

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 20 June 1552 and proved 20 October 1552, of Sir Robert Dormer of Wing, Buckinghamshire.

The testator was the grandson of Geoffrey Dormer the elder (d. 9 March 1503) by his first marriage to a wife named Margery. In 1498 Geoffrey Dormer the elder (d. 9 March 1503) settled the manor of Baldington in Thame on his son Geoffrey the younger and his male heirs, with remainders to his (Geoffrey the elder's) sons Michael Dormer (d. 20 September 1545), Peter Dormer (d.1555), Edward Dormer (d.1539), William Dormer (d.1506) and Thomas Dormer. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., Vol. II, (Salt Lake City, 2011), pp. 420-1. For the will of Sir Michael Dormer, see TNA PROB 11/30, ff. 291-4. For the will of Edward Dormer, see TNA PROB 11/28, ff. 2-3.

It thus appears that of the twelve sons of Geoffrey Dormer the elder (d. 9 March 1503), only the six above-named were still living in 1498, and that William Dormer (d.1506), as the eldest surviving son of Geoffrey Dormer's first marriage, was his heir.

The testator was the only son of William Dormer (d.1506), who appears to have been twice married. In his will William Dormer leaves £300 and a life estate in a third part of his lands to his wife, Agnes, whose surname is unknown, and who was apparently his second wife, as according to Richardson and the *Visitation of Buckinghamshire*, William Dormer's first wife was Jane Launcelyn, the daughter and co-heiress of Sir John Launcelyn, by whom he is said to have had an only son, the testator, Sir Robert Dormer (d.1552), and four daughters, one of whom is said to have married Sir John Baldwin, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. See Rylands, W. Harry, ed., *The Visitation of the County of Buckingham*, Vol. LVIII, (London: Harleian Society, 1909), p. 41; and Richardson, Vol. III, p. 255.

The testator married Jane Newdigate (d. 7 July 1571), by whom he had an only son, Sir William Dormer (d. 17 May 1575), who married firstly, Mary Sidney (d. 10 February 1542), the daughter of Sir William Sidney (d.1554) and Anne Pakenham (d.1543), by whom he had two sons, Thomas and Robert, who died young, and two daughters, Jane Dormer, who married the Duke of Feria, and Anne Dormer, who married Sir Walter Hungerford. Sir William Dormer married secondly, Dorothy Catesby (d.1613), the daughter of Anthony Catesby (d.1554), esquire, of Whiston, Northamptonshire, by whom he had one son, Sir Robert Dormer, 1st Baron Dormer, who married Elizabeth Browne, the daughter of Anthony Browne, 1st Viscount Montague, and six daughters: Mary Dormer, who married Anthony Browne (1552–1592), twin brother of Mary Browne, mother of Henry Wriothesley, 3rd Earl of Southampton; Grissel Dormer; Katherine Dormer, who married John St John, 2nd Baron St John of Bletso (d.1596); Frances Dormer; Amphyllis Dormer; and Margaret Dormer (d.1637), who married Sir Henry Constable (d.1607). After Sir William Dormer's death his widow, Dorothy, married Sir William Pelham (d.1587). See Richardson, Vol. III, pp. 255-6, and Questier, Michael C., *Catholicism and Community in Early Modern England*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006, p. 523.

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For the Dormer family, see also the pedigree of Dormer in Lee, Frederick George, *The History, Description and Antiquities of the Prebendal Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Thame*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1883), p. 505, available online at <http://books.google.ca/books?id=f1oMAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA503>

See also the pedigree of Dormer of Ascot in Wing in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitation of Buckinghamshire*, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1883), p. 11, at <http://www.archive.org/stream/visitationofbuck00harvrich#page/10/mode/2up>.

