

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the undated will, proved 9 August [1487] of John Lynne, grandfather of Anne Lynne, who married, as his second wife, Sir John Tyrrell (d. 28 February 1541), of Little Warley, Essex.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the Lynne pedigree, see Marshall, George, W., ed., *The Genealogist*, (London: Golding and Lawrence, 1877), Vol. I, pp. 345 at:

<https://archive.org/details/genealogist01mars/page/n723/mode/2up>

See also the Lynne pedigree in Clay, John W., ed., *The Visitation of Cambridge*, (London: Harleian Society, 1897), Vol. XLI, p. 102:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=rlf6NAbyvAYC&pg=PA102>

See also the Lynne pedigree in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Northamptonshire Made in 1564 and 1618-19*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1887), p. 35 at:

<https://archive.org/details/visitationsnort00vincgoog/page/n48/mode/2up>

A pedigree of Lynne of Exeter from 1630 confuses the children of the testator with the children of his second son, William Lynne. See Oliver, George and Pitman Jones, eds., *A View of Devonshire in MDCXXX, with a Pedigree of Most of its Gentry, by Thomas Westcote, Gent.*, (Exeter: William Roberts, 1845), p. 457 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=WJGEAAAIAAJ&pg=PA457>

Testator's parents

The testator was the son of William Lynne (d.1421), a London grocer, and his wife, Alice Stokes of Kent, who after William Lynne's death took a vow of chastity. According to Connolly, the testator's mother, Alice, died in 1480. See Connolly, Margaret, *Another Medieval London Widow: The Story of Beatrice Cornburgh*, pp. 148, 157, available online. For the wills of William Lynne, see TNA PROB 11/2B/380 and TNA PROB 11/2B/389.

Testator's siblings

According to the pedigree in Marshall, *supra*, and Connolly, *supra*, p. 148, the testator had a brother and three sisters:

-Robert Lynne, about whom nothing further is known.

-Alice Lynne (living 1490), who married John Knyvet (d. 1 January 1490), esquire, son of Sir John Knyvet (d.1445). John Knyvet (d. 1 January 1490) was the brother of the testator's wife, Joan Knyvet. See Copinger, W.A., *The Manors of Suffolk*, (Manchester: Taylor, Garnett, Evans, & Co. Ltd., 1909), Vol. 3, pp. 279-80 at:

<https://archive.org/details/manorsofsuffolkn03copiuoft/page/278/mode/2up>

-Beatrice Lynne (c.1417?-1501), who married firstly the London grocer, Thomas Oxney. She was widowed by 1461, and married secondly Avery Cornburgh (1430-1487), esquire. For his will, dated 1 February 1487 and proved 19 February 1487, see TNA PROB 11/8/17, and the transcript in King, H.W., 'Ancient Wills (No. 5)', *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society*, (Colchester: The Essex and West Suffolk Gazette Office, 1869), Vol. IV, pp. 1-24 at pp. 15-20:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=aDQGAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA16>

For the will, dated 28 December 1501 and proved 17 March 1502, of Beatrice (nee Lynne) Oxney Cornburgh, see TNA PROB 11/13/3. The will mentions Beatrice Cornburgh's 'cousins', i.e. nephews, Richard Lynne (d.1509) and William Lynne (d.1511?); her 'cousins' Sir Henry Colet, and his wife, Christian Knyvet, the daughter of John Knyvet and Alice Lynne (see above), and her 'cousins', Thomas Baynard and Dane William Baynard.

For Sir Henry Colet, see the *ODNB* entry:

Colet, Sir Henry (c. 1430–1505), merchant and mayor of London, was a younger son of Robert Colet of The Hale, Wendover, Buckinghamshire. He was apprenticed in 1446 to John Colet, mercer of London, his own elder brother. His marriage, c.1465, to Christian, daughter of Sir John Knyvet of Buckenham Castle, Norfolk, and Alice Lynn of a London merchant family, gained him important contacts at court. Highly praised by Erasmus and Polydore Vergil, Christian was to survive her husband and children—ten girls and ten boys, according to a window in St Antholin's Church—and die in 1523. The only son to survive his father was John Colet, scholar and dean of St Paul's, London.

