

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 1 August 1541 and proved 22 July 1544, of Elizabeth (nee Scrope) Peche, first cousin of Elizabeth (nee Scrope) Beaumont de Vere (d.1537), Countess of Oxford, second wife of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford.

The testatrix was born Elizabeth Scrope, the daughter and co-heir of Robert Scrope, the third son of Henry Scrope (1418-1458/9), 4<sup>th</sup> Baron Scrope of Bolton, and his wife, Elizabeth Scrope (d. 10 May 1504), the daughter of John Scrope (b. c. 1388, d. 15 November 1455), 4<sup>th</sup> Baron Scrope of Masham, Lord Treasurer of England, and his wife, Elizabeth Chaworth (d.1466?). Through his grandparents, Richard Scrope (d. 29 August 1420), 3<sup>rd</sup> Lord Scrope of Bolton, and Margaret Neville (d.1463/4), daughter of Ralph Neville, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Westmorland, and Margaret Stafford (d. 9 June 1396), Robert Scrope was descended from Geoffrey Plantagenet (1113–1151), King Henry II (1133–1189) and King Edward I (1239–1307) of England. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2004), pp. 254-5, 538-1, 645, 670-3; the entry for Scrope of Masham in *The Complete Peerage*, p. 564-6; and the entries for Henry Scrope (c.1376-1415), 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Scrope of Masham, and John Scrope (1437/8-1498), 5<sup>th</sup> Baron Scrope of Bolton in the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*.

Robert Scrope married Katherine Zouche by dispensation dated 9 November 1469 (see Gibbons, A., *Ely Episcopal Records* (Lincoln: James Williamson, 1891), p. 225, available online), and by her had four daughters: Elizabeth, the testatrix; Anne, who married Thomas Redman of Bossall; Margaret, a nun at Barking; and Agnes. The testatrix leaves bequests in the will below to her sister Anne Redman, and to Anne Redman's daughter, Dame Anne Willestropp, and granddaughter, Eleanor Willestropp. She also leaves a bequest to her unmarried sister, Anne Scrope, and to her sister, Dame Margaret Scrope, formerly a nun at Barking. This would appear to be the same Dame Margaret Scrope mentioned in the will of Elizabeth (nee Scrope) Beaumont De Vere (d.1537), Countess of Oxford:

*Item, I give & bequeath to my cousin, Dame Margaret Scrope, five pounds in money.*

Both the testatrix and her sister, Dame Margaret Scrope, were first cousins of the Countess.

For the Scrope pedigree, see Norcliffe, Charles Best, ed., *The Visitation of Yorkshire in the Years 1563 and 1563* by William Flower, Vol. 16, (London: Harleian Society, 1881), p. 280, available online. For the Redman pedigree, see Greenwood, William, *The Redmans of Levens and Harewood*, (Highgate: Titus Wilson, 1905), pp. 117-19, available online.

The testatrix married Sir John Peche (d.1522). The couple had no children. The testatrix' first cousin, Margaret (nee Scrope) de la Pole (d.1515), widow of Edmund de la Pole (1472?-1513), 8<sup>th</sup> Earl of Suffolk, a claimant to the throne who was executed in 1513, lived with the testatrix and Sir John Peche (d.1522) during the last years of her life (see Harris, Barbara J., *English Aristocratic Women 1450-1550* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), p. 173, available online).

Two of the testatrix' executors were the courtiers William Fitzwilliam (c.1490–1542), Earl of Southampton, and his stepbrother, Sir Anthony Browne (c.1500–1548). William Fitzwilliam (c.1490–1542), Earl of Southampton, was a younger son of Sir Thomas Fitzwilliam (d. 1498) of Aldwark and his wife, Lucy (d. 1534), daughter and coheir of John Neville, first Marquess Montagu, and niece of Richard Neville, earl of Warwick (the Kingmaker). Sir Anthony Browne (c.1500–1548), was the son of Sir Anthony Browne (d. 1506) and his wife, Lucy (d. 1534), widow of Sir Thomas Fitzwilliam (d.1498) of Aldwark, Yorkshire, and daughter and coheir of John Neville, Marquess Montagu.

