

SUMMARY: The document below is the will, dated 21 August 1526 with a codicil dated 15 October 1528, proved 21 November 1528, of Sir Richard Wentworth (d. 17 October 1528), *de jure* 5th Baron Despenser of Nettlestead, Suffolk.

The testator was the son of Sir Henry Wentworth (died c.1499), *de jure* 4th Baron Despenser, and his first wife, Anne Say, the daughter of Sir John Say, Speaker of the House of Commons, by his first wife, Elizabeth Cheney, daughter of Lawrence Cheney, esquire. For the will of the testator's father see TNA PROB 11/12/265.

After the death of Anne Say, the testator's father married Elizabeth Neville (d. September 1517), second daughter of John Neville (slain at the Battle of Barnet 14 April 1471), Earl of Northumberland and Marquess of Montague, by Isabel Ingaldesthorpe, daughter of Sir Edmund Ingaldesthorpe (d. 2 September 1456). See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 452-5, and Vol. III, pp. 237-8.

The testator had a younger brother, Edward Wentworth; and four sisters, Elizabeth Wentworth, who married firstly Roger Darcy (d. 30 September 1508), esquire, of Danbury, Essex, secondly Sir Thomas Wyndham (d.1522), and thirdly John Bouchier, 1st Earl of Bath; Margery Wentworth, who married Sir John Seymour, by whom she was the mother of Queen Jane Seymour and Edward Seymour, the Protector Somerset; Dorothy Wentworth, who married Sir Robert Broughton (d.1506), whose first wife was Katherine de Vere, said to have been an illegitimate daughter of John de Vere, 13th Earl of Oxford; and Jane Wentworth. See Richardson, *supra*.

The testator married Anne Tyrrell, the daughter of Sir James Tyrrell (d. 6 May 1502) of Gipping, Suffolk, the alleged murderer of the sons of Edward IV, by Anne Arundel, the daughter of Sir John Arundel of Lanherne, Cornwall. She was still living on 11 November 1529. See Richardson, *supra*, p. 238, and the entry for Thomas Wentworth, 1st Baron Wentworth, in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*.

The testator's wife, Anne Tyrrell, was the great-granddaughter of Sir Thomas Tyrrell (d. 28 March 1477), and the granddaughter of William Tyrrell of Gipping, Suffolk, beheaded on Tower Hill 23 February 1462 as an alleged co-conspirator with John de Vere, 12th Earl of Oxford, and others in a plot to murder Edward IV. See the entry for Sir James Tyrrell (c.1455-1502) in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*; Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., Vol. III, (Salt Lake City, 2011), pp. 183-5; Benton, Philip, *The History of Rochford Hundred*, Vol. II, (Rochford: A. Harrington, 1888), pp. 478-9; and the pedigree of Tyrrell of Gipping in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Suffolk*, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1882), p. 74 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/visitationsofsuf00harvuoft#page/74/mode/2up>.

For the will of Sir Thomas Tyrrell (d. 28 March 1477), see TNA PROB 11/6/417.

According to the will below, the testator had three sons, Sir Thomas Wentworth, 1st Baron Wentworth, who married Margaret Fortescue, the daughter of Sir Adrian Fortescue; Richard Wentworth; and Philip Wentworth; and five daughters, Anne Wentworth; Elizabeth Wentworth; Dorothy Wentworth, who married Lionel Tollemache, esquire; Margery Wentworth, who married firstly Christopher Glemham, esquire, and secondly Francis Colby, esquire; and Thomasine Wentworth, who married Richard Pinder. See Richardson, *supra*.

The testator's executors are not named in the will below, and were perhaps not included by the testator when he originally prepared the will two years prior to his death.

