

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 6 March 1615 and proved 14 July 1615, of Jane Sibilla (nee Morison), Lady Grey. The testatrix' nephew, Francis Norris (1579-1622), 2nd Baron Norris of Rycote, married Oxford's daughter, Bridget Vere (1584-1631).

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testatrix was the daughter of Sir Richard Morison (c.1510-1557) and Bridget (nee Hussey) (1526-1601), later Countess of Bedford. For the wills of the testatrix' parents see TNA PROB 11/94/168 and TNA PROB 11/97/10. See also the will of the testatrix' brother, Sir Charles Morison (1549 - 31 March 1599), TNA PROB 11/94/168.

MARRIAGES AND CHILDREN

First marriage

The testatrix married firstly, about 1571, Edward Russell (d.1572), eldest son and heir of Francis Russell (1527-1585), 2nd Earl of Bedford, and his first wife, Margaret St John (d. 27 August 1562), widow of William Gostwick (d. December 1545), sister of Oliver St John (d. 21 April 1582), 1st Lord St John, and daughter of Sir John St John (d. 19 December 1558) of Bletsoe, Bedfordshire, by Margaret Waldegrave, daughter of Sir William Waldegrave (d. 30 June 1527). See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 218-21; Vol. III, pp. 465-6; Vol. IV, pp. 283-4; and the pedigree of St John at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationhuntin00camduoft#page/2/mode/2up>.

See also the entry for the testatrix' first husband, Edward Russell, in Cokayne, George Edward, *The Complete Peerage*, Vol. II, (London: St Catherine Press, 1912), pp. 77-8:

Edward Russell, styled Lord Russell, son and heir apparent by 1st wife. He married, about 1571, Jane Sibella, daughter of Sir Richard Morrison of Cashiobury, Hertfordshire, by Bridget Hussey, daughter of John Hussey, Lord Hussey, by his second wife, Anne Grey, daughter of George Grey, Earl of Kent. [Edward Russell] died without issue soon afterwards, and was buried at Chenies. Administration granted 30 June 1572 to 'Lady Sibill', his widow. She, who was an alien by birth but naturalised (1575-1576) 18 Eliz., married, as his second wife, Arthur Grey, Lord Grey of Wilton, K.G., sometime Lord Deputy of Ireland, who died 1593. She died in July 1615.

Second marriage

As noted above, the testatrix married, between 1573 and 1575, as her second husband, and his second wife, Arthur Grey (1536-1593), 14th Baron Grey of Wilton. For Arthur Grey, see the *ODNB* article.

By Arthur Grey, 14th Baron Grey of Wilton, the testatrix had one surviving son:

* **Thomas Grey** (1575-1614), 15th Baron Grey of Wilton. He was an enemy of Oxford's first cousin, Sir Francis Vere, and in 1600 quarrelled with Henry Wriothesley (1573-1624), 3rd Earl of Southampton. Grey was one of the peers who sat in judgment on the Earls of Essex and Southampton after the Essex rebellion in 1601, and was later convicted of treason in the Bye Plot. Pardoned on the scaffold, he spent the remainder of his life a prisoner in the Tower, where he died on 9 July 1614. See the *ODNB* article.

The testatrix and her second husband, Arthur Grey, had two other sons who died young. See the *Journal of the Association for the Preservation of the Memorials of the Dead in Ireland*, Vol. VII, (Dublin, 1910), pp. 303-4 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/journalforyear71asso#page/n827/mode/2up>

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

The testatrix' 'daughter Goodwin' was Elizabeth Grey, the daughter of the testatrix' husband, Arthur Grey, by his first wife, Dorothy Zouche, (d. before 1573), illegitimate daughter of Richard Zouche, 9th Baron Zouche. Elizabeth Grey married Sir Francis Goodwin (1564 – 10 August 1634) of Upper Winchendon, Buckinghamshire. See his will, dated 2 August 1634 and proved 27 August 1634, TNA PROB 11/166/196, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/goodwin-francis-1364-1634>

For the testatrix' daughter, Bridget (nee Grey) Egerton (d.1646), see the *ODNB* article.

