

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 2 February 1585, together with a codicil dated 9 February 1585, proved 13 October 1585, of Mary Clopton, who married Sir William Cordell (1522-1581), one of the five trustees appointed by Oxford in an indenture of 30 January 1575 prior to his departure on his continental tour.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testatrix was the only child of Richard Clopton by his first wife, Margaret Bozun, daughter of Sir Richard Bozun (died 18 August 1524) of Barrowby, Lincolnshire, and Dorothy Dene, daughter and heiress of James Dene.

The testatrix refers in the will below to her inherited lands in Lincolnshire, and it would appear these came to her through her mother, Margaret Bozun, who was co-heiress, together with her four sisters, to their father, Sir Richard Bozun. See TNA C 1/554/39, a Chancery suit brought during the period 1518-1529 by Richard Pannell and Elizabeth, his wife, John Worsley and Grace, his wife, and Margaret, Alice, and Anne Bosom against William Vernon, esquire, and Dorothy, his wife, executrix and late the wife of Richard Bosom, knight, father of the said Elizabeth, Grace, Margaret, Alice and Anne, concerning the manors of Syerston and Laneham and lands there and in Nottinghamshire, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire.

The brother and sisters mentioned in the will below were the testatrix' brother and sisters of the half blood, the children of her father's second marriage to Margery Playters. For the testatrix' brother and sisters of the half blood and their marriages, see the will of the testatrix' uncle, Francis Clopton (d.1559), TNA PROB 11/42B/359, and the pedigree of Clopton of Groton in Muskett, Joseph James, ed., *Evidences of the Winthrops of Groton co. Suffolk, England*, (Privately printed, 1894-1896), p. 144 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=7dYKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA144>

MARRIAGE

The testatrix married Sir William Cordell (1522-1581), by whom, according to the History of Parliament entry, she had two sons and two daughters who died during the lifetime of their father. See:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/cordell-william-1524-81>

Sir William Cordell was one of the five trustees appointed by Oxford in an indenture of 30 January 1575 prior to his departure on his continental tour. See ERO D/DRg2/25. For the testatrix husband, see the *ODNB* entry.

For the testatrix' connection to Oxford's father-in-law, Lord Burghley, see *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*, Vol. VII, (London: John Bowyer Nichols and Son, 1841), pp. 67-8 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=tL1nsjpJkj8C&pg=PA67&lpg=PA67>

Katharine [Pedwardyn] married first to Nicholas Dene of Barrowby in the county of Lincoln; and secondly, to David Sitsilt or Cecil, grandfather of Lord Burghley. By the second she had no children; but by the first she had a son named James Dene, whose only daughter and heir Thomasine [sic?] was twice married; first to Sir Richard Bozon, Knt. who died on the 18th of Aug. ao 16 Hen. VIII. and by whom she had five daughters; and secondly to William Vernon, by whom she had an only daughter. The five daughters by the first husband (Dene) were . . . (3) Margaret, wife of Richard Clopton, of Groton in Suffolk, Esq., by whom she had only a daughter named Mary, who married to Sir William Cordell, Knt. Master of the Rolls, who I believe died s. p.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

The testatrix leaves a bequest to 'my niece Dethick'. The testatrix' sister, Frances Clopton Bowes Hutton, married firstly Martin Bowes (d.1573), whose sister, Jane Bowes, married Henry Dethick (1547/8-c.1613), Master of Greetham Hospital, son of Sir Gilbert Dethick, and brother of Sir William Dethick (1543–1612). Henry Dethick and Jane Bowes had a daughter, Cordell Dethick, who may have been the testatrix' 'niece Dethick', and whose Christian name may have been a compliment to the surname of the testatrix' husband, Sir William Cordell. See the will of Francis Clopton, *supra*, the *ODNB* entries for Sir Gilbert Dethick (1499/1500–1584) and Sir William Dethick, Garter Kings of Arms, and the Dethick pedigree in Dashwood, G.H., ed., *The Visitation of Norfolk in the Year 1563*, Vol. I, (Norwich: Miller and Leavins, 1878), p. 242 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=qkpFAAAAYAAJ&pg=RA7-PA37>

Henry Dethick dedicated two Latin works to Oxford's father-in-law, Lord Burghley, and wrote commendatory verses for Bartholomew Clerke's Latin translation of Castiglione's *The Courtier*, to which Oxford contributed a commendatory epistle. See STC 4782.

