

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 11 July and proved 19 July 1551, of Robert Bull.

The testator's identity has not been established. He married Grace Paget, for whom see the will of her second husband, Robert Robotham, TNA PROB 11/53/552. 'My Lady Yorke' mentioned in the will as having lent the testator £100 was Lady Anne Yorke (d.1575), mother of Grace Paget by her first marriage, and now the widow of her second husband, Sir John Yorke (d.1569). Oxford stayed at Lady Anne Yorke's house prior to his departure for the continent without licence in 1574, and was a friend of her sons, Edward Yorke and Rowland Yorke. For the will of Lady Anne Yorke, see TNA PROB 11/57/581. See also the will of Grace Paget's second husband, Robert Robotham, *supra*, for lawsuits relating debts owed to the testator.

By her second husband, Robert Robotham, Grace Paget was the mother of Mary Rowbotham, wife of William Leveson (d.1621), who acted as trustee for William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon in the allocation of shareholdings in the Globe Theatre in 1599. For the will of William Leveson, see TNA PROB 11/137/600.

The testator's debtors, including a debt of £400 owed by 'my Lord', suggest that the testator was a courtier. The 'Lord' to whom he was in service may have been William Paget, who was created Baron Paget of Beaudesert on 3 December 1549. Paget presented Robert Bull as prebendary of Whittington and Berkswick:

*Robert Bull 1550-1551.*

*Compounded for first-fruits 19 Nov. 1550 (P.R.O., E 334/4 f. 64). Pres. by Sir William Paget K.G. of Beaudesert, patron hac vice (no reason); instit, by proxy 21 Jan. 1551 (B/A/1/14 iv f. 49). D. by 15 Aug. (ibid. f. 49v).*

See 'Prebendaries: Whittington and Berkswick', *Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae 1541-1857: volume 10: Coventry and Lichfield diocese* (2003), pp. 73-75, at:

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=34771>.

For William Paget, see also the *ODNB*.

See also DL 41/175, an indenture in 3 Edward VI (1549/50) between the King and Robert Bull concerning a grant of part of the possessions of Conishead Priory, Lancashire in 'Conishead Priory, Ulverston, Cumbria: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment', Greenlane Archaeology Ltd, at p. 57, available online.

The testator's debtor 'Nicasius' was Nicasius Yetswerdt, later of the Queen's household as Clerk of the Signet and Secretary for the French Tongue, and a searcher, often with Bartholomew Brookesby, gentleman, of concealed lands. See 107/53 at:

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/rd/ef33e690-64c2-4c08-9f66-c7ed6d521faa>.

Yetsworth married Mary Bouchier (see below), by whom he had a daughter, Susan Yetsworth, who married Daniel Rogers (d. 11 February 1591), esquire, for whom see the *ODNB* article:

*Rogers, Daniel (c.1538–1591), diplomat and author, was born in Wittenberg, the eldest son of eleven children of John Rogers (c.1500–1555), biblical editor and martyr, and his wife, Adriana van der Weyden of Antwerp. His younger brother, John Rogers, was also born in Wittenberg, where their father served as a minister for a protestant congregation. In 1548 the Rogers family moved to England and settled in London. John Foxe claims that after John Rogers the elder, was burnt at the stake on 4 February 1555 by Mary I's government, Daniel Rogers and his mother found the protestant martyr's writings and letters in his prison cell. Two of Rogers's kinsmen on his mother's side were Abraham Ortelius, perhaps the greatest geographer of his time, and Emmanuel van Meteren (Demetrius), the leader of the Dutch merchants in London and a historian of some note. These family connections gave Rogers an entrée into distinguished academic circles in England and on the continent throughout his life, and his career reveals that he took full advantage of this opportunity. He returned to Wittenberg in 1557 to study under his father's old friend, Philip Melancthon; he also studied with Hubert Languet and Johann Sturm, two men who became associated with Sir Philip Sidney. It is clear from Sidney's correspondence with Languet that the former held Rogers in high esteem.*

*In 1587 Rogers married Susan (d. in or after 1591), daughter of Elizabeth's French secretary, Nicasius Yetsweirt, a friend of his father who originally introduced him to the court. In May 1587 Rogers succeeded his old friend Robert Beale as clerk of the privy council, a position he held until his death, and he also served as MP for Newport, Cornwall (1588–9). It is likely that Burghley, who admired his scholarship, arranged both these advancements.*

See also the monuments to Nicasius Yetsworth and Daniel Rogers, in Lysons, Daniel, *An Historical Account of those Parishes in the County of Middlesex which are not Described in The Environs of London*, (London: T. Cadell, 1800), p. 279 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=kUwuAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA279&lpg=PA279&dq=%22Nicasius+Yetsworth%22&source=bl&ots=cWIYN3ZC2d&sig=PK7K1jd1Hv30YxrBdEW0BKNbcXc&hl=en&sa=X&ei=7NhoVLOOFsfUoAT914DYDg&ved=0CCkQ6AEwAg#v=onepage&q=%22Nicasius%20Yetsworth%22&f=false>.

