

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 20 July 1593 and proved 28 January 1598, of Sir Warham St Leger (1525?-1597), whose daughter, Anne St Leger, married Thomas Russell, overseer of the will of William Shakespeare. For the will of Thomas Russell, dated 3 October 1633 and proved 5 May 1634, see TNA PROB 11/165/424.

Much confusion has arisen from the fact that there were two individuals involved with Irish affairs in Munster named Sir Warham St Leger, one of them the testator, who died in 1597, and the other his nephew, Sir Warham St Leger, who was slain on 4 March 1600 by Hugh Maguire, Lord of Fermaugh.

The testator was the second son of Sir Anthony St Leger (d. 16 March 1559), Lord Deputy of Ireland, and Agnes Warham (d. 24 March 1559), niece of William Warham (1450?-1532), Archbishop of Canterbury, and daughter and heiress of Hugh Warham, esquire, of Croydon, Surrey, by Marian Colle, daughter of Geoffrey Colle. For the will of Sir Anthony St Leger, dated 27 October 1558 and proved 10 June 1559, see TNA PROB 11/42B/276.

The testator's elder brother, William St Leger (d.1582?) was disinherited, allegedly for his dissolute lifestyle, although his father granted him the manors of Belgar and Bilsington in Kent. Extant documents in the archives of Canterbury Cathedral concerning these manors mention William St Leger and his wife, Isabel Keyes, the daughter of Thomas Keyes (by 1524 – before 5 September 1571), Sergeant Porter to Queen Elizabeth, who without the Queen's consent married, as his second wife, Lady Mary Grey (c.1545 – 20 April 1578), who had a claim to the throne. For the pedigree of Thomas Keyes, see Sherwood, George, ed., 'Keyes, by R.J. Fynmore', *The Pedigree Register*, (London, 1907-1910), Vol. I, pp. 196–8 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/pedigreeregister01sociuoft#page/196/mode/2up>.

The Sir Warham St Leger who was slain by Hugh Maguire on 4 March 1600 was the son of William St Leger (d.1582?) and Isabel Keyes, and was thus the testator's nephew; he married Elizabeth Wrothe (d.1620), widow of Henry Davells and Captain Humphrey Mackworth. See the *ODNB* entry for the testator, and Maclean, John, *The Life and Times of Sir Peter Carew, Kt.* (London: Bell & Daldy, 1857), p. 218 at:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=5XcLAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA218&lpg=PA218&dq=%22maguire%22+%22sir+warham%22&source=bl&ots=fYFZ9KY-rn&sig=g_89XukxYseDxo-okjkTjiF7YgY&hl=en&sa=X&ei=K5gwU9CACOemygHYr4HICw&ved=0CEAQ6AEwBw#v=onepage&q=%22maguire%22%20%22sir%20warham%22&f=false.

See also:

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=80709217>.

See also Robertson, Herbert, *Stemmata Robertson et Durdin*, (London: Mitchell & Hughes, 1893-5), pp. 70-1:

<https://archive.org/stream/stemmatarobertso00robe#page/70/mode/2up>.

As well as his elder brother, William St Leger (d.1582?), the testator had a younger brother, Nicholas St Leger, who married Katherine Moyle, widow of Sir Thomas Finch, and daughter of Sir Thomas Moyle (d.1560), Speaker of the House of Commons. For the will of Sir Thomas Moyle, dated 1 August 1560 and proved 14 November 1560, see TNA PROB 11/43/593. According to Richardson, *infra*, Vol. II, p. 170, Sir Thomas Finch was Knight Marshal of the army sent to Newhaven [=Le Havre] in 1563, and was drowned on 19 March when his ship, the *Greyhound*, went aground at Rye, Sussex.

