

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 6 December 1508 and proved 16 March 1509, of Grace (nee Baynard) Langley Danyell (d. 2 January 1509), whose son was receiver to Elizabeth (nee Scrope) Beaumont de Vere, Countess of Oxford, widow of John de Vere, 13th Earl of Oxford.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the testatrix' family background, see Wright, Thomas, *The History and Topography of the County of Essex*, Vol. I, (London: George Vertue, 1836), pp. 384-5 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=SgQVAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA385>

[I]n 1375, Thomas Baynard held, jointly with Katharine, his wife, the manor of Messing, of the king, as of his honour of Reines; and this is the first time the manor of Messing is mentioned as belonging to the Baynard family: Richard Baynard, their son and heir, had two wives. The second was Grace, widow of John Peyton, of East Thorpe, and daughter of John Burgoyne, Esq., of Drayton, in Cambridgeshire. The children of this marriage were Richard, Lewis, Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Bray, and Margery, wife of Thomas Knivett. Richard Baynard, Esq., succeeded his father in this manor of Messing, and possessed, at the time of his death, in 1473, the manor of Harburghs, both holden of the honour of Reines; also Suttons, Gutters or Gotterys in this parish, Inworth, and Feering. By his wife, Margaret, daughter of Thomas Knivett, he had two children: Richard, who died young, and Grace, who became his sole heiress, and before his decease, was married to Thomas Langley. Her second husband was Edward Daniel, Esq., son of Sir Thomas Daniel (baron of Rathwire, in Ireland and lord deputy there, under King Edward the Fourth,) by Margaret, his wife, sister to John Howard, duke of Norfolk. Grace Baynard, by her second husband, had Edward, John, and Thomas, and Jane, married to Sir John Jermyn, of Metisfield, in Suffolk; Margaret, wife of (blank) Green, of Witham, in Essex; Elizabeth, abbess of Multym, and Catherine. Grace Langley, daughter of Richard Baynard, died in 1508, and her second son became her heir, who, dying in 1556, was succeeded by Edmund, his eldest son, on whose demise, in 1570, he left a son John, his successor; after whom, were Edmund and John Daniel, Esq., of Messing.

See also documents held by the Essex Record Office concerning the Baynard family at:

<https://secureweb1.essexcc.gov.uk/SeaxPam/ViewCatalogue.aspx?ID=125474>

See also ERO D/DH VB2-73 at:

http://seax.essexcc.gov.uk/Result_Details.aspx?DocID=125474

Richard Baynard, dying 1473, left a daughter and heiress Grace, wife (2) of Edmund Danyell. The Manor passed to the Danyell family, the last of whom, John Daniell, sold it

with the other Manors in 1582 to Thomas Diggs, who sold them to Christopher Chiborne. Eventually in 1650 Richard Chiborne sold them to Capell Luckyn.

MARRIAGE(S) AND ISSUE

The testatrix married firstly Thomas Langley. See Wright, *supra*, p. 385.

The testatrix married secondly Edmund Danyell, the son of Sir Thomas Danyell of Rathwire, Ireland, constable of Dublin Castle, and Margaret Howard, sister of John Howard (d.1485), 1st Duke of Norfolk, slain at the Battle of Bosworth.

In 1494 the testatrix' husband was executor to the Duke's widow, Margaret (nee Chedworth), Duchess of Norfolk, widow successively of the London alderman Nicholas Wyfold (d.1456), and John Norreys (d. 1 September 1466), esquire, and daughter of Sir John Chedworth by his wife, Joan. See the will of Margaret, Duchess of Norfolk, TNA PROB 11/10/315, and Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 271-3.

For the will, dated 20 September 1492 and proved 19 December 1498, of Edmund Danyell, see TNA PROB 11/11/526.

For pedigrees of the Danyell family, see Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Suffolk*, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1882), pp. 24-5, 132 at:

<https://archive.org/details/visitationsofsuf00harvuoft/page/24>

See also the Danyell pedigrees in Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *The Visitation of Suffolk*, Vol. I, (Lowestoft: Samuel Tymms, 1866), p. 240 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ExI2AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA240>

Testatrix' nephew

The testatrix' nephew, John Danyell (d.1519), esquire, of Felsted, Essex, was in the service of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford. For his will, dated 1 May 1518 and proved 22 January 1519, see TNA PROB 11/19/189.

On 28 October 1506 the 13th Earl appointed John Danyell (d.1519) constable of Castle Hedingham. He was granted an annuity of £10 in the Earl's will, and was named as an executor. See Ross, James, *John de Vere, Thirteenth Earl of Oxford 1442-1513*, (Woodbridge, Suffolk: The Boydell Press, 2011), pp. 200, 231; and the will of John de Vere, 13th Earl of Oxford, TNA PROB 11/17/379.

