

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 10 August 1612 and proved 20 February 1613, of Margaret (nee Fitton) Englefield (d. 29 August 1612), whose great-niece, Mary Fitton (d.1641), is conjectured by some scholars to have been the Dark Lady of Shakespeare's *Sonnets*.

The testatrix was the daughter of Sir Edward Fitton (d. 17 February 1548) of Gawsworth, Cheshire, by Mary Harbottle (d. 12 December 1556), the daughter of Sir Guiscard Harbottle, slain at the battle of Flodden. See the will of Mary (nee Harbottle) Fitton, TNA PROB 11/39/471; and the Fitton pedigree in *Gossip from a Muniment-Room*, (London: David Nutt, 1898), p. 1 at:

https://archive.org/stream/gri_33125008386944#page/n29/mode/2up/.

The testatrix and her son are mentioned in the 1608 will of her brother, Francis Fitton (d. 17 June 1608), who in 1587 married Katherine Neville (d. 28 October 1596), eldest daughter and coheir of John Neville (d.1577), 4th Baron Latimer, son of John Neville (1493–1543), 3rd Baron Latimer, by Dorothy de Vere (d. 7 February 1527), sister of John de Vere (1499-1526), 14th Earl of Oxford. John Neville, 3rd Baron Latimer, later married, as his third wife, Katherine Parr, who after his death became the sixth wife of Henry VIII. At the time of her marriage to Francis Fitton, Katherine (nee Neville) was the widow of Henry Percy (d. 20 June 1585), 8th Earl of Northumberland. See the *ODNB* entries for John Neville, 3rd Baron Latimer, and Henry Percy, 8th Earl of Northumberland; the will of John Neville, 3rd Baron Latimer, TNA PROB 11/29/303; and the will of Francis Fitton, TNA PROB 11/112/118.

In the will below the testatrix bequeaths a silver tankard to 'my loving niece, the Lady Curzon'. Lady Curzon was Mary Leveson, the daughter of the testatrix' sister, Mary Fitton (1529–1591) and Sir Richard Leveson (d.1560). Mary Leveson married Sir George Curzon (d. 1622) of Croxall, Derbyshire. See the will of Mary (nee Fitton) Leveson (1529-1591), TNA PROB 11/78/48; the will of Sir George Curzon, TNA PROB 11/141/97; the pedigree in Keen, Alan and Roger Lubbock, *The Annotator*, (London: Putnam, 1954); and Cox, J. Charles, *Notes on the Churches of Derbyshire*, (London: Bemrose and Sons, 1877), Vol. III, p. 360 at:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=yx5NAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA360&lpg=PA360&dq=%22Sir+George+Curzon%22&source=bl&ots=DUu-_gwFt1&sig=tAwdDddKMeX91hMOAIES9fWakOw&hl=en&sa=X&ei=8UpeVNXzEMWwogT7tIDYAQ&ved=0CCsQ6AEwAw#v=onepage&q=%22Sir%20George%20Curzon%22&f=false

The testatrix married John Englefield (d. 1 April 1567), by whom she was the mother of Sir Francis Englefield (d. 26 October 1631), who married Jane Browne, the daughter of Anthony Browne (1552 – June 1592), eldest son of Anthony Browne (1528 – 19 October 1592), 1st Viscount Montague. See the will of John Englefield, TNA PROB 11/49/179; the pedigree of Browne in Questier, Michael C., *Catholicism and Community in Early*

Modern England, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006), pp. 521-2; the pedigree in Keen, Alan and Roger Lubbock, *The Annotator*, (London: Putnam, 1954); and:

<http://babeldiary.blogspot.ca/2013/08/englefield.html>.

For the testatrix' son, Sir Francis Englefield, see:

<http://www.berkshirehistory.com/bios/fenglefieldjr.html>.