LM: Test{amentu}m Ric{hard}i Wentworth M{ilitis}

In the name of God, Amen. I, Richard Wentworth, knight, the 21st day of August in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred twenty and six and in the 18 year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Henry the Eight, being in good health of body and of perfect remembrance, not grieved, vexed nor diseased with bodily sickness, but only considering the frailty, vanity and the unstableness of this wretched world and that there is nothing so sure in the same as the sudden departing from the same, and that the time thereof is much unsure, therefore do ordain and make this my last testament declaring in the same the disposition of all my movable goods and chattels to be ordered and disposed in manner and form as hereafter followeth:

First I do revoke and annul all other testaments and wills by me afore the date of this my present testament had and made, and I will that none other testament nor will by me tofore made but only this present testament and will do stand in force and strength, but be utterly void and frustrate;

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, Our Blessed Lady, and to all the holy company of heaven, my body to be buried within the Greyfriars of Ipswich, and my funerals there to be done and made after such manner and fashion as mine executors shall think most convenient;

Item, I will mine executors do make or cause to be made of my only goods all the wall of the north part of the church of the said Greyfriars if I, the said Richard, do not perform the same in my lifetime;

Item, I bequeath to the cathedral church of Norwich, otherwise called Christ's Church, 20s;

Item, I bequeath to every order of friars in the said town of Ipswich 20s, and to the two orders of canons within the same town 20s;

Item, I bequeath to the reparation of the parish church of Nettlestead 40s, and more, if it may be borne, by the discretion of mine executors;

Item, I bequeath to the high altar of the said church for my tithes negligently forgotten 20s;

Item, I give to every parish church whereas I am patron 6s 8d;

Item, I will have a good, honest and discreet priest secular to sing for my soul and for the souls of my friends and all Christian souls by the space of three years next after my decease and no longer, if it may be borne, by the discretion of mine executors, taking yearly for his wages £6 to be paid to him quarterly by th' hands of mine executors, the said priest to sing there as mine executors shall think best;

Item, I will and require mine executors that they, as soon after my departure out of this present life as they conveniently may, do content and pay to every person that I am indented [sic?] unto all such sums of money as I owe unto them, and also to restore all such persons as I have wronged, if any such can be proved, after and according as good conscience shall require;

Item, I will that every of my daughters, Anne, Elizabeth, Dorothy, Margery and Thomasine, which shall be unmarried in my lifetime have four hundred marks of lawful money of England to and for the advancement of their marriage, so they be married [f. 320r] by the advice of mine executors or the more part of them, and if in case that any of my said daughters after my decease [-that any of my said daughters after my decease] doth marry contrary to th' advice or assent of the persons tofore named, that then I will the same my daughter or daughters that so shall hap to marry themselves contrary to the said advice shall have nothing of my said bequests to them or to her made, and then I will that the same sum of money so given to the same daughter or daughters that so doth marry herself or themselves without th' assent aforesaid be disposed by mine executors to and for the performance of my last testament and other deeds of charity as shall be thought by the discretion of my said executors most necessary for the weal of my soul and my friends' souls;

And if any of my said daughters do die before marriage had, that then I will that the money so given to my said daughter or daughters so being dead be disposed and given to mine other daughters which so do overlive, and to and for the fulfilling of this last testament and other deeds of charity by the discretion of my said executors;

And I will that the said money by me tofore assigned to and for the marriage of my said daughters be levied, perceived and taken of my manors of Kingston and Sibton with the appurtenances in the county of Kent, the manor of Gedney, Lymbergh [=Great Limber?], Goxhill, Aukebergh [=Alkborough?], Staynton and the manor of Halton with th' appurtenances in the county of Lincoln during such term as more at large appeareth as is by me expressed in my last will concerning the disposition of all my lands and tenements;

Item, I will that Philip Wentworth, my son, be honestly founden by mine executors with part of the profits of my manor of Nettlestead till such time as he come to th' age of 21 years, and after that he come to the said age of 21 years he then to have such yearly annuity to him as is appointed in my said last will and after and according to such manner as in the same will is expressed;

And in like wise I will that my son, Richard, after he shall accomplish the age of 21 years, shall have like annuity and after like manner as also in the same my said last will is appointed and assigned;

