

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 12 April 1445 and proved 19 April 1445, of John Throckmorton of Fladbury, Worcestershire, ancestor of Oxford's friend, Sir Arthur Throckmorton (c.1557-1626), and ancestor of Thomas Russell (1570-1634), overseer of the will of William Shakespeare of Stratford-upon-Avon.

The testator was the ancestor of Sir Richard Knightley (1533-1615), at whose home of Fawsley in Northamptonshire the second Marprelate tract, *The Epitome*, was printed in November 1588, and the ancestor of Job Throckmorton (1545-1601), who assisted with the printing of the Marprelate tracts in 1589.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the testator's family background, see the entry for the Throgmorton family in the *ODNB*, and the Throckmorton pedigree in Lipscomb, George, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Buckingham*, (London: J. & W Robins, 1847), Vol. IV, p. 399 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=_t89AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA399

See also the Throckmorton pedigree in Cracroft's Peerage at:

<http://www.cracroftspeerage.co.uk/online/content/throckmortonb1642.htm>

See also the *ODNB* entry for the testator, and the entry in Wedgwood, Josiah C., *History of Parliament*, (London: His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1936), pp. 851-2 at:

<https://archive.org/details/in.ernet.dli.2015.210096/page/n923/mode/2up>

See also Throckmorton, C. Wickliffe, *A Genealogical and Historical Account of the Throckmorton Family in England and the United States*, (Richmond, Virginia: Old Dominion Press, Inc., 1930), at:

<http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=wu.89066365727;view=1up;seq=87>

See also the WikiTree profile at:

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Throckmorton-6>

Testator's parents

The testator was the eldest son of Thomas Throckmorton (d.1411) and Agnes Besford (d. after 1428), the daughter and coheir of Alexander Besford of Besford, Worcestershire.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

In 1409 the testator married Eleanor de la Spine (d. after May 1449), daughter and coheir of Guy de la Spine (or de Spineto) of Coughton, Warwickshire, by whom, according to the will below, he had two sons and six married daughters:

* **Thomas Throckmorton** (c.1412-1472), who married a wife named Margaret (living 1478). The pedigree in Lipscomb, *supra*, identifies her as Margaret Olney (d.1493), the daughter and heir of Sir Roger Olney and Goditha Bosun, daughter and coheir of William Bosun. However the *ODNB* entry for the Throgmorton family, *supra*, identifies her as Margaret Olney, the daughter and heir of Robert Olney, esquire, of Birdingbury, Warwickshire, and Weston Underwood, Buckinghamshire. See also Warwickshire County Record Office CR 1998/Box 72/5, covenants dated 24 April 1474 between Dame Margaret Throckmorton, widow of Thomas, and Robert her son, for confirmation of her dower. See also a pardon dated 1 April 1478 granted to 'Margaret Throckmorton, widow, daughter and heiress of Robert Olney, esq.', Warwickshire County Record Office CR 1998/EB/26.

See also:

'Parishes: Birdingbury', in *A History of the County of Warwick: Volume 6, Knightlow Hundred*, ed. L F Salzman (London, 1951), pp. 37-39. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/warks/vol6/pp37-39> [accessed 26 September 2020].

The manor then descended with Fillongley (q.v.) to Sir William Beauchamp, who in 1392 granted it for life to John Olney, his receiver, at a rent of 40s. (fn. 14) Olney must have acquired the fee simple, as when his granddaughter Margaret married Thomas Throckmorton she brought the manor into that family. (fn. 15) Their grandson Sir George Throckmorton sold it in 1541 to John Hylmer, freemason of London, and Emyn Ogle, widow. (fn. 16)

By Margaret Olney, Thomas Throckmorton was the father of Sir Robert Throckmorton (c.1451-1518), great-grandfather of Oxford's friend, Sir Arthur Throckmorton (c.1557-1626), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/149/663, and of Job Throckmorton (1545-1601), who, as noted above, assisted with the printing of the Marprelate tracts in 1589. See the will of Sir Robert Throckmorton, TNA PROB 11/20/25, and the *ODNB* entry for Job Throckmorton.

* **John Throckmorton**, esquire, ancestor of the Throckmortons of Gloucestershire, who married Isabel Bruges, the daughter of Edward Bruges (d.1436?) of Lone, Gloucestershire. See the inquisition post mortem taken after the death of Edward Bruges, TNA 139/81/36, and Collins, Arthur, *The Peerage of England*, 2nd ed., (London: W. Innys, 1741), Vol. I, p. 488:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=lllBeY0XQvUC&pg=PA488>

By Sir Thomas she had issue two sons, Sir Giles Bruges, and Edward Bruges of Lone, who was returned among the gentry of Gloucestershire in 12 Henry VI [=1433/4] and died in 15 Henry VI [=1436/7] seised of the manors of Overlee and Hasfelde in Gloucestershire, as also the manor of Pendock. One of his daughters and coheirs was married to John Throgmorton, esquire, second son of Sir John Throgmorton of Coughton.