The pedigree of Bouchier in the Visitation of Yorkshire shows Mary Bouchier, the daughter of Sir James Bouchier (d.1554), eldest son of John Bouchier (d. 19 March 1533), 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Berners, the translator of Froissart's *Chronicles*, as the wife of Nicasius Yetsworth (d.1585/6). See Norcliffe, Charles Best, *The Visitation of Yorkshire in the Years 1563 and 1564*, (London: Harleian Society, 1881), Vol. XVI, pp. 30 and 375 at:

[http://books.google.ca/books?id=JvwUAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA30&lpg=PA30&dq=%22John+Bowser+of+Benyng&source=bl&ots=XbjszEGZ8a&sig=9WwXwNL16F6TjHHvN11xBbZ\\_3fI&hl=en&sa=X&ei=hN5oVMHmCtSwogTpg4KQDg&ved=0CB8Q6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22John%20Bowser%20of%20Benyng&f=false](http://books.google.ca/books?id=JvwUAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA30&lpg=PA30&dq=%22John+Bowser+of+Benyng&source=bl&ots=XbjszEGZ8a&sig=9WwXwNL16F6TjHHvN11xBbZ_3fI&hl=en&sa=X&ei=hN5oVMHmCtSwogTpg4KQDg&ved=0CB8Q6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22John%20Bowser%20of%20Benyng&f=false).

The same pedigree shows that Mary Bouchier's brother, Sir Ralph Bouchier (d. 11 June 1598) of Haughton, Staffordshire, married Elizabeth Hall, the daughter of Francis Hall of Grantham. For the will of Francis Hall, father of the translator, Arthur Hall (1539–1605), a ward of Lord Burghley, see TNA PROB 11/43/610; and Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 363–4. See also the Wikipedia article on John Bouchier, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Berners, edited by the author of this summary.

The testator's debtor, 'Mr Norrey', would appear to be William Harvey (d. 27 February 1567), who was created Norroy King at Arms on 4 February 1550 by Edward VI. The *ODNB* article states that Mildred Cecil, Lady Burghley, later Oxford's mother-in-law, was godmother to Harvey's daughter in 1562:

*With his wife, Etheldreda (surname perhaps Welles) Harvey had at least two daughters: Anne, who married John Sackville esquire, and Meldred, whose baptism on 24 July 1562, in the parish of St Bride's, was attended by godparents Sir William Cordell, master of the rolls, Lady Bacon, and Lady Cecil, evidence of the strength of Harvey's connections.*

'Master Armagell', surety for the debt owed to the testator by Wittor and Stevens, would appear to be Armagil Waad or Wade (d.1568), Clerk of the Privy Council, for whom see the *ODNB* article:

*Henry, Lord Maltravers, deputy of Calais and later earl of Arundel, . . . proposed him as assistant clerk of the council at Calais in 1540 and further recommended him to the French secretaryship there in 1543. By then Waad had married, at the church of St Leonard Eastcheap on 29 May 1541, Alice (d.1557/8), daughter of the London tradesman Richard Patten (d.1536) and widow of Thomas Searle, another Londoner. She had numerous offspring with Waad, and she also brought him London connections—two merchants wrote warmly of him—and no doubt the resources on which he founded his career. He was appointed a customer of Calais in 1545. He was replaced in 1546, when he proceeded to London, where he reported to Secretary of State Paget. Next year he became one of the four clerks of the privy council, all of whom secured seats in the parliament of 1547: Waad's seat at Chipping Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, may have been arranged by John, Lord Russell. A grant of arms in the same year confirmed his genteel status. Initially supernumerary and unpaid, Waad was formally appointed third clerk of the privy council in 1548 at 50 marks a year and chief clerk in 1551 on a salary of £50; an annuity of 200 marks for services to Henry VIII and Edward VI was added in 1550.*

For the will of Armagil Waad, see TNA PROB 11/52/56. For his father-in-law, Richard Patten (d.1536), see his will, TNA PROB 11/25/531. The testator's brother-in-law, William Patten, William Patten, was responsible for the private printing and distribution

of copies of the *Langham Letter* describing Leicester's entertainment for Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575, while Oxford was travelling on the continent. For William Patten, see the *ODNB* article.

LM: T{estamentum} Robert Bull

[f. 135v] My Lord oweth me four hundred pounds;

Wittor and Stevens oweth me, which Master Armagell is surety for, two hundred pounds with an interest;

Mr Norrey [=Norroy?] oweth me, to be paid the first of July Anno Domini 1552, two hundred pounds;

Nicasius oweth me £14;

Goodwyn oweth me six pounds;

Kinge £16;

Aithe(?) 40s;

Henry Bell, my brother, and Gervith(?) Church which married my sister-in-law, twenty pounds;

Fletcher, six pounds;

Gounter oweth me, which my Lady Yorke lent me, a [f. 136r] hundred pound;

I give this to Mr Norrey;

All these sums afore written I bequeath & give to my wife, with all the rest of my goods save the twenty pounds my brother oweth me;

In witness hereof I have subscribed my name the 11 day of July in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred fifty and one. Robert Bull.

Decimo nono die Mens{is} Iulij Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingentesimo  
qui{n}quage{si}mo primo Emanauit com{m}issio Gracie Relicte ad  
Admi{ni}strand{um} bona Iura et credita dict{i} defunct{i} iux{ta} tenorem huius vltimi  
voluntat{is} De bene et fideli{te}r admi{ni}strand{o} eadem Ac de pleno Inuentario &c  
exhibend{o} Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{e}

[=On the nineteenth day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-first a grant issued to Grace, relict, to administer the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased according to the tenor of the same last will, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to exhibit a full inventory etc.]