

Summary: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 12 May [1571?] of Sir William Sneyd (d. 6 June 1571) of Bradwell, Staffordshire, maternal grandfather of Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham, whose eldest son, Ralph Sneyd, married, as his second wife, Mary Newport, the daughter of Sir Richard Newport, owner of a copy of Hall's *Chronicle* containing annotations thought to have been made by Shakespeare.

Moreover the testator's sister, Elizabeth Sneyd, through her marriage to Sir William Calverley, had a stepson, Walter Calverley, who was the grandfather of Walter Calverley, alleged protagonist of *A Yorkshire Tragedy*, published with Shakespeare's name on the title page.

On 16 February 1565, the testator, his sister, Elizabeth Sneyd, and her second husband, Sir William Calverley (d.1570/1), visited Anne Mylner, 'the Maid of Chester', the subject of a tract by John Fisher. See:

<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=eebo;idno=A00792.0001.001>.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator was the son of Richard Sneyd (d.1537), Recorder of Chester, attorney to the Council in the Marches during Princess Mary's Presidency of the Council, and King's attorney in North Wales.

The testator's mother was Anne Fouleshurst, the daughter of Sir Robert Fouleshurst of Crewe, Cheshire. See the Sneyd pedigree in Armytage, George J. and J. Paul Rylands, eds., *Pedigrees Made at the Visitation of Cheshire, 1613*, (Record Society for the Publication of Original Documents Relating to Lancashire and Cheshire, 1909), p. 215 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/recordsociety58recouoft#page/214/mode/2up>.

See also the Sneyd pedigree in Burke, John, and John Bernard Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain and Ireland*, Vol. II, (London: Henry Colburn, 1847), p. 1259 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=0NEKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA1259>

See also Thornton, Tim, *Cheshire and the Tudor State 1480-1560*, (Woodbridge, Suffolk: The Boydell Press, 2000), p. 147 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=-L-skqOw7QoC&pg=PA237&lpg=PA237>

The next deputy justice who can be identified is Richard Sneyd, who appears in 1523 and 1528-9. He was a man with strong local connections. His family originated in

Staffordshire at Bradwell and Wolstanton, but his career took him to Chester and by 1512 he was acting in such important private matters as the arrangements for the marriage between Randal, son of Sir Randal Brereton, and Isabel, daughter of Sir Thomas Butler. By 1523 he had married Anne, daughter of Sir Robert Fouleshurst of Crewe. Sneyd too was a functionary of the marcher council: he was appointed attorney to the council under Princess Mary by Wolsey.

The will of Sir Robert Fouleshurst, dated 26 October 1498 and proved 11 February 1499, mentions three sons, William, Richard and Hugh Fouleshurst, and a daughter, Anne. See TNA PROB 11/11/562:

Item, I bequeath to my daughter, Anne Fouleshurst, 20 marks.

Item, I bequeath to my daughter, Anne, a cup of silver, gilt about.

The testator had a younger brother and three sisters:

-Richard Sneyd (c.1523-c.1554), a Middle Temple lawyer and an alderman and recorder of Chester. According to the History of Parliament entry, he died unmarried:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/sneyd-richard-1523-5455>

However in the will below it is stated that he married a wife named Alice, who after his death married Lawrence Woodnoth. Two Chancery suits mention Richard Sneyd and his wife, Alice. In one of them she is said to have been 'late the wife of George Leche', who had a son, William Leche. See TNA C 1/1385/38, and TNA C 4/32/16. The Leche pedigree in Armytage, supra, p. 138, shows that George Leche, alderman of Chester, married Alice Dutton, the daughter of John Dutton of Helesby, and that their eldest son was William Leche (d.1618). It thus seems possible that Richard Sneyd's wife was Alice Dutton.

Leases dating from 1530-1 also mention Laurence Woodnoth of Shavington. See Cheshire Archives DCH/A/549 and DCH/A/550. See also the Woodnoth pedigree in Armytage, George J. and J. Paul Rylands, eds., *Pedigrees Made at the Visitation of Cheshire, 1613*, (Record Society for the Publication of Original Documents Relating to Lancashire and Cheshire, 1909), p. 265 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/recordsociety58recouoft#page/264/mode/2up>

-Elizabeth Sneyd (d. 28 January 1579). The inscription in Holy Trinity Church in Chester states that she was 'first espoused' to Henry Gee (d. 6 September 1545). See 'Henry Gee, Mayor of Chester', *The Cheshire Sheaf*, (Chester: The Courant Steam Printing Works, 1883), p. 99 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=iG8uAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA99>

*Dame Elizabeth here interred is
That Lady was of late
To Calverley, knight, but first espoused
To Henry Gee, her mate,
Who ruled here a patron rare
As city well can show.
Thus she in worship run her race
And still in virtue grew,
And so died Jan 28/79.*

See also:

<https://geesnmore.wordpress.com/gees-in-england/cheshire/>

For the will of Henry Gee, see:

<https://geesofderbyshire.wordpress.com/front-cover/index-2/chapter-11-henry-gee-reforming-mayor-of-chester/>

Elizabeth Sneyd married secondly, in 1550, Sir William Calverley (d.1570/1), whose son, Walter Calverley (d.1596), was the grandfather of Walter Calverley (executed 1605), the alleged protagonist of *A Yorkshire Tragedy*, published with Shakespeare's name on the title page. See Clay, J.W., ed., *Dugdale's Visitation of Yorkshire, With Additions*, (Exeter: William Pollard & Co., 1899), p. 246 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/dugdalesvisitati01dugd#page/246/mode/2up>

There is considerable confusion concerning Calverley family members of the Tudor period. The line of succession was as follows:

