

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 9 August 1583 and proved 16 September 1583, of Robert Newport, esquire, of Sandon, Hertfordshire.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

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

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

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

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

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

Testator's parents

The testator was the son of John Newport (d. 1 May 1553), esquire, of Sandon, Hertfordshire. For his will, see TNA PROB 11/36/169.

For a discussion of the identity of the testator's mother, see the will of the testator's father, *supra*.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married Jane Barrington (b.1527), said in the pedigrees to have been the daughter of Sir (blank) Barrington. In the pedigree in *The Visitations of Essex*, she is said to have been the widow of one (blank) Lucy, esquire, of Hertfordshire before her marriage to the testator. However quare whether this is an error.

The testator's wife appears to have been the ward, 'Jane Barenton', who was abducted in 1541. See the History of Parliament entry for Sir Henry Parker at:

<http://www.histparl.ac.uk/volume/1509-1558/member/parker-sir-henry-1514-52>

*By his marriage to Grace Newport, who was only eight in 1523, Parker acquired the manors of Furneux Pelham and Stapleford, and in 1536 he procured a private Act (28 Hen. VIII c.20) settling his two Norfolk manors on himself and his wife, in lieu of the jointure that he had covenanted to make her on marriage. In 1541 the under sheriff of Essex and Hertfordshire was sued for abducting a 14 year-old ward, Jane Barenton, who had been contracted in marriage to the younger John Newport, presumably Parker's brother-in-law. Parker was apparently a party to the abduction, for his servants escorted the girl in her flight from her guardian and helped her to elude him in London.*⁶

For Henry Parker's marriage to Grace Newport (c.1515–c.1549), see the wills of Grace Newport's maternal grandfather, John Danyell, TNA PROB 11/19/189, and maternal grandmother, Margery Danyell, TNA PROB 21/102.

The testator's wife, Jane Barrington, was related to Elizabeth Brocket, the daughter of John Brocket, who married firstly Sir Nicholas Barrington (d.1521?), by whom she was the mother of John Barrington (living 1532); it is unclear whether she was also the mother of Sir Nicholas Barrington's six daughters, Lucy, Anne, Alice, Mary, Elizabeth and Dorothy Barrington. Elizabeth (nee Brocket) Barrington married secondly William Boughton, esquire, of Lawford Hall, Warwickshire. For her will, dated 18 February 1558 and proved 2 July 1560, see TNA PROB 11/43/417. For the will of Sir Nicholas Barrington, see TNA PROB 11/20/246.

John Barrington (living 1532) married Elizabeth Bonham, the daughter of his guardian, Sir Thomas Bonham (d. 18 June 1532), and Katherine Marney (d.1535), daughter and co-heir of Henry Marney (1456/7-1532), 1st Baron Marney. For Sir Thomas Bonham, see his will, TNA PROB 11/25/90, in which he mentions his son-in-law, John Barrington, and Kidston, G.J., *The Bonhams of Wiltshire and Essex*, (Devizes: C.H. Woodward, 1948), p. 66 at:

<https://archive.org/details/bonhamsowiltshi00kids/page/n5>

For Henry Marney, 1st Baron Marney, see the *ODNB* entry, his will, TNA PROB 11/21/156, and the Marney pedigree in Gunn, Steven, *Henry VII's New Men and the Making of Tudor England*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016), p. xviii at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=q4LADAAAQBAJ&pg=PR18>

By Elizabeth Bonham, John Barrington (living 1532) had a son, Sir Thomas Barrington (1530-1581), for whom see his will, proved 2 May 1581, TNA PROB 11/63/237; Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, pp. 31-2; and the History of Parliament entry at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/barrington-sir-thomas-1530-81>

b. 1530, o.s. of John Barrington of Hatfield Broad Oak by Elizabeth, da. of Thomas Bonham[†]. educ. G. Inn 1554. m. (1) Alice, da. of Sir Henry Parker, (prob. 10th) Lord Morley, 1s. d.v.p. 1 da.; (2) c.1559, Winifred, da. of Sir Henry Pole, Lord Montagu, wid. of Sir Thomas Hastings[†], 2s. Francis and Henry 1da. suc. fa. 1537. Kntd. 1571.1

In his will, Sir Thomas Barrington appoints as executor Andrew Grey, esquire, referred to by the testator as his nephew in the will below. See *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, Vol. 58, 1904, p. 396 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=gGbLED1xvM8C&pg=PA396>

In the will below, the testator mentions his friend, John Parker, which again suggests a connection to Sir Thomas Barrington, whose first wife was Alice Parker. It also appears likely the testator's friend, John Parker, was related to Henry Parker (1531/2-1577), 11th Baron Morley, for whom see the *ODNB* entry:

Parker, Henry, eleventh Baron Morley (1531/2–1577), Roman Catholic exile, was the eldest son of Sir Henry Parker (d. 1552) and his first wife, Grace (c.1515–c.1549), daughter and heir of John Newport of Pelham Furneux. . . .

