

SUMMARY: The document below is the last will and testament, dated 9 September 1591 and proved 10 December 1591, of Margery (nee Puttenham) Throckmorton, 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.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Testatrix’ parents

The testatrix was the daughter of Robert Puttenham of Sherfield on Loddon, Hampshire, and his wife, Margery Elyot, daughter of Sir Richard Elyot (d.1522) and sister of Sir Thomas Elyot (c.1490-1546).

Testatrix’ siblings

As noted above, the testatrix 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.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testatrix married Sir John Throckmorton (c.1518-1580) of Feckenham, Worcestershire, the son of Sir George Throckmorton (c.1489-1552) and Katherine Vaux (d.1571?), for whom see his will, TNA PROB 11/36/298. For Sir John Throckmorton, see his will, TNA PROB 11/62/552, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/throckmorton-john-i-1520-80>

In his will, Sir John Throckmorton mentions his sons Francis, Thomas, George and Edward, and his daughters, Mary and Anne.

The testatrix’ eldest son was the Roman Catholic conspirator, Francis Throckmorton (1554-1584). 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. See 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’. The testatrix’ grandchild, John Throckmorton, mentioned in the will below was likely the son of Francis Throckmorton (1554-1584) and Anne Sutton.

After Francis Throckmorton's execution in 1584, Anne Sutton Throckmorton married the barrister, Thomas Wilmer (d.1528). See:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=707

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>

One of the testatrix' two daughters, Mary Throckmorton, predeceased her. For her will, dated 3 September 1586 and proved 10 February 1587, see TNA PROB 11/70/92.

The testatrix' other daughter, 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.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

The testatrix' 'sister Charnock' mentioned in the will below was Mary Puttenham, who married Richard Charnock (d.1615) of Hulcote, Bedfordshire. See North, Thomas, *The Church Bells of Bedfordshire*, (London: Elliot Stock, 1883), p. 163, and the pedigree of Charnock in *The Visitations of Bedfordshire*, p. 12, both available online.

The testatrix 'sister Edwards' was Anne Puttenham, who married John Edwards of Plas Newydd, Chirk, Denbyshire. See:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/edwards-john-ii-1562-1625>

Lady Frances Paulet mentioned in the will below appears to have been Frances (nee Neville) Waldegrave Paulet (d.1599), who married firstly, Sir Edward Waldegrave (1516/17-1561), and secondly, Chidiock Paulet (1521?-1574), second son of William Paulet (1474/5?-1572), 1st Marquess of Winchester. See Jones, Edward Alexander and Alexandra Walsham, eds., *Syon Abbey and its Books*, (Woodbridge: Boydell Press, 2010), p. 218, and the *ODNB* entry for William Paulet (1474/5?-1572), 1st Marquess of Winchester.

'My cousin, Thomas Throckmorton', mentioned in the will below was Thomas Throckmorton (1533-1614), the eldest son and heir of the testatrix' brother-in-law, Sir Robert Throckmorton (d.1581) of Coughton. For the will of Sir Robert Throckmorton (d.1581), see TNA PROB 11/63/176.

'My cousin, Ralph Sheldon', was Ralph Sheldon (c.1537-1613) of Beoley, who married Anne Throckmorton (d.1603), the daughter of the testatrix' brother-in-law, Sir Robert Throckmorton (d.1581) of Coughton. Ralph Sheldon was the father of Oxford's sister-in-law, Katherine (nee Sheldon) Trentham (d.1633), wife of Oxford's brother-in-law, Francis Trentham (d.1626). For the will of Ralph Sheldon, see TNA PROB 11/121/345.

William Kempe mentioned in the will below has not been identified.

TESTATRIX' LANDS

In the will below the testatrix mentions meadow ground 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.

LM: T{estamentum} D{omi}ne Margerie Throckmorton

[f. 292v] In the name of God, Amen. The ninth day of September Anno Domini a thousand five hundred ninety and one, seeing [f. 293r] it is decreed by the inflexible judgment of Almighty God that all flesh shall die, and the knowledge of the time of death unknown to all creatures, know ye me, Dame Margery Throckmorton, widow, late wife of Sir John Throckmorton, knight, deceased, to have made and by these presents do make my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I give and restore again my soul to Almighty God, my Creator and Redeemer, trusting to be saved through the merits of Christ's passion, and my body to be buried within the church of Coughton in the county of Warwick within the circuit and under the tomb where my said late husband lieth interred in full hope to rise again to a better life at the day of general resurrection;

The charges of my funeral I refer to the discretion of my executors;

Also I will that within a convenient time after my decease there be given and distributed to the poor of Coughton, Spennall, Samburne [=Sambourne?] and Anster(?) three pounds six shillings and eight pence in money;

