

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 23 March 1670 and proved 15 February 1672, of Mary (nee Tracy) Hoby Vere (18 May 1581 - 25 December 1671), wife of Oxford's first cousin, Horatio Vere (1565-1635), Baron Vere of Tilbury, who owned portraits of Oxford's illegitimate son, Sir Edward Vere, and legitimate son, Henry de Vere, 18<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford.

### ***FAMILY BACKGROUND***

For the testatrix' family background see the Tracy pedigree in Maclean, John and W.C. Heane, eds., *The Visitation of the County of Gloucester, Taken in the Year 1623*, (London: Harleian Society, 1885), Vol. XXI, pp. 164-7 at:

<https://archive.org/details/visitationofcoun00inchit/page/164>

See also the Tracy pedigree in Burke, John and John Bernard Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies of England, Ireland and Scotland*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., (London: Scott, Webster, and Geary, 1841), p. 530 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=DqkTAAAYAAJ&pg=PA530>

See also the Tracy pedigree in Britton, John, *Graphic Illustrations, with Historical and Descriptive Accounts, of Toddington, Gloucestershire*, (London, 1840), p. ii at:

<https://archive.org/details/graphicillustrat00brit/page/n73>

### ***Testatrix' great-great-great-grandparents***

The testatrix' great-great-great-grandparents were Henry Tracy (d. 30 June 1501) and Alice Baldington (b.1434?), daughter and coheir of Thomas Baldington (d. 22 August 1435) of Adderbury, Oxfordshire. For Henry Tracy, see the will, TNA PROB 11/50/107, of his grandson, Richard Tracy (d. 8 March 1568). See also the inquisition post mortem taken after the death of Henry Tracy, TNA C 142/15/106, and the summary in *Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem*, Vol. II, (London: His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1915), p. 305 at:

<https://archive.org/details/calendarofinquis02great/page/304>

See the Tracy pedigree in Maclean, *supra*, p. 164, and the will, dated 14 November 1527 and proved 21 January 1528, of Henry Tracy's daughter, Elizabeth (nee Tracy) Langley Baynham (d. 19 October 1526), TNA PROB 11/22/255.

### ***Testatrix' great-great-grandparents***

The testatrix' great-great-grandparents were William Tracy (1461? - 10 October 1530), whose body was burned for heresy after his death, and Margaret Throckmorton, the daughter of Sir Thomas Throckmorton (c.1412-1472) of Coughton, Warwickshire. See Erler, Mary C., *Women, Reading, and Piety in Late Medieval England*, (Cambridge University Press, 2002), pp. 108-9, 113, and the *ODNB* entry for William Tracy:

*Tracy, William (d. 1530), landowner and religious radical, was the son of Sir Henry Tracy (d. c.1506) of Toddington, Gloucestershire, and Alice Baldington, daughter and coheir of Thomas Baldington of Oxfordshire. He was married to Margaret or Margery Throckmorton, daughter of Thomas Throckmorton (1462–1530/31) of Coughton, Warwickshire, and Margaret née Olney; his sister-in-law, Elizabeth (d. 1547), was the last abbess of Denny, near Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire. William Tracy's sister, also Elizabeth, was married to Sir Alexander Bainham of Westbury-on-Severn in Gloucestershire, a very prominent member of the county's gentry; their youngest son, James, would be burnt at Smithfield for his evangelical beliefs in 1532.*

It should be noted that Erler correctly identifies Margery Throckmorton's father as Sir Thomas Throckmorton (c.1412-1472), while the *ODNB* entry misidentifies him as Thomas Throckmorton (1462–1530/31).

William Tracy and Margery Throckmorton had, among other issue, two sons:

**-William Tracy**, the testatrix' great-grandfather (see below).

**-Richard Tracy** (d. 8 March 1568), esquire, of Stanway, Gloucestershire, second son, for whose will, dated 6 March 1568 and proved 21 April 1568, see TNA PROB 11/50/107. Richard Tracy married Barbara Lucy, the daughter of Thomas Lucy (d.1525) of Charlecote, Warwickshire, by Elizabeth Empson, the daughter of Sir Richard Empson (d.1510). See the will of Sir Thomas Lucy, TNA PROB 11/23/4; the will of Richard Tracy, TNA PROB 11/50/107; and the History of Parliament entry for Richard Tracy at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/tracy-richard-1501-69>

By Barbara Lucy, Richard Tracy had three sons and three daughters, including his eldest son:

**(1) Sir Paul Tracy** (d.1626) of Stanway, who married firstly Anne Shakerley (d.1615), the daughter and heir of Ralph Shakerley (d. before 1565) by Alice Radcliffe, the daughter of Hugh Radcliffe. After the death of Ralph Shakerley, Alice Radcliffe married George Stratford. Sir Paul Tracy married secondly, on 19 August 1619 at St James Clerkenwell, Anne Nicholas, the daughter and heir of Sir Ambrose Nicholas (d.1578), Lord Mayor of London, who purchased Oxford's manor of London Stone. For the will of Sir Ambrose Nicholas, see TNA PROB 11/60/296.

*Testatrix' paternal great-grandparents*

The Tracy pedigrees in Maclean and Britton, *supra*, state that the testatrix' great-grandparents were William Tracy and the daughter of Sir Simon Digby (d.1519) of Coleshill, Warwickshire. The Digby pedigree identifies the testatrix' great-grandmother as Agnes Digby, the daughter of Sir Simon Digby (d.1519). The Digby pedigree states further that Sir Simon Digby's eldest son, Reginald Digby, married Anne Danvers, the daughter and coheir of Sir John Danvers of Calthorpe, Oxfordshire, by whom he had a son, John Digby, esquire, of Coleshill, who married Anne Throckmorton, eldest daughter of Sir George Throckmorton of Coughton, Warwickshire, by Katherine Vaux, the daughter of Sir Nicholas Vaux of Harrowden. See the will of Sir George Throckmorton, TNA PROB 11/36/298, and the Digby pedigree in Burke, John, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland*, Vol. IV, (London: Henry Colburn, 1838), pp. 461-2 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=KikAAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA461>

The testatrix' great-grandfather may have been the William Tracy whose inquisition post mortem, TNA C 142/48/109, was taken between 22 April 1528 and 21 April 1529.

*Testatrix' paternal grandparents*

The testatrix' paternal grandparents were Henry Tracy (d.1557), esquire, of Toddington, and Elizabeth Brydges, the daughter of John Brydges (1492 – 12 April 1557), 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Chandos of Sudeley. In his will, Henry Tracy mentions his grandfather, William Tracy, and his brother, also named William Tracy. See TNA PROB 11/39/380.

