

Summary: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 12 May [1571?] of Sir William Sneyd (d. 6 June 1571) of Bradwell, Staffordshire, maternal grandfather of Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham.

The testator was the son of Richard Sneyd and Anne Fouleshurst, the daughter of Sir Robert Fouleshurst of Crewe, Cheshire. See the will of Sir Robert Fouleshurst, which mentions his daughter, Anne, TNA PROB 11/11/562, and the pedigree of Sneyd in Armytage, George J., ed., *Pedigrees Made at the Visitation of Cheshire, 1613*, (Record Society for the Publication of Original Documents Relating to Lancashire and Cheshire, 1909), p. 215 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/recordsociety58recouoft#page/214/mode/2up>.

The testator had a younger brother, Richard Sneyd, a Middle Temple lawyer who married a wife named Alice, but died c.1554 without issue. According to the will below, his widow married Lawrence Woodnett. See the History of Parliament entry for Richard Sneyd at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/sneyd-richard-1523-5455>.

The testator also had three sisters:

* Elizabeth Sneyd (d. 28 January 1579), who married firstly Henry Gee (d. 6 September 1545), Mayor of Chester. She is said to have married secondly, in 1550, Sir William Calverley of Calverley, Yorkshire. See Grazebrook, *infra*, and Burke, John Bernard, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain & Ireland*, 5th ed., (London: Harrison, 1871), Vol. II, p. 1287 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=H65CAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA1287&lpg=PA1287&dq=%22William+Calverley%22+%22Sneyd%22&source=bl&ots=AB9DTBzkWg&sig=d8-IfYLxKKCeXAemieB5KMwNBn4&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CC8Q6AEwBWoVChMIo6qf kvzxyAIVQlyICh3LKQWM#v=onepage&q=%22William%20Calverley%22%20%22Sneyd%22&f=false>.

See also Norcliffe, Charles Best, ed., *The Visitation of Yorkshire in the Years 1563 and 1564*, (London: Harleian Society, 1881), Vol. XVI, p. 47 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=pjMEAAAIAAJ&pg=PA47&lpg=PA47&dq=%22Calverley%22+%22Sneyd%22&source=bl&ots=V94cB7oUbj&sig=mq_e49LK1JhAhjf40bUVsvA2DZs&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CC8Q6AEwBWoVChMI-LOo__xyAIVxDGICH09zwdc#v=onepage&q=%22Calverley%22%20%22Sneyd%22&f=false.

See also Burke, John, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland*, (London: Henry Colburn, 1833), Vol. I, p. 674 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=P4UAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA674&lpg=PA674&dq=%22Calverley%22+%22Sneyd%22&source=bl&ots=_j2XeJ5nQL&sig=U_Z4IUCOfkHHXBTyoOFW_9yCauk&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CCgQ6AEwAzgKahUKEwjh3PGigPLIAhXTW4gKHSRpC1c#v=onepage&q=%22Calverley%22%20%22Sneyd%22&f=false.

However the inscription in Holy Trinity church in Chester merely records that she was wife 'of late to Calverley, knight, but first espoused to Henry Gee'. See:

<http://www.geeroots.org/showmap.php?cemeteryID=4&tree=>.

It seems possible that Elizabeth Sneyd's second husband was a member of the Calveley or Calverley family of Lea, Cheshire (rather than Yorkshire), for whose pedigree see Armytage, *supra*, p. 55.

For Elizabeth Sneyd, see also:

<http://witching.org/brimstone/detail.php?mode=personshorttitle&title=143>.

* Jane Sneyd, who married Sir John Leigh (d. 13 August 1558) of Booths. For the pedigree of Leigh of Booths, see Armytage, *supra*, pp. 150-2.

* Anne Sneyd, who married Edward Massey of Broxton. For the pedigree of Massey of Broxton, see Armytage, *supra*, p. 170.

According to the inscription on the monument in Wolstanton church, the testator married Anne Barrow, the daughter of Thomas Barrow, and had 15 children:

Here lie the bodies of Sir William Sneyd of Bradwell, knight, and Dame Anne, his wife, one of the daughters and heirs of Thomas Barrow of Flookersbrook in the county of Chester, esquire, who had 5 sons and 10 daughters, which Sir William died the 6 of June 1571.