-Sir William Calverley (d. 15 September 1506) married Alice Savile (d.1522), sister of Sir John Savile (d.1504) of Thornhill, and daughter of John Savile (who died in the lifetime of his father) by Jane Harrington, daughter of Sir Thomas Harrington. For the will of Sir John Savile (d.1504), in which he mentions the marriage of his sister, Alice, to Sir William Calverley (d.1506), see Clay, J.W., 'The Savile Family', *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*, (1920), Vol. 25, pp. 1-47 at:

<http://www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk/sources/saville/clay2.shtml>

See also the Savile pedigree in Clay, *supra*, p. 64 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/dugdalesvisitati01dugd#page/64/mode/2up>

See also DD12/I/4/6 (all DD references can be accessed on the National Archives website), an enfeoffment dated 26 April 1529 mentioning Anne Savile, deceased, widow

of Sir William Calverley. For the wills of Sir William Calverley (d.1506) and his wife, Alice Savile (d.1522), see Margerison, Samuel, *The Registers of the Parish Church of Calverley*, (Bradford: G.F. Sewell, 1883), pp. 28-9 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/registersofparis01calv#page/28/mode/2up>

One of the daughters of Sir William Calverley and Alice Savile, Agnes Calverley, married John Vavasour (living 1505), esquire, of Weston.

Sir William Calverley was succeeded by his eldest son,

-Sir Walter Calverley (d.1536), who married firstly, in 1500, Isabel Drakes, the daughter and heir of John Drakes or Drax by Margaret Amyas. See the Drakes pedigree in Norcliffe, Charles Best, ed., *The Visitation of Yorkshire in the Years 1563 and 1564*, Vol. XVI, (London: Harleian Society, 1881), p. 104 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofyork00flow#page/104/mode/2up>

Sir Walter Calverley married secondly Anne Vavasour (d.1556/7), the daughter of John Vavasour, esquire, of Weston by Cicely Norton, daughter of Sir John Norton, by whom he had no issue. See Wheater, W., *The History of the Parishes of Sherburn and Cawood*, 2nd ed., (London: Longmans, Green, & Co., 1882), p. 174 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=4bYHAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA174>

See also *Memoirs of the Public Life of Sir Walter Blackett of Wallington, Baronet*, (Newcastle: S. Hodgson, 1819), pp. 12-13 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=a6I-AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA13>

Administration of Sir Walter Calverley's estate was granted on 26 August 1536. Anne (nee Vavasour) is mentioned as Sir Walter Calverley's widow in an award dated 13 July 1537. See DD12/I/4/8. For the inquisitions post mortem taken after his death, see TNA C 142/59/3, TNA C 142/61/13 and TNA E 150/1221/2. For a Chancery suit dated 29 January 1541 involving his son and heir after his death, see DD12/I/4/9. Sir Walter Calverley was succeeded by his eldest son by Isabel Drax,

-Sir William Calverley (d.1570/1), who married firstly, in 1527, Elizabeth Middleton, daughter of the 'staunchly Catholic' Sir William Middleton (d. 4 January 1553) of Spofforth, Yorkshire, by whom he is said to have had seven sons and five daughters. See Clay, *supra*, pp. 245-6, and Garnett, Edward, *The Calverley Murders: A Yorkshire Tragedy*, (Leeds: Margaret Fenton Ltd., 1991), p. 7. He was knighted in Scotland by Edward Seymour (c.1500-1552), Earl of Hertford, on 23 September 1545. See Shaw, William A., *The Knights of England*, Vol. II, (London: Sherratt and Hughes, 1906), p. 37 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/knightsofengland02shawuoft#page/n65/mode/2up>

For a grant dated 8 September 1526 by Sir Walter Calverley concerning the marriage of his son and heir, William Calverley, and Elizabeth Middleton, see DD12/I/3/6. For other legal documents concerning him, see DD 12/I/4/7, dated 23 July 1541; DD12/I/2/78, dated 26 August 1545; DD12/I/16/1, dated 31 May 1549; DD/T/DD/XI/5 (West Yorkshire Archive Service), dated 1552; DD12/I/2/120, dated 24 June 1552; DD12/I/4/16, dated 2 November 1563; DD12/I/4/3, dated 4 September 1567; DD12/I/4/17, dated 1568; and WYL639/127 (West Yorkshire Archive Service), dated 3 April 1568.

Sir William Calverley married secondly the testator's sister, Elizabeth Sneyd (d.1579), widow of Henry Gee (d.1545), by whom he is said to have had three daughters, Beatrice Calverley, who married Robert Hyde, esquire, of Norbury, Cheshire; Jane Calverley, who is said to have married either William Newby (see Clay, *supra*, p. 246), or a husband surnamed Anby or Awnby (see *Memoirs, supra*, p. 14); and Elizabeth Calverley, who is said to have married either William Hawley of Stotfold (see Clay, *supra*, p. 246), or a husband surnamed Hallie (see *Memoirs, supra*, p. 14). For the pedigree of Hyde of Norbury, see Burke, John, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland*, Vol. II, (London: Henry Colburn, 1835), p. 190 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=jFIAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA190>

Administration of Sir William Calverley's estate was granted 13 June 1572. For the inquisition post mortem taken after his death, see TNA C 142/156/38. He was succeeded by his eldest son by Elizabeth Middleton.

-Walter Calverley (d. March 1596), esquire. He is sometimes referred to by modern commentators as 'Sir Walter', and his wife Anne Danby's portrait (see below) is said to be a portrait of 'Lady Calverley'. However there appears to be no record that he was knighted, either in Shaw's *The Knights of England* or in extant documents. He had livery of his father's lands without proof of age on 7 February 1575 (see DD12/I/2/84).