For John Brydges, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Chandos of Sudeley, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/brydges-sir-john-1492-1557>

Henry Tracy and Elizabeth Brydges had, among other issue, a son:

-**Sir John Tracy** (d.1591) of Toddington, the testatrix' father (see below).

*Testatrix maternal grandparents*

The testatrix' maternal grandparents were Sir Thomas Throckmorton (d.1568) of Corse Court, Gloucestershire, and Margaret Whittington (d.1578), one of the six daughters and coheirs of Thomas Whittington of Pauntley, Gloucestershire. See the *ODNB* entry for the Throckmorton family, the will of Sir Thomas Throckmorton, TNA PROB 11/50/110, and the will of Margaret Whittington Throckmorton, TNA PROB 11/60/596.

The testatrix was the niece of Sir Thomas Throckmorton (1539-1607), and a first cousin of his son, Sir William Throckmorton (1579-1628), who married Cecily Baynham, the daughter of Thomas Baynham (d.1611) and Mary Winter, the daughter of Sir William Winter (c.1525-1589). See the *ODNB* entries for Sir William Winter, and for the Throckmorton family, *supra*.

### *Testatrix' parents*

The testatrix was the youngest daughter of Sir John Tracy (d.1591) of Toddington, Gloucestershire, and Anne Throckmorton (d. 21 May 1581).

### *Testatrix' siblings*

According to the Tracy pedigree, *supra*, the testatrix had five brothers and one sister:

**-Sir John Tracy** (c.1561-c.1648), 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Tracy, who married, about 1590, Anne Shirley, the fifth daughter of Sir Thomas Shirley (c.1542-1612) of Wiston, Sussex, . For John Tracy, 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Tracy, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-/member/tracy-sir-john-ii-1561-1648>

For Sir Thomas Shirley (c.1542-1612), see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/shirley-thomas-i-1542-1612>

See also the will, dated 19 February 1623 and proved 1 April 1623, of Sir Thomas Shirley's wife, Anne (nee Kempe) Shirley (c.1542-1623), sister of Alice (nee Kempe) Hales Lee (d.1592), the dedicatee of Greene's *Menaphon* (1589), and mother-in-law of Frances Vavasour, sister of Oxford's mistress, Anne Vavasour.

In 1591 Anne Shirley's brother, Sir Thomas Shirley the younger (1564–1633/4), secretly married Frances Vavasour, the sister of Oxford's mistress, Anne Vavasour, by whom he was the father of the playwright, Henry Shirley (d.1637). See the *ODNB* entry for Sir Thomas Shirley the younger, the Wikipedia entry for Sir Thomas Shirley (c.1542-1612) edited by the author of this website, and the History of Parliament entry for Sir Thomas Shirley the younger at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/shirley-thomas-ii-1564-1630>

For Oxford's involvement with Sir Thomas Shirley, see CP 37/66 and CP 37/67.

-**Sir Thomas Tracy**, who died in London without issue.

-**William Tracy**, who married Mary Conway, the daughter of Sir John Conway (d.1603) of Arrow, Warwickshire, sister of Sir Edward Conway (see below), who died without issue.

-**Anthony Tracy**, who died without issue.

-**Henry Tracy**, who died without issue.

-**Dorothy Tracy** (d. 5 March 1614), who married firstly, about 1581, Edmund Bray (d. 15 October 1584), eldest son of Sir Edmund Bray (d. 29 November 1620) of Barrington, by whom she was the mother of Sir Giles Bray (born c.1594). See Phillimore, W.P.W. and George S. Fry, eds., *Abstracts of Gloucestershire Inquisitiones Post Mortem*, (London: British Record Society Limited, 1893), pp. 23-5 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=a51UAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA23>

See also the Bray pedigree in Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, Vol. I, New Series, (London: Hamilton, Adams, and Co., 1874), p. 62 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=Ztjtx2j68AsC&pg=PA62>

Dorothy Tracy married secondly Edward Conway (c.1563-1631), 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Conway, by whom she was the mother of Brilliana Conway (bap. 1598, d.1643), who married, in July 1623, as his third wife, Sir Robert Harley (1579-1656) of Brampton Bryan, Herefordshire. Sir Robert Harley's first wife, Anne Barret, was the step-daughter of Sir John Leveson (d. 7 November 1615), brother of Shakespeare's trustee, William Leveson (d.1621). For the will of Sir John Leveson, see TNA PROB 11/126/409.

Sir Robert Harley's second wife was Mary Newport (buried 5 August 1622), the granddaughter of Sir Richard Newport, owner of a copy of Hall's *Chronicle* containing annotations thought to have been made by Shakespeare. The volume was Loan 61 in the British Library until 2007, was subsequently on loan to Lancaster University Library until 2010, and is now in the hands of a trustee, Lady Hesketh. According to the Wikipedia entry for Sir Richard Newport, the annotated Hall's *Chronicle* is now at Eton College, Windsor. See:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard\\_Newport\\_\(died\\_1570\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Newport_(died_1570))

*Newport's copy of his chronicle, containing annotations sometimes attributed to William Shakespeare, is now in the Library at Eton College, Windsor.*

For the annotated Hall's *Chronicle*, see also the will of Sir Richard Newport, TNA PROB 11/53/456; Keen, Alan and Roger Lubbock, *The Annotator*, (London: Putnam, 1954); and the Annotator page on this website:

<http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/annotator.html>

Mary Newport's brother, Sir Richard Newport (7 May 1587 – 8 February 1651), 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Newport, married Sir John Leveson's daughter, Rachel Leveson (see above).

By Sir Robert Harley (1579-1656), Dorothy Tracy was the grandmother of Robert Harley (1661-1724), 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Oxford and Mortimer (1661–1724). The testatrix is said to have brokered the marriage. See the *ODNB* entry for Brilliana Conway Harley. The Harley family connection to the Earls of Oxford through Brilliana Conway may explain the choice of the earldom of Oxford when Sir Robert Harley was raised to the peerage.

For the 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Conway, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/conway-sir-edward-i-1563-1631>

## ***MARRIAGES AND ISSUE***

### ***Testatrix' first marriage***

About 1600, at nineteen years of age, the testatrix married firstly, as his second wife, William Hoby the younger (d. 19 March 1603), the second son of William Hoby the elder (1500-1603), esquire, by his second wife, Alice Hodgkins (d.1607).

The testatrix' father-in-law, William Hoby the elder (1500-1603), is said to have been 103 years of age at his death. It appears he died on or about the same date, 19 March 1603, as his son, William Hoby the younger, since in her will, TNA PROB 11/110/418, his widow, Alice (nee Hodgkins) Hoby, refers to 'William Hoby the younger, my son, deceased, who died together with my said husband, his father'.

