

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 12 March 1540 and proved 11 May 1540, of Margery Wentworth Waldegrave (buried 7 May 1540), whose great-grandson, Sir William Waldegrave (c.1540 – 25 August 1613), was a co-guarantor, with Oxford's first cousin, John Darcy (d.1581), 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Darcy of Chiche, of Oxford's debt to the Court of Wards. In 1572, Sir William Waldegrave and Lord Darcy jointly entered into guarantees amounting to £5000 for Oxford's debt to the Court of Wards (see TNA C 2/Eliz/T6/48). For Sir William Waldegrave, see the will of his father, Sir William Waldegrave (1507?-1554), TNA PROB 11/37/466.

The testatrix' will reveals the close ties between the Waldegrave family and the Earls of Oxford:

*And I will that my son, Anthony Waldegrave, shall have the chain that was my Lord of Oxenford's.*

### ***TESTATRIX' RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE WENTWORTH FAMILY***

The testatrix was the aunt of Sir John Wentworth (1494-1567) of Gosfield Hall, friend and executor of John de Vere (1516-1562), 16<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford. For the will of Sir John Wentworth, see TNA PROB 11/49/288. For the will of the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl in which he appoints the testatrix' nephew as one of his executors, see TNA PROB 11/46/247.

The testatrix was also the aunt of Henry Wentworth (died c.1545), whose grandson, Lord William Wentworth (1555/6-1582), married Oxford's sister-in-law, Elizabeth Cecil (1564-1583). See Ellis, Henry, *Original Letters Illustrative of English History*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Series, Vol. IV, (London: Richard Bentley, 1846), pp. 40-44 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=GiMYAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA40>

The testatrix was the first cousin of Sir Henry Wentworth (c.1448 - August 1499) of Nettlestead, whose daughter, Margery Wentworth (d.1550), married Sir John Seymour (1473/4–1536) of Wolf Hall, and was the mother of Henry VIII's third wife, Jane Seymour (1508/9-1537), and the grandmother of Edward VI (1537-1553), as well as the mother of Edward Seymour (d.1500-1552), Duke of Somerset ('the Protector Somerset'), and Sir Thomas Seymour (d.1509-1549), who after the death of Henry VIII married the King's sixth wife, Katherine Parr (1512-1548). Before marrying Henry VIII, Katherine Parr had been the third wife of John Neville (1493-1543), 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Latimer, whose first wife was Dorothy de Vere (d. 7 February 1527), sister and co-heir of John de Vere (14 August 1499 - 14 July 1526), 14th Earl of Oxford. See the will of John Neville, 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Latimer, TNA PROB 11/29/303.

For further details of the foregoing relationships, see the will of the testatrix' first cousin, Sir Henry Wentworth (c.1448 - August 1499) of Nettlestead, TNA PROB 11/12/265, and the will of the testatrix' nephew, Sir John Wentworth (1494-1567) of Gosfield Hall, TNA PROB 11/49/288.

### ***FAMILY BACKGROUND***

For the testatrix' family background, see Rutton, William Loftie, *Three Branches of the Family of Wentworth*, (London: 1891), pp. 1-13, 138-40, 145-6, 193-4 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YhY5AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA193>

For earlier generations of the Wentworth family, see the wills of Sir Henry Wentworth (c.1448 - August 1499) of Nettlestead and Sir John Wentworth (1494-1567) of Gosfield Hall referred to above.

The testatrix was the daughter of Henry Wentworth (d. 22 March 1482) and Elizabeth Howard (c.1410-c.1476), daughter of Henry Howard, esquire, of Boxted, Suffolk, by Mary Hussey, daughter of Sir Henry Hussey. Through this marriage the testatrix was related to the Howards and to the Earls of Oxford as follows:

By his first wife, Margaret Plaiz (c.1377 - August 1391), Sir John Howard (c.1366 - 17 November 1436), had one son, Sir John Howard (c.1385-1410), who married Joan Walton (died c.1425), by whom he was the father of one daughter, Elizabeth Howard (1411-1473), wife of John de Vere (1408-1462), 12<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford.