RM: T{estamentum} Margarte [sic] Englefeild vid{ue}

[f. 98r] In the name of God, Amen. The tenth day of August 1612 and in the year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord James by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland the tenth and of Scotland the six and fortieth, I, Margaret Englefield of the Priory in the parish of Stratfield Saye in the county of Berkshire, widow, being of good and perfect memory and in health of body, do make and ordain my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I give and bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my Creator, Redeemer and only Saviour, hoping and trusting by the promise of his mercy and through the passion of Jesus Christ to enjoy salvation, and my body I will to be buried in the north chapel of the church of Englefield so near to the place where the body of my late husband, John Englefield, esquire, was laid in the same chapel as with conveniency may so be;

Item, I will and bequeath to my son, Sir Francis Englefield, baronet, all such my plate of silver as I now have and here now mentioned, viz., four drinking-bowls all white, a silver chafing-dish, a double salt with a cover, one dozen and half of spoons, a spout-pot for wine, a pepperbox and a trencher-salt, all the premises being of silver plain white, and of gilt plate, viz., two salts with covers, half a dozen of spoons, drinking-bowls with covers three, whereof one I had by the gift of Sir Reade Stafford, knight, deceased;

A double salt gilt which I also had by the gift of the said Sir Reade Stafford I have heretofore given to my daughter-in-law, Dame Jane Englefield, my son's wife;

Also I do give and bequeath to my said son all such furniture of house, household stuff and implements of house of mine as he hath in his own hands by my own delivery long before this day;

And also I do further give, will and bequeath to my said son a sum of forty pounds in money that he is owing to me as so much by him received that was due to me for the half year's rent of Fulbrooke Park at Michaelmas 1604, and by him then received of Sir Thomas Lucy, knight, to my behoof;

Item, I will and bequeath to my daughter-in-law, the Lady Englefield, a sum of money of ten pounds to be delivered her in gold;

Item, I will and bequeath to Dorothy Englefield, my grandchild, the two chests or coffers now standing in my inner chamber of the Priory, and all the linens and napery now being within the same chests, and also more I bequeath to her a sum of money of forty pounds to be bestowed for her upon some jewel as her father shall think fit;

Item, I will and bequeath to Francis Englefield, her brother, my grandchild, a sum of money [f. 98v] of threescore pounds to be bestowed upon a stock of sheep or upon what else his father shall think best for his said son's profit, and the same to go forward in stock for his profit and to begin immediately after my decease;

Item, I will and bequeath to Thomas Englefield, John Englefield, Anthony Englefield and William Englefield, all younger brothers to the said Francis, my grandchild, to each of them a several sum of fifty pounds apiece to be employed for their best profit as their father shall appoint;

And more I bequeath to the said Thomas Englefield, being my godson, my cross of gold;

Item, I give and bequeath to my servant, Joan Shirley, who serveth me as my waiting-gentlewoman, a sum of money of forty pounds as a reward for her service to me done, if she shall be my servant and in my service at the time of my decease, and also my cabinet with the boxes therein;

Item, I give and bequeath to my now servant, Henry Bramston, a sum of money of ten pounds if he shall be my servant and in my service at the time of my decease, over and above any wages that shall happen then to be behind and due to him;

Item, I give and bequeath to my old servant, Mrs Elizabeth Luce, and my servant, Joan Shirley, all my wearing line to be equally divided between them;

Item, I further give to the said Mrs Elizabeth Luce my tawny kersey gown which I daily wear;

Item, I will and bequeath to my old servant, John Ware, and to his now wife, Saray(?) a sum of money of four pounds between them, besides twenty shillings which they owe me and I have already given them;

Item, I have already given to Richard Bosson and Mr William Hildesley, both servants to my son, Sir Francis Englefield, to either of them the sum of ten pounds which I have delivered them myself, and therefore discharge my executor thereof;

Item, I will and bequeath to William Ellyott, butler, Robert Webb, cook, and Edward Davis, horse-keeper, all now household servants to my said son, to every of them forty

shillings or to so many of them as shall be in service with my said son at the time of my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath to John Kent and Elizabeth, his now wife, both now household servants to my son, a debt of forty shillings which they owe unto me as heretofore lent them;

Item, I give and bequeath to Margaret Luce, my god-daughter, a sum of money of forty shillings;

Item, I will and bequeath to Anne Webster and Elizabeth Komber, to either of them twenty shillings, and to Margaret Scott ten shillings, being all now household servants to my daughter-in-law aforesaid, or to such of them as shall be in service with my said daughter-in-law at the time of my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath to my old servant, William Joyner alias Wilcoxe, a sum of money of forty shillings;

