

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 29 January 1553 and proved 12 March 1553 of Guy Crafford (d. 31 January 1553), esquire, of St Helen's Bishopsgate, whose wife, Joan Bodley, was the niece of Dionyse Leveson, grandmother 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.

For another transcript of the testator's will, see 'Wynch, Lyon, Coghill and Others' at:

<https://gen.julianlyon.com/1552-guy-crafford/>

### ***CONNECTION TO THE EARLS OF OXFORD***

The testator was a witness to the will, TNA PROB 11/22/61, of John Josselyn (d.1525?), esquire, of High Roding, Essex. John Josselyn was auditor to John de Vere, 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, and an executor of his will, was appointed by Cardinal Wolsey to manage the lands, household and person of John de Vere, 14<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, and was a servant of John de Vere, 15<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford.

See the decree dated 8 February 1549 in a Chancery suit brought by Sir Thomas Josselyn against the testator and Dionyse Leveson concerning 'chattels in the form of plate of John Josselyn, deceased'.

### ***FAMILY BACKGROUND***

For the testator's family background, see the will of his father, Thomas Crafford, TNA PROB 11/16/198, and:

<http://www.ocotilloroad.com/geneal/crayford1.html#GUY1>

For the Crafford family, see also Harris, Rendel, *The Finding of the "Mayflower"*, (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1920), pp. 52-3 at:

<https://archive.org/details/findingofmayflow00harruoft/page/52/mode/2up>

### ***Testator's parents***

The testator was the son of Thomas Crafford (d.1508), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/16/198. The testator's mother appears to have been Alice Lynne, the daughter of John Lynne (d.1487?) and Joan Knyvet, the daughter of Sir John Knyvet (1394/5-1445) of Buckenham Castle, Norfolk, by Elizabeth Clifton, the daughter and heir of Sir

Constantine Clifton (1372-1395), 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Clifton. For the will of John Lynne, see TNA PROB 11/8/54.

### *Testator's siblings*

The testator had two brothers:

**-Richard Crafford** (d.1544?). He appears to be the Richard Crafford who, together with his mother(?), Alice, and Godfrey Foljambe of Walton, Derbyshire, and Anne Colvyle of Humby, Lincolnshire, widow, entered into a bond on 7 December 1515 to abide by an arbitrament as to the title to one third of half the manor of Dovers. See Nottinghamshire Archives DDFJ/1/122/2. He may also be the Richard Crafford, gentleman, of Hornchurch mentioned as a creditor in TNA C 241/282/86.

His son may be the Richard Crafford, esquire, referred to as 'cousin' in the will of William Gardiner (1522-1558), TNA PROB 11/44/393, and may also be the Richard Crafford who, together with his wife, Anne, was granted an annuity from the manors of Thankley and Staunton and the wardship of John Gardiner in 1560 (see Wilshire and Swindon History Centre, 9/30/26).

**-Avery Crafford.**

### **MARRIAGE AND ISSUE**

The testator married Joan Bodley (d.1584), the daughter of James Bodley (d.1514) and Joan Strachey, the daughter of Thomas Strachey of Saffron Walden, Essex, and the granddaughter of Thomas Bodley (d.1492) and Joan (nee Leche) Bodley Bradbury (d.1530). For the will, dated 27 October 1514, of James Bodley, see ERO D/ACR 2/22, ff. 22-22v. For the will of Joan (nee Leche) Bodley Bradbury, see TNA PROB 11/23/272

For the Strachey family, see 'Strachey of Sutton Court', *The William and Mary Quarterly*, Vol. 5, No. 1 (July, 1896), pp. 6-10 at:

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1921226>

*The Strachey family is one of great antiquity. Sir John Strachey was one of the 20 knights made at the investiture of Edward the Black Prince, 1337. After him the regular order of the family from Gyles Strachey, son of William Strachey, of Saffron Walden, in Co. of Essex, in reign of Edward VI., 1547, was as follows. Gyles had issue: William Strachey, of Saffron Walden (b.1547-d.1586). Issue of the last was William Strachey (b.1561-d.1598). He married Mary Cook, and they had one son William, who became Secretary to Lord Delaware, and was the author of Historie of Travaile in Virginia. This William married Frances Foster in 1588. Issue, one son, William, who married Elenor*

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*Read in 1620. His son by this union was William Strachey, who went to Virginia and died there in 1686, leaving one child, Arabella Strachey. . . .*

See also the *ODNB* entry for William Strachey (d.1621), and the Wikipedia entry at:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Strachey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Strachey)

*William Strachey, born 4 April 1572 in Saffron Walden, Essex, was the grandson of William Strachey (died 1587),<sup>[1]</sup> and the eldest son of William Strachey (died 1598) and Mary Cooke (died 1587),<sup>[2]</sup> the daughter of Henry Cooke, Merchant Taylor of London, by Anne Goodere, the daughter of Henry Goodere<sup>[3]</sup> and Jane Greene.<sup>[4]</sup> Strachey's maternal grandfather, Henry Cooke (died 1551), held Lesnes Abbey in Kent; he was succeeded by his son, Edmund Cooke (died 1619), while his younger son, Richard Cooke, has been identified as the author of *Description de Tous les Provinces de France*.<sup>[5][6]</sup>*

*By his father's first marriage Strachey had three brothers and three sisters.<sup>[6]</sup> Strachey's mother died in 1587, and in August of that year Strachey's father married Elizabeth Brocket of Hertfordshire, by whom he had five daughters.<sup>[6][7]</sup>*

See also 'William Strachey (1572–1621)', *Encyclopedia Virginia*, at:

[https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Strachey\\_William\\_1572-1621#start\\_entry](https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Strachey_William_1572-1621#start_entry)

See also the Goodere pedigree in Fetherston, John, ed., *The Visitation of the County of Warwick in the Year 1619*, (London: Harleian Society, 1877), Vol. XII, p. 67 at:

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

For the will of Joan Bodley, see TNA PROB 11/67/367. For the will of Thomas Bodley (d.1492), see TNA PROB 11/9/374. Thomas Bodley's brother, Richard Bodley (d.1491), was the great-grandfather of Sir John Bodley of Streatham, landlord of the Globe playhouse from 1601-1622. For Sir John Bodley's role as landlord of the Globe, see TNA C 54/1682, mm. 10-11. See also the Bodley pedigree in Sutton, Anne F., 'Lady Joan Bradbury (d.1530)', in Barron, Caroline M. and Anne F. Sutton, eds., *Medieval London Widows 1300-1500*, (London: The Hambledon Press, 1994), pp. 208-38 at p. 211:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=uc3RLXFANoMC&pg=PA211>

For Joan Bodley, see also:

[http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page\\_id=646](http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=646)

*Joan or Johanna Bodley (d.1584) was the daughter of James Bodley of Saffron Walden, Essex (d.1514), a mercer, and Joan Strachey. She married Guy Crafford of St. Helen without Bishopsgate, London and Rayneham, Essex (d.1553) by whom she had several*

children including Arthur (d. May 1, 1600). Anne F. Sutton, in her biography of Lady Joan Bradbury, Joan's grandmother in *Medieval London Widows 1300-1500*, gives a family tree that does not list Arthur but does give Mary, three unnamed daughters, John, Nicholas, and Edward. Crafford was a lawyer. On October 3, 1539, he and Johanna were granted two messuages in St. Helens by Henry VIII in exchange for £54 and a yearly rent of 6s. 8d. In 1561, Joan was left £20 and "a ring of gold of the value of 30s" in the will of Denise Leveson (née Bodley), her aunt. The will of Joan, widow of Guy Crafford, was proved in 1584.

