

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 25 September 1589 and proved 15 October 1589, of Ellen Beverley Pounce (d. 30 September 1589), great-aunt (of the half blood) of Henry Wriothesley (1573-1624), 3rd Earl of Southampton, to whom Shakespeare dedicated *Venus and Adonis* and *The Rape of Lucrece*.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Most sources state that the testatrix was a sister of the whole blood of Thomas Wriothesley (1505-1550), 1st Earl of Southampton, who refers to her in his will as 'my sister Pounce'. She is also referred to in the will of Henry Wriothesley (1545-1581), 2nd Earl of Southampton, TNA PROB 11/65/88, as 'my aunt Pounce'. However it appears she was the 1st Earl of Southampton's half sister, and was born Ellen Beverley. Her father's Christian name and background are unknown. See the Pounce pedigree, Hants. RO 5M50/403-405.

The identity of the testatrix' mother was established by the author of this website in March 2017. She was Jane Drayton (b.1482, d.1538?). Her identity is confirmed by BL Add. Charter 16194, which contains notes in her own hand recording her birthdate, that of her brother, Peter Drayton (d.1518), and the birthdates of her two sons and two daughters by William Wriothesley (d.1513?), York Herald:

* Thomas Wriothesley (21 December 1505 – 30 July 1550), 1st Earl of Southampton, for whom see his will, TNA PROB 11/34/154.

* Edward Wriothesley (born 1509), at whose christening the Duke of Buckingham and Earl of Northumberland were godfathers (see BL Add. Charter 16194). He is mentioned in the 1518 will of his uncle, Peter Drayton, but nothing further is known of him.

*Elizabeth Wriothesley (b.1507), who died young.

* Anne Wriothesley (b.1508), who married firstly Robert Breton (d.1556?), and secondly Thomas Morrene (d.1562?). For further details concerning her, see the will of Thomas Wriothesley, 1st Earl of Southampton, *supra*.

Jane Drayton's second husband, William Wriothesley, York Herald, is said to have died before 26 April 1513, when Thomas Tonge was appointed as York Herald. See:

'Henry VIII: April 1513, 26-30', in *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII, Volume 1, 1509-1514*, ed. J S Brewer (London, 1920), pp. 833-840. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/letters-papers-hen8/vol1/pp833-840> [accessed 26 March 2017].

29. *Thomas Tonge, whom the King names York Herald-at-Arms. Annuity of 20 marks for life, for the fee of his office. Greenwich, 26 April 5 Hen. VIII. Del. Westm., 30 April. P.S. Pat. 5 Hen. VIII. p. 2, m.16. [3971].*

For the testatrix' mother, Jane Drayton (b.1482, d.1538?), see also the Latin will of her grandfather, Peter Peckham (d.1501), TNA PROB 11/12/315; the will of her uncle, George Peckham (d.1505), TNA PROB 11/14/513; the will of her father, Robert Drayton (d.1503 or 1504), TNA PROB 11/14/4; and the will of her brother, Peter Drayton (d.1518), TNA PROB 11/19/121.

Before her marriage to William Wriothesley (d.1513?), York Herald, the testatrix' mother had been the wife of Richard Lucy, by whom she had no issue. After the death of William Wriothesley (d.1513?), she married thirdly a husband surnamed Beverley, by whom she had two daughters, the testatrix, and her sister, Anne (see below).

Two letters establish that Jane Drayton was still alive as late as January 1538. See Cokayne, George Edward, *The Complete Peerage*, Vol. XII, Part I, (London: The St Catherine Press, 1953), p. 124, citing *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII*, Add. Vol. I, No. 1244, and Vol. XIII, Part I, No. 151. Both are letters from Anthony Roke to the 1st Earl of Southampton. In the first, thought to date from 14 August 1537, Roke writes that 'Mrs. Elizabeth, Mrs. Peter [=Petre?] and the rest at Stoke be in good health, and likewise that most godly gentlewoman, my mistress, your mother, Mrs. Anne, her daughter, and all others here at Micheldevour. We hope my mistress will soon come home again.' In the second, thought to date from 27 January 1538, Roke writes that 'My good mistress, your mother, Mrs. Elizabeth, Mrs. Mary, Mr. Anthony, gentle Mrs. Clerc are well'. See:

'Henry VIII: January 1538, 26-31', in *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII, Volume 13 Part 1, January-July 1538*, ed. James Gairdner (London, 1892), pp. 50-66. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/letters-papers-hen8/vol13/no1/pp50-66> [accessed 23 March 2017].

