

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 28 July 1508 and proved 4 November 1508, of Thomas Crafford of Havering-atte-Bower, Essex, whose nephew and overseer, Avery Rawson, was the grandfather of Anne Rawson (c.1515 – 20 February 1588), whose husband, Sir Michael Stanhope (executed 1552), was involved in the Protector Somerset's fraud against John de Vere (1516-1562), 16th Earl of Oxford.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the testator's family background, see:

<http://www.ocotilloroad.com/geneal/cornburgh1.html#ALIC1>

For the Crafford family, see also Harris, Rendel, *The Finding of the "Mayflower"*, (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1920), pp. 52-3 at:

<https://archive.org/details/findingofmayflow00harruoft/page/52/mode/2up>

Testator's parents

The testator's father has not been identified. According to McIntosh, the testator was the son of the John Crafford, born about 1447, who was heir to Avery Cornburgh (1430 – 2 February 1487). See McIntosh, Marjorie Keniston, *The Royal Manor of Havering, 1200-1500*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1986), p. 305 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=n3bnTfUebv0C&pg=PA305>

However it may be that the John Crafford (born c.1447) who was heir to Avery Cornburgh was the testator's elder brother, rather than the testator's father. John Crafford (born c.1447) appears to have been the defendant in a Chancery suit, TNA C 1/240/36, dating from 1550-1501 brought by Thomas Grayson concerning 'the manor of Goscys and lands and tenements in Havering, late of Avery Corneburgh'. See also TNA C 1/249/98, and TNA C 1/240/38 involving the same manor. He may also have been the John Crafford, esquire, who was a party to a quitclaim from Richard Lynne (d.1509) and William Lynne (d.1511?). See Northamptonshire Archives, W(A) box 6/parcel XI/no.2. For Thomas Greyson (d.1501?), see his will, PROB 11/13/136.

The testator's mother was Alice Cornburgh, the sister of Avery Cornburgh. See the will of Avery Cornburgh, TNA PRO 11/8/17, and the transcript in King, H.W., 'Ancient Wills (No. 5)', *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society*, (Colchester: The Essex and West Suffolk Gazette Office, 1869), Vol. IV, pp. 1-24 at pp. 15-20:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=aDQGAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA16>

See also the inquisition post mortem taken after the death of Avery Cornburgh in *Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem, Henry VII*, (London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1898), Vol. I, p. 104 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=xPMLAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA104>

He died 2 February last. His sister, Agnes Chambre, aged 60 and more, and John Crafford, aged 40 and more, son of Dame Alice Crafford, his other sister, are his next heirs.

According to the will of Isabel (nee Crafford) Rawson (see below), Avery Cornburgh's sister, Agnes Chambre (b.1427), was a nun at Elsing spital in 1497.

Avery Cornburgh had another sister, Elizabeth Hanys, who predeceased him. See King, *supra*, p. 17. Although no relationship has been established, it should be noted that in his will, TNA PROB 11/15/166, George Bradbury (d.1506), left property to his sister, Philippa Bradbury, and in remainder to her daughter, Joan Hannys, and that a John Hannys (d.1473) of Stratford upon Avon left a will, TNA PROB 11/6/165, in which he mentions his wife, Agnes, two sons, Thomas Hannys and Richard Hannys, and two daughters, Elizabeth Hannys and Joan Hannys.

For Avery Cornburgh, see also the entry in Wedgwood, Josiah C., *History of Parliament*, (London: His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1936), pp. 223-4 at:

<https://archive.org/details/in.ernet.dli.2015.210096/page/n287/mode/2up>

See also Chrimes, S.B., *Henry VII*, (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1972), p. 121 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=db8JCAAAQBAJ&pg=PA121>

See also the will of Avery Cornburgh's wife, Beatrice (nee Lynne) Oxney Cornburgh (c.1417-1501), TNA PROB 11/13/3, and Connolly, Margaret, *Another Medieval London Widow: The Story of Beatrice Cornburgh*, pp. 148, 157, available online.

