

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 5 October 1564 and proved 20 August 1566, of Richard Corbet, second son of Sir Robert Corbet (b. about 1477, d. 11 April 1513), and Elizabeth Vernon (d. 29 March 1563), the daughter of Sir Henry Vernon (d.1511) of Haddon.

The testator's elder brother, Roger Corbet (d.1538/9), had been a ward of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford (see TNA C 1/1485/58). After the 13th Earl's death, the wardship was sold by his executors to Andrew (1467-1543), 1st Lord Windsor, who married his ward to his daughter, Anne Windsor (d.1550/1). Anne Windsor's brother, George Windsor (d. before 1520), was the first husband of Ursula de Vere (d.1558), sister and co-heir of John de Vere (1499-1527), 14th Earl of Oxford. Edward (1532?-1575), 3rd Lord Windsor, married Oxford's half-sister, Katherine de Vere (1538-1600). Moreover the testator's sister, Anne or Joan Corbet, married Thomas Newport (d.1548x51), the father of Sir Richard Newport (d.1570/1), the owner of a copy of Hall's *Chronicle* containing annotations thought to have been made by Shakespeare. In the will below, the testator leaves a gilt spoon to his godson, Sir Francis Newport (c.1555-1623) of High Ercall, the son and heir of Sir Richard Newport (d.1570/1), the owner of the copy of Hall's *Chronicle*. There were thus strong family connections in this generation between the Newports (owners of the annotated copy of Hall's *Chronicle*), the Corbets, the Windsors, and the de Veres.

For the will of the testator's father, Sir Robert Corbet (b. about 1477, d. 11 April 1513), see TNA PROB 11/17, ff. 214-5. For the will of the testator's elder brother, Roger Corbet (d.1538/9), see TNA PROB 11/27, f. 194. For the will of the testator's sister-in-law, Anne (nee Windsor) Corbet (d.1550/1), see TNA PROB 11/34, ff. 241-2. For the will of the testator's brother, Reginald Corbet (born c.1510, d. 19 November 1566), see TNA PROB 11/49.

The testator also had four sisters: Jane, who married Thomas Lee (d.1561/2), the son and heir of Fulke Lee and Alice, the daughter of Sir Richard Cornwall of Berrington, Herefordshire (for the will of Thomas Lee, see TNA PROB 11/46, ff. 23-4); Joan or Anne, who married Thomas Newport (d.1548x51); Mary, who married Thomas Powell of Oswestry, and Dorothy, who married Sir Richard Mainwaring (b. about 1499, d. 30 September 1558) of Ightfield, Shropshire.

The testator was carver to King Edward VI, and one of the Queen Elizabeth's Council in the Marches of Wales. He married Margaret (nee Savile) Wortley, the daughter of Sir John Savile (d.1504) of Thornhill and Tankersley, and the widow of Thomas Wortley of Wortley, Yorkshire. There were no issue of the marriage.

In the will below the testator leaves bequests to his nephews, Sir Andrew Corbet (d.1578), Walter Corbet (d.1583) and Jerome Corbet (d.1598), the sons of his elder brother, Roger Corbet (d.1538/9).

The testator also leaves a bequest to his godson, Richard Corbet (b. circa 1544, d.1606), the son of Sir Andrew Corbet (d.1578). Richard Corbet (b. circa 1544, d.1606) married Mary (nee Wolfe) Lee, the widow of Thomas Lee (d.1572) of Clattercote, Oxfordshire, uncle of the poet, Thomas Watson (d.1592). For the will of Thomas Lee (d.1572), see TNA PROB 11/54, ff. 172-4.

The testator was buried in the church at Shawbury, Shropshire.

For the foregoing see Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, pp. 473-4, 484; Corbet, Augusta Elizabeth, *The Family of Corbet*, Vol. II (London: St. Catherine's Press, n.d.), pp. 253, 258, 263-97, available online; the pedigree of Corbet in Burke, John, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners*, Vol. III (London: Henry Colburn, 1838), pp. 189-90; the pedigree of Savile of Thornhill in Foster, Joseph, *Pedigrees of the County Families of Yorkshire*, Vol II (London: W. Wilfred Head, 1874), available online; Hepworth, David, 'The Savile Family', *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*, Vol. 25, pp. 1-47, available online at <http://www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk/sources/saville/clay2.shtml>; and the entries in the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography* for Reynald Corbet (born c.1510, d. 19 November 1566), and Richard Newport (1587-1651), 1st Baron Newport.