William Hoby the elder (1550-1603) was of Welsh descent and the son of William Hoby of Leominster, Herefordshire, who had two wives by whom he had four sons and three daughters:

**-William Hoby the elder** (1500-1603), who married firstly Anne Horswell (d.1559), widow of the versifier of the psalms, Thomas Sternhold (d.1549), by whom he appears to have had no issue. For Anne Horswell's epitaph, see Yonge, Charlotte M., *John Keble's Parishes: A History of Hursley and Otterbourne*, (London: Macmillan and Co., Limited, 1898), pp. 32-3 at:

<https://archive.org/details/a615816700yonguoft/page/32>

William Hoby the elder (1500-1603) married secondly Alice Hodgkins (d.1607?), the daughter of Henry Hodgkins (by 1522-1570?), esquire, and his wife, Anne. For her will, see TNA PROB 11/110/418. For Henry Hodgkins, see his will, proved 4 February 1570, TNA PROB 11/52/53, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/hodgkins-%28hodgskyns%29-henry-1522-6970>

For the will of William Hoby the elder, dated 13 March 1601 and proved 27 April 1605, see TNA PROB 11/105/300. For the inquisition post mortem taken after his death, see TNA C 142/684/21.

**-Sir Philip Hoby** (1505-1558), for whom see the *ODNB* entry:

*Hoby, Sir Philip (1504/5–1558), diplomat and administrator, was the first son of William Hoby (d. after 1532), landowner, of Leominster, Herefordshire, and his first wife, Katherine Foster. Sir Thomas Hoby (1530–1566), the courtier and translator, was his half-brother. He came from a Welsh family that settled in Leominster during his father's time. Nothing is known of his education but he was proficient in several foreign languages and was clearly well educated, having probably travelled through Europe as a young man. . . .*

Sir Philip Hoby married, by 1540, Elizabeth Stonor (d. 25 August 1560), the daughter of Sir Walter Stonor (1477 – 8 October 1550), Lieutenant of the Tower, widow successively of Sir William Compton (d. 31 May 1528) of Compton Wynyates, and Walter Walshe, esquire (d.1538?), of Elmley Castle, Worcestershire (d.1538), a groom of the privy chamber to Henry VIII. For the will of Sir William Compton, proved 13 August 1528, see TNA PROB 11/23/8. See also TNA C 1/1005/45:

*Plaintiffs: Philip HOBBY, esquire, gentleman usher of [the King's chamber], and Dame Elizabeth COMPTON his wife, executrix and late the wife of Walter Welshe, esquire and also late the wife of William Compton, knight.*

The History of Parliament entry for Sir Philip Hoby confusingly states that Elizabeth Stonor's first husband was Sir William Compton of Hawton, Nottinghamshire, and Fenny Compton, Warwickshire. See:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/hoby-sir-philip-15045-58>

*b. 1504/5, 1st s. of William Hoby of Leominster by 1st w. Catherine Foster. m. by 1540, Elizabeth, da. of Sir Walter Stonor of Stonor, Oxon., wid. of Sir William Compton of Hawton, Notts. and Fenny Compton, Warws. and of Walter Welshe of Abberley and Elmley Castle, Worcs., s.p. suc. fa. aft. 1532. Kntd. 30 Sept. 1544.2*

The last member of the Compton family to hold the manors of Hawton and Fenny Compton was John Compton, who sold them in 1445, and it is clear from primary sources that Elizabeth Compton's first husband was not Sir William Compton of Hawton and Fenny Compton, but rather Sir William Compton (d. 31 May 1528) of Compton Wynyates. See Throsby, John, *Thoroton's History of Nottinghamshire*, Vol. I, (London: B. and I. White, 1797), pp. 355 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=fEYUAVhnJNgC&pg=PA355>

See also:

'Parishes: Fenny Compton', in *A History of the County of Warwick: Volume 5, Kington Hundred*, ed. L F Salzman (London, 1949), pp. 47-50. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/warks/vol5/pp47-50> [accessed 27 August 2019].

Elizabeth Stonor's second husband, Walter Walshe (d.1538?), was the son of John Walshe of Shelsley Walsh, Worcestershire, and Margaret Blount, the daughter of John Blount of Sodington. See Amphlett, John, ed., *A Survey of Worcestershire by Thomas Habington*, Vol. I, (Oxford: James Parker & Co., 1895), p. 360 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=zGg-AQAAIAAJ&pg=PA360&lpg=PA360>

By Walter Walshe, Elizabeth Stonor had a son and two daughters:

**-Walter Walshe** (d. 25 February 1561), esquire, of Place Farm, Wyrardisbury [=Wraysbury], who married Dorothy Hill, daughter of Richard Hill (d.1539), serjeant of the cellar to Henry VIII, by Elizabeth Isley, and sister of Mary Hill, wife of Sir John Cheke (1514-1557). See the *ODNB* entry for Sir John Cheke:

*Marital ties strengthened Cheke's association with the circle around Somerset. On 11 May 1547 he married Mary (1532/3–1616), daughter of Richard Hill of Hartley Wintney, Hampshire, and his wife, Elizabeth. Cheke considered this the most significant event for him of the year. Mary Hill was the stepdaughter of one of the leading privy councillors, Sir John Mason (c. 1503–1566), and as early as 1539 her mother had been trying to place her in Princess Elizabeth's household.*

As noted above, after the death of Richard Hill (d.1539), Elizabeth Isley married Sir John Mason, to whom Sir Philip Hoby bequeathed a serpentine cup in his will. See the entry for Elizabeth Isley at:

[http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page\\_id=687](http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=687)

See also the History of Parliament entry for Sir John Mason (c.1502-1566) at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/mason-sir-john-15023-66>

*b. 1503, ?illegit. s. of a sis. of Thomas, last abbot of Abingdon. educ. Abingdon g.s.; All Souls, Oxf., fellow, BA 1521, MA 1525; Paris (King's scholar). m. Elizabeth, da. of Thomas Isley of Sundridge, Kent, and wid. of Richard Hill (d.1539) of Hartley Wintney, serjeant of the cellar to Henry VIII, 1s. d.v.p. Kntd. 22 Feb. 1547.3*

By Dorothy Hill, Walter Walshe (d. 25 February 1561) was the father of Sir William Walshe (d.1622?), who died without issue, and Walter Walshe (d.1613). See the pedigree of Stonor, Hoby and Walshe in Lipscomb, *supra*, p. 609 at:

[https://books.google.ca/books?id=\\_t89AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA609](https://books.google.ca/books?id=_t89AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA609)

