

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 22 April 1607 and proved 14 November 1607, of Mary (nee Browne), Countess of Southampton, mother of Henry Wriothesley, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Southampton, to whom Shakespeare dedicated *Venus and Adonis* and *The Rape of Lucrece*.

### ***FAMILY BACKGROUND***

The testatrix was the daughter of Anthony Browne (1528-1592), 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Montagu, by his first wife, Jane Radcliffe (1531/2-1552), daughter of Robert Radcliffe (1482/3-1542), 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Sussex, and his second wife, Margaret Stanley, daughter of Thomas Stanley (b. before 1485, d. 1521), 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Derby, by his third wife, Margaret Barlow (d.1559). See the *ODNB* article on Edward Stanley (10 May 1509 – 24 October 1572), 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Derby.

### ***MARRIAGES AND CHILDREN***

The testatrix married firstly Henry Wriothesley (1545-1581), 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Southampton, by whom she had one son, Henry Wriothesley (1573-1624), 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Southampton, and two daughters, Jane Wriothesley, who died before 1573, and Mary Wriothesley (c.1567-1607), who married, by settlement dated 19 June 1585, Thomas Arundel (c.1560 – 7 November 1639), 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Arundel of Wardour.

The testatrix married secondly, on 2 May 1594, Sir Thomas Heneage (c.1532 – 17 October 1595).

The testatrix married thirdly, in 1598, Sir William Hervey (d.1642), later Baron Hervey of Kidbrooke and Baron Hervey of Ross. For the testatrix' third husband see the 'Hervey Family Tree', which can be downloaded online at:

[www.ickworthchurch.org.uk/file/67/download?token=p65qvisF](http://www.ickworthchurch.org.uk/file/67/download?token=p65qvisF)

As indicated in the 'Hervey Family Tree', Sir William Hervey (d.1642) was a descendant of Jane Drury, whose second husband, Sir William Carew (d.1501), was the son of Sir Nicholas Carew (1409?-1448?) by Joan Courtenay (born 1411-1414, d. before 3 August 1465). After the death of Nicholas Carew, Joan Courtney married, as her second husband, by licence dated 5 October 1450, Sir Robert Vere (d.1461), younger brother of John de Vere (1408-1462), 12th Earl of Oxford. Edward de Vere (1550-1604), 17<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, was a direct descendant of Robert Vere (d.1461) and Joan Courtenay. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 401-3; Ross, James, *John de Vere, Thirteenth Earl of Oxford (1442-1513)*, (Woodbridge, Suffolk: The Boydell Press, 2011), p. 18; and the will of Sir William Carew, TNA PROB 11/12/390.

After the testatrix' death, Sir William Hervey married, on 5 February 1608, Cordell Annesley, daughter and coheir of Sir Brian Annesley (d. 7 July 1604) of Lee and Kidbrooke, Kent, gentleman pensioner to Queen Elizabeth, by Audrey Tyrrell, sister of Richard Tyrrell (d.1566). See the will of Richard Tyrrell, TNA PROB 11/48/637:

*I will that whereas my brother-in-law, Brian Annesley, doth owe unto me the sum of fourscore pounds of lawful money now due to be paid, that the said Brian shall keep in his own custody the said sum of fourscore pounds as my gift without any suit or action to be had or commenced for the same by mine executors or the executors of mine executors against the said Brian, his heirs, executors or administrators, to the intent that the said Brian, his executors or administrators, shall pay and deliver unto Brian, his son, at his accomplishment of twenty and one years, the sum of forty pounds, parcel of the said sum of fourscore pounds, and to pay to Grace, his daughter, other forty pounds, the residue of the said sum of fourscore pounds, at what time she shall be married, and not before;*

*Also I further will that whereas it is agreed between my said brother-in-law, Brian Annesley, and Audrey, his wife, my sister, and me, that in consideration they shall deliver into the hands of mine executors one deed of grant of annuity to be cancelled which she hath for term of her life of fifty pounds by the year, made and assured unto her by her late husband, Ambrose Willie [=Wolley?] in the name of her dowry issuing and going out of all the lands and tenements of the said Ambrose within the county of York, as by the same deed appeareth, in consideration whereof I do will, give and bequeath unto the said Brian and Audrey during the life of the said Audrey forty pounds by the year of good and lawful money of England issuing and going out of my manor of Backenho within the county of Bedford . . . .*

See also the will of Sir Brian Annesley, TNA PROB 11/104/286; the *ODNB* entries for Henry Wriothesley, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Southampton, and Henry Wriothesley, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Southampton; Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 45; and the entry for Sir William Hervey in Cokayne, George Edward, *The Complete Peerage*, Vol. VI, (London: St Catherine Press, 1926), p. 516, and:

<http://archive.org/stream/cu31924092524374#page/n143/mode/2up>.

