

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 4 June 1561 and proved 16 February 1562, of Dorothy Dacre, sister of Magdalen Dacre (1538-1608), second wife of Anthony Browne (1528-1592), 1st Viscount Montagu, grandfather of Henry Wriothesley (1573-1624), 3rd Earl of Southampton, to whom Shakespeare dedicated *Venus and Adonis* and *The Rape of Lucrece*.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The Dacre family were Barons Dacre of the North, as well as Barons Dacre of Gilsland and Barons Greystoke. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 613-15.

Testatrix' grandparents

The testatrix was the granddaughter of Thomas Dacre (25 November 1467 – 24 October 1525), 3rd Baron Dacre of the North and 2nd Baron Dacre of Gilsland, by Elizabeth Greystoke (10 July 1471 – 13 or 14 August 1516), whom Thomas Dacre abducted and married about 1488. Elizabeth Greystoke was the sole daughter and heir of Sir Robert Greystoke (d. 17 June 1483) by Elizabeth Grey, daughter of Edmund Grey (26 October 1416 - 22 May 1490), 1st Earl of Kent. After her father's death she became a ward of the King. According to a narrative by Lord William Howard, custody of her body was granted to the Earl of Oxford [=John de Vere, 13th Earl of Oxford], and by him committed to Lord Clifford, 'who kept her at his castell, Brownham in Westmoreland, from whom Thomas Lord Dacre without leave asking, but not without peril to his person, did take her, married her, and by her had yssue &c'. See Cokayne, George Edward, *The Complete Peerage*, (London: St Catherine Press, 1916), Vol. IV, pp. 20-2; *PA, supra*, Vol. II, pp. 178-9; and Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 278-80.

By Elizabeth Greystoke, Thomas Dacre had two sons and six daughters. By an unknown mistress he also had an illegitimate son, Sir Thomas Dacre (d.1565). See *PA, supra*, p. 614, and the *ODNB* entry.

Testatrix' parents

The testatrix was the daughter of William Dacre (29 April 1500 – 18 November 1563), 4th Baron Dacre of the North and 3rd Baron Dacre of Gilsland, by Elizabeth Talbot (died c.1559), fifth daughter of George Talbot (1468-1538), 4th Earl of Shrewsbury. See the *ODNB* entry.

The testatrix had four brothers and four sisters:

-Thomas Dacre (d. 1 July 1566), 5th Baron Dacre of the North and 4th Baron Dacre of Gilsland, who married firstly Elizabeth Neville, the daughter of Ralph Neville (1498-1549), 4th Earl of Westmorland. Elizabeth Neville was the sister of Dorothy Neville (d.1536), first wife of John de Vere (1516-1562), 16th Earl of Oxford. As noted below, Katherine de Vere, the only child of John de Vere, 16th Earl of Oxford, married the testatrix' brother-in-law, Edward Windsor, 3rd Baron Windsor.

Thomas Dacre married secondly Elizabeth Leyburne (d. 4 September 1567), the daughter of Sir James Leyburne of Cunswick, Westmorland, by whom he had a son, George Dacre, and three daughters, Anne Dacre, Mary Dacre, and Elizabeth Dacre. After Thomas Dacre's death, Elizabeth Leyburne married secondly, on 29 January 1567, Oxford's first cousin, Thomas Howard (1537-1572), 4th Duke of Norfolk.

According to the will below, Thomas Dacre had a son, Francis Dacre, about whom nothing further is known:

Item, I give and bequeath to Francis Dacre, son to my brother, Sir Thomas Dacre, one cup of silver and gilt which my Lord of Shrewsbury gave unto me.

At his death, Thomas Dacre's heir was his young son, George Dacre, whose death three years later on 17 May 1569 by a fall from a vaulting horse led to a dispute over the succession to the barony. The case was heard by the Earl Marshal's court on 12 and 19 June 1569. The court found that 'the Dacre barony had lapsed and that in other respects George's heirs were his sisters Anne, Mary, and Elizabeth. On 25 July their wardship was granted to Norfolk, who swiftly married them to three of his sons' (see the *ODNB* entry for Leonard Dacre). The eldest daughter, Anne Dacre (1557-1630), married Norfolk's eldest son, Philip Howard (1557-1595), 13th Earl of Arundel. See the *ODNB* entries.

-Leonard Dacre, who died in Brussels on 12 August 1573, unmarried. See the *ODNB* entry.

-Edward Dacre, who died near Antwerp in 1584. See the *ODNB* entry for Leonard Dacre.