See also the entry for 'Walsh of Shelsley' in Grazebrook, H. Sydney, *The Heraldry of Worcester*, (London: John Russell Smith, 1873), pp. 284, 602-4 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=R2MxzMvHylkC&pg=PA284>

*[T]he same coat was impaled by Walter Walsh . . . in right of Dorothy his wife, daughter and co-heiress of Richard Hill, Serjeant of the Cellar to King Henry VIII.*

**-Margaret Walshe**, who is said to have married William Vavasour of Weston.

**-Frances Walshe**, who is said to have married Thomas Lathom of Hornchurch.

See the will of Walter Walshe, dated 25 October 1537 and proved 2 July 1538, TNA PROB 11/27/281; and the pedigree of Stonor of North Stoke in Turner, William Henry, ed., *The Visitations of the County of Oxford*, (London: Harleian Society, 1871), Vol. V, pp. 143-4 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/publicationshar01socigoog#page/n161/mode/2up>

See also the entry for Elizabeth Stonor at:

[http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page\\_id=707](http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=707)

For Sir Philip Hoby, see also his will, TNA PROB 11/40/348, and the summary at:

<https://www.badseysociety.uk/wills/56040>

See also the inquisition post mortem taken after his death, TNA C 142/115/74.

**-Sir Thomas Hoby** (1530-1566), who married Lady Burghley's sister, Elizabeth Cooke (1528-1609), later Lady Russell. See the *ODNB* entry:

*Hoby, Sir Thomas (1530–1566), courtier and translator, was born at Leominster, Herefordshire, the second son of William Hoby, of Radnor, and his second wife, Katherine, daughter of John Forden. . . .*

*On the death of his half-brother, Sir Philip Hoby, in May 1558 Hoby inherited Bisham Abbey, Berkshire, and on 27 June married Elizabeth (1528–1609) [see Russell], daughter of Sir Anthony Cooke (1505/6–1576).*

For Sir Thomas Hoby's wife, Elizabeth (nee Cooke) Hoby Russell, see the *ODNB* entry, and Laoutaris, Chris, *Shakespeare and the Countess; The Battle That Gave Birth to the Globe*, (London: Fig Tree, 2014).

**-Richard Hoby** (c.1532 - 11 February 1617?) of Badsey, who married firstly, on 13 May 1560, Elizabeth Bustard, the daughter of Anthony Bustard (d.1568?) of Adderbury, and secondly Margaret, the widow of John Newman. See:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/52219527@N00/35751654922>

By Elizabeth Bustard, Richard Hoby had a son, Anthony Hoby, who married Elizabeth Rous. Anthony Hoby is erroneously shown in some pedigrees as the son of William Hoby the elder (1500-1603) whereas he was his nephew of the half blood. See TNA E 355/224 for a grant dated 12 October 1589 by Richard Hoby to Anthony Hoby, gentleman, his son and heir, in consideration of a marriage between Anthony Hoby and Elizabeth Rous, the daughter of Edward Rous of Rous Lench, Worcestershire.

By Elizabeth Bustard, Richard Hoby also had a daughter, Elizabeth Hoby (d. 19 June 1620), who married firstly, in 1587, Thomas Sheldon (1556-1593), son of Ralph Sheldon (d.1586?) of Broadway and Mary Huband of Ipsley; secondly, as his second wife, by settlement dated 16 January 1597, Sir Philip Kighley (1567-1605); and thirdly Charles Ketilby. See the History of Parliament entry for Sir Philip Kighley at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/kighley-sir-philip-1567-1605>

For the marriage of Elizabeth Hoby and Thomas Sheldon, see also the pedigree at:

<http://earlywelshleigh.blogspot.com/2017/03/sheldon-family-history.html>

For Sir Philip Kighley and Thomas Sheldon, see also the will of Ralph Sheldon of Beoley, TNA PROB 11/121/345.

**-Magdalen Hoby**, who is said to have died in 1574 at the age of 55. She was thus born c.1519, and was likely a sister of the whole blood of Sir William Hoby the elder (1500-1603). She married Thomas Bigg (d.1581) of Norton, Gloucestershire. According to the will of Sir Philip Hoby, they had a daughter, Julian Bigg:

*Item, I will that the daughter of my said sister, Julian, shall at the day of her marriage have the sum of forty pounds.*

See also the History of Parliament entry for their son, Sir Thomas Bigg (c.1554-1614) of Lenchwick, who married Ursula Throckmorton (d. 13 August 1601), the daughter of Clement Throckmorton (d.1573) of Haseley, and sister of Job Throckmorton (1545-1601), indicted in 1590 for his participation in the printing of the Marprelate tracts, at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/bigg-sir-thomas-1554-1614>

See also:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/amthomson/34916411511/>

See also Pierce, William, *An Historical Introduction to the Marprelate Tracts*, (London: Archibald Constable & Co. Ltd., 108), p. 214 at:

<https://archive.org/details/anhistoricalint01piergoog/page/n243>

**-Elizabeth Hoby** (d.1551), who married a husband surnamed Parker. She was likely a sister of the whole blood of Sir Thomas Hoby (1530-1566) and Richard Hoby (c.1532 – 11 February 1617?).

**-Mary Hoby** (living 1558), likely a sister of the whole blood of William Hoby the elder (1500-1603) and Sir Philip Hoby (1505-1558). She married firstly a husband surnamed Seton, who may have been John Seton, groom of the chamber, for whom see TNA C 1/1060/16:

*Plaintiffs: John SETON, groom of the Chamber*

*Defendants: Edmund GREGORY*

*Subject: Tithes of Cuxham conveyed to defendant by Philip Hobby, gentleman usher of the Chamber. Oxfordshire*

*1538-1544*

By her first husband, Mary Hoby had a son and a daughter:

**(1) Robert Seton** (living 1566). In his will, Sir Philip Hoby leaves a bequest to ‘my nephew Seton’. In the list of bequests to servants at the end of the will he is identified as Robert Seton:

*Item, I will to Seton, my nephew, the sum of £20 in money and one gelding with a furniture convenient. . . .*

*Robert Seton £20, by the will.*

In 1566 Robert Seton was in the service of Sir Thomas Hoby and his wife, Elizabeth (nee Cooke) Hoby. See Powell, Edgar, ed., *The Travels and Life of Sir Thomas Hoby, Kt., of Bisham Abbey, Written by Himself, 1547-1564*, (London: Royal Historical Society, 1902), p. xx at:

<https://archive.org/details/travelslifeofsir00hobyrich/page/n27>

*Item, for Seton my servant's charges riding in post into England to certify the death of my husband, and returning against with letters, £20*