On the monument are the arms of Sneyd impaling Barrow, for which see Ward, John, *The Borough of Stoke-Upon-Trent*, (London: W. Lewis & Son, 1843)p. 119 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=M6QLAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA118&lpg=PA118&dq=%22Sneyd+impaling+Barrow%22&source=bl&ots=geFcuFSFnW&sig=SDnTd-3E1s2nLpzDcGbEAQIIPUE&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CBwQ6AEwAGoVChMI98376sfwyAIVUe5jCh322QWp#v=onepage&q=%22Sneyd%20impaling%20Barrow%22&f=false>.

For the testator's father-in-law, Thomas Barrow, son of Thomas Barrow of Chester, see also *The Cheshire Sheaf*, (Chester: The Courant Steam Printing Works, 1883), pp. 176, 397 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=iG8uAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA397&lpg=PA397&dq=%22Flookersbrook%22+%22Thomas+Barrow%22&source=bl&ots=-20coXCgKQ&sig=hvGeD65I9GiaffglhaRgerL6gIQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CDkQ6AEwBWoVChMI4cWKgYPpyAIVBKOICh0RaAZw#v=onepage&q=%22Flookersbrook%22%20%22Thomas%20Barrow%22&f=false>.

The testator's known children are:

* Ralph Sneyd (d. 15 August 1620), esquire, of Keele, who married firstly Mary Chetwynd, the daughter of Thomas Chetwynd (d. 30 September 1555) of Ingestre, Staffordshire (see below), and secondly Mary Newport, the daughter of Sir Richard Newport (d.1570/1) of High Ercall, Shropshire (see below). For Mary Chetwynd, see Chetwynd-Stapylton, H.E., *The Chetwynds of Ingestre*, (London: Longmans, Green, 1892), pp. 140-2 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=DpBDAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA223&lpg=PA223&dq=%22Thomas+Chetwynd%22+%221555%22&source=bl&ots=w-sNTLqrm&sig=FwEHR2xyHFmAQlm0AsNMWTC5QtA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CCAQ6AEwATgKahUKEwjut9fOqfLIAhUHKYgKHTbFAB8#v=onepage&q=%22Thomas%20Chetwynd%22%20%221555%22&f=false>.

* George Sneyd of Newcastle-under-Lyme. For his will, see TNA PROB 11/89/396.

* Mary Sneyd, who married John Delves (d. 13 June 1571), esquire, of Doddington, Chester. Their daughter, Margaret Delves, married Edward Bushell. See the will of William Sheldon (d. 24 December 1570) of Beoley, TNA PROB 11/53/79; the pedigree of Bushell in Hotson, Leslie, I, *William Shakespeare*, (London: Jonathan Cape, 1937), p. 144; and Ormerod, George, *The History of the County Palatine and City of Chester*, (London: Lackington, Hughes, 1819), Vol. III, p. 268 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/historyofcountyp03orme#page/268/mode/2up>.

See also Fetherston, John, ed., *The Visitation of the County of Warwick in the Year 1619*, (London: Harleian Society, 1877), Vol. XII, pp. 137-8 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationcount01britgoog#page/n164/mode/2up>.

See also Burke, John and John Bernard Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Extinct and Dormant Baronetages of England*, (London: Scott, Webster and Geary, 1838), p. 157 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=K1kBAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA157&lpg=PA157&dq=%22Sir+John+Delves%22&source=bl&ots=E9Ps_2nj7i&sig=VPBQm7OzNvWBeO1x0DwSFRdE2Vc&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj0v_3ZiqfJAhWVKYgKHWP0A8s4ChDoAQgbMAA#v=onepage&q=%22Sir%20John%20Delves%22&f=false.

* Elizabeth Sneyd, who married Henry Touchet (d.1595), Lord Audley. See Burke, John, *A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Peerage and Baronetage of the British Empire*, 8th ed., (London: Henry Colburn, 1845), p. 50 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=ZfdRAAAAcAAJ&pg=PA50&lpg=PA50&dq=%22Henry+Touchet%22+%22Lord+Audley%22&source=bl&ots=ArNMNaKWAp&sig=rEI4jKLTGXG63gOqtmCbGI9ZWM_w&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CDkQ6AEwBmoVChMlxf7D3-btyAIVCdxjCh2vsg13#v=onepage&q=%22Henry%20Touchet%22%20%22Lord%20Audley%22&f=false.