By his second wife, Alice Tendring (d. 18 October 1426), Sir John Howard (c.1366 - 17 November 1436) had two sons: (1) Sir Robert Howard (c.1384 – c. April 1436), who married Margaret Mowbray (died c. 18 October 1459), by whom he was ancestor of the Dukes of Norfolk, and (2) Henry Howard, esquire, of Boxted, Suffolk, who married Mary Hussey, by whom he was the father of the testatrix' mother, Elizabeth Howard (c.1410-c.1476).

See Ross, James, *John de Vere, Thirteenth Earl of Oxford (1442-1513)*, (Woodbridge, Suffolk: The Boydell Press, 2011), p. 24, and Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 409-11, 462-3, and Vol. IV, pp. 273-4 (hereafter *MCA*).

After the death of the testatrix' mother, the testatrix' father married secondly Joan Fitz Simon, the daughter and heiress of Robert Fitz Simon of North Shoebury, Essex, and widow of Roger Timperley, by whom he had one son:

-**Sir Nicholas Wentworth** (d.1553?), who married Jane Josselyn (d.1569), the daughter of John Josselyn, esquire, of High Roding, Essex, auditor to John de Vere (1442-1513),

13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, and one of the executors of the Earl's will. By Jane Josselyn, Sir Nicholas Wentworth was the ancestor of the Wentworths of Lillingstone Lovell.

After the death of the testatrix' father, Joan Fitz Simon married thirdly Philip Lewes, as his second wife.

See *MCA*, Vol. II, pp. 462-3; the will, dated 1 August 1524 and 12 July 1525, and proved 13 February 1526, of John Josselyn, TNA PROB 11/22/61; the will, dated 7 February 1552 and proved 24 June 1557, of Sir Nicholas Wentworth, TNA PROB 11/39/237, in which he refers to his mother as 'Dame Jane FitzLewis'; and Rutton, *supra*, p. 193 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YhY5AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA193>

See also Wentworth, John, *The Wentworth Genealogy*, Vol. II, (Privately printed, 1870), p. 351 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=RfEUAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA351&lpg=PA351>

In the will below, the testatrix mentions only one brother, Robert Wentworth, whom she appoints as one of her executors. The testatrix' eldest brother was:

**-Sir Roger Wentworth** (1465 - 9 August 1539), who married Anne Tyrrell (d.1534), the daughter of Humphrey Tyrrell (d.1506?), esquire, of Warley Semels in Little Warley, Essex, by his first wife, Isabel Helion, daughter and heiress of John Helion, esquire, by whom he was the father of the testatrix' nephew, Sir John Wentworth (1494-1567) of Gosfield Hall, Essex.

For the testatrix' other siblings, see the will of her nephew, Sir John Wentworth, TNA PROB 11/49/288.

## ***MARRIAGE***

The testatrix married, by settlement dated 1474/5, Sir William Waldegrave (c.1465 - 30 June 1527). See TNA E 210/1564, 'Agreement made between Dame Elizabeth Waldegrave, late the wife of Thomas Waldegrave, knight, and Henry Wentworth, esquire, in consideration of the marriage of William Waldegrave, son of the said Thomas and Elizabeth, with Margery, daughter of the said Henry, for the settlement of lands of the yearly value of £40 by Dame Joan Waldegrave, grandmother of the said William'.

As noted in the settlement, the parents of the testatrix' husband, Sir William Waldegrave (c.1465 - 30 June 1527), were Sir Thomas Waldegrave (d. 28 April 1472) of Smallbridge and Elizabeth Fray, daughter and co-heiress of Sir John Fray (d.1461), Chief Baron of the Exchequer, by Agnes Danvers (d.1478), daughter of Sir John Danvers. See the inquisition post mortem taken after the death of Sir Thomas Waldegrave, TNA C 140/40/4.

For Elizabeth Fray's mother, Agnes (nee Danvers) Baldington Fray Wenlock Say (d.1478), see Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. IV, p. 130, and 'Testament of a city-dwelling knight's widow' at:

<http://users.trytel.com/~tristan/towns/florilegium/lifecycle/lcdth18.html>

For Elizabeth Fray's sister, Katherine Fray (born c.1447), and her husband, Humphrey Stafford (executed 8 July 1486), esquire, of Grafton, Worcestershire, see Richardson, *supra*, Vol. I, p. 119. Humphrey Stafford's daughter, Anne Stafford, married Richard Neville (c.1467-1530), 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Latimer, by whom she was the mother of John Neville (17 November 1493 – 2 March 1543), 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Latimer, who married Dorothy de Vere (d. 7 February 1527), daughter of Sir George Vere (d.1503?) and Margaret Stafford, and sister and co-heir of John de Vere (14 August 1499 - 14 July 1526), 14th Earl of Oxford. See the will of Sir George Vere, TNA PROB 11/13/444, the will of John Neville, 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Latimer, TNA PROB 11/29/303, and Richardson, *supra*, Vol. III, p. 3.

