

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 20 June 1504 and proved 10 July 1507, of Sir Robert Broughton. The testator died 17 August 1506. See Dawes, M.C.B., ed., *Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem*, Vol. III, (London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1955), pp. 104-5 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/calendarofinquis03great#page/104/mode/2up/>

The testator was the son of John Broughton (d.1479) of Denston, Suffolk, and Anne Denston (d.1481), daughter and heir of John Denston (d.1473) by Katherine Clopton, daughter of Sir William Clopton (d.1446) of Long Melford, Suffolk. Portraits of the testator's parents, John Broughton and Anne Denston, are preserved in the stained glass windows of Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford. See Delany, Sheila, *Impolitic Bodies: Poetry, Saints, and Society in Fifteenth-Century England: The Work of Osbern Bokenham*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998), pp. 16-18.

The Broughton family, of Broughton in Buckinghamshire, is said to have acquired its wealth through marriage with an heiress in the early fifteenth century. Mary Pever, the daughter of Thomas Pever (d. 22 September 1429) by Margaret Loring, one of the two daughters and coheirs of Sir Nigel Loring (d. 13 March 1386), a founding member of the Order of the Garter, married firstly Sir Richard St. Maur (d. 6 January 1409), and secondly John Broughton, by whom she had a son, John Broughton (d.1489), Sheriff of Bedfordshire, whose son, John Broughton (d.1479), married Anne Denston (d.1481) and predeceased his father by ten years, leaving their son, the testator, to inherit the Broughton estates. See the Inquisition Post Mortem of Anne (nee Denston) Broughton, TNA C 140/80/44; Blaydes, Frederic Augustus, ed., *Bedfordshire Notes and Queries*, Vol. I, (Bedford: Arthur Ransom, 1886), pp. 186-7, 342-5; Blaydes, Frederick Augustus, ed., *The Visitations of Bedfordshire*, Vol. XIX, (London: Harleian Society, 1884), p. 14; Richmond, Colin, *The Paston Family in the Fifteenth Century*, Vol. II, (Cambridge University Press, 1996), p. 164; Watson, H.G., *A History of the Parish of Great Staughton*, Huntingdonshire, (St Neots: Percy C. Tomson, 1916), p. 85; 'Parishes: Great Staughton', *A History of the County of Huntingdon: Volume 2* (1932), pp. 354-369 at <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=42514>; and 'Parishes: Toddington', *A History of the County of Bedford: Volume 3* (1912), pp. 438-447 at <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=42462>.

The 'cadaver tomb' of the testator's maternal grandparents, John Denston and Katherine (nee Clopton) Denston is in the church of St Nicholas at Denston. See Ashley, Katherine and Pamela Sheingorn, eds., 'Interpreting Cultural Symbols: Saint Anne in Late Medieval Society', University of Georgia Press, 1990), pp. 94-110) cited at: *Feminae: Medieval Women and Gender Index*:

http://inpress.lib.uiowa.edu/feminae/DetailsPage.aspx?Feminae_ID=2694.

According to his will below, the testator had two brothers, William and Edward, and a married sister, Elizabeth, the wife of Edmund Cornwall. See Dawes, *supra*, p. 284.

The testator was a close associate of John de Vere, 13th Earl of Oxford, and is said to have been 'one of the richest non-baronial landowners in England'. He married Katherine de Vere, who is said to have been an illegitimate daughter of the 13th Earl. See Ross, James, *John de Vere, Thirteenth Earl of Oxford (1442-1513), 'The Foremost Man of the Kingdom'*, (Woodbridge, Suffolk: The Boydell Press, 2011), p. 187.

The testator's marriage to Katherine de Vere can be dated to the second year of the reign of Henry VII, 1486-7, when the testator settled the manor of Talmages and Wyfolds near Brockley Hall in Suffolk on Katherine de Vere for life. See Rokewode, John Gage, *The History and Antiquities of Suffolk*, (London: Samuel Bentley, 1838), pp. 357-8.

By Katherine de Vere the testator had two sons and a daughter:

-John Broughton (d. 24 January 1518), who married Anne Sapcote (d. 14 March 1559), by whom he had a son, John, and three daughters, Katherine, Anne and Elizabeth. After the death of John Broughton, Anne (née Sapcote) married secondly Sir Richard Jerningham (d.1525), and thirdly John Russell, 1st Earl of Bedford. For the will of John Broughton, see TNA PROB 11/19, ff. 135-6. For the will of Anne Sapcote Broughton Jerningham Russell, see TNA PROB 11/42A, ff. 404-5.

-Robert Broughton.

-Margaret Broughton, who in the will below is said to have been married to William Fitzwilliam, with the proviso that if Fitzwilliam were to 'disagree to the said marriage', or die before the age of twenty-three, Margaret would be entitled to 500 marks from the testator's estate. Margaret married Henry Everard (d.1541). After the death of Margaret Broughton, Henry Everard married Lore (née Wentworth), widow of Edward Shaw and daughter of Sir Roger Wentworth by Anne Tyrrell, daughter of Humphrey Tyrrell. Lore (née Wentworth) survived Everard, and married, as her third husband, Francis Clopton (d.1558). There is a monument to Henry Everard and his wife Margaret (née Broughton) in the church of St Nicholas in Denston, Suffolk. See Cotman, John Sell, *Engravings of Sepulchral Brasses in Norfolk and Suffolk*, 2nd ed., Vol. II, (London: Henry G. Bohn, 1839), p. 16, available online. For the will of Henry Everard, see TNA PROB 11/28, ff. 155-7.

