

SUMMARY: The document below is the last will and testament, dated 3 September 1586 and proved 10 February 1587, of Mary Throckmorton, the daughter of Sir John Throckmorton (c.1518-1580) of Feckenham in Worcestershire and his wife, Margaret Puttenham (d.1591), the daughter of Robert Puttenham of Sherfield on Loddon, Hampshire, and his wife, Margery, daughter of Sir Richard Elyot and sister of Sir Thomas Elyot.

For the will of the testatrix' father, Sir John Throckmorton (c.1518-1580), which mentions his sons Francis, Thomas, George and Edward, and his daughters, Mary and Anne, see TNA PROB 11/62/552.

The testatrix' mother, Margaret (nee Puttenham) Throckmorton, was the sister of George Puttenham (1529–1590/91), reputed author of *The Arte of English Poesie*, in which Oxford is named among court poets who have written 'excellently well', and is said to deserve 'the highest prize' for comedy and interlude. See STC 20519 on this website. For the will of the testatrix' mother, Margery (nee Puttenham) Throckmorton, see TNA PROB 11/78/399.

The testatrix was the granddaughter of Sir George Throckmorton (c.1489-1552) and Katherine Vaux (d.1571?). For the will of the testatrix' grandfather, Sir George Throckmorton (c.1489-1552), see TNA PROB 11/36/298.

The testatrix' brother was the Roman Catholic conspirator, Francis Throckmorton, executed in 1584. He married Anne Sutton (d. 29 November 1605), the only child of Edward Sutton (d. 9 July 1586), 4th Baron Dudley, by his first wife, Catherine Brydges (c.1524 - April 1566), the daughter of John Brydges (1492-1557), 1st Baron Chandos. The testatrix refers to her in the will below as 'my sister-in-law, Mrs Anne Throckmorton, widow'. See also the *ODNB* entry for John Brydges, 1st Baron Chandos, and the will of Edward Sutton TNA PROB 11/69/418, in which he leaves 'my daughter, Anne Throckmorton, two hundred pounds'.

Anne Sutton Throckmorton later married the barrister, Thomas Wilmer (d.1628). See:

<http://www.kateemersonhistoricals.com/TudorWomenSo-Sy.htm>.

See also the pedigree of Wilmer in Foster, Charles Wilmer and Joseph J. Green, *History of the Wilmer Family* (1888), at:

<https://archive.org/stream/historyofwilmerf00fost#page/n73/mode/2up>.

The testatrix' sister, Anne Throckmorton, married Sir William Wigmore of Lucton, Herefordshire, and by him had twelve children, including Winefrid Wigmore (1585–1657), Roman Catholic religious sister and schoolmistress, and the Jesuit, William Wigmore (c.1599–1665). See the *ODNB* entries for Winefrid Wigmore and William Wigmore.

The testatrix' first cousin, Sir Arthur Throckmorton (1557?-1626), was a friend of Oxford's. See Rowse, A.L., *Raleigh and the Throckmortons*, (London: Macmillan, 1962), pp. 78, 99. For the will of the testatrix' first cousin, Sir Arthur Throckmorton (1557?-1626), see <http://reocities.com/Heartland/fields/1759/volthree/vol3.121.htm>.

Another of the testatrix' first cousins, Elizabeth Throckmorton (1565?-1647?), married Sir Walter Raleigh (1554-1618).

Another of the testatrix' first cousins, Job Throckmorton (1545-1601), was involved with the publication of the Marprelate tracts in 1589.

The testatrix mentions property in Upton, Essex, which she had purchased from Oxford's friend, the Queen's Gentleman Pensioner Thomas Bedingfield (d.1613), for whom see his will, TNA PROB 11/122/124.

