

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 30 April 1541 and proved 14 January 1542, of Elizabeth (nee Chedworth) Blake Audley, whose niece, Margaret (nee Kelly) Carew Tyrrell, was the mother of Charles Tyrrell (d.1570), second husband of Oxford's mother, Margery Golding (d.1568).

### ***FAMILY BACKGROUND***

The testatrix was the daughter of William Chedworth, a landowner and Clerk to the Common Council of London, and was the niece of William Chedworth's brother, John Chedworth, Bishop of Lincoln (d.1471). The testatrix was the sister of Nicholas Chedworth (d.1501?), Margaret (nee Chedworth) Carew Tyrrell, and Joan (nee Chedworth) Marrowe. The family relationships are evidenced in two Chancery suits in the National Archives:

**Reference:** *C 1/88/21*

*Short title: Carewe v Bracebrigg.*

*Plaintiffs: William Carewe, knight, and Margaret, his wife, William Marowe, esquire, and Johane, his wife, and Thomas Blake, esquire, and Elizabeth, his wife.*

**Description:** *Defendants: William Bracebrigg, executor to John Crosseby, knight.*  
*Subject: Bequests to the said Margaret, Johane, and Elizabeth, by John Chadworth, bishop of Lincoln, brother to William Chadworth, of Stepynheth, deceased, their father.*

*Middlesex.*

*6 documents*

**Date:** *1486-1493*

**Reference:** *C 1/459/6*

*Short title: Audeley v Conghurst.*

*Plaintiffs: John Audeley, knight, and Dame Elizabeth, his wife, Dame Margaret Carew, widow, and Thomas Marow, esquire, son of Johane Marow.*

*Defendants: George Conghurst and Margaret, his wife, late the wife of Nicholas Chadworth, gentleman, brother of the complainants Elizabeth and*

**Description:** *Margaret.*

*Subject: Detention of deeds relating to the manor of Rumboldes and messuages and land in Stepney, Hackney, Budge Row, St Antholin's, Watling-street, St Mary Aldermary, Old Change, St Giles's, Cripplegate, and Legg Alley.*

*Middlesex.*

*3 documents*

**Date:** 1518-1529

For the will of the testatrix' brother, Nicholas Chedworth, esquire, of Hackney, dated 7 September 1498 and proved 16 March 1501, see TNA PROB 11/12/273.

### **MARRIAGES**

The testatrix married firstly, Thomas Blake (d.1505/6), the son of Edmund Blake and his wife, Elizabeth, and nephew of Simon Blake. See the will of Thomas Blake, TNA PROB 11/15/341, and Blomefield, Francis, *An Essay Towards a Topographical History of the County of Norfolk*, (London: William Miller, 1807), Vol. VI, p. 202 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=bTAYAQAIAAJ&pg=PA202>

The testatrix married secondly, Sir John Audley (d.1530), the son and heir of Sir Humphrey Audley (d.1471), eldest son of Sir James Tuchet (c.1398-1459), 5th Lord Audley, and his second wife, Eleanor Holand, the illegitimate daughter of Edmund Holand, Earl of Kent, by Constance, daughter of Edmund Langley, Duke of York, son of King Edward III. For his background see Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. IV, pp. 218-19; the pedigree of Audley in Rye, Walter, ed., *The Visitation of Norfolk*, (London: Harleian Society, 1891), p. 10; and:

<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/GEN-MEDIEVAL/2002-11/1037846939>

Sir John Audley's first wife, whom he married before 10 February 1489, was Muriel Brewes, the daughter of Sir Thomas Brewes (d. 17 June 1482) of Little Wenham, Suffolk, and his second wife, Elizabeth Debenham (d.1503). Sir John Audley's son and heir by this marriage, Richard Audley, married Katherine Scrope, the sister of Elizabeth (nee Scrope) Beaumont de Vere (d.1537), Countess of Oxford, second wife of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford.

