

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 16 November 1540 and proved 7 September 1546, of William Thynne (d. 10 August 1546), Master of the Household to Henry VIII and editor of the first published collection of the works of Geoffrey Chaucer, whose son, Francis Thynne (c1545-1608), was under the patronage of Lord Burghley, and after the death of Raphael Holinshed in 1580, worked with Abraham Fleming and John Stow on the continuation of Holinshed's *Chronicles*.

The testator was the second son of Ralph Boteville alias Thynne.

The testator's elder brother, Thomas Thynne, married Margaret Heynes or Eynns, the daughter and eventual heir of Thomas Heynes, esquire, of Church Stretton, Shropshire, by Joyce Gatacre, sole daughter and heir of Humphrey Gatacre, esquire of the body to Henry VI. See the pedigree of Gatacre in Grazebrook, George and John Paul Rylands, eds., *The Visitation of Shropshire Taken in the Year 1623*, Part I, (London: Harleian Society, 1889), Vol. XXVIII, pp. 197-8 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationshrop00britgoog#page/n250/mode/2up>.

See also the pedigree of Heynes of Stretton in Grazebrook, *supra*, p. 235 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationshrop00britgoog#page/n288/mode/2up>.

By Margaret Heynes, the testator's elder brother, Thomas Thynne, was the father of Sir John Thynne (c.1512 – 21 May 1580), builder of Longleat. The testator's son, Francis Thynne (c.1545 – November 1608), was thus a first cousin of Sir John Thynne, builder of Longleat.

The testator married Anne Bond, the daughter of William Bond, Clerk of the Green Cloth. After the testator's death Anne (nee Bond) married secondly Sir Edward Boughton (d.1550), and thirdly, Hugh Cartwright (c.1526-1572), esquire, of London and West Malling, Kent, a nephew of Archbishop Thomas Cranmer. See the will of Sir Edward Boughton (d.1550), TNA PROB 11/33/280, and the will of Nicholas Boughton (died c.1559), TNA PROB 11/43/127.

By Anne Bond the testator had a son and three daughters:

* Francis Thynne (c.1545 – November 1608), herald, antiquary, and continuator of Holinshed's *Chronicles*, who in 1564 married Elizabeth de la River (d.1596), daughter and coheir of Thomas de la River of Brandsby, Yorkshire, but had no issue. As noted above, he was a first cousin of Lord Burghley's friend, John Thynne (c.1512 – 21 May 1580), and was himself under Lord Burghley's patronage. See the *ODNB* entry. He was identified by Collier as the author of a privately printed poem, *The Debate Between Pride and Lowliness*, which served as the basis for Robert Greene's *A Quip for an Upstart Courtier* (1592); however the Freemans suggest that the attribution is a Collier forgery.

See Freeman, Arthur and Janet Ing Freeman, *John Payne Collier: Scholarship and Forgery in the Nineteenth Century*, (New Haven, Yale University Press, 2004), Vol. I, pp. 287-8 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=G8bAgAAQBAJ&pg=PA287&lpg=PA287&dq=%22Debate+Between+Pride%22+%22Greene%22+-question+-remarkable&source=bl&ots=j1wvGYXUsK&sig=Tj_4nJxTr9MVi4vMusvXLWmUPbs&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj9qrPlgPPLAhXDs4MKHS-2AGwQ6AEIHjAB#v=onepage&q&f=false.Freeman.

For the poem, see Collier, John Payne, *The Debate Between Pride and Lowliness by Francis Thynn*, (London: The Shakespeare Society, 1841), at:

<https://archive.org/stream/debatebetweenpr00collgoog#page/n10/mode/2up>.

