

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 14 April 1552 and proved 9 June 1553, of John Newport (d. 1 May 1553), esquire, of Sandon, Hertfordshire.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the Essex and Hertfordshire branch of the Newport family, see the Newport pedigree in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex*, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), Vol. XIII, p. 460 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=JyJvAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA460>

See also the pedigree of Newport of Furneux Pelham, Hertfordshire, in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Hertfordshire*, (London: Harleian Society, 1886), Vol. XXII, p. 79 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=gqwKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA79>

The earliest known member of the Newport family in Rushden was John Newport (d.1499?), for whose Latin will, dated 11 August 1499 and proved 16 July 1500, see TNA PROB 11/12/140. John Newport (d.1499?) was survived by his wife, Joan, but appears to have had no issue. He entailed his lands successively on Thomas, John and George Newport, the sons of Robert Newport of Sandon. It seems likely the testator in the will below was a descendant of Robert Newport of Sandon.

Testator's parents

The identity of the testator's parents is unclear.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The identity of the testator's wife is also unclear. In the pedigrees her Christian name is given as Grace. However this seems doubtful in view of the fact that in the will below the testator mentions his wife, Margaret, who survived him, and that in 'Parishes: Sandon', *infra*, he is said to have had a wife named Margery as early as 1539.

A clue to the identity of the testator's wife is the connection to the Hanchett family of Letchworth, Hertfordshire, indicated by a grant dated 21 April 1524 in Brewer, J.S., *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, of the Reign of Henry VIII*, Vol. IV, Part I, (London: Longman & Co., 1870), p. 125 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=0ACr5HPbYNIC&pg=PA125>

21. *Henry, Earl of Essex. Wardship of John, son and heir of Sir Nicholas Barrington, who was enfeoffed of John Newport and John Leventhorpe to the use of John, son and heir of William Hanchett, as of his manor of Letchworth alias Mountfitchet, held by the service of a third part of a knight's fee, John Hanchet being a minor. Delivered Westminster, 21 April 15 Henry VIII. S.B. Patent p. 1, m. 26.*

William Hanchett (1469 - 2 March 1515) of Letchworth was the son of Thomas Hanchett (d. 20 October 1509). He married Margery Newport, the daughter of John Newport, by whom he had three sons and a daughter, including his eldest surviving son, John Hanchett, mentioned in the foregoing grant:

-**Andrew Hanchett** (d. 1517). See the inquisitions post mortem taken after his death, TNA C 142/31/75. TNA E 150/11/11 and TNA E 150/301/7.

-**William Hanchett** (d. 10 June 1517, aged 12).

-**John Hanchett** (3 November 1514 – 1556), eldest surviving son and heir, aged 2 at his father's death.

-**Grace Hanchett**, who married, as his second wife, John Grey of Barley, who by his first wife was the father of Andrew Grey mentioned in the will of the testator's son and heir, Robert Newport (d.1583). For the marriage of John Grey and Grace Hanchett, see the pedigree of Grey of Segenhoe in Blaydes, Frederic Augustus, ed., *The Visitations of Bedfordshire*, (London: Harleian Society, 1884), Vol. XIX, p. 35 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=yygEAAAIAAJ&pg=PA35>

It should be noted in passing that John Grey's cousin, Elizabeth Grey (b.1492?, d. before 1552), the daughter and heir of Ralph Grey (d. 1 November 1492), esquire, of Brent Pelham, Hertfordshire, married Anthony Waldegrave (d.1571), great uncle of Sir William Waldegrave (c.1540 – 25 August 1613), who in 1572, together with Oxford's first cousin, John Darcy (d.1581), 2nd Baron Darcy of Chiche, jointly entered into guarantees amounting to £5000 for Oxford's debt to the Court of Wards (see TNA C 2/Eliz/T6/48). See the will of Anthony Waldegrave, TNA PROB 11/53/224.

For the foregoing, see the inquisitions post mortem taken after the death of William Hanchett, TNA C 142/31/57, TNA E 150/301/6, TNA C 142/31/111 and TNA E 150/11/1, and Hanchett, Leland J., *The English Ancestry of Thomas Hanchett, Puritan Settler of Connecticut*, (Falmouth, Maine: Pine Rim Publishing, 2015), p. 133 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=akO4DwAAQBAJ&pg=PA133>

In summary, the foregoing suggests that the testator's wife was Margery Newport, daughter of John Newport, and widow of William Hanchett.

In the will below, the testator mentions three sons and a daughter:

* **Robert Newport** (d.1583), esquire, of Sandon, eldest son and heir, whom the testator appoints as his executor, and to whom he leaves all his lands. According to both Newport pedigrees, *supra*, he married Jane Barrington (b.1527), the daughter of Sir (blank) Barrington. For his wife and children, see his will, TNA PROB 11/65/526.

