

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 12 September and 6 October 1542 and proved 11 March 1543, of John Neville (1493-1543), 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Latimer. The testator's first wife was Dorothy de Vere (d. 7 February 1527), sister and co-heir of John de Vere (1499-1526), 14<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, by whom he had two surviving children, his son and heir John Neville (d.1577), 4<sup>th</sup> Baron Latimer, and a daughter, Margaret Neville (d.1545). For the will of Margaret Neville (d.1545), see TNA PROB 11/31, f. 45. The testator's second wife was Elizabeth Musgrave, the daughter of Sir Edward Musgrave of Hartley, Westmorland. The testator's third wife was Katherine Parr (1512–1548), the daughter of Sir Thomas Parr of Kendal, Westmorland who after Lord Latimer's death became the sixth wife of King Henry VIII. The testator made his will on 12 September and 6 October 1542 in anticipation of service in King Henry VIII's campaigns in Scotland. He did not die on the battlefield, however, but in London on 2 March 1543.

The lands entailed by the testator to his son and heir John Neville (d.1577), 4<sup>th</sup> Baron Latimer, who died without surviving male heirs, were eventually divided among the latter's four daughters and co-heirs, Katherine (1545/6-1596), Dorothy (1548-1609), Lucy (c.1549-1608), and Elizabeth (1545x50-1630), who married, respectively, Henry Percy (c.1532-1585), 8<sup>th</sup> Earl of Northumberland; Thomas Cecil (1542-1632/3), 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Exeter; Sir William Cornwallis (c.1551-1611) of Brome; and Sir John Danvers (1540-1594) of Dauntsey. The eldest son and heir of Sir John Danvers (1540-1594) of Dauntsey and Elizabeth Neville (1545x50-1630), Sir Charles Danvers (c.1568-1601), was attainted and executed in 1601 for his part in the Essex rebellion, as a result of which the lands which he inherited from both his father and his mother escheated to the Crown. Several of Oxford's extant letters describe his involvement on the Queen's behalf in the Danvers escheat case, and the lands which had descended to Sir Charles Danvers from the Lords Latimer are specifically referred to in a letter written by Oxford to his brother-in-law, Sir Robert Cecil, in January 1602 (see CP 181/99).

In his will the testator mentions family members connected to his sister Elizabeth, who married Sir Christopher Danby (1503-1571), High Sheriff of Yorkshire. Anne Danby, the daughter of Sir Christopher Danby (1503-1571) and the testator's sister, Elizabeth Neville, married Walter Calverley; their son William Calverley's murders are the alleged subject of *A Yorkshire Tragedy*, a play attributed on its title-page to Shakespeare. Anne Danby's brother William Danby may have been the coroner of the Queen's household who reported on the murder of the playwright Christopher Marlowe in 1593.

LM: Testamentum Iohannis Nevell Domini Latymer

In the name of God, Amen. The 12<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred forty and two, and in the 34<sup>th</sup> year of our most dread Sovereign Lord Henry the Eighth by the grace of God King of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, and in earth of the Church of England and Ireland Supreme Head, I, John

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Neville, knight, Lord Latimer, being in good health of body and perfect memory, thanks be to God, do make and declare my last will and testament of my goods in manner and form following:

First, I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, to Our Blessed Lady the Virgin, and my body to be buried in the south side of Well Church, where mine ancestors lieth, if I die in Yorkshire;

And I do make mine executors to perform this my last will and testament my daughter Margaret Neville, my brother Christopher Neville, my cousin John Constable, esquire, and John Leighton and Robert Leighton, my friends;

And I give and bequeath to Lady Katherine, my wife, the third part of all my goods and chattels, whether of right she ought so to have or not;

And I give her also, over and besides the said third part of my goods, all and every such goods of mine as is now within her lying-chamber, and also two of my best gilt standing cups with their covers, two gilt goblets with one cover, my best basin and ewer of silver, and my two silver flagons;