-Margaret Lynne, who married, as his second wife, the London scribe John Shirley (d.1456), but had no surviving issue. See Connolly, *supra*, pp. 148-9.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married Joan Knyvet, the daughter of Sir John Knyvet (1394/5-1445) of Buckenham Castle, Norfolk, by Elizabeth Clifton, the daughter and heir of Sir Constantine Clifton (1372-1395), 2nd Baron Clifton. See the History of Parliament entry for Sir John Knyvet at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1386-1421/member/knyvet-sir-john-13945-1445>

Knyvet died on 9 Nov. 1445, having over the years settled most of his estates upon feoffees. His daughter, Joan, and her husband, John Lynne (d.1486/7), received the ancestral home in Southwick, but the rest of the property went to his son and heir, John, who had occupied the manors of Winwick and Great Weldon from the time of his marriage, in August 1430, to Lynne's sister, Alice. This double alliance worked greatly to the advantage of the Lynne family, especially as it was stipulated that John Knyvet the younger would lose part of his inheritance should he attempt to divorce his wife.⁵

See also Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 316 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=8JcbV309c5UC&pg=RA1-PA316>

According to the will below, the testator had two sons and four daughters by Joan Knyvet:

* **Richard Lynne** (d.1509) of Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire, gentleman, eldest son and heir. He was Vice-Chamberlain of the Household to Henry VII's mother, Lady Margaret Beaufort (1443-1509). See Jones, Michael K. and Malcolm G. Underwood, *The King's Mother: Lady Margaret Beaufort, Countess of Richmond and Derby*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992), p. 83 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=dV4NDnis7yQC&pg=PA83>

He married Alice Farrington, the daughter of Peter Farrington, by whom he was the father of Thomas Lynne of Bassingbourn, who married Joan Paris, the sister of Sir Philip Paris of Linton, Cambridgeshire. See the Lynne pedigree in Clay, John W., ed., *The Visitation of Cambridge*, (London: Harleian Society, 1897), Vol. XLI, p. 102:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=rlf6NAbyvAYC&pg=PA102>

See also the will of Sir Philip Paris, TNA PROB 11/42A/230, and the Paris pedigree in Green, Everard, 'A Pedigree of the Ancient Catholic Family of Parys of Linton in the County of Cambridge' in Clarke, A.W. Hughes, ed., *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, 5th Series, Vol. II, (London: Mitchell, Hughes and Clarke, 1916-17), pp. 123-6 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/miscellaneagenea2191bann#page/n263/mode/2up>

Richard Lynne's descendant, William Lynne (d.1589), married Elizabeth Steward (d.1654), who by her second husband, Robert Cromwell (d.1617), was the mother of Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658). See 'Parishes: Bassingbourn' below, and the *ODNB* entry for Oliver Cromwell. For the will, dated 31 December 1508 and proved 28 March 1509, of Richard Lynne, see TNA PROB 11/16/179.

* **William Lynne** (d.1511?), gentleman, second son. He married Margaret Lexham, daughter and coheir of William Lexham (d.1500) of Westgate Burnham, Norfolk. For William Lexham's daughters and coheirs, see Blomefield, Francis, *An Essay Towards a Topographical History of the County of Norfolk*, (Lynn: W. Whittingham and R. Baldwin, 1769), Vol. III, p. 747 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=yFkMAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA747>

For William Lexham, see also Richmond, Colin, 'Sir John Fastolf and the Land Market', in Harper-Bill, Christopher et al, eds., *East Anglia's History*, (Woodbridge, Suffolk: The Boydell Press, 2002), pp. 107-22 at p. 111:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=dqONjtRcVfMC&pg=PA111>

See also:

<http://www.norfolkstainedglass.org/Burnham%20Westgate/home.shtm>

According to the pedigree in Marshall, *supra*, William Lynne had three sons and seven daughters by Margaret Lexham. His eldest daughter, Audrey Lynne (d.1522), married Sir Richard Gresham (d.1485-1549), Lord Mayor of London, by whom she was the mother of Sir Thomas Gresham (c.1518-1579). See the *ODNB* entry for Sir Richard Gresham:

By about 1517 Richard Gresham felt sufficiently secure to marry Audrey (d. 1522), the daughter of William Lynne, of Southwick in Northamptonshire, with whom he had four children—John, Thomas Gresham, Christiana, who married the wealthy Sir John Thynne of Longleat, and Elizabeth.

William Lynne's second daughter, Anne Lynne, married firstly John Hopton (c.1470-1526?), a gentleman usher to Henry VIII who was appointed the first clerk controller of the navy, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/22/236, and secondly Sir John Tyrrell (d. 28 February 1541) of Little Warley, Essex, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/28/444. For the will of Anne (nee Lynne) Hopton Tyrrell, see TNA PROB 11/45/314.

For the will of William Lynne, dated 1505 and proved 1 July 1511, see TNA PROB 11/17/40. After his death, Margaret Lexham married secondly Humphrey Roos (d. 17 July 1522) of Laxton, Nottinghamshire.

* **Alice Lynne**, eldest daughter. According to the pedigree in Marshall, *supra*, she married Thomas Overton. However the Overton pedigree merely states that Thomas Overton married the 'daughter of John Linn', and it is therefore not entirely clear which of the testator's daughters married Thomas Overton. See Armytage, George John, ed., *The Visitation of the County of Rutland in the Year 1618-19*, (London: Harleian Society, 1870), Vol. III, p. 16 at:

<https://archive.org/details/visitationofcoun00camd/page/16/mode/2up>

* **Joan Lynne**, who may have died unmarried.

* **Ellen or Helen Lynne**, who may have died unmarried.

* **Anne Lynne**, who married a husband surnamed Crayford of Rainham, Essex.

TESTATOR'S LANDS

For the testator's lands in Bassingbourn, north of Royston in Cambridgeshire, including the property referred to by the testator as the Castle of Bassingbourn, see 'Bassingbourn-cum-Kneesworth: Early History' at:

<https://www.bassingbourn.org/history-and-geography/early-history/>

See also:

A P Baggs, S M Keeling and C A F Meekings, 'Parishes: Bassingbourn', in *A History of the County of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely: Volume 8*, ed. A P M Wright (London, 1982), pp. 12-30. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/cambs/vol8/pp12-30> [accessed 21 July 2020].

Richmonds manor-house . . . was empty and ruinous by 1436. (fn. 103) In 1455 the close was granted to John Lynne, whose son Richard built there a substantial new house, making fresh moats and fishponds. . . .

Richard's father John Lynne, a London merchant, had held land at Bassingbourn by 1455, (fn. 131) and, besides arranging to buy half Castle manor, left c. 70 a. there to Richard at his death in 1487. (fn. 132) Richard served the Lady Margaret as vice-chamberlain and from c. 1497 as steward of Richmonds manor. (fn. 133) He died in 1509, leaving a minor son Thomas, and devising his half-manor and lands for life to his widow Alice. (fn. 134) She soon married Anthony Malory, and held that estate with him until 1538, when it was settled on Thomas, (fn. 135) who died in 1549 leaving it to his widow Joan for life. Thomas's eldest son Philip, (fn. 136) who also acquired Seymours manor, died without lawful issue in 1557, when his heir was his brother John. (fn. 137) John Lynne bought c. 80 a. in 1580 from William Caldecote, (fn. 138) and held Castle and Seymours manors until his death in 1613. His heir, his eldest surviving son Henry,

(fn. 139) sold them with over 750 a. in 1621 to Sir Giles Alington, who possessed them in 1631, (fn. 140). . . .

