

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 31 August 1523 and proved 4 August 1529, of Sir Walter Mantell.

The testator is said to have been the son of John Mantell, esquire. See the pedigree of Mantell of Wellington in Burke, Bernard, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Colonial Gentry*, (London: Harrison & Sons, 1891), p. 175 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/genealogicalhera01burk#page/174/mode/2up>.

The testator married Margaret Wood, the daughter of Oliver Wode or Wood by Joan Cantelowe, daughter of Henry Cantelowe, Merchant of the Staple. See:

'Introduction', *Survey of London: volume 19: The parish of St Pancras part 2: Old St Pancras and Kentish Town* (1938), pp. 1-31. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=64859>:

*The field which formed the site of Francis Street, called Cantlowe Close, belonged to Henry Cantlowe, who died on 19th November, 1490, and then to his son, Richard, who died without issue in 1517. Richard's sister, Joan, married in 1497 Oliver Woode of Collington, Northants, who died in 1521, leaving a daughter, Margaret, afterwards the wife of Sir William Hawte of Bishopsbourne, Kent.*

For the will of Henry Cantelowe, dated 5 November 1490 and proved 20 December 1490, which mentions his wife, Joan, and his children Richard (d.1517) and Joan, see TNA PROB 11/8/508. For the will of Oliver Wode, dated 21 March 1522 and proved 4 March 1523, bequeathing properties in Over Heyford and elsewhere and ordering his burial in St Katherine Cree, see London Metropolitan Archives CLC/210/G/BHD/002/MS13361A. For a record dated 5 February 1509 mentioning Oliver Wode as a member of the Middle Temple, see Hopwood, Charles Henry, ed., *Middle Temple Records*, (London: Butterworth & Co., 1904), pp. 27-8 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/middletemplereco01hopwuoft#page/26/mode/2up/>.

By Margaret (nee Wood) the testator had three sons, John, Walter and Thomas. According to the will below he also had five daughters, Ellen, Margaret, Mary, Anne and Dorothy.

The testator's eldest son, John Mantell, one of Henry VIII's Gentlemen Pensioners who had married Anne Fiennes, the only sister of Thomas Fiennes (c.1516 – 29 June 1541), 9<sup>th</sup> Baron Dacre, was executed for felony in 1541, together with his brother-in-law, Lord Dacre. The testator's second son, Walter Mantell, and the testator's grandson, Walter Mantell (son of the testator's eldest son, John) were both executed in 1554 during the suppression of Wyatt's rebellion. See Dean, Dennis R., *Gideon Mantell and the Discovery of Dinosaurs*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999), p. 6 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=37AT511DnaQC&pg=PA6&lpg=PA6&dq=%22walter+mantell%22+%22executed%22&hl=en#v=onepage&q=%22walter%20mantell%22%20%22executed%22&f=false>.

*In 1541, however, John Mantell and some others ventured upon a “nocturnal frolic,” poaching deer from Sir Nicholas Pelham’s park in Sussex. Caught by three of Pelham’s men, they murdered one, and were subsequently executed, the greater portion of their estates being forfeited to the crown. As if to complete the ruin of his house, John’s son Walter then joined Sir Thomas Wyatt’s Kentish rebellion of 1554, which tried but failed to prevent Queen Mary’s union with the powerful Catholic monarch Philip of Spain. Walter, his nephew, and Wyatt himself were executed the same year.*

For the executions of John Mantell and Lord Dacre, see also:

<http://thesotericcuriosa.blogspot.ca/2010/06/of-reckless-youth-thomas-fiennes-9th.html>.

Sir Thomas Wyatt, leader of the Wyatt rebellion, married Jane Haute, stepsister of the testator’s second son, Walter Mantell (see below). Wyatt was executed in London; however Walter Mantell may have been executed at Maidstone. See Lempreys, S.C., *A Brief Historical and Descriptive Account of Maidstone and its Environs*, (Maidstone: J. Brown, 1834), p. 28.

The executions of all three members of the Mantell family are also mentioned in a case concerning the manors of Milton and Collingtree in Northamptonshire bought in the Exchequer in Easter term, 25 Elizabeth [=1582/3] by the testator’s third son, Thomas Mantell, against the testator’s grandson, Matthew Mantell (d.1589), son of the testator’s second son, Walter. See Leach, Thomas, ed., *Reports of Sir George Croke, Knight*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., Vol. I, (London: E. & R. Brooke, 1790), p. 28 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=s2oDAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA28&lpg=PA28&dq=%22sir+Walter+mantell%22&hl=en#v=onepage&q=%22sir%20Walter%20mantell%22&f=false>.

For the executions of the testator son, Walter Mantell, and grandson, Walter Mantell, see also Foxe’s *Actes and Monuments*:

<http://www.johnfoxe.org/index.php?realm=text&gototype=modern&edition=1583&pageid=1492>.

See also the will, proved 15 October 1589, of the testator’s grandson, Matthew Mantell (d. 1589), TNA PROB 11/74/295, and the History of Parliament entry:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/mantell-matthew-1550-89>.

