

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 23 May 1542 and proved 23 October 1542, of Sir Thomas Neville (d. 29 May 1542), lawyer and Speaker of the House of Commons, whose grandson, Francis Southwell, was involved with Oxford's first cousin, Lord Henry Howard, and Charles Arundel in libellous allegations against Oxford in late 1580 and 1581.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the testator's family background, see Waters, Robert Edmond Chester, *Genealogical Memoirs of the Extinct Family of Chester of Chicheley*, (London: Robson and Sons, 1878), Vol. I, pp. 20-22 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/genealogicalmem01wategoog#page/n56/mode/2up>

Testator's parents

The testator was the fifth son of George Neville (1436–1492), 2nd Baron Bergavenny, by his first wife, Margaret Fenne, the daughter of Hugh Fenne.

MARRIAGES AND ISSUE

Testator's first marriage

The testator married firstly Katherine Dacre (d. 20 August 1527), the daughter of Humphrey Dacre (d. 30 May 1485), 2nd Baron Dacre of the North, and Mabel Parr (d. 14 November 1508), the daughter of Sir Thomas Parr (d. 24 November 1464). At the time of her marriage to the testator, Katherine Dacre was the widow of George Fitz Hugh, 7th Baron Fitz Hugh. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed, 2011, Vol. II, p. 18, Vol. III, p. 298.

By his first wife the testator had an only child:

* **Margaret Neville** (26 September 1520 – 25 December 1575), who on 1 May 1536 married Sir Robert Southwell (d. 26 October 1559), by whom she had four sons and three daughters:

(1) **Thomas Southwell** (d.1568), eldest son and heir, said to have been born 24 March 1537. For his will, see TNA PROB 11/50/204.

(2) **Francis Southwell**, said to have been born 14 December 1538, who was at one time a friend of Oxford's, but was involved with Oxford's first cousin, Lord Henry Howard (1540-1614), and Charles Arundel (d.1587) in libellous allegations against Oxford in late

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1580 and 1581. See BL Cotton Titus C.6, ff. 5-8; Archivo General de Simancas Leg. 835, f. 6; and TNA SP 12/151/47, ff. 105-8.

(3) Robert Southwell.

(4) Henry Southwell, said to have been born 4 September 1543.

(5) Anne Southwell, said to have been born 18 March 1540. As indicated in a bequest in her father's will, she married Edmund Bedingfield (d.1585), the brother of Thomas Bedingfield (d.1613), who dedicated his translation of *Cardanus' Comfort* to Oxford:

Item, I give to Edmund Bedingfield, esquire, my son-in-law, and Anne, his wife, one great bowl of silver with a cover all gilt.

For the will of Edmund Bedingfield (d.1585), see TNA PROB 11/69/96. For the will of Thomas Bedingfield (d.1613), see TNA PROB 11/122/124. For Thomas Bedingfield's dedication of his translation of *Cardanus' Comfort* to Oxford, see STC 4607 on this website.

(6) Dorothy Southwell, said to have been born 21 September 1542.

(7) Martha Southwell.

After Sir Robert Southwell's death, the testator's daughter, Margaret Neville, married, on 13 November 1561, William Plumbe. Margaret (nee Neville) Southwell Plumbe died 25 December 1575, aged fifty-five. After her death, on 9 June 1579, William Plumbe married Elizabeth Gresham, widow. For Margaret (nee Neville) Southwell Plumbe see also Chance, Jane, ed., *Women's Books of Hours in Medieval England*, (Cambridge: D.S. Brewer, 2006), pp. 52-4 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=bcD_nYgoe8YC&pg=PA52

Testator's second marriage

The testator married secondly, Elizabeth Bryce, granddaughter of Sir Hugh Bryce (d.1496), Lord Mayor of London in 1485, and widow of Robert Amadas (d. 7 April 1532), citizen and goldsmith of London, and Master of the Jewels to King Henry VIII. For the will of Robert Amadas, see TNA PROB 11/25/85.