Two manors at Bassingbourn, SEYMOURS and ROWSES, were later held of Stephen's honor of Boulogne. (fn. 150) William Caldecote held Seymours manor in 1539, and sold it in 1556 to Philip Lynne, (fn. 160) who devised it for life to his widow Elizabeth (d. 1576). (fn. 161)

In 1589 John Lynne settled c. 250 a., including the site of Seymours manor house, upon his eldest son William's marriage to Elizabeth Steward. (fn. 162) William, dying the same year, left c. 90 a. of it to Elizabeth in fee simple. (fn. 163) The lordship, with the reversion of the rest, remained with John Lynne, who still held it under Cheyneys manor at his death in 1613. (fn. 164) Elizabeth had c. 1591 married Robert Cromwell (d. 1617). (fn. 165) In 1625 she sold the 90 a. to Martin Perse, (fn. 166) retaining the rest, occupied in 1645 by her grandson Richard, the future Lord Protector, until her death in 1654. (fn. 167)

LM: Test{amentu}m Ioh{an}nis Lynne

In dei nomine Amen. I, John Lynne, in good mind [-in good mind] make my testament in this wise:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God and to Our Blessed Lady Virgin Mary, and to all the company of heaven;

And my body to be buried in the church of Saint Dunstan if I decease within the city of London;

Also I bequeath to my wife all the lands and tenements that I have in Gracious Street during her life;

Also I will she have such tenements at Bassingbourn the which is called Hankyn place, Hamond place, Hampton place and Bosch(?) place during her life, the remainder after her decease to my son, Richard Lynne;

Also I bequeath to Alice, my daughter, 100 mark sterling;

Also I bequeath to Joan, my daughter, £60 sterlings;

Also I bequeath to Elynne, my daughter, £60 sterlings;

Also I bequeath to Anne, my daughter, £60 sterlings;

Also I will that all my stuff of household that I have at Bassingbourn be departed between my wife and Richard, my son;

Also I will that William, my son, cause to do for me a dirge and a Mass at the College of Fotheringay, and to give the Master 6s 8d, and to every priest and clerk 12d;

Also to the vicar of Southwick for Mass and dirge 3s 4d;

Also I will that such cattle as I sent thither from Bassingbourn be saved to the behoof of my daughter, or else to pay for them as they be worth;

Also I will that my son, Richard, have to [=two?] half yard lands and a quarter lying in Bassingbourn field to him and to his heirs;

Also I will that my wife shall lay out £200 for the purchase of half the Castle of Bassingbourn to the behoof of Richard, my son;

Also I will that Richard, my son, shall pay the same a year within the space of 2 year for the marriage of Alice, Joan, Elyn and Anne, my daughters;

Also I will that William, my son, have all the lands, tenements, rents and services that I have within the county of Northampton to him and to his heirs;

The residue of all my goods I give to Joan, my wife, to dispose for me and for her after her discretion for the welfare of my soul and hers;

Also I will that my wife and my children have all the lop in Hitchin grove;

Also I make mine executors Joan, my wife, Richard Lynne and William Lynne, my sons.

Probatum fuit sup^{ra}scriptum test^{amentu}m apud Lameth nono die mensis Augusti Anno d^{omi}ni [illegible] Coram & iuramento Ric^{hard}i Spencer & Vincencij Halywoode Ciuitat^{is} London Ac approbatum & Et com^missa fuit admiⁿⁱstracⁱo o^{mn}i^um bonoru^m & Iohanne Relicte et executrici eiusd^em & De bene & Ac de pleno Inuentar^{io} & citra festum sancti Barth^{olome}i Ep^{iscop}i proximo & Necnon de plano & vero co^mpot^o calculo & Iuratⁱ &

[=The above-written testament was proved at Lambeth on the ninth day of the month of August in the year of the Lord [illegible] before etc. by the oath of Richard Spencer & Vincent Halywoode of the city of London, and probated etc., and administration was granted of all the goods etc. to Joan, relict and executrix of the same etc., sworn etc. to well etc., and a full inventory etc. before the feast of Saint Bartholomew, bishop, next etc., and also to reckon up a plain & true account etc.]

