SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 8 November 1554 and proved 30 October 1555, of Sir William Waldegrave (d. 12 December 1554). In 1572 his son, Sir William Waldegrave (c.1540 – 25 August 1613), together with Oxford’s first cousin, John Darcy (d.1581), 2nd Baron Darcy of Chiche, entered into guarantees amounting to £5000 for Oxford’s debt to the Court of Wards (see TNA C 2/Eliz/T6/48).

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the testator’s family background, see the Waldegrave pedigree in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex, Part I*, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), Vol. XIII, p. 119 at:

https://archive.org/stream/visitationsofess1314metc#page/118/mode/2up

For earlier generations of the Waldegrave family, see the will, dated 26 January 1525 and proved 6 March 1528, of the testator’s grandfather, Sir William Waldegrave (c.1465 - 30 June 1527), TNA PROB 11/22/294; the will of the testator’s grandmother, Margery Wentworth Waldegrave, TNA PROB 11/28/96; and Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, pp. 418-22.

See also ‘The Descendants of William deTendering, Knt., of Tendering Hall & His Wife Dame Katherine Mylde’ at:


See also the History of Parliament entry for the testator at:

http://www.histparl.ac.uk/volume/1509-1558/member/waldegrave-sir-william-1507-54

Testator’s parents

The testator was the son of George Waldegrave (c.1483-1528), esquire, of Smallbridge in Bures St. Mary and Anne Drury (d. 8 June 1572), the daughter of Sir Robert Drury of Hawstead, Suffolk by Anne Calthorpe, the daughter of Sir William Calthorpe (30 January 1410 - 15 November 1494) of Burnham Thorpe, Norfolk, son and heir of Sir John Calthorpe and Anne Wythe, daughter of Sir John Wythe. See the ODNB entry for Sir Robert Drury, and his will, TNA PROB 11/25/467. For Sir William Calthorpe see *Plantagenet Ancestry*, supra, Vol. I, p. 169; and his will, TNA PROB 11/10/408.

According to the *History of Parliament*, the testator was born and brought up at his maternal grandfather’s house in Suffolk. When the testator was a few weeks short of 21 years of age the deaths within the space of fourteen months of his paternal grandfather,
Sir William Waldgrave (c.1465 - 30 June 1527), and his father, George Waldgrave, left him heir to a substantial patrimony, while the marriage contracted for him by his father while dying strengthened his connexions in the region and added to his property. For the will of the testator’s father, George Waldgrave, see TNA PROB 11/22/294, and TNA PROB 11/22/577.

Testator’s siblings

According to Plantagenet Ancestry, supra, Vol. III, p. 421, the testator had four brothers and two sisters. Only two brothers, George Waldgrave, deceased, and Edward Waldgrave, are mentioned in the will below, as well as the testator’s two sisters, Anne and Phyllis. For further details concerning the testator’s siblings, see the will of the testator’s father, TNA PROB 11/22/577.

After the death of the testator’s father, the testator’s mother married, as his second wife, Sir Thomas Jermyn (d.1552) of Rushbrooke, Suffolk. They had two sons, John Jermyn and Thomas Jermyn (likely Thomas Jermyn (d.1617) of Depden), both mentioned in the will below. For the will of Sir Thomas Jermyn, see TNA PROB 11/35/417.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE


By Julian Raynsford, the testator had one son and four daughters. In his will below the testator mentions his son and heir, and three daughters:

* Sir William Waldgrave (c.1540 – 25 August 1613), who married Elizabeth Mildmay (d.1581), the daughter of Thomas Mildmay (d.1567?), esquire, of Moulsham (in Chelmsford), Essex. For the will of Thomas Mildmay, proved 29 January 1567, see TNA PROB 11/49/30.

See the History of Parliament entry for Sir William Waldgrave (c.1540 – 25 August 1613) at:

http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/waldegrave-william-1540-1613

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See also the History of Parliament entry for his son, Sir William Waldegrave (c.1573 – 26 November 1613) at:

b. c.1573, 1st s. of William Waldegrave by his 1st w. m. (1) c. 1591, Judith, da. of Sir Robert Jermyn, 1da.; (2) Jennemache or Jemima, da. of (Sir) Nicholas Bacon, 3s. 3da. Kntd. 1595; suc. fa. Aug. 1613.

