

SUMMARY: In the excerpt below from her last will and testament, Lady Mary Grey (1545?-1578) leaves bequests to Oxford's sister, Mary de Vere (d.1624), and her husband Peregrine Bertie (1555-1601), Lord Willoughby d'Eresby; to Peregrine's sister, Susan Grey (nee Bertie), Duchess of Kent; and to Peregrine and Susan's mother, Katherine Bertie (nee Willoughby) (1519-1580), Duchess of Suffolk.

Lady Mary Grey was the youngest of the three daughters of Henry Grey (1517-1554), Duke of Suffolk, and Frances Grey (1517-1559), Duchess of Suffolk, the daughter of Charles Brandon (c.1484-1545), first Duke of Suffolk, and Henry VIII's younger sister Mary Tudor (1496-1533), whose first husband had been King Louis XII of France.

After the death of Mary Tudor (1496-1533), Charles Brandon married, as his fourth wife, the thirteen-year-old Katherine Willoughby, who became Duchess of Suffolk, and after Charles Brandon's death married Richard Bertie (1517-1582). Katherine, Duchess of Suffolk, was thus the step-grandmother of Lady Mary Grey.

As the granddaughter of King Henry VIII's sister, Mary Tudor, Lady Mary Grey was of royal blood, and served as a maid of honour to Queen Elizabeth. On 10 or 12 August 1565, she secretly married the Queen's sergeant-porter, Thomas Keys (d.1571). When the Queen learned of the marriage, she promptly sent Thomas Keys to the Fleet and condemned Lady Mary to house arrest.

In August 1567, Lady Mary was sent to live at the house of her step-grandmother Katherine, Duchess of Suffolk, where she remained until June 1569, when she was removed to the house of Sir Thomas Gresham.

The bequest in her will to Oxford's sister, Mary de Vere, and her new husband, Peregrine Bertie, provides further evidence that the latter were married by the spring of 1578. An earlier letter from Katherine, Duchess of Suffolk, written on 12 March 1578 asks Lord Burghley 'to grant her daughter [i.e. daughter-in-law] Mary and her husband a bill of impost for two tuns of wine to be taken at Boston or Hull' (see Cecil Papers 160/119, cited in Goff, p. 314). Mary de Vere and Peregrine Bertie were therefore married sometime after Christmas 1577 (see *HMC Rutland*, i, p. 115) and before 12 March 1578.

The excerpt below is taken from Goff, Lady Cecilie, *A Woman of the Tudor Age*, (London: John Murray, 1930), p. 303, which cites the copy of Lady Mary Grey's will in Strype, John, *Annals of the Reformation and Establishment of Religion*, New Ed., Vol. II, Part II, (Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1824), pp. 210-11 at:

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=nyp.33433070298793&view=1up&seq=226>

To my very good lady and grandmother, the Duchess of Suffolk, one pair of hand bracelets of gold with a jacinth stone in each bracelet, which bracelets were my Lady

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Grace my mother's, or else my jewel of unicorn's horn. Whichsoever her Grace refuseth, I give & bequeath to my very good Lady Susan, Countess of Kent. To my Lady Mary Bertie and to her husband I leave my best gilt cup & the best silver & gilt salt-cellar.