

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the undated will, proved 9 August [1487] of John Lynne.

### ***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 at:

<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 testator's children with the children of his second son, William Lynne (d.1511?). 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>

See also:

'Southwick', in *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the County of Northamptonshire, Volume 6, Architectural Monuments in North Northamptonshire* (London, 1984), pp. 137-144. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/rchme/northants/vol6/pp137-144> [accessed 1 October 2020].

### ***Testator's parents***

The testator was the son of the London grocer, William Lynne (d.1421), and Alice Stokes of Kent. See the wills of William Lynne (d.1421), TNA PROB 11/2B/380 (goods) and TNA PROB 11/2B/389 (lands). For the testator's parents, see also:

'Folios 11-20: Nov 1423 - ', in *Calendar of Letter-Books of the City of London: K, Henry VI*, ed. Reginald R Sharpe (London, 1911), pp. 16-30. *British History Online*

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/london-letter-books/volk/pp16-30> [accessed 5 October 2020].

*Folio. 16.*

*Comptus Alicie relictæ Will'i Lynne et al'.*

*Account rendered by Alice, widow and executrix of William Lynne, grocer, and her co-executors, as enrolled among the Mayor's Memoranda, 19 Feb., A.D. 1423[-4].*

*Recognicio fc'a Cam'ar' per eosdem execut'.*

*Tuesday, the last day of February, 2 Henry VI. [A.D. 1423-4], came the above Alice, and Robert Colbroke, "irmonger," and John Bloxham her co-executors, and entered into a bond to render account to John Bederenden, the Chamberlain, when called upon.*

*Folio. 16 b.*

*1 March, 2 Henry VI. [A.D. 1423-4], came Alice, widow and executrix of William Lynne, grocer, (fn. 18) and Marion Leighton her sister, Robert Colbroke, "irmonger," John Frepurs, mercer of Bedford, and John Bloxham, co-executors with the said widow, and brought into Court the money left by her late husband to John, Robert, Margaret, Alice, and Beatrix his children.*

*Folio. 17.*

*Afterwards, viz., on the 16th March, the same year, the guardianship of John and Robert and their patrimony was committed by William Crowemere, the Mayor, the Aldermen, and John Bederenden, the Chamberlain, to Alice their mother. Sureties, viz., Robert Colbroke, "irmonger," John Sergeaunt, "armurer," and Robert Trewlove, cordwainer.*

*The same day the patrimony of Alice and Margaret, daughters of the above William Lynne, was committed to Thomas Catworth, grocer. Sureties, viz., Thomas Aleyn, mercer, William Olyver and Robert Otteley, grocers.*

*Folio. 17 b.*

*The same day the patrimony of Beatrix, daughter of the said William, was committed to William Trynnel, mercer. Sureties, viz., William Melreth, John Whateley, and John Olney, mercers.*

*Afterwards, viz., on the 19th April, 7 Henry VI. [A.D. 1429], came Thomas Oxney (who, with the assent of John Gedney, late Mayor, and of the Aldermen, had married the above Beatrix) before Henry Bartone, the Mayor, and the Aldermen, and acknowledged satisfaction for his wife's patrimony.*

The testator's mother, Alice, took a vow of chastity after the death of William Lynne, and died in 1480. See Connolly, Margaret, *Another Medieval London Widow: The Story of Beatrice Cornburgh*, pp. 148, 157, available online. See also Erler, Mary C., 'Three Fifteenth-Century Vowesses' in Barron, Caroline M. and Anne F. Sutton, eds., *Medieval London Widows 1300-1500*, (London: The Hambledon Press, 1994), pp. 164-181 at p. 180:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=uc3RLXFANoMC&pg=PA180>

### *Testator's siblings*

According to the pedigree in Marshall, *supra*, p. 349, the testator had a brother and three sisters:

**-Robert Lynne.** He may be the Robert Lynne who describes himself in his will as a citizen and woolman of London. In his will, TNA PROB 11/8/561, he mentions his wife, Julyan, and two daughters, Alice Lynne and Anne Lynne, as well as three brothers, Thomas Lynne, William Lynne and John Lynne, and 'cousins', William Lynne and Anne Lynne, who may be his nephew and niece. He appoints Thomas Stokes, grocer, as overseer.