For Elizabeth Fray's family, see also Macnamara, F.N., *Memorials of the Danvers Family*, (London: Hardy & Page, 1895), pp. 150-4 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=rdYKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA151>

After the death of Sir Thomas Waldegrave, his widow, Elizabeth Fray, married Sir William Say (1452 – 4 December 1529), eldest son and heir of Sir John Say (d. 12 April 1478). For Sir John Say, see his will, TNA PROB 11/6/459, and Richardson, *supra*, Vol. IV, pp. 129-30. For Sir William Say, by whom Elizabeth Fray Waldegrave had two daughters, Elizabeth Say, married to William Blount (c.1478–1534), 4<sup>th</sup> Baron Mountjoy, and Mary Say, married to Henry Bouchier (1472–1540), 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Essex, see his will, TNA PROB 11/24/102, the *ODNB* entries for William Blount, 4<sup>th</sup> Baron Mountjoy, and Henry Bouchier, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Essex, and Nichols, Francis Morgan, *The Hall of Lawford Hall: Records of an Essex House and its Proprietors*, (London, 1891), pp. 164-84 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=Sy8QAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA178>

For the testator's husband, Sir William Waldegrave, see also his will, TNA PROB 11/22/294; *MCA*, Vol. IV, pp. 283-4; and 'The Descendants of William deTendering, Knt., of Tendering Hall & His Wife Dame Katherine Mylde' at:

<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~clopton/tendring.htm>

See also 'The Waldegrave Family Tree' at:

<http://www.bures-online.co.uk/smallbridge/Waldegrave%20Tree1.htm>

## **CHILDREN**

Although only two sons (Anthony and William, deceased) and three daughters, Bridget, Dorothy and Jane, are mentioned in the will below, the testatrix is said to have had four sons and seven daughters by Sir William Waldegrave:

\* **George Waldegrave** (c.1483-1528), esquire, who married Anne Drury (d.1572), the daughter of Sir Robert Drury of Hawstead, Suffolk, by Anne Calthorpe (d. 8 June 1572), the daughter of Sir William Calthorpe (30 January 1410 - 15 November 1494) of Burnham Thorpe, Norfolk, by whom he is said to have had five sons and two daughters, including his eldest son and heir, Sir William Waldegrave (d. 12 December 1554), who married Julian Raynsford (d. 27 November 1559), daughter and heiress of Sir John Raynsford of Colchester, Essex, by his second wife, Margaret Ilam, daughter of the London mercer, Thomas Ilam. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 169. See also the will of Sir William Calthorpe, TNA PROB 11/10/408; the will of Sir William Waldegrave (d. 12 December 1554), TNA PROB 11/37/466; and the will of George Waldegrave, TNA PROB 11/22/577.

In the will below, the testatrix leaves a bequest to 'my daughter, Anne Bures'. According to the History of Parliament, she was Anne Waldegrave (d. 21 April 1589), the daughter of the testatrix' eldest son, George Waldegrave (d.1528), and thus the testatrix' granddaughter. See the History of Parliament entry for Sir Clement Heigham at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/heigham-clement-1495-1571>

Anne Waldegrave married firstly Henry Bures (d. 6 July 1528), esquire, of Acton, Suffolk, and secondly, as his second wife, Sir Clement Heigham (d. 9 March 1571), Chief Baron of the Exchequer, and Speaker of the House of Commons. See the will of Henry Bures, TNA PROB 11/22/578; the will of Sir Clement Heigham, proved 30 June 1571, TNA PROB 11/53/351; and the Heigham pedigree in Gage, John, *The History and Antiquities of Suffolk: Thingoe Hundred*, (London: Samuel Bentley, 1838), p. 9 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=knVPAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA9>

However according to Copinger, the Anne Waldegrave who married Henry Bures was the daughter of Sir William Waldegrave of Smallbridge. See Copinger, W.A., *The Manors of Suffolk*, (London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1905), p. 8 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/manorsofsuffolkn01copiuoft#page/8/mode/2up>

\* **William Waldegrave**, who according to the will below predeceased the testatrix.

