

SUMMARY: The document below is the last will and testament, dated 13 May 1557 and proved 14 September 1557, of Sir John Clere (c.1511-1557) of Ormesby, the son of Sir Robert Clere (d. 10 August 1529) of Ormesby, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/24/84, and his second wife, Alice Boleyn (d. 1 November 1538), the aunt of Henry VIII's Queen, Anne Boleyn. The testator was thus a first cousin of Queen Anne Boleyn. For the will of the testator's mother, Alice Boleyn Clere, see TNA PROB 11/27/398. The testator's purchase of the manor of Blickling from his uncle, Sir James Boleyn (c.1480-1561), Chancellor of the Household of Queen Anne Boleyn, is mentioned in Sir James Boleyn's will (see TNA PROB 11/44/387).

For the will of the testator's younger brother, Thomas Clere (d. 14 April 1545), see TNA PROB 11/30/376. Thomas Clere was slain at the siege of Montreuil while attempting to save the life of Oxford's uncle, Henry Howard (1516/17-1547), Earl of Surrey. He was buried in the parish church of St Mary, Lambeth, where there is a monumental brass in his memory which formerly exhibited a tablet with an epitaph by the Earl of Surrey. The testator was also one of Surrey's companions, and 'was one of a group around Surrey arrested during the second session of the Parliament of 1542 for eating flesh in Lent'.

The testator married, before 19 August 1529, Anne Tyrrell (buried 14 May 1576?), the daughter of Sir Thomas Tyrrell (1472?-1551) of Gipping, Suffolk, Master of the Horse, by his first wife, Margaret Willoughby, daughter of Christopher Willoughby, de jure 10th Lord Willoughby de Eresby.

By Anne Tyrrell the testator had three sons, Robert, Thomas and Edward, and two daughters, Margaret Clere, who married Walter Haddon (1514/15-1571), and Elizabeth Clere, who married firstly, Walter Herendene and secondly, Francis Trevor. For the will of the testator's father-in-law, Sir Thomas Tyrrell, which contains complaints about the testator, see TNA PROB 11/34/309.

The testator's two eldest sons predeceased him, and he was succeeded by his third son, Sir Edward Clere (15 June 1536 - 3 June 1606), for whom see his will, TNA PROB 11/108/169, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/clere-edward-1536-1606>.

Sir Edward Clere's first wife was Frances Fulmerston, the daughter of Sir Richard Fulmerston (d. 3 February 1567), whom the testator appoints as one of his executors, referring to him as his 'brother-in-law'. For Sir Richard Fulmerston, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/fulmerston-richard-1516-67>.

The testator's only surviving son, Sir Edward Clere, purchased Oxford's manor of Weybourne in Norfolk. For the licence dated 20 April 1580 authorizing Oxford to alienate his manor of Weybourne to Sir Edward Clere, see TNA C 66/1197, mm. 15-16.

In the inquisition post mortem of Oxford's father, the 16th Earl, the testator is mentioned as having surrendered rents to the 16th Earl, in return for which his son, Edward Clere, was granted an annuity of £20 (see TNA C 142/136/12):

And the foresaid jurors say that the foresaid late Earl, by a certain deed of his sealed by his seal at arms and subscribed by his own hand dated the eighteenth day of November in the first year [=18 November 1547] of the reign of the late King Edward the Sixth, in consideration that John Clere, knight, had surrendered two several rents containing together thirty pounds which the same John Clere had of the gift of a certain Peter Watts by two several charters of the late Earl issuing of his manor of Thorncombe in the county of Devon during the natural life of the same Peter Watts, granted to Edward Clere, esquire, son of the said John Clere, one yearly rent of twenty pounds of lawful money of England issuing of his foresaid manor of Thorncombe & of all other his lands & hereditaments in Thorncombe aforesaid, to have the foresaid yearly rent to the forenamed Edward Clere & his assigns during the natural life of the said Edward, to be paid yearly at the feasts of the Annunciation of Blessed Mary the Virgin & Saint Michael the Archangel by equal portions, with a clause of distraint for non-payment of the said yearly rent, as by the foresaid deed to the foresaid jurors upon the taking of this present inquisition in manifest evidences more fully appears.

In July 1557 the testator was given command of a fleet against Scotland, and was drowned in a naval engagement in the Orkneys on 21 August 1557.

For the foregoing see Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 6-7; and Bindoff, S.T., *The House of Commons 1509-1558*, Vol. I, (London: Secker & Warburg, 1982), pp. 456-7, 650-2).

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

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/clere-sir-john-1511-57>.

For the testator's executor and son-in-law, Walter Haddon (1514/15-1571), see the ODNB:

Haddon's first wife was Margaret, daughter of Sir John Clere of Ormesby, Norfolk; they had two boys and two girls. His son Clere, who drowned in the River Cam shortly after his father's death, mentioned them in a poem he wrote in memory of his father, though it appears that the other three predeceased him as they are not mentioned in his will.

For the testator's manor of East Tuddenham, see Taylor, E.S., 'Armorial Bearings of Clere Family', *Notes & Queries*, (London: George Bell, 1855), Vol. XII, p. 84 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=uIrWLegNZxUC&pg=PA84&lpg=PA84&dq=%22manor%22+%22East+Tuddenham%22+%22Clere%22&source=bl&ots=gsUxq3wyxQ&sig=vMa-0LFOtdBb2VNYYN7irVo54I&hl=en&sa=X&ei=RTAHVZjYC5fjoASHkILoCg&ved=0CCQQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22manor%22%20%22East%20Tuddenham%22%20%22Clere%22&f=false>.