The testator’s son and John Darcy (d.1581), 2nd Baron Darcy of Chiche, were, as noted above, co-guarantors of Oxford’s debt to the Court of Wards, and were related by marriage. John Darcy (d.1581), 2nd Baron Darcy of Chiche was the son of Oxford’s paternal uncle, Thomas Darcy (1506 – 28 June 1558), 1st Baron Darcy of Chiche, by his second wife, the 16th Earl of Oxford’s sister, Elizabeth de Vere. However before marrying Elizabeth de Vere, Thomas Darcy, 1st Baron Darcy of Chiche, had been the ward of Sir John Raynsford, who married Darcy to his daughter, Audrey Raynsford, sister of the testator’s wife, Julian Ransford, mother of Oxford’s other co-guarantor, Sir William Waldegrave (c.1540 – 25 August 1613).

See the will of Thomas Darcy, 1st Baron Darcy of Chiche, TNA PROB 11/44/115, and the ODNB entry:

Darcy, Thomas, first Baron Darcy of Chiche (1506–1558), courtier and administrator, was born on 4 December 1506, the only son of Roger Darcy (d. 1508) of Danbury, Essex, and Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Henry Wentworth of Nettlestead, Suffolk. His father, who had been an esquire of the body to Henry VII, died before Darcy was two, and his wardship was granted to Sir John Raynsford of Bradfield, Essex. By September 1521, as soon as he had attained the minimum legal age for cohabitation, Raynsford married Darcy to his daughter Audrey. Nothing is known of his upbringing, but he seems to have been destined for a career as a soldier and courtier. Audrey died soon after Darcy achieved his majority in 1527, and they appear to have had no children. By 1532 he had married Elizabeth, the daughter of John de Vere, fifteenth earl of Oxford . . . .


https://www.jstor.org/stable/3817073

For Avis Waldegrave, see also:

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Avis Waldegrave (d.1612+), sometimes called Alice, was the daughter of Sir William Waldegrave of Smallbridge Hall, Suffolk (d. August 17, 1613) and Elizabeth Mildmay (d.1581). She married Anthony Cooke of Gidea Hall, Essex (1559-1604) and was the mother of Edward (March 3, 1579-July 20, 1625), Anne (c.1581-April 18, 1592), Hercules Francis (c.1585-November 1661), Elizabeth (b. July 1, 1589), William (July 9, 1590-July 9, 1650), Penelope (January 28, 1591-March 26, 1650), and Alice (July 8, 1595-May 14, 1596). She and her husband lived at Bedfords while her mother-in-law, Anne Caunton, remained at the family seat, Gidea Hall. According to Marjorie K. McIntosh’s articles on the Cooke family, Avis was aggressive, articulate, and clever when it came to both business and politics. This did not prevent the family’s descent into financial difficulties. In 1612, she was obliged to allow her son Edward to sell off some of the lands she held for life.

* Margery Waldegrave, who married a husband surnamed Wiseman. It seems likely Margery Wiseman’s husband was related to John Wiseman and his son, Thomas Wiseman, who were appointed on 10 December 1540 as auditors of all the lands of John de Vere (1516-1562), 16th Earl of Oxford (see TNA C 142/136/12).

* Mary Waldegrave, unmarried when the testator made his will.

* Dorothy Waldegrave, unmarried when the testator made his will. She later married Arthur Harris, esquire, of Woodham Mortimer, Essex. See Plantagenet Ancestry, supra, Vol. III, p. 422.

The testator was with the English forces occupying Calais under Thomas Wentworth (1525-1584), 2nd Baron Wentworth, when he died there on 12 December 1554. See Arber, Edward, An English Garner, Vol. IV, (Birmingham, 1882), pp. 173-7. There is a monument to his memory in Bures church, and an inscription in the church of St. Mary, Sudbury. His will was proved by the executors in October 1555, a week before they renounced administration in favour of his widow, Julian.