\* **Anthony Waldegrave** (d.1571), esquire, of Ferrers in Bures, Essex, who married Elizabeth Grey (b.1492?, d. before 1552), the daughter of Ralph Grey (d. 1 November 1492), esquire, of Brent Pelham, Hertfordshire. See the will of Anthony Waldegrave,

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TNA PROB 11/53/224. The testatrix leaves bequests in the will below to Anthony Waldegrave's second son, Julyan Waldegrave.

Anthony Waldegrave is mentioned in the 1544 will of his uncle, Edward Waldegrave (d.1545?), esquire, of the Friars, Sudbury, TNA PROB 11/30/620.

\* **Edmund Waldegrave.** He is not mentioned in the will below, nor is he mentioned in the will of his father.

\* **Mary Waldegrave.** She is not mentioned in the will below, nor is she mentioned in the will of her father.

\* **Margaret Waldegrave,** who married Sir John St John (b. before 1495, d. 19 December 1558) of Bletsoe, Bedfordshire, by whom she had two sons, Sir Oliver St John (d. 21 April 1582), 1<sup>st</sup> Baron St John of Bletsoe, and John St John, and four daughters: Margery St John, who married firstly Henry Grey, esquire, and secondly Francis Pigott, esquire; Anne St John, who married Richard Dennis; Margaret St John (d. 27 August 1562), who married firstly William Gostwick, esquire, and secondly Francis Russell (1526/7-1585), 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Bedford; and Alice St John, who married Edmund Elmes, esquire. See Richardson, *supra*, Vol. I, pp. 218-21, and Vol. IV, p. 284, and the *ODNB* entry for Francis Russell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Bedford. In the will below the testatrix leaves bequests to her son-in-law, Sir John St John, and to her grandchildren Margaret St John, Margery St John, and John St John.

\* ( ) **Waldegrave,** who married Robert Drury. She is not mentioned in the will below, nor is she mentioned in the will of her father.

\* **Jane Waldegrave.** The testatrix refers to her in the will below as 'my daughter, Jane, late nun of the Minories in London'. She is mentioned in the 1544 will of her uncle, Edward Waldegrave (d.1545?), esquire, of the Friars, Sudbury, TNA PROB 11/30/620.

\* **Dorothy Waldegrave,** who married Sir John Spring (d. 12 August 1547) of Hitcham and Cockfield, Suffolk, son and heir of the wealthy clothier, Thomas Spring III (d.1523), of Lavenham, Suffolk, by whom she had a son, Sir William Spring, and two daughters, Frances Spring and Bridget Spring. See the will of Sir John Spring, TNA PROB 11/32/430; the will of Dorothy Waldegrave Spring, TNA PROB 11/47/337; and *MCA*, Vol. II, pp. 62-3. The testatrix' grandchildren William Spring, Frances Spring and Bridget Spring are mentioned in the will below.

\* **Bridget Waldegrave,** who married firstly William Fynderne, esquire, and secondly Sir John Marney (1485-1525), 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Marney. The testatrix refers to her in the will below as 'my daughter Bridget, Lady Marney'. See her will, dated 16 September 1549 and proved 29 April 1550, TNA PROB 11/33/186, and the History of Parliament entry for Sir John Marney at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/marney-sir-john-1485-1525>

\* **Anne Waldegrave**, who according to Richardson, *supra*, married a husband surnamed Barley. She is not mentioned in the will below, nor is she mentioned in the will of her father.

See the Waldegrave pedigree in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex, Part I*, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), Vol. XIII, p. 119 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsofess1314metc#page/118/mode/2up>

### ***OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL***

The testatrix leaves a bequest to Margery Waldegrave, daughter of the testatrix' grandson, Sir William Waldegrave (d 12 December 1554):

*Item, I bequeath to Margery Waldegrave, daughter to Sir William Waldegrave, knight, one little cross of gold with Mary Magdalene clasping the cross in her arms.*

In his will, TNA PROB 11/37/466, the testatrix' grandson Sir William Waldegrave (d. 12 December 1554), mentions his married daughter, Margery Waldegrave Wiseman. For the will of Margery Wiseman's father-in-law, John Wiseman (d.1558), to whom John de Vere, 16<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, granted an 81-year lease of the manor of Great Canfield on 27 February 1546, see TNA PROB 11/40/413.

