

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 24 July 1577 and proved 20 November 1577, of Elizabeth (nee Lovett) Cave Newdigate Weston (d. 20 August 1577), the daughter of Thomas Lovett (d. 19 July 1523), esquire, of Astwell (in Wappenham), Northamptonshire, by Anne Danvers (d. 11 July 1523), the daughter of Sir John Danvers (d.1514) of Culworth and Sulgrave, Northamptonshire and Dauntsey, Wiltshire, by Anne Stradling (d.1539), the daughter of John Stradling (d.1471) of Dauntsey, Wiltshire. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., Vol. III, (Salt Lake City, 2011), p. 55, and *Plantagenet Ancestry*, Vol. II, pp. 452-3. See also the pedigrees of Danvers and Stradling in Taylor, C.S., ed., *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society for 1892-93*, Vol. XVII, (Bristol: J.W. Arrowsmith), pp. 303-4, and the pedigree of Danvers at:

<http://www.bayliffe.me.uk/henrybayliffe.htm>.

According to these pedigrees, the testatrix' grandparents, Sir John Danvers (d.1514) and Anne Stradling (d.1539), had a son, Thomas Danvers (c.1500-1532) of Dauntsey, who in 1513 married Margaret Courtenay, the daughter of Sir William Courtenay (d.1512) of Powderham, and his wife, Cecily Cheney. Their only son, Silvester Danvers (c.1518-1552) in 1537 married Elizabeth Mordaunt, the daughter of Sir John Mordaunt of Turvey, Bedfordshire, by whom he had a son and heir, Sir John Danvers (b. 1540, d. 19 December 1594) of Dauntsey, who married Oxford's kinswoman, Elizabeth Neville (1545x50-1630). They had three sons, Sir Charles Danvers (c.1568-1601), Sir Henry Danvers (1573-1644), and Sir John Danvers (1584/5-1655), 'the Regicide', of Chelsea and West Lavington, who in 1609 married Magdalen Newport (d.1627).

The testatrix was thus the first cousin of Silvester Danvers (c. 1518-1552), the father-in-law of Oxford's kinswoman, Elizabeth Neville (1545x50-1630), and grandfather of Sir Charles Danvers (c.1568), who fled England in 1594 with the help of Henry Wriothesley (1573-1624), 3rd Earl of Southampton, and was beheaded for his part in the Essex Rebellion in 1601. For the will of Silvester Danvers (c.1518-1552) see TNA PROB 11/35, f. 104.

According to the Lovett pedigree in Waters, Robert Edmond Chester, *Genealogical Memoirs of the Extinct Family of Chester of Chicheley*, Vol. I, (London: Robson and Sons, 1878), pp. 48-9, the testatrix was also a descendant of Aubrey de Vere.

The testatrix' first husband was Anthony Cave (d. 9 September 1558) of Chicheley, Buckinghamshire, two of whose nephews, Roger Cave (d.1586) and Erasmus Smith, were successively the husbands of Margaret Cecil, sister of Oxford's father-in-law, William Cecil (d.1520/1-1598), Lord Burghley. For the will of Anthony Cave, see TNA PROB 11/42A, ff. 55-61.

By her first husband, Anthony Cave, the testatrix is said to have had one son and six daughters. Living at the time Anthony Cave made his will on 31 May 1555 were three

daughters, Judith Cave (d. 6 July 1570), who married Sir William Chester (d. 14 April 1608); Anne Cave, who married Griffith Hampden, esquire; and Martha Cave (d. 22 November 1575), who married John Newdigate (d. 26 February 1592), esquire. Another daughter, Mary Cave (d. 1593), who married Sir Jerome Weston (d. 31 December 1603) as his first wife, was born on 1 November 1556, after Anthony Cave had made his will. In 1592 Sir Jerome Weston purchased Oxford's manor of Berwick Hall in White Colne.

After Anthony Cave's death, the testatrix married secondly, John Newdigate (d. 16 August 1565) of Harefield, Middlesex, whose first wife was Mary Cheney. The testatrix' second husband, John Newdigate (d. 1565), was the brother of Anne Newdigate, hanged for complicity in the death of her husband, 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 pedigree of Newdigate in Crisp, Frederick Arthur, ed., *Visitation of England and Wales*, Vol. 7 (1907), pp. 34-6.