RM: T{estamentum} Ioh{ann}is Clere milit{is}

In the name of God, Amen. I, John Clere, knight, being of good and perfect mind and remembrance, thanks be to God, do make and ordain this my last will and testament concerning the disposition of my lands and goods the 13th day of May in the 3rd and 4th years of our Sovereign Lord and Lady, King Philip and Queen Mary, King and Queen of England, France, Spain, Jerusalem and Ireland etc.;

First I give and bequeath to mine executors my manors of Ormesby, Winterton, Somerton, Burrowaux [=Burgh?], Freethorpe, More(?) Hall, Limpenhoe, Southwood, Tacolneston, (blank) Enstayns(?) and Gonwill{es} [=Gonvilles?] in (blank) in the county of Norfolk with the appurtenances, and all other my lands, tenements and hereditaments within the county of Norfolk, to have and to hold the same manors to my said executors for and during the space and term of five years after my decease to the intent and that they shall take the issues, profits and emoluments thereof during the said term of five years next after my decease to the intent and with part of the issues and profits thereof content, satisfy and pay to my son, Walter Haddon, fifty marks this four year for the full satisfaction of five hundred marks;

And whereas my manor of Freethorpe and Limpenhoe is appointed and assured to the honourable Charles, Duke of Suffolk, and others to the intent that Elizabeth, my daughter, shall have ten pounds of the profits thereof until such time as she shall be married, and then after her marriage she to have the profits of the said manors of Freethorpe and Limpenhoe until such time as she have levied five hundred marks of the profits thereof towards her marriage, as doth plainly appear by indentures made between the said Duke and others on the one party, and me, the said Sir John Clere, on the second part, wherefore considering that my said daughter Elizabeth shall be a long time before that she shall receive the said five hundred marks of the profits of the same lands, I will that my executors pay to my son-in-law, Walter Herendene, a hundred marks a year till such time as he shall have received up(?) five hundred marks for my said daughter's marriage as I am bound to him and his assigns for my said daughter's marriage in recompense of the said manors of Freethorpe and Limpenhoe;

Furthermore I will mine executors sell my manor of East Todnam [=Tuddenham?] to pay withal my debts;

Also I will that mine heir shall have delivered to him at the age of 21 years my chain that the Emperor's Majesty gave me when I was Vice-Admiral when he went out of Flanders into Spain, and all my plate, jewels and apparel, armour, hangings, beds, bedsteads, carpets and all other mine utensils and stuff of household wheresoever they be, as well napery as sheets;

And also I will that all such stock of cattle, grain, household stuff and goods as be in the occupying of Leonard Pawner(?), the farmer of Ormesby of the demesnes there, shall be occupied with the said (blank) to the (blank) of this my last will and testament;

Also I give unto mine heir all such leases as I have when he or she shall come to the age of 21 years;

Also I give to John Butler term of his life four nobles a year;

Also to Edmund Jones term of his life forty shillings a year;

Also to Richard Browene [=Browne?] term of his life four nobles a year;

To William Esto term of his life four nobles a year;

Also to Richard Bakner forty shillings a year during his life;

Also I give to Robert Goodwyn his bailiwick(?) of Ormesby term of his life, and four marks a year for (blank) for(?) of it;

Also I give to John Covell, John Browne, Francis Alleyne, Leonard Canlar, Thomas Mandes(?) and John Lone(?) forty shillings apiece;

And all my servants a quarter's wages and a black coat;

Also I make and ordain my executors my brother-in-law Mr Richard Fulmerston, my son-in-law Walter Haddon, my son-in-law Walter Herendene, and Sir Robert Paynter, parson of Tacolneston, and I give to every one of them for their labours ten pounds;

In witness whereof I writ this will with my own hands and subscribed my name and set to my seal. By me, John Clere.

Probatum fuit huiusmodi Testamentum coram Magistro Willmo Cooke Legum doctore Prerogative Cantuariensis Custode siue Commissario apud London decimo quarto die mensis Septembris Anno domini millesimo quingentesimo quinquagesimo septimo Iuramentum Edmundi Brudenell procuratoris Walteri Herenden executoris Cui & Reservata potestate & alijs executoribus & cum venerint & admissuris vicesimo nono die Mensis octobris Anno domini

1560 Ema{nauit} com{m}issio Edwardo Clere filio d{ic}t{i} def{uncti} ad
 admi{nistrand{um} bona d{ic}t{i} def{uncti} per Walteru{m} Herenden ex{ecutorem}
 ia{m} Def{unctum} no{n} admi{nistrata Eo q{uod} reliqui executores oneri
 execuc{i}o{n}is d{ic}t{i} test{amenti} ex cert{is} caus{is} &c Renu{n}ciau{er}unt(?)
 &c prout in act{is} super com{m}issione admi{nistrac{ionis}(?) ab intestat{o} &c
 apparet folio: 20

[=The same testament was proved before Master William Cooke, Doctor of the Laws, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative [+Court] of Canterbury, at London on the 14th day of the month of September in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-seventh by the oath of Edmund(?) Brudenell, proctor of Walter Herendene, executor, to whom etc., with power reserved etc. to the other executors etc. when they shall have come etc. to be admitted. On the twenty-ninth day of the month of October in the year of the Lord 1560 a grant issued to Edward Clere, son of the said deceased, to administer the goods of the said deceased by Walter Herendene, executor, now deceased, not administered because the remaining executors renounced etc. the burden of the execution of the said testament for certain causes etc., as appears in the acts above of the grant of administration by way of an intestacy etc. [in?] folio 20.]