In the will below, the testatrix leaves a cross of gold set with jewels and a silver goblet to her nephew, John Fabyan, and appoints him as one of her executors. Anne Waldegrave, sister of the testatrix's husband, married John Fabyan, nephew of the chronicler, Robert Fabyan (d.1513), for whom see the *ODNB* entry. The testatrix' executor may have been the John Fabyan who married Anne Waldegrave. A 'John Fabyan, esquire' witnessed the will of the testatrix' husband, and he, too, may have been the husband of Anne Waldegrave.

In his will, the testatrix' husband bequeathed a book to 'my nephew, parson Fabyan':

*Item, to my nephew, Parson Fabyan, a book in Latin called Liber Sentenciarum.*

The recipient of this bequest was Anne Waldegrave's son, Thomas Fabyan, parson of Polstead, Suffolk. For his nuncupative will, dated 20 July 1540 and proved 9 May 1542, see TNA PROB 11/29/104.

T{estamentum} d{omi}ne Margerie Waldegrave vidue

In the name of God, Amen. The 12<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred 39 and in the 31 year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Henry the Eight, I, Dame Margery Waldegrave of Bures Saint Mary in the county of Suffolk, widow, thanks be to Jesus being of whole mind, good memory and perfect remembrance, and verily knowing that there is nothing more sure or more certain to every creature living in this wretched world than death, which every creature living immediately must suffer, and nothing more unsure or uncertain than the dreadful hour thereof, fully disposing and proposing myself by the great mercy & goodness of Jesus to be at all and every time and hour ready, do make my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First, I annul and revoke all other my wills ever before this day made or declared, and will that every of them shall be of no strength nor effect;

And I give and bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my Maker, to Our Lady Saint Mary, and to all the saints in heaven, my body to be buried in the parish church of Saint Bures Mary within the tomb wherein my husband, whose soul Jesus pardon, now doth lie buried, which my said burials I will shall be done within the space of 24 hours next after my decease if it conveniently so may be, which burials to be kept and done in any wise without pomp or vainglory;

And at my said burials and month-day I will there be no common assembly of poor people nor common dole nor dinner to be kept, but certain money to be distributed by mine executors in manner and form following, that is to say, in Bures to priest, clerks, to the sexton for ringing of bells, to poor people and for other charges there to be had and sustained at the said burials and month-day, £4;

Item, I will that mine executors cause to be distributed at my month-day to the poor people in Mount Bures 2s, to the poor people in Wormingford 3s, to the poor people in Little Horkesley 2s; to the poor people in Wiston [=Wissington?] 20d, to the poor people in Assington 2s; to the poor people in Little Cornard 2s; to the poor people in Lamarsh 2s, and to the poor people in Alphamstone 2s;

Item, I will that there be given black gowns to 4, 6 or 8, or to what number mine executors shall think convenient, of the most poor and needy persons within the town of Bures, to hold torches at my month-day, and no more gowns to be given to no manner of person but only unto the torch-holders;

Item, I bequeath to the high altar in the parish church of Bures Saint Mary aforesaid for my tithes and offerings negligently forgotten and not paid, 3s 4d;

Item, I bequeath toward the reparations of the ornaments in Bures church aforesaid 26s 8d, to be bestowed at the will, pleasure and mind of mine executors at such time and in such things as they shall think by their discretions most convenient and godly for the health of my soul;



Item, I bequeath to my daughter, Bridget, Lady Marney, one pomander of gold with pearls and rubies and an amethyst on th' end, one drinking cruse silver and gilt and a cover to the same cruse with a sophery(?) [=sapphire?] flower in the top or over part of the said cover, one featherbed of down and one bolster which was William Waldegrave's, my son, now deceased, [f. 44r] one pair of fustians, 2 pair of fine sheets, 2 pillows, and one counterpoint of blue with damask flowers therein;