By her marriage to Robert Amadas, the testator's second wife, Elizabeth (nee Bryce) Amadas, had two daughters:

(1) Elizabeth Amadas, who married Richard Scrope (d. December 1572) of Castle Combe, Wiltshire, and is said to have left as her sole heir a daughter, Frances Scrope,

who married firstly Martin Bowes, son of Sir Martin Bowes (d.1566), and secondly Matthew Hutton, Archbishop of York

(2) Thomasine Amadas, who married, as his first wife, Sir Richard Stapleton (d. 11 January 1585), by whom she had a son, Brian Stapleton (1535 - 13 December 1606) of Carlton near Snaith, Yorkshire, who married firstly Elizabeth Darcy, daughter of George Darcy (d. 28 September 1558), 1st Baron Darcy of Aston, and secondly Eleanor Neville, daughter of Ralph Neville, 4th Earl of Westmorland, and sister of Dorothy Neville, first wife of John de Vere (1562-1562), 16th Earl of Oxford.

See Waters, *supra*, Vol. I, pp. 17-22 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/genealogicalmem01wategoog#page/n54/mode/2up/>

See also Harwood, H.W. Forsyth, ed., *The Genealogist*, New Series, (London: George Bell & Sons, no date), Vol. XVI, pp. 241-2 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/genealogist1619selb#page/n499/mode/2up>.

See also Clay, J.W., ed., *Dugdale's Visitation of Yorkshire, With Additions*, (Exeter: William Pollard & Co., 1899), p. 167 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/dugdalesvisitati01dugd#page/166/mode/2up>.

It was possibly Richard Stapleton (died c.1614), son of Brian Stapleton (1535 - 13 December 1606) and Elizabeth Darcy, who as 'Richard Stapleton, gentleman' contributed commendatory verses to the second part of Robert Greene's *Mamillia*, which was likely written circa 1583 but was not published until 1593 after Greene's death.

See also the Wikipedia entry for Anthony Stapleton (c.1514-1574) created by the author of this website.

See also the pedigree of Stapleton of Carlton in Foster, Joseph, *Pedigrees of the County Families of Yorkshire*, (London: W. Wilfred Head, 1874), Vol. II at:

<http://archive.org/stream/pedigreesofcount02fost#page/n187/mode/2up>.

The testator died 29 May 1542, and was buried at Mereworth, Kent. His second wife, Elizabeth, predeceased him.

LM: Test{amentu}m Thome Nevyle Milit{is}

In the name of God, Amen. The 23rd day of May in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred forty and two and in the 34th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord Henry

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the 8th by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, and in earth immediately under Christ Supreme Head of the Church of England and Ireland, I, Sir Thomas Neville, knight, of the parish of Mereworth in the county of Kent, being sick in body and whole and perfect of remembrance, lauded be God, make this my present testament and last will in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, and my body to be buried honestly within the parish church of Mereworth aforesaid, the charges, manner and order whereof I refer unto the discretion of my executors;

Also I bequeath unto Sir John Hoddrepp, my priest, £6 13s 4d to sing and pray for my soul and all Christian souls within the parish church of Mereworth aforesaid by the space of one year next and immediately ensuing after my decease;

Also my will is that all such stuff underwritten, the which was the late Lord of Bergavenny's, my brother, shall be delivered unto Sir John Baker and Sir Thomas Willoughby, knights, executors of the last will and testament of the said late Lord of Bergavenny, for the performance and use of the same his will and testament, the parcels of which stuff and the places where it is followeth, that is to say:

A Mass book with two clasps of silver, a cope, a vestment and tunicles for the deacon and subdeacon of tawny velvet purled, with all th' apparel for the same, two altar fronts of crimson velvet embroidered, two cushions whereof thone needlework and thother cloth of gold;

In the gallery chamber, one trussing bedsteadell(?) gilt, a featherbed, a bolster, a pair of fustians, two pillows of down, one sparver, one counterpoint of scarlet embroidered with green velvet, four pieces of hanging double stuff, one chair of blue velvet;

