

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 28 October 1538 and proved 23 January 1539, of Alice Boleyn Clere (d. 1 November 1538), whose grandson purchased Oxford's manor of Weybourne.

The testatrix was the daughter of Sir William Boleyn (c.1451-1505?) and Margaret Butler (d. before 20 March 1540), the youngest daughter and co-heiress of Thomas Butler (d. 3 August 1515), 7th Earl of Ormond, by his first wife, Anne Hankford. The testatrix had six brothers: Sir Thomas Boleyn (father of Queen Anne Boleyn); William Boleyn, Archdeacon of Winchester; Sir James Boleyn; Sir Edward Boleyn; John Boleyn, and Anthony Boleyn, and four sisters: Margaret Boleyn, who married John Sackville (d. 27 September 1557), esquire, for whom see the Wikipedia article edited by the author of this summary; Anne Boleyn, who died young; Anne Boleyn, who married Sir John Shelton (d. 21 December 1539); and Jane Boleyn, who married Sir Philip Calthorpe.

The testatrix married Sir Robert Clere (d. 10 August 1529), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/24/84.

Sir Robert Clere had earlier been married to Anne Hopton (d. 23 January 1506), the daughter of Sir William Hopton (d. 7 February 1485) and Margaret Wentworth. By Anne Hopton Sir Robert Clere had a son, William Clere, who died without issue, and four daughters: Elizabeth Clere, who married Sir Robert Peyton (d. 18 March 1518); Audrey Clere, who married William Jenney, esquire; Anne Clere, a nun; and Dorothy Clere, who married Sir Robert Cotton. The 'Lady Peyton' to whom the testatrix leaves a rosary in the will below would appear to be her stepdaughter, Elizabeth Clere, wife of Sir Robert Peyton. For the Peyton family, see also Waters, Robert Edmond Chester, *Genealogical Memoirs of the Extinct Family of Chester of Chicheley*, (London: Robson and Sons, 1878), Vol. I, p. 207 at:

https://archive.org/stream/genealogicalmemo01wate_0#page/206/mode/2up.

By Sir Robert Clere, the testatrix had three sons:

*Sir John Clere (c. 1511 - 21 August 1557), for whom see his will, TNA PROB 11/39/381.

*Richard Clere, who according to the will below died without issue before the age of 22;

* Thomas Clere (d. 14 April 1545), for whom see his will, TNA PROB 11/30/376.

For the will of the testatrix' grandson, Sir Edward Clere, who purchased Oxford's manor of Weybourne, see TNA PROB 11/108/169.

For the foregoing see Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 6-7, 385-7, and Vol. II, pp. 401-2.

For the testatrix' manor of Wythertons see:

<http://list.historicengland.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1019972>.

The testatrix' executor, Sir Edmund Knyvet (c.1508 - 1 May 1551), married the testatrix' niece, Anne Shelton, the daughter of Sir John Shelton (d. 21 December 1539) of Carrow, Norfolk. See the Wikipedia article on Sir Edmund Knyvet edited by the author of this summary; the *ODNB* articles on Sir Edmund Knyvet and Sir John Shelton; and the will of Sir Edmund Knyvet, TNA PROB 11/34/421. Two years after the testatrix' death, her executor, Sir Edmund Knyvet, was sentenced to lose his right hand for striking the testatrix' son, Thomas Clere, at court. From the *ODNB*:

Late in April 1541 Knyvet again showed his hotheadedness, when he was charged with striking Thomas Clere, a servant of Henry Howard, earl of Surrey, within the king's tennis court. A recent statute had stated that anyone guilty of such violence at court should have his right hand struck off, and arrangements were made to inflict the penalty—the statute specified in detail how this should be done, the king's master cook wielding the knife and the sergeant of the poultry providing a cock to test its sharpness. Possibly because Knyvet begged to have his left hand amputated instead, so that his right might still do the king good service, he received a pardon before the blow could be struck.

For the testatrix' executor, Sir Nicholas Hare (d. 31 October 1557), see the *ODNB* article and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/hare-nicholas-1495-1557>.