In the will below, the testatrix mentions five sons and three daughters:

* **Edmund Danyell**, who predeceased the testatrix.

* **John Danyell** (c.1486 - 5 September 1556) of Messing, eldest surviving son, who married Elizabeth Denny (d.1516 or 1517), the daughter of Sir Edmund Denny (d.1520), Chief Baron of the Exchequer, and the sister of Mary (nee Denny) Gates (d.1583?), whose husband, Sir John Gates (1504–1553), was named an executor of the 1552 will of the 16th Earl of Oxford. See the will of Sir Edmund Denny, TNA PROB 11/19/409.

The testatrix' son, John Danyell, was receiver to the 13th Earl of Oxford's widow, Elizabeth (nee Scrope) Beaumont De Vere, Countess of Oxford, and a witness to her will, TNA PROB 11/17/144:

Item, I give and bequeath to John Danyell, my receiver, a standing cup of silver and gilt with a cover, newly made, weighing 37 ounces di{midium}, di{midium} quarter, to be of the value of £10 sterling.

The testatrix' son, John Danyell, was also named an executor of the will of the Countess' brother-in-law, Sir John Seyntclere, TNA PROB 11/31/383.

* **Thomas Danyell** (b. after 1488, d.1566), for whom see the *ODNB* entry:

Danyell, Thomas (b. after 1488, d. 1566), administrator, probably was born in Suffolk shortly after 1488, the third of five sons of Edmund Danyell, esquire, of Stoke by Nayland, Suffolk (d. 1497×1504), and his wife, Grace (d. 1509), daughter and heir of Sir Richard Baynard of Messing, Essex. In the will of his mother, dated 6 December 1508, Danyell and his younger brothers were each assigned the annual sum of £5 until they attained the age of twenty on condition that they continue their 'learning'. No information on Danyell's education survives, and his early life is obscure before he entered the service of Thomas Howard (1443–1524), earl of Surrey, duke of Norfolk, and lord treasurer of England. Danyell's paternal grandparents were Sir Thomas Danyell of Rathwire, Ireland, constable of Dublin Castle, and Margaret, sister to John Howard, first duke of Norfolk (d. 1485). In 1494 his father was named executor for the duke's widow.

As clients of the Howards, the Danyell family rose within East Anglia and at court. On 16 July 1517 Thomas Danyell was admitted for life by Norfolk to the recently vacated position of writer of the tallies in the receipt of the exchequer. There he joined his cousin Henry Everard, esquire, of Deverston, Suffolk, secretary to the lord treasurer in 1514 and subsequently a teller of the exchequer (1514–40), and other members of the Howard entourage. Danyell's eldest surviving brother, John, esquire, of Messing, had already married a daughter of Edmund Denny (d. 1519/20), lord treasurer's remembrancer and baron of the exchequer. Another cousin, John Danyell, gentleman, of Felsted, Essex (d. 1518), was in the service of John de Vere, earl of Oxford. Thomas Danyell continued to be active in the private affairs of the Howard family until at least 1540. . . .

Danyell married first, at an unknown date, Anne, daughter of Sir Edmund Lucy of Suffolk. This marriage produced his only surviving child and heir, Edmund, who married Margaret, daughter and heir of Edmund West, esquire, of Cornard, Suffolk. Danyell married second, by 1550, Frances, daughter of John Butler, recorder of Coventry, and widow of Edmund Felton of Pentlow, Essex (d. 1542). Danyell had long been associated with Felton, and in 1550 he resigned his exchequer post in favour of Felton's relative, Thomas Felton of Clerkenwell, Middlesex, who had served as clerk to the writer of the tallies from 1535.

As noted above, Thomas Danyell married firstly Anne Lucy, daughter of Sir Edmund Lucy, by whom he was the father of Edmund Danyell (d.1569) of Acton, Suffolk, who married Margaret West, daughter of Edmund West. Margaret West's sister, Elizabeth West, married, as her second husband, William Golding (d.1588), brother of Oxford's mother, Margery Golding. See the will of Edmund West, TNA PROB 11/24/136.

For the will of Thomas Danyell, see TNA PROB 11/49/56.

For the will of Henry Everard, esquire, dated 10 November 1540 and proved 13 January 1541, in which he leaves five marks to 'my cousin, Thomas Danyell, esquire', and appoints him as a supervisor of his will, see TNA PROB 11/28/352.

* **George Danyell**, referred to in the will below as under twenty years of age.

* **Edward Danyell**, referred to in the will below as under twenty years of age.

