

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 9 December 1566 and proved 28 January 1570, of Dorothy (nee Hatton) Newport Underhill, who had several connections to Oxford (see below), and whose stepson sold New Place to William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon.

## ***FAMILY BACKGROUND***

### ***Testatrix' parents***

The testatrix was the daughter of William Hatton (d.1546) of Holdenby, Northamptonshire, and his wife Alice Saunders, daughter of Lawrence Saunders (d.1544) of Harrington, Northamptonshire. See the will of Lawrence Saunders, TNA PROB 11/30/232; the pedigree of Saunders of Harrington in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Northamptonshire*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1887), p. 45 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsofnor00harvrich#page/44/mode/2up>

### ***Testatrix' siblings***

The testatrix had two brothers:

-**Sir Christopher Hatton** (c.1540–1591), Queen Elizabeth's Chancellor, for whom see the *ODNB* entry.

-**Thomas Hatton** (d. by 30 January 1572), who married Ursula Newport, the sister of John Newport (d.1566). A grant from Sir Christopher Hatton indicates that Thomas Hatton's marriage to Ursula Newport took place on or about 10 May 1567. See Northamptonshire Archives FH2586. After the death of Thomas Hatton, Ursula Newport married secondly William Fortescue, gentleman, of Lincoln's Inn. See TNA C 78/46/9 and TNA C 78/45/19, *supra*.

## ***MARRIAGES AND ISSUE***

### ***Testatrix' first marriage***

The testatrix married firstly, John Newport (d.1566), the son of Richard Newport (d.1565) of Hunningham, Warwickshire and his first wife, Ursula Ferrers.

For Ursula Ferrers see the pedigree of Beaufoy in Fetherston, John, ed., *The Visitation of the County of Warwick in the Year 1619*, (London: Harleian Society, 1877), p. 203, which states that Ursula Ferrers' first husband was John Beaufoy, the son of John Beaufoy (d.1516) of Edmondscote, Warwickshire, and his wife, Elizabeth, the daughter of Sir

Robert Tate (d.1500x1), Alderman of London. The pedigree shows further that Joan Beaufo, the sister of John Beaufo (d.1516) married Richard Throckmorton (d.1547), the brother of Sir Robert Throckmorton (c.1451-1518), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/20/25. After the death of John Beaufo, Ursula Ferrers married Richard Newport (d.1565).

The pedigree of Ferrers of Baddesley Clinton in Fetherston, *supra*, p. 5, states that Ursula Ferrers was the daughter of Sir Edward Ferrers (d.1535) and his wife Constance (d.1551), the daughter and heir of Nicholas Brome (d. 10 October 1516), and that Ursula's brother, Henry Ferrers (d.1526), was the father of Edward Ferrers (1524x7-1564), who married Bridget Windsor (d.1582), the daughter of William Windsor (1498-1558), 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Windsor, and sister-in-law of Oxford's stepsister, Katherine (nee de Vere) Windsor (1538-1600), wife of Edward Windsor (1532?-1575), 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Windsor. See:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationcount01britgoog#page/n28/mode/2up>

For Edward Ferrers (1524x7-1564) see also the *ODNB*:

*Edward Ferrers (1524x7–1564), was the only son of Henry Ferrers (d. 1526) and Katherine, the daughter and coheir of Sir John Hampden of Hampden, Buckinghamshire. Edward's grandfather Edward Ferrers (d. 1535) had acquired the manor of Baddesley Clinton, Warwickshire, through marriage to Constance (d. 1551), younger daughter and coheir of Nicholas Brome, and established it as the family seat. Edward succeeded to his grandfather's estate as a child and his wardship was acquired by Elizabeth, the widow of Sir Thomas Englefield and daughter of Sir Robert Throckmorton; he had probably come of age by 1545. The royal marriage of Katherine Parr, a kinswoman to the Throckmortons, led Edward Ferrers into court circles, and he attended the funerals of both Edward VI and Mary as a gentleman pensioner. In 1548 he married Bridget (d. 1582), the daughter of William Windsor, second Baron Windsor; they had six sons and three daughters. Ferrers represented Warwick in Mary's first parliament, but otherwise played little part in public affairs. The last years of his life were dogged by financial troubles, and by the time of his death his estates were in the control of his brother-in-law Edward, third Baron Windsor.*

For the marriage of Constance Brome and Sir Edward Ferrers (d.1535), see also Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 242, and Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 381.