* **George Newport**. He may be the George Newport who rebuilt the chapel at Furneux Pelham and died in 1578. See *Notices and Remains of the Family of Tyrwhitt*, (1858), p. 94 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=UGYBAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA94>

* **Thomas Newport**. His sons, Roger Newport and Henry Newport, are mentioned in the will of their uncle, Robert Newport (d.1583). According to 'Parishes: Sandon', *infra*, Thomas Newport also had a daughter, Clare Newport, who married her cousin, John Newport of East Greenwich, who can perhaps be identified with the John Newport mentioned in an entail in the will below.

* **Jane Newport**, who married William Scrogges.

TESTATOR'S LANDS

For the testator's lands in Sandon, see:

'Parishes: Sandon', in *A History of the County of Hertford: Volume 3*, ed. William Page (London, 1912), pp. 270-276. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/herts/vol3/pp270-276> [accessed 5 November 2019].

The manorial lands were let to John Newport in 1526 (fn. 27) and the lease was renewed to him and his eldest son Robert in 1550. (fn. 28) Robert succeeded his father about 1552, but was disturbed in his possession by his younger brother Thomas and the latter's daughter Clare, who married her cousin John Newport of East Greenwich. (fn. 29) Moreover, in February 1559–60 Robert Dudley Earl of Leicester obtained from the dean and chapter a ninety-nine years' lease of the manorial rights with a reversionary interest in the lands let to Newport, (fn. 30) and conveyed his title to William Hyde of Sandon. (fn. 31) Consequently disputes arose between Hyde and Robert Newport, who feared that Hyde would oust him from his lease and also arrogated to himself the right of holding courts. (fn. 32)

For the testator's lands in Rushden, see:

'Parishes: Rushden', in *A History of the County of Hertford: Volume 3*, ed. William Page (London, 1912), pp. 265-270. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/herts/vol3/pp265-270> [accessed 5 November 2019].

Bradfield Grange alias Fryers Grange (fn. 69) originally formed part of the manor of Broadfield, but there seems no doubt that it lay in Rushden. . . . In 1543 they were granted as 'Bradfield Grange in the parish of Rushden' to Richard Andrewes of Hailes (co. Gloucester), (fn. 77) who in the same year alienated the Grange to John Newport, who for many years had held a lease of it under the abbey of Warden. (fn. 78)

John Newport died in 1552 and his lands passed to his son and heir Robert, aged thirty. (fn. 79) Robert acquired the manor of Rushden (q.v.), and on his death in 1583 Edward Newport inherited his lands. (fn. 80) In 1603 Edward Newport alienated Bradfield Grange

For the testator's lands in Rushden, see also Gairdner, James and R.H. Brodie, *Letters and Papers of the Reign of Henry VIII*, Vol. XVIII, Part 1, (London: His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1901), pp. 535-6 at:

<https://archive.org/details/letterspapersfor18greauoft/page/536>

56. Ric. Andrewes, of Hayles, Glouc., and Nic. Temple. Grant, in fee to the said Ric., for 1,402l. 21d., of . . . Bradfeild grange in the parish of Russhedon, Herts, which belonged to Warden mon., in tenure of John Newporte Pat. p. 3, m. 12.

See also Gairdner, James and R.H. Brodie, *Letters and Papers of the Reign of Henry VIII*, Vol. XVIII, Part 2, (London: His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1902), p. 59 at:

<https://archive.org/details/letterspaperspt218greauoft/page/58>

56. Ric. Andrews, of Hayles, Glouc., and Nic. Temple. Licences to alienate: -- ix. Bradefeilde grange in Russhedon parish, Herts, which belonged to Wardon mon., Beds. in tenure of John Newporte; to John Newporte. Walden. 28 August 1543.

For the testator's 'manor' of Gannock, see:

'Parishes: Sandon', in *A History of the County of Hertford: Volume 3*, ed. William Page (London, 1912), pp. 270-276. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/herts/vol3/pp270-276> [accessed 5 November 2019].

The subsequent history of the Bassingbourn holding at Gannock is obscure. The 'manor' of Gannock was said to be held by John Sawyer at his death in 1525, when it descended to his daughter Elizabeth wife of John Clifford. (fn. 69) It was afterwards found that her father had sold it to Humphrey Monmouth, in whose favour a decree was issued in 1537. (fn. 70) Two years later the manor was sold by Richard Breame (possibly an agent of Monmouth) to John Newport, lessee of Sandon Bury, and Margery his wife. (fn. 71) John died seised of it in 1552 and left it to his eldest son Robert. (fn. 72) In 1600 Edward Newport son of Robert (fn. 73) conveyed the estate to Thomas Morrison.

