

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 8 September 1555 and proved 2 December 1556, of Richard Ogle, the son of Richard Ogle and Mary Fitzwilliam. The testator's mother, Mary Fitzwilliam, was the sister of Sir William Fitzwilliam (d.1534), the grandfather of Oxford's mother-in-law, Mildred (nee Cooke) Cecil (1526-1589), Lady Burghley. The testator was thus a nephew of Sir William Fitzwilliam (d.1534). See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2004), p. 333. For the will of Sir William Fitzwilliam (d.1534), see TNA PROB 11/25, ff. 113-16.

Lady Burghley's parents were Sir William Fitzwilliam's daughter, Anne Fitzwilliam (d.1553) and Sir Anthony Cooke (1505/6-1576). The testator's wife, Beatrice or Beatrix Cooke (d. 22 June 1561) was the sister of Sir Anthony Cooke (1505/6-1576), and thus Lady Burghley's aunt. See the pedigree of Ogle of Pinchbeck in Madden, Frederic, ed., *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*, Vol. VI, (London: John Bowyer Nichols, 1840), pp. 194-6, available online.

Lady Burghley's husband, then Sir William Cecil, is twice mentioned in the testator's will below. Ties between the testator's family and Sir William Cecil were strengthened in the next generation. The testator's son, Thomas Ogle (d.1574), served Cecil in some capacity, and the testator's daughter, Audrey Ogle, after the death of her first husband, John Man (d.1569), married Vincent Skinner on 16 January 1570, who thereafter became one of Cecil's secretaries. See Barnett, Richard C., *Place, Profit, and Power: A Study of the Servants of William Cecil, Elizabethan Statesman*, James Sprunt Studies in History and Political Science, Vol. 51, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1969), pp. 108, 127-32.

Vincent Skinner was 'a Lincolnshire man, a grandson of Robert Skynner, a mercer of Lincoln, and the son and heir of John Skinner and Elizabeth, daughter of John Fairfax of Swarby, Lincolnshire'. It seems likely that he was related to the mercer and Lord Mayor of London, Thomas Skinner (d.1596), whose financial dealings with Oxford are well documented. This relationship suggests, in turn, that Vincent Skinner was connected in some way to the poet Thomas Watson's stepsister, Blanche Watson (d.1593), whose third husband was Thomas Skinner (d.1596). For further discussion, see the will of Blanche Watson's father, William Watson (d.1559), TNA PROB 11/43, ff. 26-7, and her grandmother, Elizabeth Onley (d.1556), TNA PROB 11/38, ff. 71-3.

The testator is said to have died 11 November 1555.

LM: Testamentum Richardi Ogle

In Dei nomine Amen. The 8<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred fifty and five and in the second and third years of Philip and Mary by the grace of God King and Queen of England, France, Naples, Jerusalem & Ireland, Defenders

of the Faith, Princes of Spain and Sicily, Archdukes of Austria, Dukes of Milan, Burgundy and Brabant, Counts of Habsburg, Flanders and Tyrol, I, Richard Ogle of Pinchbeck in the county of Lincoln, being whole of mind and of perfect remembrance, thanks be to Our Lord God everlasting, being visited by God's hands with diseases, doubt my life, not knowing when God shall call me, yet minding by the sufferance of God to give & bequeath such things as I have gotten in this world, which I beseech him may be to his honour and glory, make and ordain my testament and last will in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, to his Blessed Mother the Virgin Mary, and to all the holy company of heaven, and my body to be buried in a poor thing which I have made to lie in, and that my wife Beatrice may be buried by me when God shall call her to his mercy;

Item, I give to the mother church of Lincoln, toward the reparation of the same, 3s 4d;

To the maintenance of the church of Pinchbeck, twenty shillings;

I clearly and freely give to my wife, Beatrice, all my goods and chattels whatsoever they be, by what names or additions they may be called, to her executors and assigns forever, except my body money, which passeth not ten pounds, and except my specialties & leases for term of years not by me given nor bequeathed nor hereafter to be given nor to be bequeathe[d], and except all that is in my study, which I give to my son, Thomas Ogle, except such things as I have given before and that I shall give after, and except one red chest which I will my wife have occupation thereof during her life; after, Thomas Ogle to have it, and except such of mine apparel within my press which I will give, and except other things as I shall give hereafter in my testament;