See also Rudge, Thomas, *The History of the County of Gloucester*, (Gloucester: G.F. Harris, 1803), Vol. I, p. 168 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=BFIGAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA168>

Hasfield, anciently Hasfelde, is a parish on the west banks of the Severn, six miles N. from Gloucester. . . . An estate belonged, in 1437, to Edward Bruges, of Lone, the brother of Sir Giles Brydges, of Coberley, and is called a manor in the inquisition taken after his death.

See also:

'Parishes: Hasfield', in *A History of the County of Gloucester: Volume 8*, ed. C R Elrington (London, 1968), pp. 282-290. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/glos/vol8/pp282-290> [accessed 29 September 2020].

Lands at Hasfield owned by the Throckmorton family were known in the 16th century as the manor of Underhills Court . . . Lands owned by Edward Bridges at his death in 1435 included a house called Underhills. (fn. 146) After Edward's death his lands in Hasfield followed the descent of Apperley and Tirley manors, passing, by the marriage of his daughter, to the Throckmortons. (fn. 147) Christopher Throckmorton was seised at his death in 1513 of the manor of Underhills Court, amounting to c. 150 a., and other lands, (fn. 148)

See also:

'Parishes: Pendock', in *A History of the County of Worcester: Volume 3* (London, 1913), pp. 478-481. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/worcs/vol3/pp478-481> [accessed 29 September 2020].

Thomas Brydges evidently settled Pendock upon his issue by his second wife Alice, for in 1431 Giles Brydges, son and heir of Thomas and Alice, was holding the manor. (fn. 50) Giles must have conveyed it before his death, which did not occur until 1466-7, (fn. 51) to his step-brother Edward, for the latter died in 1436-7 holding half the manor of Pendock, a messuage called Morecourt, (fn. 52) and two-fifths of a messuage called Wavepolles in Pendock. (fn. 53) Edward left a daughter Isabel, (fn. 54) who afterwards married John Throckmorton. (fn. 55) He died in 1472 holding an estate in Pendock which

passed to his son Christopher, (fn. 56) on whose death in 1513 his son William succeeded. (fn. 57) Thomas son and successor of William (fn. 58) sold the manor in 1571 to Thomas Bartlett. (fn. 59)

* **Elizabeth Throckmorton** (c.1427-c.1483), eldest daughter, who married Robert Russell (d.1461?), esquire, of Strensham, Worcestershire, by whom she was the mother of Robert Russell (d.1493), who married Joan de la Bere, the daughter of Sir Kynard de la Bere, and the grandmother of Robert Russell (d. 28 June 1502), esquire, of Strensham, who married Elizabeth Baynham. See the will of Robert Russell (d. 28 June 1502), TNA PROB 11/13/373, in which he mentions his grandmother, 'Elizabeth Russell'. See also:

'Parishes: Strensham', in *A History of the County of Worcester: Volume 4*, ed. William Page and J W Willis-Bund (London, 1924), pp. 202-208. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/worcs/vol4/pp202-208> [accessed 28 September 2020].

William Russell followed, and was succeeded by his son Robert, who was holding the manor in 1428 (fn. 57) and 1431, (fn. 58) and married Elizabeth daughter of Sir John Throckmorton. (fn. 59) She was holding the manor with her husband in 1433–4, when it was conveyed by them to John Throckmorton and others for purposes of settlement. (fn. 60) The manor, described as having been forfeited by John Russell in 1461, (fn. 61) was granted to the king's kinsman Richard Nevill, Earl of Warwick, in 1462. (fn. 62) On 7 June 1471 Elizabeth Russell of Strensham, widow, received a general pardon for all offences committed before 5 June last, (fn. 63) and the manor must have been restored to her, for in 1483–4 a warrant was issued to hinder all persons from hunting in the park of Strensham without her special licence, the king (Richard III) desiring to have the park replenished with game. (fn. 64) She settled the manor by her will on her son Robert, and enfeoffed Robert Throckmorton and others for execution of this settlement and for providing portions for the sons and daughters of Robert Russell. (fn. 65) Robert, who married Joan daughter of Sir Kinard de la Bcere, succeeded to the manor, and was followed at his death in 1493 by his son Robert, who married Elizabeth daughter of Thomas Baynham (fn. 66) and died in 1502. (fn. 67) Robert's son John, who then inherited the manor, married Edith Unton. (fn. 68) In 1523 he and his son Thomas were appointed surveyors of the lands of the bishopric of Worcester. (fn. 69) He died in 1556, (fn. 70) and was succeeded by his son Sir Thomas Russell (knighted in 1549), (fn. 71) who in 1557 made a settlement on his wife Frances daughter of Sir Roger Cholmeley, and in 1572 settled Strensham on his son John at the marriage of the latter with Elizabeth daughter of Ralph Sheldon of Beoley. He died at Worcester on 9 April 1574 (fn. 72) and was succeeded by his son John, afterwards Sir John, who suffered attainder, his lands being granted in 1588 to Walter Coppinger and others. (fn. 73) Sir John's lands were, however, restored before he died in 1593. (fn. 74)

