

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 1 March 1568 and proved 11 December 1569, of Henry Vernon (d. 29 September 1569) of Sudbury, Derbyshire.

The testator was the son of Sir John Vernon (d. 4 February 1545) of Sudbury and Ellen or Helen Montgomery, one of the three daughters and co-heiresses of Sir John Montgomery (d.1513).

The testator married Margaret Swynnerton, the elder of the two daughters of Humphrey Swynnerton (d. 25 August 1562), esquire, of Swynnerton and Hilton, Staffordshire, and Cassandra Gifford (buried 7 January 1570), the daughter of Sir John Gifford (d. 13 November 1556), of Chillington, Staffordshire, by his first wife Joan Hoorde (d. 8 December 1481), daughter of Sir Thomas Hoorde of Bridgnorth, Shropshire. For Humphrey Swynnerton see his will, dated 6 July 1561 and proved 9 February 1563, TNA PROB 11/46/89, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/swynnerton-humphrey-1516-62>.

Sir John Gifford (d. 13 November 1556) married secondly Elizabeth Gresley, the daughter of Sir William Gresley of Drakelow, by whom he had a son, Sir Thomas Gifford (d. 27 May 1560), who married firstly Dorothy Montgomery, the daughter and co-heiress of Sir John Montgomery (d.1513) (see above), by whom he had an only daughter, Elizabeth Gifford, who married Sir John Port (d. 6 June 1557) of Etwall (for whose will see TNA PROB 11/39/245). Sir Thomas Gifford (d. 27 May 1560) married secondly Ursula Throckmorton (d. 15 March 1581), the daughter of Sir Robert Throckmorton (c.1451-1518), by whom he had four sons and five daughters, including John Gifford (d.1613), who married Joyce Leveson (d. 14 March 1608), the daughter of James Leveson of Lilleshall, Shropshire, by whom he was the father of several sons and daughters including the spy, Gilbert Gifford (1560–1590), for whom see the *ODNB* entry, and Cassandra Gifford (buried 5 January 1616), who married Erasmus Wolseley (d. 15 January 1599). See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. IV, pp. 363-4, and the pedigree of Gifford at:

'The parish of Church Eaton: High Onn', *Staffordshire Historical Collections*, vol. 4 (1883), pp. 52-63. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=52409>.

Sources differ as to the date of the testator's marriage to Margaret Swynnerton; according to one source he was married by 1540, while another source gives the date of his marriage as 8 March 1547. Sources also differ as to the date of Margaret Swynnerton's death; according to one source she died in 1587, according to another in 1591.

Margaret Swynnerton's sister, Elizabeth Swynnerton (d. 4 April 1616), married firstly William Fitzherbert (d.1558), fourth son of Sir Anthony Fitzherbert (c.1470-1538), Justice of the Common Pleas, by whom she had two sons, the Jesuit, Thomas Fitzherbert

(4 September 1552 - 7 August 1640), and Anthony Fitzherbert (who married Mary Heveningham), and a daughter, Anne Fitzherbert, who married Sir Walter Heveningham (died c. 13 January 1536) of Pipe Hall, Staffordshire. Elizabeth Swynnerton married secondly, Francis Gatacre (d.1590), by whom she had a son, William Gatacre (born 1565).

See the *ODNB* entries for Sir Anthony Fitzherbert and Thomas Fitzherbert, and Swynnerton, Charles, 'Notes on the Family of Swynnerton' in Llewellynn Jewitt, ed., *The Reliquary*, (London: Bemrose & Sons), Vol. XX, 1879-80, pp. 106-8 at:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=qJs1AAAAMAAJ&pg=PA108&lpg=PA108&dq=%22Margaret+Swynnerton%22+%22George+Wynter%22&source=bl&ots=b3khssdPvF&sig=zSId4ZTYFNfOWEC6vPU4HaiJbT0&hl=en&sa=X&ei=r-7SU9n8KaP_igLs24Bw&ved=0CBwQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22Margaret%20Swynnerton%22%20%22George%20Wynter%22&f=false.