For a transcript of her will, see:

<https://gen.julianlyon.com/1584-joane-crafford-widow/>

The testator's wife, Joan Bodley, was the niece of Dionyse (nee Bodley) Leveson (d.1560), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/43/645. As noted above, Dionyse Leveson was the grandmother 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. For the will of William Leveson (d.1621), see TNA PROB 11/137/600. The testator's wife, three of his sons, his daughter, Mary Crafford, and her husband, Thomas Colshill, are referred to in the will of Dionyse Leveson:

*Item, I give and bequeath to my cousin[s], Arthur Crafford, Nicholas Crafford and Edward Crafford, £10 to be paid to them equally and quarterly by forty shillings until the same be fully paid.*

*Also I bequeath to my cousin, Joan Crafford, £20.*

*Also I bequeath to my said cousin Colshill and his wife, either of them a black gown.*

By Joan Bodley, the testator had three sons and four daughters:

\* **Arthur Crafford** (1535-1606), eldest son and heir, aged 17 years, 11 months and 8 days at the testator's death. He is not mentioned in the will below. He married Anne Scott, the daughter of George Scott (d.1588?), of Chigwell, Essex, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/74/532. By Anne Scott, Arthur Crafford had two daughters, Mary Crafford (d. 10 November 1602), mentioned in the will of her grandfather, George Scott, and Winifred Crafford. On 1 May 1620 Winifred Crafford married George Gittens or Gibbens (d. 15 April 19 1668) of South Weald, Essex, by whom she was the mother of Crafford Gittens (b. 11 February 1623, d. circa April 1663). Winifred (nee Crafford) Gittens died 31 December 1626. See the inquisitions post mortem, TNA C 142/293/52 and TNA WARD 7/30/37, taken after the death of Arthur Crafford, and *Took vs Glascock* in Williams, John, ed., *The Reports of the Most Learned Sir Edmund Saunders*, (New York: O. Halsted, 1833), Vol. I, p. 254 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=lv42AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA254>

It seems likely ‘John’ in the pedigree in Sutton, *supra*, p. 211, is an error for the testator’s eldest son, Arthur Crafford.

\* **Nicholas Crafford** (living 1595), mentioned as under age in the will below. He may have been named after his uncle, Nicholas Leveson (d. 20 August 1539), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/27/552. On 1 June 1582 he was granted licence to marry Dorothy Muschamp. See Chester, Joseph Lemuel, *Allegations for Marriage Licences Issued by the Bishop of London 1520 to 1610*, Vol. I, ( London: Harleian Society, 1887), Vol. XXV, p. 109 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=xTIEAAAIAAJ&pg=PA109>

In the 1595 will of his brother-in-law, Thomas Colshill, he is referred to as ‘Nicholas Crafford of Carshalton, Surrey, gentleman’.

\* **Edward Crafford** (living 1583), mentioned as under age in the will below. According to his mother’s will, he had a wife living in 1584.

\* **Mary Crafford** (b. by 1530, d.1599), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/93/439. She married Thomas Colshill (c.1518-1595), esquire, for whom see his will, TNA PROB 11/85/243, and the two History of Parliament entries at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/colshill-thomas-1518-95>

and:

<http://www.histparl.ac.uk/volume/1509-1558/member/colshill-thomas-151718-95>

Thomas Colshill was related to Thomas Smith (1525/6-1594) of Blackmore, Essex, who married a wife surnamed Colshill. See the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.histparl.ac.uk/volume/1509-1558/member/smith-thomas-iv-152526-94>

According to Sutton, in 1576 Thomas Colshill was among seventeen mercers involved in a loan from the Queen. See Sutton, Anne F., *The Mercery of London*, (Aldershot, Hampshire: Ashgate Publishing Company, 2005), p. 483.