The testator's eldest son, John, married firstly Anne Browne, by whom he had a son, Walter (see above), and secondly Anne Fiennes, daughter of Lord Dacres, by whom he had two sons, one of whom died young while the other died unmarried. See Burke, *supra*, p. 175.

The testator's second son, Walter (see above), purchased the site of Horton Priory, and married either Jane or Mary Hales, the daughter of the Sir James Hales (d.1554), by whom he had four sons, including Matthew, to whom Horton Priory was restored in 1571. As noted below, Walter's mother, Margaret (nee Wood), married Sir James Hales (d.1554) as her third husband. See the History of Parliament entry, *supra*, and Burke, *supra*, p. 175.

The testator's daughter, Margaret Mantell (d.1540), married Robert Goche (d.1557) and was the mother of the poet, Barnabe Googe (1540-1594). See the will of Robert Goche, proved 12 February 1558, TNA PROB 11/40/86; Taylor, John, ed., *Northamptonshire Notes & Queries*, Vol. III, (Northampton: The Dryden Press, 1890), p. 227; Lloyd, J.Y.W., *The History of the Princes, the Lords Marcher, and the Ancient Nobility of Powys Fadog*, (London: T. Richards, 1882), p. 397; and the *ODNB* entry for Barnabe Googe:

*Googe, Barnabe (1540–1594), poet and translator, was born on 11 June 1540, probably in Kent, the son of Robert Goche (d. 1557) of Lincoln and Margaret (d. 1540), daughter of Sir Walter Mantell. His mother died when he was six weeks old, and he was probably brought up in Kent by his grandmother Lady Hales. His father married his second wife, Ellen Gadbury Parris, in 1552; Googe came to dislike his stepmother intensely, and subsequently he spent a great deal of time at the Hales family manor Dunjeon (Dane John).*

The testator's daughter, Anne Mantell, married Richard Neville (c.1510-1599), and was the mother of Alexander Neville (1544-1614), translator of Seneca. From the *ODNB*:

*Neville, Alexander (1544–1614), author, was the sixth of the eleven children of Richard Neville (c.1510–1599) of South Leverton, Nottinghamshire, and his wife, Anne (b. c.1512), daughter of Sir Walter Mantell of Heyford, Northamptonshire, and aunt of the poet Barnabe Googe. . . . Neville's skill in Latin had already been demonstrated in 1560 by his translation into fourteeners of Seneca's Oedipus, subsequently printed in 1563 and then found worthy of inclusion, in a version which was extensively but tacitly revised and stressed the author's youth at the time of its first composition, in Thomas Newton's anthology of Seneca translations, 'Seneca his Tenne Tragedies', published in London in 1581.*

After the testator's death his widow, Margaret (nee Wood), married Sir William Haute (d.1539), who by his first wife, Mary Guildford, had two daughters:

\* Elizabeth Haute, who married Thomas Culpeper of Bedgebury in Goudhurst, Kent, eldest of the three sons of Sir Alexander Culpeper (d.1541) by Constance Chamberlain,

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and elder brother of Sir Thomas Culpeper, executed 23 November 1541 for alleged indiscretions with Henry VIII's fifth wife, Katherine Howard.

\* Jane Haute (d. in or after 1595), who married Sir Thomas Wyatt (executed 11 April 1554 for instigating the Wyatt rebellion); their son, George Wyatt, married Jane Finch, daughter of Sir Thomas Finch (d.1563) by Katherine Moyle, daughter of Sir Thomas Moyle (d.1560). For the will of Sir Thomas Moyle, dated 30 March and proved 14 November 1560, see TNA PROB 11/43/593.

See the *ODNB* entries for the Culpeper family, Katherine Howard, and Sir Thomas Wyatt; Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. IV, p. 383; and the will of Sir William Haute, dated 12 January 1539 and proved 16 June 1539, TNA PROB 11/26/240.

The testator's widow, Margaret (nee Wood), married, as her third husband, Sir James Hales (d.1554), and as such was the Lady Margaret Hales who instituted the lawsuit of *Hales v Petit* alluded to in the grave-digger's speech in *Hamlet*.

Margaret (nee Wood) Mantell Haute Hales is buried in the south or Woods chancel in St Mildred's Church, Canterbury, where there is a monument to her memory. Sources differ as to the date of her death. According to an inquisition post mortem taken 18 March 1568, she died 18 September 1567 (see TNA C 142/165/132). See also Leach, *supra*, p. 28, and:

'Parishes: Milton Malzor', *A History of the County of Northampton: Volume 4* (1937), pp. 271-276. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=66366>.

However statements in the will of her stepson, Humphrey Hales, suggest that she was still living on 18 August 1568 (see the will of Humphrey Hales, dated 18 August 1568 and proved 13 May 1571, TNA PROB 11/53/261).

