

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 10 September 1623 and proved 20 November 1623, of Sir William Hoby (d. 20 November 1623), the son of Mary (nee Tracy) Hoby Vere (18 May 1581 - 25 December 1671) by her first husband, William Hoby the younger (d. 19 March 1603). Mary Tracy's second husband was Oxford's first cousin, Horatio Vere (1565-1635), Baron Vere of Tilbury, who owned portraits of Oxford's illegitimate son, Sir Edward Vere, and legitimate son, Henry de Vere, 18th Earl of Oxford.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the testator's family background, see the will, dated 13 March 1601 and proved 27 April 1605, of his grandfather, William Hoby the elder (1500-1603), TNA PROB 11/105/300.

Testator's parents

The testator was the son of William Hoby the younger (d. 19 March 1603) and his second wife, Mary Tracy.

The testator's father married firstly Katherine Fermor, the daughter of Sir George Fermor (d. 1 December 1612) of Easton Neston, son of Sir John Fermor (by 1516-1571) and Maud Vaux (d. 14 April 1569), the daughter of Sir Nicholas Vaux (d. 14 May 1523), 1st Baron Vaux of Harrowden. See the will of Sir Nicholas Vaux, TNA PROB 11/21/178; Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 657-8; and the History of Parliament entry for Sir John Fermor at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/fermor-sir-john-1516-71>

For the pedigree of Fermor of Easton Neston, see pp. 19, 87 at:

<https://archive.org/details/visitationsnort00vincgoog/page/n32>

and:

<https://archive.org/details/visitationsnort00vincgoog/page/n100>

For the pedigree of Fermor of Somerton, see Blomfield, J.C., *History of Middleton and Somerton*, (Bristol, J.W. Arrowsmith, 1888), p. 122 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=LRTnAAAAMAAJ&pg=RA3-PA122&lpg>

For the will of Sir George Fermor, dated 9 August 1611 and proved 6 May 1613, see TNA PROB 11/121/453.

For the will of George Fermor's uncle, Thomas Fermor (d. 8 August 1580) of Somerton, see TNA PROB 11/62/337. See also the History of Parliament entry for Thomas Fermor at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/fermor-thomas-1523-80>

George Fermor's aunt, Mary Fermor (d.1573), was the first wife of Sir Richard Knightley (1533-1615), prosecuted for his part in the publication of the Marprelate tracts. Another aunt, Anne Fermor (d.1550), married William Lucy (d.1551), by whom she was the mother of Sir Thomas Lucy (b. in or before 1532, d. 1600), of Charlcote, Warwickshire. See the *ODNB*:

Lucy, Sir Thomas (b. in or before 1532, d. 1600), gentleman, of Charlcote, in Warwickshire, was the eldest son of William Lucy (d. 1551) and his wife, Ann (d. 1550), daughter of Richard Fermor of Easton Neston in Northamptonshire.

Testator's siblings

The testator had a sister of the half blood by his father's first marriage:

-**Alice Hoby** (born c.1600), the daughter of the testator's father by his first wife, Katherine Fermor. Alice Hoby married John Sydenham, esquire, of Brimpton, Somerset, the son of Sir John Sydenham (d.1625).

The inquisition post mortem taken after the testator's death states that his next heir was his sister, Alice Sydenham, wife of John Sydenham, esquire, of Brimpton, Somerset. See Phillimore, W.P.W. and George S. Fry, eds., *Abstracts of Gloucestershire Inquisitiones Post Mortem*, (London: British Record Society Limited, 1893), pp. 67-9 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=a51UAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA67>

The testator had a brother of the whole blood:

-**Philip Hoby** (d.1617).

In November 1607 the testator's mother married secondly Oxford's first cousin, Horatio Vere (1565-1635), Baron Vere of Tilbury, the youngest of the four sons of Geoffrey Vere (d.1572) of Crepping Hall, Wakes Colne, Essex, and his wife, Elizabeth Hardekyn (d.1615), daughter of Richard Hardekyn of Colchester. For the nuncupative will of Geoffrey Vere, see ERO C/ABW 38/187.