To the poorest inhabitants about Feckenham, Hanbury and Stooke I give six pounds thirteen shillings four pence;

To the poor of Bridgnorth I give forty shillings;

To the poor of Bewdley, six and twenty shillings eight pence;

Also I give and bequeath to every of my children and children-in-law black gowns, to my menservants cloaks, to my women servants black gowns likewise, and to every one of my servants a quarter's wages over and besides that which shall be due to them, and their diet for the space of two months next after my decease unless they be otherwise better provided;

Further I will it that there be given twenty black gowns to twenty poor people within the parish wherein I depart this life who shall attend the corpse and bring me forth of the parish the day that I go towards my funeral, whereof I would have thirteen widow women and seven men, and the women to have as well kerchiefs to cast over their heads as gowns to the back ready made;

Also I give to my Aunt Alice a black gown and four marks in money, and to Mistress Harris a black gown and twenty shillings in money if she be with me at my death, otherwise the legacy to be void;

Also I give to Coughton Church three pounds in money and the cow which at this present is in keeping with widow James to the end that some honest poor man of that parish may continually have the use of the said cow and money who from time to time and year to year shall and will decently preserve and keep the tomb of my husband, Sir John Throckmorton, and that this may the better be done and more carefully be seen unto, I give and bequeath unto my cousin, Thomas Throckmorton, as a token of my goodwill, a ring in gold to be made with his arms thereon to be engraven and two letters for his name, with my hearty request to him and to the heirs of his house to take every man that shall have the said cow and money bounden with sureties with him, as well to keep the said tomb fine and clean as to be answerable for the same cow and stock in money, whether it be at the death of such person or otherwise, so that my gift never decay nor be lost in any man's hands;

Also I give to my grandchild, John Throckmorton, and to his heirs one parcel of marsh or meadow ground called and known by the name of Poynters set, lying and being in the new marsh within the parish of West Ham in the county of Essex which I lately purchased of Thomas Bedingfield, esquire, to hold of the chief lord of the fee for the rents and services accustomed, and further giving and distributing to the poor widows which are or shall be within the parish of West Ham aforesaid the sum of forty shillings yearly to be paid and quarterly divided among the widows aforesaid, which legacy from the day of my death my intent and meaning is shall stand, continue, remain and be forever, provided always that the said sum of forty shillings be bestowed and employed only towards the relief and better maintenance of the poor widows by the churchwardens for the time being or whomsoever shall receive the same; otherwise I will that my gift be void;

And further I will that my executors hereafter to be named have the letting of the said meadow ground and payment of the said forty shillings yearly to the widows as is aforesaid until John Throckmorton shall accomplish the full age of one and twenty years,

and then the said John to hold and enjoy the said meadow ground, yielding and paying as is aforesaid to the poor widows;

And if at any time hereafter it happen the said John Throckmorton, his heirs or any of them to make default and not pay the sum of [f. 293v] forty shillings to the widows as aforesaid, then I will that upon such default made that his or their estate do cease and be utterly extinguished, and all the title, interest and claim of the said land to be and remain to the church forever for and towards the better relief and maintenance of the poor widows forever as is aforesaid;

Also I give and bequeath to the said John Throckmorton, my grandchild, the yearly rent of six pounds thirteen shillings four pence reserved upon a lease made by my cousin, Thomas Throckmorton, and my cousin, Ralph Sheldon, to William Kempe for many years yet to come of certain lands lying in Broughton alias Temple Broughton in the county of Worcester, and the yearly annuity of three pounds six shillings eight pence issuing out of the lands which William Bell, gentleman, now enjoyeth in Broughton aforesaid in the said county of Worcester, the assurance of which three pounds six shillings eight pence, although it be not perfected, yet forasmuch as my said cousin, Thomas Throckmorton, and my cousin, Ralph Sheldon, are well acquainted with the same, I will and heartily desire as well my said cousins as my executors hereafter to be named to have care and regard that my said grandchild sustain no wrong in that matter;

And more I give to John Throckmorton, my said grandchild, all my bedding, linen and furniture of household which I have at Upton in Essex in every room and chamber as in my lifetime was daily used and occupied, to be delivered to the said John when he shall accomplish the full age of twenty and one years and not before, so that in the meanwhile he be ruled and governed by the device and counsel of my executors;

Also I give to my daughter-in-law, Anne Throckmorton, now Mistress Willner, my best cloak lined with sables, my coach with the furniture thereof, and two cruets of silver;

To my daughter, Mrs Wigmore, I give all such bedding and hangings as she hath of mine in her custody, and more I give to her, my said daughter, my plate, viz., a silver dish with a cover, a little spoon gilt, one other chamber spoon of silver, a little salt of silver with a cover, one silver tun, a spice-box of silver with a cover and a spoon of silver in the same;