For Sir Walter Heveningham and his sister, Mary Heveningham, see his will, proved 23 May 1636, TNA PROB 11/171/179, and:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~heveningham/page23.html>.

See also the pedigree of Gatacre in Grazebrook, George, and John Paul Rylands, eds., *The Visitation of Shropshire Taken in the Year 1623*, Part I, (London: Harleian Society, 1889), Vol. XXVIII, p. 198 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationshrop00britgoog#page/n252/mode/2up>.

For Sir John Gifford (d. 13 November 1556), see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/Gifford-sir-john-146566-1556>.

For Sir Thomas Gifford (d. 27 May 1560), see his will, TNA PROB 11/43/5, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/Gifford-thomas-1491-1560>.

See also the pedigree of Gifford in Maclean, John and W.C. Heane, eds., *The Visitation of the County of Gloucester Taken in the Year 1623*, (London: 1885), pp. 249-50, at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofcoun00inchit#page/250/mode/2up>.

For the will of the testator's mother-in-law, Cassandra (nee Gifford) Vernon, see Bridgman, *infra*, p. 58, and Jewitt, Llewellynn, ed., *The Reliquary*, Vol. XXIII, 1882-3, p. 223 at:

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http://books.google.ca/books?id=g501AAAAMAAJ&pg=PA223&lpg=PA223&dq=%22Cassandra+Swynnerton%22&source=bl&ots=1XDEJiMTw1&sig=I0wHCpiQ5o5-hbfUky3hO_hHrwQ&hl=en&sa=X&ei=11rdU63ZF4KEjAK_1oG4Dw&ved=0CCsQ6AEwAw#v=onepage&q=%22Cassandra%20Swynnerton%22&f=false.

After the testator's death, Margaret (nee Swynnerton) married, on 30 August 1578, George Wynter, who starved her, according to a deed under her seal in the 26th year of the reign of Elizabeth I (1583-4) in Vol. IV of the Chetwynd MSS. See Bridgman, George Thomas Orlando, 'An Account of the Family of Swynnerton', in *Collections for a History of Staffordshire*, (London: Harrison and Sons, 1886), Vol. VII, Part II, p. 59 at:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=V204AAAIAAJ&pg=RA1-PA59&lpg=RA1-PA59&dq=%22henry+Vernon+of+Hilton%22&source=bl&ots=vPFPE7Jp26&sig=SWXRerRTCTHGT-d_M5-IY83RXNg&hl=en&sa=X&ei=ITDQU-WfFKq1iQLo9oHoBQ&ved=0CEoQ6AEwBA#v=onepage&q=%22henry%20Vernon%20of%20Hilton%22&f=false.

For further details concerning the testator see his inquisitions post mortem, TNA C 142/153/23 and TNA C 142/245/87; the wardship of his eldest son, TNA Wards 7/12/86; the will of his second son, Henry Vernon (d. 21 June 1592) of Hilton, Staffordshire, TNA PROB 11/80/156; Bridgman, *supra*, pp. 57-60, 118; and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/vernon-henry-1523-69>.

The testator and Margaret Swynnerton had two sons, John and Henry, and three daughters:

* John Vernon (d. 8 July 1600), who married Mary Littleton (1560 – 17 December 1622), the daughter of Sir Edward Littleton (d. 19 July 1574) of Pillaton (for whose will see TNA PROB 11/62/450) by Alice Cokayne (1535-1602), sister of Sir Thomas Cokayne (d. 5 November 1592), and daughter of Francis Cokayne (d. 5 August 1538) of Ashbourne, Derbyshire, and Dorothy Marowe, daughter of Thomas Marowe (d.1505), serjeant at law, but died without issue. See the will of Thomas Marowe, TNA PROB 11/14/514, and Grazebrooke, H. Sydney, ed., *The Visitation of Staffordshire*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1883), p. 110 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitacionofstaf00graz#page/110/mode/2up>.