In 1548 Walter Calverley married Anne Danby (b.1534), the daughter of Sir Christopher Danby (c.1505 – 14 June 1571) by Elizabeth Neville (b. 28 April 1500), third daughter of Richard Neville (c.1467-1530), 2nd Baron Latimer (for whom see the *ODNB* entry). See the History of Parliament entry for Sir Christopher Danby at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/danby-sir-christopher-1503-71>

See also Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 620-1; Garnett, *supra*, p. 7; and Norcliffe, *supra*, p. 89 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofyork00flow#page/88/mode/2up>

Anne Danby's eldest brother, Sir Thomas Danby (c.1530 – 13 September 1590), married Mary Neville (c.1531 - 14 March 1596?), the daughter of Ralph Neville (1498-1549), 4th Earl of Westmorland, whose eldest sister, Dorothy Neville (d. 6 January 1548?), was the first wife of John de Vere (1516-1562), 16th Earl of Oxford. See Norcliffe, *supra*, p. 89; BL Add. MS 6113, ff. 199-200 on this website; and Fisher, John, *The History and Antiquities of Masham and Mashamshire*, (London: Simpkin, Marshall and Co., 1865), pp. 104, 107, 139, 253-56, 262-3 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/historyantiquiti00fish#page/138/mode/2up>

For the Danby family, see also Wheater, W., *Some Historic Mansions of Yorkshire*, (Leeds: Richard Jackson, 1889) p. 286 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=bSzrAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA286>

For a pedigree drawn up in 1615 showing the thirteen children of the marriage of Sir Christopher Danby and Elizabeth Neville, see 'The Danby Family' in Gibbons, A., ed., *The Northern Genealogist*, Vol. V, (Birmingham: C. Cooper & Co. Ltd., 1902) pp. 13-17 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/northerngenealog05gibb#page/n45/mode/2up/>

For a 1568 exemplification of a fine between Sir Christopher Danby and 'William Calverley, knight, Walter Calverley, his son and heir, and Anne, wife of the latter', see DD12/I/4/17.

According to Garnett, *supra*, p. 11, Walter Calverley and Anne Danby had four children. According to the pedigree, *supra*, they had three sons, William Calverley (father of Walter Calverley (d.1605), the alleged protagonist of *A Yorkshire Tragedy*), Edmund Calverley, 'a seminary', and Christopher Calverley, who married Margaret Thorneholme (see below). A number of sources confirm that Edmund Calverley was ordained a priest and was imprisoned at Wisbech. See Garnett, *supra*, p. 11, and:

<https://extra.shu.ac.uk/emls/08-3/hopkyork.html>

Walter Calverley (d. March 1596) and his wife, Anne Danby, were Catholic recusants, although Walter Calverley appears to have conformed during 1576-1582 while he was escheator for Yorkshire. See Garnett, *supra*, pp. 8-9. For Anne's recusancy in 1575, see also 'The First Stages of Romanist Recusancy in Yorkshire, 1560-1590' in Dickens, A.G., *Reformation Studies*, (London: The Hambledon Press, 1982), pp. 159-184 at p. 168:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=71uwHyUAjV8C&pg=PA168>

Anne (nee Danby) Calverley was again noted for recusancy in 1577, as was her eldest son, William Calverley, then at Staple Inn. See Catholic Record Society, *Miscellanea XII*, (London, 1921), pp. 12-13, 108 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/miscellaneaxii22unknuoft#page/14/mode/2up>

Anno domini 1577 etc. The name, surnames, additions and dwelling places of such within the diocese of York as have been detected to the Lord Archbishop of York and other her Majesty's Commissioners in those parts for their disobediences in refusing the church and public prayer etc., and do not conform themselves, with a note of their abilities etc. .

..

*Anne Calverleye
her husband £40 per annum in lands
wife of Walter Calverley, esquire
of Calverley parish*

On 4 July 1581 Walter and his son and heir, William leased property to John Stanhope. See DD12/I/16/2. Under circumstances which are obscure, the Queen took possession of Walter Calverley's lands in 1590 ('Commission of Queen Elizabeth to Richard Wortley and others to divide the lands etc. of Walter Calverley, a recusant'). See DD 12/I/4/18.

Walter Calverley died in 1596, the same year as his son. See Garnett, *supra*, p. 8.

For a portrait of Anne (nee Danby) Calverley, see Cust, Lionel, 'The Painter HE (Hans Eworth)', *The Second Annual Volume of the Walpole Society 1912-1913*, (Oxford: Horace Hart, 1913), p. 37 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/volumeofwalpoles02walpuoft#page/n105/mode/2up>

*1571 Anne Danby, Lady [sic?] Calveley
Rich dress; gown open at neck to show a fourfold gold chain but fastened above; high sleeves at shoulders; jewelled cap and hood; her hands clasped holding a handkerchief; coat of arms in upper corner. Inscribed ANNO DO. 1571. AETATIS SUAE 37.*

See also:

<https://www.artuk.org/discover/artworks/ann-danby-b-1534-lady-calverley-aged-37-167899>

A portrait also exists of Anne Danby's eldest son. See Garnett, *supra*, p. 11:

Walter and Anne Calverley had four children. . . . Their eldest son was William, born in 1557, and the earliest of all the surviving portraits of the Calverleys is of him and his

mother, painted just before Christmas in 1571 when he was aged 14. This now hangs in the East Corridor of Wallington Hall, Northumberland (National Trust).

For the portrait of William Calverley, see No. XXV in Hailstone, Edward, *Portraits of Yorkshire Worthies*, Vol. I, (London: Cundall and Fleming, 1869), at:

<https://archive.org/stream/portraitsforyorks01hail#page/106/mode/2up>

Walter Calverley died in March 1596 (see Garnett, *supra*, p. 13), and was succeeded by his eldest son,

-William Calverley (1557-1596), esquire, who in 1576 married Katherine Thorneholme (d.1603), the daughter of John Thorneholme, esquire, of Haisthorpe near Burton Angus in the East Riding of Yorkshire, by Anne Salvin, daughter of Sir Francis Salvin (d.1562), by whom he is said to have had eight sons and seven daughters. See Clay, *supra*, pp. 246-7, and Garnett, *supra*, p. 17. As noted above, William Calverley's youngest brother, Christopher Calverley, married Katherine's sister, Margaret Thorneholme. Katherine (nee Thorneholme) Calverley was noted as a recusant from 1577-1595, but appears to have conformed after her husband's death. See Garnett, *supra*, p. 11.

