

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 18 December 1575 and proved 2 June 1576, of Anthony Carleton (c.1522-1575), whose younger brother, George Carleton, married Elizabeth Hussey, the 'Mistress Crane' in whose home at East Molesey the first of the Marprelate tracts was printed. For the will of George Carleton, see TNA PROB 11/75/14.

The testator was the eldest son of John Carleton of Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, and Brightwell Baldwin, Oxfordshire, and Joyce Welbeck. The testator's mother, Joyce Welbeck, was the daughter of Richard Welbeck and Margaret Culpepper (b. about 1481), the daughter of Richard Culpepper (b. about 1430, d. 4 October 1484), esquire, of Oxenhoath (in West Peckham), Kent, by his second wife, Isabel Worsley (b. about 1460, d. 18 April 1527), the daughter of Otewell Worsley of Southwark, Surrey. The testator's maternal grandmother, Margaret Culpepper (b. about 1481), was the aunt of Henry VIII's Queen, Katherine Howard, and of Oxford's friend, Sir George Howard. See the *ODNB* entry for George Carleton; Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 242 and Vol. IV, p. 107; Burke, John, *A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Landed Gentry*, (London: Henry Colburn, 1847), Vol. II, p. 1309; and Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Northamptonshire*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1887), p. 9 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/visitationsofnor00harvrich#page/8/mode/2up>.

The testator married firstly Anne Perient (d. 3 April 1562), daughter and coheir of Thomas Perient of Digswell, Hertfordshire, and granddaughter of Thomas Perient (d.1539). For the latter's will, see TNA PROB 11/27/549. By his first wife the testator had a son and daughter:

* John Carleton, who died without issue.

* Joyce Carleton, who married Edward Denton.

See Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Hertfordshire*, (London: Harleian Society, 1886), Vol. XXII, pp. 156-7 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationshert00philgoog#page/n171/mode/2up>

The testator married secondly Joyce Goodwin, the sister of Sir John Goodwin (d.1596/7) of Upper Winchendon, Buckinghamshire. In his will dated 18 February 1596, Sir John Goodwin (d.1596/7) leaves a bequest of £10 to 'my sister, Mrs Joyce Carleton, widow' (see TNA PROB 11/90/520). At the time of her marriage to Anthony Carleton, Joyce Goodwin was the widow of Robert Saunders (d.1559) of Flore, Northamptonshire, brother of Edward Saunders (1506-1576), Chief Baron of the Exchequer, the Marian martyr, Lawrence Saunders (d.1555), and Ambrose Saunders (d.1586), who had married Joyce's sister, Mary Goodwin. Robert Saunders was also a first cousin of George Saunders, murdered on 25 March 1573 by Oxford's former servant, George Browne. The

murder was the subject of a pamphlet by Oxford's uncle, Arthur Golding (1535/6-1606), *Brief Discourse of the Late Murther of Master George Saunders*, and an anonymous play, *A Warning for Fair Women*, performed by the Lord Chamberlain's Men. See the will of Sir John Goodwin (d.1596/7); the will of Robert Saunders (d.1559) of Flore in which he mentions 'Joyce, my wife' and 'my brother-in-law, Mr John Goodwin' (TNA PROB 11/43/474); the will of Ambrose Saunders, TNA PROB 11/69/469, and the pedigree of Saunders of Sibbertoft in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Northamptonshire*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1887), p. 132 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/visitationsofnor00harvrich#page/132/mode/2up>.

By his second wife, Joyce (nee Goodwin), the testator had two sons and four daughters:

* George Carleton of Huntercombe, Oxfordshire, eldest son and heir, who married firstly Elizabeth Brockett, daughter and heir to Sir John Brocket, and secondly Katherine Harrison (d. October 1619), widow of Thomas Spyer of Huntercombe, and daughter of Thomas Harrison (d. 25 February 1603) of East Court by his second wife, Katherine Chamberlaine.

* Dudley Carleton, 1st Viscount Dorchester.

* Elizabeth Carleton, who married Alexander Williams and resided at Cripplegate.

* Bridget Carleton, who married Hercules Underhill of Idlicote, Warwickshire, whose father, William Underhill, sold New Place to William Shakespeare in 1597. Hercules Underhill confirmed the sale in 1602. For the will of William Underhill see TNA PROB 11/90/176.

* Alice Carleton, who was a close friend of John Chamberlain, who left her substantial bequests in his will, and may have intended to marry her. She accompanied her brother, Sir Dudley Carleton, to Venice while he was ambassador there.

* Anne Carleton (d. October 1606), who married John Dove, Doctor of Divinity, rector of St. Mary Aldermanbury.

See Williams, Sarah, ed., *Letters Written by John Chamberlain During the Reign of Queen Elizabeth*, (Westminster: J.B. Nichols and Sons, 1861), p. xiii, and Turner, William Henry, ed., *The Visitations of the County of Oxford*, (London: Harleian Society, 1871), Vol. V, ppp. 122-5 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationscoun02britgoog#page/n141/mode/2up>.

The testator died 18 January 1576.

The testator's executor, Thomas Wilson (1523/4-1581), was tutor to the sons of Katherine Brandon, Duchess of Suffolk, (mother-in-law of Oxford's sister, Mary de

Vere), and to several of the children of John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, including Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, and was the author of *The Art of Rhetoric*.

