

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 2 October 1542 and proved 19 May 1544, of Sir Griffith Don (c.1487 - 18 January 1543), whose sister, Margaret Don, was Oxford's great-grandmother.

For the testator, see also the inquisition post mortem taken after his death, TNA C 142/69/79, and *The Edward de Vere Newsletter*, No. 47, on this website.

Despite his request in the will below for burial at Wheathampstead, the testator was buried at Windsor, presumably alongside his father in the Collegiate Church at Windsor Castle.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator was the second son of Sir John Don (c.1430-1503).

For the testator's family background, see the will of his mother, Elizabeth Hastings Don (d.1508), TNA PROB 11/15/680, and the will of his brother, Sir Edward Don (c.1482-1551/2), TNA PROB 11/35/10.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married a wife named Elizabeth whose maiden name is unknown. She is said to have died in 1541; see the pedigree in McFarlane, K.B., *Hans Memling*, (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1971). However her death is mentioned in a bill of complaint in a Chancery suit, TNA C 1/625/13, addressed to Sir Thomas More, and it is thus clear that she had died before More's tenure as Lord Chancellor ended in May 1532.

When she married the testator, Elizabeth had been twice widowed.

First husband of the testator's wife, Elizabeth

Elizabeth married firstly Brian Roche (d. May 1514), Serjeant of the Acatry, by whom she had a son, Nicholas Roche, and a daughter, Grissel Roche (buried 26 February 1582). See the will of Brian Roche, dated 12 May 1514 and proved 29 May 1514, TNA PROB 11/17/555, and the inquisition post mortem taken at York between 22 April 1516 and 21 April 1517, TNA C 142/31/65. See also a Chancery suit, TNA C 1/746/55, dating from the period 1532-1538 brought against the testator by John Boteler and Griselda his wife, 'daughter and heir of Brian Roche and of Elizabeth, his wife, afterwards the wife of Griffith Donne, knight', concerning the manors of Lamer, Butlers and Brydell [=Bride Hill] and other lands in Wheathampstead, Harpenden, Standridge and Luton in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

Testator's stepdaughter, Grissel Roche

Grissel Roche, married, by settlement dated 10 May 1528, Sir John Boteler (1511x14-1576), grandson of John Butler (d.1514) of Woodhall by his second wife, Dorothy Tyrrell, daughter of William Tyrrell of Gipping, Suffolk, and son of Sir Philip Boteler (d. 28 March 1545) of Woodhall by Elizabeth Drury (d. 11 December 1574), the daughter of Sir Robert Drury (by 1456-1535) of Hawstead, Suffolk, chief steward and executor of the 13th Earl of Oxford, and legatee of the Ellesmere manuscript of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* owned by the Earls of Oxford. For Sir Robert Drury, see his will, TNA PROB 11/25/467, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/drury-sir-robert-i-1456-1535>

For the marriage of Elizabeth Drury and Sir Philip Boteler, see also Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 666.

Dorothy Tyrrell (see above) may have been the daughter of the William Tyrrell who married Margaret Darcy and was beheaded on Tower Hill 23 February 1462. See TNA PROB 11/17/263.

It should be noted that the pedigree of Boteler of Woodhall erroneously states that Sir John Boteler, husband of Grissel Roche, was the son of Ralph Boteler and Katherine Kilpeck. See Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Hertfordshire*, (London: Harleian Society, 1886), Vol. XXII, p. 111 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationshert00philgoog#page/n125/mode/2up>

By Sir John Boteler, Grissel Roche is said to have had six sons and seven daughters. See the will of Sir John Boteler, TNA PROB 11/58/211, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/butler-sir-john-151114-76>

b. 1511/14, 1st s. of (Sir) Philip Butler. educ. ?G. Inn, adm. 1533. m. settlement 10 May 1528, Griselda, da. and h. of Brian Roche of Wickersley, Yorks., 6s. 7da. suc. fa. 6 June 1545. Kntd. ?22 Feb. 1547.1

See also the Boteler pedigree in Chauncy, Henry, *The Historical Antiquities of Hertfordshire*, (London: Ben Griffin, 1700), p. 333 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=FOIBAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA333>

See also a Chancery suit, TNA C 1/954/48-49, brought after the death of the testator's wife, Elizabeth, by John Boteler, husband of Grissel, the daughter of Brian Roche, against the testator as stepfather of the said Grissel for 'money due for occupation of lands of the said Grysself after the death of Elizabeth, her mother'.