Sir John Audley's will, TNA PROB 11/24/1, indicates that his son and heir, Richard Audley, had predeceased him, leaving a son, John Audley. In 1531 Roger Townshend (d.1551), who had married Amy Brewse, the granddaughter of Sir Thomas Brewes (d. 17 June 1482) by his first wife, Margaret Calthorpe, sold the wardship of John Audley to Elizabeth de Vere (d.1537), Countess of Oxford, for £300, while keeping the wardship of Edmund Audley (d.1585), John's younger brother, for himself (see Moreton, C.E., *The Townshends and Their World: Gentry, Law, and Land in Norfolk c. 1450-1551*, (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1992), p. 125). Richard Audley's son, John Audley, the Countess of Oxford's ward, appears to have died before the testatrix made her will below, and at the time the testatrix made her will Sir John Audley's grandson, Edmund Audley (d.1585) of Great Palgrave, Norfolk, was his heir. Edmund Audley (d.1585) married firstly Mary Paris, the daughter of Sir Philip Paris (1492-1558) of Little Linton, Suffolk, and secondly Anne Tyrrell, the daughter of Sir Thomas Tyrrell of Warley. For the will of Edmund Audley, see TNA PROB 11/68/294. For Sir Philip Paris, see his will, proved 20 January

1559, TNA PROB 11/42A/230, and ‘Sir Philip Paris of Linton (1492-1558)’, Linton and District Historical Society at:

<http://archive.is/tPtd>

For Sir Philip Paris, see also the will, dated 30 May 1537 and proved 6 November 1537, TNA PROB 11/27/144, of Elizabeth (nee Scrope) Beaumont de Vere (d.1537), Countess of Oxford, second wife of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford.

The Audley pedigree in *The Visitation of Norfolk* also shows that Sir John Audley’s daughter, Ellen Audley, married Thomas Dereham of Crimpleham, Norfolk, to both of whom, and their children, the testatrix leaves bequests in the will below. For the Derehams of Crimpleham, see Harper-Bill, Christopher, ed., *Medieval East Anglia*, (Woodbridge: Boydell Press, 2005), pp. 206-7, available online.

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

The testatrix leaves a bequest of £5 to ‘my niece, Mary Clovell’, who would appear to be Mary (nee Carew) Clovell, wife of William Clovell and daughter of Sir William Carew (d.1501) and the testatrix’ sister, Margaret (nee Chedworth) Carew Tyrrell. For the Clovell pedigree see Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex* (London, 1878), p. 37.

For Leonard Irby (d.1571), husband of another of the testatrix’ nieces, see:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/irby-leonard-1571>

The testatrix’ will indicates her friendship with members of the Bedingfield family, to whom she was related through both her husbands. The testatrix appoints Sir Edmund Bedingfield (1479/80-1553) as supervisor of her will (for his own will, see TNA PROB 11/36/267), and leaves a bequest of a book to his wife, Dame Grace Bedingfield. The testatrix also leaves bequests to one of their sons, Anthony Bedingfield, and his wife, Elizabeth Danyell, the daughter of Ralph Danyell of Swaffham and Margaret (nee Blake) Danyell, sister of the testatrix’ first husband, Thomas Blake (d.1505/6). Sir Edmund Bedingfield and his wife, Grace, were the grandparents of Oxford’s friend, Thomas Bedingfield (d.1613), who dedicated his translation of *Cardanus’ Comfort* to Oxford (see STC 4607 on this website). For the will of Thomas Bedingfield (d.1613), see TNA PROB 11/122/124. For Anthony Bedingfield, see also LM/COR 3/711 at:

[http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/r?\\_st=adv&\\_ep=LM%2FCOR%2F3%2F711&\\_dss=range&\\_ro=any](http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/r?_st=adv&_ep=LM%2FCOR%2F3%2F711&_dss=range&_ro=any).