The testatrix' executor, 'Lord Zouche', was Edward Zouche (1556-1625), 11th Baron Zouche of Harringworth, great-nephew of the testatrix' second husband, Arthur Grey. See the *ODNB* article on Arthur Grey:

Arthur Grey, now fourteenth Baron Grey of Wilton, married Dorothy (d. before 1573), illegitimate daughter of Richard Zouche, ninth Baron Zouche.

The testatrix' executor, 'Lord Denny', was Edward Denny (1569-1637), nephew of the testatrix' second husband, Arthur Grey. See the *ODNB* article on Sir Anthony Denny (16 January 1501 – 10 September 1549):

[Sir Anthony Denny's] heir was his eldest son, Henry, who married Honora, daughter of William Grey, thirteenth Lord Grey of Wilton, and was the father of Edward Denny, first earl of Norwich (1569–1637). Educated at Cambridge, Edward became a groom of Elizabeth's privy chamber, and in 1590 or 1591 married Mary, daughter of Thomas Cecil, first earl of Exeter, Burghley's eldest son. In 1602/3 he was high sheriff of Hertfordshire, and in that capacity welcomed James I at Royston in 1603. His demeanour so pleased the new monarch that James presented Denny with the gloves from his own hands, as an earnest of future favour. Knight of the shire for Essex in the first session of parliament of 1604, on 27 October he was made Baron Denny of Waltham. . . . On 17 October 1626 Denny became first earl of Norwich. He died on 24 October 1637, and was buried at Waltham Abbey.

See also the *ODNB* article on William Grey (1508/9-1562), 13th Baron Grey of Wilton:

He married by 1536 Mary (1507×14–1571/2), daughter of Charles Somerset, first earl of Worcester (she survived him and later married Robert Carre); they had two sons, Arthur Grey, fourteenth Baron Grey of Wilton (1536–1593), and William, and a daughter, Honora, who married Henry Denny, son of Sir Anthony.

RM: T{estamentum} D{omi}ne Jane Sibille Grey

[f. 37r] In the name of God, Amen. I, the Lady Jana Sibilla Grey of Wilton, being in good health and perfect memory (thanks be unto God), do make this my last will and testament as followeth, viz.:

First I commend my soul into the hands of God, my Maker, and of Jesus Christ, my Redeemer, by whose precious death, passion and merits alone I hope to be made partaker of his everlasting kingdom, and my body I will to be interred in Christian and decent [f. 37v] manner according to my estate and degree.

And touching the ordering and disposing of my temporal estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me, my will is and I do by these presents make, constitute and ordain my loving son-in-law, Rowland Egerton, esquire, and Bridget, his wife, my most kind and loving daughter, my sole and full executors of this my last will upon this hope, trust and confidence in them and every of them reposed, that they and either of them shall and will so manage and order the estate which I shall leave at my decease as that the same shall and may come, remain and be disposed unto such person and persons and in such manner and form as hereafter in these presents shall be limited and expressed, and further also perform this my said last will and testament;

And therein first my will is that all my debts due or owing either in law or in equity or by especialty or without specialty shall be all of them at or within convenient time after the same be due well and truly satisfied unto them;

And after such time as my said debts shall or may be satisfied forth of my estate, then I will, limit and appoint there shall be paid and delivered unto the persons in the schedule hereunto annexed named all such sums of money and other things as in the same schedule are mentioned and expressed to be given or bequeathed unto them or either of them;