There is also a monument in the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in Bures, Suffolk, to the testator’s son, Sir William Waldegrave, with this inscription:

*Here lieth buried Sir William Waldegrave, knight, and Dame Elizabeth, his wife, who lived together in godly marriage 21 years, and had issue 6 sons and 4 daughters. The said Elizabeth departed this life the 10th day of May in the year of Our Lord 1581, and the said Sir William deceased the 1st day of August in the year of Our Lord 1613.*

**OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL**
It seems likely that the Henry Golding who witnessed the will and was granted an annuity by the testator was Oxford’s maternal uncle, Henry Golding (d.1576).

LM: Testamentum Willem Walgrave militis

In the name of God, Amen. I, Sir William Waldegrave of Bures Saint Mary in the county of Suffolk, knight, being sick in body and yet perfect of remembrance, thanks be unto Almighty God, do this present eight day of November in the year of Our Lord God a thousand 500 fifty and four, and in the first and second years of the reigns of our Sovereign Lord and Lady Philip and Mary by the grace of God King and Queen of England, France, Naples, Jerusalem and Ireland, Defenders of the Faith, Princes of Spain and Sicily, Archdukes of Austria, Dukes of Milan, Burgundy and Brabant, Counties of Hapsburg, Flanders and Tyrol;

First, I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God, my Maker and Redeemer, by whose merits and passion I hope to be saved, and my body to be buried in Christian burial in the churchyard of Our Lady within the town of Calais without any pomp or vainglory at the discretion of my executors;

Item, I do give unto the vicar of Bures for my tithes negligently forgotten ten shillings;

Item, I will that my executors hereunder named shall from time to time after my decease levy, receive and take up all and singular the rents, profits and commodities of all and singular my lands, tares(?) and tenements and hereditaments, whatsoever they be, set, situate and lying within the counties of Suffolk, Essex or elsewhere within the realm of England, except the rents and profits of my manors of Great Wendon and Little Wendon in the said county of Essex and all other my lands lying in the said parishes of Greater Wendy and Little Wendy aforesaid, as also the yearly rent of twenty marks going out of the manor of Edwardstone in the said county of Suffolk, unto such time as William Waldegrave, my son and heir, shall come unto and accomplish the full age of twenty and one years, towards the performance of this my last will and testament, legacies and bequests hereafter ensuing;

Item, I give to every of my two daughters yet unmarried, to wit, Mary and Dorothy, four hundred marks of lawful money of England, to be paid unto them by my executors when they shall come to the age of twenty and one years, or at the day of their marriage (if it shall fortune them or any of them to marry before the accomplishment of twenty and one years, and if any of them die before the said age of twenty and one years or marriage, then I will that she that shall overlive thother shall have two hundred marks of the portion of her deceased, over and above the four hundred marks before bequeathed, and the other two hundred marks I will to be bestowed in performance of this my last will, legacies and bequests;
Item, I give to Margery Wiseman, my daughter, one hundred marks of lawful money of England;

Item, I do give and bequeath unto Dame Anne Jermyn, my natural mother, my hoop of gold and twenty pounds in money;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my two brethren, John Jermyn and Thomas Jermyn, her sons, five-pound apiece;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my sister, Anne Heigham, the wife of Clement Heigham, esquire, twenty pounds in money to be distributed among her children;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my brother, Edward Waldegrave, my lease of the farm of Addams(?) in the county of Suffolk aforesaid which I hold of Sir John Wentworth, knight, to have and to hold the same unto him, his executors and assigns, for the term of years specified in the said lease;

