

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the nuncupative will, dated 25 December 1586 and proved 8 May 1587, of Henry Mackwilliam (c.1532 – 27 December 1586), a gentleman pensioner at the court of Queen Elizabeth who jousted against Oxford in a tournament held at Westminster on 1-3 May 1571 (see Segar on this website).

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator was the son of Henry Mackwilliam (d.1539), for whose will, dated 6 June 1539 but not proved until 27 January 1558, see TNA PROB 11/40/37.

According to the History of Parliament, the testator's mother was his father's second wife, Ella or Elizabeth Leyes, the daughter of Sir John Leyes. See:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/macwilliam-henry-1532-86>.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

About 1558 the testator married Mary Hill (d.1616), a gentlewoman of Queen Elizabeth's Privy Chamber. She was the daughter and co-heiress of Richard Hill (c.1500-1539), esquire, of Hartley Wintney, Hampshire (c.1500-1539), Master of Henry VIII's wine cellar, by Elizabeth Isley (1510-c.1592).

At the time of her marriage to the testator Mary Hill was the widow of the scholar Sir John Cheke (1514-1557), tutor to Edward VI and brother-in-law of Lord Burghley, whose first wife was Mary Cheke (c.1520–1544). By her first husband, Mary Hill had three sons: Henry Cheke (c.1548-1586), John Cheke (1549-1580) and Edward Cheke (1550-1563). See the entry for Mary Hill at:

<http://www.kateemersonhistoricals.com/TudorWomenHi-Hu.htm>.

By Mary Hill the testator had an only son:

* **Henry Mackwilliam** (b. 15 July 1568), who was slain in a duel on 8 June 1599 and died without issue, and who appears to have been the 'Mackwilliam' referred to in Charles Arundel's libel against Oxford (see TNA SP 12/151/46, ff. 103-4). The duel was reported in a letter dated 28 June 1599 from John Chamberlain to Dudley Carleton (see McClure, Norman Egbert, ed., *The Letters of John Chamberlain*, (Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 1939), p. 75):

On Monday was sennight Tom Compton and Mackwilliams went into the field upon an old quarrel, where Mackwilliams was left dead in the place and Compton came away

sore hurt. The Lady Cheke and her friends follow the matter with great extremity, and will not be persuaded but that he had help, which for aught I hear will not be proved.

By Mary Hill the testator also had five daughters:

* **Margaret Mackwilliam** (c.1565-1640), who married the courtier John Stanhope (d.1540-1621), 1st Baron Stanhope, vice-chamberlain to Queen Elizabeth, for whom see the *ODNB* article.

* **Susan Mackwilliam**, who married firstly Edward Saunders (buried 1 December 1599) of Hackney. See the will of William Saunders (d. 14 July 1582), TNA PROB 11/67/61), and the pedigree of Saunders and will of Edward Saunders in Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, Vol. I, (London: Hamilton Adams, 1868), p. 159 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/miscellaneageneal12unse#page/n177/mode/2up>.

After the death of Edward Saunders, Susan Mackwilliam married secondly Sir Goddard Pemberton (c.1573-1616), and thirdly Sir Thomas Ireland. For Sir Goddard Pemberton, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/pemberton-sir-goddard-1573-1616>.

For Sir Thomas Ireland (1560-1625), see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/ireland-thomas-1560-1625>.

* **Ambrosia Mackwilliam** (d. by 1599), who married Sir William Kingswell (c.1554-1613), for whom see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/kingswell-sir-william-1554-1613>.

* **Cassandra Mackwilliam**, who married Sir George Cotton.

* **Cicely Mackwilliam** (d.1627), a Maid of Honour to Queen Elizabeth, who married Thomas Ridgeway (c.1565-1632), 1st Earl of Londonderry, for whom see the *ODNB* article.

For the testator's daughters and their marriages, see also Wright, Thomas, *The History and Topography of the County of Essex*, (London: George Virtue, 1836), Vol. I, p. 640:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=SgQVAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA640>

For the inquisition post mortem dated 15(?) May 1587 taken after the testator's death in which his son and heir, Henry Mackwilliam, was stated to be eighteen years of age on 15 July 1586, see TNA C 142/212/37.

RM: T{estamentum} Henrici Mackwilliam

In the name of God, Amen. The five and twentieth day of December in the year of Our Lord God one thousand five hundred eighty-six Henry Mackwilliam of the parish of Saint Martin in the Fields in the county of Middlesex, esquire, being in good and perfect mind and memory, made and declared his last will and testament nuncupative in manner and form following, viz.:

First he gave and bequeathed his soul into the hands of Almighty God, and his body to be buried;

Item, he gave and bequeathed to Henry Mackwilliam, his son, all those his leases which he had granted unto him from the Queen's Majesty that now is out of her court of her Duchy;

Item, he gave unto Mary, his wife, all his lands by what name soever they be called during her natural life;

All the residue of his goods and movables unbequeathed he gave and bequeathed unto Mary, his wife, to perform and pay all his debts and legacies, and made her his sole executrix in the presence of William Porter of Birdbrook and Thomas Porter of Stoke next Clare.

Probatum fuit Testamentum superscriptum apud London coram venerabili viro mag{ist}ro Will{el}mo Drurye Legum Doctore curie prerogatiue Cantuarien{sis} com{m}issario etc octavo Die mens{is} Maij Anno Domini Mill{es}imo Quingentesimo octogesimo Septimo Iuramento ffrancisci Clerk notarij pub{li}ci procuratoris egregie femine D{omi}ne Marie Cheke relicte et executoris in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento nominat{e} Cui com{m}issa fuit administracio etc De bene et fidel{ite}r administrand{o} etc Ad sancta Dei Evangelia Iurat{i}

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Drury, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury etc., on the eighth day of the month of May in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred eighty-seventh by the oath of Francis Clerk, notary public, proctor of the honourable(?) Lady Mary Cheke, relict and executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer etc.]