Item, I bequeath to my daughter, Dorothy Spring, the bed of velvet with 3 curtains of changeable sarcenet, one pair of beads of amethysts gaudied with beads silver and gilt graven with roses, my bottle chain(?), one cross with a crucifix upon the same and 3 true loves of pearl hanging upon the same cross, 2 of them with rubies, thother with a table diamond, two gilt salts of one suit with a cover, which two salts with the cover I request and desire my son Spring and my daughter, Dorothy Spring, that they may remain to my godson, William Spring, after the decease of my said son and daughter;

Also I bequeath to my said daughter, Dorothy Spring, one featherbed, the tick whereof was bought of Boos(?) of Nayland, one bolster, one pair of fustian, 2 pair of sheets, that is to say, one fine pair, another pair somewhat coarser, two pillows, one counterpoint of tapestry-work with the Waldegraves' helmet;

Item, I bequeath to my daughter, Jane, late nun of the Minorities in London, 40s to pray for my soul;

And I will that my son, Anthony Waldegrave, shall have the chain that was my Lord of Oxenford's upon this condition, that he, the said Anthony, shall be bound in an obligation of 100 mark to some friend of my said daughter's, Jane, then being on live, to pay or cause to be paid to my said daughter or to her use the very value of the said chain in years after the rate of 26s 8d by year till the whole value of the said chain be to my said daughter full contented and paid over and besides the 40s to her above bequeathed;

Item, I bequeath all my samplers, damask gold, Venice gold and all my silk unwrought with all my weaving stools to my daughter, Bridget, Lady Marney, and to my daughter, Dorothy Spring, to be by mine executors equally divided between them to th' intent and purpose that by the mean thereof that their young folks may therewith be well occupied;

Item, I bequeath to my daughter [=daughter-in-law] Julian, Lady Waldegrave, my gown of tawny velvet;

Item, I bequeath to my daughter [=granddaughter?], Anne Bures, one pair of beads of espower(?) gauded with gold;

Item, I bequeath to my son, Anthony Waldegrave, the hanging of tapestry-work hanging in the chief chamber, one trussing bed of timber-work, one bed paned with black damask and russet and checked with satin of Bruges with 3 curtains of green sarcenet belonging to the same bed, my best standing cup, the best featherbed remaining not bequeathed, one

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bolster, one pair of the best blankets, 2 pair of fine sheets, and one counterpoint which was bought of George Simpson wrought with great levys [=leaves?];

Item, I bequeath to Sir John Saint John, knight, one hoop of gold;

Item, I bequeath to my son Spring one gilt spoon with a lamb of th' end, and one toothpick of gold;

Item, I give to my brother, [interlined: Robert] Wentworth, one silver spoon folding(?) with a dragon's head, and one rial of gold;

Item, I bequeath to my nephew, John Fabyan, one tawe(?) cross of gold with six pearls, a sapphire and a balas, and one little goblet of silver with a reason [=motto or short inscription] about it gilt;

Item, I bequeath to my god-daughter, Margery Saint John, one violet with five sapphires and an emerald;

Item, I bequeath to my god-daughter, Margaret Saint John, one heart of gold with a ruby in it and a ruby hanging on th' end of the said heart, which she hath in her keeping, to wear at convenient times about her neck;

Also I bequeath to my said daughter, Margaret Saint John, 40 beads of gold, one ring of gold enamelled with white and blue with a sharp diamond set in the same ring, one pair of beads of large coral gauded with beads of silver and gilt, the Passion graven in the same beads, which as yet be in mine own keeping;

Item, I bequeath to my godson, John Saint John, one gilt cup having a standing foot with a cover to the same cup graven with a parcoles(?) [=prickles?] and roses;

Item, I bequeath to my godson, William Spring, one gilt goblet with a cover to the same;

Item, I bequeath to Frances Spring, my god-daughter, one cross of gold with Our Lady of Pity in it and a sapphire on th' end [-on th' end], one brooch of gold with Our Lady holding her Son in her arms, and a ring of gold with a diamond, a ruby and a turquoise;

Item, I bequeath to Bridget Spring, sister unto the said Frances Spring, one brooch(?) of gold with Jesus and Mary Magdalene in the same brooch;

Item, I bequeath to Margery Waldegrave, daughter to Sir William Waldegrave, knight, one little cross of gold with Mary Magdalene clasping the cross in her arms;

Item, I bequeath to George Cotton, my late servant, the short spoons of silver that I do accustomedly use in my chamber;