See also Cokayne, Andreas Edward, *Cokayne Memoranda*, (Congleton, 1869), pp. 24-9 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/cockaynememorand01coka#page/24/mode/2up>.

See also 'Littleton of Pileton-Hall, Staffordshire' in Betham, William, *The Baronetage of England*, (Ipswich: Burrell and Bransby, 1801), Vol I, p. 310 at:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=LIQOAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA310&lpg=PA310&dq=%22Sir+Edward+Littleton+of%22&source=bl&ots=D5mnebGKNj&sig=qdUWrV4ff_Axt2n6AKs3dndWnzA&hl=en&sa=X&ei=ZAsSVO2xF-a_igKo3YD4Bg&ved=0CEUQ6AEwBQ#v=onepage&q=%22Sir%20Edward%20Littleton%20of%22&f=false.

See also the entry for Mary Littleton (1560 – 17 December 1622) at:

<http://www.kateemersonhistoricals.com/TudorWomenL.htm>.

John Vernon and Mary Littleton are commemorated by an inscription at Sudbury:

Here lieth the body of John Vernon, esquire, the son of Henry Vernon, son of Sir John Vernon, knight, and of Helen, one of the daughters and coheirs of Sir John Montgomery, by the which Helen the manor of Sudbury and divers other lordships & lands lineally descended unto the said John Vernon, who deceased at Upton in the county of Essex the 8th day of July anno domini 1600, from whence his body was conveyed & here interred, and this monument erected by Mary, his wife, daughter to Sir Edward Littleton of Pillaton Hall in the county of Stafford, knight.

Here is interred the body of Mary, daughter of Sir Edward Littleton, wife first to Walter Vernon of Houndhill, esquire, to whom she bare 5 sons and 4 daughters. After 7 years widowhood she married John Vernon of Sudbury, esquire . . . And having lived a virtuous matron 22 years in her later widowhood maintaining good hospitality to the daily relief of the poor she willingly and in godly manner exchanged this life for a better the 17 day of December 1622 in the 62 year of her age. To whose memory her eldest son, Edward Vernon, esquire, caused this monument to be erected.

See Cox, J. Charles, *Notes on the Churches of Derbyshire*, (London: Bemrose and Sons, 1877), Vol. III, pp. 92, 322-3 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/notesonchurcheso03coxjiala#page/322/mode/2up>.

See also Jewitt, Llewellynn, 'A Note on Some Armorial Bearings on the Tower of Cubley Church, Derbyshire', *The Reliquary*, Vol. XV, (London: Bemrose & Sons, 1874-5), p. 6 at:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=-Jg1AAAAMAAJ&pg=PA6&lpg=PA6&dq=%22Sir+John+Vernon%22+%22Ellen+Montgomery%22&source=bl&ots=x0jQml0PHL&sig=mcfB_4PrBI7EQeXpndEIXxHpFGk&hl=en&sa=X&ei=cSLQU4LEHdfaoASwuILYAQ&ved=0CDQ6AEwBQ#v=onepage&q=%22Sir%20John%20Vernon%22%20%22Ellen%20Montgomery%22&f=false.

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Mary Littleton's first husband, Walter Vernon (1552-1592), was the son of Thomas Vernon (d. 17 January 1557) of Houndhill, Staffordshire, and Eleanor Shirley (buried 28 April 1595). See the will of George Vernon, TNA PROB 11/37/222; and Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. IV, p. 29 at:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=8JcbV309c5UC&pg=RA3-PA29&lpg=RA3-PA29&dq=%22Thomas+Vernon%22+%22Eleanor+Shirley%22&source=bl&ots=kviCKXPR92&sig=MbM-vJMSWqhGf_hWEy6k9KwJ_js&hl=en&sa=X&ei=Sg4SVN6ZGcj0iQKfjoC4Cw&ved=0CDwQ6AEwBw#v=onepage&q=%22Thomas%20Vernon%22%20%22Eleanor%20Shirley%22&f=false