The testator's wife is said to have been with child at the time the testator made the will below.

Several of the inquisitions post mortem taken after the testator's death state that his wife, Katherine de Vere, predeceased him, and that he married Dorothy Wentworth. See, for example:

<http://archive.org/stream/calendarofinquis03great#page/104/mode/2up>

Katherine was still living on 20 June 1504 when the testator made the will below, appointing her as one of his executors:

Item, I will that all my goods and chattels shall go to my burial and 30th day and to the contentation of my servants by the discretion of mine executors, whom I make and ordain Katherine, my wife, Edmund Felton, John Leynton th' elder, John Andrews & Henry Spalding, and supervisor of this my testament and last will mine especial and singular good Lord, John, Earl of Oxenford;

The testator died 17 August 1506. The will was proved 10 July 1507, and the probatum clause states that all the executors renounced, refusing to take upon themselves the burden of the execution of the will, and administration of all the testator's goods was therefore granted to the Lady Katherine, relict, as though he had died intestate.

Thus, on the one hand the inquisitions post mortem taken after the testator's death state that he outlived his wife, Katherine, and married Dorothy Wentworth, while the probatum clause states that administration of his goods was granted to Katherine, his widow. For the inquisitions post mortem, see Dawes, *supra*, pp. 104-5, 142-3, 257, 259, 284-5, 470-1.

Dorothy Wentworth, whom the testator is said to have married, was the sister of Sir Richard Wentworth (d. 17 October 1528), and daughter of Sir Henry Wentworth (d. August 1499) by Anne Say, daughter of Sir John Say (d. 1478) of Broxbourne. Dorothy Wentworth's sister, Margery Wentworth, married Sir John Seymour; they were the parents of Queen Jane Seymour. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., Vol. III, (Salt Lake City, 2011), p. 237, and Rutton, William Loftie, *Three Branches of the Family of Wentworth*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1891), pp. 138-9.

The testator was made a Knight of the Bath when Richard, Duke of York, second son to King Edward IV, and later one of the two young princes said to have been murdered in the Tower, married Anne de Mowbray on 15 January 1478. See Shaw, William A., *The Knights of England*, Vol. I, (London: Sherratt and Hughes, 1906), pp. 138-9, and Tindal, N., *The History of England by Mr Rapin de Thoyras*, Vol. IV, Part II, (London: John and Paul Knapton, 1747), p. 263, available online.

The testator was among those appointed to welcome Catherine of Aragon, the bride of Arthur, Prince of Wales, on her arrival in England in October 1501. See 'Certain Notes Taken Out of the Entertainment of Katherine, Wife of Arthur, Prince of Wales, October 1501', *Miscellaneous State Papers From 1501 to 1726*, Vol. I, (London: W. Strahan, 1778), pp. 5-6.

The testator's arms are given as 'Argent, a chevron between three mullets gules'. See Cotman, *supra*, and Walford, Edward, ed., 'The "Gentry" Roll of Arms' by James Greenstreet, *The Antiquarian Magazine & Bibliographer*, Vol. II, (London: William Reeves, 1882), pp. 169-72, at p. 171.

LM: Test{amentu}m Rob{er}ti Broughton

In the name of God, Amen. I, Sir Robert Broughton, knight, make my last will and testament this 20th day of June the 19th year of our Sovereign Lord King Henry the 7th in form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my body to be buried in Denston church;

Also I will my feoffees suffer mine executors to take the profits of all my manors, lands and tenements with th' appurtenances lying in Landkey in the county of Devonshire;

And of all my manors, lands and tenements in Nanscuke [=Nanscutt?] with the members in the county of Cornwall;

And of all mine other manors, lands and tenements within both the said counties;

And also of my manor of Rye in the county of Berkshire;

Also of all my lands and tenements in Tingrith with the manors of Dixwell and Yonges in Westnyng [=Westoning?] with all their appurtenances;

Also of my manors of Toddington & Chalgrave with their appurtenances;

And of the moiety of the manor of Harlington with th' appurtenances;

And of all my lands & tenements in Toddington, Chalgrave, Hockliffe, Stanbridge, Aspley, Sundon, Weston, Tingrith in the county of Bedford;

And of my manor of Blatherwick in the county of Northampton;

And of all my manors, lands and tenements in the county of Huntingdon with their appurtenances except my manors of Colne and Woodhurst with th' appurtenances revenues of the same till my debts be paid;

And after that done, to find for me a priest in perpetuity to sing for my soul within the College of Denston if I do it not myself by my life;

I will then my said executors of the revenues of my said lands purchase and mortess [=mortgage?] as much land to the said College as shall find the said priest;

And that done, I will that my said feoffees shall stand and be feoffees to th' use of Robert, my son, of all my said manors, lands and tenements in the county of Huntingdon except before excepted for term of life of the same Robert, my son;

