

SUMMARY: The document below is the will, dated 10 December 1561 and proved 18 February 1562, of Margaret Donnington Kitson Long Bouchier (1510 - 20 December 1561), Countess of Bath, whose son, Sir Thomas Kitson (1540-1603), was closely associated with Oxford's friends, Lord Henry Howard and Charles Arundel, and whose three granddaughters were praised by the poet, Edmund Spenser.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator was the only child of John Donnington (d.1544) of Stoke Newington by Elizabeth Pye. See the *ODNB* entry for the Kitson family, and the entry for the testatrix at:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=669

MARRIAGES AND ISSUE

The testatrix married, as his second wife, Sir Thomas Kitson (1485 - 11 September 1540) of Hengrave, Suffolk, the son of Robert Kitson of Warton, Lancashire. See the *ODNB* entry for Sir Thomas Kitson, and his will, TNA PROB 11/29/2.

Sir Thomas Kitson married firstly a wife whose name is unknown, by whom he had a daughter, the testatrix' stepdaughter:

-Elizabeth Kitson, who married Edmund Crofts (c.1520 – 4 February 1558) of West Stow, Suffolk, by whom she had two sons, Thomas Crofts (b. 12 June 1540, buried 14 April 1612) and Henry Crofts. After the death of Elizabeth Kitson, Edmund Crofts married secondly Eleanor Burgh, the daughter of Thomas Burgh, (c.1488 – 28 February 1550), 1st Baron Burgh, by whom he had a son, John Crofts (d. November 1558), and two daughters, Alice Crofts (buried January 1561) and Margaret Crofts, who married John Southwell of Barham, Suffolk. Thomas Crofts' son, Francis Crofts, the testatrix' godson, is mentioned in the will below. For the Crofts family see *West Stow Parish Registers, 1558 to 1850*, (Woodbridge, Suffolk: George Booth, 1903), pp. 148-50, 168, 179-80 at:

<https://archive.org/details/weststowparishre00hervuoft/page/148>

By Sir Thomas Kitson, the testatrix had a son and four daughters:

* **Sir Thomas Kitson** (1540-1603), born after the death of his father. He married firstly, in 1557, Jane Paget (d.1558), the daughter of William Paget (1505/6–1563), 1st Baron Paget. He married secondly, 'at Kenninghall Palace in December 1560 under the auspices of the duchess of Norfolk', Elizabeth Cornwallis (1546/7–1628), the eldest daughter of Sir Thomas Cornwallis (1518/19–1604) of Brome (whose eldest son and heir purchased Oxford's lease of the mansion of Fisher's Folly).

Sir Thomas Kitson (1540-1603) was responsible for the secret marriage, in 1577, of the testatrix' grandson, William Bouchier (1557 – 12 July 1623), 3rd Earl of Bath, to Mary Cornwallis (see below). From the *ODNB*:

Kitson's efforts were not always crowned with success. In 1577 he had taken advantage of a visit from his young nephew William, fourth earl of Bath, then an undergraduate at Trinity College, Cambridge, to engineer his marriage to Mary Cornwallis, his wife's youngest sister. The marriage ceremony was performed late at night and the couple duly bedded. All seemed well until the young man returned to Cambridge and declared his delight in his new bride to his tutor. His mother was summoned to Cambridge, shut the bridegroom with her in her chamber, and, after what was evidently a scene worthy of her own mother, Margaret, dispatched him far from Hengrave. Although the marriage was judged to be valid, it appears eventually to have been set aside on grounds of disparagement, arising from Mary Cornwallis's Catholicism. Nevertheless, to her family and especially to Kitson, who acknowledged that the marriage had been of his contriving, she remained the rightful countess of Bath, receiving a handsome bequest of £300 under Sir Thomas Kitson's will and an annuity of £20 from her sister in 1626, which she was able to enjoy until her own death in 1627.