See also Laoutaris, *supra*, pp. 67-8 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=-I9ECQAAQBAJ&pg=PA75>

*In the immediate aftermath of this personal catastrophe, neither her trusty servant Robert Seton, nor her brother Edward Cooke, was able to remain by her side. Seton had been dispatched to England to inform Elizabeth I of the terrible calamity, while Cooke hastened to the French King and Queen Mother. . . .*

*Robert Seton's mission to London is listed in Elizabeth's itemization of the costs of travelling to and from Paris, BL, Additional MS 18764.*

At some time after the death of Sir Philip Hoby, Robert Seton brought a Chancery suit against Sir William Hoby the elder (1500-1603). See TNA C 2/Eliz/S19/15:

*Plaintiff: Robert Seton*

*Defendant: William Hoby*

*Claim by descent as son and heir. Third part of the lordships or manors of Roel and Cutsdean.*

**(2) Mary Seton** (living 1558), to whom Sir Philip Hoby left a bequest in his will:

*Item, I will that the daughters [sic for 'daughter'?] of my sister Carter shall at the day of her marriage have the sum of 100 marks.*

Mary Hoby married secondly Brian Carter, by whom she appears to have had no issue. For the will of Brian Carter, proved 3 June 1559, see TNA PROB 11/42B/247. The will is confusingly dated 18 May 1557 in the first year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, which would be 18 May 1559. In his will, Brian Carter mentions his wife, Mary, her son, Robert Seton, and her daughter, Mary Seton.

Mary Hoby and her second husband, Brian Carter, are mentioned in a quitclaim concerning the manor of Bisham. See:

'Parishes: Bisham', in *A History of the County of Berkshire: Volume 3*, ed. P H Ditchfield and William Page (London, 1923), pp. 139-152. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/berks/vol3/pp139-152> [accessed 25 August 2019].

74. *Ashmole, loc. cit.* In 1559 Brian Carter and Mary his wife quitclaimed the manor, but it is not clear what their interest was (*Feet of F. Div. Co. East. 1 Eliz.*).

In one source Mary Hoby is erroneously referred to as the daughter of Sir Philip Hoby. See Baddeley, *infra*, p. 132:

[https://archive.org/details/cotteswoldshrine00badd\\_0/page/132](https://archive.org/details/cotteswoldshrine00badd_0/page/132)

*Sir Philip married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Walter Stoner, by whom he left no son, but one daughter married to Brian Carter, who had livery of land in the Manor of Rowell (a. I, Eliz.) 1558.*

Several pedigrees, as well as the *ODNB*, are in error concerning the birth order of the four sons of William Hoby of Leominster and the identity of their respective mothers (said to have been Katherine Foster and Katherine Forden or Fordayne). If William Hoby the elder was born in 1500, he was the eldest son of William Hoby of Leominster, and Sir Philip Hoby, born in 1505, was his younger brother of the whole blood. Sir Thomas Hoby was born much later, in 1530, and was a half brother of both William Hoby the elder (1500-1603) and Sir Philip Hoby (1505-1558), and a brother of the whole blood of Richard Hoby (c.1532-1617?).

The only pedigrees which correctly show William Hoby the elder (1500-1603) as the elder brother of Sir Philip Hoby (1505-1558) are in Baddeley and Powell.

See Baddeley, Welbore St. Clair, *A Cotteswold Shrine*, (Gloucester: John Bellows, 1908), pp. 131-2, 139, 140, 143, 150 and 160 at:

[https://archive.org/details/cotteswoldshrine00badd\\_0/page/130](https://archive.org/details/cotteswoldshrine00badd_0/page/130)

See also Powell, *supra*, pp. viii-ix, and pedigree, p. xvi at:

<https://archive.org/details/travelslifeofsir00hobyrich/page/n11>

The pedigrees in Howard, Phillimore and Burke erroneously show William Hoby (1500-1603) as a younger son. See Howard, Joseph Jackson, *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, Vol. I, (London: Hamilton, Adams, and Co., 1868), p. 143 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=76xBAAAACAAJ&pg=PA143>

See also Phillimore, W.P.W., ed., *The Visitation of the County of Worcester Made in the Year 1569*, (London: Harleian Society, 1888), Vol. XXVII, p. 80 at:

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<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ECoeAAAAIAAJ&pg=PA80>

See also Burke, John and John Bernard Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies of England, Ireland and Scotland*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., (London: Scott, Webster, and Geary, 1841), p. 265 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=HKpfAAAACAAJ&pg=PA265>

For the Hoby window, which identifies several members of the Hoby family, see:

<https://wc.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=bfulgham&id=I34045>

For the Hoby window see also:

[http://www.berkshirehistory.com/churches/bisham\\_monuments.html](http://www.berkshirehistory.com/churches/bisham_monuments.html)

According to the will of the testatrix' father-in-law, William Hoby the elder (1500-1603), dated 13 March 1601 and proved 27 April 1605, TNA PROB 11/105/300, the testatrix' husband had one brother and three sisters:

**-Giles Hoby** (1565 – 23 March 1626), esquire, who married firstly Elizabeth Paulet (living 1586), daughter of Lord Thomas Paulet (d.1586) of Cossington, Somerset, second son of William Paulet (d.1572), 1<sup>st</sup> Marquis of Winchester. For the will, dated 26 February 1586 and proved 25 March 1586, of Lord Thomas Paulet, see TNA PROB 11/69/160. For the marriage of Giles Hoby and Elizabeth Paulet, see also:

'Parishes: Bisham', in *A History of the County of Berkshire: Volume 3*, ed. P H Ditchfield and William Page (London, 1923), pp. 139-152. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/berks/vol3/pp139-152> [accessed 9 June 2019].

For complaints by George Puttenham (1529-1590), author of *The Arte of English Poesie*, concerning 'outrages' committed against him by Lord Thomas Paulet and his followers, see:

<http://www.celm-ms.org.uk/authors/puttenhamgeorge.html>

Giles Hoby married secondly Anne Clerke (d.1630), the daughter of Sir Thomas Clerke of Avington, Hampshire. For the will of Sir Thomas Clerke, dated 12 March 1615 and proved 22 January 1618, see TNA PROB 11/131/53.