Also I will that my daughters which shall be unmarried be found with the profits of the said manors of Nettlestead, Blakenham, Dunstall, Newhall, Overtie and Woodhouse unto such time as they shall be promoted unto marriage;

Item, I will that my plate and stuff of household to [+be?] ordered and given in manner and form as hereafter ensueth, that is to say, that my son, Thomas, shall have it immediately after my decease conditionally that he do not interrupt my executors in executing of this my last will & testament, and if my said son, Thomas, do break this my last will or testament or any part thereof, then I will that all my said plate and stuff be divided by mine executors between Richard and Philip, my said sons, if my said executors shall think it necessary, or else to be disposed by my said executors for the weal of my soul and my friends' souls as my said executors shall think best by their discretion;

Item, I bequeath to Thomas Barker (blank);

Item, I bequeath to Richard Gilbert (blank);

I bequeath to William Aspall (blank);

Item, I bequeath to Richard Morys (blank);

Item I bequeath to Philip Smyth (blank);

Item, I bequeath unto Francis Colvyle (blank);

Item, I bequeath to John Cannon (blank);

Item, I bequeath to Thomas Philips (blank);

Item, I bequeath to Conye (blank);

Item, I will my said lands and tenements in Stonham Aspall be sold by mine executors, and the money thereof coming to be disposed to and for the accomplishment of this my last will and testament;

Item, I will that all my jewels and all mine apparel be ordered & disposed by the discretion of my executors in and after such manner as they shall think most convenient for the weal of my soul and all Christian souls;

Item, I will that my daughters have all such legacies & bequests as was given and bequeathed to them by the last will of Richard Kemp over and beside my said bequests and legacies before to them by me given;

Item, I will that my sons have all such legacies and bequests as were given and bequeathed to them by the last will of the said Richard Kemp;

All the residue of all my goods, chattels, plate, jewels and money not tofore given nor bequeathed I do assign to the disposition of my said executors, they to dispose the same in such charitable deeds as they think most charitable for the weal of my soul and my friends' souls;

And I make & ordain executors to accomplish and execute the contents of this my last will and testament [names of executors omitted by testator?], whom I heartily require to see the same truly performed according to my true meaning and intent, and I give unto every of my said executors taking upon them the charge of executors for his reward over and besides their reasonable costs by them to be sustained from time to time in and about th' execution of the same [amount of bequest to executors omitted by testator?].

RM: vlti {m} a voluntas eiusd {e} m Ric {hard} i

This is the very declaration of the last will of me, Sir Richard Wentworth, knight, concerning the disposition and ordering of all my manors, lands, tenements, rents, reversions and of all other hereditaments which I or any other person or persons to mine use have or hath within the realm of England, had, made and declared by me, the said Sir Richard, the said 21st day of August in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred twenty and six and in the year of the reign of King Henry the Eight the 18th, the true tenor whereof followeth in manner and form as hereafter followeth:

First I will that all my feoffees or all such persons as now be seised to mine use of and in the manors of Kingston and Sibton with their appurtenances within the county of Kent, and of and in my manors of Gedney, Lymbergh, Goxhill, Hawkberghe [=Alkborough?], Staynton and Halton with their appurtenances in the county of Lincoln, shall stand and be seised of all the same manors with their appurtenances from the time of my decease to th' use of mine executors for and by the space of ten years next after my decease to be fully ended and determined, and that mine executors immediately after my [f. 320v] decease by the space of the said ten years shall receive yearly all the rents, farms, issues and profits of all the same manors as well to and for the payment of all my debts as for the true execution and payment of all my legacies and other my bequests and things by me limited to be done and be expressed in my last testament;

And after the said ten years next after my decease fully ended and determined, then I will that all my feoffees and all other persons then being seised of the said manors of Kingston, Sibton, Gedney, Lymbergh, Goxhill, Hawkebergh [=Alkborough], Staynton and Halton and their heirs shall stand and be seised of and in the said manors with their appurtenances to th' use of my son, Sir Thomas Wentworth, knight, and of the heirs of his body lawfully begotten according to such covenants and agreements as be contained and expressed in certain indentures made between me, the said Sir Richard, on the one party, and Sir Adrian Fortescue, knight, on th' other party, concerning the marriage had and executed between my said son, Sir Thomas, and Dame Margaret, his wife, one of the daughters and heirs of the said Sir Adrian;

