

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 26 November 1592 and proved 7 May 1593, of Robert Spring of Icklingham, Suffolk, whose first wife, Joan Forster, was the stepdaughter of Oxford's uncle, Henry Golding.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Testator's great-grandparents

The testator was the great-grandson of the wealthy clothier, Thomas Spring III (d.1523) of Lavenham, Suffolk, by his first wife, Anne King of Boxford, Suffolk. The testator's great-grandfather, Thomas Spring III (d.1523), and John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford, were major benefactors of the Church of St Peter and St Paul in Lavenham. See:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/church_gallery_03.shtml

For the will of the testator's great-grandfather, see TNA PROB 11/21/179.

Testator's grandparents

The testator was the grandson of Robert Spring (1502 – 3 or 20 April 1549?) of Lavenham, and Anne Eden (d.1557?). For the will of the testator's grandfather, see TNA PROB 11/32/437.

Testator's parents

The testator was the eldest son of Thomas Spring (d.1557) of Pakenham, Suffolk, and Julyan Fayrey, daughter and heir of John Fayrey, mercer and Merchant of the Staple at Calais. For the will, dated 15 January 1557 and proved 5 February 1557, of the testator's father, see TNA PROB 11/39/50. For the will of the testator's grandfather, John Fayrey, dated 16 August 1540 and proved 14 October 1541, see TNA PROB 11/28/603.

For the testator's family background, see also Corder, Joan, ed., *The Visitation of Suffolk, 1561, Part I*, (London: Harleian Society, 1981), pp. 32-3.

See also the Spring pedigree in Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *The Visitation of Suffolke*, Vol. I, (Lowestoft: Samuel Tymms, 1866), p. 168 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ExI2AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA168>

For the testator's family background, see also Copinger, W.A., *The Manors of Suffolk: The Hundreds of Babergh and Blackbourn*, (London: T. Unwin Fisher, 1905), p. 198 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/manorsofsuffolkn01copiuoft#page/198/mode/2up>

Rowheads alias Roushedges Manor

It is found that trustees were seised of this tenement to the use of Thomas Spryng who died the 28 September 1486, and that Thomas Spryng aged 30 years was his son and heir. In subsequent times however it is frequently referred to as a manor. Thomas Spring called the "Rich Clothier of Lavenham" was the Spring who built two chapels in Lavenham Church and a good part of the steeple. He died in 1523, when the manor passed to his son and heir Sir John Spring. Three years before his death he disposed of the manor to his brother Robert Spring who married Ann daughter of Thomas Eden of London and died seised the 20th April 1549, when it passed to his son and heir Thomas Spring then 30 years of age. Thomas Spring married 1st Julian d. and h. of John Fayrye who died Sheriff of London, and 2^{ndly} a daughter of Appleton of Waldingfield, and according to the Davy MSS. held this manor being succeeded by his son and heir Robert Spring. It seems pretty clear however that the manor did not pass to this last Robert Spring, for before the year 1575 it had vested in Stephen Spring 6th son of Robert Spring and came to him either on the death of his father Robert in 1549 or of his brother Thomas, for in this year 1575 Stephen disposed of the manor to Sir William Cordell. No doubt the sale was made as Stephen Spring had an only daughter as heir Elizabeth married to George Kempe of Swasye in Cambridgeshire.

MARRIAGES AND CHILDREN

Testator's first marriage

The testator married firstly, as her second husband, Joan Forster (d. before 20 March 1576?), one of the two daughters and coheirs of George Forster (d.1556) by Alice Cloville Tyrrell Forster Golding, whose third husband was Oxford's maternal uncle, Henry Golding (d.1576). For the will of Henry Golding, see TNA PROB 11/59/98.

For Joan Forster's first marriage to Henry Peryent, by whom she had a son, Thomas Peryent (d.1612), esquire, and a daughter, Mary Peryent (buried 19 April 1631), see the will of her grandfather, Robert Forster, TNA PROB 11/39/125.

For the testator's first wife, Joan Forster, see also Golding, Louis, *An Elizabethan Puritan: Arthur Golding the Translator of Ovid's Metamorphoses and also of John Calvin's Sermons*, (New York: Richard R. Smith, 1937), pp. 163, 235-7, 284.

Testator's second marriage

The testator married secondly Anne Hogan, the sister of Thomas Hogan (1521-1586). See Swales, R.J.W., 'Local Politics and the Parliamentary Representation of Sussex 1529-1558', Vol. 2, pp. 252-3, available as a pdf file online.