Item, I will that all my goods and chattels, plate and jewels, be also sold by my executors towards the performance of my legacies and bequests before bequeathed unto my said two daughters, Mary and Dorothy, except such goods and chattels hereafter by me given and bequeathed unto Dame Julian, my wife, to wit, the half of all and singular my said goods and chattels, household stuff, plate and jewels, which I give and bequeath unto dame Julian, my said wife;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my servants named in a schedule hereunto annexed and by me subscribed th’ annuities in the same schedule specified to be perceived and received out of my manors(?) of Polstead and Tawnyes in the county of Suffolk, and I will that if my son and heir, William Waldegrave, or his heirs be at any time hereafter disposed to redeem the said annuities, that in paying five years’ purchase the said annuities shall cease, and that every of my said servants shall have no more but after the rate of five years’ purchase for their said annuities and of every of the said annuities;

Item, I do give and bequeath unto Alice Potfield(?) all and singular my lands set, situate and laying in Assington in the said county of Suffolk called Careles now in the tenure and occupation of John Potter, to have and to hold all and singular the said lands unto the said Alice Potfield and to her heirs for evermore, and also forty pounds in money;

Item, I will that my executors shall make sale of all and singular my lands set, situate and lying in Wakes Colne in the said county of Suffolk called Fishers or Pages, and the money of the same sale growing to be distributed towards the legacies and bequests before specified and hereafter specified;

Item, I will that my executors during the space of ten years shall distribute among the poor people dwelling within the parish of Bures forty shillings by the year;
Item, I will and bequeath to the poor people of the parish of Wormingford within the said county of Essex, to be distributed at the discretion of my executors, four pounds sterling;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my said son, William Waldegrave, all my harness except such harness which I have received of certain parishes in the said county of Suffolk, which I will to be restored again, and also except such pieces of harness as I hereafter bequeath;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my cousin, John Jerningham, my coat of plate or else my shirt of mail, at his choice;

Item, I bequeath and give the piece of armour that my said cousin, John Jerningham, shall refuse unto my kinsman, William Waldegrave, and also my worst gown of black satin;

Item, I give and bequeath unto old Father Potfield of Weston forty shillings, and also forty shillings unto his wife;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the next of the kin of the Robert Patent who was slain in a pit at Guisnes twenty shillings;

Item, I will that my executors do distribute and pay unto the soldiers under my charge which went first over, twenty pounds sterling as the same shall be claimed by them in particular;

Item, I give and bequeath unto John Rosshey forty shillings, to relieve him and his poor children;

Item, I give toward the marriage of ten honest young women or maidens ten pounds, to wit, twenty shillings to either of them, the same to be used at the discretion of my executors, which I will Ellyn Staivner (?) be one;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Phyllis Heigham, wife, my sister, twenty pounds;

Item, I give unto the children of George Waldegrave, my brother, deceased, to be distributed amongst them at the discretion of Mary Fraunces, widow;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my Lady Cornwallis a brooch of gold which I have upon my hat of the story of Paris;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Mistress Grymstedd a little brooch upon my old cap;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my Lord Wentworth my best sword;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Sir Thomas Cornwallis, knight, my second sword;

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Item, I give and bequeath unto Mr Grinston [=Grimstone?] one of my dags, and thother unto Sir Anthony Aucher, knight;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Mr Browne, Captain of Hampins(?), one of my coats of plate;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Mr Harrelston [=Harlestone?], Captain of the Rushbanck [=Risbank?], two of my coats of plate;

Item, I give and bequeath unto William Talbot and his wife six shillings eight pence;

Item, I give and bequeath unto (blank) Anyam, in consideration of his poverty, two French crowns;

Item, I give unto Master Fourde my nag with saddle and bridle, and also twenty marks sterling in money, and also a cloak and a jerkin of black taffety;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my said brother, Edward Waldegrave, twenty pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Thomas Caltropp [=Calthorpe?] of Edwardstone four marks;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the poor people of the town of Guisnes forty shillings, to be distributed by th’ hands of Thomas Bradfield and mant(?) coeses(?)