And I give unto my son John Neville all the utensils now being at Snape, and all hangings of mine there, with all manner bedstocks, stools, forms and all manner other vessels there for tunning, brewing and baking;

Also I give and bequeath unto my daughter Margaret Neville five hundred marks for and towards her preferment of marriage, over and besides five hundred marks that I have also given her to be had and taken of my manors, lands and tenements at Nun Monkton and Hammerton and other their appurtenances, as more largely doth appear by my will of lands;

And I give also unto my said daughter Margaret Neville my lease of the parsonage of Kirkdale church during the years that I have in the same to buy her pins withal;

And I give to my brother Thomas and Marmaduke Neville, to either of them, five marks of such money as they owe me;

Also I give to my brother Richard Norton my best horse, and to my sister, his wife, my best gown, and to my sister Danby my best brooch;

And I give to my nephew John Gascoigne my best horse save one;

Item, I give to my cousin William Constable, son to my cousin John Constable, my little grey trotting nag, and to my said cousin, his daughter, my god-daughter, my second brooch;

Also, I give and bequeath towards building of the chapel in Sleysdale five marks;

Also I will that mine executors pay to every of my servants, such of them as have any annuities their quarter's wages, and such of them as have none annuities their half year's wages, and to pay also to every of my said servants their whole year's livery or sufficient recompense for the same;

Also I will that my said executors distribute and dispose amongst poor people, and in such towns and elsewhere as by their discretions shall be thought most needful, forty pounds of money, and within one month next after my decease;

Also I give unto my cousin, Sir Marmaduke Constable th' elder, knight, the younger ambling gelding which lately I bought of Peter Franklin of Danby, and I give unto my cousin Robert Constable, his son, my best mare;

In witness whereof to this my present will of goods I have subscribed my name and set to my seal which I use as my signet the day and year above-written.

RM: Vltima voluntas eiusdem Domini Latymer

To all faithful and Christian which shall see, hear or read this present writing, I, John Neville, knight, Lord Latimer, send greeting in Our Lord God everlasting.

Know your [sic?] university [sic] that I, the said Lord Latimer, calling to my remembrance the unceasing continuance of this frail and transitory life of man here upon th' earth, do in manner and form following make my last will of and concerning certain my lands and tenements, and thereby devise and dispose the same according to the liberty in that behalf granted and given by the King's most excellent Majesty, our Sovereign Lord Henry the Eighth by the grace of God King of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, and in earth of the church of England and Ireland Supreme Head, to all and singular his gracious, obedient and loving subjects of this his realm by authority of Parliament, as by th' act thereof made and enacted in the 32<sup>nd</sup> year of his gracious, most prosperous reign more plainly it doth appear;

And whereas I, the said Lord Latimer have made a lease to Margaret Neville, my daughter, my brother Christopher Neville, my cousin John Constable, and to John Leighton and Robert Leighton, my servants, of my manors, lands and tenements of Nun Monkton, Hammerton and other for the term of forty years to th' use and performance of this my last will, over and besides such other my lands as is appertaining to my wife's part, and over and besides the third of my whole lands which I have left to mine heirs, I will Lady Katherine, my wife, shall have and hold for term of her life the manor of Stowe with mine churches and Little Stowe with all and singular th' appurtenances to the same belonging in the county of Northampton, and also the yearly rent of threescore pounds at Beoley in the county of Worcester, in full satisfaction and recompense of her whole dower, over and

besides her jointure and feoffment, if she will be so contented and do so accept the same, or else I will that this said article be clearly void and of none effect;

Also I will that Margaret Neville, my daughter, have five hundred marks towards th' advancement of her marriage, to be received, levied and taken of, in and upon all my manors, lands and tenements with th' appurtenances at Nun Monkton and Hammerton in the county of York, over and besides other five hundred marks which I have given her to her said marriage by my will of goods, as more plainly appeareth in the same, which said sum of five hundred marks I will that the said Lady Katherine, my wife, immediately after my decease shall receive to th' use of my said daughter Margaret of my said manor, lands and tenements at Nun Monkton and Hammerton, that is to say, one hundred marks yearly during the term and space of five years next and immediately after my decease, my said wife finding sufficient sureties to my Lord Archbishop of York or to the Bishop of Durham for payment of the said money to mine executors or to the more part of them;