Item, I give to my said son, Thomas Ogle, my gray gelding called Gray Bogge, and to my wife mine own gray gelding;

Item, to Sir William Cecil my young horse that Birkes gave me, requiring him to be good to my wife and children;

Item, I give to my sister, Elizabeth, twenty shillings a year going out of my house wherein Briche [=Birch?] now dwelleth, to be paid by th' hands of Thomas Ogle, my son, during her life natural;

Item, I give to my son, Nicholas Ogle, my lease of the manor of Croylande and Spalding called Croylande Fee for the term of the years comprised within mine indenture if he live so long, if he will be a continual student at the least 6 years, not failing to be at every learning vacation of the law, and if he will be not, then I will that my wife shall have the said manor with th' appurtenances toward the payment of my debts, taking forty shillings a year for her pain, and after her decease to remain to my son, Thomas Ogle;

Also I will that John Man, my son-in-law, shall be the surveyor, receiver, bailiff & officer of my said manor of Spalding for the term of the said 6 years, if he ply his book sending my son, Nicholas, his money to London, and he to take yearly of the profits thereof for his labour and pains during the said 6 years twenty shillings;

Item, I give to my wife my swan-mark called the Boll Eare(?), with all the white swans, scaggies and cygnets thereto belonging forever, and to my son, Thomas, my swan-mark called the Blottes forever; to my son Nicholas, my swan-mark of the bearing barrowe forever;

Above all things I charge mine executors that my debts be paid;

Item, I give to Elizabeth Hert and to Edward Calverley towards their marriage four pounds;

And to every servant besides his wages, being a man, 3s 4d, and to every servant I have a black coat of frieze and their wages truly paid them;

Item, I will that my son Thomas, shall have twenty hundred board, to be measured by foot and so to be delivered him, ash and oak, and most part oak, toward the reparation of his houses, and to my wife the rest of the board toward her reparations;

Item, I will that my son, Thomas, shall have my black velvet jacket and my doublet of black velvet, my best cassock, my short hangers with the girdle and my best jerkin;

Item, I will that my wife have my gown furred with foins;

Item, I give to my son, Nicholas, my second-best gaberdine and worsted jacket;

And the rest of my apparel not given to be divided between Thomas and Nicholas, my sons, by the discretion of their mother;

And to my daughter Man I give one of my little cruses of silver without a cover;

And my daughter Ogle half a dozen silver spoons;

Item, I will that my wife and Thomas Ogle shall have all my stuff within my storehouse within my house where I dwell to be divided between them, and thone to have thone half and thother the other half, except my harness, which I give to my son, Thomas, saving two harnesses fully furnished in all points, thone for a billman and thother for a bowman, which I give to my wife;

Also I desire my loving son, John Man, to be aiding and helping to my wife and to my son, Thomas, and to be a coadjutor with Mr Cecil, and to have for his labour twenty shillings;

Item, I will that all things contained in a codicil which shall be to this my testament hereafter annexed bearing date the 8<sup>th</sup> day of September 1555 shall be fulfilled;

Item, I will that all my other leases not before bequeathed nor by me given nor bequeathed, nor hereafter by me to be given nor bequeathed, nor also my purchased lands not given nor bequeathed, shall be towards the performance and payment of my debts;

The residue of all my goods and chattels before not given nor bequeathed to any person or persons or by my codicil or otherwise, I wholly and freely give them to my wife as is aforesaid;

And of this my present testament and last will I make and ordain my wife, Beatrice Ogle, and Thomas Ogle, my son, mine executors, they to do all as it pleaseth God and them, these being witnesses: John Man, gentleman, Edward Calverley, Guy Abdy, Thomas Watson, and other.

