

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 8 February 1550 and proved 8 November 1550, of Sir Edmund Walsingham, grandfather of Sir Thomas Walsingham (1560/61–1630) at whose house in Scadbury the playwright Christopher Marlowe was staying prior to his arrest and death at Deptford in 1593. From the *ODNB* entry for Sir Thomas Walsingham:

[O]n 18 May 1593 the Privy Council instructed Henry Maunder, one of the messengers of H. M. chamber to repair to the house of Mr. Thomas Walsingham in Kent, or to any other place where he shall understand Christopher Marlowe to be remaining, and to bring him to the court.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator was the son of James Walsingham (1462 - 10 December 1540) and Eleanor Writtle, the daughter of Walter Writtle of Bobbingworth, Essex. See the will of James Walsingham, TNA PROB 11/28/471, and the nuncupative will, TNA PROB 11/31/550, of Eleanor Writtle's sister, Grissel Writtle Rochester West Waldegrave (d.1547), whose son, Sir Robert Rochester (d. 28 November 1557) 'may have been brought up in the household of the earls of Oxford'.

The testator had three brothers and seven sisters, of whom only one brother and three sisters are said to have survived to adulthood, including:

-**William Walsingham** (d.1534), who married Joyce Denny (c.1560), by whom he was the father of Queen Elizabeth I's Principal Secretary, Sir Francis Walsingham.

- **Elizabeth Walsingham**, who is said to have married Thomas Ayloff, second son of William Ayloff (d.1517), a Bencher of Lincoln's Inn, by his wife Audrey Shaa, widow of John Writtle and daughter of Sir John Shaa, a London alderman and goldsmith. Thomas Ayloff's elder brother, William Ayloff (d.1569), married Anne Barnardiston (d.1551), the daughter of Sir Thomas Barnardiston (d. 7 November 1542) of Ketton in Kedington, Suffolk, by whom he was the father of William Ayloff (c.1535-1584), Justice of the Common Pleas. William Ayloff (d.1569) held a lease of Oxford's manor of Wennington, while his son, William Ayloff (c.1535-1585), purchased Oxford's interest in the manors of Wennington and Kennington in 1579. See the will of William Ayloff (d.1569), TNA PROB 11/51/50. See also Burke, John and John Bernard Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies of England*, 2nd ed., (London: John Russell Smith, 1844), p. 30; Metcalfe, Walter C., *The Visitations of Essex*, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), Vol. XIII, pp. 141, 340; Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex, Part II*, (London: Harleian Society 1879), Vol. XIV, p. 543; and Crisp, Frederick Arthur, *Visitation of England and Wales*, 1907, Vol. 7, pp. 170-3 at:

3<http://archive.org/stream/visitationofengl28howa#page/170/mode/2up>

The testator was Lieutenant of the Tower of London for twenty-two years during the reign of Henry VIII.

MARRIAGES AND ISSUE

Testator's first marriage

The testator married firstly Katherine Gunter (died c.1526), widow of Henry Morgan of Pencoed, Monmouthshire, and daughter and heir of John Gunter of Chilworth, Surrey, by his wife Elizabeth, the daughter and heiress of William Attworth or Utworth, by whom he had four sons and four daughters, including:

* **Sir Thomas Walsingham** (d. 15 January 1584), eldest son and heir, father of Christopher Marlowe's patron, Sir Thomas Walsingham.

* **Mary Walsingham**, who married Sir Thomas Barnardiston.

* **Alice Walsingham**, who married Sir Thomas Saunders (d. 18 August 1565) of Charlwood, Surrey, the son of Nicholas Saunders (d. 29 August 1553) of Charlwood by Alice Hungate, the daughter of John Hungate of Saxton, Yorkshire. See the will of Sir Thomas Saunders, TNA PROB 11/48/525, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/saunders-thomas-1513-65>

For Sir Thomas Saunders of Charlwood see also Sanders, Ralph, *Generations; A Thousand-Year Family History*, (Xlibris, 2007), p. 128 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=7LIqjJ4Q3nAC&pg=PA128>

See also the Saunders pedigree in Sanders, Ralph, *Sanders Family: A Thousand Year History*, rev. ed., (Xlibris, 2017) at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=VaAMDgAAQBAJ&pg=PT452>

See also the will, dated 22 September 1563 and proved 4 July 1564, of Sir Thomas Saunders' sister, Margaret Saunders Poyntz Skinner, TNA PROB 11/47/250.