**-Katherine Hoby** (d. 21 June 1593), who on 9 September 1591 married, as his second wife, William Rogers (c.1534 – 1 September 1593) of Dowdeswell, Gloucestershire, by whom she was the mother of William Rogers (28 May 1593? – 10 November 1640), a ward of the testatrix' father-in-law, William Hoby the elder (1500-1603). For the Rogers pedigree, see Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, Vol. I, (London: Hamilton, Adams, and Co., 1868), p. 260 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=76xBAAAACAAJ&pg=PA260>

See also the Rogers pedigree in Maclean, John and W.C. Heane, eds., *The Visitation of the County of Gloucester, Taken in the Year 1623*, (London: Harleian Society, 1885), Vol. XXI, p. 140 at:

<https://archive.org/details/visitationofcoun00inchit/page/140>

**-Barbara Hoby** (buried 20 January 1602), who married, in April 1583, Nicholas Wodhull (1564 – c. 8 November 1631) of Thenford, Northamptonshire, son of Fulke Wodhull (1529-1613), esquire, son of Nicholas Wodehull (d. 6 May 1531) and Elizabeth Parr, daughter and co-heiress of William Parr (c.1480–1547), Baron Parr of Horton. See the *ODNB* entry for William Parr, and Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 522-3.

See also:

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Wodhull-30>

See also Lipscomb, George, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Buckingham*, Vol. IV, (London: J. & W. Robins, 1847), p. 312 at:

[https://books.google.ca/books?id=\\_t89AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA312](https://books.google.ca/books?id=_t89AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA312)

**-Elizabeth Hoby** (d.1623), who married George Stratford (d.1623) of Farmcote, Gloucestershire. For the deaths of Elizabeth Hoby and George Stratford in 1623, see the Stratford pedigree in Maclean, *supra*, p. 157 at:

<https://archive.org/details/visitationofcoun00inchit/page/156>

For Farmcote, see:

<https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/Colin/Misc/Stratfords/Stratfords06.html>

### ***Testatrix' husband's first marriage***

The testatrix' husband, William Hoby the younger (d. 19 March 1603), married firstly Katherine Fermor, the daughter of Sir George Fermor (d. 1 December 1612) of Easton Neston, by whom he had a daughter:

**-Alice Hoby** (born c.1600), who married John Sydenham, esquire, of Brimpton, Somerset, the son of Sir John Sydenham (d.1625).

Katherine Fermor's father, Sir George Fermor, was the son of Sir John Fermor (by 1516-1571) and Maud Vaux (d. 14 April 1569), the daughter of Sir Nicholas Vaux (d. 14 May 1523), 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Vaux of Harrowden. See the will of Sir Nicholas Vaux, TNA PROB 11/21/178; Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 657-8; and the History of Parliament entry for Sir John Fermor at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/fermor-sir-john-1516-71>

For the 1564 and 1618 pedigrees of the Fermor family of Easton Neston, see Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Northamptonshire Made in 1564 and 1618-19*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1887), pp. 19, 87 at:

<https://archive.org/details/visitationsnort00vincgoog/page/n32>

and:

<https://archive.org/details/visitationsnort00vincgoog/page/n100>

Metcalfe's comment concerning the relationship between the 1564 and 1618 Fermor pedigrees erroneously reads: 'Tabulated as in the Visitation of 1564, and continues the decent from George, eldest son of Sir *Thomas*'. It should read: 'Tabulated as in the Visitation of 1564, and continues the decent from George, eldest son of Sir *John*'.

For the Fermor pedigree, see also Blomfield, James Charles, *History of the Deanery of Bicester*, (Oxford: Parker and Co., 1882), p. 122 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=LRTnAAAAMAAJ&pg=RA4-PA122>

For the will of Sir George Fermor, dated 9 August 1611 and proved 6 May 1613, see TNA PROB 11/121/453.

For the will of George Fermor's uncle, Thomas Fermor (d. 8 August 1580) of Somerton, see TNA PROB 11/62/337. See also the History of Parliament entry for Thomas Fermor at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/fermor-thomas-1523-80>

George Fermor's aunt, Anne Fermor (d.1550), married William Lucy (d.1551), by whom she was the mother of Sir Thomas Lucy (1532?-1600), of Charlecote, Warwickshire. See the *ODNB*:

*Lucy, Sir Thomas* (b. in or before 1532, d. 1600), gentleman, of Charlecote, in Warwickshire, was the eldest son of William Lucy (d. 1551) and his wife, Ann (d. 1550), daughter of Richard Fermor of Easton Neston in Northamptonshire.

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<http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/>

Another of George Fermor's aunts, Mary Fermor (d.1573), was the first wife of Sir Richard Knightley (1533-1615), prosecuted for his part in the publication of the Marprelate tracts. See the *ODNB* entry:

*Knightley, Sir Richard (1533–1615), politician and patron of puritans, was the eldest son of Sir Valentine Knightley of Fawsley, Northamptonshire, and his wife, Anne, the daughter of Edward Ferrers of Warwickshire. . . .*

*Knightley married first, in 1556, Mary (d. 1573), the daughter of Sir Richard Fermor; they had three sons and three daughters. His second wife was Elizabeth (d. 1603), daughter of Edward Seymour, duke of Somerset; they had seven sons and two daughters.*

### ***Issue of the testatrix' first marriage***

By William Hoby the younger (d. 19 March 1603), the testatrix had two sons:

\* **Sir William Hoby** (d. 20 November 1623), who died without issue. For his brief will, dated 10 September 1623 and proved 20 November 1623, see TNA PROB 11/142/556. In the will he leaves his lands and leases (apart from Rowell and Cutsdean, Worcestershire, which he leaves to 'my sister, Alice'), to the testatrix, whom he appoints as sole executor. The inquisition post mortem taken after his death states that his next heir was his half sister, Alice (nee Hoby) Sydenham, wife of John Sydenham, esquire, of Brimpton, Somerset. See Phillimore, *Abstracts, supra*, pp. 67-9 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=a51UAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA67>

\* **Philip Hoby** (d.1617), who is mentioned in the will of his grandmother, Alice (nee Hodgkins) Hoby (d.1607?), TNA PROB 11/110/418.

According to the will of his mother, Alice (nee Hodgkins) Hoby, William Hoby the younger (d. 19 March 1603) left a will naming the testatrix as his executrix. It appears the will is no longer extant.

For the date of death of the testatrix' first husband, see the inquisition post mortem taken after the death of their son, Sir William Hoby (d. 20 November 1623), in Phillimore, *Abstracts, supra*, pp. 67-9 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=a51UAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA67>

### ***Testatrix' second marriage***

In November 1607 the testatrix married secondly Oxford's first cousin, Horatio Vere (1565-1635), Baron Vere of Tilbury, the youngest of the four sons of Geoffrey Vere (d.

1572) of Crepping Hall, Wakes Colne, Essex, and his wife, Elizabeth Hardekyn (d.1615), daughter of Richard Hardekyn of Colchester. For the nuncupative will of Geoffrey Vere, see ERO C/ABW 38/187.