*LM/COR/3/711 - Letter from Anthony Bedingfield, Hale, to Mr William More, Loseley. ... He reports that on Monday 20 Aug the arbitrators awarded the house in Swaffham to Mr Audeley, who was able to prove that the house was sold to his wife when she was the wife*

*of Thomas Blake, and produced a release by Ralph Daniel, Margaret Daniel 'our grandmother' and her sister Joan Branton [=Brampton]. ... 20 marks is to be paid to Bedingfield, More and their wives for making a quitclaim. More's gelding is still not fit enough to bear a saddle, as his neck is not healed. ... If the horse does not heal, Bedingfield will buy it for no more than £10; otherwise he will bring it to London. ... His wife sends a whey of cheese to her sister, half hard and half soft. ... He sends greetings to Mr Cresswell, Mr Johns[on] and the rest of his friends. 26 Aug [20 Aug fell on a Monday in 1565].*

See also SHC LM/COR/3/704 at:

[http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/r?\\_st=adv&\\_ep=LM%2FCOR%2F3%2F704&\\_dss=range&\\_ro=any](http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/r?_st=adv&_ep=LM%2FCOR%2F3%2F704&_dss=range&_ro=any)

*Letter from Anthony Bedingfield, Hale, to Mr William More, Loseley. He received More's letters and 'box of writings', and has attempted to follow More's instructions at the Assizes, but the case has gone against them: Harry Hunston produced a fine levied by their father in law Ralph Daniel and others to Thomas Spryng, relating to his lands in Walsoken, 9 Hen VIII, and a recovery of the same year by Ralph and Harry Daniel, Sir John Audeley and Elizabeth his wife (late wife of Thomas Blake), which 'our counsel' believes 'cut clear away our title'. He does not think it worth pursuing the suit further, and encloses the bill of legal expenses. He was so ill at the Assizes he thought he might never see More again, but now trusts in his recovery. He sends greetings to his sister [Margaret More], 'my nephew Polsted and my niece [Elizabeth]. Dated 4 Apr [Elizabeth More married Richard Polsted in Nov 1567].*

See also SHC LM/COR/3/705 at:

[http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/r?\\_st=adv&\\_ep=LM%2FCOR%2F3%2F705&\\_dss=range&\\_ro=any](http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/r?_st=adv&_ep=LM%2FCOR%2F3%2F705&_dss=range&_ro=any)

Another of the testatrix' nieces, Margaret Danyell, to whom she leaves bequests in the will below, later married Sir William More (1520-1600) of Loseley, who owned the property in the Blackfriars on which Oxford and his servant, the playwright John Lyly (1554-1606), held a lease in the mid-1580s and which served as the site of the first Blackfriars theatre. From the *ODNB*:

*Sir William More (1520–1600), landowner and administrator, the only survivor among his father's sons, was born on 30 January 1520. There is no evidence of formal schooling. Before 12 June 1545 he married Mabel, daughter of Mark Digneley of the Isle of Wight; she had died by 1551, when he married Margaret, daughter of Ralph Daniel of Norfolk; they had a son and two daughters. . . .*

For the testatrix' relationship to Ralph and Margaret Danyell, see also Dashwood, G.H., ed., *The Visitation of Norfolk in the Year 1563*, (Norwich: Miller and Leavins, 1878), Vol. I, p. 131 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=Bv1QAQAIAAJ&pg=PA131>

*27 Henry 8, in Pentecost [=1535] The Lady Elizabeth Awdley, widow of Sir John Awdley, surrenders divers lands, inter alia, lands which she had taken up with her husband, 23 Henry 7 [=1507/8], on surrender of Joan Brampton and Margaret Daniel, widows, sisters and coheirs of Thomas Blake, to the use of Ralph Danyell, gentleman.*

The testatrix leaves bequests to her niece, Margaret (nee Kelly) Carew Tyrrell, and to Margaret's children by both her husbands. As noted above, one of these children, Charles Tyrrell (d.1570), was Oxford's stepfather. For his will, see TNA PROB 11/52/187.