For the testatrix' 'loving cousin and friend', Sir Henry Gates (d. 7 April 1589), see his will, TNA PROB 11/73/531.

For the testator's executor, Sir Gilbert Gerard (d.1593), Master of the Rolls, see the *ODNB* entry.

For the testator's supervisor, Sir Walter Mildmay (1520/1-1589), who married Mary Walsingham, (1527/8–1577), the daughter of William Walsingham of Scadbury in

Chislehurst, Kent, and was thus the brother-in-law of Sir Francis Walsingham (c.1532–1590), see the *ODNB* entry.

For the testator's supervisor, Francis Wyndham (d. 1592), see the *ODNB* entry.

TESTATRIX' INHERITED LANDS

In the will below the testatrix mentions her cousins George Savile, George More, William Poll [=Poole?], Francis Paynell and Francis Worsley. George Savile appears to be a descendant of the second marriage of the testatrix' grandmother, Dorothy Dene, while George More, William Poole, Francis Paynell and Francis Worsley appear to be descendants of the testatrix' four aunts, coheirs with the testatrix' mother, Margaret Bozun, to their father, Sir Richard Bozun. See the pedigree at:

Robert Thoroton, 'Parishes: Screveton', in *Thoroton's History of Nottinghamshire: Volume 1, Republished With Large Additions By John Throsby*, ed. John Throsby (Nottingham, 1790), pp. 244-252. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/thoroton-notts/vol1/pp244-252> [accessed 19 September 2017].

Sir Richard Bozom died before or about the 16 H. 8 [=1524/5] and left five Daughters and Heirs, by his Wife Dorothy, the Daughter and Heir of James Devyn, of Sireston, who to her second Husband married William Vernon, and left him a Daughter and Heir, who was married to Henry Savile, of Lupsett, in Yorkshire, the King's Receiver General for that County

One of the Co-heirs of Sir Richard Bozem was Elizabeth, the Wife of Richard Paynell, of Boothby, in Lincolnshire; another was Margaret, Wife of Sir Richard Clapton [sic for 'Clopton'], who had a Daughter married to Sir William Cordell, Knight, Master of the Rolls. Another was Alice, Wife of George Poole; another Mary, Wife of John Worsley; another Daughter and Co-heir was Amy, or Agnes, first married to Henry Babington, afterwards to Francis Moore

The testatrix' inherited lands, as well as her life estate in her husband's manor of Long Melford, were the subject of litigation. See TNA C 3/211/12, a Chancery suit brought by Anne Harvey, widow, against the testatrix concerning the manor of Denes Deeping, Lincolnshire.

It appears that both Queen Elizabeth and Oxford's father-in-law, Lord Burghley, had an interest in the manors in Deeping. See 'Deeping Heritage' at:

<https://deepingsheritage.wordpress.com/category/local-history/page/2/>

At the time that Burghley House was being built in the 1560s for William Cecil, 1st Baron Burghley, he was "immediate tenant" of the Manor of East & West Deeping (which included Deeping St James and Market Deeping). The Manor was owned by the Crown,

but William Cecil had been granted the right to collect all rents, fines and tolls paid by the inhabitants, subject to making a fixed annual payment to the reigning monarch.

