

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 17 February 1544 and proved 16 June 1544, of Edward Borlase. The surname is variously spelled as 'Burlace', 'Burlas' and 'Borlas' in the will below, and elsewhere as 'Burlacy'. In the will of his brother-in-law, Robert Pakington (d. 13 November 1536), great-uncle of Humphrey Martyn, the addressee of the *Langham Letter* describing Leicester's entertainment of Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575, the name is spelled 'Burles' (see the will of Robert Pakington, TNA PROB 11/27/46).

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the testator's family background, see Borlase, William Copeland, 'History of the Family of Taillefer alias Borlase of Borlas Frank Taillefer in the County of Cornwall', in Selby, Walford D., ed., *The Genealogist*, New Series, (London: George Bell and Sons, 1885), Vol. II, pp. 1-14, 129-41, 225, 283 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/genealogist02selb#page/n479/mode/2up/>

Testator's parents

According to Borlase, *supra*, pp. 134, 225, the testator was the son of John Borlase of Borlas-Taillefer, Cornwall.

In the will below, the testator leaves a bequest to his 'natural mother, Margaret Tregyan'. It appears that the testator's mother was Margaret Kingdon, the daughter of William Kingdon, and that after the death of her first husband, the testator's father, John Borlase, the testator's mother married Thomas Treigian. See Borlase, *supra*, p. 134 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/genealogist02selb#page/n293/mode/2up>

Margaret Tregyan (als. Tregain, Tregian, Treiean, &c.) was the eldest of the three married daughters of William Kingdon, mentioned in his will in 1515 (P.CC.), the other two being – Jane Lamylion and Agnes Maynard. Margaret's second husband was, probably, the Thomas Tregian whose will was proved (P.CC.) in 1519-20 by John Tregian, his son, and Margaret, his widow.

When the testator came to London, he served an apprenticeship with Thomas Maynard, likely the husband of his mother's sister, Agnes Maynard, and was admitted to the freedom of the Mercers' Company in 1514. See Borlase, *supra*, p. 225.

The testator had an elder brother, Walter Borlase.

MARRIAGES AND CHILDREN

According to the will below, the testator had three wives: Parnell, Margaret and Joan.

First marriage

The testator married firstly Parnell Baldwin (d.1527), the daughter of Sir John Baldwin (d.1545), Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, for whom see the entry in the *ODNB*; his will, TNA PROB 11/30/580; and the Wikipedia article edited by the author of this website.

When she married the testator, Parnell Baldwin was the widow of Thomas Ramsey (d.1524), by whom she had a daughter, Elizabeth Ramsey, who married firstly Nicholas Clerke (d.1551), and secondly Lord Burghley's servant, Roger Alford (d.1580). For the will of Elizabeth Ramsey Clerke Alford, proved 23 December 1598, see TNA PROB 11/92/437. For the will of Roger Alford, see TNA PROB 11/62/442.

For a letter dated 9 January 1564 from Sir William Cecil to Bridget (nee Hussey), (1526-1601), then Countess of Rutland, stating that Oxford was at Hitcham near Burnham in Buckinghamshire (and thus likely at the home of Roger Alford), see Historical Manuscripts Commission, Twelfth Report, Appendix, Part IV, *The Manuscripts of His Grace the Duke of Rutland, G.C.B., Preserved at Belvoir Castle*, (London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1888), Vol. 1, p. 89.

For Parnell Baldwin's first husband, Thomas Ramsay (d.1524), the son of Thomas Thomas Ramsey (d. 30 January 1510) and Margaret Danvers (d.1515), daughter of Sir William Danvers (d. 19 April 1504), Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, see also Macnamara, F.N., *Memorials of the Danvers Family*, (London: Hardy & Page, 1895), p. 190 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/memorialsdanver00macngoog#page/n241/mode/2up>

Margaret [Danvers], the fourth of Sir William Danvers' daughters, married Thomas Ramsey of Hedsore and Hitcham, Bucks, of a family descended from Adam Ramsey, squire of the body to Richard II. Thomas and Margaret had a son, Thomas, who married Parnell, daughter and coheir of Sir John Baldwin, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas.

See also the connection between Sir William Danvers (d. 19 April 1504) and the Hubands in 'Huband of Ipsley' in Burke, John and John Bernard Burke, *Heraldic Illustrations*, (London: E. Churton, 1845), Vol. II, at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=5S0BAAAAQAAJ&pg=PT154>

For the testator's first wife, Parnell Baldwin, see also the Baldwin pedigree in Phillimore, W.P.W., ed., *The Visitation of the County of Worcester Made in the Year 1569*, (London: Harleian Society, 1888), Vol. XXVII, pp. 101–3 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ECoEAAAIAAJ&pg=PA103>

For Parnell Baldwin's first marriage to Thomas Ramsey, see also the pedigree of Clerke of North Weston in Lee, Frederick George, *The History, Description and Antiquities of the Prebendal Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Thame*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1883), p. 310 at:

<https://archive.org/details/PrebendalChurchOfTheBVM/page/n183>

See also:

See also 'Parishes: Hitcham', in *A History of the County of Buckingham: Volume 3*, ed. William Page (London, 1925), pp. 231-235. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/bucks/vol3/pp231-235> [accessed 14 May 2019]

As noted above, the testator's stepdaughter, Elizabeth Ramsey, married Nicholas Clerke, whose daughter, Dorothy Clerke, married Sir Charles Morison (1549 - 31 March 1599), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/94/168.