For the Clere family, see also the pedigree in Burke, John and John Bernard Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies of England*, (London: Scott, Webster and Geary, 1838), p. 118 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=K1kBAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA118&lpg=PA118&dq=%22Henry+Clere%22&source=bl&ots=E9Nq13ni8h&sig=_GECgUezus9XWHoWshnlrqz693o&hl=en&sa=X&ei=wlcIVdz4IcjtoAToy4KYCw&ved=0CF0Q6AEwDg#v=onepage&q=%22Henry%20Clere%22&f=false.

LM: Test{amentu}m D{omi}ne Alicie Clere vidue

[f. 190v] In dei nomine amen. The 28th day of October in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred 38, I, Dame Alice Clere, widow, being of whole mind and perfect remembrance, make my testament in manner and form following:

First, I commend my soul to Almighty God and to Our Saviour, Jesus Christ, by the merits of whose passion I hope and believe faithfully that I am and shall be saved forever, and my body to be buried in the Church of Saint Margaret of Ormesby next the place where my husband was buried, towards the reparation of which church I give 20s;

And I will have bestowed at my burial and alms to poor people twenty pounds after the discretion of mine executors;

Item I will have an hundred ells of canvas, and to be made in sheets, shirts and smocks and distributed to poor folks in the towns where I have had my living within one month next after my decease;

Item, I will have an honest priest of good and sufficient learning to preach the Word of God by the space of one year next after my decease at such due times and places as shall be appointed by mine executors;

Item, I will have these sums of money underwritten distributed in alms to poor folks in these towns following, that is to say, in Ormesby Saint Margaret and Ormesby Saint Michael, 6s 8d; in Burgh, 5s; in Stokesby, 2s; in Winterton and Somerton, 3s 4d; in Freethorpe, Limpenhoe and Sowood [=Southwood?], 5s; in Frettenham, 2s; and in Tacolneston, 2s;

Item, I give to the reparation of the parish Church of Tacolneston 26s 8d;

Item, I will that Mother Hubbard shall have yearly paid to her ten shillings for term of her life;

Item, I will that Dernys wife shall have paid to her yearly ten shillings by the space of four years next after my decease toward the bringing up of the child which she gave me;

Item, I will that Dewys wife of Wymondham shall have ten shillings a year by the space of four years next after my decease toward the keeping of the child which she gave me;

Item, I give to my son, John Clere, a bed of blue damask and yellow, and to his wife a canopy of tawny tinsel and green velvet, a white frontlet of white satin embroidered with acorns;

Item, I give to my said son, John Clere, an heart of gold with a large diamond in it, a pair of beads of gold having fifty aves and eight paternosters;

Item, I give and bequeath to my son, Thomas [f. 191r] Clere, seven hundred pounds sterlings, to be paid as it may be gathered of my debts, therewith to buy a ward for his preferment or to purchase land for him by the wisdom and discretion of mine executors;

And if the said Thomas Clere shall fortune to depart this world before the purchasing of the said land or ward for him, then I will that of the same seven hundred pounds shall be

given and divided amongst the five children of my son, John Clere, five hundred marks, that is to say, to every of them one hundred marks, and the residue of the said sum of seven hundred pounds I give and bequeath to my son, John Clere;

Also I give to my said son, Thomas, threescore pounds worth of plate, my gilt plate to be valued at 4s the ounce and the parcel gilt at 3s 4d the ounce, and also a salt of gold with a cover having a rose in the knop, and a pair of beads of gold which Queen Anne gave me with divers precious stones in them;

Item, I give to my niece Knyvet a tablet of gold with the picture of the Salutation of Our Lady in it with 8 rubies and 24 pearls in the same;

And to my niece, Elizabeth Shelton, my ring with the emerald in it;

Also I give to my said son, Thomas Clere, a bed of russet satin and my bed of black damask with Jesus in it, and a bed of crimson velvet and black velvet embroidered;

Item, I will that all my carpets, all my sheets and napery, all mine apparel, and all my jewels in this my testament not bequeathed be equally divided, parted and given to my said sons John and Thomas;

Item, I give to Master Nicholas Hare a pot of silver and gilt which I lately bought;

Item, I give to my niece, Elizabeth Calthorpe, my pomander of gold;

Item, I give to William Clere 40s;