In the gallery, four great pieces of arras work of the story of Hercules, thirteen pieces of hanging double stuff;

In the tower chamber, four pieces double stuff, a tester of crimson satin and purled velvet, one featherbed, one bolster, one counterpoint of imagery of double stuff;

In the nursery chamber, one featherbed, one bolster, three cushions with staples, and six half cushions with staples;

In a coffer standing in the little gallery, four pieces of double stuff, one quilt of crimson sarcenet, one counterpoint of baudekin, one long cushion of the same, three cushions of satin figury, one cushion of crimson satin embroidered, two cushions of needlework, a christening pawne(?) of crimson velvet furred, one hanging for a font of white silk, one great carpet;

In the west chamber, four pieces of hanging double stuff, one tester of satin figury, one cushion of the same, one red frieze, a chair of green velvet;

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In the next chamber, four pieces of hanging double stuff, one Turkey carpet for a cupboard;

In the great chamber, a long carpet with arms;

In my own chamber, one sparver of baudekin, one garnish of vessel, one great brass pot, ten Almain rivets with splints and sallets belonging to the same, thirty halberds & ten sheaf of arrows;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Sir Robert Southwell, knight, Master of the Rolls, and unto Margaret, my daughter, his wife, a golden ring with a great turquoise, and one other ring of gold with an emerald, ten sovereigns, three gowns of velvet, one doublet of crimson satin, one chain of gold containing 189 links with a lock and a large cross weighing 23 ounces and one quarter of a[n] ounce, three goblets with a cover gilt weighing threescore and five ounces, two pots gilt weighing threescore four ounces and a half a[n] ounce, one salt with a cover gilt weighing 27 ounces and half a[n] ounce, one standing bowl with a cover gilt enamelled with arms weighing fifty ounces and half a[n] ounce, one other standing bowl with a cover gilt weighing 33 ounces and half a[n] ounce, twelve silver spoons with images of the 12 Apostles parcel gilt weighing 21 ounces, one silver pot with a cover parcel gilt weighing 28 ounces and one quarter of a[n] ounce, two altar candlesticks of silver and gilt, two cruets of silver and gilt, one pax of silver and gilt, and one saunce-bell of silver weighing 64 ounces, one chalice of silver and gilt weighing 12 ounces, one standing cup with a cover of silver gilt weighing 19 ounces, one large basin and a ewer of silver parcel gilt weighing one hundred ounces and half a[n] ounce, one pair of snuffers silver and gilt weighing four ounces, one silver pot with a cover parcel gilt, one cruse of silver with arms gilt which was the Queen's New Year's gilt, my grey gelding which I use to ride on with my best saddle, bridle and harness;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the foresaid Sir Robert and Margaret, my daughter, [f. 82v] two jewels, whereof thone being a crown of gold with fifteen diamonds, five rubies in a rose and three great pearls hanging at the same, and thother jewel being a cross of gold with 16 diamonds & three pearls hanging at the same, one salt with a cover of silver and gilt, hanging upon the cover the image of an angel, weighing fifteen ounces and half a[n] ounce;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the said Sir Robert Southwell and Margaret, my daughter, all these stuff following:

First, in the west chamber a bed of down with a bolster, two pillows and a pair of fustians, two large pieces of fine verdure, one piece of fine arras work of Saint George, four pieces of tapestry;

In the chapel, two vestments of blue velvet with all things to the same appertaining which was my Lady Fitzhugh's, and an altar front of baudekin;

In the great gallery, seven small pieces of tapestry, two great chests, one great new green counterpoint of double stuff, one great large carpet of my Lady Fitzhugh's making, one fair new carpet of flowers-de-luce, two fair tapestries of Turkey making, ten carpets for cupboards, one carpet of verdure, two long cushions of cloth of gold and tawny velvet;