And my will herein further is and I do hereby further will, limit and appoint that all my lands and leases, viz., the lease and leases of the demesnes of Whaddon and of Whaddon Park, the lease of the manor & manors of Whaddon and Mashe(?), the lease of Olney, the two leases of Whaddon parsonage, the lease of the parsonage of Wynslowe, and all lands, tenements and hereditaments in and by the said leases, any or either of them granted or demised, shall remain, be and continue to the uses, intents and purposes hereafter in these presents expressed & declared:

To the use of my said loving daughter, Bridget, for and during her natural life, and after her decease then to the use of Thomas Egerton, son of the said Bridget, for and during all the residue of the said terms and leases, if he, the said Thomas Egerton, or any issue male of the body of the said Thomas Egerton lawfully begotten shall so long live;

And if the said Thomas shall die without issue, then to the use of the next issue male of the said Bridget for and during all the residue of the said terms of years therein to come if the same issue male or any issue male of that issue shall so long live;

And if the said Bridget shall die without issue male before the full end and expiration of the said leases, then to the use of the daughters of the said Bridget which she shall have at the time of her decease, equally to be divided between them;

Provided always and my will further is that if so be the premises or any part thereof shall come unto any issue male of the body of the said Bridget, that then before such issue male shall have or take any profits of the premises, my executors shall levy and receive forth of the rents, issues and profits of the premises the sum of three hundred pounds of lawful money of England to the use of my goddaughter, Sibilla Egerton, to be paid unto her at her age of twenty and one years or marriage, which shall first happen;

Provided also that if any of my daughter Bridget Egerton's children shall carry themselves undutifully or disobediently or disorderly unto their father or mother, and thereupon their father or mother under their or either of their hands and seals in presence of two credible witnesses or more shall by any writing signify their or either of their wills and pleasures to be that such child or children so undutifully carrying themselves as aforesaid shall have no benefit of the legacy or limitation herein made unto him or them, that then every child whereof their said father and mother shall so declare his, her or their will or pleasures as aforesaid shall lose all the benefit of all and every legacy and limitation made unto him, her or them, and the same to remain unto the next brother or sisters respectively as the same should have done if no such limitation had been made unto him, her or them so offending;

And moreover my will is that if so be it shall happen that my son Egerton shall overlive his wife, my daughter, and such issue of hers unto whom the premises shall come shall be within age of twenty and one years, that then [f. 38r] and in every such case my said son Egerton shall have and take and receive the rents, issues and profits of the same premises until such issue, if he be male, shall accomplish the age of one and twenty years, and if such issue be female, then until such issue female shall attain the said age of one and twenty years or be married, which shall first happen, and at such age or marriage, as the case shall happen, shall satisfy and pay unto such unto whom the premises shall remain the sum of one hundred pounds of lawful money of England;

And to th' end this my will may in all respects be duly performed according to my true intent and meaning as herein declared, albeit I assuredly persuade myself my son Egerton will truly and carefully perform the same, yet to avoid all doubts therein and least the world should conceive(?) I carelessly commit my whole estate unto him without sufficient provision of any danger that may happen, I do will and require that my said son Egerton, before he intermeddle with my estate and execution of this my will, shall become bound by obligation of four thousand pounds unto my overseers hereafter named, with condition to perform this my will as not to do or suffer any act or thing willingly to be done whereby or by reason whereof the said leases shall not or may not remain or continue unto such person and persons and in such manner as they been herein limited and bequeathed, or otherwise I will and appoint hereby that my said overseers hereafter named shall solely and wholly administer as my executors for performance of this my will until such time as my said son Egerton shall enter into such bond as aforesaid;

And I do entreat the right honourable my good friends the Lord Zouche and the Lord Denny, together with my loving friend, Walter Dayrell, esquire, to be overseers of this my will, and as well by their best advises as otherwise to aid and further the execution and performance of this my last will and testament;

And lastly I do hereby revoke all former wills, and hereby declare these presents to be my only last will and testament, and whatsoever shall be added shall be taken as part or codicil thereof, and in no wise for any total revocation thereof;

In witness whereof I have unto these presents put my seal and to each page hereof subscribed my name, dated the sixth day of March one thousand six hundred and fourteen. Sibilla Grey.