By Horatio Vere, the testatrix had five daughters:

\* **Elizabeth Vere** (d.1683), who married, on 24 September 1626, John Holles (1595–1666), 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Clare, for whom see the *ODNB* entry.

\* **Mary Vere** (c.1611–1669), who married firstly Sir Roger Townshend (d. 1 January 1637 [=1638?]), the grandson of Sir Roger Townshend (c.1544-1590), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/77/149.

Mary Vere married secondly, on 21 June 1638, as his second wife, Mildmay Fane (1602-1666), 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Westmorland, for whom see the *ODNB* entry.

\* **Katherine Vere** (b.1612/13), who married firstly, in 1634, Oliver St John (1613 – November 1641 or 1642), esquire, of Lydiard Tregoze, Wiltshire, eldest son of Sir John St. John (1585-1648), 1<sup>st</sup> Baronet.

Katherine Vere married secondly, in 1641, as his first wife, John Poulett (1615 – 15 September 1665), 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Poulett of Hinton St George, by whom she had a son, John Poulett (c.1641 - June 1679), 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Poulett, who married Susan Herbert, daughter of Philip Herbert (1621-1669), 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Pembroke, son of Philip Herbert (d.1649), 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Pembroke, and Oxford's daughter, Susan Vere. See Brydges, Egerton, *Collins's Peerage of England*, Vol. IV, (London: F. C and J. Rivington, 1812), pp. 12-13 at:

<https://archive.org/details/collinsspeerage04coll/page/12>

See also Burke, John, *A General and Heraldic Dictionary of the Peerage and Baronetage of the British Empire*, (London: Henry Colburn, 1832), Vol. I, p. 126 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=Cq8KAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA126>

\* **Anne Vere** (1617–1665), fourth daughter, who married, by contract dated 30 June 1637, Thomas Fairfax (1612-1671), 3<sup>rd</sup> Lord Fairfax of Cameron. See the *ODNB* entries for Thomas Fairfax and Anne Vere.

\* **Dorothy Vere**, youngest daughter, who married John Wolstenholme, esquire, of Stanmore, Middlesex, grandson of Sir John Wolstenholme (1562-1639), and son of Sir John Wolstenholme (d.1670), Baronet. John Wolstenholme, esquire, predeceased his father, and left no issue by Dorothy Vere. See the *ODNB* entry for Sir John Wolstenholme (1562-1639), and Betham, William, *The Baronetage of England*, Vol. II, (London: W.S. Betham, 1802), pp. 361-3 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=hLRBAAAcAAJ&pg=PA361>

See also:

Daniel Lysons, 'Stanmore Magna', in *The Environs of London: Volume 3, County of Middlesex* (London, 1795), pp. 391-403. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/london-environs/vol3/pp391-403> [accessed 4 September 2019].

*On the north side of the communion-table is the tomb of Sir John Wolstenholme, founder of the church, who died in 1639. It was the work of Nicholas Stone, and cost 200l. (fn. 26). The inscription (fn. 27) is on a large slab of black marble, supported by four pillars, under which lies the effigies of the deceased upon a mattress. On the south side of the altar is a massy monument to the memory of John Wolstenholme, Esq. (fn. 28), son of Sir John Wolstenholme, Bart. and grandson of the last-mentioned Sir John. Under a large open canopy of vein'd marble, supported by four pillars, is a black slab, on which are the essigies [sic] of the deceased, and of his wife Dorothy Vere.*

### **PORTRAITS**

In the will below the testatrix bequeaths portraits at Kirby Hall to her grandson, Horatio Townshend:

*Item, I give unto my loving grandchild, Horatio, Lord Townshend, the picture of my late dear husband, Horace, Lord Vere, deceased, in my great parlour, and the pictures of all my Lord Vere's officers and captains in the said room or elsewhere in my house called Kirby Hall, to be delivered to his Lordship or whom he shall appoint immediately after my decease.*

One of these portraits was of Oxford's son and heir, Henry de Vere, 18<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, while another was of Oxford's illegitimate son, Sir Edward Vere (21 March 1581 - c.1629). The portraits were sold in 1904. See *Catalogue of the Townshend Heirlooms*, 1904, p. 15 at:

<https://archive.org/details/townshe00chri/page/14>

For Sir Edward Vere, see also the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/vere-sir-edward-1581-1629>

For the portraits, see also Eales, Jacqueline, 'Anne and Thomas Fairfax, and the Vere Connection', in Hopper, Andrew and Philip Major, eds., *England's Fortress: New Perspectives on Thomas, 3<sup>rd</sup> Lord Fairfax*, (Farnham, Surrey: Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2014), pp. 156-7 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=AjXjBAAAQBAJ&pg=PA156>

For a portrait of the testatrix by William Larkin, thought to have been painted about 1615, see:

<http://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/explore/collection/work/110975/>

As well as Kirby Hall, the testatrix owned property in Hackney and at Bartholomew Close in London.

### ***OXFORD'S BIBLE***

In her will, TNA PROB 11/181/273, the testatrix' sister-in-law, Thomasine Vere, leaves several bequests to the testatrix, including 'those two books of the Bible and New Testament bossed with silver which I have already delivered unto her':

*And the other moiety of my said household stuff (except linen and plate), I give and bequeath unto the righ[t] honourable Mary, Lady Vere, Baroness of Tilbury, my sister-in-law, lately wife of Horace, Lord Vere, deceased.*

*Item, I give and bequeath to the said Mary Vere two long tables standing in Tilbury Hall, and what else is mine there at the time of my death, and those two books of the Bible and New Testament bossed with silver which I have already delivered unto her, but her Ladyship desired me to put them into my will, which I now [+have] performed.*

*Also I give her my ring with nine sparks of diamonds, desiring her Ladyship to wear it as a token of my love, to be delivered to her within two months after my decease by my executors hereinafter named.*

It seems likely that one of these bibles bossed with silver is the Geneva bible (STC 2106) now in the collection of the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. The latter has the arms of the Earls of Oxford on the cover, and it has been suggested that it once belonged to Oxford, and that the extensive underlining of passages in it was done by him. However Oxford's widow, Elizabeth Trentham, mentions in her will dated 25 November 1612 (see TNA PROB 11/121/171) that many of her valuable possessions were then stored at John Vere's home of Kirby Hall at Castle Hedingham. There was thus a close relationship between the two families, and it may be that after Oxford's death, Elizabeth Trentham gave the bible to Oxford's cousin, John Vere (d.1624). On the other hand, it may be that the bible belonged, not to Oxford, but to John Vere himself, who, as a lineal descendant of John de Vere (1482-1540), 15<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, would presumably have had the right to use the Oxford coat of arms. The question of who did the extensive underlining in the Folger bible (if indeed it is the same bible as the one mentioned in the testatrix' will below) is therefore an open one. The underlining may have been done by Oxford, but could equally well have been done by Elizabeth Trentham (d.1612), John Vere (d.1624), Thomasine Vere (d.1639), or Lady Mary (nee Tracy) Vere (1581-1671).