According to other sources, which mention her monument in St Mildred's Church, Canterbury, she died in 1577. See the *ODNB* article on Sir James Hales, and Brayley, Edward Wedlake, *The Beauties of England and Wales*, Vol. VIII, (London: Thomas Maiden, 1808), p. 907 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/beautiesengland17braygoog#page/n317/mode/2up>.

See also the entry for Margaret Wood at:

<http://www.kateemersonhistoricals.com/TudorWomenWi-Z.htm>.

LM: Test{amentu}m Walteri Mawntell milit{is}

[f. 73v] In dei nomine amen. I, Walter Mantell, being of good mind & remembrance, make my last will and testament under this manner and form following:

First, I bequeath my soul to Almighty God;

Item, I bequeath to every church hereafter following, that is to say, Heyford, Bugbrooke, Flore, Farnynghoo, Kings Sutton, Charleton, Chapell, and to every of them 10s sterling;

Item, I will that all my feoffees stand seised in all my lands to this use following:

First, I will that my wife have and enjoy the manor of Heyford with all the appurtenance in Over Heyford and Nether Heyford, provided always that she nor none for her do no waste thereupon nor on the woods, and she to occupy and enjoy the said manor during her life;

Item, I will that my said feoffees stand seised in my manors of Farnynghoo, Norton, Grymscott, Wootton, Westotton [=West Cotton?] and all other hamlets, as Roade and Asshen [=Ashton?], Flore, Clanstropp, Bugbrooke, Astrop, Preston and Farthingston, and in all other lands that I have till my son, John Mantell, be or may come to the age of 21 years, to this use following:

I bequeath to my brother, Thomas Fowler, besides his patent that I have given him out of Norton, £3 6s 8d more during his life;

Item, I bequeath to my brother-in-law, Thomas Eyton, 40s yearly during his life;

Item, I bequeath to Richard Woode during his life four marks yearly;

Item, I bequeath every of my household servants, both men & women, 40s in money;

Item, I will that my brother, Thomas Fowler, receive the profits and revenues of all these foresaid lands, finding surety to my said feoffees once a year to pay and make due account to my said feoffees, and the money thereof coming I will by the discretion of my said feoffees be employed and indifferently divided amongst my daughters Ellen, Margaret, Mary, Anne and Dorothy to their marriages, and my brother for his pain therein to have all the wastes, strays, fines and heriots of all the foresaid lands except Heyford;

Also I will that my wife have all the residue of my goods movable and unmovable, whom I make and ordain mine executrix to see my debts paid;

And also I will that all my feoffees, being assembled, appoint two or three of them to have the custody of this money, whereof one of them to be Master William Spencer.

Dated the last day of August the 15 year of King Henry the Eight.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascripti defuncti Coram prefatis Com<sup>m</sup>issarijs in eccl<sup>es</sup>ia Cath<sup>ed</sup>rali d<sup>om</sup>ini Pauli London iiijto die mensis Augusti Anno D<sup>omi</sup>ni Mill<sup>es</sup>imo quingen<sup>tes</sup>imo xxix Iurame<sup>n</sup>t<sup>o</sup> Margarete Relicte & executricis in h<sup>uius</sup>mo<sup>d</sup>i test<sup>ament</sup>o no<sup>m</sup>i<sup>n</sup>at<sup>e</sup> In p<sup>er</sup>sona Antonij Wood l<sup>ite</sup>rat<sup>i</sup>(?) procur<sup>atoris</sup> in hac p<sup>ar</sup>te Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et com<sup>m</sup>issa fuit admi<sup>ni</sup>stracio auct<sup>oritat</sup>e prefatoru<sup>m</sup> R<sup>everendissi</sup>mor<sup>um</sup> patrum om<sup>n</sup>i<sup>um</sup> & singulorum bonorum Iuriu<sup>m</sup> & creditorum dicti defuncti prefat<sup>e</sup> executrici In p<sup>er</sup>sona dicti procur<sup>atoris</sup> De bene & fidel<sup>ite</sup>r admi<sup>ni</sup>strand<sup>o</sup> Ac de pleno & fideli In<sup>uentar</sup>io secundo Die post festum s<sup>an</sup>c<sup>t</sup>i Edwardi prox<sup>imum</sup> futur<sup>um</sup> exhibend<sup>o</sup> Necnon de plano & vero compoto reddend<sup>o</sup> Ad s<sup>an</sup>c<sup>t</sup>a dei eu<sup>a</sup>ng<sup>elia</sup> in debita iur<sup>is</sup> forma Iurat<sup>e</sup>

[=The testament of the above-written deceased was proved before the forenamed Commissaries in the Cathedral Church of Saint Paul, London, on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of the month of August in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 29<sup>th</sup> by the oath of Margaret, relict & executrix named in the same testament in the person of Anthony Wood, learned(?) proctor in that regard, and probated and entered, and administration was granted by the authority of the forenamed Most Reverend Fathers of all & singular the goods, rights & credits of the said deceased to the forenamed executrix 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 on the second day after the feast of Saint Edward next to come, and also to render a plain & true account.]