**-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.

**-Alice Lynne** (living 1490), who married John Knyvet (d. 1 January 1490), esquire, son of Sir John Knyvet (d.1445), and brother of the testator's wife, Joan Knyvet, by whom she had a son and three daughters:

**(1) Sir William Knyvet** (d.1515), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/18/352. Sir William Knyvet married firstly Alice Grey, the daughter of John Grey, esquire, by whom he had a son, Sir Edmund Knyvet (d.1504?), who married Eleanor Tyrrell (d.1520?), sister of Sir James Tyrrell (d.1502), and three daughters, Bennet Knyvet, Anne Knyvet, who married John Thwaites, esquire, and Elizabeth Knyvet. Sir William Knyvet married secondly Joan Stafford, daughter of Humphrey Stafford, 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Buckingham, by whom he had three sons, Sir Edward Knyvet, who married Anne Calthorpe, Charles Knyvet, esquire, who married Anne Lacy, and John Knyvet, and two daughters, Elizabeth Knyvet, and Anne Knyvet, who married Charles Clifford, esquire. Sir William Knyvet married thirdly Joan Courtenay, daughter of Thomas Courtenay, 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Devon, by whom he had no issue.

**(2) Elizabeth Knyvet.**

**(3) Margery Knyvet,** who married Thomas Jenney.

**(4) Christian Knyvet,** who married, before 1467, Sir Henry Colet (d. 1 October 1505), for whom 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.*

See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 184-190, and Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 316 at:

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

See also *Illustrations of Monumental Brasses*, (Cambridge: J.T. Walters, 1846), pp. 178-9 at:

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc2.ark:/13960/t3jw8nv33&view=1up&seq=248>

See also 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>

For the testator's sister, Alice Lynne, see also the Knyvet pedigree in Vivian, J.L., ed., *The Visitations of Cornwall*, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1887), p. 272.

**-Beatrice Lynne** (c.1417?-1501), who married firstly the London grocer, Thomas Oxney. She was widowed by 1461, and married secondly Avery Cornburgh (1430 – 2 February 1487), esquire. For his will 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.

## **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), 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup>*

See also Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, for whom see his will, TNA PROB 11/16/179. Richard Lynne 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>

Richard Lynne 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, *supra*, p. 102:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=rIf6NAbyvAYC&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*, 5<sup>th</sup> Series, Vol. II, (London: Mitchell, Hughes and Clarke, 1916-17), pp. 123-6 at:

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

After the death of Richard Lynne, Alice Farrington married Anthony Malory. See TNA C 1/657/56, a Chancery suit brought by Anthony Malory and Alice, his wife, late the wife of Richard Lynne, against Gudlake Overton and Richard Waller, butcher, concerning lands at Bassingbourn.

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.

\* **William Lynne** (d.1511?), esquire, second son, who married Margaret Lexham (living 1537?), daughter of William Lexham (d.1500) of Burnham Westgate, Norfolk, by whom he is said to have had three sons and seven daughters. See his will, dated 1505 and proved 1 July 1511, TNA PROB 11/17/40. After William Lynne's death, Margaret Lexham married secondly Humphrey Roos (d. 17 July 1521) of Laxton, Nottinghamshire.

\* **Alice Lynne**, eldest daughter, unmarried when the testator made his will. 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 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>

Gudlake Overton was a defendant in TNA C 1/657/56, *supra*.

\* **Joan Lynne**, unmarried when the testator made his will.

\* **Ellen Lynne**, unmarried when the testator made his will.

\* **Anne Lynne**, unmarried when the testator made his will. According to the pedigree in Marshall, *supra*, she married a husband surnamed Crayford of Rainham, Essex, who may have been Thomas Crafford (d.1508), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/16/198. If so, the pedigree has confused her marriage with that of her sister, Alice.

### ***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;

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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<sup>ra</sup>scriptum test<sup>amentu</sup>m apud Lamethith nono die mensis Augusti Anno d<sup>omi</sup>ni [illegible] Coram & iuramento Ric<sup>hard</sup>i Spencer & Vincencij Halywoode Ciuitat<sup>is</sup> London Ac approbatum & Et com<sup>m</sup>issa fuit admi<sup>ni</sup>strac<sup>i</sup>o o<sup>mn</sup>i<sup>u</sup>m bonoru<sup>m</sup> & Iohanne Relicte et executrici eiusd<sup>e</sup>m & De bene & Ac de pleno Inuentar<sup>io</sup> & citra festum sancti Barth<sup>olome</sup>i Ep<sup>iscop</sup>i proximo & Necnon de plano & vero co<sup>m</sup>pot<sup>o</sup> calculo & Iurat<sup>i</sup> &

[=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.]