By his second wife, Margaret Lygon (d.1617), Sir Thomas Russell (d.1574) was the father of Thomas Russell (1570-1634), overseer of the will of William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon. See the will of Sir Thomas Russell, TNA PROB 11/57/83, and the will of Thomas Russell, TNA PROB 11/165/124.

* **Agnes Throckmorton**, second daughter, who married Thomas Winslow, esquire. She may be the petitioner in TNA SC 8/344/E1309. If so, by Thomas Winslow she had a daughter, Isabel Winslow, wife of Ralph Seymour, and a daughter, Elizabeth Winslow, the wife of Humphrey Seymour.

* **Margaret Throckmorton** (living 1476), third daughter, who married John Rous (d.1476) of Ragley, Warwickshire, the son of Robert Rous, and the grandson of John Rous (c.1396?) and his wife, Christian (d.1416). See TNA C 138/10/54 ('Rous, John, brother and heir of William, son of Robert, son of Christian. Proof of age: Warw'), and TNA SC 8/229/11413 ('Rous, William, son of Robert, son and heir of Christine: Warw'). See also the inquisitions post mortem taken after the death of John Rous' grandmother, Christian, TNA C 138/20/41, and TNA C 139/45/37. See also the inquisition post mortem taken after the death of John Rous' elder brother, William Rous, TNA C 139/14/13. See also the inquisition post mortem taken after the death of John Rous, TNA C 140/56/51. See also TNA C 1/15/77, and:

'Parishes: Arrow', in *A History of the County of Warwick: Volume 3, Barlichway Hundred*, ed. Philip Styles (London, 1945), pp. 26-31. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/warks/vol3/pp26-31> [accessed 28 September 2020].

In 1370 John Rous of Ragley exchanged with the abbey lands in Ombersley, Worcs., for land and rent in Ragley and Kingley. (fn. 50) In Dec. 1381 he received a pardon for crenellating a house above the gate of his manor of Ragley without licence, and was given leave to crenellate the remainder of the manor. (fn. 51) John Rous died before the close of 1396, followed shortly after by his eldest son John [sic for 'Robert'?]. (fn. 52) The elder John had held the manor jointly with his wife Christiane, on whose death in 1416 it descended to their grandson William, a minor of 7 years. At this time the overlordship of the manor belonged to Sir Thomas Burdet of Arrow. (fn. 53) William died in 1420 while still under age, being succeeded by his brother John, then 15 years old. (fn. 54) John Rous died in 1476 holding the manor jointly with his wife Margaret, who outlived him. (fn. 55) His son Thomas died in 1499 and lies buried in Quinton Church with his wife Maud. (fn. 56) On the death of their son Thomas Rous in 1523, Ragley passed to their daughter Margaret, wife of John Brome of Halton. (fn. 57)

By John Rous, Margaret Throckmorton had a son, Thomas Rous (d.1499), who married a wife named Maude. This appears to have caused confusion in the Rous pedigrees, which erroneously state that the Christian name of the testator's daughter who married into the Rous family was Maude. See Phillimore, W.P.W., ed., *The Visitation of the County of Worcester Made in the Year 1569*, (London: Harleian Society, 1888), p. 113 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ECoEAAAIAAJ&pg=PA113>

See also the pedigree in Amphlett, John ed., *A Survey of Worcestershire by Thomas Habington*, Part II, (Oxford: James Parker and Co., 1894), p. 320 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=brJCAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA320>

For the Rous family of Rous Lench, Worcestershire, see:

'Parishes: Rous Lench', in *A History of the County of Worcester: Volume 3* (London, 1913), pp. 497-500. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/worcs/vol3/pp497-500> [accessed 28 September 2020].