William Calverley joined with his father in a lease on 4 July 1581 (see DD 12/I/16/2). According to Garnett, *supra*, pp. 11-12:

William Calverley became one of the earliest victims of the new 1581 Act against recusants when, in the first Summer after its enactment he was fined £80 for four months absence from church between March and July of that year. This was followed by periods of imprisonment in Hull, York and Marshalsea in London, with a further substantial fine of £120 for absence between the Summer of 1587 and Easter 1588. Neither these fines, nor others which followed were ever paid and remained outstanding at William's death. It is probable that there had never been any intention of paying them. In April 1589 the Calverley estates were shown as sequestered for recusancy, the sequestrator's name being given as Maunsell. When William died in 1596, the sequestration was still in force under a sequestrator named Awstell and he had been charged to recover outstanding fines at a rate of £20 per annum.

On 18 July 1581, William Calverley was removed from York Castle, where it appears he had been imprisoned for recusancy, to 'dwell within the house of John Moore, esquire, of the city of York, his father Walter having given a bond for £200'. See Margerison, Samuel, *The Registers of the Parish Church of Calverley*, (Bradford: G.F. Sewell, 1883), p. 202 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/registersofparis02calv#page/202/mode/2up>

William Calverley was again in prison in 1589, this time in the Marshalsea, when his father, Walter, wrote to the Archbishop of Canterbury pleading for his release on the ground that he had been 'of long time subject to lunacy' and that his 'backwardness in

religion' proceeded from 'fantastical humour and weakness of wit'. A letter from the Privy Council to Archbishop Whitgift, dated 9 June 1589, authorized his release into his father's custody on payment of a bond. See Dasent, p. 286 (f. 118) at:

'Pages 276-301', in *Acts of the Privy Council of England Volume 17, 1588-1589*, ed. John Roche Dasent (London, 1898), pp. 276-300. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/acts-privy-council/vol17/pp276-300> [accessed 23 August 2017]

He was again arrested in February 1596, and accused of making 'very undutiful and disloyal speeches'. The case was discussed by the Privy Council at its meeting of 25 February 1596, where it was accepted that he was 'lunatick at the time of the uttering of those speeches', as a result of which the Council merely fined him, and set him at liberty. See Garnett, *supra*, p. 12.

William Calverley died at the age of 39, and was buried 2 October 1596. For a document dating from 1595 entitled 'The possessions of William Calverley, recusant', see TNA E 133/8/1276. For the inquisition post mortem taken after his death, see TNA C 142/248/17. See also DD12/I/4/1, Queen Elizabeth's letters patent dated 28 February 1597 granting to Ambrose Astell 'a lease of the lands of William Calverley, deceased, a recusant, until a debt of £880 is paid'. See also DD12/I/4/2, letters patent dated 1 April 1597 by which the Queen granted his widow, Katherine, custody of certain manors during the minority of Walter, his son and heir. William Calverley was succeeded by his eldest son,

-Walter Calverley (April 1579 – 5 August 1605), esquire. As he was only 17 years of age at his father's death, he became a ward of the Queen. On 25 March 1597 his wardship was granted to his mother, Katherine, and his great-uncle, William Calverley, third son of Sir William Calverley (d.1570/1) and Elizabeth Middleton; see Garnett, *supra*, pp. 10, 19, and Clay, *supra*, p. 245. The wardship was later granted on 23 June 1598, to Lady Anne Gargrave of Nostell, second wife of Sir Cotton Gargrave, and her son, Sir Richard Gargrave. See Garnett, *supra*, pp. 18, 20, 42. For Lady Gargrave and her son, see also the History of Parliament entry for Sir Cotton Gargrave at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/gargrave-cotton-1540-88>

Although it appears Lady Gargrave had intended that Walter Calverley marry one of her daughters, in 1600 he married Philippa Brooke (c.1579–1613). She was the daughter of Sir Henry Brooke *alias* Cobham (1537-1592), a younger brother of William Brooke (1527-1597), 10th Baron Cobham, by his wife, Anne Sutton (d.1612), widow of Sir Walter Haddon. See the will of Anne Sutton, TNA PROB 11/119/37, and the *ODNB* entry for Sir Henry Brooke. Letters from Anne Sutton to Sir Robert Cecil mentioning the marriage of her daughter, Philippa Brooke, to Walter Calverley are found in Cawley, A.C. and Barry Gaines, eds., *A Yorkshire Tragedy*, (Manchester University Press, 1986).

On 22 March 1602 Walter Calverley's estates were put in trust to the use of himself and his wife, Philippa, for life, and after their deaths, to the use of their children. The trustees were Philippa's brother, Sir John Brooke (1575–1660), later 1st Baron Cobham; Sir Edward Heron, husband of Philippa's sister, Anne Brooke; Sir Robert Key; Sir Thomas Wentworth; Sir William Middleton and Richard Middleton. See Garnett, *supra*, p. 28. On 26 July 1603, when he had presumably reached the age of 21, Walter Calverley was granted livery of his lands without proof of age. See King James' letters patent of that date, DD12/I/13/1.

On 23 April 1605, Walter Calverley killed two of his sons, William Calverley and Walter Calverley, and attempted to kill a third son, Henry Calverley (d.1652?), who survived to become his father's heir. For Henry Calverley's portrait, see Hailstone, *supra*, No. XXVI at:

<https://archive.org/stream/portraitsforyorks01hail#page/112/mode/2up>

During his examination Walter Calverley stated that he had killed the two children because they were not his sons, and he was in danger of being murdered by his wife. At trial, he refused to plead to the charges against him, and in consequence was pressed to death at York on 5 August 1605. See Garnett, *supra*, p. 59. For the inquisition post mortem taken after his execution, see TNA WARD 7/27/100 and TNA C 142/287/55. His widow, Philippa, married Sir Thomas Burton (c.1580-1655). See DD 12/I/13/4.