Item, I give to every one of my son John Clere his children ten pounds;

Item, I give to my Lady Peyton my beads of anettes(?) with paternosters of gold;

And where Sir Robert Clere, knight, my late husband, by his testament and last will give and bequeathed to Richard Clere, his son and mine, six hundred marks, and to the said Thomas Clere four hundred marks, to such use, intent and purpose as is in the said testament of my said husband contained, and further it is contained in the same testament that if either of the said Richard and Thomas should fortune to depart this world before thother without issue and before the age of 22 years, that then the survivor of them should have the part and portion of that legacy of him that so should die, which Richard Clere died without issue and before he came to the age of 22 years, by reason whereof the said sum of six hundred marks given and bequeathed to the said Richard was the duty and ought to be paid to the said Thomas, my son, in full recompense and satisfaction of which sum of six hundred marks given to the said Richard and by surviving due to the said Thomas, and also of the said sum of four hundred marks given to the said Thomas, which amount in the whole to the sum of a thousand marks, and in full recompense and satisfaction of all other bequests [+and] legacies given and bequeathed or in any wise to the said Thomas Clere by the said testament and last will of my said husband, I have

already given by deed of feoffment to the said Thomas Clere my manor of Frettenham with th' appurtenances and all my lands, tenements, rents, services and all other hereditaments in Frettenham aforesaid and other towns adjoining, to have and to hold the said manor, lands, tenements and other the premises after my decease to the said Thomas and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And also my manor of Wythertons [=Wetherden?] with the appurtenances and all my lands, tenements and hereditaments in Hitcham, Ketylberton [=Kettlebaston?] and Brettenham in the county of Suffolk, to have and to hold the same manor, lands, tenements and other the premise after my decease to the said Thomas, my son, and to his heirs forever;

All the residue of my goods and chattels before not bequeathed, with my debts to me owing, I wholly commit to the good order and disposition of Master Edmund Knyvet, esquire, and Master Nicholas Hare, whom I ordain and make executors of this my testament, they to dispose them to the pleasure of God;

And I give him [sic?] for his pains in execution (?) of this my testament ten pounds;

And further I will that if my goods, chattels, money, plate and 'sperate debts at the time of my decease will not suffice to perform this my testament, then by this my testament I do authorize and give power to my said executors to abate, abridge and minish such legacy and legacies in this my testament as by their conscience and discretion shall be thought meet, except only the said legacy and bequest of seven hundred pounds before given to my son, Thomas, for that legacy I will in no wise have diminished.

Vicesimo tercio die mensis Ianuarij Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingen{tesi}mo xxxviiio Edmundus Knevet vnus executorum no{m}i{n}at{orum} in test{amen}to prescript{e} defuncte in eccl{es}ia Cath{edra}li diui Pauli London renu{n}ciauit oneri &c et xxvijo die eiusdem mens{is} Ianuarij Nichol{a}us Hare alter execut{or} In p{er}sona Roberti Goodwyn procur{atoris} sui &c renu{n}ciauit quas r{e}nu{n}ciac{i}o{n}es d{omi}nus acceptauit et decreuit defunctam ad viam intestat{i} de{u}enisse Et com{m}issa fuit admi{n}istracio o{mn}i{u}m & singulorum bonorum Iuriu{m} et creditorum dict{e} defuncte Ioann{i} Clere filio &c De b{e}n{e} et fidel{iter} admi{n}strand{o} Ac de pleno et fideli In{uenta}rio secundo die post festum Ascenc{i}o{n}is D{omi}ni prox{imum} futur{um} exhibend{o} Necnon de plano et vero compoto reddend{o} Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{o}

[=On the twenty-third day of the month of January in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 38th in the Cathedral Church of St Paul, London, Edmund Knyvet, one of the executors named in the testament of the foresaid deceased, renounced the burden etc., and on the 27th day of the same month of January Nicholas Hare, the other executor, in the person of Robert Goodwyn, his proctor etc., renounced, which renunciations the Lord accepted, and decreed the deceased to have died intestate, and a grant of administration of

all & singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased issued to John Clere, son etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full and faithful inventory on the second day after the feast of the Ascension of the Lord next to come, and also to render a plain and true account.]