The interlining in the three and twentieth line of the first page and the six and twentieth line of the second page were before the publishing hereof. Teste Waltero Dayrell.

Sexto die Martij Anno Domini 1614

Published as the last will and testament of the Lady Grey by me, Jana Sibilla, Lady Grey, in presence of Francis Saunders, Edmund Dayrell, William Joanes, Hugh Humfreys.

A schedule mentioning and expressing such legacies, sums of money and other things as I do by this my will annexed give and bequeath, and hereinbefore meant and intended to be given and bequeathed unto the persons hereafter named, viz.:

First, to my said honourable friends, the Lord Zouche and Lord Denny, as a token of my love, ten pounds apiece;

Item, to my daughter Egerton all my plate not herein specially bequeathed, which I desire and do not doubt but my son Egerton in his love and respect unto me and her will permit the same to remain unto herself during her natural life, and after her decease unto such person and persons as my said daughter Egerton by any writing shall limit and appoint;

Also I give unto my said daughter Egerton, after all my debts paid and this my will performed, all my household stuff and other goods not herein especially otherwise disposed of;

And furthermore I give and bequeath to my daughter Goodwin one of my best jewels and a piece of plate of forty pounds;

Item, to my good friend Mr Walter Dayrell, one of my overseers, as a token of my goodwill and love, ten pounds;

Item, to my servant, John Fewellen, thirty pounds;

Item, to my servant, Thomas Knighton(?), forty pounds;

Item, to my servant, Henry Shawe, twenty marks;

Item to my servant, John Eavens, twenty marks;

Item, to my servant Hugh Levet(?), twenty pounds;

Item, to my servant, Thomas Alyn, twenty pounds;

Item, to Kath[erine](?) Warr, ten pounds;

Item, to Annys(?), ten [f. 38v] pounds;

Item, I give to the rest of my household servants, both men and maids, over and above their wages five pounds apiece and one month's diet for them all after my death;

Item, I give twenty black gowns to twenty poor persons at my funeral, and twenty pounds in money to be bestowed then among them and other poor folks.

Sibilla Grey

Sexto die Martij 1614, this will was published by her Ladyship as her last will and testament. Francis Saunders, Edmund Dayrell, William Joanes, Hugh Humfreys.

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum unacum Cod{ic}illo(?) apud London coram Magistro Edmundo Pope Legum doctore Surrogato venerabilis viri Domini Johannis Benet militis Legum etiam doctoris Curie Prerogatiue Cantuariens{is} Magistri Custodis siue Commissarij legitime constituti Decimo quarto die Mens{is} Iulij Anno Domini millesimo sexcentesimo Decimo quinto Iuramento Rowlandi Egerton Armigeri vnus executorum in eodem Testamento nominat{i} Cui commissa fuit Administrac{i}o bonorum Iurium et Creditorum dicte Defuncte De bene et fideliter administrand{o} &c ad sancta Dei Evangelia Iurat{i} Reservata potestate similem Commissionem faciend{i} Brigitte Egerton alteri executorum in eodem Testamento etiam nominat{orum} eam cum venerit petitur{e}(?) in debita Iuris forma admissur{e}(?)

[=The above-written testament was proved, together with the codicil, at London before Master Edmund Pope, Doctor of the Laws, Surrogate of the worshipful Sir John Bennet, knight, also Doctor of the Laws, lawfully constituted Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the fourteenth day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand six hundred fifteenth by the oath of Rowland Egerton, esquire, one of the executors named in the same testament, to whom administration was grant of the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer etc., with power reserved for a similar grant to be made to Bridget Egerton, another of the executors named in the same testament, when she shall have come in due form of law to be admitted the same.]

LM: [] Bridgitte Egerton decimo septimo ffebr{uarij} 1646 []