* Anne Sneyd, who married William Yonge, esquire, of Caynton, Shropshire. For William Yonge, see Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, p. 546:

16. William Yonge (or Young), Gent., of Caynton (in Edgmond), Tibberton, etc., Shropshire, son and heir. He married (1st) Anne Sneyd, daughter of William Snead, Knt., of Bradwell, Staffordshire. They had five sons, William, Giles, Thomas, John, and John (again), and six daughters, Elizabeth (wife of Walter Cotton), Margaret (wife of William Cotton), Anne (wife of (blank) Evans), Mary (wife of (blank) Comley), Frances (wife of William Bolton), and Hester. He married (2nd) before 1 Nov. 1579 Mary Bonner, daughter of Anthony Bonner, Gent., of Camden, Gloucestershire, by Bridget (descendant of King Edward I, daughter of Christopher Savage, Esq. (descendant of King Edward I) [see Savage 14 for her ancestry]. They had one daughter, Bridget. William Yonge, Gent., died in Dec. 1583. His widow, Mary, married (2nd) 10 Jan. 1586 Thomas Combe, Gent., of Stratford on Avon, Warwickshire. His will was dated 22 Dec. 1608, proved 10 Feb. 1608/. She died at Stratford on Avon, Warwickshire 5 April 1617.

For the will of Thomas Combe of Stratford on Avon, see TNA PROB 11/113/130.

Giles Yonge, the second son of Anne Sneyd and William Yonge (see above) appears to have been the Giles Yonge who was a co-purchaser, together with Ralph Sneyd and Oxford's wife, Elizabeth Trentham (d.1612), of King's Place in Hackney in 1597 (see TNA C 66/1476), where Oxford lived from 1597 until his death in 1604.

* Jane Sneyd, who married Thomas Trentham (d.1587), esquire, of Rocester, Staffordshire, by whom she was the mother of Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham. For the will of Thomas Trentham, see TNA PROB 11/72/372.

* Margaret Sneyd (d. 2 October 1592), who married firstly, John Somerford (d. 11 August 1577) of Somerford, and secondly Gilbert Domville (buried 2 December 1607), esquire, of Lymm, Chester. She was buried at Astbury. For the pedigree of Domville,

see Ormerod, *supra*, Vol. I, p. 582. See also Armytage, *supra*, p. 217; and Burke, John, and John Bernard Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain and Ireland*, (London: Henry Colburn, 1847), p. 1259 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=0NEKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA1259&lpg=PA1259&dq=%22Sneyd%22+%22John+Somerford%22&source=bl&ots=a7NZiQ8wpf&sig=2yrjxQlWskqGiNzXK17yUOfRQKg&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CCsQ6AEwA2oVChMIkO-71ejyAIVR_JjCh12jAhu#v=onepage&q=%22Sneyd%22%20%22John%20Somerford%22&f=false

For Margaret Sneyd, see also:

<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!topic/soc.genealogy.medieval/OLsV1m7gzug>.

The testator's first wife predeceased him, and the testator married Jane Salter, the daughter of John Salter (d.1532) of Newport, Chief Justice of North Wales. For the will of John Salter, see TNA PROB 11/24/75.

John Salter is mentioned in the will of John Newport, grandfather of Sir Richard Newport (d.1570/1), owner of a copy of Hall's *Chronicle*, formerly Loan 61 in the British Library, containing annotations thought to have been made by Shakespeare. See Keen, Alan and Roger Lubbock, *The Annotator*, (London: Putnam, 1954). The volume is now in the hands of a trustee, Lord Hesketh. For the will of John Newport, see TNA PROB 11/18/166. As mentioned above, the testator's eldest son, Ralph Sneyd, married, as his second wife, the daughter of Sir Richard Newport, owner of the annotated copy of Hall's *Chronicle*. See the will of Sir Richard Newport, TNA PROB 11/53/456.

