

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 15 August 1629 and proved 8 October 1629, of Robert Radcliffe (1573 – 22 September 1629), 5th Earl of Sussex, to whom Robert Greene dedicated Thomas Lodge's *Euphues' Shadow* (1592).

The testator was the son of Henry Radcliffe (1533 – 14 December 1593), 4th Earl of Sussex, and Honor Pounce (d.1593), the daughter of Anthony Pounce (d.1547) of Farlington, Hampshire, and Anne Wingfield (d. 13 November 1557). For Anthony Pounce (d.1547), see the will of his father, William Pounce (d. 5 July 1525), TNA PROB 11/21/561. Anthony Pounce's half brother, William Pounce (died c.1564?), married Ellen Wriothesley (d.1589), great-aunt of Henry Wriothesley (1573-1624), 3rd Earl of Southampton.

The testator's father, Henry Radcliffe (1533-1593), 4th Earl of Sussex, and his elder brother, Thomas Radcliffe (1527-1583), 3rd Earl of Sussex, were the sons of Henry Radcliffe (d.1557), 2nd Earl of Sussex, and his first wife, Elizabeth Howard (d.1534), daughter of Thomas Howard (1443-1524), 2nd Duke of Norfolk. Elizabeth Howard's nephew, Henry Howard (1517-1547), married Oxford's aunt, Frances de Vere (d.1577).

The testator married Bridget Morison (baptized 1575, d.1623), the daughter of Sir Charles Morison (1549 – 31 March 1599), by whom he had two sons and two daughters, all of whom predeceased the testator. For the will of Sir Charles Morison, see TNA PROB 11/94/168. Bridget Morison's grandmother, Bridget Hussey Morrison Manners Russell (1525/6–1601), Countess of Bedford, had the care of Oxford's daughters, Bridget and Susan Vere after the death of their grandfather, Lord Burghley, and was the grandmother of Francis Norris (1579-1622), Earl of Berkshire, who married Oxford's daughter, Bridget de Vere (1584–1630/31?). For her will, see TNA PROB 11/97/10.

The testator's marriage to Bridget Morison was an unhappy one. From the *ODNB*:

His problems were probably exacerbated by the breakdown of his marriage. By 1602 he was keeping as his mistress one of his wife's former gentlewomen, Sylvester Morgan. His wife lived separately on £1700 a year charged on his estate. The illicit relationship scandalized some contemporaries; the diarist John Manningham recorded how the earl called his mistress his 'countess', even though his wife lived, and dressed her in her velvet gown. He recorded the comment of a friend that, 'I would be loath to come after him [the earl] to a wench for feare of the pox' (Diary of John Manningham, 97–8). George Chapman in 1609 felt it appropriate to include a verse dedicated to Sussex, 'with dutie, alwaies profest to his most Honor'd Countesse' in his translation of the Iliad, hinting perhaps at a rapprochement between the earl and his wife, but if any such existed it was soon over (G. Chapman, Homer Prince of Poets, 1609, sig. EC2v). In September the following year Jane, ostensibly the daughter of Edward Shute but in fact Sussex's, was baptized at St Clement Danes. Sussex lived with her mother, Frances (d. 1627), daughter of Hercules Meautys, Shute's wife and in due course widow, for many years. Their relationship came before the privy council in 1618, when the earl obstructed their

attempt to summon his mistress. The countess of Sussex died in 1623 and Sussex married Frances within days of her burial on 11 December—or even sooner. According to John Chamberlain, Sussex forestalled his wife's deathbed efforts to prevent the marriage taking place by wedding Frances the very day after the countess died, before the pursuivants could deliver a warrant to stop it. Frances died on 18 November 1627, having borne no legitimate children with Sussex.

The testator's 'daughter Radcliffe', mentioned in the will below, may have been his illegitimate daughter, Jane (see above).

For the testator's relationship with Frances Meautys Shute, see also Timbers, Frances, *Magic and Masculinity*, (London: I.B. Tauris & Co. Ltd., 2014), p. 43 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=H6zACQAAQBAJ&pg=PA43&lpg=PA43&dq=%22Edward+Shute%22+%22Frances%22&source=bl&ots=Q38S3_HHsq&sig=xF0rptvpmPgy8PvtJVZhJeUwtrw&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewiLytnamuLLAhUO9GMKHeAeDMAQ6AEIIDAC#v=onepage&q=%22Edward%20Shute%22%20%22Frances%22&f=false

In 1592, Robert Greene dedicated *Euphues' Shadow* to the testator. In the same year, he dedicated *Philomela* to the testator's wife, Bridget. Greene's dedications to the testator and his wife form part of a 'family' pattern in Greene's dedications, since the Radcliffes were connected by marriage to the Howards, Dukes of Norfolk, and to the Stanleys, Earls of Derby. For these marriages, see the will of Sir John Radcliffe (d.1568), TNA PROB 11/50/373.

For the testator's trustee and overseer, Sir Henry Wallop (d. 15 November 1642), see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/wallop-sir-henry-1568-1642>.