See also:

'Wheathampstead with Harpenden: Manors', in *A History of the County of Hertford: Volume 2*, ed. William Page (London, 1908), pp. 297-309. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/herts/vol2/pp297-309> [accessed 28 May 2018].

The manor of LAMER, DELAMERS, or LAMMERSHE . . . probably takes its name from the family of De la Mare (who gave their name to other manors in Hertfordshire), as we find this property was held, in the early part of the fourteenth century, by John de la Mare, who is entered on the Court Rolls of the manor of Wheathampstead as owing suit from 1307 to 1310. (fn. 29) John Lodewyk held it in right of his wife Alice from 1387 to 1411, (fn. 30) when he died, and upon the death of his widow in the same year it passed to Nicholas Carew the younger of Beddington in Surrey, as son of Isabel, daughter of the same Alice, (fn. 31) who was probably an heiress of the De la Mare family. (fn. 32) From Nicholas it passed to James Carew, who died in 1493. (fn. 33) In 1499 Richard Carew, son and heir of James, conveyed the manor lately belonging to James Carew to Richard Lawdy and John Lawdy, (fn. 34) and in 1502 it was settled on Brian Roche and Elizabeth his wife and the heirs of Elizabeth. (fn. 35) Who this lady was is not known, but it seems possible that Lamer descended to her from the Carews. She was married three times: firstly to Brian Roche, secondly to—Edon, and thirdly to Sir Griffin Dunne, and died in 1541, (fn. 36) leaving issue by her first two husbands. This manor being settled upon the issue of the first marriage subject to a life interest of the third husband, who died in 1543, it passed to Griselle, the wife of Sir John Boteler, as daughter of Brian Roche and Elizabeth. (fn. 37) Sir Philip Boteler, son of Sir John Boteler and Griselle, in 1597 conveyed it together with the manor of Botelers and Brydalls to George Peryent, (fn. 38) . . .

The manor of BOTELEERS or BUTLERS was so called probably from the family of the same name. . . . Early in the sixteenth century this manor was in the hands of Sir Griffin Dunne and Elizabeth his wife, and from them it followed the same descent as Lamer. . . .

The manor of RAMRUGGE on the north-west side of Wheathampstead, consisting of a messuage and a carucate of land, was in the fifteenth century in the hands of the Ramrugge family, (fn. 56) and passed in the sixteenth century to Sir Griffin Dunne, (fn. 57) from whom it seems to have followed the descent of the Lamer property.

For James Carew (d. 22 December 1492) of Beddington and 'Studham and Lamer (in Wheathampstead), Hertfordshire' and his son, Sir Richard Carew (d. 23 May 1520) of Beddington, see Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 227 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=kjme027UeagC&pg=PA227>

Grissel Roche's grandson, Philip Boteler (b. 11 December 1534), married Katherine Knollys, and was thus a brother-in-law of Lettice Knollys, wife of Queen Elizabeth's favourite, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester.

Second husband of the testator's wife, Elizabeth

Elizabeth married secondly, as his second wife, Henry Eden (d.1518), Merchant of the Staple at Calais. Henry Eden's first wife was Mary Olney, the daughter of John Olney of London (possibly the John Olney (d.1471) who was Lord Mayor in 1446). By his first wife, Mary Olney, Henry Eden had several children, including his eldest son and heir, Thomas Eden (c.1502-1568), for whom see his will, TNA PROB 11/50/383, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/eden-thomas-1502-68>

b. c.1502, 1st s. of Henry Eden, and bro. of George. educ. L. Inn, spec. adm. 16 Nov. 1527. m. by 1534, Griselda, da. of Edward Waldegrave of the Anyers [recte 'the Friars'], Sudbury, 5s. inc. Richard[†] and Thomas[†] 4da. suc. fa. 1518.1

By her second husband, Henry Eden (d.1518), Elizabeth had two sons:

-Richard Eden (c.1516-1576), the translator, for whom see the *ODNB* entry (which, however, erroneously states that the translator was the son of George Eden, and that he was born in Herefordshire). For the translator Richard Eden's relationship to the testator's stepdaughter, Grissel Roche, wife of Sir John Boteler, see also Arber, Edward, ed., *The First Three English Books on America*, (Birmingham, 1885), p. xlv at:

<https://archive.org/stream/firstthreeenglis00arberich#page/n47/mode/2up>

Richard Eden, an Englishman, born of a respectable family in Herefordshire, -- where he still has a sister living, well known to Her Majesty, being the wife of a knight, John Butler of Lamer, -- was well educated as a boy, studied at Cambridge for ten years under that most learned man, Sir Thomas Smyth, now Her Majesty's Secretary [of State], who can testify to his erudition and blameless character.

