

SUMMARY: The document below is the will, dated 11 September 1540 and proved 22 September 1540, of Sir Thomas Kitson (d. 11 September 1540) of Hengrave, Suffolk, whose eldest son and heir, Sir Thomas Kitson (1540-1603), was closely associated with Oxford's friends, Lord Henry Howard, Charles Arundel (d.1587) and Francis Southwell, as indicated in interrogatories administered to Arundel in early 1581 (see TNA SP 12/151/47, ff. 105-106):

What did you at Sir Thomas Kitson's, and whether did you hear any Mass there, and whether did you burn any writings there?

The identity of the testator's first wife is unknown. By her, the testator had a daughter, Elizabeth Kitson, who married Edmund Crofts of Westowe, Suffolk. After her death, Edmund Crofts married Eleanor Burgh.

The testator married secondly Margaret Donnington (1510–1561), the only child of John Donnington (d.1544) of Stoke Newington by Elizabeth Pye, by whom he had a son and four daughters:

- * Sir Thomas Kitson (1540-1603), born posthumously.
- * Katherine Kitson, who married Sir John Spencer of Wormleighton, Warwickshire.
- * Dorothy Kitson, who married Sir Thomas Packington of Aylesbury.
- * Frances Kitson, who married John Bouchier, Lord Fitzwarine.
- * Anne Kitson, who married to Sir William Spring of Pakenham, Suffolk.

After the testator's death, Margaret Donnington married secondly Sir Richard Long (d.1546), Gentleman of the Privy Chamber, and thirdly John Bouchier (1489-1561), 2nd Earl of Bath.

See also the *ODNB* entries for the testator and for the Kitson family.

The testator's sister, Margaret Kitson, married John Washington, the ancestor of President George Washington. See:

http://www.sulgravemanor.org.uk/pages/59/family_tree.asp.

Vicesimo secundo die mensis Septembris Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo Quingentesimo quadagesimo In eccl{es}ia Cathedrali diui Pauli London Coram mag{ist}ro will{el}mo Cooke legum doctore venerabilis viri mag{ist}ri Richardi Gwent legum Doctoris Curie Prerogatiue Custodis siue commissarij Surrogato In p{erso}na(?) mei Thome Argall

notarij p{ubli}ci actorum scribe et Reg{ist}rarij M{agister} Iohannes Talkarne exhibuit Procuratoriu{m} suum l{itte}ratorie pro d{omi}na m{ar}gareta Kytsonne Relicta et administratrice bonorum Thome Kytsonne militis Defuncti et fecit se partem pro eadem et exhibuit quandam scripturam voluntatem d{i}c{t}i d{omi}ni Thome in se continen{tem} de et super certis terris tenementis et hereditament{is} eiusdem d{omi}ni Thome in scriptis redact{is} et allegauit q{ue} idem d{omin}us Thomas Kytsonne in sua sana memoria existens voluit reliquit et disposuit d{i}c{t}e d{omi}ne m{ar}garete Kytsonne prout in d{i}c{t}a scriptura continetur et q{ue} d{i}c{t}a scriptura erat facta de mandato et expresso consensu d{i}c{t}i d{omi}ni thome Kytsonne et cora{m} eo in eius vita perlecta et per d{i}c{tu}m d{omin}um Thomam Kytsonne eidem d{omi}ne Margarete pro facto ip{s}ius d{omi}ni Thomas tradita et Deliberata Cuius tenor sequitur et est talis.

[=On the twenty-second day of the month of September in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fortieth in the Cathedral Church of Saint Paul in London before Master William Cooke, Doctor of the Laws, Surrogate of the worshipful Master Richard Gwent, Doctor of the Laws, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in the person [sic for 'presence?'] of me, Thomas Argall, notary public and scribe of the deeds and of the Register, Master John Talkarne exhibited his letters of proxy for Lady Margaret Kitson, relict and administratrix of the goods of Thomas Kitson, knight, deceased, and made himself a party for the same, and exhibited a certain writing containing in it the will of the said Sir Thomas of and concerning certain lands, tenements and hereditaments of the same Sir Thomas reduced to writing, and alleged that the same Sir Thomas Kitson, being in sound mind, willed, left and disposed to the said Lady Margaret Kitson as is contained in the said writing, and that the said writing was made at the command and with the express consent of the said Sir Thomas Kitson, and was read through before him during his lifetime, and by the said Sir Thomas Kitson was entrusted and delivered to the same Lady Margaret for the deed of the same Sir Thomas, the tenor of which follows and is thus:

LM: Voluntas Tho{me} Kitson milit{is}

This is the last will of me, Sir Thomas Kitson, knight, made and declared the 11th day of September in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred and forty and in the 32nd year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Henry the 8th concerning the disposition of my manors, lands and tenements and hereditaments:

First I will and give unto Margaret, my dear beloved wife, my manor of Hengrave in Suffolk with th' appurtenances, and all my lands and tenements in Hengrave, and also my manor of Feltones with th' appurtenances in the county of Suffolk, to have and to hold the same manors, lands and tenements to the same Margaret for term of her life, these being witness of this my last will: John Crofts, esquire, Thomas Wendy, Doctor of Physic, Henry Paine, gentleman, Nicholas Lunne, Robert Watson(?) and other. By me, John Croftes. Per me Henricum Paine. Per me Nicolaum Lunne. Per me thomam Wendy, per me Edmundu{m} Croftes.