

SUMMARY: The document below is the last will and testament, dated 21 November 1572, of Oxford's maternal uncle, Edmund Golding, half-brother of Oxford's mother, Margery Golding. It would appear that Edmund Golding was rector of St Augustine's, Birdbrook for less than two years. He was appointed by the Queen in February 1571, and died between the making of his will on 21 November 1572 and probate of the will on 29 January 1573.

RM: Testamentum Edmondi Goldinge clerici

In the name of God, Amen. The 21st of November in the 15th year [=21 November 1572] of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., I, Edmund Golding, minister of Birdbrook in the county of Essex, though weak in body yet strong and perfect in mind and understanding, do willingly and with free heart render into th' hands of the Lord my God my spirit which he of his fatherly goodness hath given unto me, making me thereby a living creature, nothing doubting but that my Lord God for his mercy's sake set forth towards me in the precious blood of his dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our alone Saviour and Redeemer, he will receive my spirit and soul into his eternal glory and place it in the company of his blessed angels and saints;

As for my body also I do with like goodwill give it over, committing it to the earth whereof it came, nothing doubting but to receive the same again at the latter day;

As concerning all my worldly things wherewith God hath blessed and endued me, I do thereof make my last will and testament briefly in manner and form as followeth, viz.:

I do give and bequeath to Sara Golding, my true and lawful wife, all my goods, chattels, moveables and unmoveables whatsoever lying and being within the parish of Birdbrook or elsewhere within the realm of England, as also all debts and duties owing me by any persons whatsoever, either by way of bill, obligation or otherwise howsoever;

Executrix of this my last will and testament I do only make my said wife, Sara Golding, and supervisor thereof I do constitute and appoint my brother, William Golding of Tilbury;

In witness whereof I have written this my will and testament with mine own hand the day and year first above specified. By me, Edmund Golding, these being witnesses: John Mortlacke, Thomas Coo, William Fitch.

Probatum fuit huiusmodi testamentum coram dilecto nostro magistro Willelmo Drewrye Legum Doctore Curie Prerogative Cantuariensis Commissario apud London vicesimo

nono die mensis Januarij Anno Domini Millesimo Quingentesimo Septuagesimo secundo Iuramento Edwardi Orwell notarij publici procuratoris Sarae Relicte ex [sic?] executrici in huiusmodi testamento nominate Cui commissa fuit Administrando &c De Bene &c Necnon &c Iurate

[=The same testament was proved before our beloved Master William Drury, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the twenty-ninth day of the month of January in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred seventy-second [=29 January 1573] by the oath of Edward Orwell, notary public, proxy of Sara, relict, ex [sic] executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted etc., sworn to well etc., and also etc.]