Thus, these two executors were stepbrothers, both being the sons of Lucy Neville (d.1534). The testatrix refers to Sir Anthony Browne (c.1500-1548) as her 'cousin'. This may be because the testatrix' mother, Elizabeth Scrope (d. 10 May 1504) was the sister of Thomas Scrope (c. 1430-1475), 5<sup>th</sup> Lord Scrope of Masham, whose son, Thomas Scrope (b. c.1459, d. 23 April 1493), 6<sup>th</sup> Lord Scrope of Masham, married Elizabeth Neville (d.1515), the sister of Lucy Neville (d.1534). For the will of Elizabeth Neville Scrope Wentworth (d.1515), mentioning her sister, Lucy Neville (d.1534), see *Testamenta Eboracensia*, Vol. V, pp. 50-2, available online.

It is also of interest that Henry Scrope (b. c. 1373, beheaded 5 August 1415), 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Scrope of Masham, elder brother of the testatrix's grandfather, John Scrope (b. c. 1388, d. 15 November 1455), 4<sup>th</sup> Baron Scrope of Masham, is the Lord Scrope who is implicated in the Cambridge conspiracy in the anonymous play *Sir John Oldcastle*, and is the Lord Scrope of Masham who is executed for his alleged part in that conspiracy in Act II, Scene 2 of Shakespeare's *Henry V*.

It is also of interest that the testatrix' relations are known to have been owners of books and manuscripts:

*The children and grandchildren of Henry, Fourth Baron Scrope of Bolton and his wife, Elizabeth Scrope (a distant cousin) were avid readers and patrons of vernacular literature, especially the women.*

See Wada, Yoko, ed., *A Companion to Ancrene Wisse* (Cambridge: D.S. Brewer, 2003), p. 166, available online.

For the will of the testatrix' first cousin Elizabeth (nee Scrope) Beaumont de Vere (d.1537), Countess of Oxford, see TNA PROB 11/27, ff. 84-6. For the will of the testatrix' first cousin Mary (nee Scrope) Jerningham Kingston (d.1548), see TNA PROB 11/32, ff. 168-9. For the will of the testatrix' first cousin, Margaret (nee Scrope) de la Pole (d.1515), see TNA PROB 11/18, ff. 44-5. For the will of the testatrix' husband, Sir John Peche (d.1522), see TNA PROB 11/20, ff. 200-1.

RM: Testamentum Elizabethe Peche

In the name of God, Amen. The first day of August in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred forty and one and in the 33<sup>rd</sup> year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Henry the Eight, I, Dame Elizabeth Peche, widow, sometime wife of Sir John Peche of Lullingstone in the county of Kent, knight, deceased, being in good, whole and perfect memory, lauded be Almighty God, make, ordain and declare this my present testament and last will in manner and form following, that is to say:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my Saviour, Maker and Redeemer, and to his Blessed Mother Saint Mary, and to all the holy company of heaven, and my body to be buried in the parish church of Lullingstone aforesaid within the tomb where the said Sir John Peche, my late husband, lieth buried;

Item, I bequeath to the high altar of the said parish church of Lullingstone ten shillings sterling;

Item, I bequeath to the high altar of the parish church of Eynsford ten shillings sterling;

Item, I bequeath to the parish church of Shoreham six shillings eight pence sterling;

Item, I will that mine executors shall cause a trental of Masses to be said within the said parish church of Lullingstone the day of my decease if they can get so many priests, and if they cannot, then the same to be done as soon after my decease as it conveniently may be, and likewise I will that one other trental be said in the said church of Lullingstone at my month's mind;

Item, I will that mine executors give and dispose in deeds of charity amongst the poor people next inhabiting to the said parish of Lullingstone at my burial forty shillings sterling or more, to be distributed by the discretion of mine executors, to pray for my soul, and likewise at my month's mind other forty shillings or more in like manner to be divided, distributed and dealt;

Item, I will that a priest be found to pray for my soul, my husband, Sir John Peche[<sup>s</sup>] soul, our friends' souls, and all Christian souls by the space of five years or more next after my decease as mine executors shall think convenient to be done;