After the death of Ursula Ferrers, Richard Newport (d.1565) married a wife named Alice, who is mentioned in his will and in the will of his son, John Newport (d.1566). Her surname is unknown. For the will of Richard Newport, dated 28 May 1565 and proved 4 September 1565, see TNA PROB 11/48/318. The litigation referred to in the will below may have involved claims by Richard Newport's second wife, Alice.

By John Newport the testatrix had a son:

\* **William Newport** (d.1597), who married, as his second wife, Elizabeth Cecil (1578-1646), the daughter of Oxford's brother-in-law, Thomas Cecil (1542-1623), 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Exeter. William Newport later took the surname Hatton, and as Sir William Hatton was the heir of his uncle, Sir Christopher Hatton. See the entry for Elizabeth Cecil (1578-1646) in the *ODNB*, and the Wikipedia article on Elizabeth (nee Cecil) Hatton edited by the author of this website.

### *Testatrix' second marriage*

The testatrix' first husband, John Newport, died in 1566, only a few months after his father. For the will of John Newport (d.1566), dated 28 April 1566 and proved 18 May 1566, see TNA PROB 11/48/466. Shortly thereafter the testatrix married secondly, William Underhill (d.1570) of Idlicote, Warwickshire. In 1567 William Underhill purchased New Place, the second-largest dwelling in Stratford upon Avon. After William Underhill's death in 1570, the wardship of his son, William Underhill (d.1597), was purchased by Sir Christopher Hatton. In Easter term 1597, William Underhill (d.1597) sold New Place to William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon. For the will of William Underhill (d.1570), see TNA PROB 11/52/126.

The Saunders family also had another connection by marriage to the Underhill family: by her second marriage to Anthony Carlton (d. 18 January 1576), Joyce (nee Goodwin) Saunders, widow of Robert Saunders (for whose will see TNA PROB 11/43/474), had a daughter, Bridget Carleton, who married Sir Hercules Underhill (1581-1658), son of William Underhill (d.1597). Sir Hercules Underhill confirmed the sale of New Place to William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon in Michaelmas term 1602. See the Wikipedia article on Sir Hercules Underhill edited by the author of this summary.

### ***OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL***

The testatrix appoints as overseers of her will (1) her uncle, William Saunders of Harrington, brother of the testatrix' mother, Alice Saunders, and (2) her cousin, Bartholomew Tate, son of Alice Saunders' sister, Anne Saunders, who according to the pedigree in Metcalfe, *supra*, p. 45, married four times, firstly to a husband surnamed Befford, secondly to a husband surnamed Wadham, thirdly to Bartholomew Tate of Laxton, Northamptonshire, and fourthly to Sir Thomas Longvile of Wolverton, Buckinghamshire. For a different order of Anne Saunders' four marriages, see:

[http://cottonites.co.uk/history/delapre\\_abbey\\_cm.htm](http://cottonites.co.uk/history/delapre_abbey_cm.htm)

*Ten years after the dissolution, the property was sold to Lady Anne Longvyle, Andrew Wad-ham, her husband, and Bartholomew Tate, her son. Lady Longvyle was thrice married, first to Sir Bartholomew Tate, secondly to Sir Thomas Longvyle, and thirdly to Andrew Wadham, whom she also outlived. She died in 1565 after marrying for the fourth*

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*time. William Tate, her grandson, was member of Parliament for Northamptonshire and father of Zouch Tate, M.P. for Northampton.*

See also:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=zKNBAAAACAAJ&pg=PA65>

For the testatrix see also *Edward De Vere Newsletter* No. 39 on this website.