Walter Vernon's sister, Dorothy Vernon (buried 24 December 1620), married, by 1580, Job Throckmorton (d. February 1601) of Haseley, Warwickshire, who was involved in the printing of the Marprelate tracts in 1589. See the *ODNB* article on Job Throckmorton; Carlson, Leland H., *Martin Marprelate, Gentleman; Master Job Throckmorton Laid Open in His Colors*, (San Marino, California: Huntington Library, 1981), pp. 129, 378 (citing Shaw, Stebbing, *The History and Antiquities of Staffordshire*, 2 vols. (London, 1798), 1801) I (Hanbury): 85-88, 398-404); and the History of Parliament entry for Job Throckmorton at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/throckmorton-job-1545-1601>.

See also:

<https://histfam.familysearch.org/getperson.php?personID=I153563&tree=EuropeRoyalNobleHous>.

See also Fetherston, John, ed., *The Visitation of the County of Warwick in the Year 1619*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1877), pp. 89, 207 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationcount01britgoog#page/n232/mode/2up>.

* Henry Vernon (d. 21 June 1592) of Hilton, Staffordshire, the second son of the testator and Margaret Swynnerton, for whom see his will, TNA PROB 11/80/156.

* Margaret Vernon, to whom the testator leaves a bequest in the will below, but about whom nothing further is known.

* Mary Vernon, to whom the testator leaves a bequest in the will below, but about whom nothing further is known.

* Dorothy Vernon, who is named in the will below in connection with the testator's monument but is not left a bequest, and appears to have predeceased the testator.

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For the testator's cousin, Reginald Corbet (c.1510 – 19 November 1566), see his will, TNA PROB 11/49/18; the *ODNB* entry; and the pedigree of Corbet of Morton in Grazebrook, *supra*, p. 138 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationshrop00britgoog#page/n192/mode/2up>.

For the testator's executor, Richard Harpur (d.1577) of Swarkstone, Derbyshire, Justice of the Common Pleas, see the *ODNB* entry and his will, TNA PROB 11/59/108.

For the testator's executor, Sir Humphrey Bradbourne (d. 17 April 1581), see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/bradbourn-sir-humphrey-1513-81>.

For Sudbury, Derbyshire, see:

<http://www.sudburyestate.com/history.html>.

For Hazlebadge, near Tideswell, Derbyshire, see:

<http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/place/1772>.

LM: T{estamentum} Henrici Vernon

[f. 178v] In the name of God, Amen. The first day of March in the year of Our Lord God 1567 and in the ninth year of the reign of Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., I, Henry Vernon, esquire, whole in body and in good mind and perfect remembrance, seeing this wretched world and the uncertainty of the day of death, the which no living thing shall overpass, therefore for my part of vigilancy for the disposition of my lands and other my worldly substance thus I declare my last will and testament:

First I give and bequeath my soul to Almighty God which redeemed me and all mankind with his most precious blood, whereby I trust to be a saved soul and one of the holy company of heaven;

And because I go into the Queen's Majesty's wars, I will my body, which is but carrion, to take chance as fortuneth to other men's bodies in wars, but my true intent and meaning is and shall be to have it in Christian man's burial, which I remit to Almighty God and to such other my friends as shall fortune to be present and living when I die in the field;

Item, I will that as soon as my executors shall hear of my death they shall give and distribute three pounds of current money to poor people, and every Friday after during one whole year 7d to the poor;

Item, I will that mine executors shall bestow 20 marks of a tomb whereupon shall be the pictures of me and my wife, and at the feet thereof the pictures of John, Margaret, Mary, Dorothy and Henry, our children, and about the sides of the said tomb to be written the day of my death and in what service, the same tomb to be set in the chancel of the parish church of Sudbury, the head of it to stand the place where I have been accustomed to kneel, and the right side to join to the wall;

