

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 28 April 1566 and proved 18 May 1566, of John Newport of Hunningham, Warwickshire, whose wife, Dorothy Hatton Newport Underhill, had several connections to Oxford, and whose stepson, William Underhill, sold New Place to William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For early generations of the Newport family, see Bridgeman, Ernest R.O. and Charles G.O. Bridgeman, 'History of the Manor and Parish of Weston-under-Lizard, in the County of Stafford', William Salt Archaeological Society, ed., *Collections for a History of Staffordshire*, Vol. XX, Vol. II, New Series, (London: Harrison and Sons, 1899), p. 146 at:

<https://archive.org/details/collectionsfora14socigoog/page/n189>

Testator's parents

The testator was the son of Richard Newport (d.1565) and his first wife, Ursula Ferrers.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married, as her first husband, Dorothy (nee Hatton) Newport Underhill (d.1566x70), who had several connections to Oxford, and whose stepson, William Underhill (d.1597), sold New Place to William Shakespeare of Stratford. See the will of the testator's wife, Dorothy (nee Hatton) Newport Underhill (d.1566x70), TNA PROB 11/52/36, for her family background and connections to Oxford.

By Dorothy Hatton, the testator had a son and heir:

* **Sir William Newport** (1560-1597), took the surname Hatton when his childless uncle, Sir Christopher Hatton (c.1540-1591) settled his estates on him as his heir. He married firstly, in June 1589, Elizabeth Gawdy, the daughter of Sir Francis Gawdy (c.1532-1606). Sir Christopher Hatton (c.1540-1591) danced at the wedding, which took place at his house of Holdenby in Northamptonshire. By Elizabeth Gawdy Sir William Newport alias Hatton (1560-1597) had an only daughter, Frances Hatton (1590-1623), who on 24 February 1605 married Robert Rich (1587-1658), 2nd Earl of Warwick. After Elizabeth Gawdy's death, Sir William Newport alias Hatton married Elizabeth Cecil (1578-1646), the fourth daughter of Lord Burghley's son, Thomas Cecil (1542-1623), 1st Earl of Exeter, and his wife, Dorothy Neville (1548-1609), the daughter of John Neville (b.1493), d. 2 March 1532), 3rd Baron Latimer, and his first wife, Dorothy de Vere (d. 7 February 1527), sister and co-heir of John de Vere (1499-1526), 14th Earl of Oxford.

There were no issue of his second marriage. Sir William Newport alias Hatton died on 12 March 1597; Lord Burghley is said to have taken Sir William Hatton's death 'very heavily, and weeps pitifully'. On 6 November 1598 Sir William Hatton's widow married Sir Edward Coke (1552-1634). See Nicolas, Harris, *Memoirs of the Life and Times of Sir Christopher Hatton*, (London: Richard Bentley, 1847), pp. 2, 478-9, 502; McKeen, David, *A Memory of Honour; The Life of William Brooke, Lord Cobham*, Vol. 2, (Salzburg: University of Salzburg, 1986), pp. 568, 676; Gowdy, Mahlon M., *A Family History Comprising the Surnames of . . . Gawdy*, (Lewiston, Maine: Journal Press, 1919), pp. 39-41; and the entries in the *ODNB* for Sir Christopher Hatton (c.1540-1591); Thomas Cecil (1542-1623), 1st Earl of Exeter; Elizabeth (nee Cecil) Hatton Coke (1578-1646); and Robert Rich (1587-1658), 2nd Earl of Warwick. For the letter mentioning that Sir Christopher Hatton danced at the wedding of Sir William Newport alias Hatton and Elizabeth Gawdy, see also The Thomas Gray Archive, University of Oxford, at:

<http://www.thomasgray.org/cgi-bin/comment.cgi?text=lost&fromline=9&toline=20&type=all&sort=all>

For the inquisition post mortem which states that Sir William Newport alias Hatton was a boy six years of age when his father died in 1566, see:

'Parishes: Hunningham', in *A History of the County of Warwick: Volume 6, Knightlow Hundred*, ed. L F Salzman (London, 1951), pp. 117-120. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/warks/vol6/pp117-120> [accessed 29 October 2019].

The family background of the testator's mother-in-law, Alice Newport, mentioned in the will below, is unknown. It seems possible that she was Alice (nee Saunders) Hatton. Alice Saunders and her husband, William Hatton (d.1546) of Holdenby, were the parents of Sir Christopher Hatton (c.1540-1591) and of the testator's wife, Dorothy Hatton. If this conjecture is correct, Alice was both the testator's mother-in-law and his stepmother.

LM: T{estamentum} Ioh{ann}is Newport

In the name of God, Amen. The eight and twentieth day of April in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred threescore and six and in the eight year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., I, John Newport of Hunningham in the county of Warwick, gentleman, being sick in body but whole of mind and of good and perfect remembrance, thanks be therefore unto Almighty God, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say:

First I commend my soul unto Almighty God, my only Maker and Redeemer, by whose precious death and passion my trust is only to be saved, and my body I will to be buried in the parish church of Hunningham aforesaid according to the discretion of mine executrix and overseers;

Item, I will that there be some alms of money or bread given unto the poor people the day of my burial according to the discretion of mine executrix and overseers;