* **Jane Danyell**, referred to in the will below as unmarried. She is said to have married John Jermy of Metfield, Suffolk. For the Jermy family, see:

<http://www.jermy.org/valdar.html>

See also the Jermy pedigree in Rye, Walter, ed., *The Visitacion of Norffolk*, (London: Harleian Society, 1891), Vol. XXXII, pp. 173-4 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=HS8EAAAIAAJ&pg=PA173>

* **Katherine Danyell**, referred to in the will below as unmarried. She is said to have died without issue.

* **Elizabeth Danyell** (d.1524), elected abbess of the abbey of Malling, Kent, in 1524. See:

'Houses of Benedictine nuns: The abbey of Malling', in *A History of the County of Kent: Volume 2*, ed. William Page (London, 1926), pp. 146-148. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/kent/vol2/pp146-148> [accessed 23 December 2018].

According to the Danyell pedigrees, the testatrix had another daughter, not mentioned in the will below:

* **Margaret Danyell**, who married a husband surnamed Greene of Witham, Essex.

OTHER PERSONS NAMED IN THE WILL

For Christopher Swallow, vicar of Messing, see Beaumont, George Frederick, *A History of Coggeshall, in Essex*, (London: Marshall Brothers, 1890), p. 169 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=6wUzAQAAAJ&pg=PA169>

See also Carlisle, Nicholas, *A Concise Description of the Endowed Grammar Schools in England and Wales*, Vol. I, (London: Baldwin, Cradock and Joy, 1818), p. 430 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=GwsJRFnvUIAC&pg=PA430>

TESTATRIX' MANORS

For the inquisition post mortem concerning the testatrix' lands taken 29 March 1509, see TNA C 142/22/50, and:

Cyril Flower, M. C. B. Dawes and A. C. Wood, 'Inquisitions Post Mortem, Henry VII, Entries 501-550', in *Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem: Series 2, Volume 3, Henry VII* (London, 1955), pp. 297-326. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/inquis-post-mortem/series2-vol3/pp297-326> [accessed 23 December 2018].

For the testatrix' manor of Great Birch, see also:

'Birch: Manors', in *A History of the County of Essex: Volume 10, Lexden Hundred (Part) Including Dedham, Earls Colne and Wivenhoe*, ed. Janet Cooper (London, 2001), pp. 44-46. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/essex/vol10/pp44-46> [accessed 23 December 2018].

Before 1276 one of the Gernons granted the mesne tenancy of Great Birch to a member of the Baynard family, lords of Messing Hall and Harborough manors in Messing. (fn. 4) John Baynard died in possession of the manor in 1344, and was succeeded in turn by his son John (d. 1349), John's son Thomas (d. 1375), Thomas's son Richard (d. 1433) whose second wife was Grace, widow of John Peyton, who held the manor of the king in chief. (fn. 5) When Richard and Grace Baynard were lord and lady of both Great Birch and the Messing manors they administered those manors and Easthorpe together. (fn. 6) They were followed by Richard's son Richard Baynard (d. 1473) whose heir was his daughter Grace, wife of Thomas Langley. Grace died in 1509 and was succeeded by her son from

her second marriage, John Daniell (d. 1556) and then by his son Edmund Daniell (d. 1570) who held Birch as of Easthorpe manor. (fn. 7)

RM: Test{amentum} Gracie Danyell

In dei nomine Amen. The 6th day of December in the year of Our Lord God 1508, I, Grace Danyell of Messing in the diocese of London, make my testament concerning my last will under this form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, to Our Lady Saint Mary, and to all the company of heaven, and my body to be buried in the choir of Stoke church by my husband;

I bequeath to the high altar of the same church 10s;

Item, to the reparations of the same church 13s 4d;

Item, to Saint John's guild, to be paid [f. 93r] for as a sister of the same guild 10s;

Also I bequeath to the high altar of Messing church 10s;

Item, to the mending of hanging of the sepulchre, and to have my husband's arms and mine set on the same hanging 20s;

Item, to the reparations of the same church 6s 8d;

Also I will that mine executors shall make a vestment of my damask gown with the purple of my camlet gown and all other garments necessary for a priest to sing in & give it to the same church;

Also I will that there shall be given every Friday after my death by the space of a year 5d to 5 poor men, and every Saturday 5d to 5 poor women there as they think most need in the town of Stoke before said;

Also I will that my son[s], Thomas, George and Edward, shall have £5 yearly for every one of them till they be 20 year of age if they continue their learning so long, or else they to have 5 mark, the which 5 marks I will that every one of them shall have for term of their lives;

Also I will that my daughter, Jane, shall have £50 to her marriage, to be delivered to her when she is married within the age of 30 years if she be married by the counsel of them that shall deliver the money to her, and if she be not married within the age of 30 years, then they shall deliver the money at her own use;

