

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 26 May 1501 and proved 28 June 1501, of Sir William Carew, a descendant of Robert de Vere (d.1221), 3rd Earl of Oxford, one of the 25 barons elected to oversee the implementation of Magna Carta.

The testator was the fifth son of Sir Nicholas Carew (1409?-1448?) and Joan Courtenay (1411?-1465?), the daughter of Sir Hugh Courtney by his third wife, Philippe, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Warin l'Arcedekne. After the death of Sir Nicholas Carew, Joan (nee Courtenay) Carew married, by licence dated 5 October 1450, Sir Robert Vere (d.1461?), younger brother of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., Vol. I, (Salt Lake City, 2011), pp. 401-3.

In the will below, the testator requests John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford, to be supervisor of his will.

For the testator's family background, see also the entry in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* for the testator's grandfather, Sir Thomas Carew (1368?-1431):

Carew, Sir Thomas (1368?–1431), soldier and naval commander, was the son of Sir Leonard Carew (1342–1369), and grandson of Sir John Carew, justiciar of Ireland (d. 1362). His mother was probably Alice, daughter of Sir Edmund Fitzalan. Leonard had come of age only in 1364, and at his death, five years later, his son was still an infant in the king's ward, under the guardianship of a succession of male relatives. Thomas served on Richard II's first expedition to Ireland in 1394. By this time he was married to Elizabeth (d. 1450/51), daughter of Sir William Bonville (d. 1408), and already had two daughters. He was knighted during the campaign. . . .

Carew was prominent in Devon administration in the reign of Henry VI, serving as justice of the peace, on commissions of array, and on ad hoc commissions relating to loans and to maritime misdemeanours. In 1426 he was granted the marriage of Joan, one of the daughters of Sir Hugh Courtenay; he wedded her to his son, Sir Nicholas (d. 1449).

The testator's mother, Joan (nee Courtenay) Carew Vere and her second husband, Sir Robert Vere (d.1461?) were Oxford's great-great-grandparents. See *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., Vol. II, pp. 326-8.

See also Kimber, E. and R. Johnson, *The Baronetage of England*, Vol. II, (London: G. Woodfall, 1771), p. 220, available online:

Sir Nicholas Carew, Knt., son and heir (who died 1446), married Joan, daughter of Sir Hugh Courtney, of Haccombe, Knt. (by Phillippa his wife, daughter and coheir of Sir Warren Erchedeacon, Knt.) by whom he had issue five sons. Sir Thomas, the eldest son, disoblising his mother (having undutifully given her a blow), she settled seventeen

manors on her younger sons, which proved the occasion of three great families. Her sons were, 1. Sir Thomas; 2. Nicholas Carew, on whom she settled Haccombe, Ringmore, and Milton; 3. Hugh, unto whom his mother gave Lyham, Manedon, Comb-hall, and Southtawton; but he dying issueless, his portion, by virtue of an entail, went to his brother Nicholas; 4. Alexander, who had East-Anthony in Cornwall, Shoggebroke, and Landegy, by gift of his mother; 5. Sir William Carew, knighted after the battle of Blackheath, 12 Hen. VII. to whom his mother gave Wicheband, Widebridge, Bokeland and Bledeuagh, and was progenitor to the Carews, of Crocum in Somersetshire.

After Sir Nicholas's decease, this Joan married to her second husband, Sir Robert Vere, brother to John, Earl of Oxford, and had a son, John, to whom she gave Roseworthy, Bosewen, and Tregenow in Cornwall.

The testator's first wife was Jane Drury, widow of Thomas Harvey, and daughter of Henry Drury and his wife, Elizabeth, the daughter of George Eton [=Eyton?]. For the will of Elizabeth (nee Eyton) Drury, dated 14 March 1545/6, in which she refers to her daughter, Jane (by then deceased), Jane's husband, William Carew, and Jane's children, Roger Carew and Elizabeth Carew, see Gage, John, *The History and Antiquities of Suffolk, Thingoe Hundred*, (London: Samuel Bentley, 1838), pp. 283-4.

There has been confusion concerning the identity of the testator's second wife, Margaret. According to Gage, p. 286, her family name was Chedworth.