*In May 1576 the queen proposed to hand over to the city £160,000, which was ‘to remain in store’ for the service of the realm, and to be lent out for at least one year on interest, no one taking more than £500 and no one less than £50. Seventeen mercers offered to take a total of £3,475, of whom one was a customs official and one a courtier.*

*AC 1560-95, ff. 296-97 list presented to mayor: Thomas Bates £500; Richard Barnes, Thomas Colshill, Humphrey Martin £300 each; Henry Champion ( a courtier rather than*

*a mercer), Matthew Field, Anthony Walthall, William Barker and Edmund Martin £200 each; Edmund Smith £150; John Flower £125; Thomas Egerton, Edmund Hogan, Thomas Castleyn, Thomas Cordall, Ellis Hanmer and John Phipps £100 each.*

for Thomas Colshill's career as Surveyor of Customs, see also:

Stone, Lawrence. "Elizabethan Overseas Trade." *The Economic History Review*, vol. 2, no. 1, 1949, pp. 30–58. *JSTOR*, [www.jstor.org/stable/2590080](http://www.jstor.org/stable/2590080). Accessed 11 Oct. 2020.

See also Lambert, Craig and Baker, Gary P (2018) England's reserve Navy: the Ship Survey of 1572. *Navy Record Society Magazine*, at:

<https://eprints.soton.ac.uk/441208/>

*The threats to Queen Elizabeth I from a possible Spanish invasion were real. The 'Queens maiesties shipes' in 1570 listed only twenty ships and three galleys. However, the merchant fleet could be requisitioned in an emergency, and Burghley ordered a survey of the merchant fleet, which was carried out by Thomas Colshill in 1572. Colshill was intimately acquainted with the merchant trade, having started in 1549 as supervisor of petty customs in London and appointed surveyor of great customs in London in 1572. He used the customs accounts to compile the survey, listing the head ports all the way round the coast from Newcastle to Chester. Under each port are listed all the ships in that port arranged by tonnage from the largest to the smallest, together with the master of that vessel.*

By Thomas Colshill, Mary Crafford was the mother of three daughters:

**(1) Susan Colshill**, who married Sir Edward Stanhope (d. 12 August 1603), brother of Sir Edward Stanhope (d. 10 March 1608), Doctor of the Civil Laws, before whom Oxford acknowledge several indentures (see TNA C 146/7040, TNA C 147/152, and NRO NPL 201). For the will of Mary Crafford's son-in-law, Sir Edward Stanhope (d. 12 August 1603), see TNA PROB 11/103/253. For the will of Sir Edward Stanhope (d. 10 March 1608), Doctor of the Civil Laws, see TNA PROB 11/111/228.

**(2) Mary Colshill**, who married Jasper Leeke.

**(3) Katherine Colshill**, who married Sir Thomas Dacres. See the pedigree of Dacres of Cheshunt in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Hertfordshire*, (London: Harleian Society, 1886), Vol. XXII, p. 47 at:

<https://archive.org/details/visitationsofher222732cook/page/n63/mode/2up>

\* **Dionyse Crafford**, mentioned as unmarried in the will below. She appears to have been named after her aunt, Dionyse (nee Bodley) Leveson (d.1560).

\* **Elizabeth Crafford**, mentioned as unmarried in the will below.

\* **Grissell Crafford**, mentioned as unmarried in the will below.

For the inquisition post mortem taken on 7 March 1553 after the testator's death, see TNA C 142/98/39, and:

'Inquisitions: Edward VI (part 3 of 3)', in *Abstracts of Inquisitiones Post Mortem For the City of London: Part 1*, ed. G S Fry (London, 1896), pp. 110-126. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/inquis-post-mortem/abstract/no1/pp110-126> [accessed 7 October 2020].

### ***OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL***

'John Watson, gentleman' who witnessed the testator's will can likely be identified with 'my son-in-law, John Watson' mentioned in the 1583 will of the testator's widow, Joan (nee Bodley) Crafford.