Also I will that all the residue of the said manor, lands and tenements with th' appurtenances in Nun Monkton and Hammerton aforesaid, over and besides the said hundred marks a year to be received, had and taken by the said Lady Katherine, my wife, yearly during the space and term of the said five years for the finding and bringing up of my said daughter Margaret, and if it fortune her not to be married within the said five years, then I will after the said five hundred marks so received as is aforesaid, and the said five years determined, that from thenceforth the said Lady Katherine, my wife, shall yearly receive and have in, of and upon the rents, revenues and profits of my said manor, lands and tenements at Nun Monkton and Hammerton the sum of thirty pounds for the finding and keeping of my said daughter during all such time and space till she shall be preferred in marriage;

Also I will that immediately after the said sum of five hundred marks be fully and wholly received, had and taken up to th' use of my said daughter Margaret out of my said manor, lands and tenements at Nun Monkton and Hammerton as is aforesaid, that then my brother Richard Norton and mine executors shall receive and take the sum of one hundred marks out of my said manor, lands and tenements with th' appurtenances in Nun Monkton and Hammerton for and towards the preferment of marriage of one or mo of my nieces, his daughters, as shall be thought most meet and convenient by my said brother Norton and my said executors, so that my said brother Norton help forward to the performance of this my last will;

Also I give to my nephew John Gascoigne the office of the stewardship of all my said manor, lands and tenements at Nun Monkton and Hammerton aforesaid with th' appurtenances, to have and to hold, occupy and exercise the same after my decease during his life natural, with the fee of five marks yearly for th' occupation thereof, to be taken, levied and received out of my lands and tenements at Green Hammerton, Marton in Burghshire, Newton-upon-Ouse and Moor Monkton in the said county of York and in the county of the city of York;

Also I give to my cousin John Constable, esquire, ten marks yearly to be received, taken and levied after my decease by my said cousin or his assigns in, of and upon my manor, lands and tenements at Scampston, Rillington, Bennington and Flixton with th' appurtenances in the county of York during his life natural;

Also I give to every younger son of my said brother Richard Norton, except such of them which shall fortune to be priest or priests hereafter, and until time that any of them shall so be, one annuity of forty shillings yearly for term of their several lives natural, to be had and received by them or their assigns after my decease in, of and upon my said manors, lands and tenements at Scampston, Rillington, Bennington and Flixton with th' appurtenances in the said county of York at the terms and rent-days there usual and accustomed, so that my said brother Norton help forward and see this my said will executed and performed;

Also, I give to my servants Robert Leighton four marks during his life natural, and to John Leighton, Nicholas Pudsey, Edward Danby, William Jackson and William Barber, to every of them forty shillings yearly during their several lives, and to John Lofthouse, William Parkinson, Edward Fleming, Robert Burdon and James Simpson, to every of them twenty-six shillings eight pence yearly during their several lives, and to Richard Ardington, Thomas Gower, Guy Cokes, Floriaunt(?) Walker, to every of them twenty shillings yearly during their several lives, and also to George Scott, Robert Wedderele, Myles Burton, John Percival, Edmund Dobbyn and Andrew Loce(?), to every of them thirteen shillings four pence yearly during their several lives, all which said several grants and annuities to my said servants I will that every of them shall yearly receive, take and have of the rents, issues and profits of my said manor, lands and tenements with th' appurtenances at Scampston, Rillington, Bennington and Flixton aforesaid as shall be limited and appointed severally unto them by my said executors or the more part of them according to th' effect and intent above rehearsed;