-John Eden, mentioned in the testator's will below.

For Henry Eden, see his will, TNA PROB 11/19/176, and the transcript in Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *The Visitation of Suffolke, Vol. I*, (Lowestoft: Samuel Tymms, 1866), p. 3 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ExI2AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA3>

See also a Chancery suit brought by the testator against Henry Eden's brother and executor, Richard Eden (d.1549?), Archdeacon of Middlesex, in the period 1529-1532, TNA C 1/625/13, concerning the 'Howe ground' mentioned in the testator's will below. For the will of Richard Eden, Archdeacon of Middlesex, dated 6 December 1549 and proved 2 May 1551, see TNA PROB 11/34/144, and the transcript in Howard, *supra*, pp. 6-7 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ExI2AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA6>

See also the Eden pedigree in Howard, *supra*, p. 18 (which, however, contains several errors):

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ExI2AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA18>

Issue of the testator's marriage to Elizabeth

The testator married Elizabeth, widow successively of Brian Roche and Henry Eden, at an unknown dated prior to 10 June 1523 (see TNA C 1/625/13 and 14). They had one child:

* **Elizabeth Don** (d.1590). According to the inquisition post mortem taken 2 July 1543 after the testator's death in 1543, she was then 18 years of age or more, and was thus born about 1525.

In the will below the testator appoints Dr John Hughes (1500-1543) of Uxbridge as overseer:

And my loving cousin and friend, Doctor Hughes, overseer of the same, as well to aid and assist my said daughter and executrice

Dr John Hughes made his own will, TNA PROB 11/29/364, on 15 January 1543, two weeks after the testator's death. See the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/hughes-john-1500-43>

The will was proved on 10 May 1543 but Hughes was dead by 18 Apr. when his Welsh offices were granted to (Sir) Thomas Jones.

The testator refers to Dr John Hughes as his 'cousin', and further evidence of the relationship between the Don and Hughes families is provided by the fact that after Hughes' death, his offices were granted to Sir Thomas Jones, son-in-law of the testator's elder brother, Sir Edward Don. See the will of Sir Edward Don, TNA PROB 11/35/10,

and Meyrick, Samuel Rush, *Heraldic Visitations of Wales*, Vol. I, (Llandoverly: William Rees, 1846), pp. 20-1, 333 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ZxBJAAAACAAJ&pg=PA333>

The testator's daughter, Elizabeth Don, married Dr John Hughes' son, Thomas Hughes (d.1587). See McFarlane, K.B., *Hans Memling*, (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1971), pp. 45, 57 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?redir_esc=y&id=sczqAAAAMAAJ&focus=searchwithinvolume&q=Hughes

By Thomas Hughes, Elizabeth Don had two sons and two daughters:

-John Hughes.

-Robert Hughes.

-Elsbeth Hughes, who is said to have married Alexander [sic] Popham, Lord Chief Justice of England.

-Grissel Hughes (1559-1613), who married firstly Edward Neville (d.1589), Baron Bergavenny, the son of her grandfather's former jousting companion, Sir Edward Neville (c.1482-1538), by whom she had no issue. From the *ODNB* entry for Sir Edward Neville:

In the summer of 1539 his attainder was confirmed by act of parliament (31 Hen. VIII c. 15), but within four years his son Edward obtained restoration in the blood (34 and 35 Hen. VIII c. 36). On the death of Sir Edward's nephew, the fourth Baron Bergavenny, without heirs male, in 1587 the Neville estates passed to his grandson Edward. . . .

In June 1589, Grissel Hughes married secondly Francis Clifford (1559-1641), 4th Earl of Cumberland, younger brother of George Clifford (1558-1605), 3rd Earl of Cumberland, by whom she had two sons and two daughters:

(1) George Clifford (b.1590), who died young.