Second marriage

The testator married secondly a wife named Margaret, whose maiden name may have been Huddleston, a surname which appears on the Borlase pedigree in Phillimore, *supra*.

For the pedigree of Huddleston, see Baddeley, Welbore St. Clair, *A Cotteswold Shrine*, (London: Kegan Paul, 1908), p. 109 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/cotteswoldshrine00badd#page/108/mode/2up>

The testator's second wife, Margaret, had earlier been the wife of James Marston, a London mercer, by whom, according to the will below, she had three sons, William Marston, James Marston and Philip Marston. For Margaret's children by her marriage to James Marston, see also:

'The 1541 Orphans' Book', in *Two Tudor Subsidy Rolls For the City of London 1541 and 1582*, ed. R G Lang (London, 1993), pp. 298-315. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/london-record-soc/vol29/pp298-315> [accessed 18 March 2016].

413. Edward Burlace, mercer, William Bikner, haberdasher, for the orphan of Jamys Marston, mercer (£196 12d.)

Third marriage

The testator married thirdly, Joan Dormer, the daughter of Sir Michael Dormer (d. 20 September 1545), Lord Mayor of London. Joan Dormer had earlier been married to James Bolney (d.1536), by whom she had three daughters mentioned in the will below, Joan Bolney, Anne Bolney and Winifred Bolney. For the will of James Bolney, see TNA PROB 11/25/554.

After the testator's death, his widow, Joan (nee Dormer), married the Inner Temple lawyer, Anthony Stapleton (d.1574?). Stapleton was a member of the council of John de Vere (1516-1562) 16th Earl of Oxford, was granted an annuity by the Earl on 3 June 1544 (see TNA C 142/136/12), and was a witness to the will dated 1 February 1549 extorted from the 16th Earl by the Protector Somerset (see TNA C 66/848). For Anthony Stapleton, see his will, Borthwick Institute V19 F690. See also the will of his father-in-law, Sir Michael Dormer, TNA PROB 11/30/546, and the will of Elizabeth Vere (d.1537), widow of John de Vere, 13th Earl of Oxford, TNA PROB 11/27/144.

For the marriage of the testator's widow, Joan, to Anthony Stapleton of the Inner Temple, by licence dated 14 August 1544, see Foster, Joseph, ed., *London Marriage Licences 1521-1869*, (London: Bernard Quaritch, 1887), p. 1279 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=Xf8cAAAAYAAJ&pg=RA1-PA1279>

See also a 1546 lawsuit in which Anthony Stapleton and Joan, his wife, the testator's executor, were plaintiffs at:

<http://aalt.law.uh.edu/Indices/CP40Indices/CP40no1127/CP40no1127Cty.htm>

and:

http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H8/CP40no1127/aCP40no1127fronts/IMG_1107.htm

1546 Burlacy, Edward, of London, mercer, executors of; (Stapleton, Anthony, esq; Joan his wife).

Testator's children

By his first wife, Parnell Baldwin, the testator had one son:

* **John Borlase** (c.1527 – 6 May 1593), who married Anne Lytton (d.1622), the daughter of Sir Robert Lytton (d.1550) of Knebworth, Hertfordshire, by whom, according to the History of Parliament, he had one son, William Borlase, and six daughters. See Borlase, *supra*, p. 229; Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 461, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/borlase-john-1527-93>

For the will, dated 25 March 1593, of John Borlase (c.1527 – 6 May 1593), in which he mentions his wife, Anne, and his son, William Borlase (d. 4 September 1629), see TNA PROB 11/81/387.

William Borlase (d. 4 September 1629) was a ‘friend of Ben Jonson’, and appears to have painted Jonson’s portrait. In return, Jonson wrote verses to William Borlase beginning:

Why, though I be of a prodigious waist

By his second wife, Margaret, the testator had two sons:

* **Edward Borlase** (d.1588), second son. He was admitted to the Mercers’ Company in 1555, and married Katherine Bury, the daughter of William Bury of Culham, Oxfordshire. See Borlase, *supra*, p. 227.

* **William Borlase** (d.1582), third son, who married Mary English of Flask.