In the east chamber, a large trussing bed with a tester and curtains of striped camlet, a featherbed, one bolster, two pillows, one pair of fustians, one counterpoint of arras work line with canvas;

In the little gallery next the east chamber, a large standing coffer and five pieces of hanging;

In the tower chamber, a trussing bed with a large featherbed, a bolster, two pillows, one pair of fustians and a counterpoint of arras work;

In the great chamber, six pieces of arras work;

In my own chamber, one trussing bed, four featherbeds, one pair of fustians, a bolster, two pillows, with hangings of yellow and red say, ten cushions of verdure;

In the parlour, seven pieces of hanging of verdure lined with canvas, one piece of say, green and red, all my napery, as well sheets, tablecloths, towels, napkins and other, except such coarse sheets as I have hereafter given unto divers of my servants;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the foresaid Sir Robert Southwell and Margaret, my daughter, three garnish of pewter vessel with all my kitchen stuff, except such pewter vessel as I have by this my present testament bequeathed and given to other persons, and ten harnesses in the armoury;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the said Sir Robert and Margaret, my daughter, a trussing bed in th' old parlour with the hanging of the same parlour of cloth stained;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the foresaid Margaret, my daughter, one gold ring with a ruby, one gold ring with a sapphire, one plain ring of gold, one signet of gold that I use to seal withal, a bracelet about my arm of gold with a jacinth, and five sovereigns of gold, and a silver spoon gilt weighing two ounces & a half quartern of a[n] ounce;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Henry Neville, Lord of Bergavenny, my nephew, one standing cup with a cover of silver and gilt weighing twenty and four ounces, one cruse with a cover gilt weighing eighteen ounces and half a[n] ounce, two spoons of silver & gilt weighing four ounces & half a[n] ounce, one chalice of silver and gilt weighing twenty and four ounces;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Sir John Baker, knight, a large cruse with a cover of silver gilt, and five sovereigns;

Item, I give & bequeath unto my cousin, Sir Thomas Willoughby, knight, one of the Justice[s] of the Common Pleas, a cruse with a cover of silver & gilt;

Also I give unto Sir Thomas Moyle, knight, a basin and a ewer of silver parcel gilt;

Also I bequeath unto my nephew, George Whetenall, a gown of fine black cloth lined two parts with black velvet;

Item, I bequeath unto my niece, Alice Whetenall, wife of the said George, one plain gold ring;

Also I give unto Anne, my goddaughter, the daughter of the said George, a trussing bed, one featherbed, all the hanging in the north chamber, and also a counterpoint called the second verdure, and one bolster;

Item, I bequeath unto Thomas Whetenall, my godson, my new black cloak;

Item, I given unto my nephew, John Brent, a gown of damask furred with martens;

Also I bequeath unto my niece, Anne Brent, the wife of the said John, one plain ring of gold;

Also I give unto Sir Jeffery, my chaplain, a trussing bed, one featherbed, one pair of sheets and all that belongeth thereunto, with the hanging in the kitchen chamber where he lieth as it is within the same chamber, & a little coffer;

Item, I bequeath unto John Colepeper [=Culpeper?], esquire, one ring of gold with a dial;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Thomas Colepeper, my godson, the son of the said John Colepeper, 11s 3d;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Avery Randolph, my servant, a cruse with a cover of silver and gilt which I use to drink of;

Item, I give unto John Neville, my servant, a trussing bed, a feather bed, one pair of sheets with all that belongeth thereunto, and also all the hanging in the chamber where he lieth, and one trussing coffer with a little coffer, and also a white grey gelding called my Malehorse, and his whole year's wages;

Item, I give and bequeath unto William Barker, my servant, a gown of black cloth furred with budge, and one jacket of black velvet, and £6 13s 4d for his whole year's fee;

Item, I bequeath unto Henry Delehay, my servant, and unto Anne, his wife, one pair of fine sheets;

Item, I bequeath unto Thomas Raynes, my servant, a little white cup of silver with a cover called Goodrule, six silver spoons and one stock salt of silver, and ten pounds for his whole year's wages;