Sir William Carewe, made a Knight Banneret by King Henry VII, was fifth son of Sir Nicholas Carewe, by Jane, daughter of Sir Hugh Courtenay of Bocconock, and afterward wife of Robert de Vere, brother of John Earl of Oxford. By Jane Drury, whom he survived, he had issue Roger, who died an infant in 1479, and Elizabeth. He married, secondly, Margaret, daughter and heir of Chedworth; and was father, among other children, of John Carewe, ancestor of the Carewes of Crowcombe in Somersetshire. Sir William, dying in 1501, was buried in St. Mary's Church, Bury St. Edmund's, where his altar-tomb is to be seen in the chancel, with the recumbent effigies of himself and Margaret his wife, who died in 1525. Among the armorial ensigns are the arms of Carewe: Or, three lions passant in pale Sable, impaling Drury; and also Carewe, with a blank impalement intended for the arms of Chedworth, which are found on a brass upon her son John Carewe's grave-stone, Azure, a chevron between three wolves' heads erased Or.

In Vivian, J.L., ed., *The Visitations of Cornwall*, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1887), p. 68 available online, the testator's second wife, Margaret, is said to have been the daughter and coheir of Sir Thomas Chedworth, Lord Mayor of London, citing John Tuckett's *Devonshire Pedigrees*. However on p. 638 of the same volume, that statement is corrected as follows:

Carow Ped. – Page 68. Seventh descent, Margaret, wife of Sir William Carow, should be daughter of Sir Thomas Catworth, not Chedworth.

The *Visitations of Cornwall* appears to be in error in both cases. The two documents below establish that the testator's second wife, Margaret, was the daughter of William Chedworth of Stepney and niece of his brother, John Chedworth, Bishop of Lincoln (d.1471), and that she was the sister of Nicholas Chedworth (d.1501?), Joan (nee Chedworth) Marrowe, and Elizabeth (nee Chedworth) Blake Audley (d.1541/2).

1486-1493 P.R.O. C 1/88/21

William Carewe, knight, and Margaret, his wife, William Marowe, esquire, and Johane, his wife, and Thomas Blake, esquire, and Elizabeth, his wife. v. William Bracebrigg, executor to John Crosseby, knight.: Bequests to the said Margaret, Johane, and Elizabeth, by John Chadworth, bishop of Lincoln, brother to William Chadworth, of Stepynheth, deceased, their father.

1518-1529 P.R.O. C 1/459/6

John Audeley, knight, and Dame Elizabeth, his wife, Dame Margaret Carew, widow, and Thomas Marow, esquire, son of Johane Marow. v. George Conghurst and Margaret, his wife, late the wife of Nicholas Chadworth, gentleman, brother of the complainants Elizabeth and Margaret: Detention of deeds relating to the manor of Rumboldes and messuages and land in Stepney, Hackney, Budge Row, St Antholin's, Watling-street, St Mary Aldermary, Old Change, St Giles's, Cripplegate, and Legg Alley. Middlesex.

Gage (see above) further states that John Carew, the testator's son and heir by his second wife, Margaret, died on 1 March 1525 [sic], leaving a son and heir, George Carew:

John Carewe died 1st March in the sixteenth [sic] year of Henry VIII, leaving George Carewe, his son and heir, of the age of thirteen years and upward. The manor of Sapston was settled by him on Margaret his wife for life, remainder to his issue in tail, remainder to the uses of the will of his father, Sir William Carewe. – Inq. p. m. 16 Hen. VIII. John Carew and Margaret his wife were buried near Sir William Carewe in St. Mary's Church, Bury St. Edmund's, as appears by the brasses on his grave-stone, noticed by Chitting.

See also Tymms, Samuel, *An Architectural and Historical Account of the Church of St. Mary, Bury St. Edmund's*, (London: Simpkin and Marshall, 1854), p. 73:

1501. Sir William Carewe, kt.; on the north side of the chancel. --- Fifth son of Sir Nicholas Carewe, by Jane, dau. of Sir Hugh Courtenay, of Bocconnock, and afterward wife of Robert de Vere, brother of John, Earl of Oxford. He was made a knight banneret by Henry the Seventh, and married to his first wife, Jane, widow of Thomas Hervey, younger brother of Sir John Hervey, of Thurleigh, Beds., and ancestor of the Bristol family; and dau. and sole heir of Henry Drury Esq., of Ickworth. By her, who died before 1475, he had issue, Roger, who died an infant in 1479, and Elizabeth. Sir William married secondly, Margaret, daughter and heir of Chedworth, and was father, among other children, of John Carewe, ancestor of the Carewes of Crowcombe, in Somersetshire. His will bears date 26 May, 1501, and was proved in London 28 June following. He ordered his body to be buried on the north side of the chancel of St.