It is also said that the testator had a fourth brother, Sir Anthony St Leger (d.1613), Master of the Rolls in Ireland, who married firstly Eleanor Markham (d. 2 February 1599), daughter of Richard Markham of Sedgebrook, Lincolnshire, esquire, and secondly Mary Southwell (1566 – 19 December 1601), daughter of Francis Southwell (d.1582) by his second wife, Barbara Spencer. For Mary Southwell see the will of her father, Francis Southwell, dated 6 October 1581 and proved 9 February 1582, TNA PROB 11/64/81; and Lodge, John, *The Peerage of Ireland*, (London: J. Leathley, 1754), Vol. III, pp. 181-2 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=SGw9AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA182&lpg=PA182&dq=%22wyken%22+%22norfolk%22+%22sydney%22&source=bl&ots=toXOE91hLU&sig=13bjPtUYPu4EGZbGNmL5AboJkPc&hl=en&sa=X&ei=RoowU-6fJaThyQHPhIHQDA&ved=0CDwQ6AEwBQ#v=onepage&q=%22wyken%22%20%22norfolk%22%20%22sydney%22&f=false>.

According to Ball, however Anthony St Leger (d.1613), Master of the Rolls in Ireland, was not the testator's brother, but was instead the son of George St Leger and Thomasine Heath, the daughter of John Health of Kent; see Ball, Francis Elrington, *The Judges in Ireland 1221-1921*, (London: John Murray, 1926), Vol. 1, pp. 225-6 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=rqeSXWqKAD8C&pg=PA225&lpg=PA225&dq=%22richard+markham%22+%22st+leger%22&source=bl&ots=gm-5gk2Rqi&sig=HGN1VigiMIytHEzXOK4RsHWA7o&hl=en&sa=X&ei=Qa8wU6PzNIaCrAH72oH4Dw&ved=0CDAQ6AEwAjkK#v=onepage&q=%22richard%20markham%22%20%22st%20leger%22&f=false>.

The testator married firstly Ursula Neville (d.1575), fifth daughter of George Neville, 5th Baron Bergavenny, by his third wife, Mary Stafford, youngest daughter of Edward Stafford (1478-1521), 3rd Duke of Buckingham, by whom, according to Richardson, *infra*, he had five sons and four daughters; however only one son and one daughter by the testator's first wife, Ursula (nee Neville), can be identified with certainty:

* Anthony St Leger (d.1603) of Ulcombe and Leeds Castle, who married Mary Scott, the daughter of Sir Thomas Scott (1535 – 30 December 1594) of Scott’s Hall in Smeeth, Kent, by Elizabeth Baker, daughter of Sir John Baker (d.1489-1558) of Sissinghurst Castle in Cranbrook, Kent, Speaker of the House of Commons; after the death of Anthony St Leger in 1603, she married Sir Alexander Culpeper (d. 15 April 1636) of Wigsell, Sussex, son of Sir Alexander Culpeper of Bedgebury, Kent. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 81-3, and Vol. III, pp. 481-2.

* Anne St Leger (1555-1636), who married firstly Thomas Digges (d.1546 – 24 August 1595), and secondly Thomas Russell, the overseer of Shakespeare’s will. For details of the marriages of the testator’s daughter, Anne (nee St Leger) Digges Russell, see the *ODNB* entries for Sir Warham St Leger and Thomas Digges; the will, dated 10 June 1591 and proved 1 September 1595, of Thomas Digges of St Mary Aldermanbury, TNA PROB 11/86/204; Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 81-3, and Vol. III, pp. 481-2; Hotson, Leslie, *I, William Shakespeare, Do Appoint Thomas Russell, Esquire*, (London: Jonathan Cape, 1937), pp. 126, 132-40, 203, 210; and Palmer, Alan and Veronica, *Who’s Who in Shakespeare’s England*, (New York: St Martin’s Press, 1999), pp. 209-10, at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=6BK1Vu6pw84C&pg=PA209&dq=Thomas+Russell#v=onepage&q=Thomas%20Russell&f=false>.

According to Richardson, *supra*, the testator married secondly, Emmeline Goldwell (d.1628), by whom he is said to have had one son, Walter St Leger.

In his 1591 will the testator’s son-in-law, Thomas Digges, leaves bequests of £50 apiece to his ‘brothers’, George St Leger and William St Leger, who are otherwise unidentified, but appear to have been sons of Sir Warham St Leger.