And if it shall fortune my said son, Sir Thomas, to die without issue of his body lawfully begotten, that then the same feoffees shall stand and be seised of the same manors to th' use of my son, Richard, and of th' heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to th' use of my son, Philip, and of th' heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to th' use of my daughters and of th' heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to th' use of the heirs of the body of Dame Margery Roos lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to th' use of my right heirs and of their heirs forever;

Also I will that my feoffees of and in my manors of Nettlestead, Blakenham Parva [=Little Blakenham], Dunstall in Blakenham Parva, Newhall in Coddendam, Overtye in Bramford, Woodhouse in Somersham with their appurtenances in the county of Suffolk, and of all my lands [+and?] tenements in Nettlestead, in Blakenham Parva, Coddendam, Bramford, Somersham, Flawghton, Offton, Willisham, Baylham, Blakenham Magna, Claydon, Creting Saint Mary et Omniu{m} s{an}c{t}orum [=All Saints] in the said county, shall immediately after my decease by their several deeds sufficient in the law grant unto either of my sons, Richard and Philip, an annual rent of twenty pounds of lawful money of England to be yearly going out of all the same manors, to have and to perceive yearly the said annuities of twenty pounds to either of the said Richard and Philip, my said sons, at their age of 21 years during the life natural of Dame Anne, my wife, at the feasts of Easter and Saint Michael th' Archangel by even portions, the first payment thereof to begin at such of the same feast[s] as shall next follow after my said sons, Richard and Philip, shall accomplish the age of 21 years, with sufficient clauses of distress to be expressed and contained within every of the said deeds for non-payment of the said annuities of twenty pounds;

And if any of my said sons, Richard and Philip, fortune to decease, living the said Dame Anne, my wife, and living one of the same my said sons, then I will that my son that so shall fortune to overlive, after he shall come to his age of 21 years, shall have and perceive the said annual rent of twenty pounds before assigned and granted unto his said brother so deceased during the life of the said Dame Anne, my wife, at the foresaid feasts by even portions, and that my feoffees of the same manors of Nettlestead, Blakenham, Dunstall, Newhall, Overtie and Woodhouse and their heirs shall do everything for the making sure of the said annuities of £20 to every of my said sons, Richard and Philip,

according to the true [+meaning?] and intent of this my last will as shall be devised by mine executors or their learned counsel at my only costs and charges;

Also I will that my feoffees of and in my said manors of Nettlestead, Blakenham Parva, Dunstall, Newhall, Overtie and Woodhouse and of all my lands and tenements with their appurtenances in Nettlestead, Blakenham Parva, Coddendam, Bramford, Somersham, Flawghton, Offton, Willisham, Baylham, [+Blaneham?] Magna, Claydon, Creeting Saint Mary et Creeting O{mn}i{u}m s{an}c{t}orum [=Creeting All Saints] in the said county of Suffolk and their heirs shall stand and be seised of the said manors, lands and tenements immediately after my decease to th' use of my said son, Sir Thomas, and of th' heirs of his body lawfully begotten, my said son, Sir Thomas, and th' heirs of his body lawfully begotten paying out of the same manors, lands and tenements to my said sons, Richard and Philip, during the life of the said Dame Anne, my wife, and to every of my servants for term of their lives such annuities and pensions as I, the said Sir Richard, have by this my last will assigned and appointed unto my said sons and servants, and the charges of and for th' exhibition and finding of my said daughters and sons according to my said appointment in this my last will and testament expressed and declared;

Provided always that the said Dame Anne, my wife, if she fortune to overlive me and keep her unmarried, shall during her life have her dwelling and abide if she will within my place in my manor of Nettlestead aforesaid;