See Rylands, W. Harry, ed., *The Visitation of the County of Buckingham Made in 1634*, (London: Harleian Society, 1909), Vol. LVIII, p. 19 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofcoun58phil#page/18/mode/2up>

By his third wife, Joan Dormer, the testator had one son:

William Borlase (d.1603?), gentleman, of Chesham, Buckinghamshire, who married a wife named Margaret, who survived him. See Borlase, *supra*, p. 228.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

Alice Baldwin, to whom the testator leaves a bequest in the will below, was the sister of the testator’s first wife, Parnell Baldwin, and was the last Abbess of Burnham Abbey. See her will, TNA PROB 11/31/79, and the Wikipedia article edited by the author of this website at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alice_Baldwin

T{estamentum} Edward{i} Burlace

In the name of God, Amen. The 17th day of February in the year of Our Lord God after the course and computation of the Church of England a thousand five hundred forty and three and in the 35th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Henry the 8th, King of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith and in earth Supreme Head of the

Church of England and also of Ireland, I, Edward Borlase, citizen and mercer of London, being in good and perfect remembrance, laud and praise be unto Almighty God, do make, ordain and dispose this my present testament and last will in manner and form following, that is to say:

First I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God, my Maker, Redeemer and Saviour, in whom and by the merits of whose blessed passion is all my whole trust of clear remission and forgiveness of my sins, and my body to be buried in Christian burial;

Also I give and bequeath to the high altar of Saint Martin's church in the Vintry for my tithes negligently forgotten, to the curate three shillings and four pence sterling;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my natural mother, Margaret Tregyan, ten pounds sterling;

Also I give and bequeath unto Joan, my wife, the lease of my dwelling-house and all my interest, term and title of the same lease yet to come, and the yearly rent and profits of all that my tenement called Perivyncles [=Periwinkles?] with a garden-plot thereto adjoining, and of all the lands thereto belonging, lying and being in the parishes of Middleton and Sittingbourne, until such time [f. 71r] as John Borlase, my eldest son, shall come to his lawful age, and then the same tenement, garden-plot and lands to remain wholly unto the said John, mine eldest son, and to his heirs forever;

The residue of all my goods, after my debts paid and my funeral expenses done, I give and bequeath them in manner and form following, that is to say:

The one half unto the foresaid Joan, my wife, and thother half to my four children, John, Edward, William and William Borlase, and in case that the said Joan, my wife, be conceived with child at this present, then I will that he or she that God shall send into this world born of the said Joan, my wife, shall have a just part and child's portion as the other four shall have;

And if it shall please God that any of my said children do decease within their lawful age, that then the survivors of my said children shall participate equally amongst them the parts and portions of him and them so deceased;

And in case that all my said children fortune to decease within age then I will that the foresaid Joan, my wife, if she be then alive, shall have the one half of my said children's bequests and child's portions of my said goods, and the other half of my child's portions so deceased to be divided amongst these persons following or amongst so many of them as shall then be alive, that is to say, to Elizabeth Ramsey, that was daughter of Parnell, my first wife; to Alice Baldwin, my Lord Baldwin's daughter; to William, James and Philip Marston, children to my second wife, Margaret; and to Joan, Anne and Winifred Bolney, children of the said Joan, now my wife; and to two of my brethren [=brother?], Walter Borlase his youngest daughters, to every of them a just part and portion;

Also I will and ordain that the foresaid Joan, my wife, shall have the occupying of William Marston's stock of his orphanage until the same William shall come to his lawful age, and likewise the orphanage of James Bolney's children, so that my said wife do put sufficient sureties to be bound unto the Chamberlain of London for the payment of the same when time shall require;

And of this my present testament and last will I make and ordain the foresaid Joan, my wife, my sole executrice;

And overseers of the same I make and ordain Sir John Baldwin, knight and Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and Sir Michael Dormer, knight and alderman of London, beseeching them in the name of God to help and strength the foresaid Joan, my wife, with their prudent and godly wisdoms in everything concerning this my present testament and last will, and for their pains in that behalf I give to either of the same overseers 20s;

And I, the said Edward Borlas, do utterly revoke and annihilate all other testaments and wills, executors and overseers, and all manner legacies and bequests by me made, ordained or bequeathed before the day of making of this my present testament and last will, and I will that this my present testament, legacies, bequest[s], executrices and overseers shall stand in full strength forever more;

I, the said Edward Borlase, have set my seal and subscribed my name with my own hand the day and year abovesaid, these persons under-named being witness. By me, Edward Borlase. Per me, William Maynarde. Per me, Edmond Alexandre. Per me, William Bolande, scriptorem L^{ic} Curial^{is} Ciuitatis London.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum coram Domino apud London Decimo sexto Die mensis Iunij Anno Domini mill^{es}imo quingentesimo quadragésimo quarto ac approbatum et insinuatum Commissarij fuit administrac^{io} omniu^m et sing^ulor^um bonor^um iurium et creditor^um antedⁱc^{tu}m defunctum et eius Testamentum qual^{ite}rcunq^{ue} concernen^{tium} Iohanne Relⁱc^te et Executrici in h^{uius}mo^di test^{ament}o nominate de b^en^e et fidel^{ite}r administrand^o eadem ac de pleno et fideli inuentario omniu^m et sing^ulor^um bonor^um iuriu^m et creditor^um dⁱc^ti Defuncti conficiend^o &c Necnon de plano et vero comp^{ot}o inde reddend^o ad sancta Dei Eu^angelia Iurat^e

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord at London on the sixteenth day of the month of June in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred forty-fourth, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits whatsoever concerning the aforesaid deceased and his testament to Joan, relict and executrix named in the same testament, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to prepare a full and faithful inventory of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased etc., and also to render a plain and true account thereof.]