

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 15 November 1558 and proved 23 December 1559, of Giles Brewes, nephew of Elizabeth (nee Scrope) Beaumont de Vere (d.1537), Countess of Oxford, second wife of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford. For her will, see TNA PROB 11/27, ff. 84-6.

The Countess' sister, Jane Scrope, married Thomas Brewes (d.1514), of Little Wenham, Suffolk, son of Robert Brewes of Little Wenham (d. 7 December 1513) and Katherine Wingfield (d.1525), the daughter of Sir John Wingfield (d. 10 May 1481) of Letheringham and his wife Elizabeth FitzLewis (b. about 1426, d.1500?), and grandson of Sir Thomas Brewes (d. 17 June 1482) of Little Wenham, Suffolk, and his second wife, Elizabeth Debenham (d.1503). Jane Scrope and Thomas Brewes (d.1514) had three children: Sir John Brewes (b. 13 December 1512, d. 13 February 1585) of Little Wenham, Suffolk; the testator, Giles Brewes (d.1558/9) of Denton, Norfolk; and Ursula, a nun at Denny, buried at Little Wenham 9 December 1598. For the foregoing, see the Brewes pedigree in Crisp, Frederick Arthur, *Fragmenta Genealogica*, Vol. VIII (Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, 1996), pp. 57-60, available online; the discussion of the Brewes family in Moreton, C.E., *The Townshends and Their World* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1992), pp. 95-100; the will of Elizabeth (nee Debenham) Brewes (d.1503), TNA PROB 11/13, ff. 150-1; and the will of Thomas Brewes (d.1514), TNA PROB 11/18, f. 29.

The Countess remembered her sister, and her nephews and niece in her will:

Item, I give and bequeath to my sister, Jane Brewes, a basin and an ewer chased gilt of the oldest sort, weighing five score and 6 ounces, having my Lord of Oxenford[']s arms in the bottom of the basin; item, a great goblet with the cover of silver, parcel-gilt, weighing 31 ounces, graven with crankettes and mullets, which she lately gave me after the chance of fire; item, my cross of gold ragged which was my father's, accustomedly worn about my neck; item, a trussing bed of black velvet and scarlet cloth engrained paned, embroidered with letters of cloth of gold and black velvet, a counterpoint of the same, one featherbed with a bolster, 2 pillows, 2 pair of sheets of 2 breadths dimidium, and one pair of fustians.

Item, I give and bequeath my nephew, John Brewes, my cross of gold with the Five Wounds and a flower-de-luce of diamonds.

Item, I give and bequeath to my nephew, Giles Brewes, a standing cup of silver and gilt with a cover, newly made, weighing 24 ounces dimidium, dimidium quarter.

I give and bequeath to Dame Ursula Brewes, my niece, to pray for my soul, 40s in money.

After his father's death, the testator's brother became the ward of his father's uncle, (b. in or before 1469, d. 1525). The testator was also in the care of Sir Richard Wingfield, as indicated in these clauses from the latter's will (see TNA PROB 11/22, ff. 20-22:

Item, I will also that mine executors shall have the custody of all such manors, lands and tenements and other hereditaments which I have now in my hands or hereafter shall come or fall by reason of the nonage of my nephew, John Brewes, with the marriage of the same without disparagement, and shall receive yearly the profits and revenues of the same by all such time as the custody thereof might have remained in my hands by virtue of the King's letters patents thereof to me made, with all such advantages and profits as in the same letters patents be expressed and contained, to th' use of and for the performance of this my last will and testament.

Provided always that mine executors during the nonage of my said nephew, John Brewes, and as long as the said manors, lands and tenements shall or might remain in their hands, shall yearly pay unto my sister, Katherine, at the feasts of Saint Michael th' Archangel and Easter forty pounds by even portions of the revenues and profits of the said manors, lands and tenements, provided also that whensoever my said sister, Katherine, die, then the said annuity of £40 to cease and continue no lenger.

Item, I will that the said Dame Bridget, my wife, shall have the governance and keeping of all my children and of my said nephew and his brother, Giles, trusting that she will see them virtuously brought up and found to school and learning.

For the will, dated 1 August 1582 and proved 22 February 1585, of the testator's brother, Sir John Brewes (b. 13 December 1512, d. 13 February 1585), see TNA PROB 11/68, ff. 72-3.

The testator married Mary, the daughter of Robert Forth of Hadleigh, Suffolk, esquire. See Crisp, Frederick Arthur, *Fragmenta Genealogica*, Vol. VIII (Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, 1996), pp. 57-60, available online.