By Sir Thomas Saunders, Alice Walsingham had three sons, Edmund Saunders, Walsingham Saunders, and Thomas White Saunders, and a daughter, Margaret Saunders, who married, as her second husband, Thomas Goodyere (buried 5 January 1585), and who was a friend of the poet, Michael Drayton. For Margaret Saunders and Michael Drayton, see Tillotson, Kathleen, 'Drayton and the Gooderes', *The Modern Language Review*, Vol. 35, No. 3 (July 1940), pp. 341-9 at:

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<https://www.jstor.org/stable/3716630>

Testator's second marriage

The testator married secondly Anne Jerningham, the daughter of Sir Edward Jerningham (d. 6 January 1515) of Somerleyton, Suffolk, by his first wife, Margaret Bedingfield (c.1476 - 24 March 1504). For the will of Sir Edward Jerningham, see TNA PROB 11/18/104. Prior to her marriage to the testator, Anne Jerningham had been the wife firstly of Sir Edward Grey (d. before 1517), eldest son of Thomas Grey, 1st Marquess of Dorset; secondly of Henry Barley (1487-November 12, 1529) of Albury, Hertfordshire; thirdly of Sir Robert Drury (d. 2 March 1535) of Hawstead, Suffolk. She is also said to have been the wife of a husband surnamed Berkeley, of whom nothing further is known. See Challen, W.H. 'Lady Anne Grey', *Notes and Queries*, January 1963, 10(1), pp. 5-9, and Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 93. Anne Jerningham had no issue by any of her marriages. For her will see TNA PROB 11/42B/3.

In the will below the testator mentions his wife, Lady Anne Grey, his son and heir, Thomas Walsingham, his son-in-law, Thomas Saunders, his son-in-law, Thomas Barnardiston, his brother-in-law, William Aylofffe, and his 'son Morgan', likely his first wife Katherine Gunter's son by her first marriage to Henry Morgan. He also mentions 'William, my kinsman'; the tenor of the testator's bequests to this underage kinsman suggests that William was perhaps the testator's illegitimate son.

RM: T{estamentum} Edmondi Walsingh{a}m milit{is}

In Dei nomine Amen. The 8th day of the month of February in the 4th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Edward the Sixth by the grace of God King of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith and in earth of the Church of England and Ireland the Supreme Head, and in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred forty and nine, I, Edmund Walsingham, knight, being whole of mind and in good memory, thanks be to Almighty God, do make, ordain and declare this my testament and last will in manner and form following:

First I bequeath and commend my soul unto Almighty God, my Creator, Redeemer, and Maker of the world, and my body to be buried in the parish church of Chislehurst in the county of Kent, or else where it shall please Almighty God, but if God send for me within twenty miles of the said parish, then to lie in the tomb within the chapel there where myself have usually sitten;

And also I give and bequeath to the parish church of Chislehurst aforesaid, if my body be there buried, forty shillings;

Also I will that my son, Thomas, and his heirs and all other heirs after him and his heirs which shall happen to be owners of my mansion house and lands in Chislehurst aforesaid shall bestow yearly forever 12s, to be distributed and divided in form following in the Lent season yearly, that is to say, to 24 of the poorest folks being householders within the said parishes of Chislehurst, Foots Cray and Paul's Cray, to every house 6d, viz., 2d in bread, 2d in red herring, and 2d in white herring yearly in the Lent, to be distributed by mine executors and overseers;

And I will that my executors and overseers shall employ and bestow upon bridges and highways most used and that shall have most need to be mended within the parish of Chislehurst forty shillings;

Also I give and bequeath to one William (blank), my kinsman, now in the custody and keeping of John Sutton, my lease for term of years yet to come of Tyting besides Guildford in Surrey, the leape [sic?] of Stanground in the county of Huntingdon with all my right, title and interest in the same;

Also I give and bequeath to the same William my annuity or annual rent of seven pounds with all my interest, right and title in the same, the which was yearly paid unto me by Walter Cromwell alias Williams, and now paid by th' executors of Sir Richard Cromwell, knight, out of the house and site of the late monastery of Thorne [=Thorney] and other lands belonging to the said late monastery, as more [+at] large may appear by a pair of indentures together with a grant of the same annuity made by the said Walter Cromwell;

Also I give and bequeath to the said William (blank) certain lands the which I bought in Wales of Moryce ap precard {es} [=Maurice ap Richards?] lying and being in the lordship of Beell, with all the whole stock of mares and colts thereon, to have to him and to his heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue the same lands in Wales to remain to the right heirs of me forever;

