

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 22 September 1550 and proved 8 November 1551, of Anne (nee Windsor) Corbet, whose grandson, Robert Corbet, friend of Sir Philip Sidney, may have been the 'Mr Corbek' mentioned by Oxford in his letter to Lord Burghley written from Paris on 17 or 18 March 1575.

The testatrix was the daughter of Andrew Windsor (1467-1543), 1st Lord Windsor, and his wife, Elizabeth Blount, granddaughter of Walter Blount (d.1474), 1st Lord Mountjoy, and daughter of William Blount, slain at the battle of Barnet on 14 April 1471, and his wife, Margaret Echingham (d.1481). For the will of Andrew, Lord Windsor, see TNA PROB 11/29/416.

The testatrix married Roger Corbet (d.1538/9), who had been a ward of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford. After the 13th Earl's death, the wardship was sold to the testatrix' father, Andrew, Lord Windsor (see TNA C 1/1485/58), who married the testatrix to his ward. For the will of the testatrix' husband, Roger Corbet, see TNA PROB 11/27/408.

The testatrix appoints her brother, Edmund Windsor, as one of her executors, and her nephew, Sir Thomas Windsor (d.1552), as overseer (for his will, see TNA PROB 11/36/12).

The testatrix' eldest brother, George Windsor (d. before 1520), was the husband of Ursula de Vere (d.1558), sister and co-heir of John de Vere, 14th Earl of Oxford (1499-1526). For the will of Ursula de Vere, see TNA PROB 11/42A/10.

The testatrix' nephew, Edward Windsor (1532?-1575), 3rd Lord Windsor, was the husband of Oxford's half-sister, Katherine de Vere (1538-1600). For the wills of Edward, 3rd Lord Windsor, and Katherine de Vere, see TNA PROB 11/57/332 and TNA PROB 11/95/237.

Another of the testatrix' nephews, Sir Richard Newport (d.1570/1), was the owner of a copy of Hall's *Chronicle* (formerly Loan 61 in the British Library, and now in the hands of Lord Hesketh, a trustee) containing annotations thought to have been made by Shakespeare (see Keen, Alan, *The Annotator: The Pursuit of an Elizabethan Reader of Halle's Chronicle* (London: Putnam, 1954)). There were thus strong family connections in this generation between the Newports (owners of the annotated copy of Hall's *Chronicle*), the Corbets, the Windsors, the de Veres. For the will of Sir Richard Newport, who was also the uncle of Humphrey Martyn, addressee of the *Langham Letter*, see TNA PROB 11/53/456.

In the will below the testatrix mentions four sons, Sir Andrew, Walter, Robert and Jerome, and two daughters, Margaret and Elizabeth. The pedigree in *The Family of Corbet*, *supra*, p. 369, states that she had in all seven sons and two daughters:

* Sir Andrew Corbet (b. 1 November 1522, d. 16 August 1578), for whose biography see *The Family of Corbet, infra*, pp. 274-87. He married Jane Needham (d. 7 January 1577), the daughter of Sir Robert Needham of Sheinton, Shropshire, by whom, according to the pedigree in *The Family of Corbet, supra*, p. 369, he had three sons (Robert, Sir Richard, and Sir Vincent) and three daughters. On p. 274 of *The Family of Corbet, infra*, three other sons are mentioned: Reginald, Francis (d.1592) and Arthur. Reginald and Francis are both mentioned in the testatrix' will below. The known children of Sir Andrew Corbet were thus six sons and two daughters:

- Robert Corbet (d. 30 May 1583), who married Anne St. John (d.1602), the daughter of Oliver St John (d. 21 April 1582), 1st Baron St John of Bletsoe. For Oliver St John, see his will, TNA PROB 11/64/240, and the History of Parliament entry at:
- <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/st-john-oliver-1522-82>.

By Anne St John, Robert Corbet had two daughters: Elizabeth Corbet, who married Sir Henry Wallop (d. 16 November 1642), son of Sir Henry Wallop (c.1540-1599), by whom she was the mother of Bridget Wallop, who married Sir Henry Worsley (1612-1666) of Appuldurcombe, and Anne Corbet (d.1601), who married Sir Adolphus Carey (d.1609), son of Sir Edward Carey (d.1619), Master of the Jewel House, by Catherine Knyvet, the daughter of Sir Henry Knyvet (d. 14 June 1598).