Item, I bequeath unto Robert Nyn(?), my servant, a salt of silver with a cover gilt, and a square coffer bounden with iron;

Item, I bequeath unto John Thomas, my servant, a trussing bed, a featherbed, a pair of sheets, two bolsters, one pair of blankets, one counterpoint with all such hanging and stuff as is within the chamber where the said Thomas Raynes and the said John Thomas lieth, two stock salt-cellars of silver with a cover gilt;

Item, I give unto James Berham, gentleman, a cruse of silver with a cover;

Item, I given unto Thomas Chapman, gentleman, a precious stone for the pynon and web [=pin and web] in the eye which was his ancestor's beforetime;

Item, I bequeath and give unto Thomas Chapman, his son, my godson, 7s 6d;

Item, I give unto Henry Gunter, my servant, forty ewes, six oxen, two kine, and he to have his choice of all my oxen, kine and sheep;

Also I give unto the said Henry my curtal horse & a sorrel bay mare, and yokes and tithes(?) of iron for the said oxen;

Also I give unto the same Henry Gunter all [f. 83r] my apparel for my body except silk and three gowns furred with budge and one gown furred with cony, and except such apparel as I have given and bequeathed unto other persons in this my present testament;

Also I give and bequeath unto the said Henry Gunter all my term and lease of eight years of and in all those lands and tenements with th' appurtenances which I late had and bought of Elizabeth, the late wife of Robert Southland;

And also I give unto the same Henry during the said term every year thirty shillings sterling of a rent reserved to be paid by Thomas Roydon, esquire, for parcel of the said lands whereof I have granted unto him a lease;

Also I give unto Bartholomew Pusane, my cook and servant, twenty sheep, and he to have the choice after the said Henry Gunter hath chosen;

Item, I give unto the said Bartholomew Pusane six quarters of wheat;

Item, I give and bequeath to Robert Fayerman, my servant, a trussing bed, one featherbed, two bolsters, one pair of sheets, two blankets and a counterpoint of verdure lined with canvas, and the hanging of a chamber next the salt-house, one brass pot of five gallons, half a garnish of pewter vessel, two kine, and his half year's wages;

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Item, I give & bequeath unto John Delehay one featherbed, one pair of sheets, one pair of blankets, one bolster, one coverlet, two quarters of wheat, and his half year's wages;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Edward Gyles, my servant, one featherbed, one pair of sheets, bolster, blankets and that belongeth thereunto in the chamber where he lieth, two calves weanels, and his half year's wages;

Item, I give to Simon Thomas, my servant, baker and brewer, five quarters of wheat and five quarters of barley malt;

Item, I bequeath to John Rennaker, my servant, a trussing bed, a featherbed, one pair of sheets that he lieth on, with all things thereunto belonging, and one year's wages;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Thomas Jefferey, my servant, at trussing bed, one featherbed, one pair of sheets that he lieth on, with all things thereunto belonging;

Item, I bequeath unto Edward Blundell, my servant, five quarters of wheat and his half year's wages;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Thomas Grangeman, my servant, one featherbed, one pair of sheets, one bolster, one pair of blankets and a coverlet, half a garnish of vessel, twenty sheep, one cow, one mare stag of the colour of bald sorrel, and his half year's wages;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Thomas A Mere, my servant and godson, one cow and his half year's wages, and twenty thousand billet lying in the wood;

Item, I give and bequeath unto William Stronde, my servant, two bullocks called yearlings, and two weanel calves;

Item, I give and bequeath unto John Bygg, my servant, the horse that he useth to ride on, two bullocks called yearlings, one cow, ten lambs, and half a year's wages;

Item, I give and bequeath unto John Barons, my servant, a black mare with her foal, and his half year's wages;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Christopher, my servant, horse-keeper, a red mare and his half year's wages;

Item, I bequeath unto Joan A Kent, my maidservant, one cow and her half year's wages;

