

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the nuncupative will, dated 22 June 1579 and proved 29 July 1579, of Mary (nee Lake) Gifford.

For the testatrix' family see the wills of her father, John Lake (d.1522), TNA PROB 11/20/370; her mother, Dorothy (nee Trotter) Lake, TNA PROB 11/30/349; and her grandfather, Benedict Trotter (d.1496), TNA PROB 11/11/101.

The testatrix married the London mercer, William Gifford. Both she and her husband are left bequests in the will of their brother-in-law, Sir Ralph Warren (see below).

The testatrix was also left a bequest in the will, dated 12 December 1554 and proved 29 April 1556, of her aunt, Agnes (nee Trotter) Christopherson Clerke Hals of Bury St Edmonds. See Tymms, Samuel, ed., *Wills and Inventories from the Registers of the Commissary of Bury St. Edmund's and the Archdeacon of Sudbury*, (Camden Society, 1850), pp. 143-7 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/publications49camduoft#page/142/mode/2up>.

See also:

<https://home.comcast.net/~pgifford11/London%20Giffords.htm>.

For the testatrix see also the deed of bargain and sale, dated 20 April 1600, DRO 215M/T66, at:

<http://apps.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/records.aspx?cat=027-2151&cid=-1#-1>.

The testatrix' sister (or stepsister), Joan Lake (d. 8 October 1573), married, as his second wife, Sir Ralph Warren (d. 11 July 1553), Lord Mayor of London, by whom she was the mother of a son and daughter, the testatrix' legatees in the will below:

* Richard Warren (d. 25 March 1597), who married Elizabeth Hayward (d. 5 September 1622), the daughter of Sir Rowland Hayward (d. 5 December 1593), Lord Mayor of London, by his first wife, Joan Tillesworth (d.1580). For Sir Rowland Hayward, see the *ODNB* entry and his will, TNA PROB 11/83/228. For Richard Warren, see his will, TNA PROB 11/89/249, and the *History of Parliament* entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/warren-richard-1545-98>.

After the death of Richard Warren, Elizabeth (nee Hayward), married Oxford's foe, Thomas Knyvet. For Thomas Knyvet, see the *ODNB* entry; his will, TNA PROB 11/140/169; and Noble, Mark, *Memoirs of the Protectorate-House of Cromwell*, (Birmingham: Pearson and Rollason, 1784), Vol. I, p. 82 at:

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<https://archive.org/stream/memoirsprotecto01noblgoog#page/n109/mode/2up>.

* Joan Warren (buried 12 October 1584), who married Sir Henry Williams alias Cromwell (d.1604), by whom she was the grandmother of the Lord Protector, Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658). See Noble, Mark, *Memoirs of the Protectoral-House of Cromwell*, (London: G.G.J. and J. Robinson, 1787), 3rd ed., Vol. I, pp. 23-4 at:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=DJVCAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA23&lpg=PA23&dq=%22Sir+Henry+Williams%22+%22Cromwell%22+%22monument%22&source=bl&ots=1jRLP4_1zA&sig=HKgHXv0ifR7-ZfBFusLujTnJfaM&hl=en&sa=X&ei=D_EJVL3VMJLnoATTkICQCw&ved=0CDUQ6AEwBA#v=onepage&q=%22Sir%20Henry%20Williams%22%20%22Cromwell%22%20%22monument%22&f=false.

For her epitaph in the church of St Benet Sherehog, see also Toldervey, W., *Select Epitaphs*, (London: W. Owen, 1755), Vol. I, p. 149 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=Rn4DAAAQAQAJ&pg=PA149&lpg=PA149&dq=%22Lady+Joan+White%22&source=bl&ots=431rzkcFmr&sig=wZbgfHBLc06aOIO3GWCLjaAQHK8&hl=en&sa=X&ei=nPQJVMCrK0qrogTlu4J4&ved=0CC4Q6AEwAg#v=onepage&q=%22Lady%20Joan%20White%22&f=false>.

For Sir Henry Williams alias Cromwell, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/cromwell-alias-williams-henry-1537-1604>.

Prior to his marriage to the testatrix' sister, Joan Lake (d. 8 October 1573), Sir Ralph Warren had married Christiana Warcup, widow of the London merchant, Roger North (d. November 1509), and daughter of Richard Warcup of Sinnington, Yorkshire, by whom it appears he had no issue. However by his first marriage Sir Ralph Warren became the stepfather of Christiana Warcup's two children by her marriage to Roger North: Sir Edward North (c.1504-1564), 1st Baron North, and the Marian exile, Joan (nee North) Wilkinson (d.1556). For the will of Joan (nee North) Wilkinson (d.1556), see TNA PROB 11/42B/326.

For Sir Ralph Warren, see the *ODNB* article and his will, TNA PROB 11/36/217.

After the death of Sir Ralph Warren, the testatrix' sister, Joan (nee Lake) Warren, married, on 25 November 1558, the London alderman Sir Thomas White (1495? – 12 February 1567), the founder of St John's College, Oxford, for whom see the *ODNB* article and his will, dated 8 November 1566 and proved 21 December 1567, TNA PROB 11/49/377. See also:

<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/machyn/5076866.0001.001/1:8.9/--london-provisioners-chronicle-1550-1563?rgn=div2;view=fulltext>.

LM: T{estamentum} Marie Gifforde

In the name of God, Amen. Mary Gifford, late of London, widow, deceased, being in her perfect mind and good remembrance when she was living on the 22nd day of June Anno Domini 1579, yet sick in body and danger of death, and therefore (as it seemed) willing to declare her mind concerning the distribution of her goods, did make and declare her last will and testament thereof nuncupatively the day abovesaid to this effect as followeth, viz.:

After she had commended her soul to Almighty God and her body to the earth to be buried in Christian burial in such decent and comely order as did behove a woman of her calling, she gave, willed and bequeathed all those her worldly and movable goods with which it pleased God to endue her in this manner following, that is to say:

Inprimis she gave, willed and bequeathed to her well-beloved nephew, Richard Warren of London, esquire, one moiety of all her said goods;

And the other moiety thereof she gave, willed and bequeathed to her well-beloved niece, the Lady Joan Cromwell, now wife of Sir Henry Cromwell of Hinchingbrooke in the county of Huntington, knight, and to her children, saying also that she did trust that they would distribute and give some part of her goods to the poor and some also to her other kindred and friends best known to her said nephew;

And of the execution of this her testament and last will she did ordain, constitute and appoint her said nephew, Mr Richard Warren, and her said niece, the Lady Cromwell, her only executors, then being present and hearing the premises Elizabeth Holland, the wife of William Holland of London, mercer, and others.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum apud London coram m{agist}ro Will{el}mo Mowse Legum Doctore surrogato venerabilis viri m{agist}ri Will{el}mi Drury Legum etiam Doctoris curie Prerogatiue Cant{uariensis} mag{ist}ri custodis siue Commissarij &c vicesimo nono Die mens{is} Iulij Anno D{omi}ni mill{es}imo quingentesimo septuagesimo nono Iuramento Laurentij Swinborne notarij publici procur{ato}ris Richardi Warren Armigeri et D{omi}ne Ioanne Crumwell executoru{m} &c Quibus com{m}issa fuit administrac{i}o &c De bene &c Iurat{is}

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before Master William Mowse, Doctor of the Laws, Surrogate of the worshipful Master William Drury, also Doctor of the Laws, Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury etc., on

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the twenty-ninth day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred seventy-ninth by the oath of Laurence Swinborne, notary public, proctor of Richard Warren, esquire, and Dame Joan Cromwell, executors etc., to whom administration was granted etc., sworn to well etc.]