The testatrix also leaves a bequest of gilt spoons to Thomas Marowe and Edward Marowe, who would appear to be the sons of her sister, Joan (nee Chedworth) Marowe, by her husband, William Marowe. For the Marowe family see:

'Galley Quay', *Survey of London: volume 15: All Hallows, Barking-by-the-Tower, pt II* (1934), pp. 44-49. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=74968>

*A very full and interesting account of the Marowe family at this time is given by Miss B. H. Putnam in her introduction to the important treatise De Pace Terre et Ecclesie et Conseruacione Eiusdem (fn. 52) of Thomas Marowe, serjeant-at-law. William Marowe (Mayor, 1455-6) married, as his second wife, Katherine, daughter of Richard Ryche, mercer, and died possessed of much property in 1465. His children were William, who married Joan, daughter of Alderman William Chedworth; Thomas, the lawyer; Johanna, who married William Clopton of Kentwell Hall, Long Melford; Katherine, wife of Sir Robert Throckmorton; and John and Agnes, who died early.*

*William Marowe, the son, was in possession of the "Great Place and a wharf called Galley Key" and "the Maydenhede" in 1488, (fn. 53) and at his death in 1499 bequeathed them to his wife Joan for life, and left Marowe New Quay to his brother Thomas, the lawyer, (fn. 54) whom he made guardian of his son, also named Thomas. The latter married successively daughters of Baldwin Douse of Balsall and Robert Wigston of Wolston, and died in 1538. In the Inquisitio Post Mortem on the property of the latter, in 1539, his son and heir is named Thomas, (fn. 55) who died in 1561 and left a son Samuel, the progenitor of the Warwickshire Marowes.*

RM: T{estamentum} Elizabeth{e} Awdley

In the name of God, Amen. The 30<sup>th</sup> day of the month of April in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred forty and one, I, Dame Elizabeth Audley, widow, late wife of Sir John Audley, knight, deceased, whole of mind and perfect remembrance, thanks to

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Almighty God, fearing th' unstableness of this present world, make and declare this my testament and last will in manner and form following, that is to say:

First, abolishing and setting at naught all my like wills and testaments heretofore by me made, I commend my soul to Almighty God, my body to be buried in the parish church of Swaffham Market, to whose high altar for my tithes and oblations negligently forgotten I give 20s;

Also I give to the maintenance and reparation of the same church £6 13s 4d;

Also I will that mine executors shall distribute to the households dwelling within the said parish of Swaffham at my burial day 20s;

And I will that my said executors shall do keep for me a solemn dirge and Mass of Requiem at my burial day, my seventh day and my thirty day, and to distribute to such priests and clerks as shall them resort by their discretions;

Also I give to the reparations of the church of Holme Hale ten shillings;

Item, in like wise to the reparations of the church of North Pickenham 3s 4d;

Also I give to Edmund Audley, esquire, one hundred ewe sheep and all the hangings of say in the great chamber over the buttery, a featherbed, a bolster, a pair of fustian blankets, a pair of sheets, a great coverlet, the tester and the curtains of sarsenet, a carpet in the window of damask work, a cushion wrought with gold, the chairs, a long settle, and a coffer in the said chamber;

Also I give to the said Edmund a featherbed with th' appurtenances and with the hangings in the inner chamber there, together with the hangings in the hall and parlour, and the best table, and all the hangings with the vestaments, books, tables and images in the chapel;

Also I give to the same Edmund the best diaper tablecloth, a double towel and a coffer in the chamber over the parlour;

Item, I give to Philip Audley, esquire, £6 13s 4d;

And also to Anne Audley my best gown of cloth and forty ewe sheep;

Also I give to Elizabeth, now wife to Anthony Bedingfield, esquire, and Margaret Danyell, her sister, three hundred ewe sheep and one hundred wether sheep equally to be divided between them;