Also I will that my daughter, Katherine, shall have £40 to be delivered her in like form as my daughter Jane have;

Also I will that my daughter, Jane, have a featherbed, a bolster and a counterpoint which is her own, and a pair of sheets and a pair of blankets and a pillow of mine;

Also I will that my daughter, Katherine, shall have as much bedding as her sister Jane have;

And if it fortune any of my daughters before-named for to decease before the time afore rehearsed, which God forbid, then I will that the money before-named be departed amongst mine other children or whereas mine executors think most need for the wealth of my soul;

Also I will that my son, John, shall have the residue of all my stuff of household except plate, and he to find his brethren bedding competent when they go to school;

Also I will have an honest priest singing for my soul and my husbands', my father's and mother's and also my son, Edmund, by the space of 2 years in Stoke, having 9 mark by year;

Also I will that my son John, shall have all the lands which I or my husbands or any of us have purchased in Stoke, Messing, or in any other place with th' appurtenances except Thomas At Hilles which I will shall be distributed as hereafter in this will doth appear, except also Sleyes, which I will that George Danyell shall have for term of his life, and after the decease of him to remain to my son, John, and to his heirs to have and hold the foresaid lands and tenements with the appurtenances, except the pre-excepted, to the said John and his heirs, paying to every one of my sons above-named the sum above rehearsed during the term afore expressed;

And if that my son, John, or any of his heirs fail of payment and will not pay this money according to my will, then I will that mine executors and feoffees or any of them sell the same lands, except Thomas At Hilles' lands, the money thereof coming to be distribute[d] amongst my sons as far as the money will extend;

Also I will that my servant, George, for his good service shall have 40s and a horse if it fortune me to have any at my departing;

Also I will have 2 trentals songen for my soul, one at the Grey Friars in Colchester and the other at the Austen Friars in Clare, summa 20s;

Also I will have a stone laid on my son, Edmund, with an image of my father and another of my son and their arms with them;

Also I bequeath 10s to be distribute[d] amongst my godchildren as most need is;

Also I bequeath [+to?] Alice, my servant, 20s if she be with my son, John, or else to be disposed as he thinketh best to the profit of the said Alice;

Also I bequeath to my daughter, Elizabeth, 40s;

Item, to the same place [=abbey of Malling?] to be prayed for 20s;

Also I will that my said son, John, shall have a preferment before any other in buying of my plate and my cattle such as shall be sold;

And I bequeath to Messing church 2 kine for the finding of 2 lights, one before All-Hallows and the other before Our Lady;

Also I will have an obit kept yearly in the church of Stoke for me and my husband with all my friends, for the which obit to be kept I will that my son, John, his heirs or assignees, shall deliver yearly to the churchwardens of the same church 10s;

The churchwardens or them that shall have the rule of it shall pay yearly 40d amongst the priests and the clerks, and 5s in alms amongst poor people, and 20d to the preferment of the same church;

And if fortune my son, John, his heirs or assigns to fail of payment or deliverance of the same money abovesaid to the churchwardens or their debits, then I will that my feoffees and the churchwardens of the same church shall sell my tenement called Thomas At Hilles to see due administration of all my goods to the performance of this my last will;

I will and ordain these to be mine executors, my son, John Danyell, Mr Robert Bubnal, parson of Ynford, Mr Christopher Swallow, vicar of Messing, and George Danyell, my servant;

Witness hereof Sir John Robson, clerk, my son, Thomas, Robert Stoketon, Henry Harrison and other. Written the day and year above-written.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum coram domino apud Lamehith xvjo die mensis Marcij Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo octavo Iuramento Iohannis Danyell executoris in huiusmodi testamento nominati Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et commissa fuit administrationi omnium bonorum & debitorum dictae defunctae pro refectione executori De bene & fideliter administrationi Ac de pleno et fidei Inuentario citra festum Pasche proximum futurum exhibendo Necnon de plano & vero comperto reddendo ad satisfactionem dei eiusdem in debita iuris forma iurato Reseruata potestate siquidem commissioem faciendi Magistris Roberto Bubnal et Cristofero Swalowe clericis ac georgio Danyell executoribus etiam in huiusmodi testamento nominatis cum venient &c

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord at Lambeth on the 16th day of the month of March in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred eighth by the oath of John Danyell, executor named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all the goods & debts of the said deceased to the forenamed executor, sworn on the Holy Gospels in due form of law to well & faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full and faithful inventory before the feast of Easter next to come, and also to render a plain & true account, with power reserved for a similar grant to be made to Masters Robert Bubnal and Christopher Swallow, clerks, and George Danyell, executors also named in the same testament.]