Mary's church, Bury St. Edmund's, before the image of our Lady, giving to the church for oblations forgotten, 10s. His place in Bury, after the death of Margaret his wife, he gave to his eldest son, John Carewe, who, at the time of his death, was a minor. Lady Margaret survived till 1525, when she was buried in St. Mary's church.

See also p. 78:

1524. John Carewe and Margaret his wife; near to the tomb of his father Sir Wm. Carewe, as appears by the brasses on his graves-stone, noticed by Chitting. – He was son of Sir William Carewe by his second wife, Margaret Chedworth; and became ancestor of the Carewes of Crowcombe, in Somersetshire. The arms of Carewe, Or, three lions passant in pale Sable, and of Chedworth, Azure, a chevron between three Wolves' heads erased Or, were on their gravestone.

For the inquisition post mortem of John Carew, dated 30 September 1524, in which Sir John Vere is named as one of John Carew's feoffees, see TNA C 142/41/23.

It appears from the pedigree in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Suffolk*, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1882), p. 187 (in which 'Celley' appears to be an error for 'Kelly') and other sources that after John Carew's death on 1 March 1524, his widow, Margaret or Margery Kelly, the daughter of William Kelly, married, as his second wife, James Tyrrell (1475?-1538) of Columbine Hall, the son of Sir James Tyrrell (c.1455-1502), alleged murderer of the two young sons of King Edward IV held in the Tower. For the Tyrrell pedigree showing James Tyrrell (1475?-1538) of Columbine Hall and his first wife, Anne Hotoft, see Bright, J.B., *The Brights of Suffolk, England*, (Boston: John Wilson, 1858), p. 228. For the will of James Tyrrell (1475?-1538) of Columbine Hall, dated 8 April 1533 and proved 17 October 1539, see TNA PROB 11/26, f. 119. It further appears that their son, Charles Tyrrell (d.1570), married Oxford's mother, Margery Golding (d.1568), after the 16th Earl's death in 1562. For the will of Charles Tyrrell (d.1570), see TNA PROB 11/52, f. 105.

In the will below, the testator mentions his second wife, Margaret, and four sons, all under age: John Carew, his heir, William Carew, Nicholas Carew and Thomas Carew, and a daughter, Elizabeth Carew.

For the testator's ward, William Robsart, see:

'Gallow and Brothercross Hundreds: Sedistern', *An Essay towards a Topographical History of the County of Norfolk: volume 7*, pp. 180-184. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=78324>.

William Robsart's niece, Amy Robsart (1532-1560), the only child of Sir John Robsart (d.1554), was the first wife of Queen Elizabeth's favourite, Robert Dudley (1532/3-1588), Earl of Leicester.

For the testator's manor of Buckland in the Moor, Devonshire, see:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/records.aspx?cat=027-749&cid=-1#-1>.

For the testator's lordship of Wychbold, see:

'Parishes: Dodderhill', *A History of the County of Worcester: volume 3* (1913), pp. 58-69.
URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=43089>

[I]n 1463–4 the manor was in the possession of Joan widow of Sir Robert Vere, who conveyed it to Nicholas Carew, Alexander and William Carew, two of his younger sons, and others, evidently for the use of William Carew. It remained in his family for almost a century. In 1523 John Carew, his son, settled it on Margery Kelly, whom he afterwards married. (fn. 64) She was still holding it in 1547, (fn. 65) but before 1562 had been succeeded by her grandson Thomas Carew, who with Elizabeth his wife conveyed it in that year to Edward Villiers and Thomas Savage. (fn. 66).