The testatrix married thirdly, Richard Weston (d. 6 July 1572), esquire, of Skreens (in Roxwell), Essex, one of the Justices of the Common Pleas. Richard Weston's son, Sir Jerome Weston (d. 31 December 1603) was thus both the testatrix' stepson and her son-in-law.

RM: T{estamentum} Elizabethe Weston

In the name of God, Amen. The 24th day of July in the 19th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith etc., I, Elizabeth Weston of Chicheley in the county of Buckingham, widow, being of good and perfect remembrance, thanks be given to Almighty God therefore, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say:

First I acknowledge myself a grievous sinner unto God, unto whose will I wholly do submit myself, being assured through the promises of Jesus Christ, my only Redeemer, Saviour and Satisfier, that the thing cannot perish which is remitted to his exceeding great mercy, in which assured hope I do commend my soul into his most merciful hands, fully trusting the same to [+be] saved and to be numbered amongst his elect through the merits, death and passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, who will in far better wise at the resurrection of my body restore the same again, which my body, in the meantime I will shall be buried within the parish church of Chicheley where Master Anthony Cave, my first husband, lieth;

And as touching the disposing and distribution of my goods and chattels, as well real as personal, first I give and devise to Griffith Hampden and Jerome Weston, esquires, my sons-in-law, all my right, title, interest, rent, profit, commodity and term of years the

which I have of, in and to the water-mills in Newport called the north mills, otherwise called the corn-mills of Newport, and of and in the fulling-mill also thereunto adjoining of late newly erected, with part of the profits whereof I will that the said Griffith and Jerome, their executors, administrators and assigns, shall bestow yearly during all my said term of years yet to come in the same ten pounds towards & about the repairing and yearly maintenance of the bridges of Newport, Tackford [=Tickford?] & Sherington when and as often as need shall require during the said term;

I give and devise also to the said Griffith and Jerome all my interest and term of years which I have yet to come of and in one pasture in Gayhurst within the county of Buckingham, and all the stock of cattle thereupon at this present or which shall be thereupon at the time of my decease;

Also I further bequeath and devise to my said son Weston and to my daughter, Mary, his wife, thone half of all my household stuff and also my best carpet of needlework over and besides the said moiety, & thother half of my said household stuff to my said son Hampden and to my daughter Anne, his wife;

Also I give and bequeath to the daughters [f. 327v] of John Newdigate and my late daughter Martha, his wife, and of my son Hampden and Anne, his wife, one hundred pounds of lawful English money equally to be divided between them and to be paid at their several days of marriage or at their several ages of eighteen years, and if it shall happen any of them to die before the said times so limited for the payment thereof, that then her & their parts and portions of the said money shall be distributed and paid amongst the residue surviving at the said times;

Also I give to my said son Weston and to my said daughter, his wife, my tun of plate and every cup of silver, and to my said daughter Weston my jewel called a tablet with Mr Justice Weston's picture drawn, and also my ring with a diamond;

Also I give & bequeath to William Hampden, son of the said Griffith, my basin and ewer of silver, and also to Elizabeth Hampden, daughter of Griffith Hampden, esquire, my nest of bowls wholly gilt;

And to my daughter Hampden a book of gold enamelled with black, and my ring with a ruby;

And to Elizabeth Newdigate, daughter to my said late daughter Newdigate, one nest of bowls parcel gilt;

And also to Anne Weston, daughter of my said son Weston, one jewel which I bought of William Loveday, being a long tablet, and also a little gilt pot;

And to the said Elizabeth Hampden a standing cup like a common cup with a cover;

And to the said Elizabeth Newdigate also a little gilt salt;

And to Richard Weston, my godson, my standing cup which the Queen her Majesty gave me;

All and singular which parts and portions so given as before is said to the said children of my said daughters I will shall remain in the hands and custody of my said executors until the day of their several marriages or the said age of 18 years, and they to be delivered to every of them then living according to the true meaning of this my present testament;