See also 'History of the Deepings' at:

<http://www.deepings.co.uk/history-of-the-deepings.html>

See also TNA C 2/Eliz/W20/26, a Chancery suit brought by Joan Worsley, widow of Francis Worsley, against George More concerning the lease of a manor called St Guthlac alias Market Deeping, called Deane's Manor, Lincolnshire, part of the estate of the testatrix. Presumably this was the lease referred to in the codicil to the will below.

See also TNA C 3/212/61, a Chancery suit brought by William King against the testatrix concerning a copyhold held of the manor of Long Melford, Suffolk, as well as TNA C 2/Eliz/A7/66, a Chancery suit brought against the testatrix by the executors of her husband's will concerning the testatrix' life estate in the manor of Long Melford.

A marginal comment in the will below indicates that the will was contested, and confirmed. For the confirmation, see TNA PROB 11/70/72.

For a copy of the testatrix' will in the Lincolnshire Archives, see 7 FANE 1/2/1/1.

LM: T{estamentum} D{omi}ne Marie Cordell vid{ue}

In the name of God, Amen. I, Dame Mary Cordell, widow, late wife of Sir William Cordell, knight, deceased, being sickly in body and nevertheless of good and perfect remembrance (I most humbly thank Almighty God for it), do this present second day of February Anno one thousand five hundred eighty-four and in the seven and twentieth year of the reign of our Gracious Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth, make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following, revoking all other wills and testaments heretofore by me at any time made, written or spoken, and this to be my firm and last will;

First I commend my soul to th' hands of the most glorious and Blessed Trinity, three persons and one God everlasting, assuredly trusting and believing by and through the merits of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and by his bitter death and passion to [f. 344r] have full pardon and remission of all my sins and wickedness, and by his infinite goodness and mercy to be numbered and received amongst his elect and chosen in heaven, there to rest with Abraham, Isaac and all the holy company of angels;

And as touching my body, I will the same to be buried decently according to my calling in the parish church of Melford in the county of Suffolk as nigh to the place where my late dear husband lieth buried as conveniently may be;

Item, I give unto the said parish church of Melford for and towards the reparations thereof the sum of forty shillings;

Item, I give unto the poorest inhabitants of the said parish, and specially to such as be poor widows and householders, to be distributed amongst them by the discretion of my executors, the sum of three pounds;

RM: Confirmat{ur} p{er} S{ente}n{c}iam diff{inituam} lat{am} 2do Blasij 1586

Item, I give to the poor of the parish of Leightonstone [=Leytonstone] in the county of Essex the sum of twenty shillings;

Item, I give to the poor of my husband's hospital in Melford aforesaid the sum of forty shillings to be employed for sheeting or some such other necessary provision as my said executors shall think fittest for them;

Item, I give to the poor scholars of the universities of Cambridge and Oxenford five pounds apiece to either of the said universities, to be distributed to such poor students as shall have most need thereof;

Item, I give to the poor inhabitants of Market Deeping in the county of Lincoln where I have some land and living of my own inheritances the sum of forty shillings;

Item, I give to the poor of Urflett alias Urslett [=Ousefleet] in the county of York where I have likewise some living of my own inheritance the sum of forty shillings;

Item, I will and give for and towards the reparations of highways to be distributed by the discretion [+of?] mine executors the sum of five pounds;

Item, I give for and towards the making and setting up of the bridge nigh Melford aforesaid commonly called Radbridge the sum of forty shillings;

Item, I will [+and?] give to my well-beloved brother, Mr William Clopton of Groton, my basin and ewer of silver parcel gilt for a remembrance of my goodwill unto him;

Item, I give unto my sister, his wife, for a like remembrance my standing cup all gilt called a pomegranate;

Item, I will and give unto my brother Throckmorton for a token of remembrance a ring of gold of the price of thirty shillings;

Item, I give unto [+my?] sister, his wife, my pounced bowl with a cover all gilt in rase [=rays?];

Item, I give unto my brother Smythe & his wife my great deep bowl gilt with a cover, and more unto her one of my gowns not being velvet;