64 *Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxxxv, 78.*

65 *Ibid. She is called Margery Tirrill in 1546 (ibid. lxxv, 101).*

66 *Feet of F. Worcs. Trin. 4 Eliz.*

For the will of the testator's sister-in-law, Elizabeth (nee Chedworth) Blake Audley (d.1542), in which she leaves bequests to her niece, Margaret (nee Kelly) Carew Tyrrell and her niece's children, John Carew, Margaret Carew, Anne Broke, James Tyrrell, Margery Tyrrell, Charles Tyrrell (Oxford's stepfather), and Philip Tyrrell, see TNA PROB 11/29, f. 3.

For the will of the testator's brother-in-law, Nicholas Chedworth, esquire, of Hackney, dated 7 September 1498 and proved 16 March 1501, see TNA PROB 11/12, f. 145.

For the will of the testator's brother-in-law, Thomas Blake of Swaffham Market, dated 18 November 1505 and proved 22 December 1506, see TNA PROB 11/15, f. 130.

LM: T{estamentum} W{illelmi} Carew

In the name of God, Amen. The 26th day of May in the year of Our Lord God 1500 and one, I, William Carew, knight, being in good and whole mind, ordain and make my testament and last will in this manner and form following:

First I bequeath and commend my soul to Almighty God and to Our Blessed Lady Saint Mary & to all the holy company of heaven, and my body to be buried on the north side in the chancel of Saint Mary Church within the town of Bury Saint Edmonds before th' image of Our Lady there;

Also I annul and revoke all the wills & testaments that ever I before this time made, and will that they be utterly void and of none effect;

Also I bequeath to the [f. 87r] high altar of the church abovesaid for all manner oblations and other things forgotten 10s;

Also to the said church 10s;

Also I bequeath to the high altar of the parish church of Hengrave 6s 8d, and to the same church 6s 8d;

Also I bequeath to the making of a rood to stand at the high altar's end 13s 4d;

Also I bequeath to the friars of Babwell 20s;

Also I will that my wife purvey a discreet priest to sing for my soul and for the souls of my good-doers and friends by the space of 4 years next ensuing after my decease in the said Church of Our Lady;

Also I give and bequeath to Jesus' Guild in Bury my 2 tenements lying in the West Gate street there to th' intent that with the profits of the same mine obit may be kept yearly in the said church forever;

Also I give and bequeath to John, my son and heir, my chain when he cometh to his lawful age;

Also I bequeath and commit to Margaret, my wife, all mine apparel belonging to my body at her liberty to dispose it to my children after her discretion;

Also I give and bequeath by this my last will and testament and grant to Margaret, my wife, for term of her life all my lands in Devonshire with all th' appurtenances and profits, as well my manor of Buckland in the Moor as all my lands & tenements in Withybrigg [=Witheridge?];

Also I will and grant to my said wife for term of her life all my lordship of Wichebaud [=Wychbold] in Worcestershire with all the profits and appurtenances to the same lordship belonging according to such a state [=estate] as she hath therein for her jointure;

Also I give and grant to my said wife all the lands and tenements that I have purchased within the shires of Suffolk and Essex for term of her life except the manor of Sapiston in Suffolk that I will that when John, my son and heir, cometh to his lawful age of 24 years that he have to him the said manor with all th' appurtenances and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten forever, and for fault of issue of him, the said manor with th' appurtenances to remain to his next heir and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and so from heir to heir;

Also I will and bequeath to William, my second son, when he cometh to the lawful age of 24 years, if he be no priest, all my lands and tenements in Wickhambrook with th' appurtenances called Powncyes lands, to hold to him and to his heirs forever, and if he fortune to be a priest, then I will that all the said lands and tenements shall remain to Thomas, my younger son, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten forever, and so from heir to heir;

Also I bequeath and give to Nicholas, my son, after the decease of my said wife, all my lands and tenements in Flempton, Hengrave & Fornham Alhaloween [=Fornham All Saints], except that my said wife will sell any of the said lands and tenements to purchase other lands for it to his use, to have and to hold to him & to his heirs all the said lands and tenements forever;

Also I will that if any of my younger sons die without issue of their bodies lawfully begotten, that every of the same younger sons that liven shall be other's heir, and for default of such issue the remainder of the same lands to go mine eldest son and to his heirs forever;