More I give to her my books of cookery and physic, and threescore pounds in money, whereof I will that there be paid to her twenty pounds within a convenient time after my death, and the other forty pounds to be paid as my debts come in due from my cousin, George Throckmorton, and others;

To Mary Wigmore, the second daughter of my said daughter, Anne, I give and bequeath all such coffers and boxes as were belonging to my daughter, Mary Throckmorton, her godmother, with such things as be in the same, and more I give to her a little cross of gold with three pearls pendent, and a set of gold buttons for a cap;

To Katherine Wigmore, her eldest sister, I give a pomander in gold with a cluster of pearls pendent;

Also as a token of my goodwill I give and bequeath to the Lady Frances Paulet a canopy for her closet of changeable taffety with a forepart to the same, and my book covered with black velvet embroidered with pearl;

To my sister Charnock I give a black gown and my best kirtle of black taffety;

To my sister Edwards I give a black gown;

To my cousin, John Charnock, I give and bequeath ten pounds in money to be paid when my debts come in, and to my cousin, his wife, I give one suit for her closet;

To Mistress Trudgeon I give all such bedding as she hath of mine in her custody;

To Mistress Norwood I give a little jewel of gold enamelled with black;

To my brother-in-law, Richard Charnock, esquire, I give a ring to be made in gold with his arms engraven thereon to the value of four marks, so that he prove my will and see it in every point performed;

To my good friend, Mr John Dirram [=Dereham?] I give a ring of gold of the like value, so that he prove my will;

To Frances Jefferies I give my best gown of black cloth;

To Mary Prowde my best petticoat;

To Margaret Dyer forty shillings in money;

To Anne Spittle I give all the apparel now in my custody which lately was here, and three and twenty shillings four pence in money;

To my old servant Davye Lloyde I give six pounds thirteen shillings four pence;

To Thomas Cooke three pounds six shillings eight pence;

To Richard, my servant, twenty shillings;

To William Kempe I forgive and release six pounds thirteen shillings four pence of the twelve pounds which he oweth me by bill of his hand;

To old John Davis, my servant, I give forty shillings, to be paid within one half year after my decease;

To my servant, Richard Sworton, I give and [f. 294r] bequeath twenty pounds in money, so that he prove my will and take pains in the execution of the same; otherwise that my gift to be void;

All the rest of my goods moveable and unmovable unbequeathed and not given I give and leave to my executors for the performance of my will, and that my will may in all points be truly and faithfully performed, my debts paid, legacies given, and my funeral discharged, I do constitute, ordain and make the honourable Lady Frances Paulet, my brother-in-law, Richard Charnock, esquire, John Dirram [=Dereham?], gentleman, and my servant, Richard Sworton, my true and lawful executors, in whom I repose and [sic] assured trust that they will, so much as in them lieth see my will and desire in every point accomplished and performed;

And if any surplusage of my goods do remain in my executors' hands, my debts first paid, legacies given, and my funeral discharged, I will that it be divided into four equal parts, whereof I will that the first part be given to my son, George Throckmorton, two other parts to the daughters of my daughter, Anne Wigmore, viz., Mary and Katherine, and the fourth part to the poor at the discretion of my executors;

In witness whereof I, the said Dame Margery Throckmorton, to this my present testament and last will written and contained in four sheets of paper here together connected have set my hand and seal the day and year above-written.

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram venerabili viro magistro Will{el}mo Lewin legum Doctore ad exercend{um} officium Magistri Custodis siue Comissarij curie Prerogatiue Cantuar{iensis} l{egi}time Deputat{o} Decimo die mensis Decembris Anno Domini millesimo quingentesimo nonagesimo primo Iuramento Iohannis Smyth notarij publici procuratoris Richardi Sworton vnus Executorum in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento nominat{orum} Cui commissa fuit administrac{i}o bonorum iuriu{m} et creditorum d{i}c{t}e Def{uncte} De bene et fideliter administrand{o} ad sancta Dei Evangelia Iurat{i} Reservata potestate similem commissionem faciend{o} Domine ffrancesce Pawlett Richardo Charnocke et Iohanni Dirram gener{oso}(?) executoribus etiam in dicto testamento nominat{is} cum ven{er}int eam petitur{is} in debita iuris forma admissur{is}

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Lewin, Doctor of the Laws, lawfully deputed to exercise the office of Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the tenth day of the month of December in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred ninety-first by the oath of John Smyth, notary public, proctor of Richard Sworton, one of the executors named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer, with power reserved for a similar grant to be made to Lady Frances Paulet, Richard Charnock, and John Dirram, gentleman, executors also named in the said

testament, when they shall have come to petition the same to be admitted in due form of law.]