Sir Thomas Kitson was the subject of interrogatories put to Charles Arundel by the authorities in early January 1581 in connection with allegations made by Charles Arundel and Lord Henry Howard against Oxford at that time:

What papers and printings did you and the Lord Henry burn together? What did you at Sir Thomas Kitson's, and whether did you hear any Mass there, and whether did you burn any writings there?

To which Charles Arundel responded:

Other errand had we none at Sir Thomas Kitson's than to dine, and I some business with Sir Thomas Cornwallis.

See TNA SP 12/151/47, ff. 105-6 and TNA SP/151/48, ff. 107-8.

* **Frances Kitson** (buried 4 April 1586), who married firstly her stepbrother, John Bouchier (1529 – 28 February 1557), Lord Fitzwarin, son of John Bouchier (c.1499 - 10 February 1561), 2nd Earl of Bath, by his second wife, Eleanor Manners (buried 16 September 1547), by whom she had a son, William Bouchier (1557 – 12 July 1623), 3rd Earl of Bath, who succeeded his grandfather, the 2nd Earl of Bath, and married firstly, in a secret marriage at night, Mary Cornwallis (d.1627), the youngest daughter of Sir Thomas Cornwallis (see above). William Bouchier, 3rd Earl of Bath, married secondly, on 7 August 1583, Elizabeth Russell (d. 24 March 1605), second daughter of Francis Russell (1526/7-1585), 2nd Earl of Bedford.

Frances Kitson's first husband, Lord Fitzwarin, died in the lifetime of his father, and after his death Frances Kitson married, about September 1557, William Barnaby of Great Saxham, Suffolk, 'land agent to the Earl of Bath, which marriage gave great offence to her friends'. See Cokayne, George Edward, *The Complete Peerage*, Vol. II, (London: St Catharine Press, 1912), pp. 16-18, and Vol. V, (London: St Catharine Press, 1926), p. 511. For William Barnaby, see Taylor, Martyn, *A-Z of Bury St Edmunds*, (Stroud, Gloucestershire: Amberley Publishing, 2016), at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=dWjWDAAAQBAJ&pg=PT130>

For the will of Frances Kitson, dated 1 March 1586 and proved 16 April 1586, see TNA PROB 11/69/188. For the will of Mary Cornwallis, see TNA PROB 11/151/729. For the will of John Bouchier, 2nd Earl of Bath, proved 22 April 1561, see TNA PROB 11/44/139. For the will of William Bouchier, 3rd Earl of Bath, proved 25 September 1623, see TNA PROB 11/142/325.

* **Katherine Kitson** (d. by 10 December 1561), who married Sir John Spencer (d.1586), by whom she had four sons and eight daughters. See Collins, Arthur, *The Peerage of England*, Vol. II, Part I, (London: R. Gosling and T. Wotton, 1735), p. 229 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ITw-AAAACAAJ&pg=PA229>

Three of the daughters of Sir John Spencer and Katherine Kitson were praised by the poet Edmund Spenser as 'Phyllis, Charillis, and sweet Amaryllis' in *Colin Clout's Come Home Again* (1595).

The testatrix' son-in-law, Sir John Spencer, is named an executor in the will below.

* **Dorothy Kitson** (1531 - 2 May 1577) who married firstly Sir Thomas Pakington (d. 2 June 1571), the son of Robert Pakington (1489-1536), great-uncle of Humphrey Martyn, the addressee of the *Langham Letter* describing Leicester's entertainment of Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575. See the will of Robert Pakington, TNA PROB 11/27/46.

The testatrix' son-in-law, Sir Thomas Pakington, is named an executor in the will below.

Dorothy Kitson married secondly Sir Thomas Tasburgh (c.1554-1602), for whom see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/tasburgh-thomas-1554-1602>

* **Anne Kitson**, who married Sir William Spring (d. 3 February 1600?) of Pakenham, Suffolk, son and heir of Sir John Spring (d. 12 August 1547) by Dorothy Waldegrave (buried 10 April 1564?), and grandson of the wealthy clothier, Thomas Spring (d.1523) of Lavenham, Suffolk (for whose will see TNA PROB 11/21/179). For the will of Sir

John Spring, see TNA PROB 11/32/430. For the will of Dorothy (nee Waldegrave) Spring, see TNA PROB 11/47/337. See also Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 641-2.