Item, I bequeath unto my singular good Lord, the Earl of Southampton, Lord Privy Seal, two gilt bowls;

Item, I bequeath to George Harte, my godson, a gilt cup with a cover;

Item, I bequeath to every one of my gentlewomen that shall happen to wait upon me at the time of my decease ten shillings sterling;

Item, I bequeath to every one of my menservants that shall happen to be in my service at the time of my decease, over and above his or their wages due to them at the time of my decease, six shillings eight pence sterling;

Item, I bequeath to my sister, Agnes Redman, a gilt salt pounced with a cover, four gilt goblets with a cover, seven spoons with knops, the bed that I lie in wholly as it standeth, one other bed in the chamber within the King's great chamber as it standeth, five other featherbeds of the meaner sort, a garnish of pewter vessel, all my kitchen stuff which I shall leave not bequeathed in this my will, seven pair of sheets, four tablecloths, if there be so many left, the hangings in my parlour, three chests, four coffers such as she will choose, six cushions, two carpets, one of them long and the other short;

Item, I bequeath to my sister, Agnes Scrope, one hanging of red and green say which hangeth in the chamber over the gate, and a white silver goblet;

Item, I bequeath to my sister, Dame Margaret Scrope, sometime a nun at Barking, five pounds sterling;

Item, I bequeath to Agnes Goldwell, wife to James Goldwell, a gilt cup with a rose in the top of the cover and a lion in the bottom, three silver spoons with knops, three plain spoons, a plain silver goblet, one featherbed, a bolster, a counterpoint, one little cover such as my sister, Anne, shall appoint, a bed of wainscot, the featherbed, the bolster, the bed of white and green satin with the curtains and counterpoint as it standeth in the chamber over the nursery, one brass pot, one kettle, two spits and one chafing-dish;

Item, I bequeath to Elizabeth Goldwell, daughter of the said Agnes Goldwell, a plain goblet of silver and six pounds thirteen shillings four pence to her marriage in money or money worth to be paid and delivered to her in the day of her marriage, and if she happen to decease before she be married then I will that the said six pounds thirteen shillings four pence in money or money worth shall remain to her brethren to find them to school with;

Item, I bequeath to John Goldwell, son of the said Agnes, forty shillings sterling, and to George, her son, forty shillings sterling;

Item, I bequeath to my niece, Dame Anne Willestropp, a cross of gold with a ruby and a diamond, and my twelve beads of gold, with a ring of gold with a little cross;

Item, I bequeath to my niece, Elizabeth Kirkeby, my ring with a flat diamond;

Item, I bequeath to Eleanor Willestropp, daughter of my said niece, Dame Anne Willestropp, my drinking cruse of silver and gilt with two ears and a cover with a scutcheon with a pomegranate;

Item, I bequeath unto each one of my maiden-servants being with me at the time of my decease ten shillings sterling;

Item, I bequeath to my chaplain, Sir John Dean, parson of Lullingstone, to pray for my soul, one cup of silver and gilt, such one as mine executors will assign and appoint, one white silver goblet, two gilt spoons, two cushions and a short carpet;

Item, I bequeath to John Whytwood, my steward, my cup of silver and gilt [+with?] a lion in the top and also having a lion in the bottom of the said cup, and one white silver goblet;

Item, I bequeath to my friend, Sir John Baker, knight, my greatest cup of silver double gilt which I have used to lend to be borne before brides at their marriages and the covering of the same fashioned like a standing cup, and one of my greatest standard coffers;

Item, I bequeath to my Lady Baker my plate box of silver;

Item, I bequeath to Mary Baker a pair of long small beads of jet and gold with an image with a stone;

Item, I bequeath to Sir John Garland, priest, a featherbed and all that belongeth to it, and two of my spoons silver with knops;

Item, I bequeath to Master Robert Johnson two gilt spoons with knops, to pray for my soul;

Item, I bequeath to Mistress Page a goblet parcel gilt without a cover;

Item, I bequeath to Alice Sandbache a featherbed and a bolster and ten shillings in money;

The residue of all ready my [sic] money, plate, jewels, stuff of household, corn, cattle and other my goods as well movable as unmovable whatsoever they be, over and above my debts and funerals contented and paid, I give and bequeath to mine executors hereafter named, they to dispose and order the same as by their discretions they shall think expedient and convenient;