In 1381–2 Thomas and Lucy sold the manor and advowson of the church to John Rous. (fn. 24) John seems to have granted this manor for life to his father John Rous of Ragley, for on the death of the younger John in 1396–7 John Rous and Christina his wife were holding the manor by their son's gift. Robert Rous was brother and heir of the younger John, (fn. 25) but the manor of Rous Lench seems to have passed to Henry, a younger brother. (fn. 26) Henry was succeeded by his son Thomas, (fn. 27) who obtained licence in 1445 to have divine service celebrated in the chapel or oratory in his manor of Rous Lench. (fn. 28) William son of Thomas died seised of the manor in 1505–6, leaving Thomas his son and heir. (fn. 29) Thomas was succeeded by his son John. (fn. 30) Edward son and successor of John died in 1611, leaving a son Sir John Rous. (fn. 31) He served as Sheriff of Worcestershire in 1610 and 1636, (fn. 32) and died in 1645. (fn. 33)

* **Jane Throckmorton** (d. 27 March 1479), fourth daughter, who married firstly Robert Gifford (d. 3 August 1446) of Stonehouse and Weston Subedge, Gloucestershire, secondly Drew Barantyne (d. 23 April 1453), and thirdly Sir John Marney (d. shortly before 1 April 1472) of Layer Marney, Essex. See the will of her son, Henry Marney (1456/7-1523), 1st Baron Marney, TNA PROB 11/21/156. See also the will of Sir George Throckmorton (c.1489-1552), TNA PROB 11/36/298, whose daughter, Elizabeth Throckmorton, married Jane Throckmorton's great-grandson, John Gifford (d. 1 May 1563), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/46/230. See also Richardson at:

<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!topic/soc.genealogy.medieval/YM4Y1A1V2Hg>

* **Maude Throckmorton** (living 1478/9), fifth daughter, who married firstly Sir Thomas Greene (d. 9 September 1462) of Green's Norton, Northamptonshire, eldest son and heir of Sir Thomas Greene (1400-1462) by his first wife, Philippa Ferrers (living 1427). See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 154-5, and the memorial inscription in *The Greene Family of England and America with Pedigrees*, (Boston, 1901), pp. 21-2 at:

<https://archive.org/details/greenefamilyinen00bost/page/20/mode/2up>

See also the Wikitree profile at:

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Greene-188>

Maude Throckmorton married secondly Richard Middleton, esquire. See Throsby, John, *Thoroton's History of Nottinghamshire*, (London: B. and I. White, 1797), Vol. II, p. 263 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=H_GNDwAAQBAJ&pg=PA263

* **Eleanor Throckmorton** (d.1477), sixth daughter, who married Richard Knightley (d.1476), esquire, of Fawsley, Northamptonshire, son of the testator's 'old friend and parliamentary colleague', Sir Richard Knightley (d.1442), and Elizabeth Purefoy (d.1474?). See the History of Parliament entry for Sir Richard Knightley at:

<http://www.histparl.ac.uk/volume/1386-1421/member/knightley-richard-1442>

By Richard Knightley (d.1476), Eleanor Throckmorton was the mother of Sir Richard Knightley (d. 8 December 1534), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/25/292, and the grandmother of Sir Edmund Knightley (d.1542), who married Ursula de Vere, sister of John de Vere (1499-1526), 14th Earl of Oxford. See the will of Ursula de Vere, TNA PROB 11/42A/10, and the History of Parliament entry for Edmund Knightley at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/knightley-edmund-1491-1542>

Edmund Knightley's younger brother, Sir Valentine Knightley (d.1566), was the father of Sir Richard Knightley (1533-1615), at whose home of Fawsley in Northamptonshire Martin Marprelate's *Epitome* was printed on a secret press in November 1588. For Sir Valentine Knightley, see his will, TNA PROB 11/48/595. For Sir Richard Knightley (1533-1615), see the *ODNB* entry. See also the *ODNB* entry for Martin Marprelate.

For the Knightley family, see also Barron, Oswald, 'The Knightleys of Fawsley', *The Ancestor*, No. II, July 1902, pp. 1-13 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/ancestorquarterl02londonoft#page/n9/mode/2up>

See also the pedigree in Fetherston, John, ed., *The Visitation of the County of Warwick in the Year 1619*, (London: Harleian Society, 1877), Vol. XII, p. 399 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationcount01britgoog#page/n430/mode/2up>

See also the pedigree in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Northamptonshire Made in 1564 and 1618-19*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1887), p. 32 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsnort00vincgoog#page/n46/mode/2up>

For the brass commemorating the testator and his wife in the church of St John the Baptist, Fladbury, see:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/52219527@N00/48542513791>

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

For the testator's overseer, Ralph Boteler (c.1394-1473), 1st Baron Sudeley, see the *ODNB* entry. According to the *ODNB*:

Sudeley left no surviving male heir from either marriage, for his son Thomas predeceased him, also without a male heir. Thomas's widow Eleanor was the Lady Eleanor Butler whose alleged precontract of marriage to Edward IV was claimed to have invalidated Edward's marriage to Elizabeth Woodville, and so legitimized the usurpation of Richard III.