On 19 February 1583, Sir William Spring purchased Oxford's manor of Earls Hall (see TNA C 54/1171, Part 25).

For Sir William Spring, see also the Wikipedia article edited by the author of this website at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Spring_of_Lavenham

After the death of Sir Thomas Kitson, the testatrix married secondly, by settlement dated 10 November 1541, Sir Richard Long (d. 29 September 1546), of Shingay, Cambridgeshire, Gentleman of the Privy Chamber, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/31/302.

By Sir Richard Long, the testatrix had a son and three daughters:

* **Henry Long** (d. 15 April 1573), godson of Henry VIII, and first husband of Dorothy Clerke (d.1618), the stepdaughter of Lord Burghley's long-time servant, Roger Alford (c.1530-1580). See the will of Roger Alford, TNA PROB 11/62/442, and the will of Henry Long, TNA PROB 11/55/169.

* **Jane Long**.

* **Katherine Long**, who married Edward Fisher of Ichington, Warwickshire.

* **Mary Long**.

After the death of Sir Richard Long, the testatrix married thirdly, in December 1548, as his third wife, John Bouchier (c.1499 - 10 February 1561), 2nd Earl of Bath, by whom she had two daughters:

* **Susan Bouchier**.

* **Bridget Bouchier**.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

For Sir Thomas Cornwallis (1518/19–1604) of Brome, whose eldest son and heir purchased Oxford's lease of the mansion of Fisher's Folly, see his will, TNA PROB 11/105/106.

For Sir William Cordell, see his will, TNA PROB 11/63/590. Sir William Cordell was one of five trustees appointed by Oxford in an indenture of 30 January 1575 prior to his departure on his continental tour.

For the testatrix' friend, Sir John Sulyard (c.1518-1575), see his will, TNA PROB 11/57/552, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/sulyard-john-1518-75>

For Henry Payne (d. 25 July 1568), see his will, TNA PROB 11/51/39, and:

<https://minerdescent.com/2013/02/14/william-payne-sr/>

For his role in proving the will of the testatrix' first husband, Sir Thomas Kitson, see Copinger, W.A., *The Manors of Suffolk*, Vol. 7 (Manchester: Taylor, Garnett, Evans & Co. Ltd., 1911), pp. 523 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/cu31924092579600#page/n65/mode/2up>

LM: Margarete Comitisse de Bathe

In the name of God, Amen. The tenth day of December in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred threescore and one after the computation of the Church of England, I, Margaret, Countess of Bath, late wife of the right honourable John, Earl of Bath, deceased, being in good perfect remembrance and in good health of body, laud and praise be to Almighty God, make this my present testament and last will in manner and form following, that is to say:

First and principally I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my Maker and Redeemer, and my body to be buried where it shall please God to take me out of this transitory life, and according to the discretions of my executors;

And I give and bequeath unto the young Earl of Bath one hundred pounds of lawful money of England, and his grandfather's ring with a seal of arms, and all such stuff and implements of household as do now remain [+at?] my house of Tawstock in the county of Devon, [+and?] I will that the custody of the said hundred pounds remain in the custody of my daughter Fitzwarin, his mother, until he shall attain unto the age of one and twenty years;

Also I give unto my daughters, the Ladies Susan and Bridget, eighteen hundred marks, that is to say, to either of them nine hundred marks to be paid at their several ages of eighteen years or at their several days of marriage which shall first happen, over and besides six hundred marks covenanted by the said late Earl before marriage between him

and me had to be paid to the daughters that should be had between us during the said marriage, as by a pair of indentures thereof had and made more plainly appeareth;

And I will the same several legacies of nine hundred marks shall remain in the meantime in the custody of my executors to be employed to such uses as with the profits and commodities ensuing thereof the charges of the keeping of my said two daughters may be borne, with some further advancement if it may be so raised;