(2) Henry Clifford (1592-1643), who succeeded his father as 5th Earl of Cumberland and married, on 25 July 1610, Frances Cecil (1593-1644), daughter of Oxford's brother-in-law, Robert Cecil, 1st Earl of Salisbury. Henry Clifford died without male heirs, and his lands were divided between only surviving child, Elizabeth Clifford, and his first cousin, Lady Anne Clifford (1590-1676), the daughter of his uncle, George Clifford (1558-1605), 3rd Earl of Cumberland. See the *ODNB* entry for Henry Clifford:

By Cumberland's death the Cliffords' earldom of Cumberland became extinct. The barony of Clifford (1299) fell to Lady Anne Clifford but that of 1628 passed to Clifford's

sole surviving child, Elizabeth, Lady Dungarvan, countess of Cork (and later countess of Burlington).

(3) Margaret Clifford (d.1622) who on 22 October 1611 married Sir Thomas Wentworth (1593-1641), 1st Earl of Strafford. See the *ODNB* entry.

(4) Frances Clifford (d.1627) who married, as his second wife, Sir Gervase Clifton (1587-1666) of Clifton, Nottinghamshire. See:

[https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/collectionsindepth/family/clifton/biographies/biographyofsirgervaseclifton,1stbaronet\(1587-1666\).aspx](https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/collectionsindepth/family/clifton/biographies/biographyofsirgervaseclifton,1stbaronet(1587-1666).aspx)

The testator's daughter, Elizabeth Don, was 'the last surviving member of the family to bear the name of Don', and McFarlane conjectures that for this reason the Don triptych remained in the family of her lineal descendant, the Duke of Devonshire, where for many years it hung above the altar in the chapel at the Duke's country home of Chatsworth in Derbyshire, prior to becoming the property of the National Gallery. See McFarlane, *supra*, p. 54.

Elizabeth Done was buried in the parish church at North Mimms, Hertfordshire, as was her husband, Thomas Hughes. See Cussans, John Edwin, *History of Hertfordshire*, Vol. III, (1972 reprint), p. 293 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=VR0qAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA293>

Here lieth the body of Thomas Hewes, late of Uxbridge in the county of Middlesex, esquire, who departed this life the 27 of March Anno Domini 1587. And also the body of Elizabeth, his wife, sole daughter and heir of Sir Griffith Dune, knight, who deceased the second day of December Anno Domini 1590.

TESTATOR'S LANDS

For the 'Howe' Ground mentioned in the will below, see:

'Wheathampstead with Harpenden: Manors', in *A History of the County of Hertford: Volume 2*, ed. William Page (London, 1908), pp. 297-309. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/herts/vol2/pp297-309> [accessed 29 May 2018].

HOOS MANOR or HOO LAND or HOLLAND appears to have consisted of two tenements, each of a carucate in extent, belonging to the Hoo family; one in Wheathampstead, which was eventually included with the Lamer property, and the other in Harpenden, which belongs to the Rothamsted estate. Robert de Hoo received a grant of free warren over his lands in Harpenden in 1292, (fn. 80) and we find that Sir Robert de Hoo succeeded to these tenements on the death of John de Hoo in 1302, (fn. 81) conveying them, two years later, to Alexander his son. (fn. 82) In 1337 Sir Thomas de Hoo, son of Alexander,

received a grant of free warren over his lands in Wheathampstead. (fn. 83) The carucate, which eventually went with the Lamer estate, passed in the main line of the Hoo family till it came to Thomas, Lord Hoo, and went by his daughter and co-heir, Eleanor, wife of Sir James Carew, to the Carews of Beddington, (fn. 84) from which time it followed the same descent as the manor of Lamer. The other carucate was sold, it would seem, by Sir Thomas de Hoo, in 1405, to Stephen Spelman, mercer of London, (fn. 85) and in 1461 Thomas Wynter conveyed it, as formerly belonging to Stephen Spelman, to Thomas Tyrrell. (fn. 86) Later it seems to have passed to the family of Eden, and was sold by Richard Eden, in 1540, to Edmund Bardolph, and so followed the descent of the manor of Rothamsted. (fn. 87)

See also Brigg, William, ed., *The Herts Genealogist and Antiquary*, Vol. I, (Harpenden: William Brigg, 1895), p. 150 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/hertsgenealogist01brig#page/n311/mode/2up>

1540 Michaelmas term, 32 Henry VIII

Edmund Broket esq and Edm. Bardolf esq: Tho. Eden esq son and heir of Henry Eden, and Rich. Eden gent. Manor of Howe and lands and rent in Harpenden, Whetehampsted and Redburn.