After Robert Corbet died of the plague in 1583, his widow married Sir Rowland Lytton (1561- 23 June 1616) of Knebworth, Hertfordshire, for whom see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/lytton-sir-rowland-1561-1615>.

Robert Corbet was a close friend of Sir Philip Sidney (1554-1586), and is perhaps the 'Mr Corbek' mentioned in Oxford's letter to Lord Burghley written from Paris on 17 or 18 March 1575 (see Cecil Papers 8/24). He died of the plague in London on 30 May 1583. See Corbet, Augusta Elizabeth, *The Family of Corbet*, (London: St. Catherine's Press, n.d.), Vol. II, pp. 292-7 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/familyofcorbetit02corb#page/n197/mode/2up>.

For Sir Henry Wallop, see Stevens, Joseph, *A Parochial History of St. Mary Bourne*, (London: Whiting and Co., 1888), pp. 165-9 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=mjJAAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA165&lpg=PA165&dq=%22Sir+Henry+Wallop%22&source=bl&ots=_es7raOgbj&sig=Nd9YfIHGSY4Sfm7dW0jjOXUoVCA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CEEQ6AEwB2oVChMIpJiD-

4X4yAIVRymICh0PNgJ2#v=onepage&q=%22Sir%20Henry%20Wallop%22&f=false.

For Bridget Wallop, see Green, Nina, *Edward de Vere Newsletter* No. 56 (October 1993), which discusses the provenance of a volume, *The Theory of the Earth*, with a pressmark like that of the copy of Hall's *Chronicle* owned by Sir Richard Newport and thought to contain annotations by Shakespeare.

For Sir Adolphus Carey, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/carey-adolphus-1577-1609>.

See also Burke, John, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland*, (London: Henry Colburn, 1836), Vol. III, p. 190 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=gQpBAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA190&lpg=PA190&dq=%22Sir+Adolphus+Carey%22&source=bl&ots=Dhp8RKtksD&sig=7uYL5dQ8wa6LIqVFGwKOiuXWeko&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CDIQ6AEwBmoVChMI1urZ_oj4yAIVQymICh0UMQUz#v=onepage&q=%22Sir%20Adolphus%20Carey%22&f=false.

- Sir Richard Corbet (b. circa 1544, d.1606), heir to his brother Robert, who married Mary Wolfe, by whom he had no issue. She was the daughter of Morgan Wolfe, and widow of Thomas Lee (d.1572) of Clattercote, Oxfordshire, maternal uncle of the poet, Thomas Watson (d.1592). For the will of Thomas Lee of Clattercote, see TNA PROB 11/54/292. For Sir Richard Corbet, see his will, TNA PROB 11/109/24; *The Family of Corbet, supra*, pp. 297, 302; and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/corbet-richard-ii-1545-1606>.

- Reginald Corbet.
- Francis Corbet (d.1592), who died without issue.
- Arthur Corbet.
- Sir Vincent Corbet (buried 9 March 1622), heir to his brother Richard. He married Frances Humphreston (buried February 1615) of Humphreston, Shropshire. See his will, TNA PROB 11/141/661; and *The Family of Corbet, supra*, pp. 302-3, 307-10.
- Anne Corbet, who married Sir Walter Leveson (1551-1602) of Trentham and Lilleshall. See *The Family of Corbet, supra*, p. 274. She was the mother of

