

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 7 April 1506 and proved 10 May 1508, of Sir Richard Guildford (c.1450-1506), whose property in the Blackfriars later became the mansion of Lord Cobham.

The testator was the grandfather of Queen Elizabeth's favourite, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the testator's family background, see the pedigree of Guildford of Hempsted, Kent, in Ellis, Sir Henry, ed., *The Pylgrimage of Sir Richard Guylforde to the Holy Land, A.D. 1506*, (Camden Society, 1851), p. xvii at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=zQMFoKGs7loC&pg=PR17>

Testator's parents

The testator was the son of Sir John Guildford (1430–1493) of Rolvenden, Kent, by his first wife, Alice Waller.

After the death of Alice Waller, Sir John Guildford is said to have married Philippa Thornbury (living May 1478), the widow of John Pympe (20 July 1417 – 8 November 1454), esquire, of Nettlestead, Kent. See the pedigree after p. 40 in MacMichael, N.H., 'The Descent of the Manor of Evegat in Smeeth with Some Account of its Lords', *Archaeologia Cantiana*, Vol. 74, 1960, pp. 1-47:

<https://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/index.php/arch-cant/vol/74/descent-manor-evegat-smeeth-some-account-its-lords>

Philippa Thornbury is also said to have been the widow of Sir William Tyrrell, for whose will, dated 16 March 1471, see TNA PROB 11/5/167. Sir William Tyrrell did have a second wife named Philippa, and the assumption that she was Philippa Thornbury is supported by a clause in his will mentioning Sir John Thornbury and a clause mentioning Anne Pympe, who appears to have been Philippa Thornbury's daughter by her first husband, John Pympe. The date of William Tyrrell's death is unknown, and his will lacks a probatum clause. However if it is assumed he died not long after he made his will, i.e. in 1471, his marriage to Philippa Thornbury took place after the death of John Pympe in 1454, but prior to her marriage to Sir John Guildford.

If the alleged marriage of Sir John Guildford and Philippa Thornbury (living 1485) actually took place, his will, dated 20 March 1492, indicates that she predeceased him, as he appoints his wife, Elizabeth, as one of his executors. See the will of Sir John

Guildford, TNA PROB 11/9/386, the *ODNB* entry for the testator, the Pympe pedigree, *supra*, and the Guildford pedigree, *supra*.

MARRIAGES AND ISSUE

Testator's first marriage

As noted above, the testator married firstly, before 1479, Anne Pympe, the daughter of John Pympe (20 July 1417 - 8 November 1454), esquire, of Nettlestead, Kent, by his second wife, Philippa Thornbury (living May 1478), the daughter of John Thornbury of Faversham, Kent. See the Pympe pedigree after p. 40 in MacMichael, *supra*.

The testator's wife, Anne Pympe, had two brothers:

-John Pympe (1447/8 – 9 or 11 August 1496), esquire, of Nettlestead, who married, before 3 August 1483, Elizabeth Whetehill (d. 22 May 1526), the daughter of Richard Whetehill, Lieutenant of Guisnes, by whom he had a son, Henry Pympe, aged two in 1496, who died without issue on 12 August 1518, and a daughter, Winifred Pympe (d. 17 October 1575), who married Sir John Raynsford (1482-1559), by whom she had no issue. See MacMichael, *supra*, pp. 44-6, the will of Sir John Raynsford, TNA PROB 11/42B/484, and the History of Parliament entry for Sir John Raynsford at:

[http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/raynsford-\(rainforth\)-sir-john-1482-1559](http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/raynsford-(rainforth)-sir-john-1482-1559)

In his will, TNA PROB 11/11/124, John Pympe mentions his brother, Reynold Pympe, and his sister, Anne Pympe, wife of Sir Richard Guildford, and two of their children, Sir Edward Guildford and George Guildford:

Item, whereas there be certain blank scutcheons in the window of Saint Thomas within the said church, I will that there be put in those scutcheons the names of Master Sir Thomas Sellinger [=St Leger] and of my Lady, his wife; the names of my cousin, James Sellinger, and of his wife; the names of my cousin, Bartholomew Sellinger, and of his wife; the names of Sir John Cheyne and of his wife; the names of Sir Richard Guildford and of my sister, his wife; the names of my cousin, Edward Guildford, and of his wife; the names of my cousin, George Guildford, and of his wife; the names of me and of my wife; the names of my brother, Reynold, and of his wife.