Item, I bequeath unto William Crowherst, my bailiff at husbandry, one dun mare and his half year's wages;

Item, I bequeath to Peter Cok, my servant, ten lambs and his half year's wages;

Item, I give unto Simon Fygg, my servant, two calves weanels and his half year's wages;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Thomas Turke, my servant, [+his] half year's wages and one calf weanel;

Item, I given unto Nicholas Colen(?), my servant, one calf weanel and his half year's wages;

Item, I give unto Nicholas Hale, my servant, a coat cloth;

Item, I give unto Thomas Somer, my servant, a calf weanel;

Item, I bequeath to Thomas Claye, my servant, his whole year's wages and one stock salt of silver;

Item, I bequeath unto Richard Brewer, my servant, three silver spoons and his whole year's wages;

Item, I bequeath unto Sir John Shott, my priest, one featherbed, one pair of sheets that he lieth on, and all things thereunto belonging;

Item, I bequeath to Sir John Hoddropp, my priest, one featherbed that he lieth on, one pair of sheets, and all things thereunto belonging;

Item, I give and bequeath unto William Turk, my servant, one cow, three quarters of wheat and three quarters of barley malt;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Stephen Gun(?), my servant, three quarters of wheat, and that he be in all things new apparelled for his body;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Margery Glasyer two quarters of wheat, two quarters of barley malt, and the bed she lieth on, and all that that is in the chamber where she lieth;

Item, I bequeath to Elizabeth Birchen one cow;

Item, I give unto John A Powell, my servant, two quarters of wheat and two quarters of barley malt;

Item, I give unto Nicholas Alchorne(?) one quarter of wheat;

Item, I give unto John Dan(?), my servant, two silver spoons;

Item, I give to William Towne, my servant, one working steer;

Item, I give unto Osmond, a poor man dwelling at Birling, a cow;

Also I do ordain and make the foresaid Sir Thomas Willoughby, Sir John Baker, knights, William Baker, Thomas Raynes and Robert Nyn(?) executors of this my last testament & will, and I make Sir Robert Southwell, knight, my son, overseer of the same, trusting and requiring them that they will perform the same my will and testament and discharge my conscience & theirs;

In witness whereof I, the said Sir Thomas Neville, have unto this my present testament & last will set my seal and subscribed the same with my own hand the day and year aforesaid in the presence of William Freeman, Doctor of Physic, George Brynley, clerk, vicar of Birling, Robert Stonehouse, servant unto our Sovereign Lord the King's Majesty, Stephen Astyn(?), William Turk, William Astyn, son of the said Stephen, and other. Sir Thomas Neville.

Probatum fuit sup{ra}scriptu{m} test{amentu}m coram d{omi}no Apud London xxiiijo die mensis Octobris Anno domini Mill{es}imo quingentesimo quadragesimo secundo Iuramento xpoferi Robynson no{ta}ri{j} pu{bli}ci p{ro}cur{atoris} D{omi}ni Thome Willughby Milit{is} Thome Raynes et Rob{er}ti Nynne Executor{um} in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}at{orum} Ac approbatum et insinuatum Comissaq{ue} fuit admi{ni}stracio o{mn}i{u}m et sing{u}lor{um} bonor{um} iuriu{m} et creditor{um} dict{i} defunct{i} p{re}fat{is} executorib{us} De bene &c Ac de pleno et fideli Inventario &c conficiend{o} Necnon de plano et vero compoto reddend{o} Ad Sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia in p{er}sona dicti procuratoris Iurat{i} Res{er}uata p{otes}tate alij ex{ecutoribus} &c cum venerint admissur{is}

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord at London on the 23rd day of the month of October in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred forty-second by the oath of Christopher Robinson, notary public, proctor of Sir Thomas Willoughby, knight, Thomas Raynes and Robert Nynne, 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 in the person of the said proctor to well etc., and to prepare a full and faithful inventory etc., and also to render a plain and true account, with power reserved to the other executors etc. when they shall have come to be admitted.]