RM: Vltima voluntas eiusdem Richardi

This is the last will of me, the said Richard Ogle, made the day and year abovesaid as concerning th' order and disposition of all my lands and tenements that I have within the realm of England:

First I revoke and make void all wills & testaments before made, except this present will and testament made this present 8 day of September 1555;

Item, I will my wife shall have her jointure with all gentleness, and the house I dwell in and all that I have given to her belonging to the same without interruption, and all such lands as she and I have purchased together;

Item, I give to Nicholas Ogle, my son, the house I bought of William Clere with th' appurtenances, fifteen acres that I have beside the church, to have the said 15 acres after the decease of his mother, and the lands that I bought of Robert Pedder, to him and to his heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for lack of such issue to the right heirs of me, the said Richard;

Also I give to my wife my pasture called Parkyns Crost(?) during my years, if she so long do live, and if she die, then I will Thomas Ogle, my son, shall have it, and the house where Mother Washington dwelleth with th' appurtenances, and the little horse pasture for the term of her life natural, and after her decease to remain to Thomas Ogle, my son;

Item, I give and will that my son, Thomas, shall peaceably possede to him and to his heirs all such manors, lands, tenements & hereditaments as I covenanted with Mr Adlard [=Adelard] Welby, esquire, to leave him after my decease, and the residue of all my purchased lands, as well free as copy, which I have purchased since the covenant that I have made with Mr Welby;

And such lands as I did covenant to be liable to the performance and payment of my debts, I give them all to my said son and to his heirs and assigns forever upon condition that he shall pay my debts in discharge of my conscience towards the creditors;

Provided alway if my said son, Thomas, will not pay my debts, then I will that my wife and my son, John Man, shall receive the profits of all my purchased lands since the indenture between Mr Welby and me made, and also of my lands which were appointed for the payment of my debts before the covenants between Mr Welby and me made, and they to have all my specialties, and that they to retain all the said lands newly purchased and also twenty marks a year reserved for the payment of my debts, and they to retain the whole lands to every penny of my debts be paid;

And I give to my said son, Thomas Ogle, my signet with mine arms;

And where I have given to my son, Thomas, all my books and writings in my study, I will he have the custody of Fitzherbert's Bridgement and other Fitzherbert's works, and also Staturnes Bridgement but for the space of six years, and if my son, Nicholas, at th' end of the said 6 years be learned, as may appear by the examination of Mr Cecil or other my wife's friends, then I will that my said son Thomas shall deliver to him the said books forever;

Item, I give to my son, Thomas, byarde bogg to bere his male [=bayard Bogg to bear his mail?];

Item, I give to Nicholas, my son, all my goods and chattels whatsoever that is in my new office except my books, which I will my son, Thomas, shall have in custody as he hath thother books;

Item, I give to my son, Thomas, my green standish in the said study;

Item, I give to my wife my lease that I have of the Prior of Spalding of all the land and pastures in Burtisen and my pasture called Lawnes cote for the space of thirty years, if she so long live, and after her decease to remain to my son, Thomas Ogle;

Item, I will that my wife shall have Goldwalles and all the pastures and little cubettes(?) between that and Butisen for term of her life, paying to my son, Thomas Ogle, ten shillings a year;

Item, I will my wife shall have all the lands that Hynesley hath of me according to the surrender I made to Robert White, and the house and ground that Wilforthe [=Wilford?] hath, save only she shall sell none of the oaks that stands in Wilforth's grounds, which she hath promised me, and I will my said wife have all my pastures between me and the grase(?) toward my son, John Man, ward during her life natural;

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In witness of this my present last will and testament I have set my seal and subscribed my name the day and year abovesaid.

A codicil made the 8<sup>th</sup> day of September Anno domini 1555 Annis Regnorum Regis et Regine Philipi et Marie secundo et tercio, being annexed to the testament and last will of me, Richard Ogle of Pinchbeck, and all things, gifts and bequests herein mentioned given or bequeathed to be as part of my testament and last will, and so after my decease to remain.

A codicil made of the said Richard the 24<sup>th</sup> day of September 1555, not hurting my first will, where by the same first will I have given to Nicholas Ogle, my son, all that ever I had within my new office, my mind is now that the said Nicholas shall have all the books of law, books of precedents, but not to meddle in the books of peace, and to him my little white standish, and the said books to be delivered to him by his brother at six years' end if he be then learned, and all the rest in the said house to my son, Thomas.