And if it shall fortune my said son, Sir Thomas, to decease without heirs of his body lawfully begotten, then my said feoffees of and in the same manors and lands with their appurtenances and their heirs to stand and be seised thereof to th' use of my said son, Richard, and of the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, paying the said annuities and charges of and for the finding of my said daughters as tofore is rehearsed and declared, and for default of th' heirs of the body of the said Richard lawfully begotten, and after the decease of the same Richard to th' use of my said son, Philip, and of th' heirs of his body lawfully begotten, paying the said [f. 321r] annuities and charges of the finding of my said daughters as tofore is expressed, and for default of such issue of the body of the said Philip, my son, lawfully begotten and after the decease of the said Philip, to th' use of all my daughters and of th' heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten, and after the decease of all my said daughters to th' use of th' heirs of the body of the said Dame Margery lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to th' use of my right heirs and of their heirs forever;

Also I will that if the said Dame Anne, my wife, fortune to decease, living the said Richard & Philip, my said sons, or one of the same my said sons living, so that the said annuities to the same my sons before assigned out of the said manors of Nettlestead, Blakenham, Dunstall, Newhall, Overtie and Woodhouse be clearly determined by the decease of the said Dame Anne, my wife, then I will that all my feoffees of and in my manors of Barrow with th' appurtenances in the said county of Suffolk and of and in my manor of Stanbrigg [=Stambridge?] with the appurtenances in the county of Essex, and of and in my manor of Chatham with th' appurtenances in the said county of Kent, all which manors the said Dame Anne, my wife, hath for term of her life in and for her

jointure, immediately after the decease of the same Dame Anne by their other deed sufficient in the law to be devised by my said executors or their learned counsel at my costs and charges shall grant unto the said Richard and Philip, my said sons, if they both be then living, or to such one of them as then shall fortune to overlive the other, an annual rent of forty pounds to be yearly going out of the said manors of Barrow, Stanbrige and Chatham with their appurtenances, to have and to perceive yearly the said annual rent of forty pounds to the said Richard and Philip, my said sons, if they both be then living, egally between them to be divided, or to such one of them which shall so overlive, after they shall come to the age of 21 years for term of their lives and the life of the longest liver of them at the said feasts of Easter and Saint Michael th' Archangel by even portions, the first day of payment then to begin at the same feast which shall next follow after every of my said sons shall come to th' age of 21 years, with sufficient clause of distress to be comprised and contained within the same deed for the non-payment of the said annual rent of £40 sterling;

Also I will that after the decease of the said Dame Anne, my wife, and after the decease of the said Richard and Philip, my said sons, that then all my feoffees of and in my said manors of Barrow, Stanbrige and Chatham with their appurtenances and their heirs shall stand and be seised of all the same manors with their appurtenances to th' use of my said son, Sir Thomas Wentworth, and of th' heirs of his body lawfully begotten according to the tenor and purport of the said indentures made between me and the said Sir Adrian Fortescue;

Also I will that all the covenants and agreements comprised in the same indentures on my part to be performed concerning such manors [+and?] lands as be expressed or named in the same indentures be truly observed according unto the true meaning of the same indentures;

And if it shall fortune my said son, Sir Thomas, to decease without issue of his body lawfully begotten, then my said feoffees and their heirs to stand and be seised of the same manors to th' use of my said son, Richard, and of th' heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue of my said son, Richard, lawfully begotten and after his decease to th' use of my said son, Philip, and of th' heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue of the body of my said son, Philip, lawfully begotten and after the decease of the said Philip to th' use of all my daughters and of th' heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue of my said daughters' bodies lawfully begotten, then and after their deceases to th' use of th' heirs of the body of the said Dame Margery Roos lawfully begotten, and for default of issue of her body lawfully begotten to th' use of my right heirs and of their heirs forever;