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Item, I bequeath to Elizabeth Parker one frontlet of black velvet and one of my gowns of cloth, such one as shall be thought by mine executors meet and convenient;

Item, I bequeath to Eleanor Everard one featherbed, one bolster, one pair of sheets, one of my gowns of cloth, such one as shall be thought by mine executors meet and convenient, and 20s in ready money;

Item, I bequeath to Sir Richard, my chaplain, one featherbed, one bolster, one pair of sheets, and one pair of blankets;

Item, I bequeath to Otwell Kyrke one featherbed, one bolster, one pair of sheets, and one [f. 44v] pair of blankets;

Item, I will that all my linen apparel that I use daily to wear upon me be equally divided by the discretion of mine executors among my woman servants;

Item, I bequeath to every of my servants, both men and women, being in my service at the time of my death, to every of them 6s 8d over and besides their liveries and wages to them then due;

Item, I will in whatsoever time of the year it shall please God to call me to his mercy, whether it be in the latter end of any quarter or at the beginning of any quarter, that notwithstanding, mine intent and mind is that every of my servants, both men and women, shall have their whole quarter wages and their part of their liveries of that quarter so belonging without any part thereof to be minished;

Item, I will that my household be kept a month after my decease for the special relief and comfort of my servants so that they in the meantime may provide themselves the better of their masters;

Item, I will and specially require mine executors above all things that, my debts known and proved, I will it be satisfied;

Item, I bequeath to every one of those that be my godchildren, to every one of them 12d in ready money if they and every one of them do resort to mine executors within twelve months after my decease, or else to lose their said bequest, wherefore I would it should be published openly in the parish church of Bures to th' intent that they may resort to mine executors within the said year;

Item, I will that immediately after my decease that all my plate and jewels not bequeathed be sold, and with £20 thereof coming I will that a priest of good and honest conversation be found to sing for my husband's soul, my soul, and all my friends' souls by the space of 3 whole years in the parish church of Bures Saint Mary aforesaid at the altar in Jesus' aisle if he there may be quietly suffered, or else to sing at such place or places where he shall be appointed by mine executors;

And with the residue of the money of the said plate and jewels then remaining in the hands of mine executors, and with that I will my debts and bequests be well and truly contented and paid;

Item, I will my daughter, Bridget, Lady Marney, my daughter, Dorothy Spring, and other of my next kinsfolks have the preferment to buy all such plate and jewels as shall be sold by mine executors, they giving for the same plate and jewels as much as another will give;

Item, I will that during the space of 3 whole years next after my decease be given to 8 of the most poor and needy people being at my Mass sung or said for my soul at the altar of John [sic?] or in any other place or places by mine executors assigned, there well and devoutly occupied praying for my soul and all Christian [+souls?], have every one of the said 8 poor people every Sunday during the said 3 years one penny to be delivered by mine executors or by one of them or their deputy;

Item, I will that where my son, Anthony Waldegrave, stond [=stands] bound to me, the said Dame Margery, in the sum of £40 sterling, as it appeareth by certain writings thereof made, signed and sealed by the hands of my said son, Anthony Waldegrave, and Julyan Waldegrave, the second son of my said son, Anthony, I do acquit and release my said son, Anthony, of £10 thereof, and the £30 then remaining in the hands of my said son, Anthony, I will it be distributed by mine executors in manner and form following, that is to say, to Margaret Saint John, my god-daughter, £10, to buy her with a chain at the time of her marriage, and if she be married before that time, she to have the said ten pounds and to use it as it shall like her;

And if it fortune her to die before the day of her marriage, then I will the said £10 do remain to my son, Anthony, if he so long do live;

And if it fortune him to die before the said time, they being both dead, then I will the said ten pounds remain to Julyan Waldegrave, the second son of my said son, Anthony;

And if it fortune the said Julyan to die before the said time, then I will the said ten pounds be done in deeds of charity for my soul and all Christian souls by the discretion of mine executors;

Item, I bequeath to Julyan Waldegrave, the second son of my son, Anthony, five pounds of the same money;

Item, to Frances Spring, my god-daughter, five pounds of the same money;

Item, to the amending of highways, five pounds of the same money;

And of the residue then remaining of the said sum, I will it be distributed by mine executors at my burials and month's-day if it will so far extend in manner and form as is above expressed;