Item, I will that my wife have her jointure before this time to her made, and over that, my manors, lands and tenements, rents and services called Stansfield Hall, Balemondes, Priditon, Gatesbury, Stonehall, the moiety at Burgate, Alyngton and Stonham Aspal with their appurtenances in the county of Suffolk, and my manors of Colne and Woodhurst in the county of Huntingdon, and my manor of Asshed [=Ashdon?] in the county of Essex, and my lands and tenements in Sutton & Ryesley with their appurtenances in the county of Bedford, and my manors of Much Crowley & Chicheley in the county of Buckingham with their appurtenances for term of her life, and that my feoffees suffer her to take the profits thereof, and also all my manor of Nanstuke [=Nanscutt?] and all my manors, lands and tenements in the county of Cornwall after my debts paid peaceably during her life so that she take no dower of any my manors, lands and tenements, and if she do, then I will this grant stand void;

And after her decease I will the said manors of Colne and Woodhurst in the county of Huntingdon with their appurtenances remain and be to my said son, Robert, for term of his life, and that it shall be leeful to my feoffees to make estate of the manor of Gaynes(?) to any woman for her jointure, so she be an inheritor of 20 marks land, with whom he shall fortune to marry;

Item, I will that if William Fitzwilliam, which hath married my daughter Margaret, disagree to the said marriage, or die or he come to the age of 23 years, the said Margaret having no jointure of the lands of the said Fitzwilliam, that then my feoffees shall suffer the said Margaret to take the revenues of all the manors, lands and tenements above limited to the contentation of my debts, after my debts paid, till she or such as she shall name have received of the revenues abovesaid 500 marks;

And if my wife be with child with a daughter, then I will that my feoffees suffer mine executors to receive of the revenues of the same manors, lands and tenements, after my debts paid and the said priest in perpetuity, to the sum of 500 marks for her marriage;

And if it be a son, then I will that after my will performed as is abovesaid and the decease of my wife, that then he have all my manors, lands and tenements in the county of Cornwall with their appurtenances for term of his life;

Item, I will that my brother, William, have for term of his life my manors of Wolston with all their appurtenances in the county of Buckingham & Cokerelles in the county of Suffolk, and that my feoffees shall stand feoffees to the same use;

Item, I will that my brother, Edward, have my manors, lands and tenements in Broughton with all their appurtenances in the county of Buckingham, and all mine other lands and tenements in the said town, and my manor of Barkston with all my lands and tenements in Plungar, Knipton et Bottesford in the county of Leicester for term of his life, and that my feoffees shall stand feoffees to the same use;

Item, I will that my sister, Elizabeth, have of the revenues of my manors, lands and tenements above limited for the payment of my debts, after my debts paid, £40 of lawful

money if [sic] the revenues of the same manors, lands and tenements for the release [sic?] of her and her children;

Item, I will that mine uncle, John Leynton, have my manor of Long Stowe with th' appurtenances in the county of Cambridge for term of his life in full recompense of all such fees or annuities as I have to him granted, and in full contentation of such money as I had of him before the feast of Saint John Baptist last past the year of King Henry aforesaid 19th;

Item, I will that Henry Andrews, Henry Spalding & John Smyth have such fees as I to them afore this time granted;

Item, I will that all my goods and chattels shall go to my burial and 30th day and to the contentation of my servants by the discretion of mine executors, whom I make and ordain Katherine, my wife, Edmund Felton, John Leynton th' elder, John Andrews & Henry Spalding, and supervisor of this my testament and last will mine especial and singular good Lord, John, Earl of Oxenford;

And I will that my said supervisor shall have £20, and every of mine [f. 235r] executors 40s of the revenues of my manors, lands and tenements above limited for the payment of my debts after my debts paid;

And I will that if any ambiguity or doubt be of or for lack of form in the law, that it be reformed by sufficient counsel learned, not varying th' effect of this my will and testament;

In witness whereof to this my present will and testament I have put my seal and sign manual the day and year abovesaid and within-written, being witness Sir John Doveson, Master Kyng, and Edmund Cornwall.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum coram domino apud Lanehith(?) decimo die mensis Iulij Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo septimo Iuramento executorum in huiusmodi testimonio nominatim onus executionis eiusdem in se assumere refutatum Et commissa fuit admistratio omnium bonorum et debitorum dicti defuncti Domine Katerine Relicte per viam intestati pro eo et ex eo quod executores refutarunt De bene et fideliter admistratio Ac de pleno et fidei Inuentario citra festum sancti Michaelis proximum futurum exhibendo Necnon de plano et vero comperto reddendo ad sancta dei euangelia in debita iuris forma iurata

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord at Lambeth on the tenth day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred seventh by the oath of the executors named in the same testament refusing to take upon themselves the burden of the execution of the same, and administration was granted of all the goods and

debts of the said deceased to the Lady Katherine, relict, by way of an intestacy for that and because the executors refused, sworn on the Holy Gospels in due form of law to well and faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full and faithful inventory before the feast of Saint Michael next to come, and also to render a plain and true account.]