- Admiral Sir Richard Leveson (d. 2 August 1605), for whom see the *ODNB* article and his will, TNA PROB 11/106/91. Sir Walter Leveson was related to William Leveson (d.1621), one of two trustees used by William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon and other members of the Lord Chamberlain's Men to allocate shareholdings in the Globe playhouse in 1599. For the will of William Leveson, see TNA PROB 11/137/600. After Anne Corbet's death, Sir Walter Leveson married Susan Vernon, granddaughter of George Vernon (d.1555), and the daughter of John Vernon (d.1592) of Hodnet, Shropshire, by Elizabeth Devereux (c.1541-c.1583), the daughter of Sir Richard Devereux (d. 13 October 1547) of Weobley by his wife, Dorothy Hastings, daughter of George Hastings (1487-1544), 1st Earl of Huntingdon. Susan Vernon was the sister of both Elizabeth Vernon, wife of Henry Wriothesley (1573-1624), 3rd Earl of Southampton, and Sir Robert Vernon (1577-1625), Comptroller of the Household to Queen Elizabeth, and a first cousin of Robert Devereux (1565-1601), 2nd Earl of Essex. See the Wikipedia article on Sir Walter Leveson edited by the author of this website.
- Margaret Corbet, who married Thomas Harley (c.1543-1631) of Brampton Bryan, Herefordshire, by whom she was the great-grandmother of Robert Harley (1661-1724), 1st Earl of Oxford of the second creation. See *The Family of Corbet*, *supra*, p. 274; the *ODNB* entry for Sir Robert Harley (bap. 1579, d.1656), who married firstly Anne Barrett (d. 1 December 1603), the stepdaughter of Sir John Leveson (d. 7 November 1615), brother of William Leveson (d.1621), who acted as trustee to the Lord Chamberlain's Men, including William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon, in the allocation of shares in the ground lease of the Globe Theatre in 1599; secondly Mary Newport (d.1623), the daughter of Sir Francis Newport (son of Sir Richard Newport, owner of the annotated copy of Hall's *Chronicle* mentioned above), and thirdly Brilliana Conway (bap. 1598, d.1643), 'a marriage brokered by her aunt, Lady Mary Vere' (d. 25 December 1671); the will of Sir John Leveson, TNA PROB 11/126/409; the will of Lady Mary Vere, TNA PROB 11/338/214; and Hutchinson, John, *Herefordshire Biographies*, (Hereford: Jakeman & Carver, 1890), p. 54 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=6RUVAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA54&lpg=PA54&dq=%22Margaret+Corbet%22+%22Thomas+Harley%22&source=bl&ots=j42WkhkX0x&sig=evdthwrTSNfd0vTU_0tyjBL7n2c&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CC4Q6AEwBGoVChMIs7DsmYv4yAIVRKOICh0x_AvD#v=onepage&q=%22Margaret%20Corbet%22%20%22Thomas%20Harley%22&f=false.

- Mary Corbett, unmarried.

* Robert Corbet (buried 30 January 1593) of Stanwardine, Shropshire, who married Jane Kynaston (buried 23 December 1588), the second daughter and co-heir of Thomas Kynaston of Walford, Shropshire, by Susan Onslow, daughter and heir of George Onslow of Rodington, Shropshire. Robert Corbet's eldest daughter, Susan Corbet, married William Yonge, esquire, of Caynton (in Edgmond), Shropshire, eldest son of William Yonge (d. December 1583) and Anne Sneyd, and elder brother of Giles Yonge, who was

a co-purchaser, with Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham (d.1612), of King's Place in Hackney in 1597 (see TNA C 66/1476 and Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. IV, p. 387). See the will of Robert Corbet, TNA PROB 11/83/158; *The Family of Corbet, supra*, pp. 271-2; and the pedigrees of Yonge and Kynaston in Grazebrook, George, and John Paul Rylands, eds., *The Visitation of Shropshire Taken in the Year 1623, Part II*, (London: Harleian Society, 1889), Vol. XXIX, pp. 294, 519 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationshrop01grazgoog#page/n246/mode/2up>.

* Walter Corbet (d.1583), who died of the plague without issue. See *The Family of Corbet, supra*, pp. 287, 295, and his will, TNA PROB 11/66/4.

* Reginald Corbet, who died without issue. See *The Family of Corbet, supra*, p. 369.

* Jerome Corbet (buried 30 July 1598), who married Dorothy Poyner (d.1604), the daughter and co-heir of Thomas Poyner (d.1578) of Beslow, Shropshire, and widow of William Wolrich of Dudmaston, Shropshire, and James Barker of Haughmond, Shropshire. See *The Family of Corbet, supra*, pp. 272-4; the will of Dorothy Poyner Corbet, TNA PROB 11/105/126; and the History of Parliament entry for Jerome Corbet at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/corbet-jerome-1598>.

* Roger Corbet, who died without issue. See *The Family of Corbet, supra*, p. 369.

* Francis Corbet, who died without issue. See *The Family of Corbet, supra*, p. 369.

* Margaret Corbet, who married Francis Palmes (b. about 1521, d.1567) of Lindley, Yorkshire. See *The Family of Corbet, supra*, p. 271.