In the name of God, Amen. The ninth day of December in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred threescore and six I, Dorothy Underhill, wife of William Underhill, esquire, by licence of the same William, my husband, do make (in good and perfect memory) this my last will and testament in manner and form as hereafter followeth:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, and my body to be buried in such place and order as shall be thought convenient by my husband;

And whereas Richard Newport late of Hunningham in the county of Warwick, esquire, deceased, did by his last will & testament amongst other things give and bequeath to Constance, Mary, Elizabeth and Ursula Newport, his four daughters, divers sums of money and legacies in or by the said will or testament mentioned and appearing;

And further by the said will and testament did give and bequeath to John Newport, then his son and heir apparent, all the remnant and residue of all his debts, goods and chattels by the said will of the said Richard not disposed, given or bequeathed;

And after the decease of the said Richard, the said John Newport by his last will and testament did make, constitute and ordain me, the said Dorothy, late wife of the said John, his sole and only executrix, and deceased;

Now I, the said Dorothy, give and bequeath to my very good loving husband, William Underhill aforesaid, all the said remnant and residue of all the said debts, goods and chattels of the said Richard to the said John Newport left, given or bequeathed, as is afore specified, and all my right, title, interest and demand of, in or to all and every or any the debts, goods or chattels whatsoever which were at any time to the same Richard or which to the said Richard, his executors or administrators did, might, ought or could appertain, belong or come in any respect or manner whatsoever;

And forasmuch as the said William Underhill, my husband, hath already paid divers sums of money in discharge of divers the debts of me, the said Dorothy, and by me owing at and afore my marriage to the said William Underhill, and also hath been at some travail, costs and charges already in or about suits by him, the said William Underhill, attempted for the obtaining or recovery of sundry debts, goods and chattels, as well in manner and

form above mentioned as otherwise, owing, belonging or appertaining to me, the said Dorothy, and is also very likely to sustain great travail, costs and charges hereafter for, about or concerning the obtaining or recovery of the said remnant and residue of all the said debts, goods and chattels by me as is aforesaid given and bequeathed to my said husband by this my will without certainty of good success therein, I will & request my brothers, Christopher and Thomas Hatton, that they of, out of or with the benefit, rents, commodities and profits of the lands and tenements of William Newport, my son, by them hereafter to be received by any way, mean or title, answer, yield content and pay to my said husband, William Underhill, all such sums of money and so much as the said William Underhill hath or shall in any manner wise disburse, pay, dispend or employ reasonably and without fraud and covin in, about or concerning any suit, plaint, action or demand by him, the said William Underhill, heretofore or hereafter to be commenced, pursued or had for the obtaining or recovery of the said remnant or residue of all the said debts, goods and chattels by me as is aforesaid to him bequeathed or any otherwise touching me in which plaint, action or demand the said William Underhill without any default of the said William shall not have good success, end or judgment for the said William Underhill to have or recover my said legacy to him by these presents by me afore given and bequeathed or recompense for the same last-mentioned legacy;

And I make the said William Underhill, my husband, my only executor of this my last will and testament;

And I make overseers of this my will and testament my uncle, William Saunders, and my cousin, Bartholomew Tate;

In witness whereof hereunto I, the said Dorothy, have put my hand the day and year above-written.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum coram Mag<sup>ist</sup>ro Waltero Haddon Legum doctore Curie P<sup>re</sup>rogatiue Cantuar<sup>i</sup>en<sup>sis</sup> com<sup>m</sup>issario apud London xxvii<sup>jo</sup> die Ianuarij anno d<sup>omi</sup>ni Mill<sup>es</sup>imo quingen<sup>tes</sup>imo sexagesimo nono Iuramento Will<sup>el</sup>mi Vnderhill executor<sup>is</sup> in test<sup>ament</sup>o h<sup>uius</sup>mo<sup>d</sup>i no<sup>m</sup>i<sup>n</sup>at<sup>i</sup> Cui com<sup>m</sup>iss<sup>a</sup> fuit admi<sup>ni</sup>strac<sup>i</sup>o omni<sup>um</sup> et sing<sup>u</sup>lor<sup>um</sup> bonor<sup>um</sup>] &c De bene &c Ad sancta dei evangelia Iurat<sup>i</sup>

[=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 28<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixty-ninth by the oath of William Underhill, executor 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.]