### ***TESTATRIX' OVERSEER***

For the testatrix' friend and overseer of her will, George Carew (1555-1629), Baron Carew of Clopton and later Earl of Totnes, who on 31 May 1580 married Joyce Clopton (baptized 1562, d.1637), eldest daughter and coheir of William Clopton (1538-1592), of Clopton near Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire, owner of New Place, later purchased by William Shakespeare of Stratford, see the *ODNB* article and the will of Sir Richard Wingfield, TNA PROB 11/22/51.

The testatrix' friend and overseer, George Carew, was a descendant of Sir Nicholas Carew and Joan Courtenay (see above). See the Carew pedigree in Vivian, J.L. and

Henry H. Drake, eds., *The Visitation of the County of Cornwall in the Year 1620*, Vol. IX, (London: Harleian Society, 1874, pp. 31-2, 35 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofcoun00sain#page/30/mode/2up>.

See also Burke, Bernard, *A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain & Ireland for 1852*, Vol. I, (London: Colburn and Co., 1852), p. 187 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=9mNHAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA187>

For George Carew, see also the inscription on the monument in Romford church which he erected to his mother, Anne Hervey Carew (d. 27 August 1604), see Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *The Visitation of Suffolke Made by William Hervey*, (Lowestoft: Samuel Tymms, 1868), p. 158 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsuffo00howagoog#page/n182/mode/2up>.

*Here lieth Anne Carew, daughter of Sir Nicholas Hervey, knight, and of Dame Bridget, his wife, daughter and sole heir of Sir John Wiltshire, knight, widow of Sir Richard Wingfield, Knight of the Garter & Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, which Sir Nicholas, being a gentleman of the Privy Chamber to King Henry the 8<sup>th</sup>, was twice employed ambassador unto the Roman Emperor. His wife, Dame Bridget, was a Lady of the Bedchamber to Queen Anne Boleyn. This Anne married George Carew, third son to Sir Edmund Carew (alias Montgomery), Baron of Carew, & by her said husband, who died the 15 day of June Anno Domini 1583, & [sic] had issue two sons and two daughters. The eldest, Sir Peter Carew, knight, slain in the wars in Ireland the 25 of August, 1580, married Audrey, daughter of William Gardener of Grove in Buckinghamshire, esquire, and had issue Peter, that died young, & Anne, his only daughter & heir, married first to William, son & heir to Sir Thomas Wilford of Kent, knight, deceased, & is now the wife of her second husband, Sir Allen Apsley, knight. The second son, Sir George Carew, knight, Lord President and Governor of the Province of Munster in Ireland under Queen Elizabeth, now of late by our Sovereign Lord King James is created Baron Carew of Clopton, and hath to wife the Lady Joyce, eldest daughter and coheir of (blank) Clopton of Clopton in the county of Warwick, esquire. The eldest daughter, Mary, who married with Walter Dowrishe of Devonshire, esquire, died 1604. The youngest, Elizabeth, died an infant. This Anne Carew deceased the 27 of August 1604 at the age of 76 years, in memory of whom the Lord Carew, her son, for his last duty hath erected this monument the 20 day of March, year of grace 1605.*

See also the will of Sir John Wiltshire, dated 1 May 1526, TNA PROB 11/22/71.

LM: T{estamentum} Honorande ffem{i}ne D{omi}ne Marie Comitisse Sowth{amp}t{on}

In the name of God, Amen. I, Marie, Countess of Southampton, being at this present in reasonable estate of body and of perfect remembrance (praise be given to God therefore), calling to mind the frailty of this mortal life and how certain death is, and that there is nothing more incertain than the time thereof, and how expedient it is for all men to settle their worldly estates and to prepare for the life to come, which is eternal, do therefore make and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, hoping assuredly through the merits, death and passion of my dear Saviour, Jesus Christ, to be made partaker of life everlasting, and my body I commend to the earth whereof it was made, and do direct the same to be interred at Titchfield, there to be laid as near as may be unto the body of my honourable and dearly-beloved lord and husband, Henry, late Earl of Southampton, enjoining my executor to see the same performed, and therewithal inhibiting him to use any pomp, vain ostentation, idle ceremony, or any superfluous charge at or about my funeral, neither yet any more blacks to be bestowed for mourning garments than only upon those my household servants which I shall have at the time of my departure;