Item, I will that after my debts paid and all my bequests well and truly discharged, then all my goods movable remaining, as corn, cattle and implements of household, being well and indifferently praised, to be equally divided between my daughter, Bridget, Lady Marney, my daughter, Dorothy Spring, and my son, Anthony Waldegrave, and if it chance any of them to die before the said goods be to them so divided, then I will that the part or portion of her or him so deceased be distributed in deeds of charity for my soul and all Christian souls;

Provided nevertheless and my very will, mind and intent is, that before the delivery and division of the said remain or overplus of my goods to be made in form aforesaid, mine executors shall retain and keep still thereof in their hands and custody the value of £20 sterling by them to be paid [f. 45r] and disposed to th' uses next ensuing, that is to say, I bequeath thereof to my said daughter, Jane, over and above the legacies to her above assigned, the sum of £16 to be to her paid in 12 years next after [-after] my decease by equal portions if she so long live;

And the £4 residue of the said sum I will that mine executors shall employ, bestow and dispose as they shall seem best by their discretions towards the setting forth, bringing up, relief and comfort of the poor child, Lawrence Mundern(?), which I have brought up of alms;

Nevertheless I will that he shall not claim the same or any part thereof as of legacy or duty, but at the courtesy and discretion of my said executors only as they shall perceive in him good and toward likelihoods of his well proving and good behaviour, to be ordered and ruled and advertised by them, for if he do or attempt the contrary in any condition, then I will they shall convert the same money to any other good and godly uses by their discretions for the health of my soul and all Christian souls;

Item, I will that all such estates as my son, William Waldegrave, gave and made to my son, Anthony Waldegrave, of all those house, lands and tenements that were jointly purchased by me, Dame Margery Waldegrave, and my said son, William Waldegrave, now deceased, shall stand and be of full strength and effect according to th' intent of my said son, William;

Item, I will that this my present will immediately after my decease be examined by mine executors and their learned counsel, and if there be found by th' examination thereof any clause or clauses, article or articles contained in the same will that cannot stand or be of strength by the King's laws, then I will and give to my said executors full power and authority to reform, transpose, alter and change by their learned counsel any such clause or clauses, article or articles according to the right form of the King's laws, so that every such clause or clauses, article or articles by them and their learned counsel reformed, transposed, altered and changed be not in any wise as nigh as it can be devised contrary to my true meaning, purpose and intent;

And of this my last will I make and ordain mine executors my son, Anthony Waldegrave, & my nephew, John Fabyan, and my son Spring supervisor;

And for the more assurance and clear declaration of this my present will I have commanded the above-named George Cotton to write his name upon every sheet of paper and piece of paper of the same will to this intent, that I would not that whosoever shall see, hear, or read this my present will after my decease should think or suppose that any clause or article herein contained is otherwise altered or changed, but in everything according to my true meaning, purpose and intent;

And for a witness hereof in the presence of my son, Anthony Waldegrave, and my nephew, John Fabyan, my executors, Sir Richard Persse(?), Sir Thomas Thake, my brother, Robert Wentworth, and George Cotton, I have set to my seal.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum xjo Maij coram Domino apud London anno D{omi}ni Mill{es}imo Quinge{n}tesimo Quadragesimo Iuramento Rogeri Hunt notarij p{ubli}ci procuratoris executoru{m} in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}at{orum} ac approbatum et insinuatum &c et com{m}issa fuit admi{n}istrac{i}o o{mn}i{u}m bonorum &c executoribus pred{i}c{t}is de bene etc ac de plano et vero Inventario secundo die post festum Sancte Anne exhibend{o} necnon de vero ac fideli Comp{o}to o{mn}i{u}m bonor{um} &c reddend{o} ad Sancta dei Evangelia Iurat{is} in p{er}sona d{i}c{t}i p{ro}curatoris sui

[=The above-written testament was proved the 11<sup>th</sup> day of May before the Lord at London in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fortieth by the oath of Roger Hunt, notary public, proctor of the executors named in the same testament, and probated and entered etc., and administration was granted of all the goods etc. to the executors aforesaid, sworn on the Holy Gospels in the person of their said proctor to well etc., and to exhibit a plain and true inventory on the second day after the feast of Saint Anne, and also to render a true and faithful account of all the goods etc.]