As noted above, Walter Calverley is the alleged protagonist of *A Yorkshire Tragedy*, although the events in the play bear little resemblance to the known facts of his life or the life of his wife, Philippa. See *The Edward De Vere Newsletter* Nos. 21 and 37 on this website.

For the marriage of Elizabeth Sneyd and Sir William Calverley (d.1570/1), see also Norcliffe, Charles Best, ed., *The Visitation of Yorkshire in the Years 1563 and 1564*, Vol. XVI, (London: Harleian Society, 1881), p. 47 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=pjMEAAAIAAJ&pg=PA47>

See also Grazebrook, *infra*, p. 273, and Burke, John Bernard, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain & Ireland*, 5th ed., (London: Harrison, 1871), Vol. II, p. 1287 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=H65CAAAYAAJ&pg=PA1287>

See also Burke, John, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland*, Vol. I, (London: Henry Colburn, 1833), p. 674 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=-P4UAAAQAAJ&pg=PA674>

For Elizabeth Sneyd, see also:

<http://witching.org/brimstone/detail.php?mode=personshorttitle&title=143>

See also Bhogal, Harman, 'Rethinking Demonic Possession', PhD thesis, Birkbeck, University of London, p. 61, available online:

[John] Lane visited Anne on 16th February, along with Sir William and Lady Calverley, Sir William Sneyd and others.32 They found Anne in one of her trances, where 'she lay stil as a stone.'

-Jane Sneyd, who married Sir John Legh (d. 13 August 1558) of Booths. She was living in 1558. See the Legh pedigrees in Armytage, *supra*, pp. 150-2, and in Rylands, John Paul, ed., *The Visitation of Cheshire in the Year 1580*, Vol. XVIII, (London: Harleian Society, 1882), p. 148. See also the pedigree of Legh of Knutsford Booths in Helsby, Thomas, ed., *The History of the County Palatine and City of Cheshire*, 2nd ed., Vol. I, (London: George Routledge and Sons, 1882), pp. 499, 621 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=DYY1AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA499>

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=DYY1AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA621>

-Anne Sneyd. In the Massey and Sneyd pedigrees in Armytage, *supra*, pp. 170 and 215, she is said to have married Edward Massey of Broxton.

In other pedigrees, however, Anne Sneyd is said to have married firstly, in 1508, William Leycester, the son of John Leycester (d.1543) of Nether Tabley by Lucy Ratcliffe, the daughter of John Ratcliffe. William Leycester died without issue in the lifetime of his father, after which Anne Sneyd is said to have married secondly, in 1533, Roger Hurleston, esquire, of Chester. She is said to have been living at Bradwall in 1544/5. See Kimber, E. and R. Johnson, *The Baronetage of England*, Vol. II, (London: G. Woodfall, 1771), p. 89 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=z6W35JBfgQAC&pg=PA89>

MARRIAGES AND CHILDREN

Testator's first marriage

The testator married firstly Anne Barrow. There is considerable confusion as to the Christian name and identity of her father. The inscription on the monument in Wolstanton church describes Anne as the daughter of Thomas Barrow of Flookersbrook:

Here lie the bodies of Sir William Sneyd of Bradwell, knight, and Dame Anne, his wife, one of the daughters and heirs of Thomas Barrow of Flookersbrook in the county of

Chester, esquire, who had 5 sons and 10 daughters, which Sir William died the 6 of June 1571.

On the monument are the arms of Sneyd impaling Barrow, for which see Ward, John, *The Borough of Stoke-Upon-Trent*, (London: W. Lewis & Son, 1843), pp. 118-19 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=M6QLAAAYAAJ&pg=PA118>

For the testator's alleged father-in-law, Thomas Barrow, son of Thomas Barrow of Chester, see *The Cheshire Sheaf*, *supra*, pp. 176, 397 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=iG8uAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA397>

The Chester family of Barrow, springing originally from the neighbouring township and parish of Barrow, near Tarvin, first appear as merchants and tradesmen in Chester city towards the middle of the 15th century. Fifty years afterwards [=1500] we find Thomas Barrow, of Chester, investing his merchant savings in the purchase of the estate of Flookersbrook, and taking, along with William Sneyd, another prosperous citizen, a leading part in the municipal management of Chester, and sharing with him in its highest honours.

In process of time Sir William Sneyd, grandson of the above, married Anne Barrow, daughter and heiress to Thomas, son of the above-named Thomas Barrow, of Flookersbrook, and so acquired that Cheshire property. . . . [inscription on monument is then quoted].

The authority of the inscription on the monument is called into question by two sources which state that Anne was the daughter of Robert (not Thomas) Barrow. A document dating from 1544/5 states that William Sneyd, esquire, and Anne, his wife, 'one of the heirs of Robert Barrow, esquire, deceased', have sold certain lands to James Hurlton of Chester. See CHES 11/53:

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C764176>

Another document, dated 1543/4, states that John Crosby, clerk, has recovered certain lands against William Sneyd and Anne, his wife, 'one of the daughters and heirs of Robert Barrow'. See *The Twenty-Eighth Annual Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records*, (London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1867), p. 160 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=b3ZIN-Lh4fIC&pg=PA160&lpg=PA160>