-Reynold Pympe (1448/9 – 21 March 1530/1) of Nettlestead, Kent, who married Elizabeth Pashley (d. by 1485), whose father was a first cousin of Edward IV's Queen, Elizabeth Woodville. See the Pashley pedigree after p. 12 in MacMichael, *supra*.

By Elizabeth Pashley, Reynold Pympe was the father of Anne Pympe (living 1524), wife of Sir John Scott (d. 7 October 1533). See the will of Sir William Scott (d. 24 August 1524), TNA PROB 11/21/272; Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011,

Vol. III, pp. 182-3; and Robertson, Herbert, *Stemmata Robertson et Durdin*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1893-95), p. 102 at:

<https://archive.org/details/stemmatarobertso00robe/page/102>

For members of the St Leger family mentioned in the will of John Pympe, *supra*, see the Wikipedia entry for John St Leger (d.1441):

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_St_Leger_\(died_1441\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_St_Leger_(died_1441))

By Anne Pympe, the testator had two sons and five daughters:

* **Sir Edward Guildford** (c.1479-1534,) whose daughter, Jane Guildford (d. 22 January 1555), as noted above, was the mother of Queen Elizabeth's favourite, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. See the *ODNB* entry.

* **George Guildford**, who married his father's ward, Elizabeth Mortimer, by whom he was the father of Sir John Guildford (d. 5 July 1565), for whom see the Wikipedia entry edited by the author of this website, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/guildford-john-1508-65>

* **Philippa Guildford**, who married, by settlement dated 14 April 1502, Sir John Gage (d. 18 April 1556), mentioned in the will below, For the Gage family, see the pedigree in Questier, Michael, *Catholicism and Community in Early Modern England*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006), p. 524. By Sir John Gage, Philippa Guildford had four sons and four daughters:

(1) **Sir Edward Gage** (d. 26 December 1567), who married Elizabeth Parker, the daughter of John Parker. For Sir Edward Gage, see the will of Sir Thomas Saunders (c.1505 - 18 August 1565) of Charlwood, Surrey, TNA PROB 11/48/525.

(2) **James Gage** (d.1573) of Bentley, an official in the royal household, who married Joan Delve.

(3) **Robert Gage** (d. October 1587), who married Elizabeth Wilford.

(4) **William Gage** (living 1558).

(5) **Alice Gage** (d. 31 March 1540), who married, as his first wife, Sir Anthony Browne (d. 6 May 1548), the son of Sir Anthony Browne (d.1506) and Lucy Neville, by whom she had seven sons, including the 3rd Earl of Southampton's grandfather, Anthony Browne (1528-1592), 1st Viscount Montague. Sir Anthony Browne (d.1506) had an elder brother, Sir George Browne (beheaded on Tower Hill 4 December 1483), whose son, Sir Matthew Browne (d. 6 August 1557), married Frideswide Guildford, the daughter of the

testator and his first wife, Anne Pympe (see below). Sir Anthony Browne (d.1506) also had a younger brother, Robert Browne (d.1509?) of Luddenham, Kent, who was the father of Eleanor Browne (d.1560), wife of Sir William Kempe (d. 28 January 1539) of Ollantigh, Kent, whose elder brother, Christopher Kempe (1485-1512), married Mary Guildford (1486-1529) (see below). After the death of Alice Gage, Sir Anthony Browne (d. 6 May 1548) married Elizabeth Fitzgerald (1528?–1589), later Countess of Lincoln, ‘the fair Geraldine’, subject of the love poems of Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, in Thomas Nashe’s *The Unfortunate Traveller*. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 179-80, and 369-71; Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 340-1; Vol. II, pp. 237-8; and Vol. III, pp. 225-7; the *ODNB* entries for Sir John Gage, Sir Anthony Browne, and Elizabeth Fitzgerald, and the latter’s will, TNA PROB 11/75/193.