By his mother's second marriage, the testator had five sisters of the half blood, for whom see the will of his mother, Mary (nee Tracy) Hoby Vere, TNA PROB 11/338/214.

PORTRAITS

In her will, the testator's mother bequeaths portraits at Kirby Hall to her grandson, Horatio Townshend:

Item, I give unto my loving grandchild, Horatio, Lord Townshend, the picture of my late dear husband, Horace, Lord Vere, deceased, in my great parlour, and the pictures of all my Lord Vere's officers and captains in the said room or elsewhere in my house called Kirby Hall, to be delivered to his Lordship or whom he shall appoint immediately after my decease.

One of these portraits was of Oxford's son and heir, Henry de Vere, 18th Earl of Oxford, while another was of Oxford's illegitimate son, Sir Edward Vere (21 March 1581 - c.1629). The portraits were sold in 1904. See *Catalogue of the Townshend Heirlooms*, 1904, p. 15 at:

<https://archive.org/details/townshe00chri/page/14>

For Sir Edward Vere, see also the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/vere-sir-edward-1581-1629>

For the portraits, see also Eales, Jacqueline, 'Anne and Thomas Fairfax, and the Vere Connection', in Hopper, Andrew and Philip Major, eds., *England's Fortress: New Perspectives on Thomas, 3rd Lord Fairfax*, (Farnham, Surrey: Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2014), pp. 156-7 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=AjXjBAAAQBAJ&pg=PA156>

The testator's will was disputed. See the sentence dated 28 January 1632, TNA PROB 11/161/84, referred to in the marginal note below.

RM: T{estamentum} D{omi}ni Will{el}mi Hobby milit{is}

In the name of God, Amen. I, Sir William Hoby of Hailes in the county of Gloucester, knight, make and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I commend my soul to God etc.;

And my body to Christian burial etc.;

And touching the disposition of my lands, tenements, leases for years, goods & chattels:

First I give all my wood and land called Hailes wood in the said county of Gloucester wherein I have any estate of inheritance unto my mother, the Lady Vere, her heirs & assigns forever;

And lastly I leave and give all my leases for years of Hailes and Didbrook and all my lands, tenements, tithes and hereditaments which I hold by lease for term of years, and also all other my goods and chattels whatsoever unto my mother, the Lady Vere, whom I constitute, ordain and make executor of this my last will and testament to the intent and purpose that she shall therewith discharge the charge of my funeral, pay my debts & legacies, & perform this my last will and testament;

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand, given the 10 day of September in the year of Our Lord God 1623. William Hoby.

I give Rowell & Cutsdean to my sister, Else [=Alice]. Signam.

RM: Confirmat{ur} p{er} S{ente}n{c}iam diff{initiuam} lat{am} 2do(?)
Convers{io} (?) Pauli 1631

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum apud London Coram magistro Charolo Twisden legum doctore Surrogato venerabilis viri Domini Will{el}mi Burd militis legum etiam doctoris Curie Prerogatiue Cantuariensis magistri Custodis siue Com{m}issarij legitime Constituti Vicesimo die mensis Novembris Anno Domini Millesimo sexcentesimo vicesimo tertio Iuramento Domine Vere matris dicti defuncti et executricis in huiusmodi testamento nominate Cui Com{m}issa fuit administratio bonorum iurium et Creditorum dicti defuncti De bene et fideliter administrando eadem Ad sancta dei Evangelia Iurat{e}

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before Master Charles Twisden, Doctor of the Laws, Surrogate of the worshipful Sir William Burd, knight, also Doctor of the Laws, lawfully constituted Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the twentieth day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand six hundred twenty-third by the oath of Lady Vere, mother of the said deceased and executrix 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 the same.]