Grazebrook agrees that the testator's first wife was the daughter of Robert Barrow, but adds to the confusion by stating that the testator married 'Alice' (rather than Anne), 'da. and h. to Robert Barrow of Chester'. 'Alice' may be Grazebrook's own interpolation, as the original pedigree in italics appears to read merely '. . . filia Barrow de Flookersbrooke juxta Chester'. Moreover in a note Grazebrook adds that another pedigree

found in Harleian MS. 6128 records that Roger Barrow of “Flowkersbrooke” had issue three daughters and coheirs, viz., Anne, wife of Henry Port of Chester (father by her of Sir John Port); Jane, wife of Sir William Sneyd; and Margaret, wife of Hamon Dickfield of Ditton. See Grazebrook, H. Sydney, ed., *The Heraldic Visitations of Staffordshire*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1885), pp. 273-4 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=gfwcAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA273>

The *ODNB* agrees that Sir John Port was, in fact, the son of Henry Port (d.1512) and Anne Barrow, daughter of Roger Barrow:

Port, Sir John (c.1472–1540), judge, was one of the sons of Henry Port (d. 1512) and his first wife, Anne, daughter of Roger Barrow of Chester. Henry was a mercer in Chester who served as mayor of that city in 1486. . . .

However according to Hughes, citing Cheshire manuscript pedigrees, Anne Barrow, wife of Henry Port, Mayor of Chester in 1486, was the daughter of Robert (not Roger) Barrow. See Hughes, T., ‘Mr. Justice Port’, *Notes and Queries*, 2nd Series, Vol. IV, (London: Bell & Daldy, 1857), p. 137 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=bEhR-4dkd_gC&pg=RA1-PA137

On balance, then, it seems probable that the testator’s first wife, Anne Barrow, was the daughter of Robert Barrow, despite the inscription on the testator’s tomb. For the mother of Sir John Port (d.1540), said to have been Anne Barrow, daughter of Roger Barrow, see the will of Sir John Port, TNA PROB 11/28/58.

Testator’s children by his first marriage

According to the inscription on the monument, the testator had five sons and ten daughters, apparently all by his first wife, Anne Barrow, including:

* **Ralph Sneyd** (d. 15 August 1620), esquire, of Keele, who married firstly Mary Chetwynd, the daughter of Thomas Chetwynd (d. 30 September 1555) of Ingestre, Staffordshire (see below), and secondly Mary Newport, the daughter of Sir Richard Newport (d.1570/1) of High Ercall, Shropshire (see below). For Mary Chetwynd, see Chetwynd-Stapylton, H.E., *The Chetwynds of Ingestre*, (London: Longmans, Green, 1892), pp. 140-2 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=DpBDAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA223>

For Ralph Sneyd’s children by Mary Chetwynd, see Armytage, *supra*, p. 216 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/recordsociety58recouoft#page/216/mode/2up>

* **George Sneyd** of Newcastle-under-Lyme. For his will, see TNA PROB 11/89/396.

* **Mary Sneyd**, who married John Delves (d. 13 June 1571), esquire, of Doddington, Chester. See Armytage, *supra*, p. 216, and the Delves pedigree in Rylands, John Paul, ed., *The Visitation of Cheshire in the Year 1580*, Vol. XVIII, (London: Harleian Society, 1882), p. 78 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofches00glov#page/78/mode/2up>

For the will of John Delves, see ‘Remains Historical and Literary’ on this website. Their daughter, Margaret Delves, married Edward Bushell. See the will of William Sheldon (d. 24 December 1570) of Beoley, TNA PROB 11/53/79; the pedigree of Bushell in Hotson, Leslie, I, *William Shakespeare*, (London: Jonathan Cape, 1937), p. 144; and the pedigree of Delves in Ormerod, George, *The History of the County Palatine and City of Chester*, (London: Lackington, Hughes, 1819), Vol. III, p. 268 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/historyofcountyp03orme#page/268/mode/2up>

See also Fetherston, John, ed., *The Visitation of the County of Warwick in the Year 1619*, Vol. XII, (London: Harleian Society, 1877), pp. 137-8 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationcount01britgoog#page/n164/mode/2up>

See also Burke, John and John Bernard Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Extinct and Dormant Baronetages of England*, (London: Scott, Webster and Geary, 1838), p. 157 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=K1kBAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA157>

* **Elizabeth Sneyd**, who married Henry Tuchet (d. 30 December 1563), 10th Baron Audley, whose great-grandfather, James Tuchet, 7th Baron Audley, was beheaded on Tower Hill on 28 June 1497 for his part in the Cornwall Rebellion, and posthumously attainted in 1504. His son, John Tuchet, was restored in blood in 1512, although at a ruinous price which eventually resulted in the sale of the Audley lands. See the *ODNB* entry, and Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. IV, p. 218.

John Tuchet, 8th Baron Audley (died c.1559) was succeeded by his son, George Tuchet (d.1560), 9th Baron Audley (d.1560), succeeded in turn by his son, Henry Tuchet (d. 30 December 1563), 10th Baron Audley, succeeded in turn by his son, George Tuchet (d.1617), Earl of Castlehaven, Ireland. In the period 1556-1558, the testator was steward to George Touchet (d.1560), 9th Baron Audley, and in 1560 to Henry Touchet (d.1564), 10th Baron Audley. See TNA C 1/1479/46 and Derbyshire Record Office D3155/WH 76.