Testator's siblings

The testator had a brother and a sister:

-John Crafford (born c.1447) coheir to Avery Cornburgh (1430 – 2 February 1487) through his mother, Alice (nee Cornburgh) Crafford. See above.

-Isabel Crafford (d.1497?), who married Richard Rawson (d.1483), by whom she had five sons, Avery, Christopher, John, a Knight of Rhodes, Richard and Nicholas, and three daughters, Anne who married Richard Cely, Elizabeth, who married the mercer, John

Fox, and Alice. See the will of Richard Rawson, TNA PROB 11/7/230, and the wills of Isabel (nee Crafford) Rawson, TNA PROB 11/11/70 (goods) and TNA PROB 11/11/534 (lands). In her will, Isabel (nee Crafford) Rawson leaves the testator a bequest of £10, and also bequeaths money for the mending of highways near 'the house of my brother, Thomas Crafford, in Essex'.

The testator may also have had a sister named Margaret. In his will, TNA PROB 11/7/273, John Fisher (d.1485) mentions his brother-in-law, Thomas Crawforth.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married a wife named Alice. She may have been Alice Lynne, the sister of Richard Lynne and William Lynne mentioned above, and the daughter of John Lynne (d.1487?) and Joan Knyvet, the daughter of Sir John Knyvet (1394/5-1445) of Buckenham Castle, Norfolk, by Elizabeth Clifton, the daughter and heir of Sir Constantine Clifton (1372-1395), 2nd Baron Clifton. For the will of John Lynne, see TNA PROB 11/8/54.

If the testator's wife was Alice Lynne, the Lynne pedigree confuses her with her sister, Anne Lynne. See Marshall, George W., ed., *The Genealogist*, (London: Golding and Lawrence, 1877), Vol. I, pp. 345 at:

<https://archive.org/details/genealogist01mars/page/n723/mode/2up>

According to the will below, the testator had three sons:

* **Richard Crafford** (d.1544?), eldest son. He appears to be the Richard Crafford who, together with his mother(?), Alice, and Godfrey Foljambe of Walton, Derbyshire, and Anne Colvyle of Humby, Lincolnshire, widow, entered into a bond on 7 December 1515 to abide by an arbitrament as to the title to one third of half the manor of Dovers. See Nottinghamshire Archives DDFJ/1/122/2. He may also be the Richard Crafford, gentleman, of Hornchurch mentioned as a creditor in TNA C 241/282/86.

His son may be the Richard Crafford, esquire, referred to as 'cousin' in the will of William Gardiner (1522-1558), TNA PROB 11/44/393, and may also be the Richard Crafford who, together with his wife, Anne, was granted an annuity from the manors of Thankley and Staunton and the wardship of John Gardiner in 1560 (see Wilshire and Swindon History Centre, 9/30/26).

* **Guy Crafford** (d.1553), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/36/76. He married Joan Bodley, the daughter of James Bodley (d.1514) and Joan Strachey, the daughter of Thomas Strachey of Saffron Walden, Essex, and the granddaughter of Thomas Bodley (d.1492) and Joan (nee Leche) Bodley Bradbury (d.1530). For the will of Joan Bodley, see TNA PROB 11/67/367. For the will of Thomas Bodley (d.1492), see TNA PROB 11/9/374. Thomas Bodley's brother, Richard Bodley, was the great-grandfather of Sir

John Bodley of Streatham, landlord of the Globe playhouse from 1601-1622. For Sir John Bodley's role as landlord of the Globe, see TNA C 54/1682, mm. 10-11. See also the Bodley pedigree in Sutton, Anne F., 'Lady Joan Bradbury (d.1530)', in Barron, Caroline M. and Anne F. Sutton, eds., *Medieval London Widows 1300-1500*, (London: The Hambledon Press, 1994), pp. 208-38 at p. 211:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=uc3RLXFANoMC&pg=PA211>

* **Avery Crafford**, under twenty-one years of age when the testator made his will.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

