

SUMMARY: The document below is the last will and testament, dated 20 October 1580 and proved 9 November 1580, of Frances (nee Thwaytes) Gresham (c.1508-1580), who appointed as her executor Sir Edward Neville (d.1589) of Newton St Loe, Somerset, whose wife, Grisold Hughes (d.1613), was a second cousin of Oxford's father, John de Vere, 16th Earl of Oxford. Sir Edward Neville's nephew, Job Throckmorton, assisted John Penry with the secret press which printed the Marprelate tracts. See *Edward De Vere Newsletter* No. 46 on this website.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the testatrix' family background, see the pedigree in Leveson Gower, Granville, *Genealogy of the Family of Gresham*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1883), p. 157 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YNQKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA157>

See also Leveson Gower, *supra*, p. 152:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YNQKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA152>

See also Leveson Gower, *supra*, pp. 162-3:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YNQKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA162>

Testatrix' father

The testatrix was the sole daughter and heir of Sir Henry Thwaytes (d. 5 July 1521?) of Lownd, Yorkshire. For the inquisition post mortem taken after his death, see TNA C 142/35/3. In the inquisition, Frances is stated to have been thirteen years of age at her father's death, and was thus born circa 1508.

After her father's death, Frances Thwaytes' wardship was purchased by Sir Richard Gresham (c.1485-1549), Lord Mayor of London in 1537:

Reference: C 1/582/20

Plaintiffs: Frances Thwayts, daughter and heir of Henry Thwayts, knight, by Richard Gresham, her guardian.

Defendants: [Unknown].

Subject: Petition to examine witnesses to the livery of seisin of the manors of Lund, Garrowby, Barthorpe, Sand Hutton, Aike, Eske, Frithby and Carleton by Guiseley, and lands in Keighley, Keswick, Westow, Sledmere, Leppington, Acklam, Uncleby, Lockington, Lutton, Buttercrambe, Pole by Ferrybridge, and Menthorpe, to Henry Thwayts, esquire, cousin and heir of Edmund Thwayts, esquire Commission. (Memorandum endorsed of the issue of the commission.). Yorkshire, Leicestershire.

Modern spelling transcript copyright ©2019 Nina Green All Rights Reserved

<http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/>

SFP

Date: 1518-1529

Held by: The National Archives, Kew

For the testatrix' guardian, Sir Richard Gresham, see the *ODNB* entry. For his will, see TNA PROB 11/32/429, and Leveson Gower, *supra*, p. 69 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YNQKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA69>

Testatrix' mother

The testatrix' mother was Anne Savile, the daughter of Sir John Savile (d.1504?). See:

Reference: C 1/561/6

Plaintiffs: Roger Rokley of Rockley, and Robert Netylton of Thornhill.

Defendants: Robert Gargrave of Tankersley, esquire.

Subject: Bond given on behalf of defendant to Henry Thwaytes, knight, concerning his marriage with Anne, daughter of John Sayvell, knight. Yorkshire

Date: 1518-1529

Held by: The National Archives, Kew

For the family of the testatrix' mother, see:

<http://www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk/sources/saville/clay2.shtml>

VIII.

SIR JOHN SAVILE, Knt., of Thornhill; High Sheriff of Yorkshire 1 Henry VII (1486), the year of the battle of Bosworth.

He probably died on Palm Sunday, 20 Hen. VII (1504).

Mar. 1st, Alice, daughter of William Vernon, Esq., died s.p.; mar. 2ly, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Paston, Knt., by Jane daughter and coheiress of Edmund Beaufort, Duke of Somerset who was slain at the battle of St. Albans, 1455, and cousin german to the Countess of Richmond, mother of King Henry VII. Mr. Hunter calls this the most splendid marriage of any of the earlier Saviles, as the son was thus a partaker of the royal blood.

They had issue -

- Sir HENRY (IX).*
- Anne, mar. Sir Henry Thwaites, of Lund.*
- Elizabeth, mar. 1st, 18 July, 2 Hen. VIII (1519), Sir Thomas Conyers, of Sockburn, Knt., who died June, 1520; mar. 2ly, Thomas Sothill, Esq., of Sothill.*
- Margaret, mar. 1st, Thomas Wortley, of Wortley, Esq., cov. 7 June, 13 Hen. VIII; mar. 2ly, Richard Corbet,*

After the death of the testatrix' father, Sir Henry Thwaytes, the testatrix' mother married William Thwaytes:

Reference: C 1/582/20a

Plaintiffs: Frances Thwayts, daughter and heir of Henry Thwayts, knight, by Richard Gresham, her guardian.

Defendants: William Thwayts and Anne, his wife, executrix and late the wife of the said Sir Henry.

Subject: Profits of the said manors and one-third of the manor of Breedon, Yorkshire, Leicestershire.

SFP

Date: 1518-1529

Held by: The National Archives, Kew

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

Sir Richard Gresham married the testatrix, his ward, to his elder son, Sir John Gresham (c.1520?-1560). In the inquisition post mortems taken on 5 and 8 March 1551 after the death of Sir Richard Gresham, his eldest son and heir, Sir John Gresham, is stated to have been aged 'thirty years and upwards'. In another inquisition taken on 7 April 1551, he is stated to have been 34 years of age. See Leveson Gower, *supra*, p. 139.

