

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 22 September 1506 and proved 7 October 1506, of William Dormer of West Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

The testator was the eldest son of Geoffrey Dormer the elder, Merchant of the Staple of Calais, who died 9 March 1503, leaving a will dated 20 October 1502 which was proved in 1503 in the Commissary of the Prior of Christ Church, Canterbury. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Vol. II, (Salt Lake City, 2011), p. 422, which cites Woodruff and Churchill, *Sede Vacante Wills*, Kent Archaeological Society Records 3 (1914), p. 16.

By his first wife, Margery, whose surname is unknown, Geoffrey Dormer the elder is said to have had five sons, including the testator and another son named Thomas, and eight daughters. Geoffrey Dormer the elder married secondly Alice Collingridge, (d.1513) by whom he is said to have had seven sons, including Geoffrey, Sir Michael Dormer (d. 20 September 1545), Lord Mayor of London in 1541, Peter (d.1555) and Edward (d.1539), and five daughters including Alice Dormer, who married Thomas Crocker or Croker of Faringdon, Berkshire (see Turner, William Henry, ed., *The Visitations of the County of Oxford*, Vol. V, (London: Harleian Society 1871), p. 185, available online); Margaret Dormer, who married Richard Cowley; and Elizabeth Dormer, who married a husband surnamed Towley. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Vol. II, (Salt Lake City, 2011), pp. 420-1. For the memorial brass of Geoffrey Dormer the elder, his two wives, and their children at Thame, see Beaumont, Edward T., *Ancient Memorial Brasses*, (London: Oxford University Press, 1913), p. 51, available online at:

<http://archive.org/stream/ancientmemorialb00beau#page/50/mode/2up>.

For the will of Sir Michael Dormer, see TNA PROB 11/30, ff. 291-4. For the will of Edward Dormer, see TNA PROB 11/28, ff. 2-3.

In 1498 the testator's father, Geoffrey Dormer (d. 9 March 1503), settled the manor of Baldington in Thame on his son Geoffrey the younger and his male heirs, with remainders to his (Geoffrey the elder's) sons Michael Dormer (d.1545), Peter Dormer (d.1555), Edward Dormer (d.1539), William Dormer (d.1506) and Thomas Dormer.

It thus appears that of the twelve sons of Geoffrey Dormer the elder (d. 9 March 1503), only the six above-named were still living in 1498, and that the testator, as the eldest surviving son of Geoffrey Dormer's first marriage, was his heir.

In the will below the testator leaves £300 and a life estate in a third part of his lands to his wife, Agnes, whose surname is unknown. It appears that Agnes was the testator's second wife, as according to Richardson and the *Visitation of Buckinghamshire*, the testator's first wife was Jane Launcelyn, the daughter and co-heiress of Sir John Launcelyn, by whom he is said to have had an only son and heir, Sir Robert Dormer (d.1552), and four

daughters. See Rylands, W. Harry, ed., *The Visitation of the County of Buckingham*, Vol. LVIII, (London: Harleian Society, 1909), p. 41, available online.

The testator's son, Sir Robert Dormer (d.1552), married Jane Newdigate (d. 7 July 1571), by whom he had an only son, Sir William Dormer (d. 17 May 1575), who married firstly, Mary Sidney (d. 10 February 1542), the daughter of Sir William Sidney (d.1554) and Anne Pakenham (d.1543), by whom he had two sons, Thomas and Robert, who died young, and two daughters, Jane Dormer, who married the Duke of Feria, and Anne Dormer, who married Sir Walter Hungerford. Sir William Dormer married secondly, Dorothy Catesby (d.1613), the daughter of Anthony Catesby (d.1554), esquire, of Whiston, Northamptonshire, by whom he had one son, Sir Robert Dormer, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Dormer, who married Elizabeth Browne, the daughter of Anthony Browne, 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Montague, and six daughters: Mary Dormer, who married Anthony Browne (1552–1592), twin brother of Mary Browne, mother of Henry Wriothesley, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Southampton; Grissel Dormer; Katherine Dormer, who married John St John, 2nd Baron St John of Bletso (d.1596); Frances Dormer; Amphyllis Dormer; and Margaret Dormer (d.1637), who married Sir Henry Constable (d.1607). After Sir William Dormer's death his widow, Dorothy, married Sir William Pelham (d.1587). See Richardson, Vol. III, pp. 255-6, and Questier, Michael C., *Catholicism and Community in Early Modern England*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006), p. 523.

For the will of the testator's son and heir, Robert Dormer, see TNA PROB 11/35, ff. 197-8.

The testator's daughter, Joan or Jane Dormer, married firstly a husband surnamed Alburgh, and secondly, William Bromwell. She is mentioned in the will below as 'Joan Alburgh, my daughter'. For the will of her second husband, William Bromwell, dated 28 November 1536 and proved 23 February 1537, see TNA PROB 11/27, ff. 13-15.

The testator's daughter, Margery Dormer, married Thomas Deane (or Adeane) of Wargrave, Berkshire. She is mentioned in the will below as 'Margery Deane, my daughter'. For the will in Latin, dated 17 April 1517 and proved 18 May 1517, of Thomas Adeane, which mentions his wife, Margery, and his sons Henry, William, Robert, and Nicholas, and daughters Agnes, Alice and Joan, see TNA PROB 11/18, f. 239.