See also Wald, Christina, *The Reformation of Romance*, (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter GmbH, 2014), p. 202 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=rn7nBQAAQBAJ&pg=PA202&lpg=PA202&dq=%22Debate+Between+Pride%22+%22Greene%22+-question&source=bl&ots=m9jBURqGwv&sig=VqtxdPiq4RIBuGL9GS5EqLdWmF0&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiuiMjg_LLAhWGtIMKHQd9AOkQ6AEIIDAB#v=onepage&q=%22Debate%20Between%20Pride%22%20%22Greene%22%20-question&f=false.

* Elizabeth Thynne, who married, as his second wife, Thomas Pigott (c.1526-1579), esquire, of Stratton and Edworth, Bedfordshire, eldest son of Francis Pigott and Elinor Enderby, who had earlier been married to Anne Rich, the daughter of the Lord Chancellor, Sir Richard Rich (1496/7 – 12 June 1567), 1st Baron Rich, by whom he is said to have had three sons and five daughters. By Elizabeth Thynne, Thomas Pigott is said to have had two sons and three daughters, although only one son and two daughters are mentioned in his will: Oliver Pigott, Anne Pigott, and Frances Pigott. See the will of Thomas Pigott (d.1579), TNA PROB 11/61/177, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/pigott-thomas-i-1526-79>.

See also the pedigree of Pygott of Stratton and Holme in Blaydes, Frederic Augustus, ed., *The Visitations of Bedfordshire*, (London: Harleian Society, 1884), Vol. XIX, pp. 46-7 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsofbed19blay#page/46/mode/2up>.

See also: 'Parishes: Biggleswade with Stratton and Holme', *A History of the County of Bedford: Volume 2* (1908), pp. 209-215. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=62632>

Elizabeth Latimer brought Stratton as dower to her husband Robert de Willoughby. Before his death in 1397 the manor had been leased for a rent of £10 per annum to Richard Enderby and Alice his wife, and they appear subsequently to have acquired the full possession of the manor, for John Enderby their son held the manor at his death in 1457. Maude, his widow, subsequently married Robert Bothe, and at her death in 1474 the manor passed to Richard Enderby, her son by her first marriage, who died in 1487, when his son John acquired the manor, and died in 1509 leaving an only daughter, Eleanor, as heiress. She married Francis Pygott, and an inquisition taken at the death of their son Thomas Pygott in 1581 states that he, 'having cause to dislike the marriage of their eldest son Michael with Margaret, daughter of one Gill,' settled the manor of Stratton on his son Lewis and heirs male, with remainder settlement to a younger son John. Seven years later Lewis and John alienated the manor to Sir Edmund Anderson, chief justice of the Queen's Bench.

See also the History of Parliament entry for Richard Rich, 1st Baron Rich at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/rich-richard-149697-1567>.

* Anne Thynne, who married Richard Maudley, esquire, of Nunney, Somersetshire. See the pedigree of Maudley of Nunney in Weaver, Frederic William and Charles Herbert Mayo, eds., *Notes & Queries for Somerset and Dorset*, (Sherborne: J.C. and A.T. Sawtell, 1893), Vol. III, p. 229 at:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=5OvgAAAAMAAJ&pg=RA1-PA229&lpg=RA1-PA229&dq=%22Maudley%22+%22Nunney%22&source=bl&ots=KgLTtq9rI7&sig=bzZ7bKb1kSsM1BHBfy4xrFAcqTM&hl=en&sa=X&ei=9_HkU4LiJL_oQSHs4LQDQ&ved=0CCcQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=%22Maudley%22%20%22Nunney%22&f=false.

* Isabel Thynne, who married George Paget, esquire, of Kent.

See the *ODNB* entries for the testator, his son, Francis Thynne (c.1545 – November 1608), and his nephew, Sir John Thynne (c.1512 – 21 May 1580), builder of Longleat, appointed overseer in the will below; and Botfield, Beriah (1858), *Stemmata Botevilliana; Memorials of the Families of De Boteville, Thynne, and Botfield*, (Westminster: J.B. Nichols and Sons, 1858), p. clxxvi at:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=mBZYAAAcAAJ&pg=PR176&lpg=PR176&dq=%22William+Thynne,+alias+Boteville,+second+son+of+Ralph%22&source=bl&ots=P6TbZr3L_8&sig=ndh3i37SrHcR_7dp6G1xRBoLYI4&hl=en&sa=X&ei=ViXkU9rcOM_qoAS6rIKgBw&ved=0CCEQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=%22William%20Thynne%2C%20alias%20Boteville%2C%20second%20son%20of%20Ralph%22&f=false.