Elizabeth Sneyd’s husband, Henry Tuchet, 10th Baron Audley, was buried 5 January 1564 at Betley, Staffordshire. See Adams, Percy W.L., ed., *Betley Parish Register*, p. 19 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/betleyparishregi00pari#page/18/mode/2up>

See also the Sneyd pedigree in Armytage, *supra*, p. 216 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/pedigreesmadeatv00stge#page/216/mode/2up>

See also Burke, John, *A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Peerage and Baronetage of the British Empire*, 8th ed., (London: Henry Colburn, 1845), p. 50 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ZfdRAAAAcAAJ&pg=PA50>

* **Anne Sneyd**, who married William Yonge, esquire, of Caynton, Shropshire. For William Yonge, see Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, p. 546:

16. William Yonge (or Young), Gent., of Caynton (in Edgmond), Tibberton, etc., Shropshire, son and heir. He married (1st) Anne Sneyd, daughter of William Snead, Knt., of Bradwell, Staffordshire. They had five sons, William, Giles, Thomas, John, and John (again), and six daughters, Elizabeth (wife of Walter Cotton), Margaret (wife of William Cotton), Anne (wife of (blank) Evans), Mary (wife of (blank) Comley), Frances (wife of William Bolton), and Hester. He married (2nd) before 1 Nov. 1579 Mary Bonner, daughter of Anthony Bonner, Gent., of Camden, Gloucestershire, by Bridget (descendant of King Edward I, daughter of Christopher Savage, Esq. (descendant of King Edward I) [see Savage 14 for her ancestry]. They had one daughter, Bridget. William Yonge, Gent., died in Dec. 1583. His widow, Mary, married (2nd) 10 Jan. 1586 Thomas Combe, Gent., of Stratford on Avon, Warwickshire. His will was dated 22 Dec. 1608, proved 10 Feb. 1608/. She died at Stratford on Avon, Warwickshire 5 April 1617.

For the will of Thomas Combe of Stratford on Avon, see TNA PROB 11/113/130.

Giles Yonge, the second son of Anne Sneyd and William Yonge (see above) appears to have been the Giles Yonge who was a co-purchaser, together with Ralph Sneyd and Oxford's wife, Elizabeth Trentham (d.1612), of King's Place in Hackney in 1597 (see TNA C 66/1476), where Oxford lived from 1597 until his death in 1604.

* **Jane Sneyd**, who married Thomas Trentham (d.1587), esquire, of Rocester, Staffordshire, by whom she was the mother of Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham. For the will of Thomas Trentham, see TNA PROB 11/72/372.

* **Margaret Sneyd** (d. 2 October 1592), who married firstly, John Somerford (d. 11 August 1577), esquire, of Somerford, Cheshire. For the pedigree of Somerford, see Armytage, *supra*, pp. 216-17.

Margaret Sneyd married secondly Gilbert Domville (d. 1 December 1607), esquire, of Lymm, Cheshire. For a lawsuit brought by Gilbert Domville against Sir Edward Fitton (d. 17 February 1548) of Gawsworth concerning the manors of Astbury and Somerford,

Cheshire, ‘sometime the estate of John Somerforde, esquire, the former husband of plaintiff’s wife’, see TNA C 2/Eliz/D10/41. For the relationship between the Domville and Fitton families, see the will of Mary Harbottle Fitton, TNA PROB 11/39/471. See also the Domville pedigree in Ormerod, George, *The History of the County Palatine and City of Chester*, 2nd ed., Vol. I, (London: George Routledge and Sons, 1882), p. 582 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=DYY1AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA5382>

For Margaret Sneyd see also Burke, *Landed Gentry*, Vol. II, *supra*, p. 1259.

Testator’s second marriage

The testator married secondly Jane Salter, the daughter of John Salter (d.1532) of Newport, Chief Justice of North Wales. For the will of John Salter, see TNA PROB 11/24/75.

John Salter is mentioned in the will of John Newport, grandfather of Sir Richard Newport (d.1570/1), owner of a copy of Hall’s *Chronicle* containing annotations thought to have been made by Shakespeare, formerly Loan 61 in the British Library, now in the possession of a trustee, Lord Hesketh. See Keen, Alan and Roger Lubbock, *The Annotator*, (London: Putnam, 1954). For the will of John Newport, see TNA PROB 11/18/166. As mentioned above, the testator’s eldest son, Ralph Sneyd, married, as his second wife, Mary Newport, the daughter of Sir Richard Newport, owner of the annotated copy of Hall’s *Chronicle*. See the will of Sir Richard Newport, TNA PROB 11/53/456.

The testator’s second wife, Jane Salter, had earlier been the wife of Thomas Chetwynd (d. 30 September 1555) of Ingestre, Staffordshire. See the pedigree of Chetwynd of Ingestre in William Salt Archaeological Society, eds., *Collections for a History of Staffordshire: The Heraldic Visitations of Staffordshire in 1614 and 1663-4*, Vol. V, Part II, p. 81 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/collectionsforpt205stafuoft#page/80/mode/2up>

As noted above, the Salter, Chetwynd and Sneyd families were further connected through the marriage of Jane Salter’s daughter by her first marriage, Mary Chetwynd, to Elizabeth Trentham’s maternal uncle and Oxford’s trustee, Ralph Sneyd, the testator’s eldest son and heir.

LM: T{estamentum} Will{el}mi Sneide

In dei no{m}i{n}e, amen. The 12th day of May in the year of the reign of Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith &c, I, Sir

William Sneyd of Bradwell in the county of Stafford, knight, being at this present something crazy (but thanks be given to God, of perfect mind and good remembrance), and knowing that there is nothing in this world so sure as the death natural of my body, and the time thereof most uncertain, and also minding to leave my lands, goods and chattels to my wife and children and such of my friends as I would should quietly enjoy the same, and renouncing all former wills heretofore made, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First, I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, trusting and steadfastly believing that through the merits of his blessed passion and infinite mercy I shall be one of them that shall inherit the kingdom of heaven and life everlasting;

Item, I bequeath my body to be buried in Christian burial where my executors shall think most convenient;

Item, my will is that all and every my manors, messuages, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments whatsoever with their appurtenance whereof I or any other person or persons to my use are or shall be seised at the time of my decease in fee simple, fee-tail general or special, shall be equally divided into three several parts, of the which I will that one part of the said manors and lands so divided immediately from and after my decease shall wholly descend and revert, remain and come to Ralph Sneyd, esquire, son and heir apparent to me, the said Sir William, to the only use and behoof of the said Ralph Sneyd and his heirs forever;