RM: Testamentum

In the name of God, Amen. The 5th day of October in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred threescore four, I, Richard Corbet of Wortley in the county of York, esquire, whole in body and in good and perfect memory, thanks be to Almighty God, considering the fragility and mortality of this world, do ordain, make and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form as hereafter doth follow:

First and principally I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God, the Father of Heaven, faithfully trusting that by the merits and passion of his most dearest Son, Jesus Christ, my Saviour and Redeemer, he will of his abundant mercy & clemency make it a partaker of the joys amongst the fellowship celestial;

And my body to be buried in some parish church near to the place where it shall please God to take me to his mercy, and there such service to be said for my soul as is appointed for the dead, with small ceremonies as may be, and a stone to be laid upon me, and my name graved thereon;

Item, I give to Sir Andrew Corbet, knight, my lands in Acton Reynald in the parish of Shawbury;

Item, I do give to my godson, Richard Corbet, son to Sir Andrew Corbet, my lease and term of years which I have of the parsonage of Stone which I had of the grant of King Edward the Sixth, with all profits thereunto belonging;

Also I give and grant to Thomas Mendlowe, my servant, my two tenements in Adwick now in the occupation of Wade's wife and Roley's wife after the decease of every of them for term of his life, paying and doing the accustomed rent and service;

Item, I do give to every of my household serving-men which have served me one whold year and have had as yet no preferment at my hands one quarter wages;

Item, I do give to my nephew, Walter Corbet, my signet of gold or the value thereof;

And to my nephew, Jerome Corbet, forty shillings;

To Ursula Adams, forty shillings;

To Jasper Mainwaring, forty shillings;

To Elizabeth Powell, 40s;

To my godson, Francis Newport, my gilt spoon folding;

To Andrew Corbet, my godson, forty shillings;

To Francis Ley [=Lee?], forty shillings;

To Edmund Newport, five pounds;

And to all my godchildren within the parish of Tankersley twelve pence apiece;

Item, I do give to Richard Corbet, my godson, son to my brother, Reginald, forty shillings;

Item, I do give and bequeath unto Francis Wortley all my lands in Carleton and Swinton with all members pertaining to the either of them, to him, the said Francis, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for lack of such heirs, to the right heirs of me, Richard Corbet, according to certain covenants and writings made betwixt me and Francis Rollston [=Rolleston?] of Mafelde [=Mayfield?], esquire, Richard Clyve of Huxley, and Ralph Clyve of Walford, esquire, more at large appeareth;

Item, I do give to Sir Thomas Coxson, parson of Tankersley, in recompense of tithes omitted, twenty shillings, and Sir Thomas Sherrie in like manner ten shillings;

Item, I do give to my brother, Reginald, my goblet with the cover which is parcel gilt, praying him to be assistant with his counsel to my wife in all causes concerning this my last will and testament;

And the residue of all my goods movable and unmovable, as plate, coin, jewels, corn and cattle and leases, I give to Margaret, my wife, whom I do constitute and appoint to be my only executrix to this intent, that she shall pay my legacies and recompense all persons to whom it may be lawfully proved that I have done wrong or injury, and that she shall find John Winsor his living during his life according as he now hath;

In witness hereof that this is my last will and testament I have written this wholly with mine own hand and have put to my seal and subscribed three times the day and year above-written et sexto Elizabete Regine. Richard Corbet. Richard Corbet. Richard Corbet. Hijs testibus ad hanc meam voluntatem. Andrew Corbet, Walter Corbet, Francis Wortley, John Barker, Richard Corbet.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum coram Magistro Waltero Haddon legum doctore [] Curie Prerogative Cantuariensis Commissario apud London vicesimo die mensis Augusti Anno Domini Millesimo Quingentesimo Sexagesimo sexto Iuramento Radulphi Browne Notarij publici Procuratoris Margarete Relicte et Executricis in testamento huiusmodi nominate Cui Commissa fuit Administratio omnium et singulorum bonorum &c de bene &c Ad sancta dei Evangelia Iurati

[=The above-written testament was proved before Master Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws [], Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the twentieth day of the month of August in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixty-sixth by the oath of Ralph Browne, notary public, proctor of Margaret, relict and executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc.]