Item, I give and bequeath unto the poor people within the town of Calais four pounds sterling;

Item, I do give and bequeath unto Robert Gurden, gentleman, one of my executors, ten pounds sterling;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Master Henry Wingfield a coat of plate;

Item, I give and bequeath all the residue of my apparel unbequeathed unto my servants which wait upon me here in Calais now presently;

Item, I will that my executors shall pay unto the widow Abs(?) of Nelande(?) [=Nayland?] for the full purchase of the chantry of Polstead Fowerston ten pounds, and that my said executors shall make sale of the said chantry toward the performance of this my last will and testament, legacies and bequests, and that they shall make sale also of a certain meadow which I late purchased of Sir Thomas Golding, knight, lying be [=by?] Wyston [=Weston? Wissington?] church to the performance of my said will;

Item, I give and bequeath the rent of eighteen pence by year belonging sometime to the chantry of Bures to the poor people of the said parish;

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All the residue of my goods not bequeathed I remit to the discretion of Master William Foude of Hadleigh, gentleman, Edward Waldegrave, my brother, and Robert Gurdon of Waldingfell [=Waldingfield?] in the said county of Suffolk, whom I make executors of this my last will and testament;

In witness whereof I have unto every page of this my last will and testament subscribed my name the day and year above-written. Present the witness[es] whose names be hereunder written and subscribed. William Waldegrave. Per me, Johannem Knight. Per me, Johannem Hilliard. Per me, Thomas Colso(?). Per me Henry Golding, Richard Person. William Waldegrave.

The sums containing the annuities and other bequests given by me, Sir William Waldegrave, knight, the eight day of November 1554

In primis, I give unto John Badcocke an annuity of ten shillings sterling by year during his life;

Item, to John Grenewood an annuity of forty shillings by the year sterling during his life;

Item, to William Asshfelde an annuity during his life of twenty-six shillings eight pence;

Item, to Henry Golding an annuity during his life of thirteen shillings four pence;

Item, to Thomas Bigge an annuity of thirteen shillings four pence during his life;

Item, to John Mose an annuity during his life of twenty shillings;

Item, to Brian Brome an annuity during his life of thirteen shillings four pence;

Item, to William Potfelde an annuity during his life of twenty shillings;

Item, to William Metam an annuity during his life of ten shillings;

Item, to Clement Kynge an annuity of twenty shillings during his life;

Item, to William Bridges an annuity during his life of thirteen shillings four pence;

Item, to Robert Sadler an annuity during his life of thirteen shillings four pence;

Item, to Richard Dickes an annuity during his life of thirteen shillings four pence;

Item, to John Lynne an annuity during his life of ten shillings;

Item, to Robert Wood an annuity of thirteen shillings four pence during his life;

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Item, to Thomas Pettacanne(?) an annuity during his life of thirteen shillings four pence;
Item, to William Wakefelde an annuity during his life of twenty-six shillings eight pence;
Item, to Richard Twaide(?) an annuity during his life of thirteen shillings four pence;
Item, to John Coo an annuity during his life of thirteen shillings four pence;
Item, to Richard Roatt an annuity during his life of thirteen shillings four pence;
Item, to James Church an annuity during his life of thirteen shillings four pence;
Item, to Thomas Bennett an annuity during his life of thirteen shillings four pence;
Item, to Thomas Coo an annuity during his life of ten shillings;
Item, to Henry Henit(?) an annuity of ten shillings during his life;
Item, to Nicholas Howlett an annuity during his life of twenty-six shillings eight pence;
Item, to John Potfelde an annuity during his life of twenty shillings;
Item, to Julian Waldegrave an annuity during his life of forty shillings;
Item, to Thomas Dikes an annuity during his life of ten shillings;
Item, to Stephen Coe an annuity during his life of ten shillings;
Item, to Edward Baldwynne an annuity during his life of ten shillings;
Item, to Henry Herte an annuity of ten shillings during his life;
Item, to John Rogers an annuity during his life of thirteen shillings four pence;
Item, to Robert Fuller an annuity during his life of twenty shillings;
Item, to Henry Lee an annuity during his life of twenty shillings;
Item, to Ellice Payne an annuity during his life of thirteen shillings four pence;
Item, to Robert Waspe an annuity during his life of thirteen shillings four pence;
Item, to Alexander Lee an annuity during his life of ten shillings;
Item, to Richard Freborn(?) an annuity during his life of twenty shillings;
Item, to William Haywarde an annuity during his life of twenty shillings;