And also I will that after the decease of Margaret, my wife, that all my lordships, manors, lands and tenements within Devonshire and Worcestershire remain wholly to my son and heir and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten for evermore, and for default of such issue all the said lordships, manors, lands and tenements to remain to his next heirs, and for default of issue male to remain to issue general, and so from heir to heir as long as any of mine issue be on live or any of their heirs, and for default of such issue all the said lordships, lands and tenements to remain and turn again to the gift of my mother, Dame Jane Carew, sometime wife to Sir Robert Vere, knight, forever;

Also I give & bequeath to Thomas, my youngest son before-named, my tenement with th' appurtenances in Stevenhith [=Stepney] & my meadow in Oldeforth Meadow after the decease of his mother, to have to him [+and] to his heirs and assigns forever;

And as touching that lands and tenements that I have purchased in Blithborow [=Blythburgh?] & Henham late Roger Skeetes', & also my house in the East Gate street of Bury, I will they be at my said wife's liberty whether she will keep them or sell them, and also if it happen that my said wife, Margaret, die during the nonage of my children, that then I will that the supervisors of this my last will & testament have the rule & profit of all my said purchased lands with all my tailed lands aforesaid during the nonage of my children to the exhibition of them and to execute th' intent above-specified, and also for the marriage of Elizabeth, my daughter, to whom I will & bequeath at the day of her marriage 100 marks;

Also I give and bequeath to my said wife for term of her life my place at Bury with all th' appurtenances, as well tenements, closes and barns & gardens & other necessaries thereto belonging except the 2 tenements in the West Gate before-named, and after her decease the said place with all the appurtenances beforesaid to remain to John, my son and heir, & to his heirs forever;

And according to the premises & full effect of this my last will & testament I will, require & straitly charge all my feoffees & co-feoffees to make and deliver a lawful estate at such time as they shall be required by my wife on my behalf according to this my last will in things before rehearsed, & to perform the same;

Also I will that my wife have all my plate & stuff of household during her life, and leave the said plate as good to mine heirs as she findeth it, the other stuff to be at her liberty if she marry not, and if she hap to marry again, then I will that the supervisors of this my last will take sufficient surety of them that all the said plate & stuff of my house shall remain to mine heirs without any impediment or interruption immediately after the decease of my said wife, whom I make and ordain to be mine executrice solely to do for me as she may think most needful for my soul & for the pleasure of God;

And hereupon all these premises I pray & make my Lord of Oxenford to be supervisor, & under him my brother Blake and Mr Thomas Cripping to see th' execution of this my last will and testament for the wealth of my soul and also for the performance of the same will and testament;

Also by virtue of this my said will I give and bequeath to my said wife the custody of William Robsart with all the profits of his [f. 87v] lands at Bulcham [=Bircham?] according to the covenants between my Lord of Suffolk and me;

The residue of all my lands, goods and debts not named nor bequeathed I fully give and bequeath to my said wife to do her will with them, and to bear her charges and namely for the wealth of my soul and my friends after her discretion;

These witness: my brother Blake, Mr Thomas Cripping, John Berker [=Barker?] and Thomas Cuttes, the day and year abovesaid.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum coram Magistro Willielmo Barons legum doctore prerogative ecclesie xp Cantuariensis sede Archiepiscopali vacante comissario xxviiio die mensis Iunii Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo primo Iuramento Magistri xpoferi Middelton Notarij publici procuratoris in hac parte Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et comissa fuit admistracio Margarete Relicte et executrici in dicto testamento nominatim in persona dicti procuratoris De bene et fideliter admistrando Ac de pleno et fideli Inuentario citra festum sancti thome proximum futurum exhibendo Necnon de plano et vero compoto reddendo in debita iuris forma Iurat

[=The above-written testament was proved before Master William Barons, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative [+Court?] of the Church of Christ of Canterbury of the Archiepiscopal seat [+now?] vacant, on the 28th day of the month of June in the year

of the Lord the thousand five hundred first by the oath of Master Christopher Middleton, notary public, proctor in that behalf, and probated and entered, and administration was granted to Margaret, relict and executrix named in the said testament, sworn in due form of law in the person of the said proctor to well and faithfully administer and to exhibit a full and faithful inventory before the feast of Saint Thomas next to come, and also to render a plain and true account.]