

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 17 November 1564 and proved 29 January 1565, of John, Lord Grey (d. 1564), whose grandson, Sir John Grey (d.1611), was complained of by Oxford in a letter to King James dated 30 January 1604 (see ERO D/DMh C1).

Seeing that it hath pleased your Majesty of your most gracious inclination to justice & right to restore me to be keeper of your game as well in your Forest of Waltham as also in Havering Park, I can do no less in duty and love to your Majesty but employ myself in the execution thereof, and to the end you might the better know in what sort both the forest & the park have been abused, and yet continued, as well in destroying of the deer as in spoiling of your demesne wood by such as have patents & had licences heretofore for felling of timber in the Queen's time lately deceased, presuming thereby that they may do what they list, I was bold to send unto your Majesty a man skilful, learned & experienced in forest causes, who being a dweller and eye-witness thereof might inform you of the truth. And because your Majesty upon a bare information could not be so well satisfied of every particular as by lawful testimony & examination of credible witness upon oath, according to your Majesty's appointment by commission a course hath been taken in which your Majesty shall be fully satisfied of truth. This commission, together with the depositions of the witness, I do send to your Majesty by this bearer, who briefly can inform you of the whole contents, so that now, having lawfully proved unto your Majesty that Sir John Grey hath killed and destroyed your deer in Havering Park without any warrant for the same, his patent is void in law, & therefore I most humbly beseech your Majesty to make him an example for all others that shall in like sort abuse their places, & to restore me to the possession thereof, in both which your Majesty shall do but justice and right to the one & other. This 30 of January 1603. Your Majesty's most humble subject and servant, E. Oxenford.

The testator was the youngest son of the four sons of Thomas Grey (1477–1530), 2nd Marquess of Dorset (b. 22 June 1477, d. 10 October 1530), and his second wife, Margaret (d. in or after 1535), daughter of Sir Robert Wotton of Boughton Malherbe, Kent, and widow of William Medley.

By his wife, Mary (nee Browne), the sister of Anthony Browne (1528-1592), 1st Viscount Montagu, the testator had one son, Henry Grey (1547, d. 26 July 1614), 1st Baron Grey of Groby, and three daughters, Margaret, wife of Sir Henry Capell, Frances, wife of Sir William Cooke, and Jane, wife of Edward Greville. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2004), pp. 63, 360-1, and the entries for the testator and his son, Henry Grey (1547, d. 26 July 1614), 1st Baron Grey of Groby, in the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*.

The testator's son, Henry Grey (1547, d. 26 July 1614), 1st Baron Grey of Groby, married Anne Windsor (1542-1605), the daughter of William (1498-1558), 2nd Lord Windsor, and by her had four sons and four daughters, including Sir John Grey (d.1611), the subject of Oxford's letter above. See GEC, *The Complete Peerage*, Vol. VI, pp. 135-

6; and Fletcher, William George Dimock, *Leicestershire Pedigrees and Royal Descents* (Leicester: Clarke and Hodgson, 1887), p. 71, available online.

There is confusion regarding the date of death of Anne (nee Windsor) Grey (1542-1605). The online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography* states that she died in 1613/14. However the parish records of St. Mary's Church in Broughton Astley indicate that she was buried there on 28 June 1605:

Sr John Grey Knight Sonne & Heir to the Lord Grey Baron of Grooby being of the age of [...] was buried in the Chappell of this Church the seventh day of October [1611] & his Body lyeth uppon the North syde of the Lady Anne Gray his mother who was five years and upwards buried in the same place or Chappell.

The records confirm that Lady Anne Gray was buried in the north chapel of the church on 28th June 1605 (Nichols confuses the dates in his account).

See http://st.mary.users.btopenworld.com/parish_records.htm.

Moreover John Chamberlain, in a letter to Sir Dudley Carleton dated 13 November 1611, wrote that Henry Grey (1547, d. 26 July 1614), 1st Baron Grey of Groby, was then seeking to marry the widow of Sir John Wood, which clearly establishes that his wife, Anne (nee Windsor) Grey (1542-1605), was already dead:

Sir John Grey is lately dead of the smallpox leaving a poor Lady, and his father is now in pursuit for the Lady Wood, my Lady Edmond's mother.

See McClure, Norman Egbert, *The Letters of John Chamberlain*, Vol. II, (Philadelphia: The American Philosophical Society, 1939), p. 314.

It should be noted that Anne (nee Windsor) Grey (1542-1605), the mother of Sir John Grey (d.1611) about whom Oxford complained to King James, was the sister of Oxford's brother-in-law, Edward Windsor (1532?-1575), 3rd Lord Windsor, who married Oxford's half-sister, Katherine de Vere (1538-1600).

Sir John Grey (d.1611) married Elizabeth Neville, the eldest daughter of Edward Neville (d.10 February 1588/9), 7th Lord Abergavenny, eldest son and heir of Edward Neville (b. in or before 1482, beheaded 9 January 1538/9), and his wife, Eleanor (d. before 25 March 1531), the daughter of Andrew Windsor (b.1467, d. 30 March 1543), 1st Lord Windsor. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2004), pp. 94, 476, and the entry in the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography* for Sir Edward Neville (b. in or before 1482, beheaded 9 January 1538/9).

Sir John Grey (d.1611) and his wife, Elizabeth Neville, were thus both great-grandchildren of Andrew Windsor (b.1467, d. 30 March 1543), 1st Lord Windsor, and Oxford was related to both through his half-sister Katherine de Vere's marriage to Edward Windsor (1532?-1575), 3rd Lord Windsor.

The testator died 19 November 1564. One of the witnesses to his will appears to have been the physician, Cesare Adelmare (d. 1569).

LM: Testamentum Iohannis Grey militis Domini Grey

In the name of God, Amen. In the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred threescore and four and in the 5th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth, Queen of England, France and Ireland etc., the 17th day of November, I, John Grey, knight, Lord Grey, in my house of Pyrgo in the county of Essex, being sick in body but whole and perfect in remembrance, ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say:

First and principally I freely and most heartily give and bequeath my soul into the most merciful hands of my only Saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, believing verily and hoping most constantly in the mercy of God, our heavenly Father, through the only merits of the most painful passion and most precious death of his only natural and most dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be saved forever, and one of the number of his elect;

Item, I give and bequeath my body to be buried in the chapel of my house of Pyrgo;

Item, I give and bequeath all and all manner of my goods and chattels, farms and leases where and in what place soever they be to my dearly beloved Lady and wife, Mary Grey, whom I make my whole and full executrix of this my last will and testament, most heartily praying and also requiring her of all loves to see my children virtuously brought up and well bestowed, and to pay my debts, and to discharge all other necessary charges. Witness of this my last will and testament are these: Cesare Adelmaure, John Kerroll, clerk.

Probatum erat Suprascriptum testamentum coram Magistro Waltero Haddon legum Doctore Curie Prerogative Cantuariensis Commissario apud London xxix Die mensis Ianuarij Anno Domini millesimo Quingentesimo lxiijto Iuramento Iohannis kerrell Clerici procuratoris Domine marie Grey Relicte et Executricis in huiusmodi testamento nominate Cui Comissa erat administracio omnium bonorum de bene &c ac de pleno Inventario &c Iurate

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before Master Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the 29th day of the month of January in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 64th by the oath of John Kerroll, clerk, proctor of Lady Mary Grey, relict and executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all the goods, sworn to well etc., and [+to render] a full inventory etc.]

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