See also the map at:

<http://www.hertfordshire-genealogy.co.uk/data/books/books-4/book-0406-wheathampstead-accounts.htm>

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

In the will below the testator bequeaths possessions which ‘lie in my chamber at my Lord of Suffolk’s place besides Westminster’. The testator’s friend, Charles Brandon (c.1484–1545), 1st Duke of Suffolk, was the second husband of Henry VIII’s sister, Mary Tudor. The testator’s association with Charles Brandon spanned a lifetime; he attended Brandon’s marriage to his first wife, Anne Browne, in about 1503, and had a chamber in Brandon’s house forty years later. See Gunn, S.J., *Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk c.1484-1545*, (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1988), p. 203, and the *ODNB* entry for Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk.

Charles Brandon’s fourth wife, Katherine (nee Willoughby) Brandon Bertie (1519–1580), was the mother, by her second husband, Richard Bertie (1517–1582), of Oxford’s brother-in-law, Peregrine Bertie (1555 – 26 June 1601), Lord Willoughby de Eresby. See the *ODNB* entry for Peregrine Bertie, and his will, TNA PROB 11/98/204. See also the *ODNB* entries for Katherine, Duchess of Suffolk, and her second husband, Richard Bertie.

RM: T{estamentum} Gruff^r Donne mi {li}t{is}

In the name of God, Amen. I Gruffethe Donne, knight, being, lauded be God, in good mind and perfect remembrance, make my testament and last will in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, and my body to be buried before the high altar of Wheathampstead;

Item, I bequeath to the mother church of Lincoln 2d;

Item, to the parish church of Wheathampstead 6s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to my son-in-law [=stepson], John Eden, my gown of russets [=russels?] furred with sables and martens, my coat of black velvet, my coat of tawny velvet, my doublet of tawny velvet, my great roan horse called Friday, one pair of harness at the appointment of my daughter, my leveret(?) also, and all my beds, beddings and other things as they lie in my chamber at my Lord of Suffolk's place besides Westminster, except my two rich coats there lying, which I give to my daughter, and the evidences of the Howe Ground [=Hoo Ground];

Item, I bequeath to my servant, William Bowes, two boars, one sow, my doublet of black velvet, and all my beds and beddings in my middle chamber next my butler's chamber;

Item, I bequeath to my servant, Richard Charles, one young pied cow, with four nobles yearly wages to wait upon my said daughter as long as she please to retain him in her service;

Item, I bequeath to Sir Richard Carnaby, my chaplain, to sing and pray for me by the space of one whole year next after my decease, the bed and bedding in the chamber where he now lieth and ten marks in money to be at his own finding, other else five marks stipend and his board and lodging at the election and will of my said daughter;

Item, I bequeath to my butler, John North, the bed and bedding in his chamber;

And to every two other of my household servants, as they now be coupled together in chambers, their beds and bedding as they now lie in their said chambers;

The residue of all my goods movable and unmovable, whatsoever they be and wheresoever they remain, I fully, clearly and freely give and bequeath to my dear daughter, Elizabeth Donne, whom I name, make and ordain my sole executrice of this my present testament and last will;

And my loving cousin and friend, Doctor Hughes, overseer of the same, as well to aid and assist my said daughter and executrice in and about th' execution of this my last will and testament with his best advice and counsel as also to oversee and guide my said daughter together with her said portion to her bequeathed to the time she be advanced to marriage as God and good fortune shall dispose;

Being present at the making hereof the said Sir Richard Carnaby, Thomas Hughes, Robert Lee and divers other, the second day of October in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred forty and two. By me, Griffith Donne.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum Coram d{omi}no apud London xixo die mensis Maij Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingen{tesim}o xliiijto Iuramento Roberti Lee l{ite}rati procuratoris Elizabet{he} executric{is} in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}at{e} Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et com{m}issa fuit administracio o{mn}i{u}m et singulor{um} bonor{um} dict{i} defunct{i} prefate executrici De b{e}n{e} et fideliter administrand{o} eadem Ac de pleno et fideli Inuentario o{mn}i{u}m et singulor{um} bonor{um} etc exhibend{o} Necnon de plano et vero comp{ot}o inde reddend{o} Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia in p{er}sona d{i}c{t}i procuratoris Iurat{i}

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord at London on the 19th day of the month of May in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 44th by the oath of Robert Lee, learned, proctor of Elizabeth, executrix named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all and singular the goods of the said deceased to the forenamed executrix, sworn on the Holy Gospels in the person of the said proctor to well and faithfully administer the same, and to exhibit a full and faithful inventory of all and singular the goods etc., and also to render a plain and true account thereof.]