Also I will that Sir John Brotton, priest, take, have and receive forty shillings yearly of the rents, issues and profits of my said manor, lands and tenements at Scampston, Rillington, Bennington and Flixton until such time as he shall be promoted hereafter to any perpetuity to the yearly value of five marks or above;

Also I will and give to every of my household servants (not having grants of annuities for term of their lives), to such of them which shall fortune to be notably hurt or maimed with me now in the King's wars, such yearly annuities for their several lives out of my lands and tenements at Walton in the county of the city of York, to every of them as their yearly wages which they take of me now cometh unto;

Also I will that my servant Anthony Hunter, immediately after the decease of me and his father, have th' office of the bailiwick of Thorneton in the said county of York for term of his life with the fee of 26s 8d yearly for the same, and also to have a farmhold that his said father holdeth now of me there for the term of 21 years next after death of his said father, paying therefore yearly to me and mine heirs th' accustomed rent thereof, and if the said Anthony cannot so have and enjoy the said office with the said fee of 26s 8d a

year, then I will that the same Anthony shall have and take yearly out of my foresaid manor, lands and tenements at Scampston, Rillington, Bennington and Flixton one annuity of 26s 8d for term of his life natural;

Also I will that all and every of my servants and tenants now being with me in the King's wars shall after my decease hold, have and enjoy all such their tenements and farmholds for term of their several lives which they now have in occupation of me, paying yearly therefore unto mine heirs and assigns the yearly rents thereof due and accustomed;

Also I give to my brother Christopher Neville all my lands and tenements in Thirsk with all and singular th' appurtenances in the said county of York, to have and to hold to him and his heirs forever after my decease conditionally that he take upon him th' execution of this my will with other mine executors, and to see the same performed, and if he refuse so to do, then I will that such other of mine executors as shall take th' execution of the said will to have the said lands and tenements in Thirsk with th' appurtenances to them and their heirs forever;

And whereas my lord my father did give and grant four marks yearly to Richard Neville, son of mine uncle Thomas Neville, and granted also four nobles yearly to every other of my said uncle's children out of my manors, lands and tenements in Childswickham in the county of Gloucester, I will that my said uncle's children shall receive such like annuities yearly out of my manor, lands and tenements at South Cerney in the said county of Gloucester, and in, of and upon my lands and tenements at Pinvin in the county of Worcester until such time as they may and do receive their said annuities granted unto them by my said lord my father out of Childswickham aforesaid;

And I will also that my nieces, my brother William Neville's daughter[s], shall yearly have for term of their several lives 26s 8d to every of them out of my said lands and tenements in South Cerney and Pinvin;

Also I will that the master of the hospital of Well and the vicar there or one of them for the time being shall take, have and receive immediately after my decease all the rents, issues and yearly profits of the parsonage of Askham Richard in the county of the city of York during the space of forty years, and with the said rents and issues to find a priest yearly to sing for my soul at Well church during the said forty years, which service I will that Sir Richard Harding, late of Guisborough, have during his life;

Also I will that after my decease the said master and vicar or one of them for the time being shall likewise take and receive all the rents, issues and profits of the parsonage of Saint George church in York for the term of forty years, and therewithal to find a schoolmaster at Well in the said county of York during the said terms and space of forty years for keeping of a school and teaching of grammar there, and to pray for me and them that I am most bound to pray for;

Also I will that my said executors shall receive yearly twenty pounds for the space of twenty years next after my decease of the residue of my said manors, lands and

tenements letten unto them by lease for performance of this my last will of my lands, over and above such things as I have afore declared and expressed to be performed of the same, which twenty pounds to be employed and bestowed of such person or persons as I ought either of reason or conscience to recompense, or ought to have pity upon, and the residue of the said twenty pounds to be distributed yearly in alms nigh abouts that day and time of my burial to poor folks, and specially to mine own tenants being poor, or within my lordships and elsewhere as more need shall appear at discretion of my said executors, the master of Well and the vicar aforesaid, whom I will shall yearly cause one obit to be kept for me at Well church, and that 6s 8d, parcel of the said twenty pounds, to be distributed by my said executors as hath been accustomed there heretofore at obits there done for divers of mine ancestors;