Also I give and bequeath toward the relief and acquittal of such and so many needy poor persons imprisoned within the common prisons within the City of London for debts by them owing as my executors shall think meet and needful, that is to say, for the discharge of all such as shall there so be imprisoned for any due and lawful debt under the sum of 20 pounds and not above the sum of one hundred pounds, the which I will shall be paid within three years next after my decease;

Also I further will and bequeath to my said son Weston and my daughter, his wife, two hundred pounds in ready money, the same to be paid immediately next after my decease if I shall happen at that time to have so much ready money; if not, then forthwith to be made up and levied with the sale of some cattle for the payment of the same;

Also I give to my sister Harlye ten pounds;

Also I give and bequeath to William Jackman, my servant, towards recompense of his faithful & true service, one hundred pounds, to be paid within one year next after my decease, and also my best mare;

And to Edward Ridley(?), my servant, twenty pounds;

To Michael, my cook, ten pounds;

To Elizabeth Vincent, my god-daughter and kinswoman, ten pounds;

To William Loveday, sometime my servant, six pounds thirteen shillings four pence to buy him a nag withal, to be paid unto him within one year next after my decease;

And to William Assenden, sometime likewise my servant, 6 pounds 13 shillings 4 pence;

To John Miller alias Hurler, my servant, six pounds 13 shillings 4 pence, & to Anthony Forfait, my servant, three pounds, beside the debt which he oweth me;

To goodwife Smith, my servant, two milch kine, 3 quarters of malt and two quarters of barley, & to Whight(?) which keepeth my house at Tickford 2 milch beast[s], two quarters of malt and two quarters of barley, and to his wife forty shillings;

And finally, to all my other household servants three pounds apiece besides their wages which shall be due at the time of my decease, all which legacies to my said servants I will shall be paid within one year next after my decease;

Also I give to the poor in Chicheley six quarters of barley and two quarters of malt and two loads of wood;

And to the poor in Lathbury 4 quarters of barley and two quarters of malt;

And to the poor in Newport six quarters of barley and two quarters of malt;

And to the poor in Olney forty shillings in money;

And to the poor in Sherington forty shillings in money;

Also I give and bequeath to twelve poor women to be chosen forth of the parishes of Newport and Chicheley, each of them a black gown;

All which corn, money and gowns last given hereby to the poor shall be delivered at the discretion of my executors;

Also I give to my daughter-in-law, Audrey Conquest, 3 pounds six shillings 8 pence to buy her a jewel in token of my goodwill towards her, to be delivered her within one year next after my decease, and six shoats and a great brass pot standing at Tickford;

And to Winifred and Margaret Weston, my daughters-in-law, five pounds apiece;

Also I give and bequeath all my mattresses within my house at Chicheley, and all the bolsters and blankets to the same belonging, and also all my hempen sheets within the said house, to be distributed amongst the poor in Chicheley aforesaid at the discretion of my executors;

And also to Mother Cleydon a milch cow and ten pounds of locks of wool, one quarter of barley and one quarter of malt;

Also I do further give and bequeath one hundred pounds of lawful English money to be bestowed by my said executors about th' amending of highways where most need shall require within the county of Buckingham;

Also I give and bequeath to Edward Williams six of my best shoats;

And to Mr Hentes [f. 328r] and his wife, each of them a black gown, and to each of them also twenty shillings to buy them a ring withal;

And to Edmund Barker, my sister's son, five pounds;

And to Frisworth Bishop, sister of the said Edmund, other five pounds;

And to Mistress Wiggles a black gown and twenty shillings to buy her a ring withal;

And to the poor people in North Crawley forth shillings;

All the residue of my goods and chattels not bequeathed nor given, my debts paid, my legacies performed and funerals discharged, I give and bequeath to my executors hereunder named to their own uses;

And as touching the devising, ordering and disposing of all my lands, tenements and hereditaments, I make, will and declare this my last will and testament touching the same in manner and form following, that is to say:

Frist I give, devise and bequeath to Anthony Chester, my eldest daughter's son, all that my close of pasture with th' appurtenances lying and being within the parish of Chicheley aforesaid which I of late purchased of Barton and his wife, as by the conveyance thereof in due form of law made more plainly may appear, to have and to hold the said close with the appurtenances to the said Anthony Chester and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue the remainder thereof to the said Griffith Hampden and Jerome Weston and to their heirs forever to the only use, purpose and intent herein expressed, that is to say, that they and their heirs or some or one of them shall always yearly for evermore employ, bestow and distribute th' issues, rents and profits of the same to such of the poorest sort of people which shall be dwelling within the parish of Chicheley aforesaid as shall by the said Griffith & Jerome and their heirs be thought most needful and requisite from time to time;

Also I do further devise and bequeath to the said Anthony Chester and to his heirs forever the house and inn in Chicheley adjoining to my mansion house there, the which house and inn I lately purchased of Goodredd, upon condition that the said Anthony and his heirs shall pay yearly to my son Weston and to his heirs five shillings to be yearly distributed to the poor people in Chicheley at the discretion of my said son Weston and his heirs;

And furthermore where I, the said Elizabeth, heretofore by my deed bearing date the 26th day of October in the eighteenth year [=26 October 1576] of the reign of our Sovereign Lady the Queen's Majesty that now is in due form of law executed have enfeoffed the said Griffith Hampden and Jerome Weston and Robert Williams and their heirs of and in all that my manor of Rutlands with th' appurtenances situate, lying and being in Cranfield within the county of Bedford, and of and in all and singular other my lands, tenements, pastures and hereditaments in Cranfield aforesaid to the use of myself during my natural life without impeachment of waste, and after my decease to th' only use, purpose and intents expressed and declared in my last will and testament and to the uses, purposes and intents of all and singular provisos and conditions therein likewise contained and specified, as by the same deed more plainly and more at large and particularly will appear, therefore I, the said Elizabeth, fully purposing and determining at this present to

explain, order and declare my full will and mind touching the premises do hereby by this my last will and testament express and declare the use and uses of all the same to go, be and to continue in manner and form following, that is to say:

I will that immediately after my decease the said feoffment shall be and that my said feoffees and the survivor of them and the heir of the survivor of them shall stand & be seised of the said manor of Rutlands with th' appurtenances and of and in all and singular other my lands, tenements and hereditaments in the same deed of feoffment mentioned, named and contained to the sole and only use of Jerome Weston, my said son, and my said daughter, Mary, his wife, and of the heirs males of their two bodies lawfully begotten, until the said Jerome and Mary, or any of them or some or one of the heirs male of their two bodies lawfully begotten or any other heir or issue male inheritable or in lawful possession of the premises by force of the said entail, use or limitation, should intend, purpose and fully conclude to alien, sell or otherwise to discontinue or cut off the said estate tail in the premises or in any part thereof whereby the same may not or cannot lawfully descend, remain or come to any heir, issue and other person and persons according to the uses, limitations, true intent and meaning of this my present last will and testament;

And immediately from and next after such intent, purpose and full conclusion of such alienation, discontinuance or other act as is aforesaid to be had and made, or otherwise for default of such heir male of the bodies of the said Jerome and Mary lawfully begotten, then and immediately from thenceforth to the sole and only use of Anthony Chester, my said eldest daughter's son, and to the heirs males of the body of the said Anthony lawfully begotten until the said Anthony or any other heir, issue male or person inheritable or in lawful possession of the premises by force of the said entail, use or limitation shall intend, purpose and fully conclude to alien, sell or otherwise to discontinue or cut off the said estate tail in the premises or in any part thereof whereby the same may not or cannot lawfully descend, remain or come to any heir, issue and other person and persons according to the uses, limitations and true intent and meaning of this my present last will and testament;