* Elizabeth Corbet, who was unmarried at the time the testatrix made her will. She married Sir Vincent Curzon (d.1580) of Waterperry, Oxfordshire, by whom she was the mother of Sir Francis Curzon (d.1610), who married Anne Southcote, the daughter of John Southcote (d.1585), Justice of the Common Pleas. For Justice Southcote's involvement in Oxford's financial affairs, see CP 159/110; SRO C615/D 45 (1); and Dyer 1571 on this website. See also TNA C 142/211/154; *The Family of Corbet, supra*, p. 271; and Willis, Browne, *The History and Antiquities of the Town, Hundred, and Deanry of Buckingham*, (London, 1755), pp. 113-14 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=kRAAtAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA114&lpg=PA114&dq=%22Vincent+Curzon%22&source=bl&ots=-Tdm7QzQWG&sig=VMq2hojsxqUjBicxxWIq81yg-OM&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CDoQ6AEwBmoVChMIgJTonPz3yAIVAy-ICh3NIQqM#v=onepage&q=%22Vincent%20Curzon%22&f=false>

See also:

'Parishes: Waterperry', in *A History of the County of Oxford: Volume 5, Bullingdon Hundred*, ed. Mary D Lobel (London, 1957), pp. 295-309 <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/oxon/vol5/pp295-309>.

See also Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex*, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), Vol. XIII, p. 492 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=0m1KAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA492&lpg=PA492&dq=%22John+Southcote%22+%22Curson%22&source=bl&ots=k8T6NGobjU&sig=xGVbPMQ CkNJfzll7LW7y7Oz0Cbs&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CCYQ6AEwAmoVChMI44mN0ID4yAIVQImICh2oSAU7#v=onepage&q=%22John%20Southcote%22%20%22Curson%22&f=false>.

After the death of Roger Corbet in 1538/9, it would appear that his son and heir, Sir Andrew Corbet, resided at Moreton Corbet, while the testatrix resided at the manor of Linslade in Buckinghamshire. For the testatrix' eldest son, Sir Andrew Corbet, see also the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/corbet-sir-andrew-1522-78>.

For the foregoing see also Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 463-6, 490; the pedigree in *The Family of Corbet*, *supra*, p. 369; the pedigrees in Keen, *supra*; and the pedigree of Corbet in Burke, John, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland*, (London: Henry Colburn, 1836), Vol. III, pp. 189-90 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/genealogicalhera03burk#page/188/mode/2up>.

See also the pedigree of Corbet in Grazebrook, George, and John Paul Rylands, eds., *The Visitation of Shropshire Taken in the Year 1623, Part I*, (London: Harleian Society, 1889), Vol. XXVIII, pp. 136-7 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationshrop00britgoog#page/n190/mode/2up>.

LM: T{estamentum} Anne Corbet

In the name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, three persons and one God, I, Anne Corbet of Linslade in the county of Buckingham, widow, being diseased and sick in body but whole of mind and of perfect memory, make my last will and testament in manner and form following:

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

First, I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God, having a sure trust and confidence in his great and infinite mercy, nothing presuming upon mine own works and deeds (which I know to be much insufficient for my salvation), but upon the merits of the death and passion of his only and dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ, and upon his victorious Resurrection & most glorious Ascension, firmly believing that through these his merits and faith in his blood I shall live amongst that holy company and blessed fellowship in heaven in glory and joy which never shall have end, and have with them the fruition of his godhead etc.;

Secondarily, I bequeath my body to be buried and interred at Linslade, and there such exequies to be done for me (after the discretion of mine executors) as shall stand with the laudable use and custom of the Church of England;

Thirdly, whereas my late husband, Roger Corbet, did give by his last will and testament (as appeareth more at large by the same) three hundred marks towards the marriage of his daughter, Elizabeth, to be levied and paid of the money to be received and taken for the marriage of his son and heir together with the revenues of his lands growing in the time of his nonage if I, his executrix, together with the supervisors, might buy and redeem him, but forsomuch as it came not so to pass nor to such effect as his said will and my desire was to the same, I will and give unto my said daughter, Elizabeth, the aforesaid sum of three hundred marks to be levied & paid of my goods moveable and unmoveable not bequeathed within the town and lordship of Linslade aforesaid, the which all my goods both moveable & unmoveable I will to be prized and valued immediately after my departure by honest & indifferent men to be appointed and chosen by mine executors;

And of the residue remaining over & above th' aforesaid three hundred marks, I will and give unto my son, Jerome Corbet, towards his finding at learning £9 yearly by the space of 7 years, and other three pounds of the same likewise remaining I will and give yearly to be paid by th' hands of mine executors toward the finding of my daughter, Elizabeth, until such time as she shall be married;