RM: T{estamentum} Marie Throckmorton

In the name of God, Amen. I, Mary Throckmorton, one of the daughters of Sir John Throckmorton, late of Feckenham in the county of Worcester, knight, deceased, being of whole mind and perfect remembrance, thanks be to God, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First, I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my only Maker and Redeemer, and to all the blessed company of heaven, and my body to be buried in Christian burial at the pleasure and discretion of my executors hereinafter named;

Item, I give and bequeath to the poor of the town of Upton within the parish of West Ham (blank);

Item, I give and bequeath unto my well-beloved mother, Dame Margery Throckmorton, widow, all those my houses, buildings, yards, barns, stables, orchards, gardens, closes, meadows, pastures, lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever lying and being in Upton in the parish of West Ham in the county of Essex or elsewhere within the said county of Essex, as well freehold as customary or copyhold lands and tenements, which I lately purchased and had of the gift, grant or surrender of Thomas Benefield [=Bedingfield], esquire, one of her Majesty's Gentlemen Pensioners, to have and to hold all and every the aforesaid bequeathed premises with all and singular their appurtenances whatsoever unto the said Dame Margery, her heirs or assigns, forever, to the only use and behoof of the said Dame Margery, her heirs and assigns forever;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the said Dame Margery, my mother, all my goods, cattle and chattels moveable and unmovable which I now have or by any means of right ought to have in whose hands or in what place soever they remain and be in;

Item, I do further hereby constitute and appoint the said Dame Margery my sole and only executrix of this my last will and testament, desiring her, my body being decently brought to the earth, to bestow some such part of my goods as she in her own discretion and pleasure shall think meet of according as I have set it down with my own hand in a schedule annexed hereto on my sister Wigmore and on my sister-in-law, Mrs Anne Throckmorton, widow, and other of the next of my kin at her like pleasure in remembrance of my poor goodwill towards them;

In witness whereof hereunto I have put my hand and seal the third day of September in the year of Elizabeth our Queen the 28th. Mary Throckmorton. Witnesses hereof Richard Sworton, Thomas Vowell.

Codicillus

In dei nomine amen. To my mother my jet bracelet;

To my sister Throckmorton my bracelets of gold;

To my brother Thomas what my mother will;

To my brother, George Throckmorton, my little plain chain;

To my sister Wigmore a pair of borders, my chain with pomander, my tuftaffeta gown, my new black gown, my taffeta petticoat, my suit of new drawn-work;

To Kate Wigmore my little gold dove;

To Mary Wigmore my best jewel, a trencher-salt, and a spoon of silver;

To my cousin Throckmorton's wife my plain hoop ring of gold;

To Mrs Doyle my smallest chain of gold linked, and a band and gorget of fine lawn stitched;

To Mrs Shelley a pair of fine sleeves of cambric;

To my cousin Florence my murrey taffeta gown;

To Dorothy my purple cloth gown and mockado petticoat, and my purple caul with gold and silver;

To my Aunt Alice my nightgown;

To Pegge my old silk mockado petticoat & blue petticoat with some of my linen;

To Anne Spittle two new flaxen aprons;

To Nann Cooke some linen with money;

To Sibbell some linen with money;

To Mrs Vaughan my three coifs and four head-cloths of cambric edged, and my two table pictures of Christ;

To Margery Proude my old silver caul, and a band and gorget of calico, and two wrought coifs;

To Mary Bird two new flaxen aprons, and my spotted ruff in lawn;

To goodwife Grime my night-rails, and what please my mother in money, and a yard kerchief of my new cloth;

To Mr Swarton, to Davy, to Preene, to Ambrose, to Tom of the kitchen some remembrance;

To Mr Vowell what you think good;

If my portion given me by my father hap to be obtained, I will that the one-half be given between Mary Wigmore, my god-daughter, and John Throckmorton, my nephew, the other half to be disposed to the poor by the discretion of mine executors;

Item, I give to John Throckmorton, my nephew, forty ounces of plate of such as my mother had bestowed upon me. Mary Throgmorton.

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptu{m} apud London coram venerabili viro m{agist}ro Will{el}mo Drury Legum doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cant{uariensis} Mag{ist}ro Custode siue Com{m}issario etc decimo die mens{is} ffebruarij Anno D{omi}ni iuxta cursum et computac{i}o{n}em eccl{es}ie Anglicane Mill{es}imo Quingentesimo Octogesimo Sexto Iuramento Petri Johnson Notarij publici procur{ator}is D{omi}ne Margerie Throckmarton executric{is} in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento nominat{e} Cui com{m}issa fuit administrac{i}o &c De bene et fidel{ite}r etc Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{i} ex{aminatur}

[=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 tenth day of the month of February in the year of the Lord according to the course and reckoning of the English Church the thousand five hundred eighty-sixth by the oath of Peter Johnson, notary public, proctor of Lady

Margery Throckmorton, executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer etc. Examined.]