RM: Lady Mary Vere

In the name of God, Amen. I, Mary, Lady Vere, widow and relict of the right honourable Horace, Lord Vere, Baron of Tilbury, deceased, being now (blessed be God) in good health and of good and disposing memory and understanding, do make this my last will and testament, revoking hereby all former wills by me made;

First, I commend my soul unto the hands of Almighty God, my most gracious Father, hoping to be saved by the only merits of my blessed Saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, who died for sinners, and my body I commit to the earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my executors hereinafter named;

And concerning the disposition of my estate, I will as followeth:

Whereas (by virtue of an indenture made or mentioned to be made the six and twentieth day of December in the year of Our Lord God according to the computation of the Church of England one thousand six hundred and nine and forty between me, the said Mary, Lady Vere, on the one part, and the right honourable Sir Robert Tracy, knight, Lord Viscount Tracy (since deceased), on the other part, there is due to me, the said Mary, Lady Vere, the sum of one thousand pounds to be paid to my executors or administrators or to such person or persons as I, the said Mary, Lady Vere, should appoint within three months (accounting eight and twenty days to every month) next after my decease, I do give, limit and appoint the said sum of one thousand pounds as hereinafter followeth:

Item, I will that all my debts and funeral charges be first satisfied and paid;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my good daughter, Mrs Dorothy Wolstonholme, the sum of fifty pounds of lawful money of England, to be paid to her or to her assigns within twelve month next after my decease;

Item, I give & bequeath the sum of fifty pounds of like money to my loving grandchild, the Lady Clinton, to be by her disposed of according as I have given her direction in my lifetime, to be paid her within twelve months after my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my grandchild, Mrs Katherine Paulet, the sum of one hundred pounds of like money, to be paid to her or her assigns within twelve months after my decease;

Item, I give unto my loving grandchild, Horatio, Lord Townshend, the picture of my late dear husband, Horace, Lord Vere, deceased, in my great parlour, and the pictures of all my Lord Vere's officers and captains in the said room or elsewhere in my house called Kirby Hall, to be delivered to his Lordship or whom he shall appoint immediately after my decease;

Item, I give unto Mr Thomas Watson of the city of London, clerk, the sum of thirty pounds of like money, to be paid him or his assigns within twelve months after my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Timothy Felton of Conigton(?), gentleman, the sum of thirty pounds of like money, to be paid to him or his assigns within twelve months next after my decease;

Item, I give unto Mr Samuel Borset, clerk, my household chaplain, the sum of fifty pounds of like money, to be paid to him or his assigns within six months next after my decease;

Item, I give unto Mrs Hannah Mosse the sum of forty pounds of like money, to be paid to her or her assigns within six months next after my decease;

Item, my mind and will is that all my servants living with me at the time of my death, and my household chaplain, shall have liberty to continue and stay in my house called Kirby Hall for the space of one month next after my death (with the leave of my grandson, the Lord Paulet), and there to have their diet and lodging for so long time at the charge of my executors;

Item, my mind and will is that all the wages due to my servants at the time of my death be forthwith paid them by my executors, and I do also give and bequeath unto every one of my servants one full half year's wages over and above (except those to whom I have given legacies in this my will), to be paid them by my executors within six months after my death;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my grandson, Sir James Langham of the city of London, knight, the sum of forty pounds of like money, to be paid him within twelve months after my decease;

Item, the rest and residue of the said sum of one thousand pound (when all my debts, legacies and funeral charges is satisfied and paid), and all other my goods, chattels, household stuff and personal estate (except what is hereinbefore given), I give unto my good daughter Elizabeth, Countess of Clare, whom, and my good daughter Mrs Dorothy Wolstonholme, and the said Sir James Langham, I do make executors of this my last will & testament;

In witness whereof I have hereunto put my hand and seal the three and twentieth day of March one thousand six hundred sixty-nine. Mary Vere.

Signed, sealed, read, published and declared as my last will and testament in the presence of us, Timothy Felton, William Gray, Philip Hayward.

It is my meaning and will concerning my pictures given after my death to my loving grandson, Horatio, Lord Townshend, that if he have no son at his death, then all those pictures shall be restored to my daughter, the Countess of Clare, whom I have made one of my executors of my will, or if she be not then living, unto her heirs, that they may be preserved to the posterity of my dear husband, Horatio, Lord Vere. In witness whereof I have hereto put my hand and seal the three and twentieth day of March one thousand six hundred sixty-nine. Mary Vere.

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum apud aedes Exonienses scituat{ae} en le Strand in Comitatu Middlesex vnacum Codicillo eidem annexo coram venerabili viro Richardo Lloyd Legum doctore Surrogato venerabilis et egregij viri domini Leolini Jenkins militis legum etiam doctoris Curie prerogatiue Cantuariensis magistri custodis siue Commissarij legitime constituti decimo Quinto Die Mensis Februarij Anno Domini (stylo Anglice) millesimo sexcentesimo septuagesimo primo juramentio [sic?] honorandae Feminae Elizabethae Comitissae Dotissae de Clare et domini Iacobj Langham militis duorum e Executoribus in hujusmodj Testamento dictae Defunctae nominat{orum} Quibus commissa fuit Administratio omnium et singulorum Bonorum juriu{m} et Creditorum dictae Defunctae de bene et fideliter administrando eadem Ad sancta Dej Evangelia jurat{orum} Reservata potestate similem Com{m}issione{m} faciendi Dorotheae Wolstenholme alteri e Executoribus in eodem Testamento nominat{ae} cum venerit eandem petitur{us}{(?)

[=The above-written will was proved at Essex House(?) situate in the Strand in the county of Middlesex, together with the codicil annexed to the same, before the worshipful Richard Lloyd, Doctor of the Laws, surrogate of the worshipful and distinguished Sir Leoline Jenkins, knight, also Doctor of the Laws, lawfully constituted Master Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the fifteenth day of the month of February in the year of the Lord (English style) a thousand six hundred seventy-one, by the oath of the honourable Elizabeth, Countess Dowager of Clare, and Sir James Langham, knight, two of the executors named in the same will of the said deceased, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, with power reserved for a similar grant to be made to Dorothy Wolstenholme, another of the executors named in the same will, when she shall have come to petition the same.]