See also the pedigree of Thynne in Botfield, *supra*, p. 59 at:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=mBZYAAAcAAJ&pg=PA59&lpg=PA59&dq=%22George+Paget%22+%22Thynne%22&source=bl&ots=P6Tb_m7JX6&sig=1uGdgapIjThcqoB-PDwq9-8hP0o&hl=en&sa=X&ei=X_fkU93kKMmFogTUpIBQ&ved=0CCcQ6AEwAg#v=onepage&q=%22George%20Paget%22%20%22Thynne%22&f=false.

See also Collins, Arthur, *The Peerage of England*, (London: W. Strahan, 1779), Vol. VI, pp. 52-56 at:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=zfk-AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA53&lpg=PA53&dq=%22Richard+Maudley%22&source=bl&ots=PQOVvO6rrR&sig=SfVYBE25fi1XER94_idtAQj7wYM&hl=en&sa=X&ei=XfTkU5vEIpLgoASw7oKwCw&ved=0CEUQ6AEwCQ#v=onepage&q=%22Richard%20Maudley%22&f=false.

For the testator's overseer, Edmund Peckham (d. 29 March 1564), see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/peckham-sir-edmund-1495-1564>.

LM: T{estamentum} Will{el}mi Thynne

[f. 130v] In the name of God, Amen. I, William Thynne, being of good memory, in manner and form following do make this my last will and testament:

First I bequeath my soul to my sweet Saviour, Jesus Christ, my only Redeemer and Saviour, and to the whole holy company of heaven of the which in faith I believe to be one of them through the merits of Christ's passion and no otherwise, my body to be buried where it shall please my wife;

All my goods movable and unmovable, leases of farms, debts and all other things which I now have interest in or hereafter may have any interest in I give to my wife, Anne Thynne, and she to depart with her children at her own will and pleasure and no otherwise;

And I do make my said wife, Anne Thynne, my only executrix, and praying her to be good mother to my children and hers;

And I make Mr Edmund Peckham, Cofferer of the King's Household, and John Thynne, my nephew, my overseers, heartily praying them to be my poor wife's comfort and help in her need and necessity in defending her in her need, and in this doing I bequeath either of them one standing cup of silver and gilt with a cover;

And I give to Thomas Fisher, my servant, a doublet of crimson satin;

In witness that this is my last will I have to this presents put to my seal and also subscribed my name the 16 day of November in the 32nd year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Henry th' Eight. by me, William Thynne.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentu{m} coram D{omi}no Cant{uariensis} Archiep{iscop}o apud London septimo Die mensis Septembris Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingen{tesim}o xlvjto Iuramento Will{el}mi Walker procuratoris Anne Relicte et executricis in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento nominate Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et comissa fuit Administrac{i}o o{mn}i{u}m et sing{u}lor{um} bonorum iurium et creditorum d{i}c{tu}m defunctum et eius testamentum quali{ter}cu{n}q{ue} concernen{tium} d{i}c{t}e executrici De bene et fideliter administrand{o} eadem Ac de pleno et fideli Inventario etc exhibend{o} necnon de plano et vero comp{ot}o reddend{o} Ad sancta dei Eu{a}n gelia Iurat{i}

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the seventh day of the month of September in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 46th by the oath of William Walker, proctor of Anne, relict and executrix named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits whatsoever concerning the said deceased and his testament to the said executrix, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same and to exhibit a full and faithful inventory etc., and also to render a plain and true account.]