

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 7 August 1546 and proved 30 March 1547, of Sir Henry Knyvet, soldier and Gentleman of the Privy Chamber, grandfather of Oxford's mistress, Anne Vavasour, and father of Sir Thomas Knyvet (1546 – 27 July 1622), who fought with Oxford over the 'quarrel of Anne Vavasour', an altercation in which Oxford was hurt and his man 'Gerret' slain, according to an entry in the diary of Richard Madox for 1-3 March 1582 (see BL MS Cotton, Appendix 47, f. 7v).

The testator was the son of Sir Thomas Knyvet (c.1485–1512), eldest son of Sir Edmund Knyvet (drowned at sea in 1503/4), himself the eldest son of Sir William Knyvet (c.1448-1515) of Buckenham, Norfolk by his first wife, Alice Grey. For the will of the testator's great-grandfather, Sir William Knyvet (c.1448-1515), see TNA PROB 11/18/352.

The testator's father, Sir Thomas Knyvet (c.1485-1512), was a favourite of Henry VIII. When war broke out with France in 1512 he was given command of the *Regent*, and was killed on 10 August 1512 when the *Regent* engaged the largest ship in the French fleet, the *Cordelière*. The testator's mother, Muriel Howard, daughter of Thomas Howard (1443-1524), 2nd Duke of Norfolk, by his first wife, Elizabeth Tilney (d.1497), died in childbirth a few months later, between 13 and 21 December 1512. The testator and his two brothers and sisters were brought up by their grandmother, Eleanor (nee Tyrrell) Knyvet, the wife of William Tyrrell of Gipping.

See the *ODNB* article for the testator's father, Sir Thomas Knyvet; the *ODNB* article for the testator's elder brother, Sir Edmund Knyvet (c.1508-1551); and the will of Sir Edmund Knyvet, TNA PROB 11/34/421.

The testator was a cousin of the half blood of Richard Knyvet (d. 1 November 1559), first husband of Helen Harding Knyvet Bowne, whose second husband, Sir Thomas Bowne (d. 9 February 1597), signed Lady Russell's petition against James Burbage's Blackfriars theatre. As noted above, the testator was the great-grandson of Sir William Knyvet (c.1448-1515) by his first wife, Alice Grey, while Richard Knyvet (d. 1 November 1559) was the great-grandson of Sir William Knyvet (c.1448-1515) by his second wife, Joan Stafford. See the will of Helen Harding Knyvet Browne, TNA PROB 11/98/226; and Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 186-8 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=kjme027UeagC&pg=RA1-PA188&lpg=RA1-PA188&dq=%22Plantagenet+Ancestry%22+%22Charles+Knyvet%22&source=bl&ots=qvFiKE-fml&sig=E4CJvl_7iIKhm8c-s7JFmU0klD8&hl=en&sa=X&ei=-iIVavJBsPUoATcy4GwCQ&ved=0CB0Q6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22Plantagenet%20Ancestry%22%20%22Charles%20Knyvet%22&f=false

The testator married Anne Pickering (1514 – 25 April 1582), the widow of Sir Francis Weston (1511 – 17 May 1536), executed for alleged adultery with Anne Boleyn, and the daughter and heir of Sir Christopher Pickering (d. 7 September 1516) of Killington, Westmorland.

After the testator's death, Anne Pickering married thirdly John Vaughan (d. 25 June 1577) of Sutton-on-Derwent, Yorkshire, a nephew of Queen Elizabeth I's gentlewoman, Blanche Parry (1507/8–1590). For the will of Blanche Parry in which she requests burial at Westminster near 'my nephew, John Vaughan', see TNA PROB 11/75/180. For John Vaughan see also the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/vaughan-john-i-1577>.

By Anne Pickering the testator had two sons and two daughters, Sir Henry Knyvet (1537? – 14 June 1598), Sir Thomas Knyvet (1546 – 27 July 1622), Katherine Knyvet (1543 – 20 December 20, 1622), and Margaret Knyvet. For the testator's children see the will of Anne (nee Pickering) Weston Knyvet Vaughan (1514 – 25 April 1582), TNA PROB 11/64/217.

The testator was on an embassy to France when he fell sick at Melun as indicated in this footnote in Lefevre-Pontalis, Germain, *Correspondance politique de Odet de Selve, Ambassadeur de France en Angleterre, 1546-1549* (Paris: Ancienne Librairie Germer Bailliere, 1888) at p. 5:

Sir Henry Knyvet, ambassadeur extraordinaire d'Angleterre en France et charge de representer Henry VIII au combat singulier dont il est parle ci-dessous. (Sa letter de creance, en date du 11 juillet, State Papers, t. XI, p. 239, n. 2). It parait estre tombe malade a Melun pendant sa mission . (Id., pp. 253, 263).

It seems likely that the testator died at Melun.

RM: T{estamentum} Henrici Knyvet mi{li}t{is}

In the name of God, Amen. I, Henry Knyvet, knight, one of the Gentlemen of the King's Privy Chamber, being whole of mind, thanks be to God, and sick in body, do ordain and make my testament and last will in manner and form following:

First, I commit my soul unto the everliving God, my body to be buried at such place as shall be thought most expedient by mine executors;

First, concerning my lands, what estate, title or interest I, the foresaid Sir Henry, have in possession, remainder or reversion I give unto my loving wife, Dame Anne Knyvet, for term of her life, and immediately after her decease to remain to my son and heir, Henry Knyvet;

As concerning my goods, I commit th' order and disposition of them unto the said Lady Anne, my wife, whom I desire, for the tender love that hath been between her and me, to see my debts contented and paid to the uttermost that my goods will extend;

And the residue of my goods I bequeath unto the said Lady Anne, whom I constitute and ordain my sole executrix;

Thus making an end of my testament and last will, I give my hearty commendations unto my good Lord Admiral and my most loving friend, Master Denny, whom I most heartily desire to be good unto to my said Lady, my wife, and my children, with all my servants and household, desiring them for the special love, trust and confidence that I ever have had in them to be their aiders in all their business and affairs, and of this my last will and testament to be overseers;

In witness that this is my very true and last will I have subscribed this with mine own hand and set to my seal in the presence of these men whose names be underwritten at Melun in France the seventh day of August in the 38th year of our most dread Sovereign Lord, Henry the Eight, by the grace of God King of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, and in earth of the Church of England and also of Ireland the Supreme Head.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum Coram d{omi}no Cantuarien{sis} Archiep{iscop}o apud London xxxo die mensis marcij Anno d{omi}ni Mill{esi}mo quingentesimo xlvijo Iuramento d{omi}ne Anne Relic{te} et executric{is} In h{uius}mo{d}i testamento nominate Ac approbatum et insinuatam Commissa{ue} fuit administrac{i}o o{mn}i{um} et sing{u}lorum b{on}orum iurium et creditorum d{i}c{tu}m defunctum et eius testamentum qualitercunq{ue} concernen{tium} prefator{um} de bene et fideliter administrand{o} eadem Ac de pleno Inventario exhibend{o} Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ng{e}lia Iurat{e}

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the 30th day of the month of March in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 46th by the oath of Lady 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 aforementioned(?), sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to exhibit a full inventory.]