And immediately from and next [f. 328v] after such intent, purpose and full conclusion of such alienation, discontinuance or other act as is aforesaid to be had and made, or otherwise for default of such heir male of the body of the said Anthony Chester lawfully begotten, then and immediately from thenceforth to the sole and only use of my said son-in-law, Griffith Hampden, and my said daughter, Anne, his wife, and to the heirs males of their two bodies lawfully begotten until the said Griffith and Anne or any of them or some or one of the heirs males of their two bodies lawfully begotten or any other heir or issue male inheritable or in lawful possession of the premises by force of the said entail, use or limitation shall intend, purpose and fully conclude to alien, sell or otherwise to discontinue or cut off the said estate tail in the premises or in any part thereof whereby the same may not or cannot lawfully descend, remain or come to any heir, issue and other person and persons according to the uses, limitations and true intent and meaning of this my present last will and testament;

And immediately from and next after such intent, purpose and full conclusion of such alienation, discontinuance or other act as is aforesaid had and made, or otherwise for default of such issue male of the bodies of the said Griffith and Anne lawfully begotten, then and immediately from thenceforth to the sole and only use of John Newdigate, son and heir apparent of John Newdigate now of Harefield in the county of Middlesex, esquire, and of the heirs males of the body of the said John, the son, lawfully begotten until the said John Newdigate, the son, or any other heir, issue male or person inheritable or in lawful possession of the premises by force of the said entail, use or limitation shall intend, purpose and fully conclude to alien, sell or otherwise to discontinue or cut off the said estate tail in the premises or in any part thereof whereby the same may not lawfully descend, remain or come to any heir, issue and other person and persons according to the uses, limitations and true intent and meaning of this my present last will and testament;

And immediately from & next after such intent, purpose and full conclusion of such alienation, discontinuance or other act as is aforesaid to be had and made, or otherwise for default of such heir male of the body of the said John Newdigate, the son, lawfully begotten, then and immediately from thenceforth to the sole and only use of the right heirs of me, the said Elizabeth, forever;

Provided always and I do further declare and express my full mind, will and intent to be that it shall and may be lawful to any of the said persons, heirs and issues before mentioned and to every of them to make any discontinuance of the premises for term of their own several lives only, & also during the life & lives of their several wives only for the making of jointures to each of them for their preferments in marriage, and also to make leases for term of their [sic?] lives or 21 years according to the form of the statute in that case provided, so that by no act to be made nor suffered to be done for the assurance of the same or any of them nor by colour thereof the premises nor the said estates tail nor any of them be thereby any further or longer time discontinued, hindered, hurt nor impaired than for and during the said several lives of such wife and wives as is aforesaid, or of such tenant in tail only as shall be capable and in possession by force of this my present last will, or by force of any limitation or use herein contained, or longer than such lease or leases so to be made for the term of 21 years or three lives only according to the form of the said statute as aforesaid shall endure, anything herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding;

Provided also that it shall be lawful to my said executors to employ and bestow yearly during the minority of the said Anthony Chester all the profits rising and coming of the close which I have given to the said Anthony, and which I bought of Barton, to the poor in Chicheley;

And finally I make and ordain executors of this my last will and testament the said Griffith Hampden and Jerome Weston, and overseers of the same my very trusty friends Robert Price, esquire, and Robert Williams, gentleman, to which Robert Price I do give and bequeath five pounds, and to the said Robert Williams twenty marks of good and lawful English money to buy him a cup withal with some posy therein engraven for my remembrance, towards their pains to be taken about the premises;



In witness whereof I, the said Elizabeth Weston, to these presents have put my seal and subscribed my name in the presence of those whose names be suscribed [sic]. Elizabeth Weston. G. Hampden. Jerome Weston. Robert Williams.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum apud London coram venerabili viro mag{ist}ro Will{el}mo Drury legum doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cant{uariensis} mag{ist}ro custode siue Commissario &c vicesimo die mensis Novembris anno domini mill{es}imo quingentesimo septuagesimo septimo Iura{men}to Griffith Hampden et Ieronimi Weston executor{um} in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}at{orum} &c quibus comissa fuit Administrac{i}o &c de bene &c Iurat{orum}

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Drury, Doctor of the Laws, Master, Keeper or Commissary etc. of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the twentieth day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred seventy-seventh by the oath of Griffith Hampden and Jerome Weston, executors named in the same testament etc., to whom administration was granted etc., sworn to well etc.]