By her third husband, surnamed Beverley, Jane Drayton (b.1482, d.1538?) had two daughters:

* Ellen Beverley, the testatrix.

* Anne Beverley (d.1610). Most sources state that she was a sister of the whole blood of Thomas Wriothesley (1505-1550), 1st Earl of Southampton. However the fact that she lived until 1610 suggests that she was the daughter of Jane Drayton's third marriage to a husband surnamed Beverley.

Anne Beverley married firstly Thomas Knight (d.1548). See his will, proved 27 February 1548, TNA PROB 11/32/63, in which he names his wife, Anne, his brother-in-law, William Pounce, and his 'especial good Lord, Thomas, Earl of Southampton'. He also names a son, John Knight, and daughter, Anne Knight, but it is unclear from the will whether they are his children by his current wife, Anne.

Anne Beverley married secondly, on 6 February 1549, the Gentleman Pensioner Sir Oliver Lawrence (d. 1 January 1559), by whom she had a daughter, Jane Lawrence. Jane was underage when her father, Sir Oliver Lawrence, made his undated will. She is not mentioned in the will of her mother, Anne Beverley Knight Lawrence, and may have died young. In his will Sir Oliver Lawrence also mentions his first wife (unnamed) and her daughter, Elizabeth Morgan, his eldest son and heir, Edward Lawrence, and another son, Augustine Lawrence, as well as a daughter, Julyan Wriothesley, all apparently the children of his first marriage. Nothing further is known of Julyan Wriothesley. However in her will, Anne Beverley Knight Lawrence mentions her 'cousin, Oliver Wriothesley', for whose 1618 inquisition post mortem see:

<http://latindiscussion.com/forum/latin/inquisition-post-mortem-of-oliver-wriothesley-1618.21376/>.

The testatrix leaves bequests to Anne Beverley in the will below as 'my sister, the Lady Anne Lawrence'. For her will, see TNA PROB 11/116/231. See also Everitt, Alfred T., 'Thomas Pounce, S.J.', *Notes and Queries*, 10th Series, Vol. V, 3 February 1906, p. 96 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/s10notesqueries05londuoft#page/96/mode/2up/>.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

The testatrix married William Pounce (d.1553?) of Beaumont or Belmont in Farlington, Hampshire, the son of William Pounce (d. 5 July 1525) by his second wife, Edburga Troyes. After the death of William Pounce in 1525, Edburga Troyes married secondly Nicholas Upton. See TNA C 142/48/171, and Plymouth and West Devon Record Office 107/47. She is referred to in the will below as 'Mistress Edbaroe Upton', deceased'.

all which lands I had of the gift of my mother-in-law, Mistress Edbaroe Upton, deceased

The testatrix' husband, William Pounce, predeceased her, and according to the will below was buried in the parish church of St Andrew in Farlington. For the will of the testatrix' father-in-law, William Pounce (d. 5 July 1525), see TNA PROB 11/21/561.