In summary, it seems likely that the testator's wife, Jane Barrington, was the daughter of John Barrington (living 1532) and Elizabeth Bonham, daughter of Sir Thomas Bonham.

In her will, Elizabeth (nee Brocket) Barrington Boughton refers to lands purchased of William Hanchett, which again suggests a connection to the testator's family, since it appears likely the testator's mother, Margery Newport, was the widow of William Hanchett before she married the testator's father (see the will of the testator's father, TNA PROB 11/36/169).

For the Barrington family, see also Lowndes, G. Alan, 'The History of the Barrington Family', *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society*, Vol. II, New Series, (Colchester: W. Wiles, 1884), pp. 3-54 at p. 11:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=Uhc5AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA11-IA4>

The testator mentions a son and three daughters in the will below:

* **Edward Newport**, esquire, who married firstly Anne Riley, the daughter and one of the heirs of James Riley, salter of London, and secondly Anne Everard, the daughter of Thomas Gawdy Everard of Linstead, Suffolk. For James Riley, see Hertfordshire Archives DE/Ru/74369c and DE/Ru/74369-70. For Thomas Gawdy Everard, see the pedigree of Everard of Linstead in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Suffolk*, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1882), p. 136 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=EycAAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA136>

* **Jane Newport**, who married John Nuttall, gentleman, of the Inner Temple, steward of the Earl of Leicester. For John Nuttall, see Longleat House DU/BOX III/43; Hertfordshire Archives DE/Ru/74369c and DE/Ru/74369-70; and Inderwick, F.A., ed., *The Inner Temple: Its Early History, As Illustrated By Its Records, 1505-1603*, (London: Henry Sotheran and Co., 1896), p. 264 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=XEEwAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA264>

12 October 1572 Order that Ranulph Hurleston, gent., a bencher of this House, shall have during his natural life the chamber wherein he is admitted . . . and after his decease John Nuttall, his nephew, an utter barrister of this house. . . .

* **Elizabeth Newport**, unmarried when the testator made his will.

* **Grace Newport**, unmarried when the testator made his will.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

‘My nephew, John Newport, gentleman’ included in an entail in the will below can perhaps be identified with the John Newport of East Greenwich who married Clare Newport, daughter of the testator’s younger brother, Thomas Newport. See ‘Parishes: Sandon’ below:

Robert succeeded his father about 1552, but was disturbed in his possession by his younger brother Thomas and the latter's daughter Clare, who married her cousin John Newport of East Greenwich. (fn. 29)

For the testator’s nephew, Andrew Grey, esquire, of the Inner Temple, see his will, prove 24 April 1615, TNA PROB 11/125/342, and the pedigree of Grey of Segenhoe in Blaydes, Frederic Augustus, ed., *The Visitations of Bedfordshire*, (London: Harleian Society, 1884), Vol. XIX, p. 35 at:

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

Andrew Grey and his brother, Yvon Grey, are referred to as ‘cousins’ in the will of Thomas Hanchett, whose first wife was Barbara Mallory. See the will, proved 28 January 1577, TNA PROB 11/59/635, of Thomas Hanchett, and Hanchett, Leland J., *The English Ancestry of Thomas Hanchett, Puritan Settler of Connecticut*, (Falmouth, Maine: Pine Rim Publishing, 2015), p. 139 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=akO4DwAAQBAJ&pg=PA139>

According to the Grey pedigree, *supra*, Andrew Grey's first cousin, Anne Smyth, married Sir Richard Mallory, Lord Mayor of London, while Andrew Grey's father married, as his second wife, Grace Hanchett, the daughter of William Hanchett of Letchworth.