The date of the testatrix' marriage is not known. She is mentioned as Sir John Gresham's wife in the 1549 will of Sir Richard Gresham.

By Sir John Gresham (d.1560), the testatrix had a son and a daughter:

* **Francis Gresham**, baptized 2 November 1539 at St Lawrence Jewry, died young. See Leveson Gower, *supra*, p. 163.

* **Elizabeth Gresham** (d. 7 November 1573), who married, as his second wife, Sir Henry Neville (d. 13 January 1593). The date of their marriage is not known. According to the *ODNB*:

Between 1551 and 1555 [Sir Henry Neville] married Winifred (d. in or before 1561), daughter of the property speculator Hugh Losse of Whitchurch in Middlesex. They appear to have had no children. By 1561 Neville had married Elizabeth (d. 1573), daughter of Sir John Gresham of Titsey in Surrey. The couple had four sons, including the MPs Sir Henry Neville (1562–1615) and Edward Neville (b. 1567), and two daughters. In May 1578 Neville married his third wife, Elizabeth (d. 1621), daughter of Sir Nicholas Bacon, first baronet (c. 1543–1624), and his wife, Anne, and widow of Sir Richard Doyley of Greenlands in Buckinghamshire. They had no children.

Elizabeth Gresham is mentioned as the wife of Sir Henry Neville (d. 13 January 1593) in the will, dated 18 April 1565, of Isabel (nee Worpfall) Taverson Gresham (d.1565), second wife of Sir Richard Gresham. See Leveson Gower, *supra*, pp. 69, 150 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YNQKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA69>

And to my daughter [=step daughter-in-law] Frances Gresham, widow, a plain chain of gold weighing three ounces and three quarters. . . . And to my cousin, her daughter, and to her husband, Sir Henry Neville, knight

It has been suggested that an indenture dated 26 January 1568 may have been the marriage settlement between Elizabeth Gresham and Sir Henry Neville. See Leveson Gower, *supra*, p. 163. If so, Elizabeth Gresham's jointure was not finalized until many years after her marriage.

For the funeral certificate dated 17 November 1573 of Elizabeth (nee Gresham) Neville (d. 7 November 1573), see Leveson Gower, *supra*, pp. 9-10 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YNQKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA9>

In the funeral certificate dated 17 November 1573, the names of her four sons and two daughters and their ages are given as follow:

-Henry Neville (1563?-1615), eldest son and heir, aged 10 and a half. In the inquisition post mortem taken on 22 March 1580 after the death of Sir Thomas Gresham, Henry Neville is stated to have been aged 16 years 11 months and 10 days on the previous day, 21 March 1580. See Leveson Gower, *supra*, p. 141 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YNQKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA141>

-Edward Neville, second son, aged 6.

-Francis Neville, third son, aged 5.

-William Neville, fourth son, aged 3 months.

-Elizabeth Neville, aged 12. She is not mentioned in the testatrix' will below. It appears she is the Elizabeth Neville buried at Waltham St Lawrence (see below).

-Katherine Neville, aged 3.

For the testatrix' burial at Waltham St Lawrence in Berkshire, see Leveson Gower, *supra*, p. 29:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YNQKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA29>

See also:

'Parishes: Waltham St Lawrence', in *A History of the County of Berkshire: Volume 3*, ed. P H Ditchfield and William Page (London, 1923), pp. 179-184. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/berks/vol3/pp179-184> [accessed 17 March 2019].

On the north wall of the north chapel is an elaborate mural monument to Sir Henry Neville, who died 15 January 1593, and his wife Elizabeth, who died in 1573. The inscription states that she was daughter and sole heir of Sir John Gresham, kt., by Dame Frances sole heyer to S' Henry Thwaite knight,' and further records that Dame Frances is also buried here with Elizabeth Neville, the eldest daughter. It is of reddish marble, and the upper part is divided into two panels by three Corinthian columns which support an entablature; in the panels thus formed are the four kneeling figures of the knight, his wife Elizabeth, Dame Frances, and his daughter.

LM: T{estamentum} ffancisci Gresham

God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost, three persons in one God, be with me now and ever, so be it.

Forasmuch as the soul of man and woman hath no perpetual dwelling in the carnal body, but is separable from it at the will and pleasure of Almighty God, requisite, expedient and most necessary it is that every Christian man and woman prepare and make themselves ready at all times to depart from it for that whensoever he or she shall be called for they be not found sleeping and unprepared;

Therefore I, Frances Gresham, the twentieth day of October in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred and fourscore and in the two and twentieth 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., being perfect of memory and whole in body, a most humble and hearty thanks be therefore given unto Almighty God, intending by his grace to prepare and make myself ready to go forward in the universal journey whensoever it shall please him to call for me, do ordain, make and declare my testament and last will in such sort and form as followeth:

First, because I have nothing more precious than my soul, nor nothing presentable unto God besides it, I present and bequeath the same to his mercy, most humbly beseeching his goodness of his infinite mercy not to impute unto me the multitude of my sins, but that it will please him for the merits of his Son and our Saviour, Jesus Christ, in whom is mine only trust, to forgive me the same and to receive me into his everlasting kingdom;

Secondarily, concerning my body, which as it was made of earth so must it return to earth again, I desire and require mine executors to cause the same to be buried in the parish

church of Lawrence Waltham in such sort as shall be seemly and requisite for a Christian woman's body by the discretion of the sae mine executors;

Thirdly, concerning the ordering and disposition of my lands and tenements, goods and substance, I give and bequeath the same in manner and form following, that is to wit:

As touching my lands and tenements, I will that the same shall descend and come to the inheritors immediately after my decease;

And as concerning my goods and chattels movables and unmovables, debts, duties and demands whatsoever, I give and bequeath the four hundred pounds thereof which Sir Henry Neville, knight, hath of mine in his custody unto Edward Neville, Francis Neville, William Neville and Katherine Neville, the children of my son-in-law, the said Sir Henry Neville, knight, and Elizabeth, my daughter, his late wife, deceased, to be equally divided amongst them as they shall come and be of the several age and ages of one and twenty years, the men children, and fourteen years, the woman child, or else at the several day or days of their several marriage or marriages, which shall first happen;

Item, I will that all the money that shall be due unto me, mine executors or assigns, by reason of a recognizance made from Sir Thomas Gresham, knight, my late brother-in-law, deceased, shall be equally divided amongst the same four children of the said Sir Henry Neville, knight, at the same days and times as they and each of them shall have their said several parts of the said four hundred pounds before expressed;

And I do desire the said Sir Henry Neville, knight, to prosecute the law against the executors of the said Sir Thomas Gresham, knight, as well for mine executors after my decease to the use abovesaid as he now doth for me by virtue of a letter of attorney which I have made unto him in that behalf;

Item, I give and [f. 348r] bequeath unto Henry Neville, the son and heir of the said Sir Henry Neville, knight, by the said Elizabeth, my daughter, deceased, the fifth part of all my diaper cloths, and to his sister, Katherine Neville, all the child's bed gear over and above her part above specified;

And I give to Richard Temple of New Windsor three pounds six shillings and eight pence;

And to Mr Edward Neville of Newton St Loe in the county of Somerset, esquire, the sum of ten pounds;

And to mine overseers ten pounds apiece;

The residue of all my goods and chattels, my debts being paid and my funeral expenses, legacies and costs of suit in law discharged, I give unto the said Edward Neville, Francis Neville, William Neville and Katherine Neville, the children of the said Sir Henry

Neville, knight, to be equally divided amongst them at such days and times as they shall receive the said several parts and portions above given;

And I do make and ordain the said Edward Neville of Newton St Loe, esquire, to be mine executor touching so much of this my last will and testament as doth concern the debt due or to be due unto me, mine executors or assigns, by virtue of the said recognizance, which money I would have him to receive and pay into the hands of the said Henry Neville the younger to have the benefit thereof till his said brethren and sister shall come to their said several ages as is abovesaid;

And I do make and ordain the said Sir Henry Neville the younger mine executor touching and concerning all other matters and things whatsoever that are contained in this my last will and testament;

And for the better execution thereof I do make and ordain the said Sir Henry Neville, knight, and Humphrey Michael, esquire, overseers;

And I do utterly revoke and annul all and every other former testament and testaments, will and wills, legacies, bequests, executors and overseers by me in any wise before this time made, named, willed and bequeathed;

In the presence of them whose names are hereunder written. By me, Frances Gresham. Richard Temple, Arthur Staferton, John Broughton, Godefidus Mosanus, doctor, Andrew Upcott, Robert Flower & others.

Probatum fuit huiusmodi Testamentum Apud London Coram Magistro Willmo Drury legum Doctore Curie Prerogative Cantuariensis Commissario Nono die mensis Novembris Anno Domini Millesimo Quingentesimo octogesimo Iuramento Iohannis Lewis Notarij publici procuratoris Edwardi Nevell Armigeri alter executorum in huiusmodi Testamento nominatorum cui commissa fuit Administratio &c in quantum concernit fidem eidem Edwardo in dicto testamento commissam et non aliter De bene &c Ad Sancta Dei Evangelia Iurat Necnon eodem die probatum fuit testamentum huiusmodi Iuramento prefati Iohannis Lewis Notarij publici procuratoris Henrici Nevell Iunioris executoris etiam in dicto testamento nominat Cui commissa fuit Administratio &c in quantum concernit fidem dicto Henrico in eodem Testamento commissam et non aliter De bene &c 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 ninth day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred eightieth by the oath of John Lewis, notary public, proctor of Edward Neville, esquire, one of the executors named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted etc. in so far as it concerns the trust committed to the same Edward in the said testament and not otherwise,

sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., and also on the same day the same testament was proved by the oath of the forenamed John Lewis, notary public, proctor of Henry Neville junior, also named as executor in the said testament, to whom administration [+was granted] etc. in so far as it concerns the trust committed to the said Henry in the same testament, and not otherwise, sworn to well etc.]