But if it shall fortune my daughter, Elizabeth, to be bestowed in marriage by my lifetime, or chance her to die before the time of my departure out of this present life, then I will the said sum of three hundred marks which she should have had towards her marriage to be evenly divided amongst my three sons, Walter, Robert, and Jerome, and in case one or two of these three depart out of this present life before the distribution of the aforesaid sums, that then his or their parts or portions shall be given to thother surviving, and if they all three depart as is aforesaid (which God forbid), then I will one hundred pounds of the said 300 marks to be evenly divided amongst my two daughters, Margaret and Elizabeth, and if thone of them depart before the distribution aforesaid, thother surviving, then I will the whole to remain to the survivor;

And thother hundred pounds remaining I give and bequeath unto my son Sir Andrew Corbet's three youngest sons, Richard, Reginald and Francis, to be likewise evenly

divided amongst them, and if any of them chance to die before the distribution thereof, then I will thother surviving to have the part or parts of him or them so deceased;

Item, I will and bequeath unto the said Elizabeth nine pounds in angels after 10s the piece to make her a chain withal, and my tablet of gold;

Also I will and bequeath unto my well-beloved son Palmes a little round ring of gold, and to my daughter, his wife, one ring with a diamond;

Item, I will unto my son, Walter Corbet, my flagon-chain of gold to the value of £20, the which is in his own hands and keeping;

Item, I will unto Robert Corbet, and to Jerome, his brother, one other chain of gold to the value of £23, to be equally divided amongst them by mine executors;

Also I will unto Robert Corbet my cross of gold, and unto Jerome Corbet I bequeath my brooch of gold;

Item, I will to Reginald Corbet, my son Sir Andrew Corbet's son, one hoop of gold;

Item, I will & bequeath unto Dorothy, my maid, all mine apparel and her whole year's wages, which is 40s, for her pains taken with me in the time of my sickness;

Item, I will and bequeath unto every one of my maiden servants their whole year's wages;

Item, I will and bequeath unto John Rogers, my servant, the bed he now lieth in with all that belongeth unto it, and his whole year's wages;

Item, I will and bequeath unto George Iuet 20s, a quarter of wheat, and two quarters of barley;

Item, I will and bequeath to Sir Jeffery, my priest, 40s;

Item, I will and bequeath unto John Williams 20s in money according unto the discretion of my executors;

Also I will that if my son, Sir Andrew Corbet, knight, will be bound to my executors and overseers in the sum of six hundred pounds for the performance of this my present will and testament in all things as is above-written, then I will him to have all my goods & chattels to remain, or else the same to be sold to the best valor by mine executors, and the money thereof coming to be paid as is afore rehearsed;

And I ordain and make my well-beloved brother, Edmund Windsor, esquire, and John Somer, clerk, parson of Stoke Hammond, mine executors of this my present testament and last will, desiring them to pay my debts and to perform this my present will in all

things as is above-written, and for their painstaking in the true fulfilling thereof, I will and give to every one of them five pounds;

And further I constitute and make my well-beloved nephew, Sir Thomas Windsor, knight, overseer of this same my will and testament, beseeching him to see the same in all points performed, unto whom I give for his pains to be taken about the same a stone cup with a cover of silver and gilt, and a little trencher-salt with a cover of silver and gilt;

In witness whereof I, the said Anne, unto this my present last will and testament have set to my hand the 22nd day of September in the fourth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord Edward the Sixth by the grace of God King of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, and of the Church of England and also of Ireland in earth the Supreme Head, in the presence of Jeffery David, Dorothy Woodnet, John Hartwell, Richard Markham and other. Anne Corbet.

Probatum fuit h{uius}mo{d}i test{amentu}m coram d{omi}no Cant{uariensis} Archiep{iscop}o apud London Octauo die Mens{is} Nouembris Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingentesimo qui{n}quagesimo primo Iuramento Executoru{m} in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}ator{um} quibus com{m}issa fuit admi{n}istrac{i}o o{mn}i{u}m bonor{um} &c De bene &c Ac de pleno Inuentario &c exhib{e}nd{o} Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{is}

[=The same 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 and fifty-first by the oath of the executors appointed in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all the goods etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., and to exhibit a full inventory etc.]