For William Pounce's family background, see Champion, Sharon, 'The Early Owners of Chale Abbey' at:

<http://ininet.org/the-early-owners-of-chale-abbey-by-sharon-champion.html>

The history of the de Langfords at Chale continues with the death of John de Langford in 1509 and the inheritance of the Manor by his 9 year old daughter, Anne¹ She later married one William Stafford in 1519,² and they sold the manor to William Pounce of Drayton in Hampshire in 1521.³ At this time it consisted of 10 messuages, 300 acres of land, 40 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture, and 2 acres of woodland. He died in

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

1525 and left it, in a will dated 24 October 1524, to his younger son, William Pound of Beaumonts in Farlington, who also inherited Island land at Hovingford (Blackwater) and Newport from his maternal grandfather, Thomas Troyes of Marvel, Hants. To increase his lands at Chale William Jnr. also bought the sub-manor of Chale in 1556 from John Bullar of Lillesdon in Somerset. Two years later. William Pounce, Junior died, leaving a widow Ellen, who claimed the manor for life,⁴ which was disputed by her husband's older brother, Anthony, who is described as "having dealt with it by recovery".⁵ Nevertheless, these holdings were inherited by William's son and heir, Thomas Pounce of Beaumonts, and it was he who sold it on 22 January 1561 to John Worsley.⁶ By then the manor consisted of 20 messuages, 18 gardens, 2 dovecotes 300 acres of arable land, 80 acres of meadow, 600 acres of pasture, 10 acres of wood, 300 acres of fern and brush and 30 acres of moor (Down land) £4 rent and common for 1,500 sheep.⁷

For the marriage of the testatrix and William Pounce, see also 'Thomas Pounce, S.J., *Notes and Queries*, 10th Series, Volume V, January-June 1906, p. 14 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/s10notesqueries05londuoft#page/14/mode/2up>.

For a 1539 document concerning the testatrix and her husband, William Pounce, see *Wiltshire Notes and Queries*, Vol. 4, Part 2, 1904, p. 555 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/wiltshirenotesqu42unse#page/n359/mode/2up/>.

By William Pounce, the testatrix had four sons and a daughter, all of whom are mentioned in the will below:

* Thomas Pounce (1539-1615), courtier and Jesuit lay brother. It should be noted that the *ODNB* entry erroneously states that his mother was Anne Wriothesley:

Pounce [alias Duke, Harrington, Gallop, Wallop], Thomas (1539–1615), Jesuit lay brother, was born on 29 May 1539 in Belmont, Hampshire. His father, William Pounce, was a wealthy landowner and his mother, Anne, was the sister of Thomas Wriothesley, earl of Southampton. . . .

From Winchester, Pounce entered Lincoln's Inn on 16 February 1560. Heir to extensive estates upon the death of his father about 1564, Pounce squandered much in an attempt to gain influence at court. For the same reason he conformed to the established church. During twelfth night celebrations in 1570 Pounce directed plays, games, and masques at court, some of which, according to Simpson, he wrote. An attempt to repeat an intricate dance step at the queen's request resulted in an embarrassing fall. All laughed as Elizabeth ordered him to stand with 'Rise, Sir Ox'. In a voice loud enough for bystanders to hear Pounce muttered 'Sic transit gloria mundi' and quickly abandoned the court for Belmont. . . .

See also Skeet, Francis, J.A., 'Thomas Pounce, S.J.', *East Herts Archaeological Society: Transactions*, Vol. III, Part I, 1905, (Herford: (Stephen Austin & Sons, Limited, 1906), pp. 21-6 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/archaeologicals00socigoog#page/n47/mode/2up>.

* Richard Pounce, who predeceased the testatrix, leaving two sons, Henry Pounce and William Pounce.

* Henry Pounce, who in the will below is said to have married a wife named Honor, and to have a son, John Pounce, and a daughter, Ellen Pounce.

* John Pounce.

* Anne Pounce (b.1544), who married George Breton of Mitchell Park in Petworth, Sussex. George Breton was examined in 1583 and 1584 in connection with the Throckmorton plot. See Lemon, Robert, ed., *Calendar of State Papers, Domestic Series, of the Reign of Elizabeth 1581-1590*, (London: Longman, Green, 1865) pp. 140, 149, 356 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/cu31924091775266#page/n149/mode/2up>.