The testator's daughter, Agnes Dormer, married Sir John Baldwin (d.1545), Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. She is mentioned in the will below as 'Agnes Baldwin'. For the will of her husband, Sir John Baldwin, see TNA PROB 11/30, ff. 302-4.

The testator is also said to have had a fourth daughter, who married a London merchant surnamed Brittain. In the will below the testator names John Colyngborne as one of the overseers of his will, and leaves a bequest to 'Pernell Colyngborne'. It seems possible that one of the testator's daughters was married to John Colyngborne of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, who left a will dated 18 June 1522 in which he mentions a wife who

had predeceased him, and names 'my brother Baldwin' as overseer. For the will of John Colyngborne, see TNA PROB 11/21, pp. 251-2.

For the Dormer family, see also the pedigree of Dormer in Lee, Frederick George, *The History, Description and Antiquities of the Prebendal Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Thame*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1883), p. 505, available online at <http://books.google.ca/books?id=f1oMAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA503>.

See also the pedigree of Dormer of Ascot in Wing in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitation of Buckinghamshire*, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1883), p. 11, at <http://www.archive.org/stream/visitationofbuck00harvrich#page/10/mode/2up>.

LM: Test{amentu}m Will{el}mi Dormer

In the name of God, Amen. The 22 day of September in the year of Our Lord 1506 and in the 22 year of the reign of King Henry the 7<sup>th</sup>, I, William Dormer of West Wycombe in the county of Buckingham, being in whole mind, thanked be Almighty God, make and ordain this my present testament in manner and form following:

First and principally I bequeath and recommend my soul unto Almighty God, my Maker and my Redeemer, to his Blessed Mother, Our Lady Saint Mary, and unto all the saints of heaven, and my body to be buried in the chancel of West Wycombe before the image of Saint Lawrence;

Item, I bequeath to the high altar of the said parish church of West Wycombe aforesaid for my tithes and offerings forgotten, 10s;

Item, to the church of Lincoln, 12d;

Item, I bequeath £40 to buy a cope vestment deacon and subdeacon, to be given to the church of West Wycombe, and if it fortune that the same cope vestment deacon and subdeacon cost not fully the sum of £40, then I will that the residue thereof remain to use and behoof of the same church ornaments;

Item, toward the amending of the highways leading from West Wycombe to Great Wycombe, and from West Wycombe to Bradenham, £40, and that be done by mine executors where it shall please God;

Item, I bequeath to poor people £40, to be given amongst them by mine executors where it shall please God to put them in mind;

Item, I give a vestment to Great Wycombe church of the price of 26s 8d, to Hichendon church a vestment [-a vestiment], to the church of Saunderton Saint Mary and to the church of Saunderton Saint Nicholas, to every [+one] a vestiment, price 26s 8d;

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To the church of Bradenham a vestiment, price 26s 8d, and to the church of Stone a vestiment, price 33s 4d;

To the church of Haddenham a vestiment, price 40s;

Item, I bequeath to Joan Alburgh, my daughter, 10 mark;

And to Margery Deane, my daughter, 10 mark;

To Agnes Baldwin, my [+daughter?] 10 mark;

And to William Baldwin, my [-s] godson, £10;

To John Baldwin the younger, 10 mark;

To Agnes [interlined: Alice] Baldwin, 10 mark;

To Richard Baldwin 10 mark;

To Pernell Colyngbourne 10 mark;

To John Dormer 10 mark;

Item, to Henry Hunt, 10 mark;

To Letyce Dormer, 5 mark;

To Henry Deane, the son of Thomas Deane, 40s;

Item, to every maidservant in my house dwelling 20s;

And to every manservant in my house dwelling 6s 8d;

Item, I give to Agnes, my wife, £300;

And I give to Robert my son, £800, and all my years yet for to come in my farm of West Wycombe;

Item, I will that the said Agnes, my wife, shall have the 3<sup>rd</sup> part of all my lands and tenements for term of her life, and the reversion of the same together with all the reversidue [sic?] of all my lands and tenements I will shall be to Robert, my son and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And of th' execution of this my present testament I name and ordain the foresaid Agnes, my wife, and Robert, my son, mine executors;

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And their overseers of th' execution of this my present testament I make and ordain John Baldwyn th' elder and John Colyngbourne, and I give to either of them for their labour in that behalf 10 mark;

And I revoke and annul all other testaments, wills, bequests, executors and overseers by me before this time made, bequeathed and named, and I will that this my present testament, bequests, executors and overseers therein named and made shall stand and abide for my very testament and last will, bequests, executors and overseers, and none other.

Probatum fuit hoc suprascriptu{m} test{amentum} coram Domino apud Lameth Anno Domini Mill{es}imo quingentesimo sexto septimo die octobris iuramento execut{orum} personaliter et Relicte in persona Iohannis Tomson ac approbat{um} etc Et com{m}issa fuit administracio dict{is} executorib{us} de bene et fideliter administrando etc ac de pleno inuentorio conficiendo etc & exhibend{o} citra festu{m} omniu{m} sanctoru{m} ac de plano et vero compoto etc reddendo iuratis

[=This, the above-written testament was proved before the Lord at Lambeth in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixth on the seventh day of October by the oath of the executors personally and the relict in the person of John Tomson, and probated etc., and administration was granted to the said executors, sworn to well and faithfully administer etc., and to prepare a full inventory etc., & to exhibit [+the same] before the feast of All Saints, and to render a plain and true account etc.]