The testator's overseer 'Master George Rede', can perhaps be identified with George Rede, vicar of Hornchurch from 1494-1531. See McIntosh, *supra*, p. 281 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=n3bnTfUebv0C&pg=PA281>

The testator's nephew and overseer, Avery Rawson, was the eldest son of Richard Rawson (d.1483) and the testator's sister, Isabel Crafford (d.1497?). Avery Rawson was the father of Nicholas Rawson (1475-1529?), esquire, of Aveley, Essex, who married Beatrix Cooke (d. 14 January 1554), by whom he was the father of Anne Rawson (c.1515 – 20 February 1588), who married Sir Michael Stanhope, beheaded on Tower Hill in 1552 with his brother-in-law, Edward Seymour, the Protector Somerset: From the *ODNB*:

Stanhope, Sir Michael (b. before 1508, d. 1552), courtier, was the second son of Sir Edward Stanhope (d. 1511), knight of the body to Henry VII, and Adelina, daughter of Sir Gervase Clifton of Clifton, Nottinghamshire. In January 1529, following the death of his elder brother, Richard, without male children, he became head of the Stanhope family; by November 1537 he had married Anne (c.1515–1588), daughter of Nicholas Rawson of Aveley, Essex, and they had seven sons and four daughters. Among his sons were the lawyer Sir Edward Stanhope and the courtier John Stanhope. . . . Stanhope's sister Anne had by 1535 married Sir Edward Seymour [=the Protector Somerset] as his second wife.

Sir Michael Stanhope was involved in the Protector Somerset's fraud against John de Vere (1516-1562), 16th Earl of Oxford. See TNA E 328-345 and other documents on this website, and *The Fall of the House of Oxford* by the author of this website.

For Beatrix Cooke and her daughter, Anne Rawson, see also the monument and inscription in Shelford church at:

<http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/tts/tts1903/summer/shelford3.htm>

For Nicholas Rawson, see 'Notices of John Lord Stanhope of Harrington', *Archaeologia*, (London: J.B. Nichols and Sons, 1860), Vol. XXXVIII, p. 390 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=hb9eAAAACAAJ&pg=PA390>

For Nicholas Rawson, see also Crane, Ellery Bicknell, *The Ancestry of Edward Rawson, Secretary of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay*, (Worcester, Massachusetts: Franklin P. Rice, 1887), p. 5 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=-ctLAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA5>

For Beatrix Cooke, see also the will of Sir Anthony Cooke (1505 – 11 June 1576), the father of Oxford's mother-in-law, Mildred (nee Cooke) Cecil (1526-1589), Lady Burghley.

TESTATOR'S LANDS

For the testator's lands, see:

'Hornchurch: Manors', in *A History of the County of Essex: Volume 7*, ed. W R Powell (London, 1978), pp. 31-39. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/essex/vol7/pp31-39> [accessed 5 October 2020].

[The manor of Dovers] passed by 1412 to William Waldern, also a London mercer, and later to his widow, Margaret (d. 1428). (fn. 64) Richard Waldern, William's son, succeeded Margaret, and held Dovers until his death in 1454.

Richard Waldern left as coheirs his sisters Elizabeth, Joan, Eleanor, and Margaret. (fn. 65) One of them probably died without issue, for the youngest, Margaret, later wife of John Brewster, conveyed a third of the manor to Avery Cornburgh (d. 1487). (fn. 66) Cornburgh, who also held Gooshayes in Romford, left as heirs his sister Agnes Chambre and his nephew John Crafford. His third of Dovers evidently passed to Crafford. (fn. 67) The descent of the other two thirds after 1454 is not clear. In 1519 one third was settled on John Rodys and his wife Margaret. (fn. 68) The Craffords probably acquired the whole of the manor. Thomas Crafford (d. 1508) left a widow Alice, who was holding Dovers in 1510. (fn. 69) Richard Crafford (d. 1544) was probably Alice's heir. (fn. 70) Another Richard Crafford, and his wife Anne, who were holding Dovers in 1572, conveyed it in 1596 to Peter Collett, a London merchant. (fn. 71)