The bequests in the will below indicate that both Anne Pounce and her husband, George Breton, were still living when the testatrix made her will on 25 September 1589, and that they had four sons, Henry Breton, Dennis Breton, George Breton and Samuel Breton, and three daughters, Anne Breton, Elizabeth Breton and Ellen Breton. For Henry Breton, the eldest son of Anne Pounce and George Breton, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/britton-henry-1576-1629>

b. 1576, 1st s. of George Britton of Monkton Farleigh, Wilts. and North Chapel, Suss. and Anne, da. of William Pound of Belmont, nr. Farlington, Hants. 1 m. by 1598, Anne, da. of Edward Yate of Buckland, Berks., at least 1s. 2da.; 2 kntd. 4 Apr. 1617. 3 d. aft. 2 Oct. 1629. 4

The Breton family of Monkton Farleigh, Wiltshire, is said to have been descended from the Breton family of Layer, Essex. See the will of John Colte (d.1521), father-in-law of Sir Thomas More (1478-1535), TNA PROB 11/20/285.

BEQUESTS TO MEMBERS OF THE WRIOTHESLEY FAMILY

In the will below the testatrix leaves gold rings to her great-nephew (of the half blood), Henry Wriothesley (1573-1624), 3rd Earl of Southampton; to her niece, Katherine Wriothesley Cornwallis (d. 16 August 1626), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/150/418;

to her niece, Mabel Wriothesley Sandys, for whom see the will of the testatrix' brother, Thomas Wriothesley, 1st Earl of Southampton, TNA PROB 11/34/154; and to her sister, Anne Beverley Knight Lawrence.

EXECUTORS

The testatrix' executor, 'my cousin, Thomas White, gentleman', appears to have been a younger son of John White (d. 19 July 1567) of Southwick Priory, Hampshire. John White refers in his will, TNA PROB 11/49/231, to both 'the Lady Lawrence' and 'my sister Pounce' (i.e., the testatrix).

The testatrix' executor, 'my cousin, Thomas Uvedale, esquire', may have been Thomas Uvedale of Colemore, Hampshire, whose will was proved 23 May 1597. See the pedigree in Leveson Gower, Granville, *Notices of the Family of Uvedale of Titsey, Surrey, and Wickham, Hants.*, (London: Cox & Wyman, 1865), p. 127 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=0xoXAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA31&lpg=PA31&dq=%22Thomas+Pounce%22+Uvedale%22&source=bl&ots=uB78zWo-NZ&sig=2vJXKY9xXbleg3SqJGp7uMBJUzc&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjT96GS1urTAhVJ5WMKHZ01A24Q6AEIjAA#v=onepage&q=%22Thomas%20Pounce%22%20Uvedale%22&f=false>.

See also:

'Parishes: Colemore', in *A History of the County of Hampshire: Volume 4*, ed. William Page (London, 1911), pp. 423-425. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/hants/vol4/pp423-425> [accessed 15 May 2017].

LM: T{estamentum} Ellen Pound

[f. 196v] In the name of the Blessed Trinity, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, three Persons and one God, Amen. I, Ellen Pounce of Beaumont in the county of Southampton, widow, being sick and weak in body but of good and perfect remembrance, thanks be given to God, do make and constitute this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul unto Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, by whose death and passion I hope [f. 197] to be saved, my body to be buried in the parish church of Farlington within the county aforesaid near to my loving husband, William Pounce;

Item, I give to the mother church of Winton [=Winchester?] five shillings;

Item, I give to the poor of the parish church of Farlington ten shillings;

Item, I give to the poor of the parish of Soberton five shillings;

And to the poor of the parish of Southwell five shillings;

And to the poor of the parish of Havant five shillings;

Item, whereas I received two kine of the stock of the church of Farlington, now I will that my executrix with the consent of my overseers in discharge of the said kine shall deliver two kine to the parson and churchwardens of the said parish, and I will that one cow more shall be delivered to the parson and churchwardens of the same parish for the time being, the increase and profit whereof my desire is shall remain to the relief of the poor of the said parish forever;

Item, I give to the poor of the several parishes of Petworth and Hellington [=Hollington?] in the county of Sussex ten shillings;