TESTATOR'S LANDS

For the testator's lands in Sandon, see:

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

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

For the testator's lands in Rushden, see:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For the testator's manor of La More, see:

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

He had succeeded the Bassets as lord of Rushden (q.v.). With that manor Sir John Fray, kt., baron of the Exchequer, also acquired the manor of La More in Sandon. (fn. 100) He settled it upon his wife Agnes with remainder to their daughters Agnes and Katherine in succession. (fn. 101) The latter married Humphrey Stafford (fn. 102) and succeeded her sister, who died without issue. (fn. 103) Possibly La More was accounted an appurtenance of her manor of Rushden. It is not specifically mentioned among the lands of which she died seised in 1482, (fn. 104) but in 1654 (fn. 105) it was in the possession of Francis Vernon of Gannock, whose predecessor, Robert Newport, purchased Rushden in 1574. (fn. 106) Nevertheless, the house and land called 'the Moore' in Sandon was the property of Ralph Parker about 1600. (fn. 107) From 1654 onwards the manorial rights seem to have descended with Gannock (q.v.).

RM: T{estamentum} Roberti Newport

In the name of God, Amen. I, Robert Newport of Sandon in the county of Hertford, esquire, being at this present sick in body but of perfect mind and remembrance, thanks be to Almighty God, do therefore for th' establishing and disposing of such lands, hereditaments, goods and chattels as it hath pleased God to bless me withal, to the end to avoid and cut off all discord, controversy, debate and question that may arise or grow therefore make and ordain hereby my last will and testament in manner and form following, revoking and revocating all former wills either concerning my goods and chattels or my lands and tenements, that is to say:

First I commit my soul to Almighty God, trusting assuredly of salvation by the merit of the death and passion of his Son, Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and by no other means;

And my body I recommend to the earth whereof it was made, and to be buried in decent manner by the discretion of my executors, respecting my countenance;

And as touching the disposition of all my manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments in Sandon or elsewhere within the realm of England, I fully and wholly give and devise the same and all and every part, parcel and member thereof to Edward Newport, my son, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue all and singular the said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments and every part and parcel thereof with their appurtenances wholly to remain and come to my two daughters, Elizabeth and Grace Newport, and to the heirs of their two bodies lawfully begotten and to be begotten equally between them to be divided;

Provided always nevertheless and my full mind, will and intent is and I do will and bequeath that if it happen my daughter, Jane, wife of John Nwthall [=Nuttall], gentleman, to survive her said husband, that then and from thenceforth she, the said Jane, shall have and enjoy for term of her life, after the death of the said Edward without heir of his body as is said, a full third part of all my said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances with my other two daughters before-named equally to be divided;

And further I will that if the said Jane shall happen to marry again and have issue by any other than by the said John Nuttall, that then the said Jane shall have and enjoy a full third part of all the said manors, lands, tenements, hereditaments and other the premises to her and to her heirs of her body lawfully begotten and to be begotten of any of the said other husbands in as large manner as any of my other daughters shall enjoy their parts, anything in this my will contained to the contrary [f. 355v] in any wise notwithstanding;

And for default of such issue of the bodies of every of my said daughters according to the limitation aforesaid, then I will and devise the said manors, lands, tenements, hereditaments and other the premises to remain and come to my nephew, John Newport, gentleman, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue, the remainder thereof to the right heirs of me, the said Robert Newport, forever;

Item, I will and bequeath to my said daughter, Elizabeth, for her preferment in marriage and maintenance of living the sum of four hundred pounds of good and lawful money of England to be paid unto her by my executors at her age of one and twenty years or within six months next after the day of her marriage, whether of them shall first happen;

Item, in like manner I will and bequeath to my said daughter, Grace, for her preferment in marriage and maintenance of living the sum of four hundred pounds of good and lawful money of England to be paid unto her by my executor at her age of one and twenty years or within six months next after the day of her marriage, whether of them shall first happen;

And if any of my said daughters, Elizabeth or Grace, happen to die before the receipt of her said legacy or portion, then I will that the portion of her so deceased shall remain and be to my said other daughter, Elizabeth or Grace, that shall happen to survive;

And if both they happen to decease before the receipt of their said portions or before the time that they shall be due, then I will that the same shall remain to my said son, Edward;

And if he happen to die before the receipt thereof, then I will the said portions or such as shall then be unpaid shall remain and be to my said nephew, John Newport, if he be then living;

And if he be then deceased, then I will the sum of three hundred pounds shall remain and be to and amongst the children of my brother, Thomas Newport, equally to be divided between them;