RM: Test{amentu}m Ioh{ann}is Throckmorton

In Dei nomine Amen. This is the last will and testament of me, John Throckmorton, made at London the 12 day of April the year of Our Lord 1445.

I, John Throckmorton, in good mind, make my testament in this manner:

First, I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, to Our Lady Saint Mary, and to all the holy company of heaven, my body to be buried in the parish church of Saint John Baptist of Fladbury in the county Worcester;

Also I will and charge that mine executors do let make a stone of marble of such largeness as may cover my father, my mother and me, and my wife if she will lie there, with a memorial upon the said stone after the discretion of mine executors;

Also, I will and charge the executors of this my last will that my debts first been paid above all things;

And that where I have been all days of my life in my country a sterer [sic?] in the world as the world asketh [+and?], purchased divers lands and tenements and made divers contracts and covenants, and there be any man that can complain and say that I have not truly and duly after faith and conscience performed and fulfilled such covenants as were made betwixt tho [=those] persons and me, I will and charge that they been agreed and contented;

Also, I will and charge if there(?) be any person that I have take good to labour for him and I have not do my labour and intent to perform his intent, I will that he be agreed;

Also, I bequeath to Robert Russell that hath wedded my eldest daughter 100 marks;

Also to Thomas Winslow, I bequeath, that hath wedded my second daughter, of such goods and [sic for 'as'?] the said Thomas Winslow oweth me after the discretion of mine executors;

Also I bequeath to John Rous that hath wedded my third daughter, £40;

Also I bequeath to Robert Gifford that hath wedded my fourth daughter £20 the which he oweth me, with that that he would be kind to Eleanor, my wife, and to his wife that is my daughter;

Also I bequeath to Thomas Greene that hath wedded my fifth daughter such silver plate as Sir Thomas Greene, knight, hath laid to me to wed and forfeit(?) mony [=many?] a day ago(?), and in case Sir Thomas Greene, knight, will pay the sum that the plate lieth for, then I will that my son [=son-in-law], Thomas Greene, have the said sum;

Also I bequeath to Richard Knightley that hath wedded my sixth daughter all the silver plate that th' abbot of Saint James' Abbey of Northampton had in pledge, the which I set out(?);

Also I bequeath to John, my younger son, all the money that he oweth me;

Also I will that my servants been rewarded after discretion of my executors and after their continuance(?) in their service;

Also, I bequeath to my mother church of Worcestor 40s;

Also I bequeath to the new work of Saint Bryde's church in Fleet Street 20s;

Also I bequeath to every of the four orders of friars in London 20s;

Also, I bequeath to the 2 houses of friars in Worcester 40s;

Also I bequeath to every prison house in London 6s 8d;

The residue of all my goods I will and charge mine executors that they doon for me and dispose it as they would that I should do for them and they had passed out of this world before me;

To the fulfilling and performing of this my testament I ordain and make mine executors Alianore, my wife, chief executor, Thomas Throckmorton, mine son, and Rawlyn Ingoldesby the tother executors, and I will that the said Rawlyn have for his labour and diligence that he most [=must?] have about of this my testament, £20;

I ordain also and make overseer of this my will and testament for great affiance and trust that I have had in his Lordship and shall have after my death, Sir Ralph Boteler, Lord of

Sudeley and Treasurer of England, he for that oversight to be rewarded after discretion of mine executors;

In witness whereof I have set to my seal of mine arms, given the day and year abovesaid.

LM: (illegible)

Probatum fuit istud test{amentu}m coram ven{er}abili viro Mag{ist}ro Alexandro Prowet Commissar{io} ic(?) decimonono die mens{is} Aprilis Anno domini Mill{es}imo CCC{mo} quadragesimoquinto Com{m}issaq{ue} fuit admi{ni}strac{i}o &c executoribus in eod{e}m testamento nomi{n}at{is} &c

[=The same testament was proved before the worshipful Master Alexander Prowet, Commissary etc.(?) on the nineteenth day of the month of April in the year of the Lord the thousand four hundred forty-fifth, and administration was granted etc. to the executors named in the same testament etc.]