Item, I give to my sister, the Lady Anne Lawrence, my best gilt cup of silver and my best jewel and a salt-cellar of silver and my best gown and best kirtle and my best bed with all manner furniture thereunto belonging;

Item, I give to my daughter, Anne Breton, the wife of George Breton, and to Elizabeth, the second daughter of the said George and Anne, all those my lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever set, lying and being in the parish of Aderton [Arreton?] in the Isle of Wight in the said county of Southampton now in the tenure and occupation of one Thomas Fucket or his assigns, all which lands I had of the gift of my mother-in-law, Mistress Edbaroe Upton, deceased, to have and to hold the said lands, tenements and hereditaments unto the said Anne Breton and Elizabeth, her daughter, for and during their natural lives and the longer liver of them successively;

And after their deceases, the remainder of the said lands, tenements and hereditaments to Ellen Breton, the third daughter of the said George and Anne Breton, and to the heirs of the said Ellen forever;

Item, I give and bequeath all those my lands, tenements and hereditaments within the parish of Farlington aforesaid now in the tenure and occupation of (blank) Coffin commonly called or known by the name of Nashe's land which I purchased by my own means and industry of one Nashe unto my said daughter, Anne Breton, and to her heirs forever, to have and to hold to the said Anne Breton, her heirs and assigns, forever;

Item, I give to my said daughter, Anne Breton, one hundred marks of good and lawful money of England;

Item, I make and constitute Anne Breton, the wife of the said George Breton, my executrix of this my last will and testament, charging and requiring her carefully to see

this my said will performed and all my due debts and legacies well and truly satisfied and paid;

Item, upon condition that my son Thomas Pounce, his heirs or assigns, or any other person or persons claiming by or under him or them or any of them shall neither claim nor challenge any of those said lands, tenements or hereditaments which I have before devised in this my last will and testament which upon my conscience I lawfully may do, I do not only remit and release unto my said son, Thomas Pounce, his executors and assigns, such several sums of money as I have paid and appointed to be paid of his debts, which sums of money amount to seven score pounds or thereabouts besides other great charges which he hath put me unto, but I give him moreover twenty pounds of lawful money of England to be paid within one year after my decease;

And I charge him with the bringing up of my son Richard Pounce's two children, that is to say, Henry and William Pounce, and towards their better bringing up and maintenance I give unto Henry Pounce, the eldest son of Richard Pounce, ten pounds of good and lawful money of England;

Item, I give to William Pounce, the youngest son of the said Richard Pounce, five pounds of good and lawful money of England, to be paid to my said son, Thomas, to their use within one year after my decease;

Item, I give unto Henry Breton, the eldest son of the said George and Anne Breton, towards his preferment ten pounds of good and lawful money of England;

Item, I give unto Anne Breton, the eldest daughter of the said George and Anne Breton, towards her better preferment in marriage forty pounds of good and lawful money of England;

Item, I give to Dennis Breton, the second son of the said George and Anne [f. 197v] Breton towards his preferment five pounds of good and [-and] lawful money of England;

Item, I give unto George Breton, the third son of the said George and Anne Breton, towards his preferment five pounds of good and lawful money of England;

Item, I give to Samuel Breton, the fourth son of the said George and Anne Breton, towards his preferment five pounds of good and lawful money of England;

Item, I give to the aforesaid Elizabeth Breton, the second daughter of the said George and Anne Breton, towards her better preferment in marriage five pounds of good and lawful money of England;

Item, I give to the aforesaid Ellen Breton, my god-daughter, the third daughter of the said George and Anne Breton, towards her better preferment in marriage ten pounds of good and lawful money of England;

Item, I give to my son, John Pounce, ten pounds upon his own demand;