For William Waldern (d.1424), see the History of Parliament entry at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1386-1421/member/waldern-william-1424>

RM: Test{amentum} tho{m} Craford

In the name of God, Amen. The 28 day of July the year of Our Lord God 1508, I, Thomas Crafford of Havering-atte-Bower in the county of Essex, esquire, being in good and whole mind, make my testament and last will in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my Maker, to his Blessed Mother Saint Mary, & to all the holy company of heaven, and my body to be buried in the chapel of Hornchurch before the Holy Trinity there;

Item, I bequeath to the high altar of the same church for my tithes and oblations forgotten and negligently withholden 6s 8d;

Item, to the reparations of the said church 4 loads of rough timber;

Item, to the brotherhead of the Trinity there during the term of 7 years, every year 13s 4d toward finding of the Trinity priest;

Item, I will that Alice, my wife, have all my lands and tenements, meadows, pastures, rents and services with th' appurtenances for the term of her life under this condition, that the said Alice pay unto Richard, my son, 5 mark yearly during her life and also give unto Guy, my son, during her natural life other 5 mark toward their finding;

And after the decease of my said wife I will that all my said lands, tenements, meadows, pastures, rents and services with their appurtenances shall wholly remain unto the said Richard, my son, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, paying unto Guy, my foresaid son, 5 mark yearly during his life;

And if the said Richard die without heirs of his body lawfully begotten, then I will that all my foresaid lands and tenements, meadows, pastures, rents and services with their appurtenances shall remain to the foresaid Guy, my son, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

Failing his heirs of his body lawfully begotten, then I will that all my lands and tenements, meadows, pastures, rents and services with th' appurtenance shall remain to my son, Avery, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

Failing heirs of the said Avery lawfully begotten, then I will that all [-that all] the foresaid lands and tenements, meadows, pastures, rents and services with th' appurtenances shall remain unto the next heirs of the right blood of me, the said Thomas Crafford, forever more;

Furthermore I will that Avery, my son, have £20 to be paid by the hands of my foresaid wife or her assigns when he cometh to th' age of 21 years;

Moreover, whereas my nephew, Avery Rawson, oweth to me £14, as it appeareth by an obligation of the said Avery Rawson, according to the promise that he hath made to me aforetime [+that he?] would suffer my said wife and my said sons to have and enjoy according to this my present will the 2 crofts of land called Rodnons(?) forever more, then I will that my said wife shall never claim the foresaid £14 of him nor of none of his;

The residue of all my goods and chattels not given nor bequeathed, after my debts paid and my will fulfilled, I give and bequeath to Alice, my wife, to dispose for my soul[‘s] health as she thinketh most best;

And the same Alice I ordain and make mine executrice;

And Master George Rede and my nephew, Avery Rawson, to be overseers;

And the said Master George Rede to have for his labour 6s 8d;

In witness whereof to this my present testament and last will I have put to my seal, given the day and year abovesaid, these witnesses: Sir Richard Nicholson, vicar of Dagenham, Sir Christopher Browne, vicar of Rainham, and William Wakefeld, with many other.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum coram domino apud Lambeth quarto die mensis Nouembris Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo octavo Iuramento Magistri Willielmi Potkyn procuratoris in hac parte Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et commissum fuit administrationi omnium bonorum et debitorum dicti defuncti Alicie Relicte et executrici in huiusmodi testamento nominatae in persona dicti procuratoris De bene & fideliter administrando Ac de pleno & fideliter Inventario citra festum sancti Andree apostoli proximum futurum exhibendo Necnon de plano & vero compoto reddendo ad sancta dei evangelia in debita iuris forma iurati

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord at Lambeth on the fourth day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred eighth by the oath of Master William Potkyn, proctor in that behalf, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all the goods and debts of the said deceased to Alice, relict and executrix named in the same testament in the person of the said proctor, sworn on the Holy Gospels in due form of law to well & faithfully administer and to exhibit a full & faithful inventory before the feast of Saint Andrew the Apostle next to come, and also to render a plain & true account.]