And if any of them shall fortune to depart out of this world before their marriages or being of the said age of eighteen years, then I will that the other of them overliving shall have the whole legacy of eighteen hundred marks to be paid as is aforesaid;

And if it fortune that they both depart out of this world before they shall be married or to be of th' age of eighteen years, then I will that all their said legacies above-written by me given to them shall remain to all my children overliving them, and equally to be divided amongst them;

And I give also to my said daughter, the Lady Susan, my tablet of gold of the coin of double ducat;

And I give unto my said daughter, the Lady Bridget, my best book of gold set with diamonds and turquoises;

Item, I give to my daughter-in-law [=step-daughter?], the Lady Elizabeth Bouchier, two hundred marks of lawful money of England;

Item, I give to my son-in-law [=stepson], George Bouchier, esquire, forty pounds of lawful money;

And whereas my late husband, Sir Richard Long, knight, deceased, gave and bequeathed in his last will and testament unto Jane, Katherine and Mary, his daughters, to every of them an hundred marks, which I will be paid unto them according to the said last will;

And further I give unto the said Jane, Katherine and Mary, my daughters, besides the foresaid bequests of their father, to every of them six hundred marks of good and lawful money of England to be paid unto them with their father's bequest at such [+time?] as they or any of them shall come to their several ages of eighteen years or at their several days of marriage, which shall first happen;

And I will that if any of them shall fortune to depart out of this world before their marriages or being of the age of eighteen years, then I will that the survivor or survivors of them shall enjoy their legacies so deceased;

And I will that my executors take such order with all the said bequests, that is to say, to put all the money to such use that the profit thereof may find them until such time as their

legacies be paid to them whereby no part of their legacies nor bequests should be [f. 33r] diminished, but to have it wholly according unto this my will;

And if it fortune that all my said three daughters depart out of this world before their marriages or to be of eighteen years of age, then I will that all the said legacies above-written by me given to them shall remain to Anne, Thomas and Henry, my children, equally to be divided amongst them;

And further I give and bequeath unto my said son, Thomas Kitson, two hundred pounds in plate, and his father's best chain of gold, and his best turquoise ring of gold, and fifteen pieces of hangings of tapestry-work which late were the said Earl's, my late husband, and all the household stuff of what kind soever it be, and all the harnesses and jacks with all other munitions of war remaining and being at my house at Hengrave, Chevington and Newington and there remaining at the hour of my death, plate, jewels, one cypress chest with all the linen cloths therein contained only excepted;

And I do give unto my daughter Kitson my carcanet of pearl with a flower of diamonds hanging upon the same lace, and also my unicorn's bone;

And furthe[r] I give unto Henry Long, my son, one hundred pounds in money or in plate, and one chain of gold which was the said Earl's, my late husband;

And also I give unto him his own wardship and marriage with the profits of such lands as I have in allowance towards his finding, and all the household stuff remaining at my death in my son Kitson's house which I have commonly dwelled in now in London, and at my houses of Shingay and Herdwicke [=Hardwick?], plate and jewels and such stuff of household as late were the said Earl's before marriage had between him and me only excepted;

And I will that the same legacies by me so given to the same Henry to be paid to him at his age of 21 years;

And if he fortune to depart out of this world before his said age of 21 years, then I will the same legacy to be equally divided amongst all my children;

Also I give unto the Lady Frances Fitzwarin, my daughter, my two best gowns and my two best kirtles, my best girdle of gold and my best biliment of gold set with pearl, and one cypress chest and all the linen cloths therein contained with other things of divers sorts meet for women lying in childbed;

Also I give to the Lady Pakington, my daughter, twenty pounds of lawful money of England, a brooch with a great diamond, and my second ring set with a diamond;

Also I give to my daughter, Anne Spring, forty pounds of lawful money of England, one gown, one kirtle, a brooch, a biliment, and my tablet with a sapphire, and also I give unto

her all such household stuff as was the said late Earl's which sometime remained at his house in Holborne and now at my son Kitson's house in Milk Street;