Also I will that Thomas Saunders, my son-in-law, his executors and assigns, shall yearly from year to year receive, perceive & take up all the profits and revenues of the said leases of Stanground [+and] Tyting together with the said annuity and also the whole yearly rents and profits of all the said lands and stock in Wales, with all other such leases as I have within the realm of England not hereafter willed & given by this my last will and testament, and all the same rents, profits and revenues to employ and put in stock to his most profit and advantage towards his finding until the said William (blank) cometh to the age of 21 years;

Then I will mine executors and overseers, as my trust is in them, to see all the said stock and profits of the premises over and besides his schooling and finding delivered to the said William (blank) according to the true meaning of this my last will and testament;

And further I will, and mine express mind and intent is, that Thomas Saunders, my son-in-law, shall have the order, rule, education, correction & government of the said William (blank) until he shall accomplish the full years of 21, taking necessary allowance for his

schooling, learning, raiment, meat and drink and other necessities, and if it shall fortune the said William (blank) to die before that he shall come to the full age of 21 years or at any time after, having then no child of his body lawfully begotten on live, then I will that the said leases of Stanground [+and] Tyting and the years of the same, and the said yearly annuity or annual rent of £7 sterling together with the whole stock and profits of all other leases then received to the use of the said William (blank), shall fully and wholly remain and be delivered unto Thomas Walsingham and Walsingham Saunders, younger son to Thomas Saunders, my son-in-law;

Also I give to Thomas Combes, Richard Badgeroste, Humphrey Badgeroste, my son Morgan, my brother Aylofffe, and Anthony Ashley, to every of them one such of my garnaments [=garments] as mine executors and overseers shall think most meet for them;

Also I will that Dame Anne, my well-beloved wife, shall have the moiety and half of my household stuff within my house at Yokes, brining vessels, tub, vats, trowes [=troughs?], barrels, great standards and one garnish of pewter vessel there only excepted and reserved to Thomas Walsingham, my son, all which said moiety and one half of household stuff before rehearsed and appointed [f. 197v] to the said Anne I would should egally be divided by the indifferent discretions of Sir Thomas Barnardiston, Thomas Saunders and two other of the said Dame Anne's friends, and after such division so made, except before excepted, I will that Thomas Walsingham, my son, remove and void from thence all the other part of napery, linen and pewter at all times at his pleasure;

And I will further that the same Thomas, my son, permit and suffer all the residue of his part of household stuff aforesaid to remain and be in the said house of Yokes, there to be reasonably used and occupied by the said Lady Anne during her life natural without wasting, destructing and spoiling of the same, all which part and portion of household stuff before appointed to the said Thomas, linen, napery and pewter vessel only excepted, I will shall be delivered to the said Lady Anne by inventory indented between the said Thomas and her in avoiding of all manner of contention;

And if it happen the said Thomas Walsingham to die without issue of his body lawfully begotten, then I will and my full mind is that all my goods and chattels remaining at Scadbury be egally divided between my daughters, my brother Aylofffe's children, & the said William;

Item, I will that the same Dame Anne Grey, my wife, shall have all such goods, jewels and plate as she brought unto me fully and wholly, and all such household stuff of hers as she brought remaining at the Blackfriars or elsewhere, and all other stuff of mine that she brought not remaining at the Blackfriars at this time, all the bay salte [=bay-salt? basalt?] now there being, and all mine apparel only excepted;

And if it happen me to die after Our Lady Day next coming, or after Michaelmas Day next, then my very will and mind is that the said Dame Anne shall receive forty pounds of Mr Drury as of my free gift without controlment of mine executors, over and besides six silver trenchers with all such chains, jewels and rings which she hath of mine, my

great chain, the chain of the Trinity, and my flagon chain only excepted and always reserved to my son, Thomas, all which said jewels, trenchers and rings, except before excepted, I do absolutely give to the said Lady Anne, much trusting to her gentle remembrance towards my children as they shall show cause to her;

Item, I will and give to the said Dame Anne all her leases of her lodging and gardens of the Blackfriars at London in as large and ample manner as she hold [=held] them before marriage with me, any clause, matter, article or sentence within this my last will and testament to the contrary notwithstanding;

And further I will and give to Thomas Walsingham, my son, all my lease and farm of Paul's Cray which I hold of Sir Christopher Danby, knight, being dead, and my lease also of Dartford in Kent I give unto the said Thomas Walsingham, and if it fortune my said son, Thomas, to die without issue male of his body lawfully begotten, then I will all my lands in Chislehurst, Paul's Cray, Saint Mary Cray, Foots Cray and Bromley shall remain to Francis Walsingham, my brother's son, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue male of the body of the said Francis, I will that all the said lands and tenements shall remain to the right heirs of me, the foresaid Sir Edmund, forever;