-Francis Dacre (d. 19 February 1633), who married firstly, by January 1574, Dorothy Radcliffe (d. in 1588 or 1589), the daughter and heir of John Radcliffe alias Rowell of Derwentwater, Cumberland, by Catherine Grimston, by whom he had two sons and five daughters. See Cokayne, *supra*, pp. 25-6. He married secondly, on 17 June 1607, Avice Downham, widow, the daughter of Thomas Tyrrell (c.1548 - 25 September 1592), esquire, of Heron Hall, East Horndon, Essex, by Mary Sulyard, the daughter of Sir John Sulyard, of Wetherden, Suffolk. He left England about 1591 without leave, and was attainted; however the Queen awarded pensions to four of his daughters. His son, Randal Dacre (d. 10 December 1634), survived him by little more than a year, and was buried at Greystoke on 27 December 1634 'at the expense of his cousin, Thomas Howard, fourteenth earl of Arundel'. See the *ODNB* entry for Leonard Dacre, and the History of Parliament entry for Francis Dacre at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/dacre-francis-1633>

-**Anne Dacre** (c.1538-1581), who in 1554 married Henry Clifford (1517- 8 January 1570), 2nd Earl of Cumberland, eldest son of Henry Clifford (c.1493-1542) 1st Earl of Cumberland, by his second wife, Margaret Percy (c.1492-1540), the daughter of Henry Percy (1478-1527), 5th Earl of Northumberland, and Katherine Spencer (d.1542).

Henry Clifford, 2nd Earl of Cumberland, had married, as his first wife, in June 1535, Henry VIII's niece, Eleanor Brandon (1519–1547), the daughter of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, by Mary Tudor, daughter of Henry VII and widow of Louis XII of France.

See the *ODNB* entries for Henry Clifford, 2nd Earl of Cumberland, and Henry Percy, 5th Earl of Northumberland.

-**Magdalen Dacre** (1538 - 8 April 1608), who in 1556 married, as his second wife, Anthony Browne (1528 – 19 October 1592), 1st Viscount Montagu, grandfather of Henry Wriothesley (1573-1624), 3rd Earl of Southampton, dedicatee of Shakespeare's *Venus and Adonis* and *The Rape of Lucrece*.

For Magdalen Dacre, see also the *ODNB* entry, and:

http://dentfamlinx.1apps.com/biographicalnotes/dacre_magdalene.htm

-**Mary Dacre**, who married Sir Alexander Culpeper (c.1535 – 19 January 1599) of Bedgebury. For mention of Mary Dacre in 1611 as a recusant, see CP 129/54. See also the will of Elizabeth (nee Castlyn) Knolles Martyn, TNA PROB 11/65/430, and the entry for Mary Dacre at:

<http://www.kateemersonhistoricals.com/TudorWomenD.htm>

-**Eleanor Dacre**, unmarried at the time the testatrix made her will. She married, as his first wife, Henry Jerningham (d. 15 June 1619), esquire, the son of Sir Henry Jerningham (1509/10–1572) and Frances Baynham (d.1583). See the wills of Sir Henry Jerningham, TNA PROB 11/55/240, and Frances Baynham Jerningham, TNA PROB 11/66/340.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

The testatrix married Sir Thomas Windsor (c.1523-1552) of Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire. For the licence dated 27 November 1544, see Foster, Joseph, ed., *London Marriage Licences 1521-1869*, (London: Bernard Quaritch, 1887), p. 1487 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=Xf8cAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA1487>

For the testatrix' husband, see his will, TNA PROB 11/36/12, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/windsor-sir-thomas-1523-52>

See also the Windsor pedigree in Gunn, Steven, *Henry VIII's New Men and the Making of Modern England*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016), p. xxi at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=JpjSDAAAQBAJ&pg=PR21>

According to the will of the testatrix' husband, they had a daughter, Anne Windsor. However she is not mentioned in the testatrix' will, and appears to have predeceased her.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

Edward Windsor, 3rd Baron Windsor

The testatrix bequeaths a gold ring to her brother-in-law, Edward Windsor (1532?-1575), 3rd Baron Windsor, the husband of Oxford's half-sister, Katherine de Vere (1538-1600):

Item, I give and bequeath to my Lord Windsor a gold ring with a seal in it.

For the will of Edward Windsor, 3rd Baron Windsor, see TNA PROB 11/57/332. For the will of Katherine de Vere, see TNA PROB 11/95/237.

Mary Talbot Percy, Countess of Northumberland

The testatrix also leaves a bequest to her aunt, Mary (nee Talbot) Percy, Countess of Northumberland, who was a witness to the will:

Item, I give and bequeath to my very good Lady and aunt, the Countess of Northumberland, four oxen and forty sheep, all to be of the best of my store.