And I do commit the ordering, ruling, bringing up and bestowing in marriage of my said two daughters to the direction, advice and good liking of my good and trusty friends, Master John Burgoyne, esquire, and my loving nephew, Andrew Grey, esquire, and of my said son, Edward Newport, whom I desire, and especially the said John Burgoyne and Andrew Grey, to take a care and regard of as my especial trust is in them;

And if either of my said daughters happen to marry against the goodwill, liking and consent and agreement of the said John Burgoyne, Andrew Grey & Edward Newport or of the more part of them, then I will her portion to be but only one hundred pounds, any gift or bequest made to the contrary notwithstanding;

Item, I will, devise and appoint that my said two daughters, Elizabeth and Grace, shall, until such time as they receive their portions, have meat, drink and lodging with my said son, Edward, in his house;

And also I give and devise to either of my said daughters, Elizabeth and Grace, the sum of ten pounds a year towards their keeping and apparel, to have and enjoy to either of them yearly from and after my decease until the receipt of either of their said portions, to be paid unto either of them by my said son, Edward, at the feasts of th' Annunciation of Our Lady and Saint Michael th' Archangel by equal portions or within one month next after either of the said feasts;

And if it happen the said annuities or yearly payment to be behind by the space of six weeks next after the said days of payment, then the said Edward shall forfeit the sum of five pounds, *nomine pene*, to her that shall be so unpaid, and that then and from thenceforth it shall be lawful to and for such of the said Elizabeth and Grace that shall happen to be unpaid as aforesaid of her said annuity to enter and distrain in the manor and parsonage of Sandon, and the distress so taken to lead, drive, carry away and detain until of the said arrearages of the annuities aforesaid and also of the said sum of money *nomine pene* she or they shall be fully contented, satisfied and paid;

Item, I will, devise and bequeath to my said son, Edward Newport, all my lease, estate, interest and term of years of and in the manor and parsonage of Sandon aforesaid with th' appurtenances and all other my leases whatsoever, to have and enjoy [f. 356r] to the said Edward Newport to his own proper use and behoof;

Item, I give and bequeath to Roger Newport and Henry Newport, sons of my brother, Thomas Newport, to either of them ten pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath to and amongst the poor people of Sandon towards their relief the sum of four pounds to be paid by my executor in two years, viz., forty shillings a year;

And to the poor people in Rushded [sic] forty shillings to be paid in two years equally;

Item, I give to my servant, Katherine, besides her wages twenty shillings;

And to Henry Franklyn, my warrener, twenty shillings;

And to my servant and cook, Edward Pigott, over and besides his wages twenty shillings;

Item, to every one of my other servants that shall happen to be in my service at the time of my decease six shillings eight pence apiece over and above their wages;

Item, I give to my nephew and godson, Matthew Grey, five pounds;

And to my friend, John Parker, gentleman, five pounds;

And of this my last will and testament I ordain and make my said son, Edward, sole executor;

And further I desire the said John Burgoine and Andrew Grey to be overseers thereof, and to be aiding and assisting unto my said son towards th' execution thereof according to my meaning and intent;

And that the said Andrew Grey will be aiding and counselling my said son, his natural cousin, in and towards all other his needful affairs and business, and to either of them I give for their pains the sum of ten pounds;

Item, I give to my good friend, Master Serjeant Bowyer, for a remembrance a ring of forty shillings;

And to Edward Thomas, son of Master William Thomas, twenty shillings;

In witness whereof I have subscribed my name to every leaf and published this to be my last will and testament this ninth day of August one thousand five hundred eighty-three and in the five and twentieth year of the reign of our most gracious Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc. Robert Newport. John Bowyer, John Parker, Michael Longe, Robert Parson, vicar of Sandon, George Newport.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum apud London coram ven{er}abili viro mag{ist}ro Will{el}mo Drury Legum Doctore curie prerogatiue Cant{uariensis} com{m}issario etc Decimo sexto die mensis Septembris Anno Domini mill{es}imo quingentesimo octogesimo tertio Iuramento Edwardi Newporte filij et executoris in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento nominat{i} Cui commissa fuit administracio bonorum etc De bene etc Iurat{i}

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Drury, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary etc. of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the sixteenth day of the month of September in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred eighty-third by the oath of Edward Newport, son and executor named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of the goods etc., sworn to well etc.]