RM: T{estamentum} Io{hannis} Newport, Armig{er}

In the name of God, Amen. The 14th day of April in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred fifty and two and in the 6th year of the reign of our most dread Sovereign Lord, Edward the Sixth, by the grace of God King of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, and in earth Supreme Head of the Church of England and also of Ireland, I, John Newport of Sandon within the county of Hertford, esquire, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my body to be buried in Christian burial;

Item, I will, give and bequeath to Margaret Newport, my well beloved wife, my lease, interest and term of years that I have in the parsonage of Wallington, to have to her and to her assigns during the residue of my years that I have to come in the said parsonage of Wallington;

And also I will, give and bequeath to my said wife all my household stuff, corn, grain and all other my goods and chattels now being on the said parsonage farm or to the said farm in any wise belonging or appertaining;

Item, I will, give and bequeath to Robert Newport, my eldest son, my lease and interest that I have in the manor, lordship or farm of Sandon aforesaid with the indenture of the same, with all the stock & store that is now on the said farm, manor or lordship, and all other my goods and chattels not before bequeathed, movable and unmovable, whatsoever they be now being in or upon the said manor, lordship or farm or in or upon any part or parcel thereof, with all my plate, jewels and ready money;

To have the said manor, lordship or farm to my said son, Robert, and to his assigns during the residue of my years to come in the same upon condition hereafter following, that is to say, that he, the said Robert, his executors or assigns, shall truly content and pay or do to be contented and paid to my [-my] son, George Newport, his executors or assigns, within four years next after my decease one hundred pounds of current money of England, and to my daughter, Joan Newport, twenty pounds to be paid unto her within one year next after my decease, and to William Scrogges twenty pounds, and to John Newport twenty pounds when he hath accomplished th' age of 21 years;

And if it happen my said son, Robert, to make default and do not pay every of the said sums according to the true meaning of this my last will if it be of him [+or?] his executors lawfully asked, that then my will is that the said George Newport, my son, shall have my said lease of the said manor, lordship or farm of Sandon during the residue of the years then to come of the said lease, and all other my said goods and chattels before to my son, Robert, bequeathed upon condition that he, the said George, [f. 85v] his executors or assigns, shall pay or cause to be paid the said gifts, bequests and legacies

before given and bequeathed within four years next after his entry into the said lordship, manor or farm of Sandon or at such times as I have before appointed by my said will;

Item, I give and bequeath to (blank) of Sandon, my boy, £6 13s 4d to be paid to him when he cometh to th' age of 21 years;

Item, I will, give and bequeath to George Newport, my son, my lease and interest that I have in Kelshn(?) [=Kelshall?], to have to him and to his assigns during the years to come in the same;

Item, I give and bequeath to Thomas, my son, one hundred marks to be paid unto him, his executors or assigns, within four years next after my decease upon condition that he, the said Thomas Newport, within one quarter of a year next after my decease shall by his deed sufficient in law release to my son, Robert Newport, his executors or assigns, all such interest, right and title as he, the said Thomas Newport, pretendeth or claimeth to have in the lordship, manor or farm of Standon [sic?] aforesaid, so that he, the said Robert, his executors and assigns, may at all time and times from thenceforth peaceable [=peaceably] and quietly have, hold, occupy and enjoy the said manor, lordship or farm according to this my will without any let, vexation or disturbance of the said Thomas, his executors or assigns, or of any other person or persons by his procurement, mean or assent;

And if he, the said Thomas Newport, do not make the said release, then I will that my said gift and bequest to him made of the said hundred marks shall be void and of none effect;

The residue of all my goods and chattels not bequeathed, my debts and legacies paid and this my last will performed in everything, I freely give and bequeath to Robert Newport, my son, whom I ordain and make my sole executor of this my last will and testament;

And as to the disposition of all my lands and tenements that I have in Sandon aforesaid or elsewhere within the realm of England, my will is as hereafter followeth:

First I will, give and bequeath to Robert Newport, my son, all my lands, tenements, rents, reversions and hereditaments with all and singular their appurtenances that I have in the towns, fields and parishes of Sandon and Rushden or elsewhere within the county of Hertford, to have to him and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue, I will that all the said lands, tenements and other the premises shall wholly remain to my son, George Newport, and to th' heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue, I will that all the said lands, tenements and other the premises shall wholly remain to John Newport and to th' heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue I will the said lands and tenements and other the premises shall remain to Thomas, my son, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue the remainder thereof to my right heirs forever;

In witness that this is my last will and testament I have subscribed my name and set to my seal the day and year above-written, these being witness: Robert Parson, vicar of Sandon, Richard Lincoln(?), William Parker, with other. By me, John Newport. John Page.

Probatum fuit testamentum coram domino Cantuariensis Archiepiscopo apud London Nono die Mensis Iunij Anno domini millesimo quingentesimo quinquagesimo tercio Iuramento Roberti Newporte executoris in huiusmodi testamento nominatim Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et comissa fuit administratio omnium bonorum Iurium et creditorum dicti defuncti prefati executori De bene et fideliter administrando eadem Ac de pleno Inuentario &c Exhibendo Ad sancta dei Evangelia Iuratim

[=The testament was proved before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the ninth day of the month of June in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-third by the oath of Robert Newport, executor named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased to the forenamed executor, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to exhibit a full inventory etc.]