For the foregoing see the entries for George Carleton and Thomas Wilson in the ODNB, the History of Parliament entries for the testator, George Carleton, Robert Saunders of Flore, John Brocket and Sir Rowland Lytton.

A letter from John Chamberlain to Dudley Carleton indicates that the testator's widow, Joyce (nee Goodwin) Saunders Carleton, was still alive on 29 October 1606 (see McClure, Norman Egbert, ed., *The Letters of John Chamberlain*, (Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 1939), Vol. I, p. 236. For other letters mentioning members of the testator's family, see McClure, Vol. I, pp. 16–17, 140–1, 173, 175, 240–1, 253, 261, 263, 266, 415, 594–6, and Vol. II, pp. 267, 270.

LM: T{estamentum} Anthonij Carleton

[f. 92v] This is [+the?] last will and testament of me, Anthony Carleton of Brightwell in the county of Oxford, esquire, made the eighteenth day of December in the eighteenth year of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc.:

First I bequeath my soul to the mercy and merits of Our Lord Jesus Christ, hoping thereby to be saved and by none other means;

My goods, leases and chattels I give to my wife that now is, whom I make my sole executrix;

And whereas I have made one lease bearing date the seventeenth day of December in the eighteenth year of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth etc. unto my most especial and trusty friends Thomas Wilson, Doctor of the Civil Law [-Doctor of the Civil Law] and one of the Queen's Majesty's Master[s] of Requests, and Edward Denton, gentleman, my son-in-law, upon especial confidence and trust which I have in them, of all my manors of Baldwin Brightwell and Parkes manor and all other my lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances, as by the same lease more plainly doth and may appear, to th' intent and purpose that my executors and th' executors of my executors with the profits of the same should satisfy and pay divers of my debts and perform divers legacies by this my last will and testament devised unto my children as it may conveniently and yearly arise, therefore my earnest request and desire is that the said Thomas Wilson and Edward Denton will be content that mine executors and th' executors of my executors shall have the use, occupation and profits of the [f. 93r] said lease and term of years to th' intent to convert and turn the profits thereof unto such intents & uses as are in this my last will and is hereafter mentioned and declared:

First my will is that with such goods as I now have my funerals may be (in convenient order according to the discretion of my wife) discharged, and also all my debts paid in such order as the law doth require the same;

Item, whereas I have granted unto my well-beloved son-in-law, Edward Denton, one annuity or yearly rent of fifty pounds issuing and going out of all my manors, lands and tenements in the county of Oxford to him and his heirs upon condition that if I or mine heirs, executors o[r] assigns do pay unto him, his heirs and executors the sum of five hundred pounds of good and lawful money of England at one whole and entire payment, that then the said annuity or rent shall cease to be paid, my will is therefore that mine executors or the executors of mine executors shall first with the profits of the said lease satisfy and pay unto my said son, Edward Denton, the said sum of five hundred pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath unto every of my four daughters, that is to say, Elizabeth, Bridget, Alice and Anne, two hundred pounds of current money to every of them in manner and form [-form] following to be paid: Elizabeth her portion when she cometh to th' age of seventeen years or day of her marriage at her choice, and to the rest at the like age or days at their choices, the same to be levied of the profits of the said lease in such convenient order and manner as it may be;

Item, my will is that if my wife do give unto any of my said children any such portion as is aforesaid or do conveniently advance her in marriage, that then she to whom any such portion is so given or preferred shall not have anything of the profits of my said lease, anything heretofore mentioned or declared in this [-in] my said will to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding;

Item, my will is that if all my debts and legacies by this my will be fully satisfied before th' end and expiration of the said term of years by me made unto the said Thomas Wilson and Edward Denton as is aforesaid, that then the profits of all the residue of the said term of years then to come shall be and come unto my son and heir and his heirs;

Item, my will is that if it shall fortune any of my said daughters to depart this life before their several ages or days of the receipt of their several portions as is before mentioned, then I will the portion of her deceased to remain unto mine heir, to be delivered unto him at th' age of one and twenty years;

Item, I will twenty pounds be given to the poor over and above the gifts of John Jacob by me set down;

Item, I will and appoint of this my last will Doctor Wilson, one of the Masters of the Requests, and Edward Denton, my son-in-law, mine overseers, and do give unto every of them twenty pounds;

In witness whereof I, the said Anthony, have subscribed my name with mine own hand the day and year first above mentioned. Anthony Carleton.

The interlinings were with mine own hand. Anthony Carleton.

Witnesses: Anthony Williams, Francis Knight.

Probatum fuit huiusmodi testamentum Apud London coram magistro Willielmo Drewry legum Doctore Curie Prerogative Cantuariensis Commissario Secundo die mensis Iunii Anno Domini Millesimo quingentesimo Septuagesimo sexto Iuramento Iocose Carleton Relicte et Executricis in huiusmodi testamento nominatim Cui Commissa fuit Administratio omnium et singulorum bonorum Iurium &c De bene et fideliter administrando eadem Ac de pleno et fideli Inventario omnium et singulorum bonorum &c exhibendo Necnon de plano et vero Computo Calculo &c reddendo Ad Sancta Dei Evangelia Iurat

[=The same testament was proved at London before Master William Drury, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the second day of the month of June in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred seventy-sixth by the oath of Joyce Carleton, relict and executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to exhibit a full and faithful inventory of all and singular the goods etc., and also to render a plain and true account, reckoning etc.]