

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 22 September 1550 and proved 8 November 1551, of Anne (nee Windsor) Corbet, the daughter of Andrew (1467-1543), 1st Lord Windsor, and his wife, Elizabeth Blount, the granddaughter of Walter Blount (d.1474), 1st Lord Mountjoy, and the daughter of William Blount, slain at the battle of Barnet on 14 April 1471, and his wife, Margaret Echingham (d.1481).

The testatrix married Roger Corbet (d.1538/9), who had been a ward of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford. After the 13th Earl's death, the wardship was sold to Andrew (1467-1543), 1st Lord Windsor (see TNA C 1/1485/58), who married the testatrix to his ward. For the will of the testatrix' husband, Roger Corbet (d.1538/9), see TNA PROB 11/27, f. 194.

The testatrix appoints her brother, Edmund Windsor, as one of the executors of her will, and her nephew, Sir Thomas Windsor (d. 1552), as overseer (for his will, see TNA PROB 11/36, f. 5). Her eldest brother, George Windsor (d. before 1520), was the husband of Ursula de Vere (d.1558), sister and co-heir of John de Vere, 14th Earl of Oxford (1499-1526). For the will of Ursula de Vere, see TNA PROB 11-42A, ff. 7-9. Anne Corbet's nephew, Edward (1532?-1575), 3rd Lord Windsor, was the husband of Oxford's half-sister, Katherine de Vere (1538-1600). For the wills of Edward (1532?-1575), 3rd Lord Windsor, and his wife, Katherine de Vere (1538-1600), see TNA PROB 11/57, ff. 216-9 and TNA PROB 11/95, ff. 186-7. Another of the testatrix' nephews, Sir Richard Newport (d.1570/1), was the owner of a copy of *Hall's Chronicle* now in the British Library containing annotations thought to have been made by Shakespeare. There were thus strong family connections in this generation between the Newports (owners of the annotated copy of *Hall's Chronicle*), the Corbets, the Windsors, the de Veres.

The testatrix' will establishes that six of her children were living in 1551, four sons, Sir Andrew Corbet (b. 1 November 1522, d. 16 August 1578), who married Jane Needham (d. 7 January 1577), the daughter of Sir Robert Needham of Sheinton, Shropshire; Walter Corbet (d.1583), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/66, ff. 3-4; Robert Corbet, who married Jane, the second daughter and co-heir of Thomas Kynaston of Walford; and Jerome Corbet (d.1598), who married Dorothy (d.1604), the daughter and co-heir of Thomas Poyner of Beslow, Shropshire; and two daughters, Margaret Corbet, the wife of Francis Palmes (b. about 1521, d.1567) of Lindley, Yorkshire, and Elizabeth Corbet, unmarried at the time the testatrix made her will.

After the death of Roger Corbet in 1538/9, it would appear that his son and heir, Sir Andrew Corbet (b. 2 November 1522, d. 16 August 1578), resided at Moreton Corbet, while the testatrix resided at the manor of Linslade in Buckinghamshire.

The testatrix' eldest son, Sir Andrew Corbet (b. 1 November 1522, d. 16 August 1578), and his wife, Jane Needham (d. 7 January 1577), had seven sons, Robert Corbet (d.30 May 1583), who married Anne St. John (d.1602), the daughter of Oliver St John (d.1582), 1st Baron St. John of Bletsoe; Sir Richard Corbet (b. circa 1544, d.1606), who

married Mary (nee Wolfe) Lee, the daughter of Morgan Wolfe, and widow of Thomas Lee (d.1572) of Clattercote, Oxfordshire, maternal uncle of the poet, Thomas Watson (d.1592); Reginald Corbet; Roger Corbet; Francis Corbet (d.1592); Sir Vincent Corbet; and Arthur Corbet; and three daughters Margaret Corbet, who married Thomas Harley of Brampton Brian; Anna Corbet, who married Sir Walter Leveson (d.1602) of Trentham and Lilleshall, and Mary, unmarried. For the will of Thomas Lee (d.1572) of Clattercote, see TNA PROB 11/54, ff. 172-4.

Sir Andrew Corbet's son and heir, Robert Corbet (d. 30 May 1583) was a close friend of Sir Philip Sidney (1554-1586) and is perhaps the 'Mr Corbeck' mentioned in Oxford's letter to Lord Burghley written from Paris on 17/18 March 1575 (see Cecil Papers 8/24). Robert Corbet (d. 30 May 1583) died of the plague in London. See Corbet, Augusta Elizabeth, *The Family of Corbet*, Vol. II (London: St. Catherine's Press, n.d.), p. 295.

For the foregoing see Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, pp. 310, 473-4, 485; Corbet, Augusta Elizabeth, *The Family of Corbet*, Vol. II (London: St. Catherine's Press, n.d.), pp. 253, 258, 263-97, available online; the pedigree of Kynaston in Grazebrook, George, ed., *The Visitation of Shropshire*, Part II, (London: Harleian Society, 1889), p. 294, available online; and the pedigree of Corbet in Burke, John, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners*, Vol. III (London: Henry Colburn, 1838), pp. 189-90.