Item, I give and bequeath to Henry, my son, my lease and term of years yet to come of my farm of Hasilbache [=Hazelbadge] in the Peak, four hundred sheep, twelve oxen, twelve kine, with all my household stuff there, that he may have and enjoy the same when he cometh to the age of 18 years, until which time I will that Margaret, my wife, shall occupy and take the profits of the said farm and other the premises if she, my said wife, do so long live and keep her sole and unmarried, yielding unto my said son, Henry, when he shall accomplish the said age of 18 years the sum of three hundred marks;

And if my said son, Henry, happen to die before he accomplish the said age of 18 years, then I will my said wife shall yield and pay to Margaret, my daughter, the said three hundred marks, parcel of five hundred marks, when she, my said daughter, shall accomplish th' age of 18 years;

Provided always and my will is that my said wife ne any other in her right or by her consent, commandment or means shall break or dig up any earth for the getting of lead ore during the time of her occupation, neither convert the said grounds ne any parcel thereof to any other use than as it is now used and at this present occupied;

Item, I give and bequeath to Henry, my son, if he live to th' age of 18 years, half my books in my library at Sudbury or elsewhere, and thother half to John, my son;

Item, I give and bequeath to Margaret, my wife, towards the education and bringing up of my children, my lease and term of years of the parsonage of Sudbury with all commodities and profits thereunto appertaining, and also my lease and term of the water of Dove, to have and to enjoy the said leases and terms from the day of my decease for and during the space of the years if the now incumbent of the said parsonage do live so long and if my said wife do keep her sole and unmarried and also pay and discharge all manner of rents, customs and duties from thenceforth to be due and payable by reason of the said parsonage or reserved upon the said lease of the water of Dove, and if it fortune the said now parson of Sudbury to die or if my said wife do marry, then I will that mine executors shall have and enjoy the said lease of the foresaid water of Dove during so many years as shall fortune to be then unexpired;

Item, I give and bequeath to Mary, my daughter, five hundred marks to be paid at her marriage or at 16 years of age;

Also I will that mine executors shall have and enjoy for the space of nine years next after my decease all my land, meadow and pasture in the lordship of Sudbury which I now have in my own occupation, that is to wit, Great Blackemore, Little Blackemore wood, leasow, the meadow adjoining to Great Blackemore, the marl-pit pool, my house or farms at Aston, with all the land, meadow and pasture therewith now occupied or thereunto belonging, and with all other lands, meadow, pasture now in my own occupation, and also Aston, Comryngre, Great Holie Stubbe, Little Hollie Stubbe, Mole, Reddinges with all other my arable land and meadow in Sudbury field, Aston field, Paynesoke in Makeley together with all the land, meadow and pasture now in my own occupation towards the payment of my debts and performance of this my last will and testament, provided always and my will is that my executors shall do no waste nor convert ne transpose any of the said lands to any other use or tillage than it hath been most commonly used or converted unto now of late before this time;

Item, I will that mine executors shall pay unto my said son, John, when he cometh to the age of 21 years two hundred pounds, and if it fortune my said daughter to marry before that time, then I will that my executors shall pay to my said son [sic?] the said two hundred pounds at the said marriage towards the payment of the said five hundred marks;

Also I will that all my tenants of my lordship of Sudbury shall have and enjoy their farms for the term of nine years next after my decease, yielding the accustomed yearly rents, duties and services;

Item, I give and bequeath to George Gresley, my servant, one tenement with th' appurtenances wherein William Sherrates' wife of Paynesley Hill in the parish of Leighe now dwelleth, to have and to hold the said tenement with the appurtenances to the said George Gresley from and immediately after my decease during the term of 21 years, conditionally that he make no assign nor assigns thereof but himself only, yielding, paying and doing [f. 179r] to my heirs, executors or assigns the accustomed rents, duties and services;