Item, I will, give, devise and bequeath unto Dorothy, my wife, my manor house of Hunningham aforesaid with the dovehouse, garden and orchard thereto belonging and all these lands and tenements hereafter expressed and mentioned, that is [f. 348r] to say, one close or pasture in Hunningham aforesaid called the Ash close with the meadow adjoining to the same close or pasture, one other close or pasture in Hunningham aforesaid called the Priest's close, and six fats walling in Droitwich in the county of Worcester now being in the tenure and holding of John Wymm(?) of Hadsor in the said county of Worcester, gentleman, and Hugh Holl of Droitwich aforesaid, gentleman, to have and to hold the said manor house, dovehouse, garden and orchard with their appurtenances unto the said Dorothy, my wife, and her assigns for and during the minority and nonage of William Newport, my son and heir apparent, and to have and to hold the said two closes or pastures, meadow and six fats walling with their appurtenances unto the said Dorothy, my wife, and her assigns for and during the term of the natural life of the said Dorothy;

And if it fortune my said son, William, to die before he shall attain and come to the full age of twenty and one years, then I further will, devise and bequeath by this my last will and testament the aforesaid manor house, dovehouse, garden, orchard, lands, tenements, meadows, leasows, closes, pastures, commons, waters, fish, fishings, rents, reversions, services and other my hereditaments whatsoever they be with all and singular their appurtenances in Hunningham aforesaid, except one close or pasture there called the Middle field, one other close or pasture there called the House field, and three meadows there whereof one is called Cotten more [=moor?], another is called Crow meadow, and another is called the Bridge meadow, now in the tenure and holding of Thomas Wagstaff of Harberbury [=Harbury?] in the county of Warwick aforesaid, yeoman, and John Fawkenor of Holdenell in the same county of Warwick, yeoman, or their assigns, to have and to hold the said manor house, dovehouse, garden, orchard, messuages, lands, tenements and other the premises with their appurtenances, except before excepted, unto the said Dorothy, my wife, for and during the term of the natural life of the same Dorothy;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the same Dorothy, my wife, all that my indenture and lease, title, term of years and interest of and in the rectory or parsonage of Milverton in the said county of Warwick with all and singular the appurtenances;

Item, I will, give, devise and bequeath unto Alice Newport, my mother-in-law, the aforesaid two closes or pastures called the Middle field and House field and the aforesaid three meadows called the Cotton more, Crow meadow and Bridge meadow with their appurtenances, to have and to hold the said two closes or pastures and three meadows with their appurtenances unto the said Alice Newport and her assigns for and during the term of the natural life of the same Alice in full recompense and consideration of her title of dower of and in all the manors, messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments of

Richard Newport, my father, deceased, late husband to the said Alice, in the aforesaid counties of Warwick and Worcester and in either of them, upon condition that she, the said Alice Newport, at any time hereafter when she shall be thereunto required by me, the said John Newport, my executors or assigns, shall make a lease of the said two closes or pastures and three meadows with their appurtenances by writing indented unto me, the said John Newport, my executors or assigns, during the term of her natural life for the yearly rent of twenty and eight pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the said Alice Newport, my mother, one grey mare;

Item, I will that all other my manors, messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances in the foresaid counties of Warwick and Worcester and in either of them shall immediately after my decease remain, come and descend to William Newport, my son and heir apparent, and to his heirs, and also the reversion of the said manor of Hunningham aforesaid, lands, tenements and other the premises with their appurtenances immediately after the decease of the said Dorothy, my wife, and Alice Newport, my mother-in-law;

Item, I [f. 348v] give and bequeath to the said William Newport, my son, the sum of two hundred pounds of good and lawful money of England, to be paid to the said William, my son, by the said Dorothy, my wife, at such time as he shall attain and come to the full age of twenty and one years;

Item, I give and bequeath to every one of my household servants one half year's wages over and besides that they have served for, and over [+and?] besides one half year's wages given unto them by the said Richard Newport, my father, by his last will and testament;

The residue of all my goods and chattels, my debts and legacies paid, my funeral expenses discharged and this my last will performed, I do freely give and bequeath unto the said Dorothy, my wife, to bestow at her free will and pleasure, whom I do ordain and make my full, sole and lawful executrix of this my last will;

And I do ordain & make my well-beloved uncles, William Saunders of Harington in the county of Northampton, esquire, Bartholomew Tate of Delapre in the same county, esquire, and my well-beloved brethren-in-law, Christopher Hatton, esquire, and Thomas Hatton, gentleman, my supervisors and overseers of this my last will and testament to see the same performed accordingly, and I give and bequeath to every of them for their painstaking herein twenty shillings to buy them a saddle withal;

These being witnesses, Thomas Hickman of the City of Coventry, pothecary; Sir John Todd, clerk, vicar of Hunningham aforesaid; John Prat of Hunningham aforesaid, yeoman; Henry Goddard of Hunningham aforesaid, weaver; Thomas Bayly of the same; and others.

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum coram Mag{ist}ro Waltero Haddon legu{m}
Doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cantuarien{sis} Com{m}issario apud london Decimo octauo
Die mens{is} Maij Anno d{omi}ni Millesimo Quingentesimo sexagesimo sexto
Iuramento henrici Walker Procuratoris Dorothee Newporte Relicte et Executricis in
testamento h{uius}mo{d}i nominat{e} Cui com{m}iss{a} fuit Administracio omni{um}
et singulorum bonorum &c de bene &c Ad sancta Dei Evangelia Iurat{i}

[=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 eighteenth
day of the month of May in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixty-sixth by
the oath of Henry Walker, proctor of Dorothy Newport, 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.]