LM: Testamentum Anne Corbet

In the name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, three persons and one God, I, Anne Corbet of Linslade in the county of Buckingham, widow, being diseased and sick in body but whole of mind and of perfect memory, make my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First, I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God, having a sure trust and confidence in his great and infinite mercy, nothing presuming upon mine own works and deeds (which I know to be much insufficient for my salvation), but upon the merits of the death and passion of his only and dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ, and upon his victorious Resurrection & most glorious Ascension, firmly believing that through these his merits and faith in his blood I shall live amongst that holy company and blessed fellowship in heaven in glory and joy which never shall have end, and have with them the fruition of his godhead etc.;

Secondarily, I bequeath my body to be buried and interred at Linslade, and there such exequies to be done for me (after the discretion of mine executors) as shall stand with the laudable use and custom of the Church of England;

Thirdly, whereas my late husband, Roger Corbet, did give by his last will and testament (as appeareth more at large by the same) three hundred marks towards the marriage of his

daughter, Elizabeth, to be levied and paid of the money to be received and taken for the marriage of his son and heir together with the revenues of his lands growing in the time of his nonage if I, his executrix, together with the supervisors, might buy and redeem him, but forso much as it came not so to pass nor to such effect as his said will and my desire was to the same, I will and give unto my said daughter, Elizabeth, the aforesaid sum of three hundred marks to be levied & paid of my goods moveable and unmoveable not bequeathed within the town and lordship of Linslade aforesaid, the which all my goods both moveable & unmoveable I will to be prized and valued immediately after my departure by honest & indifferent men to be appointed and chosen by mine executors;

And of the residue remaining over & above th' aforesaid three hundred marks, I will and give unto my son, Jerome Corbet, towards his finding at learning £9 yearly by the space of 7 years, and other three pounds of the same likewise remaining I will and give yearly to be paid by th' hands of mine executors toward the finding of my daughter, Elizabeth, until such time as she shall be married;

But if it shall fortune my daughter, Elizabeth, to be bestowed in marriage by my lifetime, or chance her to die before the time of my departure out of this present life, then I will the said sum of three hundred marks which she should have had towards her marriage to be evenly divided amongst my three sons, Walter, Robert, and Jerome, and in case one or two of these three depart out of this present life before the distribution of the aforesaid sums, that then his or their parts or portions shall be given to thother surviving, and if they all three depart as is aforesaid (which God forbid), then I will one hundred pounds of the said 300 marks to be evenly divided amongst my two daughters, Margaret and Elizabeth, and if thone of them depart before the distribution aforesaid, thother surviving, then I will the whole to remain to the survivor;

And thother hundred pounds remaining I give and bequeath unto my son Sir Andrew Corbet's three youngest sons, Richard, Reginald and Francis, to be likewise evenly divided amongst them, and if any of them chance to die before the distribution thereof, then I will thother surviving to have the part or parts of him or them so deceased;

Item, I will and bequeath unto the said Elizabeth nine pounds in angels after 10s the piece to make her a chain withal, and my tablet of gold;

Also I will and bequeath unto my well-beloved son Palmes a little round ring of gold, and to my daughter, his wife, one ring with a diamond;

Item, I will unto my son, Walter Corbet, my flagon-chain of gold to the value of £20, the which is in his own hands and keeping;

Item, I will unto Robert Corbet, and to Jerome, his brother, one other chain of gold to the value of £23, to be equally divided amongst them by mine executors;

Also I will unto Robert Corbet my cross of gold, and unto Jerome Corbet I bequeath my brooch of gold;

Item, I will to Reginald Corbet, my son Sir Andrew Corbet's son, one hoop of gold;

Item, I will & bequeath unto Dorothy, my maid, all mine apparel and her whole year's wages, which is 40s, for her pains taken with me in the time of my sickness;

Item, I will and bequeath unto every one of my maiden servants their whole year's wages;

Item, I will and bequeath unto John Rogers, my servant, the bed he now lieth in with all that belongeth unto it, and his whole year's wages;

Item, I will and bequeath unto George Iuet 20s, a quarter of wheat, and two quarters of barley;

Item, I will and bequeath to Sir Jeffery, my priest, 40s;

Item, I will and bequeath unto John Williams 20s in money according unto the discretion of my executors;

Also I will that if my son, Sir Andrew Corbet, knight, will be bound to my executors and overseers in the sum of six hundred pounds for the performance of this my present will and testament in all things as is above-written, then I will him to have all my goods & chattels to remain, or else the same to be sold to the best valor by mine executors, and the money thereof coming to be paid as is afore rehearsed;

And I ordain and make my well-beloved brother, Edmund Windsor, esquire, and John Somer, clerk, parson of Stoke Hammond, mine executors of this my present testament and last will, desiring them to pay my debts and to perform this my present will in all things as is above-written, and for their painstaking in the true fulfilling thereof, I will and give to every one of them five pounds;

And further I constitute and make my well-beloved nephew, Sir Thomas Windsor, knight, overseer of this same my will and testament, beseeching him to see the same in all points performed, unto whom I give for his pains to be taken about the same a stone cup with a cover of silver and gilt, and a little trencher-salt with a cover of silver and gilt;

In witness whereof I, the said Anne, unto this my present last will and testament have set to my hand the 22nd day of September in the fourth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord Edward the Sixth by the grace of God King of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, and of the Church of England and also of Ireland in earth the Supreme Head, in the presence of Jeffery David, Dorothy Woodnet, John Hartwell, Richard Markham and other. Anne Corbet.

Probatum fuit huiusmodi testamentum coram domino Cantuariensis Archiepiscopo apud London Octauo die Mensis Nouembris Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo quinquagesimo primo Iuramento Executorum in huiusmodi testamento nominatorum quibus commissa fuit administracio omnium bonorum &c De bene &c Ac de pleno Inuentario &c exhibendo Ad sancta dei Euangelia Iuratis

[=The same testament was proved before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the eighth day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred and fifty-first by the oath of the executors appointed in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all the goods etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., and to exhibit a full inventory etc.]