Item, I give unto my brother Kighley and his wife my gilt salt of silver with a cover;

Item, I give unto my brother Hubberd [=Hobart] and his wife my nest of white pounced bowls with a cover;

Item, I give amongst the children of my said brother Hubberd [=Hobart] and his wife the sum of ten pounds in money;

Item, I give unto my sister Hutton for a remembrance of my goodwill unto her a ring of gold of the price of forty shillings;

Item, I give to [my?] cousin, Mr George More, my livery pots of silver all gilt, and to his wife my jewel set with three stones, and to every of his three first children a jewel of twenty crowns apiece;

Item, I give to my niece Permenter a jewel of the price of five marks;

Item, I give unto my niece Dethick a jewel of the price of five marks;

Item, I give to my niece and god-daughter, Cordell Bowes, my black tablet enamelled;

Item, I give to my nephews, Richard and Thomas Bowes, to either of them a spur-royal in gold;

Item, I give to my niece Hubberd [=Hobart], my waiting-woman, a black gown and twenty pounds in money, and likewise a little jewel of gold set with three little stones and three pearls;

Item, I will and give to my cousin, Mr George Savile, a little ring of gold set with a diamond for a token of remembrance of my goodwill unto him;

Item, I give unto my cousin, Mr William Poll [=Poole?], my ring of gold set with two little stones;

Item, I give unto my cousin, Mr Francis Paynell [=Pannell?], a ring of gold of the price of forty shillings;

Item, I will and give to my cousin, Mr Francis Worsley, if he be living, a ring of gold of the price of forty shillings;

Item, I will and give to my sister and god-daughter, Mary King, for a remembrance of my goodwill unto her, my jewel of agate and my cross set with diamonds and hanged with pearls;

Item, I give unto her son, Richard King, my greatest piece of gold called a double ducat, and my lesser chain of gold;

Item, I give unto her daughter, Mary, a jewel of mother of pearl set with stone;

Item, I give unto her daughter, Anne King, my bracelets enamelled and my brooch of St Margaret;

Item, I give unto John King, her youngest son, the sum of one hundred marks of lawful money of England;

Item, I will and give unto my brother King my best chain of gold;

Item, I will and give to my loving cousin and friend, Sir Henry Gates, knight, a little ring of gold set with a turquoise;

Item, I give unto my very good Lady, the Lady Gerard, my cushion kercher wrought and edged with gold;

Item, I give to Mr Robert Longe a ring of gold of the price of thirty shillings;

Item, I give unto my cousin and god-daughter, Mrs Margaret Clopton, a ring of gold of twenty shillings;

Item, I give unto my old servants, William Pratt and Mary, his wife, to either of them a ring of gold of the price of twenty shillings;

Item, I give unto my maidservant, Elizabeth Jenkins, a black gown and forty shillings in money over and besides her wages which shall be due unto her at the time of my decease, and I do likewise give unto her some of my old linen according to the discretion of my executors;

Item, I will that the rest of my servants that shall dwell with me at the time of my decease shall have distributed amongst them over and besides their wages which shall be then due unto them the sum of six pounds, in the distribution whereof my will and mind is that such as have [f. 344v] longest served me should be the better considered according to the good discretion of mine executors;

The residue of all my plate, money, debts, jewels and other my goods, whatsoever they be, this my present will performed and my debts and funeral charges being paid and discharged, I will and give unto my said sister King and to her children for the good education and bringing up of them in learning and virtue of [sic?];

And I make, ordain & constitute to be my executors the right worshipful and my dear friend, Sir Gilbert Gerard, knight, Master of the Rolls of her Majesty's Court of Chancery, to whom I give for his pains to be had and sustained in and about th' execution

of this my said last testament my great ring of gold set with a rack ruby [=rock ruby?], and my well-beloved sister, Mary King, requiring her for the love and duty which she hath always borne unto me to endeavour herself to the uttermost of her power to see this my testament to be done and truly performed according to the true intent and meaning and the trust I have reposed specially in her;