See also the History of Parliament entry for Thomas Hogan at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/hogan-%28huggen-huggins%29-thomas-1521-86>

See also the History of Parliament entry for Sir Richard Fowler at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/fowler-john-1520-75>

b. by 1520, 1st s. of Sir Richard Fowler (d. 13 Aug. 1528), of Hambleton, Bucks. and Rycote, Oxon. by 2nd w. Julian, da. of Sir John Shaa of London. m. by Aug. 1551, Anne, at least 1s.1

By his first wife, Joan Forster, the testator had at least one son:

* **William Spring.** In her will, dated 26 May 1585 and proved 4 April 1587, TNA PROB 11/70/187, the testator's mother-in-law, Alice Forster Tyrrell Golding, bequeathed £50 to the testator's eldest son and heir, William Spring:

I will and bequeath unto William Spring, the son and heir of Robert Spring of Icklingham in the county of Suffolk, esquire, and the son of Jane, my daughter, late his wife, deceased, fifty pounds of lawful money of England, to be paid out of the profits and commodities of all the lands, rents, fee-farms, pensions and commodities whatsoever lying and being in Little Birch and Great Birch or elsewhere in the said county of Essex which I late bought of the foresaid Robert Spring, his father, during his natural life, if the said Robert Spring do so long live . . .

As William Spring is the only child of the testator mentioned in the will of Alice Forster Tyrrell Golding, mother of the testator's first wife, Joan Forster, it appears that the testator's other children mentioned in the will below were his children by his second wife, Anne Hogan:

* **Thomas Spring,** second son(?). In the will below the testator refers to Thomas Spring as his eldest son and heir:

. . . until Thomas, my eldest son, shall or such one other of my children whom Almighty God shall appoint to be my next heir shall attain and come unto his age of four and twenty years.

It thus appears that William Spring, mentioned in the will of his grandmother, Alice Cloville Tyrrell Forster Golding, predeceased the testator, and that the testator's second son, Thomas Spring, became the testator's heir.

* **Robert Spring**, referred to by the testator in the will below as one of his younger sons.

* **William Spring**, referred to by the testator in the will below as one of his younger sons.

* **Nicholas Spring**, referred to by the testator in the will below as one of his younger sons.

* **Francis Spring**, referred to by the testator in the will below as one of his younger sons.

* **Edward Spring**, referred to by the testator in the will below as one of his younger sons.

* **Dorothy Spring**.

* **Anne Spring**.

* **unborn child** mentioned in the will below.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

In the will below the testator leaves a bequest to his uncle, John Spring, for whom see the will of the testator's grandfather, Robert Spring (1502 – 3 or 20 April 1549?), TNA PROB 11/32/437.

In the will below the testator leaves a bequest to his 'sister Wolnaughe'. The testator's will was witnessed by James Wolnaghe, perhaps the husband of the testator's 'sister Wolnaghe'. For the Woolnough family, see:

<http://mauriceboddy.org.uk/Woolno.htm>

The testator appoints as supervisor his 'cousin, Sir William Spring', who was in fact a first cousin of the testator's father, Thomas Spring (d. 1557).

On 19 February 1583, Sir William Spring purchased Oxford's manor of Earls Hall. See TNA C 54/1171, Part 25.

For Hogan Jewell (baptized 8 August 1568), son of Thomas Jewell and his wife, Dorothy Huggon(?), who witnessed the testator's will, see Muskett, Joseph James, *Suffolk Manorial Families*, Vol. II, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1908), p. 44 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=1U1fv9pQA1UC&pg=PA44>

RM: T{estamentum} Roberti Springe

In the name of God, Amen. The six and twentieth day of November in the five and thirtieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth the Queen etc., I, Robert Spring, late of Icklingham in the county of Suffolk, being at this instant whole of mine and of good and perfect remembrance, praised be to God, do ordain, constitute and make this my last will and testament, and thereby revoking and disannulling all former wills and testaments whatsoever by me before this time made and declared, in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my Saviour and Redeemer, in whom I only trust to be saved by the merits of the passion of his dear Son, Jesus Christ, assuredly believing thereby to have perfect remission of all my sins;

And my body to be buried in the chancel or [sic] parish church of Icklingham abovesaid or else where it shall please God to call me to his mercy;