Item, unto Master Anthony Waldegrave an annuity during his life of forty shillings;

Item, to John Gale an annuity during his life of ten shillings;

Item to Thomas Houlden an annuity during his life of twenty shillings;

Item, to Richard Stone alias Persoo an annuity during his life of forty shillings;

Item, to Richard Barker an annuity during his life of ten shillings;

Item, to James Yonge an annuity during his life of twenty shillings;

Item, to Richard Newman an annuity during his life of twenty shillings;

Item, to William Peticanne an annuity during his life of twenty shillings;

Item, to Thomas Clerke an annuity during his life of twenty shillings;

Item, to Thomas Lee with the stump foot an annuity during his life of thirteen shillings four pence;

Item, to William Hilles an annuity during his life of ten shillings;

Item, to John Falkon an annuity during his life of twenty shillings;

Item, to John Siddey an annuity during his life of twenty-six shillings eight pence;

Item, to James Howton an annuity during his life of ten shillings;

Item, to Henry Underwood an annuity during his life of thirteen shillings four pence;

Item, to Robert Bullman an annuity during his life of ten shillings;

Item, to William Bacon an annuity during his life of ten shillings;

Item, to Thomas Burdges an annuity during his life of thirteen shillings four pence;

Item, to Robert Payne an annuity during his life of thirteen shillings four pence;

Item, I will that if my goods and chattels and the revenues, rents, profits and commodities of my lands during the nonage of my son and heir will not suffice and extend unto the satisfaction and payment of all and singular my bequests and legacies in this my last will and testament specified and mentioned, that then my executors shall yearly receive and
perceive out of my manners of Smallbridge and Nether Hall an annuity of thirty pounds sterling by the year at the feast of Saint Michael th’ Archangel and the feast of th’ Annunciation of Our Lady by even portions unto such time as all and singular my said legacies and bequests be fully satisfied, contented and paid, and for lack of payment of the said annuity I will that my executors shall distrain according unto the order of law;

Item, I will that my servants before-named shall also distrain for their annuities according to laws if they shall at any [+time?] be unpaid in part or in all;

Item, I give unto James Moyne towards his service twenty shillings;

Item, I give unto William Tyler one year’s wages, ten shillings;

Item, I give unto William Fiske forty shillings;

Item, I give unto my servants now presently waiting upon me here in Calais five pounds;

Item, I give to old Father Melwn(?), the smith of Wormingford, ten shillings;

Item, I give unto Thomas Waldegrave, the son of Anthony Waldegrave, twenty shillings.

William Waldegrave. In the presence of these men whose names hereafter ensue. Per me, Johannem Knight, Robert Wood. Per me, Thomam Colse, Richard Peerson, Harry Golding, William Waldegrave.

Tricesimo die mens{is} Octobris Anno Domini Mill{es}imo quingen{tesim}o quinquagesimo quinto Edwardus Walgrave vnius executorum in h{uis}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}ator{um} in person propria Et Sexto die mens{is} Novembris Anno domini Mill{es}imo quingen{tesim}o quinquagesimo quinto predict{o} Will{el}mus ffourde et Robertus Gorden executeores etiam in h{uis}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}ator{um} in persona xpofer Robynson procuratoris eorum oneri execut{io}nis dicti test{ament}i express{e} renunciac{i}one per d{i}c{t}um Commissarium ad missa emanuit com{m}issio Domine Iuliane Waldgrave rel{ii}c{t}e ipsius defuncti ad administrand{o} bona ipsius defuncti ad viam intestati deceden{t}e &c Ac de pleno et fideli Inuentario etc Ad Sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia In persona d{ii}c{t}um xpoferi Robinson procuratoris sui Iurat{i}
Waldegrave, relict of the same deceased, to administer the goods of the same deceased by way of an intestacy, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc. and a full and faithful inventory etc., in the person of the said Christopher Robinson, her proctor.]