The testator's second wife, Jane Salter, had earlier been the wife of Thomas Chetwynd (d. 30 September 1555) of Ingestre, Staffordshire. See the pedigree of Chetwynd of Ingestre in William Salt Archaeological Society, eds., *Collections for a History of Staffordshire: The Heraldic Visitations of Staffordshire in 1614 and 1663-4*, Vol. V, Part II, p. 81 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/collectionsforpt205stafuoft#page/80/mode/2up>.

These families were further connected through the marriage of Jane Salter's daughter by her first marriage, Mary Chetwynd, to Elizabeth Trentham's maternal uncle and Oxford's trustee, Ralph Sneyd, the testator's eldest son and heir.

For the testator's family see also the Sneyd pedigree in Grazebrook, H. Sydney, ed., *The Heraldic Visitations of Staffordshire*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1885), pp. 273-4 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=gfwcAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA273&lpg=PA273&dq=%2Blegh+%2BSneyd&source=bl&ots=KgcQWrmBDs&sig=2gbNwx02Rc4eflzWeK9OL5XUdWk&hl=en&ei=OgtzSoy6HoH->

tQPEvPjzCA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result#v=onepage&q=%2Blegh%20%2Bsneyd&f=false.

LM: T{estamentum} Will{el}mi Sneide

In dei no{m}i{n}e, amen. The 12th day of May in the year of the reign of Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith &c, I, Sir William Sneyd of Bradwell in ye county of Stafford, knight, being at this present something crazy (but thanks be given to God, of perfect mind and good remembrance), and knowing that there is nothing in this world so sure as the death natural of my body, and the time thereof most uncertain, and also minding to leave my lands, goods and chattels to my wife and children and such of my friends as I would should quietly enjoy the same, and renouncing all former wills heretofore made, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First, I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, trusting and steadfastly believing that through the merits of his blessed passion and infinite mercy I shall be one of them that shall inherit the kingdom of heaven and life everlasting;

Item, I bequeath my body to be buried in Christian burial where my executors shall think most convenient;

Item, my will is that all and every my manors, messuages, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments whatsoever with their appurtenance whereof I or any other person or persons to my use are or shall be seised at the time of my decease in fee simple, fee-tail general or special, shall be equally divided into three several parts, of the which I will that one part of ye said manors and lands so divided immediately from and after my decease shall wholly descend and revert, remain and come to Ralph Sneyd, esquire, son and heir apparent to me, the said Sir William, to ye only use and behoof of the said Ralph Sneyd and his heirs forever;

Also I will that the second part of all my said manors, messuages, lands, tenements, rents, reversions and services so being divided as aforesaid shall remain and be to Dame Jane, my wife, for and during her natural life, for and in recompense of her jointure and dower, the remainder thereof after her decease to my said son, Ralph Sneyd, and to his heirs forever;

And in like manner I will that the third part of all and every my said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments, being divided as before, shall be and remain to such use, purposes and intents as are expressed and declared in and by this my last will and testament, and to and for the payment of my debts and legacies, discharging of my funerals, and to and for the further execution, performance and accomplishment of this my said last will and testament according to the true intent and meaning of the same as is aforesaid, the remainder of all the said third part of all my said manors, lands and

tenements after my said last will and testament proved, performed and truly executed, I will shall wholly descend, revert, remain and come to my said son, Ralph Sneyd, and his heirs forever;

Also my will is that if it shall happen any of my manors, messuages, lands and tenements whereof I or any other person to my use stand or be seised in mortgage at this present hereafter to be redeemed, that my said son, Ralph Sneyd, or his heirs shall have the same money that shall be so paid for the redemption of the same to his or their only use and behoof forever (any clause in this my said last will and testament to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding);

Also, I do give and bequeath to Dame Jane Sneyd, my wife, three of my best featherbeds and bolsters with coverlets and blankets belonging to ye same, together with 6 pair of flaxen sheets;

The rest of all my household stuff both in Bradwell and in Chester I do give and bequeath to my said son, Ralph Sneyd, to his only use forever;

Item, I will that all such plate, corn and cattles as I have at the time of my decease shall remain to my executors towards the payment of my debts;

Also, my will is that all and every of my servants in household daily at the time of my decease shall have every of them one whole year's wages for and in ye name of a legacy;