Item, I will that Thomas Bradshawe, his two sons, and William Conweye shall enjoy their leases which I have made to them according to the covenants thereof;

Also I devise, give and bequeath the next nomination and presentation and the next avoidance and advowson of the church and parsonage of Sudbury aforesaid to John, my son, and he to take sufficient bond by obligation of the incumbent when he shall nominate and present to the said church and parsonage that neither he, the said incumbent and parson, during his natural life, neither any other parson [=person?] for him or in his right shall make any demand, claim or allowance of any wood within the lordship of Sudbury, neither yet any claim or demand of any land lying in a place called Sudbury Eyes;

Item, I devise, give and bequeath to my son, Henry, the next presentation, nomination, advowson and avoidance of the church and parsonage of Leighe in the county of Stafford;

Also I will that if it fortune my said son, Henry, to die before th' age of 18 years, that then all my legacies, thing or things to him by and in this my present last will and testament given, devised and bequeathed shall remain and come to my son, John, Margaret and Mary, and that my said son, Henry, and his executors shall be discharged of the foresaid three hundred marks;

Item, I give and bequeath towards the maintenance of the reparations of the church of Sudbury aforesaid five pounds;

Also I will that all my household servants shall have meat and drink for one whole year next after my decease and one whole year's wages, doing their faithful services and duties towards the well setting forward and furtherance of this my present last will and testament;

Item, I give and bequeath to Mark Whorleye, John Walter and old Asprey, to every of them ten shillings;

The residue of all my goods unbequeathed, my debts and legacies first paid, I give and bequeath to Margaret, my wife, and Margaret, my daughter, and Mary, equally to be divided amongst them;

And forasmuch as this my last will may be taken doubtful in some points, therefore I will that if any ambiguity, contrariety or misrehearsal be found in any word or words, that then my cousin, Mr Reginald Corbet, one of the Justices of the King's Bench, and Mr Richard Harpur, serjeant at the law, shall correct the same, altering no matter, and to reduce it so near as may be to my true meaning in the same, which correction or addition by them so corrected and added I make, declare and will to be taken and construed as part and parcel of my full intent and last will, whereof I ordain, constitute and make Margaret, my wife, Mr Richard Harpur, serjeant at the law, and Humphrey Bradbourne, knight, my executors, to whom, that is to say, to every of them, I give and bequeath one hundred shillings for their painstaking, trusting they will faithfully see this my last will and testament truly performed and executed;

And for knowledge that this is my last will and testament I have subscribed my name and set to my seal the day and year first above-written, these being witnesses: Ralph Adderley, Nicholas Browne, Thomas Biddell.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum coram mag{ist}ro Waltero Haddon Legum doctor{e} curie prerogatiue cant{uariensis} comissario apud London vndecimo die Decembris Anno domini Mill{es}imo quingen{tesimo} sexagesimo nono Iuramento

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Georgij Harrysonn no{ta}rij pu{bl}ic{i} p{ro}curator{is} Margarete reli{ct}e et Ric{hard}i Harper vnus Iustitiaror{um} domine Regine de comuni banc{o} ad pleas executor{um} in h{uius}mo{d}i Testamento no{m}i{n}at{orum} Quibus comiss{a} fuit administracio omnium et singulor{um} bonorum &c de b{e}ne &c Ad sancta Dei Evangelia Iurat{orum} Reseruata p{otes}tate &c Humfrido Bradbourne executori cum venerit &c admissur{o}

[=The above-written testament was proved before Master Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the eleventh day of December in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixty-ninth by the oath of George Harrison, notary public, proctor of Margaret, relict, and Richard Harper, one of the Justices of the Lady Queen's Court of Common Pleas, executors named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., with power reserved etc. to Humphrey Bradbourne, executor, when he shall had come etc. to be admitted.]