Concerning such worldly substance as God hath blessed me withal, I do leave and commend the same as followeth:

First, I give and bequeath unto my honourable and dear son, Henry, Earl of Southampton, ten pieces of hangings of the story of Cyrus, six pieces of hangings in the which the months are described, two pieces of hangings with gold wrought in them and Sir Thomas Heneage his arms, a scarlet bed with gold lace with all the furniture, as stools, chairs and cushions and all other things belonging unto it, a white satin bed embroidered with the stools, chairs, cushions and all other furniture belonging to the same, all my chairs, stools and cushions of green cloth of gold, two of my best down beds with the bolsters, pillows and blankets appertaining unto them, four of my best Turkey carpets whereof one of them is of silk, two of my best and fairest basins and ewers of silver with four great pots of silver belonging unto them, six of my best and greatest candlesticks of silver, a ring of gold with a fair table diamond in it which Sir Thomas Heneage had of Sir Walter Raleigh, sixteen loose diamonds, which my desire is that my said dear son should set in a George of gold and wear it in memory of me, his loving mother;

Also I give and bequeath unto my good and loving daughter-in-law, Elizabeth, Countess of Southampton, my double rope of round pearls which myself did accustom to wear about my neck, my best tissue kirtle, and six pair of my finest sheets with twelve pillow-beres unto them;

Also I give & bequeath unto my good daughter, the Lady Arundell, wife unto the Lord Arundell, my jewel of gold set with diamonds called a Jesus, if she happen to be living at the time of my decease;

Also I give and bequeath unto Katherine Poole, one of my waiting gentlewomen, one hundred pounds in ready money, to be paid unto her by my executor at one entire payment within one year after my death;

And farther unto the said Katherine Poole and Katherine Gates, my other waiting gentlewoman, I do give and bequeath all my wearing apparel excepting garments of tissue or such as have pearl in them, and all my wearing linen, to be indifferently divided between them by my executor;

Also I give and bequeath unto John Brooke, my servant, twenty pounds in ready money, to be paid unto him by my executor within six months after my decease;

Amongst the rest of my servants, as well men as women, I give and bequeath forty pounds in money to be distributed amongst them as my executor in his discretion shall think meet;

Also I give and bequeath unto George, Lord Carew, Baron of Clopton, one gilt standing christening cup with a cover unto it;

All the rest of my goods, chattels, debts, ready money, plate, jewels, household stuff and personal estate whatsoever I do give and bequeath unto my dear and well-beloved husband, Sir William Harvey, knight, whom I make sole executor of this my last will and testament, praying him, as an argument of his love unto me, that he will be careful of my page, Robert Jones, his sister's son, and in his discretion at my request so to provide for him that he may be enabled to live, and know that I had a care of him;

Lastly, I do nominate and appoint my good and loving friend, George, Lord Carew, Baron of Clopton, aforesaid to be the overseer of this my last will and testament, desiring him to lend his friendly care, aid and assistance to see this my will performed, revoking, disannulling, frustrating and making void all former wills by me made at any time heretofore;

In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name, set my seal, and publish the same as my last will and testament, dated the two and twentieth day of April in the year of our Lord God one thousand six hundred and seven. M. Southampton.

Memorandum. I do also give unto my dear son, Henry, Earl of Southampton, all the pictures which are in the little gallery at Copt Hall. M. Southampton.

In witness that this will was signed and sealed by the above-named Marie, Countess of Southampton, we whose names ensue have hereunto subscribed: G. Carew, John Brooke, John Godsonne.

Probatum fuit Testamentu{m} Suprascr{iptum} apud London cora{m} venerabili viro D{omi}no Iohanne Bennett Milite legu{m} D{o}c{t}ore Curie Prerogative Cantuar{iensis} Mag{ist}ro Custode sive Com{m}issario l{egi}time constituto Decimo quarto die Mens{is} Novembris Anno D{omi}ni millesimo sexcentesimo septimo

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Iuramento D{omi}ni Will{el}mi Harvey Militis nuper mariti d{i}c{t}e defunct{e} et  
executoris in huiusmodi testamento nominati Cui com{m}issa fuit ad{ministra}c{i}o  
omniu{m} et singulorum Bonorum Iuriu{m} et Creditoru{m} eiusdem defuncte De bene  
et fidel{ite}r administrand{o} eadem Ad sancta dei Evangelia iurat{i}

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Sir John Bennet, knight, Doctor of the Laws, lawfully constituted Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the fourteenth day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand six hundred seventh by the oath of Sir William Harvey, knight, late husband of the said deceased and executor named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same.]