A codicil further annexed to the last will of me, the forenamed Richard Ogle, the 25<sup>th</sup> day of September Anno 1555 et Annis supradictis:

Item, I will and my very mind & intent is that where by my last will and testament I have given and bequeathed to my sister, Elizabeth, the lease and farm of the house wherein Leonard Briche [=Birch?] of Spalding now dwelleth during her life natural, that my said sister shall take and receive of the said farm twenty shillings yearly as annuity or annual rent going out of the said farm, and not to have any meddling in the letting or occupation of the same farm or house, but only truly to be answered of the said 20s at the feasts of Philip and James and Saint Michael th' Archangel by even portions during her life natural, and I will that my son, Thomas Ogle, shall have th' order, letting and setting of the said house at his will and pleasure, so that he pay the yearly rent to my said sister as is aforesaid;

Item, I will and desire my son that John Macres may have the preferment of the sale of the house he dwelleth in if my son ever do sell it, and if not, I desire him that he and his wife may have it so long as they do continue good tenants, and paying the rent truly;

Item, I give to Thomas Wootson [=Watson?], my servant, 6s 8d.

A codicil to be annexed to the last will and testament of me, Richard Ogle, esquire, made the 14 day of October in the year of Our Lord God 1555 and in the second and third years of the reign of our Sovereign Lord and Lady, King Philip and Queen Mary:

Witnesseth that where before this time in consideration of the good service to me done by my late clerk, John Burton, I did grant unto him and his assigns all those my pastures in Spalding by Cowhurn drane(?) late in the tenure of Thomas Ketbye containing about 22 acres for the yearly rent of four marks, and all those my pastures in Spalding aforesaid in a place there called Low Feld late in the tenure of one Orosdale containing about forty acres for the yearly rent of four pounds for certain years yet to come, the same John bearing all the charges of them for his whole term and years, and also where of late he, the said John, upon communication between my son, Thomas Ogle, and him, and for the goodwill he beareth to my said son to be joined with him in the said pastures in Lawfeld, did surrender into my hands his years and term to come in both the said pastures, which I did then thankfully(?) take, promising them a term of 21 years in the same, be it now known that I, minding not only to aid my said son toward his relief in stock-keeping with the said part of the premises, but also to recompense the same John Burton for his goodwill in that behalf with a further term in the rest, by this my codicil in fulfilling my said promise do will and bequeath to my said son, Thomas, and to the said John and to their assigns all and singular the premises with th' appurtenances, to have to them and to their assigns the same from th' Annunciation of Our Blessed Lady last past during, by and for the whole term of 21 years then next following fully to be completed and ended, yielding for them to me and my executors and assigns the said rents and doing such other the charges as appertaineth to the same, and I will that they shall have such further assurance thereof as shall be thought convenient in that behalf;

In witness whereof to this present codicil I have subscribed my name in the presence of John Persie, gentleman, and other the day and year abovesaid.

Probatum fuit testamentum cum Codicillum annexum coram Magistro Willelmo Cooke legum doctore Curie prerogatiue Reuerendissimi in xpo patris et domini nostri domini Reginaldi Cantuariensis Archiepiscopi Custode siue Commissario Secundo die Mensis Decembris Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo lvjto Iuramento Willelmi Walker procuratoris Beatricis Ogle Relicte et Thome Ogle filio [sic?] defuncti Executoribus in huiusmodi testamento nominatis Quibus commissa fuit administracio omnium bonorum &c dicti defuncti De bene &c Ac de pleno Inuentario &c exhibendo Ad sancta dei Euangelia in debita Iuris forma Iurati

[=The testament with the codicil annexed was proved before Master William Cooke, Doctor of the Laws, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of the Most Reverend Father in Christ and Our Lord, the Lord Reginald, Archbishop of Canterbury, on the second day of the month of December in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 56<sup>th</sup> by the oath of William Walker, proctor of Beatrice Ogle, relict, and Thomas, son of the deceased, executors named in the same testament, to whom administration was

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granted of all the goods etc. of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels in due form of law to well etc., and to exhibit a full inventory etc.]