And I will and give to my son Morgan all my lease and interest of Marterhill [=St Martha's Hill] in the county of Surrey with th' indenture of the said lease;

And also my full mind, intent and will is that all my servants shall have meat, drink and lodging in my mansion house at Chislehurst one quarter of a year next after my decease if they will so long take it, so that they do from time to time diligently their service and attendance unto the said Dame Anne and to my son Walsingham and the rest of my overseers when they come thither;

And I will and give to every one of my servants which have been with me above one year half a year's wages, and some of them to have a quarter's wages or less by the appointment and discretion of mine overseers, and what order soever mine overseers shall take therein I will my son Walsingham shall perform the same accordingly;

And I will and give unto Baker's widow all the money she doth owe me because she is very poor;

And to Humphrey Bagecroste I give also all the money he doth owe unto me;

And unto John Coke, mine old servant, I give yearly during his life five pounds 6s 8d, to be paid to him quarterly by even portions by my son Walsingham by the discretions of my overseers;

And unto Gellybrande, my servant, for his honest service, above his wages of half a year I give £6 13s 4d;

And unto my Lady, my wife, I give four horses and one old gelding;

And to Margaret Cockerell, her maiden which never took wages, I give five pounds;

And to Frances Hall, another of her maidens, I give forty shillings;

And to George horse-keeper I give a bay stoned nag and twenty shillings in money with a quarter of barley;

And to Robert Scot twenty shillings in money and half a quarter of barley;

And to every of my daughters a silver pot, their names written in them;

And to Greysell Watton [=Grysel Wotton], servant to young Mistress Peckham, I give ten pounds, which I would should be delivered to her and employed by her friends towards th' advancement of marriage;

Item, to Gouldfrode, my servant, I give 20s;

And the residue of all my goods, movables and unmovables, not specially bequeathed nor limited within this my present testament as concerning my last will, my funerals and [f. 198r] burials finished, my debts paid, my legacies fulfilled accordingly, I will that they shall remain to my said son, Thomas Walsingham, whom I make, ordain and constitute my sole executor of this my present testament concerning my last will, and that he fully accomplish everything herein contained according to his bounden duty and the trust I have put in him and the true meaning thereof with the advice of my said well-beloved wife, my son-in-law, Thomas Saunders, and my son-in-law, Sir Thomas Barnardiston, knight, whom I make, constitute and ordain my supervisors and overseers of this my testament concerning my last will;

And I will that my said son [=son-in-law], Thomas Saunders, shall have for his painstaking my black satin gown furred with martens, and my son [=son-in-law], Sir Thomas Barnardiston, for his painstaking my gown of murrey velvet furred with sables;

And if any ambiguity, doubt or question happen to grow or rise upon any clause, word, sentence or matter contained within this my last will and testament, then my full mind and intent is that the same be construed, expounded and declared by the said Thomas Saunders and such as he shall call to counsel for the same in avoiding all contention, expenses and strife that might else arise thereupon;

In witness whereof to this my present last will and testament I have subscribed my name with mine own hand and put to my seal the day and year first above-written, revoking and renouncing all other wills and testaments heretofore at any time by me, the said Edmund, made, spoken, written or declared. Per me Edmundum Walsingham manu propria.

Probatum fuit testamentu{m} cora{m} d{omi}no Cant{uariensis} Archiep{iscop}o apud London Octauo die Mensis Nouembris Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingentesimo q{u}inquagesimo Iuramento Will{el}mi Walker procur{atoris} Thome Walsingh{a}m ex{ecutoris} in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}at{i} Ac approbatu{m} et insinuatu{m} Et comissa fuit admi{ni}strac{i}o o{mn}i{u}m bonoru{m} iuriu{m} et creditoru{m} d{i}c{t}i def{uncti} p{re}fat{o} ex{ecutori} De bene et fideli{te}r admi{ni}strand{o} eadem Ac de pleno Inuentario &c exhibend{o} Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia in debita iuris forma Iurat{i}

[=The testament was proved before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the eighth day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fiftieth by the oath of William Walker, proctor of Thomas Walsingham, executor named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased to the forenamed executor, sworn on the Holy Gospels in due form of law to well and faithfully administer the same, and to exhibit a full inventory etc.]