And of this my said testament and last will I make and ordain the same right honourable and my singular good Lord the Earl of Southampton, the said Sir John Baker, my sister, Anne Redmayne, John Whitwood, my steward, and Sir John Dean, parson of Lullingstone, mine executors, praying the same mine executors that they will see this my present testament performed and kept as my special trust is in them;

In witness whereof to this my present testament and last will I have set my sign the day and year abovesaid. Elizabeth Peche. Per me Iohannem Baker. Per me Iohannem Deane clericum. Per me John Garland, Anne Redmayne, Agnes Goldwell. Per me Alexandram Courthopp. Per me Thomam Godfrey.

By this codicil made the 27<sup>th</sup> day of May the 36<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Henry the 8<sup>th</sup>, King of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, and in earth of the Church of England and also of Ireland Supreme Head, I, Dame Elizabeth Peche, widow, will, devise and ordain that where I, the same Dame Elizabeth, by my testament and last will bearing date the first day of August the 33<sup>rd</sup> year of the reign of our said Sovereign Lord have made and ordained the right honourable Lord Earl of Southampton and late Lord Privy Seal one of mine executors, who is now deceased and departed to Almighty God, whose soul God pardon, and by the same have bequeathed to the same late Earl two gilt bowls, and where also I gave by the same will unto Eleanor Willstropp, now deceased, a drinking cruse of silver and gilt with two ears and a cover with a scutcheon with a pomegranate, and farther by the same testament gave and bequeathed unto John Whitwood, now deceased, a cup of silver and gilt with the cover having a lion on the top and also having a lion in the bottom, and one silver goblet, and unto Alice Sandrach(?) a featherbed and a bolster and ten shillings in money, I will and ordain by this present writing that as well the same my legacies and bequests as the assignment of the said Earl to be one of my executors shall be utterly void and of none effect, and I will, ordain and make by this my present codicil my well-beloved cousin, Sir Anthony Browne, knight, one of mine executors in the stead and place of the said late Earl, and do give and bequeath unto him for his pains and labours to be taken by him in that behalf two of my gilt bowls;

Item, I give and bequeath to Agnes Goldwell one of my white silver bowls pounced;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Mistress Page one featherbed and a bolster;

And by this present codicil I ratify, affirm and confirm all other my legacies, bequests, gifts and making and assignment of mine other executors in the same my testament made, bequeathed, given and appointed, desiring my said cousin, Sir Anthony Browne, and other mine executors in my said testament named to see my said testament in and by all things performed and fulfilled as my special trust is in them. John Baker, Stephen Keymys, Steven Dowle(?), Annes Holwell.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum Testamentum vnacum Codicillo annexo xxijdo Die mensis Iulij Anno Domini millesimo quingentesimo quadragesimo quarto Ac approbatum et insinuatum Commissaque fuit Administracio omnium et singulorum bonorum Iurium et creditorum antedictam Defunctam et eius testamentum qualitercunque concernentium Domino Anthonio Browne militi preclari ordinis Garterij militi Domino Iohanni Baker militi Agnete Redmayne et Iohanni Dean clerico Executoribus in huiusmodi testamento nominatis De bene et fideliter administrando etc Ac de Pleno et fidei Inuentario etc Necnon de plano et vero Compoto etc inde Reddendo ad sancta Dei Euangelia in Persona xpoferi Robynson notarij publici Procuratoris dictorum Executorum in hac parte sufficienter et Legitime constituti Iuratis

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[=The above-written testament together with the codicil annexed was proved on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred forty-fourth, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits whatsoever concerning the aforesaid deceased and her testament to Sir Anthony Browne, knight, Knight of the noble Order of the Garter, Sir John Baker, knight, Agnes Redman and John Dean, clerk, executors named in the same testament, sworn on the Holy Gospels in the person of Christopher Robinson, notary public, proctor of the said executors in that behalf sufficiently and lawfully constituted, to well and faithfully administer etc., and [+to prepare] a full and faithful inventory etc., and also to render a plain and true account thereof.]