And I give also unto John Spring, her son, threescore pounds to be paid unto him at his age of twenty and one years, and I will the same legacy of threescore pounds shall remain in the meantime in the custody of my executors to be employed to such uses as with the commodity and profit rising thereof the charges of the keeping & learning of him may be partly therewith borne;

And if it fortune the said John Spring to decease before he attain and come to the age of twenty and one years, then I will and bequeath the said legacy of threescore pounds unto my said daughter Spring, his mother;

Also I give unto Jane Long, my daughter, a gown, a kirtle, a biliment, a brooch, a flagon-chain of gold;

Also I give unto Katherine Long, my daughter, a gown, a kirtle, a biliment, a brooch [+&?] my little long girdle of gold;

Also I give to Mary Long, my daughter, 2 gowns, 2 kirtles, a plain chain of gold, a carcanet of gold, and one lace of pearl;

And also I give unto the eldest daughter of the late Lady Spencer, my daughter, now deceased, my best brooch;

And my mind and will is that every one of my daughters aforesaid shall be at their pleasure to choose of mine apparel which they will have in order like as they stand hereabove written and named;

And also I give unto my said son, Thomas Kitson, all the deare [=deer?], plough horses and plough geldings and all cart-horses, with all the ploughs, carts, harnesses, irons and implements of husbandry which shall be at the time of my decease at or upon the manors of Chevington and Hengrave, and also all the milch kine, bulls, young bullocks, yearlings and weanlings, weanels which then shall be upon the same manors;

Also I give unto my said son, Henry Long, all such stocks and stores of goods, chattels and other things as lyen or shall be at the time of my decease in or upon any manors, lands or tenements of the inheritance of the same Henry, oxen and geldings only excepted;

And also I will and desire my executors to put in safekeeping all the evidences belonging to my said son, Henry, whereby he may come safely unto them at his lawful age as my trust is in them;

And where I, the said Lady Margaret, Countess of Bath, have made and declared this my last will and testament and by the same will and testament I have given and bequeathed to

my sons, Thomas Kitson and Henry Long, and to my daughters divers and sundry gifts of money, plate, jewels and stuff of household and other things much to their advancement, I specially desire my said sons and daughters and every of them to permit and suffer all and every such person and persons and their assigns severally to whom I only and jointly with my said late husband have made any patent or grant in writing of any office or annuity or any grant of lease of years by indenture concerning any manors, [f. 33v] lands or tenements or hereditaments which I have and hold for term of life or otherwise, so that those persons to whom any such lease, grant or patent is made may peaceably and quietly have, hold and enjoy severally their several grants, patents, fees, offices and leases according to the true meaning of their several writings made concerning the same which were made unto them upon great considerations, either for good service done unto me or else for divers and sundry sums of money by me received for the same;

That if it shall happen my said sons and daughters or any of them at any time hereafter to interrupt, let, hinder or disturb any of the said persons to whom I have made or granted any lease, patent or fee as is aforesaid of any of the said leases, fees or offices, that then every of my said sons and daughters so making any let, interruption or hindrance shall lose so much benefit, profit, advantage and commodity of all such money, plate, stuff, jewels and other things by me severally given and devised unto them by this my said testament and last will as shall fully recompense and pay the said persons being disturbed and hindered which gave and disbursed any sums of money unto me for the said grants and leases, and full recompense being made of the same, the residue of their said legacies, gifts and bequests which shall remain, the said satisfaction and recompense being made to those persons so being let, disturbed and put from their leases, fees, grants, offices or annuities, shall remain and be restored unto my said sons and daughters;

And also I give unto my son-in-law, William Barnaby, one hundred pounds of good and lawful money of England and ring of gold with a diamond;

And also I give unto my servants hereafter following, that is to say, to Walter Trevelyane, John Dawson, Robert Russell, Richard Byet and Richard Colcole, to every of them five pounds;

Also I give to all my servants being not servants of husbandry dwelling with me in my house at the hour of my death and have been my servants one year complete at the time of my decease, except them that be particularly above-named, to either of them three pounds;

