Annotator*, (London: Putnam, 1954), the *ODNB* article on Sir Gilbert Gerard; and:

'Townships: Hoghton', *A History of the County of Lancaster: Volume 6* (1911), pp. 36-47. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=53065>.

Third marriage

The testatrix married thirdly, Sir John Port (d. 14 March 1540) of Etwall, Derbyshire, Justice of the King's Bench, whose granddaughters, Dorothy Port (d.1607) and Margaret Port (d.1613), married into families related to Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham. For the will of Sir John Port, see TNA PROB 11/28/58.

RM: T{estamentum} D{omi}ne Ma{r}gerie Poorte vidue

In the name of God, Amen. The last day of April in the 32nd year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Henry the Eight, I, Dame Margery Port of Etwall in the county of Derby, widow, late the wife of Sir John Port, knight, deceased, sick in body, whole of mind, good and perfect in remembrance, make my last will and testament in form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, Our Lady Saint Mary, and to all the holy company of heaven, and my body to be buried in the church of Etwall with the said Sir John Port, my last husband;

And I make my true and lawful executors my well-beloved sons, Sir Ralph Longford, knight, and Thomas Gerard, esquire, and I make my brother, William Trafford, overseer of this my said will to be well performed;

And I give and bequeath to Margaret Legh, my daughter, one hundred marks to be taken of my goods and paid and delivered unto her by my said executors;

Item, I give to my son, Peter Gerard, forty marks;

Item, to my son, William Gerard, ten pounds;

Item, to my servant, Ellen Saint Andrews, twenty pounds;

Item, to Katherine Harleston ten marks;

And if that my goods will not extend to the sums above-written, that then my said executors indifferently to minish and moderate the same according to conscience by their discretions;

And also I will that all such goods as I now have or hereafter may be entitled to have, my debts and legacies paid and delivered, that my said executors shall have them to order for the wealth of my soul by their discretions, that is to wit, that they shall have them jointly together, and neither of them to have more than other, but indifferently to be divided between them both;

And I will that all such bequests and legacies as is above-written be paid and delivered unto all the above-named persons by my said executors as shortly after my decease as may be conveniently;

In witness whereof to this my said last will I have subscribed my name the day and year abovesaid;

Also I give and bequeath unto my son, Henry Gerard, and James, my son, ten marks;

And I bequeath to my Lady Langforth [=Longford] my old velvet gown;

Item, I bequeath unto my daughter Leigh my best velvet gown and my best kirtle and my russel worsted gown;

Item, I bequeath unto my servant, Ellen Saint Andrews, my tawny camlet gown, my black worsted kirtle, and my old russel worsted kirtle;

Item, I give my god-daughter, Margaret Langforth [=Longford], my murrey gown;

Item, I give my servant, Alice Mandeley, my best russel kirtle of worsted;

Item, I bequeath my daughter, Katherine Houghton, my best scarlet gown, my green gown, and my damask kirtle;

These being witness: by me, William, vicar of Etwall; by me, George Charneley. Dame Margery Port.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum coram d{omi}no apud London quinto die Iunij anno domini Mill{esi}mo quingentesimo quadragesimo Iuramento Rob{er}ti Warmyngton procurator{is} executor{um} in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}ator{um} ac approbatum et Insinuatum testamentu{m} et com{m}issa fuit admi{n}istrac{i}o o{mn}i{u}m bonoru{m} executoribus predictis de bene &c ac de vero

et fideli Inventario secundo die post festum s{an}c{t}e ffidis exhibend{o} Necnon de plano et iusto compoto inde reddend{o} ad sancta dei Evangelia in p{er}sona d{i}c{t}i procuratoris sui Iurat{is}

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord at London on the fifth day of June in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fortieth by the oath of Robert Warmington, proctor of the executors named in the same testament, and the testament probated and entered, and administration was granted of all the goods to the forenamed executors, sworn on the Holy Gospels in the person of their said proctor to well etc., and to exhibit a true and faithful inventory on the second day after the feast of Saint Faith, and also to render a plain and just account thereof.]