(6) Cecily Gage (d.1585), who married firstly, as his second wife, Sir George Baynham (d.1548?). For the will of Sir George Baynham, see TNA PROB 11/32/282. Cecily Gage married secondly Sir Charles Herbert (d.1557?) of Troy, Monmouthshire, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/43/1. For her will, see TNA PROB 11/68/452. By his first wife, Bridget Kingston, daughter of Sir William Kingston (d. 14 September 1540), Sir George Baynham was the father of Frances Baynham, who married Sir Henry Jerningham (d. 6 September 1572). See the will of Sir William Kingston, TNA PROB 11/28/542; the will of Frances Baynham, TNA PROB 11/66/340; Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 37-8, 378; and Maclean, John, ed., ‘The History of the Manors of Dene Magna and Abenhall’ in *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society for 1881-82*, Vol. VI, (Bristol, C.T. Jefferies), pp. 123-209 at pp. 149-151 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/transactionsbristol06bristol#page/150/mode/2up>

(6) Elizabeth Gage (d.1558), who married firstly Sir John Jenyn (d.1545), gentleman of the Privy Chamber to Henry VIII, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/31/493, and secondly Stephen Adams (d.1556) of Boxgrove, Sussex, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/38/171. Elizabeth Gage had no surviving issue by either marriage. For her will, see TNA PROB 11/40/174.

(7) Anne Gage, who married John Thatcher.

* **Mary Guildford** (1486-1529), who married firstly Christopher Kempe (1485-1512), elder brother of Sir William Kempe (d. 28 January 1539) of Ollantigh, and secondly Sir William Haute. For the will of Sir William Kempe, see TNA PROB 11/27/500. For the will of Sir William Haute, see TNA PROB 11/26/240.

* **Frideswide Guildford**, who married Sir Matthew Browne (d. 6 August 1557) of Betchworth, Surrey. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 412-13. Sir Matthew Browne’s grandson, Sir Thomas Browne (d. 9 February 1597), married firstly Mabel Fitzwilliam, by whom he was the father of Sir Matthew Browne (died c.1603), one of the trustees of Nicholas Brend (d. 12 October 1601), who

leased the ground on which the Globe was built by lease dated 21 February 1599 to Richard Burbage, Cuthbert Burbage, William Kempe, Augustine Phillips, Thomas Pope, John Heminges and William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon (see TNA REQ 4/1/2). Sir Thomas Browne (d. 9 February 1597), signed Lady Russell's petition against James Burbage's Blackfriars theatre. See the will of Sir Matthew Browne, TNA PROB 11/39/371; the will of Henry Browne, TNA PROB 11/32/421; and the will of Sir Matthew Browne (died c.1603), TNA PROB 11/111/273. See also Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 341; the Browne and Guildford pedigrees in Burke, John and Bernard Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies of England, Ireland and Scotland*, 2nd ed. (London: Scott, 1841), pp. 87, 231; and Laoutaris, Chris, *Shakespeare and the Countess*, (London: Fig Tree, 2014), pp. 121, 123, 130, 176-7, 277-8, 324.

* **Elizabeth Guildford**, who married firstly Sir Thomas Well, secondly Sir Thomas Isley (1485-1518) of Sundridge, Kent, and thirdly Sir William Stafford.

* **Eleanor Guildford**, who married Edward Haute, esquire.

For the testator's children by his first marriage, see also the Wikipedia entry for Sir Richard Guildford edited by the author of this website at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Guildford

Testator's second marriage

The testator married secondly, by 1489, Joan Vaux, daughter of Sir William Vaux (1437–1471) of Harrowden, by whom he had a son:

* **Sir Henry Guildford** (1489-1532), who married firstly Margaret Bryan, the daughter of Sir Thomas Bryan of Ashridge, and secondly Mary Wotton, the daughter of Sir Robert Wotton of Boughton Malherbe, Kent, but died without issue.