Also I make and ordain supervisors of this my last will and testament my honourable good friend, Sir Walter Mildmay, knight, Chancellor of her Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and my loving cousin and assured friend, Mr Justice Wyndham, and I do give unto the said Sir Walter for his pains my great ring of gold set with a fair turquoise, and to the said Mr Justice Wyndham for his like pains to be taken about this my testament a ring of gold set with a sapphire, and I do humbly and heartily pray my said supervisors to be aiding and assisting to my said sister King with their good advice, direction and counsel from time to time as occasion shall require;

And in witness that this [+is?] my last will & testament I have hereunto put my hand and seal the day and year first above-written, these being called to be witnesses. Mary Cordell. Witnesses: Henry Archer, Thomas Tyler, George Andrewe.

Memorandum: That I, the said Dame Mary, do further will and give unto the children of my said brother Clopton, unto every of them five marks apiece;

Item, I give unto my good friend Mr Peter Osborne, esquire, a ring of gold of the price of thirty shillings;

Item, I give unto my old servant, John Forde, so much black cloth as will make him a cloak;

Item, I give unto my old servant, William Johnson, a ring of gold of the price of twenty shillings. Mary Cordell. Testib{us} Thomas Tyler, George Andrewes.

A codicil annexed to the last will and testament of me, Dame Mary Cordell, widow, this present ninth of February one thousand five hundred eighty-four and in the seven and twentieth year of the reign of our gracious Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth:

Provided always and my full mind and will is that where I, Dame Mary Cordell, widow, have by indenture of lease demised and to farm letten unto my cousin, Francis Worsley, esquire, all that my manor of Market Deeping with all lands, tenements & hereditaments thereunto belonging in the county of Lincoln, to have and to hold the said manor and other the premises to the said Francis, his executors and assigns, for the term of one and twenty years yet enduring, as by the said indenture of lease more at large it doth and may appear, the reversion of which manor and other the premises are to descend and come after my decease to my cousin, George More, and to his heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And where I, the said Dame Mary, have taken a fine or income [sic for 'recovery'?] for the said lease of my said cousin Worsley whereby I am bound in conscience that he shall quietly enjoy the same during his said term of one and twenty years;

If, therefore, my said cousin, George More, or his heirs shall after my decease do, cause or suffer any act or acts, thing or things whatsoever to the frustrating or making void of the same lease whereby th' executors of my last will and treatment shall stand any ways charged to make any recompense or satisfaction to the said Francis, his executors or assigns for the said fine so by me received or any part thereof, or if my said cousin More shall refuse to confirm the said lease, that then my full mind and will is that my said cousin More and his wife and children shall utterly lose the benefit of all such legacies as I have amongst others given unto them or to any of them by my last will and testament in as absolute manner as if I had given no legacies unto any of them at all;

In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and put to my seal the day and year above-written. Mary Cordell. These being witnesses: Edward King, George Andrewe, Thomas Tyler.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum apud London coram venerabili viro m{agist}ro Will{el}imo Drury legum doctore curie prerogatiue Cantuarien{sis} commissario etc Decimo tertio die mens{is} Octobris Anno Domini mill{es}imo quingentesimo octogesimo quinto Iuramento Edwardi King mariti Marie King executric{is} etc Cui com{m}issa fuit administracio bonorum etc De bene etc Iurat{i} reseruata p{otes}tate &c D{omi}no Gilberto Gerrard militi executori etc cum venerit etc admissur{o}

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Drury, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary etc. of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the thirteenth day of the month of October in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred eighty-fifth by the oath of Edward King, husband of Mary King, executrix etc., to whom administration was granted of the goods etc., sworn to well etc., with power reserved to Sir Gilbert Gerard, knight, executor etc., when he shall have come etc. to be admitted.]