And whereas I have given and granted to my servants John Leighton and Robert Leighton certain several patents of the bailiwicks and keeperships of my lordships of Snape and Well in the county of York, and of my lordships of Stoulton and Wadborough in the county of Worcester, and have also granted to them by leases severally certain tenements, closes and grounds there, I will that my said servants shall have and hold and enjoy all their said offices and leases according to my grants thereof unto them in that behalf, and if my said servants or either of them be at any time hereafter interrupted or letted by mine heirs or otherwise so as they cannot or may not enjoy their said offices and leases and other the premises according to my said grants, then I will that my said servants John Leighton and Robert Leighton and either of them shall yearly have, take and receive one annuity of six pounds yearly to either of them severally, being so interrupted, during their said several lives out of my manors, lands and tenements at Wadborough and Stoulton in the said county of Worcester, over and besides their said yearly annuities granted them out of my said manor, lands and tenements in Scampston, Rillington, Bennington and Flixton as is above rehearsed;

Also whereas I am bound unto the King's Majesty for certain payments not yet discharged for the purchase of Monkton, and am also indebted to his Highness otherwise, therefore I will that mine executors shall take and receive yearly all the rents, issues and profits of my manors, lands and tenements at Wadborough and Stoulton with their appurtenances in the county of Worcester unto such time as therewithal my said executors have contented, satisfied and paid the King's said Majesty all such sums of money as I am now indebted unto his Highness;

Also I will that all such costs and charges as my said executors or any of them shall hereafter sustain for any such trouble or business as they or any of them shall happen to have for and about the fulfilling and performing of this my last will, that all the same costs and charges to be alway levied, taken and borne in, of and upon the issues, rents and revenues of my manor, lands and tenements with th' appurtenances at South Cerney in the county of Gloucester, and in, of and upon my lands and tenements with th' appurtenances at Pinvin in the county of Worcester, according as the same costs and charges shall amount unto;

Also I will that half the yearly rent of one close within my lordship of Snape called Farwolde grove, late letten to farm to William Dobbyn, be had and yearly bestowed of and for the uphold of a common hedge at Langwathe end against(?) Carthorpe moor unto a place there called the Lady Brigges', for the ease, wealth and profit of all my tenants within my lordship of Well & Snape aforesaid;

Also I will that the foresaid schoolmaster shall teach free, without taking of any school-hire for teaching of the sons of the tenants and inhabitants within the lordship of Snape and Well aforesaid;

Also I will that all and singular my said manors, lands and tenements of Walton, Marton in Burghshire, Newton, Moor Monkton, with also parsonages and tithes of Saint George church in York and Askham Richard, and also the said manors of Scampston, Rillington, Bennington and Flixton, Nunwick, Thornes, Fyrby and Thirsk in the county of York and in the county of the city of York, and all other my lands and tenements with th' appurtenances in Walton, Marton in Burghshire, Newton-upon-Ouse, Moor Monkton, [RM: with the said parsonages of Saint George church in York, and Askham Richard, and all other my lands and tenements with their appurtenances in Scampston, Bennington and Flixton, Nunwick, Thornes], Fyrby and Thirsk in the said county of York and in the county of the city of York, and also the said manors, lands and tenements of Wadborough, Stoulton and Pinvin in the county of Worcester and all other my lands and tenements with their appurtenances in Wadborough, Stoulton and Pinvin aforesaid in the said county of Worcester, and also the manor of South Cerney in the county of Gloucester and all other my lands and tenements with their appurtenances in South Cerney aforesaid in the said county of Gloucester, immediately after my will performed and ever as the said manors, lands and tenements or any of them shall be discharged of my said will, shall revert and come unto John Neville, my son and heir, for term of his life natural without impeachment of waste, and after his decease to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to the heirs of the body of me, the said Lord Latimer, and for default of such issue, to me and mine heirs forever, according to the ancient evidences and entails of any such of the said manors, lands and tenements and other the premises as have been entailed heretofore;