Also I will that my said feoffees of and in my said manors of Nettlestead, Blakenham Parva, Dunstall, Overtie and Woodhouse immediately after my decease by their several deeds sufficient in the law as shall be devised by my said executors at my only costs and charges shall make to such of my servants as hereafter in this my said will [+I?] shall name for term of their lives sufficient grants of such annuities as I also hereafter in this my said will shall severally express and assign to be yearly going out of the same manors

and payable to my said servants at the feasts of Easter and Saint Michael by even portions, the first day of payment thereof to begin at one of the said feasts which shall next follow after my decease, with sufficient clauses of distress to be comprised within every of the same deeds for non-payment of every of the said annuities, that is to say, to Thomas Goldingham, gentleman, my servant, an annuity of £3 6s 8d of lawful money of England for term of his life, and to Thomas Philips, my servant, an annuity of 26s 8d of lawful money of England for term of his life;

Also I will that if the said Sir Thomas Wentworth, my son, or any other person or persons by his procurement or commandment do interrupt at any time after my decease any part of this my last will and testament or any part of either of them to be executed and accomplished according to my mind therein declared, as I trust he will not, by reason whereof any part of my said will or testament be broken and be not observed, then I will that all my feoffees of and in my said manors of Nettlestead, Blakenham Parva, Dunstall, Newhall, Overtie and Woodhouse and all my lands and tenements within the towns afore rehearsed immediately after such interruption by my said son, Sir Thomas, so had and made and their heirs shall stand and be seised of the same manors, lands & tenements to th' use of my said son, Richard, and of th' heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for default [f. 321r] of such issue to such use over in like manner and form as tofore is expressed, and that then my said son, Sir Thomas, after such interruption had and made, shall not meddle nor take no profits of my said manors of Nettlestead, Blakenham Parva, Dunstall, Newhall, Overtie and Woodhouse nor lands and tenements within the towns afore rehearsed, but that he shall thereof and of every part of the same be utterly excluded, anything tofore comprised in this my last will or testament to the contrary notwithstanding;

And if at any time after my decease any ambiguity or doubt shall rise or grow of or upon any clause or clauses, word or words expressed or contained in this my last will and testament or in either of them for lack of plain and perfect making of the same, that then the said doubts shall be cleared and made open as mine executors with th' advice of Anthony Fitzherbert, one of the King's Judges of his Common Pleas, if he then be living, or by mine executors if the same Anthony by them be required, shall adjudge and deem, and every such doubt so cleared and opened by them or by the longest liver of them be then ordered and executed according to their minds and opinions, and be of as good effect as though it had be[en] ordered and adjudged by me, the said Sir Richard, in my lifetime.

Memorandum: That the 15th day of October in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred twenty and eight the said Sir Richard Wentworth knight, being in good mind and memory, lying upon his deathbed, willed and bequeathed unto Dame Anne Wentworth, his wife, the sum of one hundred pounds sterlings in the presence of Sir Thomas Wentworth, knight, Robert Talmage, James Tyrrell, and divers others.

Vicesimo primo die mensis Nouembris Anno D{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingen{tesimo} vicesimo octauo Coram prefatis Com{m}issarijs in eccl{es}ia Cath{edra}li diui Pauli London Com{m}issa fuit admi{ni}stracio auc{torita}te p{re}fator{um} R{euerendissimorum} patrum o{mn}i{u}m & sing{u}lorum bonorum Iuriu{m} & creditorum d{ic}t{i} defuncti Ric{hard}i Wentworth Militis Thome Wentworth Militi De bene & fidel{ite}r admi{ni}strand{o} Ac de pleno & fidei In{uenta}rio secundo die post sancti valentini prox{imum} futur{um} exhibend{o} Necnon de plano & vero compoto reddend{o} Ad sancta dei eu{a}ng{elia} Iurat{o}

[=On the twenty-first day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred twenty-eighth before the forenamed Commissaries in the Cathedral Church of Saint Paul in London administration was granted by the authority of the forenamed most Reverend Fathers of all & singular the goods, rights & credits of the said deceased, Richard Wentworth, knight, to Thomas Wentworth, knight, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well & faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full & faithful inventory on the second day after Saint Valentine's next to come, and also to render a plain & true account.]