And I give also to every servant of my son Kitson forty shillings;

Also I give to Thomas Hubberde, my servant, forty shillings;

And I give also to Anne Dawson forty shillings;

And also I give to John Dassel for taking of pains and writing of this my testament five marks;

And further as touching my funerals and funeral charges and giving of black gowns which I refer to my executors, willing them by their discretions to expend such charges about the same as shall seem to them good;

And I will also that for the better payment of all the said several sums of money bequeathed and for the performance of this my testament that my executors immediately after my decease shall have the disposition of all my ready money, order and sale of all the plate, goods, chattels, jewels and apparel & such stuff which I shall have at the time of my decease or shall be remaining at or upon the manor of Hengrave or elsewhere other than such goods and chattels, apparel and jewels as I have before given to my said sons, Thomas Kitson and Henry Long, and my said daughters and others, to be employed and bestowed about the same purpose and effect in fulfilling of this my testament;

The rest of all my goods that shall remain I give to all my daughters being unmarried at the hour of my death;

And of this my present testament and last will I ordain and make my executors my trusty and well beloved sons-in-law, Sir John Spencer and Sir Thomas Pakington, knights, my son, Thomas Kitson, and my son-in-law, William Barnaby, and to be associate executor with them my loving friend, Henry Payne, to which executors I give to every of them for their painstaking twenty pounds;

And I most heartily desire the right worshipful my brother, Sir Thomas Cornwallis, knight, to be aider to my executors in the performing of this my testament and last will, to whom I do give in token of remembrance one ring of gold of the value of five marks;

And also I give to the right worshipful Sir William Cordell and to my right loving friend, Sir John Sulyard, knights, to every of them one ring of gold of the said value of five marks;

In witness whereof I, the said Lady Margaret, Countess of Bath, have to this my present testament and last will set to my seal and subscribed my name with my own hand the day and year first above-written. Margaret Bathon.

Witnesses of this present testament: Henry Long, esquire, Walter Treviliane, Edmund Ashfield, gentleman, Thomas Gibbons, Robert Russell, Martin Garrett.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum coram mag^{ist}ro Waltero Haddon Legum doctore Curie prerogatiue Cant^{uariensis} Archi^ep^{iscop}i(?) Custode sive Commissario Iuramento Thome Kytsonne executoris in eodem no^miⁿatⁱ decimo octavo die februarij anno D^{omi}ni 1561 Cui Commissa fuit administracio bonorum h^{uius}mo^di De bene &c Ac de fideli et pleno Inventario exhibend^o necnon de fideli Comp^{ot}o inde reddend^o Ad s^{an}ct^a dei Evangelia Iurat^o Reservata

p{otes}tate similem Commissionem alijs executorib{us} Et post p{re}missa viz s{e}c{un}do die Novembris Anno D{omi}ni 1562 Henricus Paine Alter executor{um} p{re}dictor{um} ex certis caus{is} Animu{m} suum moventibus oneri executionis h{uius}mo{d}i test{amenti} expresse Renunciant{e}(?) xxo Novembris 1562 Ioh{ann}es Spenser miles alter ex{ecuto}r{um} p{re}dict{orum} ex cert{is} caus{is} anim{u}m suum moven{tibus} on{er}i ex{ecutio}nis h{uius}mo{d}i test{ament}i expresse renunciant{e}(?)

[=The above-written testament was proved before Master Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of the Archbishop of Canterbury, by the oath of Thomas Kitson, executor named in the same testament, on the eighteenth day of February in the year of the Lord 1561, to whom administration was granted of the goods of the same, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc. and to exhibit a faithful and full inventory, and also to render a faithful account thereof, with power reserved for a similar grant to be made to the other executors. And after the premises, viz., on the second day of November in the year of the Lord 1562, Henry Payne, another of the executors aforesaid, for certain causes him moving expressly renounced the burden of the execution of the same testament. 20th November 1562 John Spencer, knight, another of the executors aforesaid, for certain causes him moving, expressly renounced the burden of the execution of the same testament.]