And in the meantime I will that all and every my said manors, lands and tenements during the space and time of forty years be cha[r]ged and chargeable to and with the payments of all such annuities, payments and other things afore expressed in this my will for supplement and recompensation of all such annuities, fees, payment and other things before willed, if any interruption be made so any of my said manors, lands and tenements be not charged as it is afore appointed in this my said will;

Also I will that the master of th' hospital of Well aforesaid and the vicar there for the time being, or thone of them, shall yearly take and receive the farms, rents, issues and profits of the parsonage of Hammerton in the county of York and of the parsonage of Walton in the county of the city of York during the space and time of forty years after my decease, and therewithal to find and give yearly to six cremetts and bed-folks at Well aforesaid (to make up the number of twenty cremetts there), to every of the said cremetts according

and after such manner and form as other cremetts there now have or hereafter shall have during the said forty years, and in the meantime I will desire mine heirs that it may be made sure according to the said six cremetts and their successors forever;

Also I will that my daughter Margaret Neville shall have and hold to her and her assigns the manors of Nun Monkton and Hammerton in the county of York and all other my lands and tenements with their appurtenances in Nun Monkton and Hammerton aforesaid, and the parsonages and tithes of Nun Monkton and Hammerton, during the term and space of forty years after such legacies, debts and payments be paid and fulfilled as I have declared in this my said will, and after th' end and term of the said forty years, then I will that the said manors of Nun Monkton and Hammerton with all and singular their [-their] appurtenances, and the parsonages of Nun Monkton and Hammerton aforesaid, shall remain and come unto the heirs males of my body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to my said daughter Margaret Neville and the heirs of her body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to the right heirs of me, the said Lord Latimer, forever;

In witness whereof to this my said will of lands, I, the said Lord Latimer, have subscribed my name and set to my seal of my signet the 6<sup>th</sup> day of October in the 34<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord Henry the Eighth by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, and in earth Supreme Head of the Church of England and Ireland. John Latimer.

RM: Vndecimo die mensis Marcij Anno domini Mo vC xlijo

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum Domini Iohannis Nevill Militis Domini Latymir defuncti habentis Dum vixit &c Coram domino apud London auctoritate domini nostri Regis &c Iuramento Testium in ea parte examinatorum ac Iuramento Christoferi Nevill executoris in huiusmodi testamento nominato Ac approbatum &c Et commissa fuit administracio omnium et singulorum bonorum Iurium et creditorum dicti defuncti prefato Xpofero executori De bene et fideliter administrando Ac de pleno et fideli Inuentario secundo die post festum Natiuitatis sancti Iohannis Baptiste proximum futurum exhibendo Necnon de plano et vero compoto reddendo Ad sancta dei Euangelia Iurato Reseruata potestate alijs executoribus in huiusmodi testamento nominatis cum venerunt &c Decimo quinto die mensis Marcij predicto commissus fuit consimilis administracio Iohanni Constable executori eciam in dicto testamento nominato &c similiter Iurato

[=RM: The eleventh day of the month of March in the year of the Lord 1542]

[=The above-written testament of Sir John Neville, knight, Lord Latimer, deceased, having while he lived etc., was proved before the Lord [+Archbishop] at London by the authority of the Lord our King etc. by the oath of the witnesses in that behalf examined and by the oath of Christopher Neville, executor named in the same testament, and

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approved etc., and administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased to the forenamed Christopher, executor, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full and true inventory on the second day after the feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist next to come, and also to render a plain and true account, with power reserved to the other executors named in the same testament when they shall have come etc. On the fifteenth day of the month of March aforesaid administration was similarly granted to John Constable, executor also named in the said testament etc., similarly sworn.]