TESTATOR'S LANDS

In Folger MS L.b.400, mention is made of a 'tenement or mansion' in the Blackfriars in which the testator's widow had resided, and which had since been demised to George Brooke, Lord Cobham, for a term of 80 years by indenture dated 10 April 1536. The testator refers to his property in the Blackfriars in the will below:

Item, I give to my wife all my stuff that I have at the Blackfriars except two books

During his career the testator accumulated substantial debts which eventually forced Henry VII to remove him from office. In 1506 he undertook a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, where he died on 6 September of that year. His chaplain wrote a tract describing his

journey. See Ellis, Henry, ed., *The Pylgrymage of Sir Richard Guylforde to the Holy Land, A.D. 1506*, (London: Camden Society, 1851).

LM: Test{amentu}m Ric{hard}i Guldford Milit{is}

In the name of God, Amen. The 7th day of April the 21st year of the reign of King Henry the 7th, I, Sir Richard Guildford, knight, being in my good and whole mind, laud & praising be unto Almighty God, make and ordain this my present testament and last will in manner and form following, that is to say:

First I bequeath and recommend my soul unto Almighty God, my Maker and Redeemer, to the most glorious Virgin, his Mother, Our Lady Saint Mary, and to all the holy company of saints in heaven, and my body to be buried where it shall please Almighty God to dispose for it;

Item, I will above all things that my debts be paid;

Item, I give to my wife all my stuff that I have at the Blackfriars except two books, the one is a great psalter, and the other is a book of matins, seven psalms and dirge, and a psalter in one book, which I will to Halden, and all the stuff that is at Halden or elsewhere save at the Blackfriars of London, and all my other goods and chattels I will that Edward Guildford have them to pay my debts with, whom I make wholly mine executor;

Item, I will that all my lands that be in feoffment stand still in my feoffee's hands, and the profits of them go wholly to the payment of my said debts, alway forseyn [=foresaid?] that sufficient reparation be kept, [+and?] the revenues thereof be yearly accounted before John Darell, Edward Guildford, George Guildford, John Gage and James Auger or 2 of them at the least;

And I ordain William Auger to be my general receiver till my debts be paid, and to have sufficient for his labour and costs;

And after my debts paid, I will my said lands go wholly to Edward Guildford except all the lands in Hawkerst, which I will that George Guildford shall have;

And I will that all the lands that Edward Guildford shall have, he to have them and to his heirs males;

And for lack of his issue male, to George Guildford and to his issue male;

And for lack of his issue male, to Henry Guildford and to his issue male;

And for lack of his issue male, to the rightful heirs of me;

This notwithstanding, I will that Edward Guildford have all my lands in the Grene(?) in Kent, and my lands called Mersham and Foderm{er}sham in Sussex in fee simple, to th' intent to make an exchange with his brother, Henry Guildford;

I will that my wife have 50 marks a year for her dower, for so she is agreed;

Also I will that Henry Guildford have £10 a year while his mother liveth.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascripti defuncti h{ab}ent{is} &c Coram d{omi}no apud Lamethith xo Die mensis Maij Anno D{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingentesimo viijo Iurament{o} executoris in h{uius}mo{d}i testament{o} no{m}i{n}at{i} pro eo & ex eo q{uo}d ip{s}e executor onus execucionis d{i}c{t}i testamenti in se assum{er}e expresse refutauit Et com{m}issa fuit admi{n}istracio om{n}i{um} & singulor{um} bonorum & debitor{um} d{i}c{t}i defuncti Edwardo Guildford ad viam intestati De bene & fidel{ite}r adm{n}istrand{o} Ac de pleno In{uenta}rio citra festum s{an}c{t}i Thome martiris prox{imum} futur{um} exhibend{o} Necnon de plano et vero compoto reddend{o} Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia in debita iuris forma Iurat{o}

[=The testament of the above-written deceased, having etc., was proved before the Lord at Lambeth on the 10th day of the month of May in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 8th by the oath of the executor named in the same testament for that the same executor expressly refused to assume the burden of the execution of the said testament, and administration was granted of all & singular the goods & debts of the said deceased to Edward Guildford by way of an intestacy, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well & faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full inventory before the feast of Saint Thomas the Martyr next to come, and also to render a plain and true account.]