

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 18 June 1592 and proved 26 July 1592, of Henry Vernon (d. 21 June 1592) of Hilton, Staffordshire.

The testator was the son of Henry Vernon (d. 29 September 1569) and Margaret Swynnerton, the elder of the two daughters of Humphrey Swynnerton (d. 25 August 1562) by Cassandra Gifford (buried 7 January 1570), the daughter of Sir John Gifford (d. 13 November 1556), of Chillington, Staffordshire, by his first wife Joan Hoorde (d. 8 December 1481), daughter of Sir Thomas Hoorde of Bridgnorth, Shropshire. For further details of the testator's ancestry, see the will of his father, TNA PROB 11/51/409.

The testator's great-grandfather, Sir John Gifford (d. 13 November 1556), was also the father of Sir Thomas Gifford (d. 27 May 1560), who by his second wife, Ursula Throckmorton (d. 10 March 1581), the daughter of Sir Robert Throckmorton (c.1451-1518), (for whose will see TNA PROB 11/20/25), had at least nine children, including Edward Gifford, esquire, of White Ladies Priory, Staffordshire, one of the executors named in the will below. For Edward Gifford, see Smith, James Hicks, *Brewood*, 2nd ed., (Wolverhampton: William Parke, 1874), p. 18 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/brewoodresumehis00smit#page/n41/mode/2up/>.

For the Gifford family, see also:

'The parish of Church Eaton: High Onn', *Staffordshire Historical Collections*, vol. 4 (1883), pp. 52-63. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=52409>.

The testator's aunt, Elizabeth Swynnerton (d. 4 April 1616), sister of the testator's mother, Margaret Swynnerton, married firstly William Fitzherbert (d.1558), fourth son of Sir Anthony Fitzherbert (c.1470-1538), Justice of the Common Pleas (for whose will see TNA PROB 11/27/312), by whom she had two sons, the Jesuit, Thomas Fitzherbert (4 September 1552 - 7 August 1640), and Anthony Fitzherbert (who married Mary Heveningham, sister of the testator's wife, Dorothy Heveningham), and a daughter, Anne Fitzherbert, who married Sir Walter Heveningham (died c. 13 January 1536) of Pipe Hall, Staffordshire, brother of the testator's wife, Dorothy Heveningham.

Elizabeth Swynnerton married secondly, Francis Gatacre (d.1590), the testator's uncle mentioned in the will below.

See the pedigree of Gatacre in Grazebrook, George, and John Paul Rylands, eds., *The Visitation of Shropshire Taken in the Year 1623*, Part I, (London: Harleian Society, 1889), Vol. XXVIII, p. 198 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationshrop00britgoog#page/n252/mode/2up>.

See also the *ODNB* entries for Sir Anthony Fitzherbert and Thomas Fitzherbert.

Modern spelling transcript copyright ©2014 Nina Green All Rights Reserved
<http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/>

See also Swinnerton, Charles, 'Notes on the Family of Swynnerton' in Llewellynn Jewitt, ed., *The Reliquary Quarterly Archaeological Journal and Review*, (London: Bemrose & Sons), Vol. XX, 1879-80, pp. 106-8 at:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=qJs1AAAAMAAJ&pg=PA108&lpg=PA108&dq=%22Margaret+Swynnerton%22+%22George+Wynter%22&source=bl&ots=b3khssdPvF&sig=zSId4ZTYFNfOWEC6vPU4HaiJbT0&hl=en&sa=X&ei=r-7SU9n8KaP_igLs24Bw&ved=0CBwQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22Margaret%20Swynnerton%22%20%22George%20Wynter%22&f=false.

See also the History of Parliament entry for Sir John Gifford (d. 13 November 1556) at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/giffard-sir-john-146566-1556>.

For Sir Thomas Gifford (d. 27 May 1560), see his will, TNA PROB 11/43/5, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/giffard-thomas-1491-1560>.

See also the pedigree of Gifford in Maclean, John and W.C. Heane, eds., *The Visitation of the County of Gloucester Taken in the Year 1623*, (London: 1885), pp. 249-50, at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofcoun00inchit#page/250/mode/2up>.

For the testator's brothers and sisters, see the will of his father, Henry Vernon (d. 29 September 1569), TNA PROB 11/51/409.

The testator married Dorothy Heveningham (died c.1635), the daughter of Christopher Heveningham (died c.1573) of Aston, Staffordshire, and Dorothy (nee Stanley) (d.1587), and granddaughter of Erasmus Heveningham (c.1515-c.1560), fifth son of Sir John Heveningham (d. 5 August 1536) of Heveningham, Suffolk, and Alice Shelton (buried 6 October 1540), daughter of Sir Ralph Shelton (c. January 1431 – 16 July 1497). Dorothy Heveningham was thus distantly related, through the Sheltons, to Queen Anne Boleyn. For the will of Sir John Heveningham, see TNA PROB 11/25/561. For the Heveningham family, see also:

<http://www.genealogy.com/users/s/t/l/Rosemary-St-legermay-Surrey/FILE/0018page.html>.

See also:

<http://www.genealogy.com/users/s/t/l/Rosemary-St-legermay-Surrey/FILE/0016page.html>.

Modern spelling transcript copyright ©2014 Nina Green All Rights Reserved

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

As noted above, Dorothy Heveningham was the sister of Mary Heveningham, wife of the testator's first cousin, Anthony Fitzherbert.

By Dorothy Heveningham, the testator had an only daughter and heir, Margaret Vernon (d. 3 January 1656), who married Sir Edward Vernon (d.1657). See Armytage, George J. and W. Harry Rylands, eds., *Staffordshire Pedigrees*, (London: Harleian Society, 1912), p. 228 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/staffordshireped00dugd#page/462/mode/2up>.