See also the Wallop pedigree in Rylands, W. Harry, ed., *Pedigrees from the Visitation of Hampshire*, (London: Harleian Society, 1913), Vol. LXIV, pp. 25-6 at:

https://archive.org/stream/PedigreesFromTheVisitationOfHampshireMadeByThomasBenolt/PedigreesFromTheVisitstionOfHampshire_v64_286pgs#page/n35/mode/2up.

For the testator's trustee and overseer, Sir Daniel Norton (d. 4 July 1636), see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/norton-sir-daniel-1568-1636>.

The testator's executor, Edward Littleton, may have been Edward Littleton (1590-1645), for whom see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/littleton-edward-ii-1590-1645>.

The testator's executor, Richard Bulkeley, may have been the son of Richard Bulkeley (d.1621), for whom see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/bulkeley-richard-i-1621>.

The testator was succeeded by his cousin, Edward Radcliffe (d.1643), 6th Earl of Sussex.

RM: T{estamentum} p{re}nobilis Honorandi viri Rob{er}ti Comitiss Sussex defunct{i}

[f. 215r] In the name of God, Amen, the fifteenth day of August in the fifth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord, Charles, by the grace of God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith etc., and in the year of our Lord God one thousand six hundred twenty and nine, I, Robert, Earl of Sussex, Viscount Fitzwalter, Lord Egremont, Burnell and Botetourt, and of the most honourable Order of the Garter knight, being of good and perfect memory (God be praised), do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say:

First, I commend my soul into the hands of the Almighty God, my Maker and Redeemer, and I appoint my body to be buried in the parish church of Boreham in the county of Essex;

And whereas I, the said Robert, Earl of Sussex, have by my deed dated the first day of January last past conveyed, granted and assured unto Sir Henry Wallop of (blank) in the county of Southampton and Sir Daniel Norton of Southwick in the foresaid county of Southampton, knight, all that messuage or tenement with appurtenances commonly called or known by the name of Home Mill Barnes and now or late in the tenure, possession or occupation of Richard Bulkeley, gentleman, or of his assignee or assignees, and all that messuage or tenement with th' appurtenances commonly called or known by the name of Sheepen and now or late in the tenure, possession or occupation of Henry Powell or of his assignee or assignees, and all that messuage or tenement with appurtenances commonly called or known by the name of Hawkins and now or late in the tenure, possession or occupation of John Oldcocke or of his assignee or assignees, and all that messuage or tenement with appurtenances commonly called or known by the name of Oulting Milne and now or late in the tenure, possession or occupation of John Barbor or of his assignee or assignees, and all that messuage or tenement with appurtenances commonly called or known by the name of Home Milne and now or late in the tenure, possession or occupation of Henry Peere(?) or of his assignee or assignees, and all that messuage or tenement with appurtenances commonly called or known by the name of Sheepscoate and now or late in the tenure, possession or occupation of John Porter or of his assignee or assignees, all which said messuages, lands and premises now are situate,

lying and being in Woodham Walter, Little Baddow and Danbury in the county of Essex, and also the rectory and parsonage of Ellinghamper [=Ellingham?] in the county of Norfolk, and the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders of all the said messuages, rectory, lands, tenements, hereditaments and premises, to have and to hold all and singular the said messuages, rectory, lands, tenements, hereditaments and premises unto the said Sir Henry Wallop and Sir Daniel Norton, their heirs and assignees, to the use of such person and persons and of such estate and estates and to such intents and purposes as should be limited, appointed and declared in and by the last will and testament of me, the said Robert, Earl of Sussex;

Now I, the said Robert, Earl of Sussex, do by this my last will and testament in writing declare, limit and appoint that they, the said Sir Henry Wallop and Sir Daniel Norton, shall stand and be seised of all the said messuage[s], rectory, lands, tenements, hereditaments and premises and the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders of all the said messuages, rectory, lands, tenements, hereditaments and premises, to the use of Edward Littleton of the Inner Temple, London, esquire, and the said Richard Bulkeley, their heirs and assigns, forever, [f. 215v] to the uses, intents and purposes hereafter expressed;

And if the said deed of conveyance unto the said Sir Henry Wallop and Sir Daniel Norton and their heirs, or this my limitation of the use thereupon be in anything defective or do not take effect, then and not otherwise I do by this my last will and testament devise and bequeath all the said messuages, rectory, lands, tenements, hereditaments and premises, and the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders of all the said messuages, rectory, lands, tenements, hereditaments and premises unto the said Edward Littleton and Richard Bulkeley, their heirs and assigns, to the intent and purpose nevertheless that they, the said Edward Littleton and Richard Bulkeley, their heirs and assigns, and the survivor of them shall sell and dispose the same to the best profit that they can make thereof, and I do further devise and bequeath that they, the said Edward Littleton and Richard Bulkeley, shall have full power by this my last will and testament to sell and dispose of all my goods, chattels, plate, jewels and household stuff to the best profit that they also can make thereof, and with the moneys raised by the sale of the said messuages, rectory lands, tenements, hereditaments, goods, chattels, plate, jewels and household stuff, first satisfy and pay all the debts which I, the said Robert, Earl of Sussex, shall truly owe at the time of my decease, and shall likewise satisfy and pay, so farforth as the moneys to be raised as aforesaid will extend, all such legacies which I, the said Robert, Earl of Sussex, shall give and bequeath by this my last will and testament, and employ the remainder thereof (if any shall happen to be) as hereafter shall by this my last will and testament be declared and appointed:

First, I give into the hands of my executors, which hereafter shall be named, the sum of three hundred pounds for the discharging of my funeral expenses;

Item, I give towards the reparation of the said church of Boreham twenty pounds;

Item, I give unto the said Edward Littleton one hundred pounds;

Item, I give unto the said Richard Bulkeley thirty pounds;

Item, I give unto Elizabeth Burges, wife of Thomas Burges, my servant, the sum of two hundred pounds, and my will is that she shall be first paid her legacy of any the legacies hereby given;

Item, I give to my daughter Radcliffe, to buy her a ring, fifty pounds;

Item, I give unto Mary Archer, wife of John Archer, one hundred and fifty pounds;

Item, I give unto my servant, Hugh Hughes, forty pounds;

Item, I give unto my servant, Andrew Lee, thirty pounds;

Item I give to my servant, Thomas Pounce, ten pounds;

Item, I give to my servant, John Ashburne, ten pounds;

Item, I give unto Peter Cowpermy, chaplain, twenty pounds;

Item, I give unto my servant, Thomas Burges, ten pounds;

Item I give to Robert Purnell, my page, five pounds;

Item, I give to my servant, Richard Warner, ten pounds;

Item, I give to my servant, Ralph Ford, ten pounds;

Item, I give to my servant, George Darcy, ten pounds;

Item, I give to my servant, Brian Richardson, ten pounds;

Item, I give to my servant, Nicholas Reynolds, ten pounds;

Item, I give to the rest of my servants who now are in my service and shall there continue until the time of my decease, one whole year's wages over and besides what shall be due unto them at the time of my decease;

Item, I give unto Nathaniel Archar, son of the said John and Mary Archer, twenty pounds;

Item, I give unto the said Elizabeth Burges the bed and beddings, furniture and hangings, in the chamber wherein she lay at Yately in com{ite} Southampton, and also the bed and beddings, furniture and han[g]ings in the chamber wherein she lay in Gomerland House,

and all other beds and household stuff as is particularly set down in several notes under my hand [+and] seal;

And my will is that if they, the said Elizabeth Burges and Mary Archer, shall not be paid their said legacies within a convenient time after my decease, that then it shall be lawful for them or either of them to enter into and upon any the messuages and farms aforesaid, and them to detain till they be satisfied their said legacies;

Item, I give into the hands of my executors the sum of three hundred pounds for the use of Hercules Sussex Mewtys [=Meautys], son of Sir Thomas Mewtys, knight, to be paid him by them when he shall accomplish the age of one and twenty years, and in the meantime to remain in their hands employed toward his maintenance;

Item, if any sum or sums of money shall remain after my debts paid and satisfied, my will is that it shall be disposed amongst the children of the said Sir Daniel Norton;

And for the true performance of this my last will and testament, I do hereby make and ordain the said Edward Littleton and Richard Bulkeley to be my executors thereof;

[f. 216r] And of the execution of this my last will and testament I do likewise ordain and appoint the said Sir Henry Wallop, Sir Daniel Norton, and my servant, Anthony Buckenham, to be overseers thereof, and for their pains and labour therein I give unto the said Sir Henry Wallop fifty pounds;

Item, I give unto the said Sir Daniel Norton one hundred pounds

Item, I give unto the said Anthony Buckenham fifty pounds;

And I do hereby utterly revoke and disannul all former wills and bequeaths by me heretofore made;

In witness whereof I, the said Robert, Earl of Sussex, have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first above-written. Robert Sussex.

Sealed, signed and published in the presence of us, Walter Littleton, Robert Yate, Andrew Lee, Hugh Hughes, Richard Warner.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram venerabili viro Domino Henrico Marten milite legum Doctore curie Prerogatiue Cantuariensis magistrorum Custode siue Commissario legitime constituto Octavo die mensis Octobris Anno domini Millesimo sexcentesimo vicesimo nono Iuramento Richardi Bulkley vnus executorum in eodem testamento nonimatum Cui commissa fuit administratio omnium et singulorum bonorum iurium et creditorum dicti defuncti de bene et fideliter administrando eadem ad sancta dei Euangelia Iurat Edwardo Littleton altero

executorum in eodem testamento nominat{o} ex certis causis eum et animum suum in ea parte moven{tibus} oneri executionis dicti testamenti expresse renuntian{te} vt ex actis liquet

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Sir Henry Martin, knight, Doctor of the Laws, lawfully constituted Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the eighth day of the month of October in the year of the Lord the thousand six hundred twenty-ninth by the oath of Richard Bulkeley, one of the executors 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, Edward Littleton, the other executor named in the same testament for certain causes him and his mind in that part moving, expressly renouncing the burden of the execution of the said testament, as by the acts appears.]