Item, my will is and by this my last will I do give and bequeath to William Wynne, my servant, one yoke of oxen and one cow over and besides his year's wages, and also one cloth gown of my own with one doublet, one pair hose and one shirt, also my own, to be delivered to the said William by the discretion of my executors;

Also, my will is that whereas I have given to the said William Wynne one annuity or yearly rent of forty shillings during his natural life, that he, ye said William, shall quietly enjoy the same after my decease freely, whether he do service to my son and heir or no service;

Item, I do give and bequeath to Francis Turner, my butler, one of my cloth gowns, one pair of hose, one doublet, and one shirt of mine own, to be likewise delivered to the said Francis by the discretion of mine executors together with one cow and also a 40s in ready money if he be my servant at the time of my decease;

Item, I do give and bequeath to Anne Sneyd, my servant, daughter to one Walter Sneyd of Bridgnorth, deceased, a £10 in ready money towards her preferment of living;

Also, whereas I have granted to Alice Woodnett, wife to Lawrence Woodnett, and late wife to Richard Sneyd, my brother, deceased, one annuity or yearly rent of £6 out of all my lands and tenements in Willaston, to have and to hold for and during her natural life,

my will is that she shall quietly have and perceive the same annual rent for & during her said life according to my said grant, as well after my decease as she hath in my lifetime;

Also I do give and bequeath to Elizabeth Sneyd, daughter to my said son and heir, Ralph Sneyd, six hundred marks of lawful English money, to be paid to her preferment in marriage, so that the said Elizabeth will be ordered, counselled and married by the consent of her said father and the most part of my executors, and if she will not so be married by their said counsel, but otherwise bestow herself, then my will is that she shall have but two hundred marks of the said six hundred marks, and no more;

Also I do likewise give and bequeath to Mary Sneyd, one other daughter to my said son, Ralph Sneyd, four hundred marks of lawful English money towards her preferment in marriage, so that the said Mary will be married by the counsel and consent of her father and ye most part of the rest of my executors, and if she will not be so ordered nor married, but otherwise bestow herself, then I will that she shall have but one hundred pounds, parcel of the said sum of four hundred marks, and no more;

Also, it is my will that Dame Jane, my wife, shall have all my new building standing in Bradwell in ye county of Stafford standing upon the east part of my court, and my new garden joining to ye same, with free egress and regress to ye kitchen, for and during all her natural life, so that she do dwell upon and inhabit the same;

Also, I do give and bequeath to every of my own daughters and to my daughter-in-law 40s in gold to make every of them one ring for a token of remembrance;

Also, I do likewise give and bequeath to George Sneyd, my son, 40s in gold likewise to make him a ring for a token of remembrance;

And for the true performance of this my said last will and testament I constitute, ordain and make the said Ralph Sneyd, my son and heir, Thomas Trentham, and William Yonge, my sons-in-law, my true and lawful executors to see this my said last will performed and accomplished in every point and article, and for their pains I do give to every of them not having any legacy before, a 40s to make every of them a ring for a token of remembrance;

In witness whereof I, the said Sir William Sneyd, to this my present last will have put my hand & seal, and the same delivered as my deed the day and year above-written. William Sneyd. Witness at the sealing and delivery of this will: Ralph Sneyd, William Yonge, George Sneyd, Lawrence Woodnett, William Wynne, John Somerforde.

Probatum fuit Testa{men}tu{m} h{uius}mo{d}i Cora{m} D{omi}no Cant{uariensis} Archie{pisco}po apud London xxijdo Die mens{is} Octobris anno D{omi}ni 1572 Iura{ment}o Rad{ulph}i Sneyde vnus ex{ecutorum} &c Cui com{m}issa fuit admi{ni}stracio o{mn}iu{m} et sing{u}lor{um} bonor{um} iuriu{m} et Creditor{um}

&c De bene &c iurat{o} &c res{er}uata p{otes}tate reliquis ex{ecutorum} &c cu{m} ven{er}int &c

[=The same testament was proved before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the 22nd day of the month of October in the year of the Lord 1572 by the oath of Ralph Sneyd, one of the executors etc., to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits etc., sworn to well etc., with power reserved to the rest of the executors etc. when they shall have come etc.]