For the testator’s inquisition post mortem, see TNA C 142/248/40.

LM: T{estamentum} D{omi}ni Warham Seintleger mil{it is}

In the name of God, Amen. The twentieth day of July in the year of Our Lord God one thousand five hundred ninety-three I, Sir Warham St Leger, knight, being (God be praised) healthful in body and of a sound mind and perfect memory, resolutely purposing by God’s permission to pass into England for dispatch of some urgent affairs, knowing the unavoidable necessity of death and the uncertainty of the time thereof, and naturally willing and inclining to provide for the state of the Lady Emblen [=Emmeline] St Leger, my wife, do make and ordain this my last will and testament as followeth, that is to say:

First I commend my soul into the hands & merciful protection of the eternal and incomprehensible God, my Maker and Redeemer, hoping assuredly through the only merits of Jesus Christ, my Saviour, to be made a blessed partaker of life everlasting;

And I commend my body, when God shall appoint my time to be dissolved and to be with Christ, unto the earth whereof it was made;

Item, whereas Anthony St Leger of Ulcombe in the county of Kent, esquire, my son and heir apparent, on the eleventh day of April in the one and twentieth year [=1579] of the reign of our Sovereign Lady the Queen that now is before our said Sovereign Lady the Queen in her Chancery in England did personally appear and acknowledged himself to owe unto me, the said Sir Warham St Leger, by the name of Warham St Leger, his father, of Leeds Castle in the said county of Kent, knight, one thousand marks of good and lawful money of England to be paid to me, the said Sir Warham St Leger, or to my certain attorney in that behalf or to my heirs, executors & assigns on the feast of Easter next after the date of the said recognizance, and except the said Anthony St Leger should perform the same he willed and granted by the said recognizance for him, his heirs, executors and administrators that the said money should be levied of his lands, tenements, goods and chattels to the use and behoof of me, the said Sir Warham St Leger, my heirs, executors and administrators wheresoever they should be found within the realm of England;

And whereas the condition of the said recognizance was concerning the jointure of such woman as should happen to be the wife of me, the said Sir Warham, at the time of my death, as by the said condition and by the true intent thereof may more at large appear, now therefore by this my last will & testament I do constitute, ordain and make the Lady Emblen St Leger, being at this present my wife, my sole and only executrix of and concerning the said recognizance of one thousand marks as before acknowledged by the said Anthony St Leger;

And my will is that the said Lady Emblen St Leger solely and only shall have the disposition of the said recognizance, and that she solely and only shall have power to sue an action upon the said recognizance, and power to recover the said sum, and the same to retain to her own use and behoof or otherwise to have execution thereof;

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first above-written. Warham St Leger.

Signed & sealed as the last will and testament of the said Sir Warham for and touching the said recognizance, in witness whereof these underwritten have set their hands. William Moyle, Thomas Smithe.

Probatum fuit Testamentu{m} suprascript{um} apud London coram venerabili viro M{agist}ro Will{el}imo Lewin legum Doctore Cur{ie} prerogat{iue} Cant{uariensis} Mag{ist}ro Custode siue Commissario l{egi}time constituto Vicesimo Octauo die mensis Ianuarij Anno Domini iuxta cursum et computationem ecclesie Anglicane Millesimo Quingentesimo Nonagesimo Septimo Iuramento Anthonij Calton notarij publici

procuratoris Domine Emblene Sentleger Relicte dicitur et Executricis &c
Cui comissa fuit administratio quoad disposicionem tantum statuti siue
recognicionis in dicto Testamento mencionat De bene et fideliter administrando
eadem &c Ad sancta Dei Evangelia Iurat

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Lewin, Doctor of the Laws, lawfully constituted Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the twenty-eighth day of the month of January in the year of the Lord according to the course and reckoning of the English church the thousand five hundred ninety-seventh by the oath of Anthony Calton, notary public, proctor of Lady Emmeline St Leger, relict of the said deceased and executrix etc., to whom administration was granted with respect only to the disposition of the statute or recognizance mentioned in the same testament, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same etc.]