LM: Testamentum Egidij Bruse

In the name of God, Amen. The 15th day of November in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred fifty and eight, I, Giles Brewes of Denton in the county of Norfolk and within the diocese of Norwich, being sick of body and of good memory, praised be God, make and declare this to be my will and testament in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to God the Father Almighty, and to his only Son, Jesus Christ, my Redeemer, and my body to be buried within the churchyard behind the window of the chancel of the parish of Denton;

Item, I give unto Mary, my wife, all my lands both free and bond lying and being within the parish of Denton and Hawkepes for term of her life natural;

Also I do give and bequeath unto the said Mary, my wife, a piece of ground called Lampe Acre lying in marsh meadow, to her and to her assigns forever;

Also I give unto my said wife all my other lands lying in the said marsh meadow free and bound which I late purchased of Master Hollande and John Fuller, to her and her assigns forever;

Also I do more give unto my said wife a piece of land which I purchased of Master Gawdie lying in Denton, and also a certain piece of land lying in Denton aforesaid holden by copy court roll of Sir John Brewes, my brother, to her and to her assigns forever;

Item, I do give unto my said wife all my implements of household, that is to say, household stuff, and after her decease I will that the said stuff of household that is left be equally divided between my said children then being alive;

Also I do give unto my said wife all my corn and cattle both within and without at this present day, and all my plate not bequeathed, to do withal what she will;

Item, I do give unto Eleanor, my eldest daughter, a goblet of silver with a cover parcel gilt wrought with mullets and rackes;

Also I do more give [-more] unto my daughter, Eleanor, twenty old rials and 20 old angels;

Item, I do give and bequeath unto Jane, my daughter, a little salt covered double gilt with an I [=J?] and a B wrought upon the covering of the said salt, and also a goblet of silver parcel gilt wrought with mullets and rackes without a covering;

Item, I do give to the said Jane a silver spoon with an I and a B;

Item, I do give unto the said Jane, my daughter, 20 old rials;

Item, I do give unto Katherine, my daughter, a goblet of silver parcel gilt wrought with mullets and rackes, and a pot with a cover double gilt, and 20 old rials;

Item, I do give unto Mary, my daughter, a standing salt with a covering thereto belonging double gilt, and a silver spoon with an M and a B, and also a chain of fine gold having in number of links on the same chain eight score and ten links;

Also, if it fortune that any of my said children will not fear God and be ruled by their mother, then let my said wife use the matter as she will;

Also if it fortune that any of my said children do depart this world before they be married, that then I will the part or parts of them deceased be equally and indifferently divided amongst them that shall live and be married;

Item, I do give unto Ursula Brewes, my sister, five marks of good & lawful money of England, whereof I will that my wife pay unto my said sister within one month after my decease 26s 8d of English money as parcel of the said 5 marks;

Also I give unto my said sister a pot of red beryl glass with a foot and a cover of silver and gilt, and the second pair of sheets within my coffer, and I will that my wife do pay unto my said sister, Ursula, forty shillings in English money at the feast of the Annunciation of Our Lady next after the date hereof for the whole contentation and payment of the five marks aforesaid;

Item, I do give unto my nephew, Thomas Brewes, a ring of fine gold with a lion upon it;

Item, I do give to William Brewes, my godson, my coat of black velvet with a lace of gold;

Item, I give to Robert Brewes, my nephew, a coat of tawny satin with a guard of tawny velvet;

Item, I do give unto Jane Brewes, my god-daughter, half an angel of gold;

Item, I do give unto Thomas, my servant, a coat of marble and my cloak of marble, and my best black hose or my tawny hose, or which my wife [-wife] will, and my white fustian doublet stitched with [-with] red thread that I bought at London, and 20s in English money;

To Hugh Selcumber(?), my servant, my russet coat and 3s 4d in money;

Item, I do give to Margaret Cuttes, my servant, 6s 8d of English money;

Item, I do give to Annis Blande 6s 8d;

Item, I do give to John Pitt, my servant, 5s in gold;

Item, I do give to Richard Corbin of Alburgh an old angel of gold;

Item, I do give unto the poor people in Denton, that is to say, Robert's(?) house, Baldwin and Widow Hawthorn, to either of them 12d to every house;

Item, I do give to the poor people in Harleston 3s 8d;

Item, I do give to the poor in Alburgh & Wortwell 3s 4d;

Item, I do give unto the poor in Homersfield to ring and pray for [+me] there at my burial day 2s 3d;

Unto this my last will and testament I ordain and make to be my executors my trusty and well-beloved Sir John Brewes, my brother, William Forde, esquire, my brother-in-law, and Mary, my wife, they to have for their pains:

First, I give unto my brother, Sir John Brewes, my jack with white satin, and my steel cap, and to my brother Forde a gold ring with a ruby, they to do such godly works for me and all my friends as may be most pleasure unto Almighty God, to whom be all honour and glory, Amen;

These being witnesses to this my last will and testament: Thomas Leman, my servant, John Pitt, my servant, and Robert Mylles, and other;

But I will have neither executors nor other to meddle with the sale of anything nor with the keeping of it but only my wife.

Probatum fuit huiusmodi Testamentum coram Magistro Waltero Haddon Legum Doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cantuariensis Custode siue Commissario ibidem iam apud London vicesimo tercio die Mensis Decembris Anno Domini millesimo quingentesimo quinquagesimo nono Iuramento Christofori Smyth notarij publici procuratoris Marie Relicte et executricis in huiusmodi Testamento nominate Cui commissa fuit administracio &c de bene etc ac de pleno Inventario Necnon de vero et plano Computo Reddendo Ad sancta dei Evangelia Iurate Reseruata potestate Iohanni Brewse milliti et Willelmo fforde Executoribus etiam cum venerint

[=The same testament was proved before Master Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws, now Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury there, at London on the twenty-third day of the month of December in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-ninth by the oath of Christopher Smyth, notary public, proctor of Mary, relict and executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., and to render a full inventory and also a true and plain account, with power reserved to John Brewes, knight, and William Forde, also executors, when they shall have come.]