Also I will that the second part of all my said manors, messuages, lands, tenements, rents, reversions and services so being divided as aforesaid shall remain and be to Dame Jane, my wife, for and during her natural life, for and in recompense of her jointure and dower, the remainder thereof after her decease to my said son, Ralph Sneyd, and to his heirs forever;

And in like manner I will that the third part of all and every my said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments, being divided as before, shall be and remain to such use, purposes and intents as are expressed and declared in and by this my last will and testament, and to and for the payment of my debts and legacies, discharging of my funerals, and to and for the further execution, performance and accomplishment of this my said last will and testament according to the true intent and meaning of the same as is aforesaid, the remainder of all the said third part of all my said manors, lands and tenements after my said last will and testament proved, performed and truly executed, I will shall wholly descend, revert, remain and come to my said son, Ralph Sneyd, and his heirs forever;

Also my will is that if it shall happen any of my manors, messuages, lands and tenements whereof I or any other person to my use stand or be seised in mortgage at this present hereafter to be redeemed, that my said son, Ralph Sneyd, or his heirs shall have the same money that shall be so paid for the redemption of the same to his or their only use and

behoof forever (any clause in this my said last will and testament to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding);

Also, I do give and bequeath to Dame Jane Sneyd, my wife, three of my best featherbeds and bolsters with coverlets and blankets belonging to thee same, together with 6 pair of flaxen sheets;

The rest of all my household stuff both in Bradwell and in Chester I do give and bequeath to my said son, Ralph Sneyd, to his only use forever;

Item, I will that all such plate, corn and cattles as I have at the time of my decease shall remain to my executors towards the payment of my debts;

Also, my will is that all and every of my servants in household daily at the time of my decease shall have every of them one whole year's wages for and in the name of a legacy;

Item, my will is and by this my last will I do give and bequeath to William Wynne, my servant, one yoke of oxen and one cow over and besides his year's wages, and also one cloth gown of my own with one doublet, one pair hose and one shirt, also my own, to be delivered to the said William by the discretion of my executors;

Also, my will is that whereas I have given to the said William Wynne one annuity or yearly rent of forty shillings during his natural life, that he, the said William, shall quietly enjoy the same after my decease freely, whether he do service to my son and heir or no service;

Item, I do give and bequeath to Francis Turner, my butler, one of my cloth gowns, one pair of hose, one doublet, and one shirt of mine own, to be likewise delivered to the said Francis by the discretion of mine executors together with one cow and also a 40s in ready money if he be my servant at the time of my decease;

Item, I do give and bequeath to Anne Sneyd, my servant, daughter to one Walter Sneyd of Bridgnorth, deceased, a £10 in ready money towards her preferment of living;

Also, whereas I have granted to Alice Woodnett, wife to Lawrence Woodnett, and late wife to Richard Sneyd, my brother, deceased, one annuity or yearly rent of £6 out of all my lands and tenements in Willaston, to have and to hold for and during her natural life, my will is that she shall quietly have and perceive the same annual rent for & during her said life according to my said grant, as well after my decease as she hath in my lifetime;

Also I do give and bequeath to Elizabeth Sneyd, daughter to my said son and heir, Ralph Sneyd, six hundred marks of lawful English money, to be paid to her preferment in marriage, so that the said Elizabeth will be ordered, counselled and married by the consent of her said father and the most part of my executors, and if she will not so be married by their said counsel, but otherwise bestow herself, then my will is that she shall have but two hundred marks of the said six hundred marks, and no more;

Also I do likewise give and bequeath to Mary Sneyd, one other daughter to my said son, Ralph Sneyd, four hundred marks of lawful English money towards her preferment in marriage, so that the said Mary will be married by the counsel and consent of her father and the most part of the rest of my executors, and if she will not be so ordered nor married, but otherwise bestow herself, then I will that she shall have but one hundred pounds, parcel of the said sum of four hundred marks, and no more;

Also, it is my will that Dame Jane, my wife, shall have all my new building standing in Bradwell in the county of Stafford standing upon the east part of my court, and my new garden joining to the same, with free egress and regress to the kitchen, for and during all her natural life, so that she do dwell upon and inhabit the same;

Also, I do give and bequeath to every of my own daughters and to my daughter-in-law 40s in gold to make every of them one ring for a token of remembrance;

Also, I do likewise give and bequeath to George Sneyd, my son, 40s in gold likewise to make him a ring for a token of remembrance;

And for the true performance of this my said last will and testament I constitute, ordain and make the said Ralph Sneyd, my son and heir, Thomas Trentham, and William Yonge, my sons-in-law, my true and lawful executors to see this my said last will performed and accomplished in every point and article, and for their pains I do give to every of them not having any legacy before, a 40s to make every of them a ring for a token of remembrance;

In witness whereof I, the said Sir William Sneyd, to this my present last will have put my hand & seal, and the same delivered as my deed the day and year above-written. William Sneyd. Witness at the sealing and delivery of this will: Ralph Sneyd, William Yonge, George Sneyd, Lawrence Woodnett, William Wynne, John Somerforde.

Probatum fuit Testa{men}tu{m} h{uius}mo{d}i Cora{m} D{omi}no Cant{uariensis} Archie{pisco}po apud London xxijdo Die mens{is} Octobris anno D{omi}ni 1572 Iura{ment}o Rad{ulph}i Sneyde vnus ex{ecutorum} &c Cui com{m}issa fuit admi{ni}stracio o{mn}iu{m} et sing{u}lor{um} bonor{um} iuriu{m} et Creditor{um} &c De bene &c iurat{o} &c res{er}uata p{otes}tate reliquis ex{ecutorum} &c cu{m} ven{er}int &c

[=The same testament was proved before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the 22nd day of the month of October in the year of the Lord 1572 by the oath of Ralph Sneyd, one of the executors etc., to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits etc., sworn to well etc., with power reserved to the rest of the executors etc. when they shall have come etc.]