

SUMMARY: The document below is an entry in the notebook of Oxford's auditor and maternal uncle, George Golding. The entry states that Oxford's wedding took place on 16 December 1571 at Whitehall, and that it was a double wedding at which Oxford married Anne Cecil, while Edward Somerset (c.1550-1628), then styled Lord Herbert, later 4th Earl of Worcester, married Elizabeth Hastings (d.1621).

The circumstances of this double wedding are highly unusual in that Elizabeth Hastings was one of the two sisters of Henry Hastings (c.1536?-1595), 3rd Earl of Huntingdon, to whom Oxford had been contracted in marriage at the age of twelve by an indenture made on 1 July 1562 between his father, the 16th Earl of Oxford, and the 3rd Earl of Huntingdon (see HL HAP o/s Box 3(19)).

When Oxford became the Queen's ward after his father's death on 3 August 1562, the Queen failed to uphold the marriage contract which had been made for him by his father, nor did she offer him a marriage, as his legal guardian, at any time while he was under age.

Oxford appointed George Golding as his receiver on 14 January 1572, and as one of a council of six officers on 17 September 1580 (see ERO D/Drg 2/27). By fines dated 16 April 1580 and 22 May 1581, Oxford transferred clear title to his manors of Waltons and Netherhall in Essex to George and Mary Golding (see CP 25/2/131/1677/22ELIZIEASTER, Item 36 and CP 25/2/131/1682/23ELIZITRIN, Item 31).

For George Golding, see also the will of his father, John Golding (d. 28 November 1547), TNA PROB 11/32/177, and the will of his widow, Mary (d. 25 April 1612), TNA PROB 11/119/379.

John Stype's *A Survey of the Cities of London and Westminster* records the monument to Mary and George Golding and Mary's mother, Anne Bartelet, in the church of St Stephen in Coleman Street. See:

https://www.dhi.ac.uk/strype/TransformServlet?page=book3_060

In this Isle lye the bodies of George Golding Esquire, buried the 27 day November, 1584 and of Anne Bartelet, Widdow, buried 12 day of June, 1596. and of Mary Golding, Widdow, late Wife of the said George, and Daughter of the said Anne, buried the 29 of April, 1612. by her said Husband and Mother, according to her owne desire. She lived a Widdow 28 yeeres, religiously to God, hospitably to her Friends, and charitably to all, especially to poore Widdowes: And deceased the 25 day of April, 1612. being then 79 yeeres of age'.

The spelling in the transcript below has been modernized from the original spelling transcript in Nelson, Alan H., *Monstrous Adversary*, (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2003), pp. 74-5.

Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxenford, did the 16th day of December 1571 anno xiiijto Regine Elizabeth marry the Lady his wife named Anne Cecil, one of the daughters of Sir William Cecil, knight, Lord of Burghley, at the court then being at Whitehall by Westminster. The same day, year and place the Lord Herbert, son and heir of the Earl of Worcester, did marry the Lady Hastings, sister to Henry, Earl of Huntingdon.