Item, I give to the same Elizabeth a French bed with the tester of yellow and purple sarsenet, a featherbed, a bolster, a pair of sheets, a covering of Saint John wrought with

gold, a great brass pot and a cypress coffer, a diaper tablecloth, and also my counter in the parlour whereupon the priest use to sing Mass, and one of the coffers in the parlour;

Also I give to the said Margaret Danyell a featherbed, a bolster, a pair of blankets, a pair of sheets, a covering that hanged in the great chamber, and a tablecloth of diaper, and also the inporce(?) that standeth in the parlour, one of the coffers there, and the counter that standeth in the closet;

Also I give to my niece, Mary Clovell, five pounds sterling, a French bed in the parlour with the sparver of green satin and violet, the curtains of sarsenet of the same colours, with a featherbed, a bolster, a pair of blankets, a pair of sheets, and a covering that hanged in the great chamber;

Also I give to Leonard Irby a gilt spoon, and to my niece, his wife, five pounds, a French bed in the chapel chamber with the hangings of red say and the curtains of the same, together with a featherbed, a bolster, a covering, a pair of sheets, and a hanging that hanged in the great chamber;

Item, I give to her son, Edmund Irby, an angel noble;

Item, to Dorothy Clovell 21s 2d, to Elizabeth Clovell 21s 2d, to Edward Clovell 21s 2d, to Thomas Clovell 21s 2d;

Item, to my niece Tyrrell one of the chests in the parlour, and a quilt covering of green satin;

Also I give to John Carew £13 6s 8d, to Margaret Carew 21s 2d, to Anne Broke 21s 2d, to James Tyrrell ten shillings 7d, to Margery Tyrrell 10s 7d, to Charles Tyrrell 10s 7d, to Philip Tyrrell 10 7d;

Item, I give to my niece Meddeley [=Medley?] a ring of gold, a covering of silk baudekin, green and yellow;

Item, to Agnes Illyon(?) a hundred ewe sheep, a featherbed with a French frame that she lieth in with th' appurtenances, a covering that hanged in the great chamber, the best coffer in her chamber, a diaper tablecloth, and a goblet with a cover of silver parcel gilt;

Item, I will that Thomas Marrowe and Edward Marrowe shall have either of them [+a?] a gilt spoon;

Item, I give to Thomas Dereham, esquire, a gilt spoon;

Item, to my daughter, his wife, a sapphire with three pearls, a pair of fine sheets, and a diaper tablecloth;

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Item, to Thomasine Dereham a standing cup of silver and gilt graven with a quiver of arrows, an[d] one hundred ewe sheep & a featherbed;

Item, [+to] the residue of the children of the same Thomas Dereham I give 40s;

Item, I give to Giles, Benewell, Benet and every one of them a featherbed, a bolster, a pair of sheets, a coverlet, and to every one of them 6s 8d(?) if they shall chance to be with me at my departure;

Item, to Bucke, the bailie, a featherbed, a bolster and 6s 8d(?) in money;

To Elizabeth King a featherbed, a bolster, a pair of blankets, a pair of sheets, and 6s 8d;

To the cook, 6s 8d;

Item, to Clerke, one of my shepherds, 3s 4d;

Item, I give to Dame Grace Bedingfield a nun's(?) book with the clasps of silver and gilt, and to my Lady Alice Burgh another like book;

Item, I [f. 3v] will that Sir Richard Patrick shall have four marks of money and mine amber beads;

Item, I will that the said Edmund Audley shall enter the house immediately after my decease, paying the whole year's value of the same and of the lands thereunto belonging;

Furthermore, I give to the said Elizabeth, now wife to the said Anthony Bedingfield, a flower of rubies that is in the custody of my daughter Dereham;

Item, I give to the same Elizabeth cup with a cover of drops silver and gilt;

item, to her a salt with the cover of silver and gilt;