LM: T{estamentum} Rob{er}ti Dormo{r} mi{li}t{is}

In dei nomine Amen. The 20 day of June the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred fifty and two, I, Sir Robert Dormer, knight, being of whole mind and perfect memory, lauded be God, make this my present testament and last will in form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, and my body to be buried where it shall please Almighty God;

I give and bequeath to the poor people in Wing and West Wycombe, to be egally bestowed by the discretion of mine executors, forty pounds within one month next after my decease;

Item, I bequeath to the reparation of the highways in the parish of Wing and West Wycombe by the discretion of mine executors to be bestowed within one year next after my decease forty pounds;

I give to every servant in my house in Wing, such as be waiting-men one year's wages, and to such as long to husbandry and shepherds, one half year's wages;

Item, I give to my cousin, William Stapleton, ten pounds;

Item, I give to Richard Levet five pounds;

Item, I give to Ede Holford the tenement with th' appurtenances in the which he now dwelleth in without rent for term of his life, keeping reparations and making no waste;

I give to William Clerk ten pounds, and he to enjoy his farm which he now occupieth at Ilmer, paying yearly the usual rent as he now doth for term of his life;

As touching my manors, lands and tenements, I will and bequeath for the further assurance of Jane, my dear and entirely beloved wife, the manors of Wing, Ascot, Broughton and Grove, and all my lands and tenements in Wing, Ascot, Broughton and

Grove, and the manor of Albottes Aston [=Aston Abbotts?] with th' appurtenances, to have to her for term of her life;

I will that my son, William Dormer, assure the manors of Eythrope and Crendwell to his wife, Dorothy, a sufficient estate in lands and tenements parcel of the said manors of Eythrope and Crendwell [=Cranwell?] to the yearly value of forty pounds by the year in possession, & after my decease forty marks more out of the same to make up the sum of one hundred marks, to have to her and her assigns during her life in accomplishment of my promise and agreement made upon marriage to Anthony Catesby, esquire, her father;

I will and bequeath to Jane Dormer and Anne Dormer, daughters to the said William, my son, to either of them an yearly rent of twenty pounds going out of the manors of Huchendon and Rauenersmar otherwise called Ravenersmore in the parishes of Huchendon and Little Missenden for term of their lives, and that it shall be leeful for them to distrain for non-payment of the same;

I give to each of them five hundred marks in money towards their marriages upon condition that they marry and bestow themselves in marriage by th' assent and agreement in writing of my said wife and William, my son, and if they marry without th' assent of them, that then as well the said annuities as the said bequests to be void;

And I give to Robert Dormer, my godson and son to the said William, my nest of gilt bowls of lowfyt(?) and my best chain of gold when he cometh to th' age of 22 [f. 198r] years to be delivered by mine executors;

The residue of all my manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments and the reversion of all other my manors, lands, tenements & hereditaments within the realm of England I give and bequeath to William, my son, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to remain to the right heirs of me, the said Sir Robert Dormer, forever, saving to the King's Majesty title of wardship and primer seisin according to his laws;

The residue of all my goods, chattels and debts after my will performed and my debts paid I give & bequeath unto my foresaid wife and William Dormer, my son, whom I make mine executors of this my present testament and last will, these witness: John Goodwyn, esquire, John Holyman(?), clerk, vicar of Wing, John Bosse, gentleman.

Probatum fuit testamentum coram domino Cantuariensi Archiepiscopo [sic] apud London Vicesimo die Mensis Octobris Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo quinquagesimo secundo Iuramento Willielmi Dormer personaliter presentis et domine Jane Relicte in persona dicitur Willielmi Executorum in huiusmodi testamento nominatorum quibus commissum fuit administratio omnium bonorum & c dicitur defuncti De bene & c

de pleno In{uenta}rio &c exhibend{o} Ad s{an}c{t}a dei Eu{a}ngelia in debita Iuris
forma Iurat{orum}

[=The testament was proved before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the twentieth day of the month of October in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-second by the oath of William Dormer, personally present, and the Lady Jane, relict, in the person of the said William, executors named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all the goods etc. of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels in due form of law to well etc. and to exhibit a full inventory etc.]