Item, upon condition that my son, Henry Pounce, neither make nor meddle with, neither vex nor trouble my said executrix nor any other person or persons to whom the executorship of this my last will or the administration of my goods shall be committed during the life of my said executrix or any of them for or concerning the administration of this my said last will and testament, neither ask, claim, demand nor take any part or parcel of my goods after my decease either for a child's part or by any other surmised promises, covenants, contract or duty supposed to be had or made betwixt him and me, then I am content he shall have and enjoy such sum or sums of money as I shall think him worthy of, or else whatsoever I shall set down for him; it shall not be a legacy but a matter of discretion referred unto my said executrix, and therefore these aforesaid conditions being performed on his part and behalf, I charge and require my said executrix to bestow fifty pounds of good and lawful money of England upon him or his within one whole year next after my decease, so as he demean himself according to the conditions aforesaid;

Item, I give unto my said daughter, Anne Breton, the wife of George Breton, my double gelding with all manner furniture belonging unto him;

Item, I give unto her, my said daughter, Anne Breton, one pair of white andrans [=andirons?] and all my apparel before not bequeathed except one cloth gown and a cloth kirtle of violet colour, which gown and kirtle I give unto Honor, the wife of my said son, Henry Pounce;

Item, I give unto my said daughter, Anne Breton, one silver salt, a bowl, a cup of silver and a dozen of silver spoons, which spoons I would have after her decease divided amongst her children;

Item, I give unto every of my household servants one whole year's wages according to the rates to them already allowed;

Item, I give to every woman being not already paid that taketh pains about me two shillings six pence;

Item, I give to my good Lord, the Earl of Southampton, my Lady Katherine Cornwallis, my Lady Mabel Sandys and my sister, the Lady Anne Lawrence, each of them one ring of gold to the value of six shillings eight pence, the ring with a posy of my remembrances in every of the said rings;

Item, I give to my said son-in-law, George Breton, my great bay mare with her colt now sucking on her;

Item, I give to my son Henry his children, John and Ellen, each of them a cow;

Item, I give to my cousin, Thomas White, and to his wife, five shillings, and to every one of his children twelve pence apiece;

Item, I give to my cousin Deekes' wife five shillings, and to every of her children twelve pence apiece;

Item, I give to every one of my godchildren what that shall be thought meet by the discretion of my overseers hereafter named;

Item, I give to one George Moseby a brass pan and a cupboard of his and a cow of mine own;

Item, I give to Goodwife Carpenter one cloth gown and ten shillings;

Item, I will my executrix to bestow fifteen pounds upon my funerals, and that the same be done in as good sort as it becometh my calling;

All the residue of my goods and chattels unbequeathed I give to my said executrix;

And I desire my very good cousin, Thomas Uvedale, esquire, and my cousin, Thomas White, gentlemen [sic?], to be overseers of this my last will and testament, whom I earnestly desire to be aides and assistants to the said Anne Breton, my executrix, and [sic for 'in?'] disposing of my goods and payment of my legacies according to this my last will and testament, and for the pains in that behalf to [f. 198r] be taken, to each of them a silver tun;

In witness whereof I have hereunto put my hand and seal the five and twentieth day of September in the one and thirtieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc.;

And thus I commit and commend etc. E. P. Signed and sealed in the presence of us, John Winter, parson of Farlington, John Cooper.

December [sic?]. Memorandum: That Goodwife Carpenter's ten shillings in the will must be forty shillings;

Item, one tun to Mr Winter, parson;

Item, Barnes must be paid a quarter of wheat and a load of barley.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram venerabili viro m{agist}ro Will{el}mo Drury Legum doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cant{uariensis} m{agist}ro Custode

siue Com{m}issario &c Decimo quinto die mens{is} Octobris Anno D{omi}ni mill{es}imo quingentesimo octogesimo nono iuramento Petri Johnson notarij publici procuratoris Anne Breton executric{is} in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento nominat{e} Cui com{m}issa fuit administratio bonorum iurium et creditorum eiusdem def{uncte} de bene et fidel{ite}r administrand{o} &c ad sancta dei evangelia iurat{e}

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Drury, Doctor of the Laws, Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury etc., on the fifteenth day of the month of October in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred eighty-ninth by the oath of Peter Johnson, notary public, proctor of Anne Breton, executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of the goods, rights and credits of the same deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer etc.]