Item, a pair of beads of coral with paternosters of silver and gilt;

Item, I give to the said Margaret Danyell a flower of rubies that is in mine own custody;

Item, to her a cup of silver and gilt of garlic-heads;

Item, to her a salt of silver and gilt without a cover, and also a pair of coral beads with paternosters of calcydony;

Item, I give to the said Edmund Audley a bowl-piece parcel gilt with the cover and Mr Audley's arms therein engraved;



Item, to him a salt with the cover of bewelles [=bevels?] silver and gilt, and another little salt of silver gilt;

Item I give to Sir Edmund Bedingfield, knight, a pot with the cover silver and gilt;

Also I will that the said Edmund shall have the preferment of the sale of all my sheep going at Whitsands over and above such of the same sheep as been before willed, assigned and bequeathed, paying to mine executors within one month next following my death nine pounds of every hundred of the same sheep;

Item, I give to Elizabeth Penyngton 26s 8d;

Item, I will have an honest priest to sing for me and my friends by the space of three years next and immediately following my decease in the parish church of Swaffham aforesaid, he, the same priest, to have for his stipend or salary eight marks yearly during the said years, towards the payment whereof I have appointed these parcels of plate to be sold by mine executors: first, a basin and an ewer of silver parcel gilt, a chafing-dish of silver; item, a flat piece, and my cross of gold with diamonds;

The residue of my goods and cattle not bequeathed and assigned I commit to the disposition of mine executors, whom I ordain and make the said Sir Richard Patrick, clerk;

Item, I do likewise ordain and make Edmund Audley, esquire, mine other executor upon condition that he forthwith next and immediately following the death of me, the said Elizabeth, deliver all such stuff of household, plate and cattle and other such legacies as are before rehearsed and all such money as is before specified within four months next following, and with all convenient speed and diligence do as much as in him is or shall be possible to deliver, fulfil, pay and content or cause to be delivered, fulfilled, paid & contented all and singular my said bequests and legacies in form beforesaid by me assigned, willed and bequeathed, and upon condition that he, the said Edmund, do no act nor acts, thing or things by himself or by any other by his consent or agreement to the hindrance of the same, who I will shall have the preferment of the said plate appointed to be sold in form beforesaid at four pence in every ounce that the said plate might be sold for to any other person or persons;

And finally I will that Sir Edmund Bedingfield, knight, shall be supervisor of this my present last will and testament.

These witness: Sir Thomas Parker, Richard Hoo, Thomas Parke otherwise called Taylor, & other, the said 30<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year beforesaid.

Probatum fuit sup<sup>ra</sup>scriptu<sup>m</sup> test<sup>amentu</sup>m coram dup(?) Apud London xiii<sup>o</sup> die mens<sup>is</sup> Ianuarij Anno d<sup>omi</sup>ni Mill<sup>es</sup>imo qui<sup>n</sup>gentesimo quadragesimo primo

Iuramento Iohannis Adams notarij publici procuratoris Edmundi Awdeley executoris in huiusmodi testamento nominatim Ac approbatum et insinuatum Commissarius fuit administratio omnium et singulorum bonorum &c dicti defuncti predefato executori De bene &c Ac de pleno et fidei Inuentario &c conficiendo Necnon de plano et vero compoto reddendo Ad sanctam dei Evangelia in persona dicti procuratoris Iurata Reseruatate Richardo pertrick clerico altero executori in huiusmodi testamento nominatim eum cum venerint [sic?] admissuro

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord(?) at London on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the month of January in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred forty-first by the oath of John Adams, notary public, proctor of Edmund Audley, executor named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all and singular the goods etc. of the said deceased to the forenamed executor, sworn on the Holy Gospels in the person of the said proctor to well etc., and to prepare a full and faithful inventory etc., and also to render a plain and true account, with power reserved to Richard Patrick, clerk, one other of the executors named in the same testament, when he shall have come to be admitted the same.]