Mary Talbot (d. between 16 April and 6 June 1572), one of the daughters of George Talbot (1468-1538), 4th Earl of Shrewsbury, married Henry Percy (d. 29 June 1537), 6th Earl of Northumberland, between 14 January and 8 February 1524. The marriage was not a success, and the couple lived apart after 1529.

George Talbot, 6th Earl of Shrewsbury

The testatrix appoints as overseer of her will George Talbot (1528-1590), 6th Earl of Shrewsbury, the only son of Francis Talbot (1500-1560), 5th Earl of Shrewsbury, by his first wife, the testatrix' aunt, Mary Dacre (1502-1538), the daughter of Thomas Dacre (25 November 1467 – 24 October 1525), 3rd Baron Dacre of the North and 2nd Baron Dacre of Gilsland.

Gertrude Manners Talbot, Countess of Shrewsbury

The testatrix leaves a ring of gold to the Countess of Shrewsbury:

Item, I give & bequeath to my Lady of Shrewsbury and to my Lady Braye, either of them one ring of gold of 20s price apiece with these letters, D and W, engraven, and black enamelled.

From the *ODNB*:

[Francis Talbot, 5th Earl of Shrewsbury] married twice. His first wife was Mary Dacre, daughter of Thomas, second Baron Dacre of Gilsland, who died in 1538. They had one surviving son, George Talbot (c. 1522–1590), the future sixth earl, and a daughter, Anne, whom Shrewsbury married to his ward John, second Baron Braye.

The Countess of Shrewsbury at the time the testatrix made her will was the 6th Earl of Shrewsbury's first wife, Gertrude Manners. From the *ODNB*:

On 28 April 1539, in London, he married Lady Gertrude (d.1566/7), eldest daughter of Thomas Manners, first earl of Rutland, and his second wife, Eleanor, daughter of Sir William Paston of Paston, Norfolk.

Anne Talbot Braye

The Lady Braye to whom the testatrix also bequeathed a ring was, as noted above, Anne Talbot (d. 3 February 1584), the daughter of Francis Talbot, 5th Earl of Shrewsbury, and Mary Dacre. She married John Braye (d. 19 November 1557), 2nd Baron Braye, the son of Edmund Braye (d. 18 October 1539), 1st Baron Braye, by Jane Halighwell (d. 24 October 1558). John Braye died of wounds received at the Battle of St Quintin, and at his death the Braye barony fell into abeyance among his six sisters.

Anne Talbot Braye married secondly, on 18 November 1561, as his second wife, Thomas Wharton (d. 23 August 1568), Lord Wharton. See Cokayne, George Edward, *The Complete Peerage*, (London: St Catherine Press, 1912), Vol. II, pp. 287-9, and Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 629.

RM: T{estamentum} Dorothee Windesoure

In the name of God, Amen, the fourth day of June in the year of Our Lord God 1561, I, Dorothy Windsor, widow, sick in body and whole in mind and perfect memory, do make my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, and my body to be buried in the parish church of Sheffield;

Item, I give and bequeath to the right honourable and my very good Lord, the Earl of Shrewsbury, one white gelding of mine which was last bought;

Item, I give & bequeath to my Lady of Shrewsbury and to my Lady Braye, either of them one ring of gold of 20s price apiece with these letters, D and W, engraven, and black enamelled;

Item, I give and bequeath to my very good Lady and aunt, the Countess of Northumberland, four oxen and forty sheep, all to be of the best of my store;

Item, I give and bequeath to my Lord, my father, a cup of silver and gilt with a cover;

Item, I give and bequeath to Francis Dacre, son to my brother, Sir Thomas Dacre, one cup of silver and gilt which my Lord of Shrewsbury gave unto me;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my sister, the Countess of Cumberland, a ring of gold with a turquoise;

Item, I give and bequeath to my sisters, my Lady Montagu and my sister Culpepper, either of them a ring of gold with these letters, D and W, engraved, and black enamelled;

Item, I give and bequeath to my Lord Windsor a gold ring with a seal in it;

Item, I give and bequeath to every one of my Lord of Shrewsbury's children, to every one of my sisters-in-law, to Mr Gargrave, to every one of these a gold ring of the price of 13s 4d with these letters, D and W, graven, and black enamelled;

Item, I give and bequeath to my sister, Eleanor Dacre, a girdle of goldsmith's work, a flower with an emerald, a French kirtle of black velvet, a chain enamelled with blue, a gown of black velvet, 18 pair of aglets enamelled with white, a new velvet saddle, money remaining by a warrant of my Lord my father's £30;

Item, I give unto my brother, Sir Thomas Dacre, a bed of russet velvet and curtains to the same;