Item, I give and bequeath to George Stubbes, late servant to my son, a sum of forty shillings parcel of the debt of five pounds which he oweth me;

Item, I give and bequeath to John Cunedy alias Irishe(?), my son's footman, the sum of twenty shillings if he be in his service at the time of my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath to Widow Richardson, late wife to William Richardson, my son's butler, a sum of forty shillings towards the bringing up of his children;

Item, I give and bequeath to Ralph Hatton twenty shillings if he shall be in my son's service at the time of my decease;

Item, I give to Francis Francklin, the boy in my son's kitchen, five shillings;

Item, I will and bequeath and my desire is that a cup of silver or rather a tankard of silver of the value of five pounds be bought and my name to be engraven thereupon, and the same to be given to my loving niece, the Lady Curzon, as a token of my love and remembrance of her;

Item, I give and bequeath to my ancient good friend, Mrs Anne Fabyan, widow, my silver porridge dish;

Item, I will and bequeath to my godson, William Wollescott [=Woollascot?] of Shinfield, esquire, a sum of money of ten pounds as a token of my love to him;

Item, I will and bequeath to Henry Luce, son to John Luce the elder, one debt or sum of money of forty shillings which Leonard Butler of Heckfield, glover, oweth me and

standeth bound to me by bond for the payment of the same at Michaelmas 1612, and also the said bond or obligation which I have for the payment of the same as aforesaid;

Item, I will and bequeath a sum of money of forty shillings to be distributed amongst the poor of the parish of Heckfield and Mattingley, and also the sum of four pounds to be distributed amongst the poor of the parish of Englefield;

Item, whereas I have now in my own custody and using a very little piece of plate called a Maudlin cup, I do here now declare that the said little cup is not my own, but was lent unto me in the time of my sickness by old Mrs Wollescott of Tidmarsh, and not as yet restored; therefore I do now will and desire the same may be delivered to old Mr Wollescott of Tidmarsh, esquire, [f. 99r] and if he shall not be living at the time of my decease, then the said little cup to be delivered to his eldest son, Mr William Wollescott of Shinfield;

And I do nominate, ordain, appoint and make my loving son, Sir Francis Englefield, baronet, my full, whole and [sic?] executor of this my last will and testament, and have hereunto the day and year above-written put my hand and seal, and published this to be my last will and testament in the presence of those whose names are hereunder written. Margaret Englefield.

Published, acknowledged, sealed and signed in the presence of us, William Hildesley, Richard Bosson, Nicholas Pildrin, Ralph Hatton.

Item, I will and my desire is that this as a codicil may be annexed to my will aforesaid, and that whatsoever I shall hereafter here set down and explain as an addition to my said will or in recalling any gift or legacy thereby given, that the same may be taken as my will, anything before in my will to the contrary notwithstanding, and I do hereby recall the legacy of twenty shillings before given to Ralph Hatton in my will before. Margaret Englefield.

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum cum Codicillo apud London coram venerabili viro Mag^{ist}ro Will^{el}mo Byrde legum Doctore Curie prerogative Cantuariensis^{is} Mag^{ist}ro Custode siue Com^missario legitime constituto vicesimo die mensis february Anno Domini iuxta cursum et Computacⁱoⁿem Eccl^{es}ie Anglicane millesimo sexcentesimo Duodecimo Iuramento D^{omi}ni ffrancisci Englefeild Barometti filij n^{atu}ralis et l^{egi}timi dict^e defunct^e et Executoris in eodem Testamento nominatⁱ Cui com^missa fuit Administracⁱo bonorum Iurium et creditorum dicti defuncti De bene et fideliter Administrando &c ad sancta dei Evangelia Iuratⁱ

[=The above-written testament was proved, together with the codicil, at London before the worshipful Master William Byrd, Doctor of the Laws, lawfully constituted Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the twentieth day of

the month of February in the year of the Lord according to the course and reckoning of the English church the thousand six hundred twelfth by the oath of Sir Francis Englefield, baronet, natural and legitimate son of the said deceased and executor named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer etc.]