After the testator's death, his widow, Dorothy, married secondly, in 1594, Sir Henry Townshend (d. 8 December 1621), Justice of Chester. For his will, see TNA PROB 11/138/558).

See also the will of the testator's wife, Dorothy (nee Heveningham) Vernon Townshend, dated 11 July 1635, TNA PROB 11/170/105.

For a lawsuit concerning the farm of Hazlebadge near Tideswell, Derbyshire, brought by the testator's widow, Dorothy (nee Heveningham), and her second husband, Sir Henry Townshend (d. 8 December 1621), against the testator's elder brother, John Vernon (d.1600), see C 2/Eliz/T8/56 and:

<http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/place/1772>.

For the testator's brother-in-law, Walter Heveningham of Aston, see his will, TNA PROB 11/171/179.

The testator's kinsman and overseer, John Gifford of Chillington, would appear to have been John Gifford (d. 28 August 1613), son and heir of Sir Thomas Gifford (d. 27 May 1560), who married Joyce Leveson, and in 1575 entertained Queen Elizabeth at Chillington, but was later imprisoned as a Catholic recusant. See the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/giffard-john-1534-1613>.

LM: T{estamentum} Henrici Vernon

[f. 167v] In the name of God, Amen. The eighteenth day of June in the year of Our Lord God one thousand five hundred ninety and two, I, Henry Vernon of Hilton, esquire, sick in body but in perfect state of memory, thanks be to God, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

Modern spelling transcript copyright ©2014 Nina Green All Rights Reserved

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

First I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God, the Maker and Redeemer thereof, and my body to the earth;

Item, I will that Dorothy Vernon, my wife, shall have my whole goods, lands and leases for and during her natural life to her own use and the bringing up of the infant in her womb, which God bless;

Item, I will that it shall be lawful to the said Dorothy, my wife, after my decease to sell and cut down all such woods to the use of Thomas Parkes of Wednesbury as Stokes and Browne, my men, stand bound for the performance of;

Item, my will is that the said Dorothy, my wife, shall discharge my funeral expenses in good and convenient manner for my calling, distributing at her discretion the sum of fifty pounds to the poor for my soul;

Item, my will is that my said wife discharge all my debts which can be duly demanded, and chiefly those which are now in remembrance:

First, threescore pounds to William Marshall;

Item, five or six pounds to one Goodwife Smythe of Hampton;

Item, fifty shillings to Raphael Potter of the close of Lyche;

Item, I will that my said wife give to every household servant that now serveth, being a man, five pounds, and to every maid servant fifty shillings;

Item, I will that if my wife aforesaid hap to marry, that then Hazelbache [=Hazlebadge], together with the whole and entire sum of all such debts as are owing to me by my brother, John Vernon of Sudbury, amounting to the sum of nine hundred pounds, and also the entire sum of all such debts as are owing to me by my brother-in-law, Walter Heveningham of Aston, amounting to five hundred pounds, shall from the time of such her marriage be given into the hands of Walter Heveningham aforesaid and Edward Gifford, my kinsman, to and for the use of the foresaid infant, and that the said Walter Heveningham and Edward Gifford shall be accountable to the said infant, being a son, when he shall accomplish the full age of 21 years, of all such sums of money before mentioned, and also of all commodities and profits being due to the said infant upon the marriage of the said Dorothy Vernon, it [=its?] mother, which the said Walter and Edward shall receive of and for the said farm of Hazelbache, or being a daughter, at the time of marriage;

And if it fortune the said infant to die before the age of 21 years, being a son, or before the time of marriage, being a daughter, and the mother living, then my will is that the said Walter Heveningham and Edward Gifford shall be accountable to my said wife of all the said sums of money and other profits as aforesaid;

Item, my will is that my said infant, whether it be son or daughter, shall inherit and have all my lands and leases after the decease of my said wife as lawful heir to me, the said Henry Vernon;

And to see that this my last will and testament be observed, performed and kept, I ordain, constitute and make Dorothy Vernon, my well-beloved wife, my sole and only executrix, and John Gifford of Chillington, my kinsman, & Francis Gatacre of Gatacre, my uncle, my true and faithful overseers;

Sealed and delivered as the last will and testament of me, Henry Vernon of Hilton, esquire, in the presence of these persons whose names are under-written: Thomas Whistons, Christopher Till, Thomas Stokes and Humphrey Browne.

Probatum fuit testamentu{m} suprascriptum coram vene{rabi}li viro m{agist}ro Thoma Skevington Legum doctore Surrogato vene{rabi}lis viri D{omi}ni Will{el}mi Lewyn Legum doctoris Curie Prerogatiue Cant{uariensis} m{agist}ri Custodis siue Commissarij L{egi}time deputat{i} vicesimo sexto die mens{is} Iulij Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo Quingen{tes}imo Nonagesimo Secundo Iuramento Edwardi Willet No{ta}rij pub{li}ci procur{ato}ris Dorothee Rel{ic}t{e} et Execu{tri}c{is} Cui commissa fuit Admi{ni}strac{i}o &c De bene &c Iurat{e}

[=The above-written testament was proved before the worshipful Master Thomas Skevington, Doctor of the Laws, Surrogate of the worshipful Sir William Lewyn, Doctor of the Laws, lawfully deputed Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the twenty-sixth day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred ninety-second by the oath of Edward Willet, notary public, proctor of Dorothy, relict and executrix, to whom administration was granted etc., sworn to well etc.]