Anthony Smythe mentioned in the will below may have been related to Sir Thomas Smyth, for whom see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/smythe-thomas-i-1522-91>

### ***MENTION OF THE TESTATOR IN THE WILLS OF OTHERS***

In his will, TNA PROB 11/32/429, Sir Richard Gresham (c.1485-1549), Lord Mayor of London, mentions 'my cousin Guy Crafford and his wife'. For a transcript of the will, see Leveson Gower, Granville, *Genealogy of the Family of Gresham*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1883), p. 75 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=9ZQNAAAQAAJ&pg=PA75>

As noted above, the testator was related to Sir Richard Gresham through the Levesons. Sir Richard Gresham's niece, Ursula Gresham, daughter of Sir Richard Gresham's brother, Sir John Gresham (c.1495-1556) of Titsey, Surrey, Lord Mayor of London in 1547, married Dionyse Leveson's son, Thomas Leveson (d.1576), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/58/397. For the will of Sir John Gresham, see TNA PROB 11/38/241. See also the pedigree in Sutton, *supra*, p. 211, which shows that the testator's wife, Joan Bodley, was a first cousin of Thomas Leveson (d.1576):

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=uc3RLXFANoMC&pg=PA211>

The testator was appointed as an executor of the will, TNA PROB 11/45/314, dated 17 July 1552 and proved 26 November 1562, of Anne (nee Lynne) Hopton Tyrrell, second

wife of Sir John Tyrrell (d. 28 February 1541) of Little Warley, Essex. Anne Lynne's eldest sister, Audrey Lynne (d. 28 August 1522), was the first wife of Sir Richard Gresham (c.1485-1549).

The testator was appointed as an overseer of the will, TNA PROB 11/28/4, dated 21 January 1539 and proved 12 January 1540, of the London haberdasher, Edward Dormer, whose daughter, Elizabeth Dormer, married John Gresham, second son of Sir Richard Gresham (c.1485-1549). See the Wikipedia entry for Sir Richard Gresham edited by the author of this website.

RM: Guidonis Crafforde

In the name of God, Amen. This is the last will and testament of me, Guy Crafford of London, esquire, made the 29 day of January in the year of Our Lord God 1552:

First and principally I give and bequeath my soul unto Almighty God, my Maker and Redeemer and Saviour, and my body to be buried within the church of Saint Helen's;

Item, I give unto my daughters, Dionyse, Elizabeth and Grissell, to every of them forty pounds towards their marriages, and that to be levied of my plate and jewels, and that my wife shall have th' occupation of the same money unto such time as they shall be married and then to deliver it unto them, and every of them to be other's heir;

And I will that if any of my said daughters do marry or bestow herself without the consent of her mother, that then she to lose her part bequeathed;

Item, I give to my son, Nicholas, twenty pounds;

Item, I give to my son, Edward, twenty pounds to be paid to them at their full and lawful age by my wife;

Item, I give to my daughter Colshill one gilt spoon for a remembrance to pray for me;

Item, I will that Anthony Smyth shall have £50 in money that was his mother's over and besides certain household stuff which also was his mother's at the time of her death;

The residue of all my goods and chattels, my debts and legacies paid, I give and bequeath unto my well beloved [f. 35v] wife, whom I make my sole and full executrice, desiring her to be good unto my children and hers as my special trust is in her;

In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name the day and year above-written.

Witness to this will: Thomas Watson, clerk, John Watson, gentleman. By me, Guy Crafford. By me, Richard Crafford. Per me Thomam Colshill.



Probatum fuit huiusmodi testamentum coram Domino Cantuariensis Archiepiscopo apud London xijo die Marcij Anno domini millesimo quingentesimo Lijdo Iuramento Georgij Harrison notarij publici procuratoris Iohanne Relicte et executricis cui comissa fuit administratio omnium bonorum Iurium et creditorum dicti defuncti De bene et fideliter administrandis eadem &c in persona dicti procuratoris iurate

[=The same testament was proved before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 52<sup>nd</sup> by the oath of George Harrison, notary public, proctor of Joan, relict and executrix, to whom administration was granted of all the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased, sworn to well and faithfully administer the same etc. in the person of the said proctor.]