Item, I give and [f. 40v] bequeath to my brother, Leonard Dacre, a stone jug with a foot of silver and gilt, and a trussing bed of blue and green sarcenet;

Item, I give and bequeath to my brother, Edward Dacre, my lease, interest and term of years of the parsonage of Princes Risborough in the county of Buckingham, to have and enjoy the same for such time and term of years as is comprised within the same lease;

Item, I give and bequeath to my sister, Eleanor Dacre, my lease, interest and term of years which I have of the deanery of Dernton if she marry not nor die within the said years, and if she marry or die within the same years and term specified within the said lease, then I will that my brother, Francis, shall have the rest of the said years;

Item, I will that William Grymston shall have the rent of £6 of the prebend now in th' occupation of one Hodgson, being parcel of the said deanery, during the said years;

Provided always that neither my brother, Edward, nor my sister, Eleanor, or any other person or persons in their names shall not receive any benefit or profit of the said leases to their own uses until such time as my debts and legacies shall be fully contented and paid, and that done, to enjoy them as is aforesaid;

The legacies and bequests of this my last will and testament shall be paid of the profits of my said leases;

Item, I give and bequeath unto John Rayner the copyhold land which he had in occupation in Mr Windsor's time and which he now hath;

Item, I give to John Hickinson, my servant, £10, and to Robert Bell, my servant, £5, and to Joan Constable, my maid, £10;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the said Joan Constable and Christian Hodgson all my wearing linen, and to either of them a saddle;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the said Christian Hodgson one annuity or yearly rent of £4 to be paid yearly of the profits of the parsonage of Risborough, and £5 in money to be paid presently, a little sorrel nag, a featherbed and a mattress, a bolster, 2 pair of sheets, blankets and counterpoints, half a garnish of pewter vessel;

Item, I give to William Warde one grey mare trotting and £3 6s 8d in money;

Item, I give to Mrs Anne Gravenour a French hood and a French crown;

And to Mrs Urselay a French crown;

LM: Mrs Margery Graveour a piece [] money(?), grogram chamblet [=camlet?], and the [] of a black satin kirtle

Item, to Mr Sandford, my Lady of Northumberland's servant, a rial of gold, and to every one of thother of my Lady of Northumberland's gentlemen a French crown, and to every of her yeomen and grooms 3s 4d, and to Sir Thomas, her chaplain, 10s;

Item, to her porter, 6s 8d; buttery, 10s; kitchen, 20s; the usher in the hall, 6s 8d; and to the seller [=cellarer?] 6s 8d;

Item, to Anne Daye 10s, & to every other of my Lady's maids 5s;

Item, to little Katherine Bower the sum of £3 6s 8d, to be delivered to Mrs Margery Gravenour to bestow by her discretion to the use of the said Katherine;

Item, to the poor at Risborough £3 6s 8d presently to be distributed, and also the corn to be dealt yearly in such sort as it hath been accustomed;

Item, I will to be distributed to the poor the day of my burial & about the time the sum of £13 6s 8d, and my burial to be according to my degree, and that all the costs and expenses of the burial to be of mine own charges, and my Lady of Northumberland to be at no charges thereof;

All the rest of my goods movable and not movable, my legacies and bequests and debts discharged and my funeral expenses allowed, I give unto my brother, Edward Dacre, whom I make my sole and whole executor of this my last will and testament;

And I beseech my singular good Lord, my Lord of Shrewsbury, to take so much pains for me as my trust is in him to see this my last will to be accomplished [f. 41r] and fulfilled in every behalf and point, whom I make my supervisor thereof, and for a poor token to take a gelding, trusting that he will consider more my mind therein than the simple gift;

In witness whereof hereunto I have set my name written with my own hand. Dorothy Windsor. These witnesses: Marie Northumberland, Robert Dawlton, clerk.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum coram mag^{ist}ro Waltero Haddon legum doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cant^{uariensis} Custode siue Commissario Decimo sexto die ffebruarij anno D^{omi}ni millesimo Quingentesimo Sexagesimo primo Iuramento xpoferi Robinson notarij publici procuratoris Edwardi Dacre executoris in eodem nominatⁱ Cui commissa fuit ad^{ministrati}o bonorum h^{uius}mo^di De bene et fidel^{ite}r administrando eadem Ac de pleno Inventario exhibendo Necnon de fideli comp^{oto} inde reddend^o Ad sancta dei Evangelia Iuratⁱ

[=The above-written testament was proved before Master Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the sixteenth day of February in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixty-first by the oath of Christopher Robinson, notary public, proctor of Edward Dacre, executor named in the

same, to whom administration was granted of the same goods, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to exhibit a full inventory, and also to render a faithful account thereof.]