And for the quiet stay of Anne, my lawful wife, and the education and bringing up of my children in the fear of Almighty God and obedience of their prince and parents, and for the better execution and performance of this my last will and testament and payment of my debts and legacies herein contained, my will and mind is that the said Anne, my wife, shall perceive, receive and have the revenues and profits of two parts of all my messuages, manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments with th' appurtenances, in three parts to be divided, situate, lying and being or extending within the towns and fields of Icklingham St James and Icklingham All Saints, Lakenheath, Lackford, Stow, Elden [=Elveden?], Eriswell, Mildenhall and Barton or any of them in the said county of Suffolk, by what name soever the same or any of them be called or known, for and during the term of fourteen years next after my decease, or if need shall so require, until Thomas, my eldest son, shall or such one other of my children whom Almighty God shall appoint to be my next heir shall attain and come unto his age of four and twenty years;

And after that I will the same to go, be and remain to such persons, uses and intents as hereafter in this my present last will and testament is set down and appointed, that is to say, as well in recompense of the thirds of all my manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments aforesaid which by the laws of this realm the said Anne, my wife, is to have after my decease, or otherwise of such jointure as heretofore I have promised or otherwise stand bound to assure unto her for term of her life, that my said wife at her choice shall have after the end and expiration of the said fourteen years, or after such time as my said son, Thomas, or other next heir as is aforesaid, shall have accomplished and come to his aforesaid age of four and twenty years, all that my said capital messuage, site and mansion house and all other the houses, edifices and buildings thereunto belonging with the moiety and half part of all my said manors, lands, tenements and

hereditaments in Icklingham and other towns before remembered, which moiety and half part of all my said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments shall be set out of all my said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments next adjoining and most convenient to be used with the said capital messuage or site aforesaid, the same at the end of the said fourteen years or age of four and twenty years of my said next heir to be agreeable then set out and divided by their mutual consents and agreements or otherwise by the consideration and advice of two indifferent friends to be by them then to be chosen, my said wife to have and enjoy the said moiety and half part of all my said manors, lands and tenements together with the said chief house during her natural life to her and her assigns without let or interruption of the said Thomas, my son, or other next heir, she maintaining and keeping the same in good and convenient reparations and paying and discharging yearly the one half of the out rents issuing or going out of the same premises;

And I will that [+if?] my said wife shall be disturbed by my said son, Thomas, or other next heir at any time hereafter so as he [sic for 'she'?] shall not or may not quietly enjoy the said moiety and half part of all the said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments before remembered together with my chief house according to my intent and meaning herein expressed during her natural life, that then my mind is and I do will that the said Anne, my wife, shall have and enjoy two parts of all my said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments aforesaid in three parts to be divided with my said chief house for and during the term of her natural life, she maintaining and doing as is aforesaid;

And I will that my said wife shall further, between the age of one and twenty years and four and twenty years of him that shall be my next heir, pay the sum of forty marks of lawful money of England by year at two usual terms, viz., at the feast of the Annunciation of Our Lady St Mary the Virgin and St Michael th' Archangel beginning at one of the said feasts which shall first happen after his said full age of one and twenty years until he shall come to his age [f. 214v] [+of?] four and twenty years as aforesaid, and at her like charges shall find him sufficient and convenient meat, drink and lodging for himself and one man, with sufficient horse-meat and stable room for two geldings during the said time;

And I will, give and bequeath unto my said son, Thomas, and his heirs forever the moiety and other half part of all my said manors, lands and tenements in Icklingham aforesaid, to be set out, severed and divided at his said age of four and twenty years as aforesaid;

And two geldings (price twenty pounds) to be delivered unto him at his age of one and twenty years, together with one thousand sheep, with six horses, geldings or mares for the plough and cart, and threescore coombs of rye and threescore coombs [+of?] barley for seed for his lands;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Robert, William, Nicholas, Francis and Edward, my younger sons, to every of them the sum of one hundred pounds of lawful money of England;

And also the child that my wife is now withal, if it shall happen to be a man-child, then I will that the same child to have the like part and portion as before given to every of the residue of my sons;

And if it shall happen to be a woman-child, then she to have such part, portion and sum as is hereafter bequeathed to my other two daughters, to be used and paid in every respect and times of payment for them limited and appointed;

The same to be levied of my said lands and stock of cattle and other things appointed to the performance of this my will within such convenient time as may be after my debts be answered, and to be employed by my said wife by the advice of my supravisor of this my will to the best benefit and to such use and uses as the increase of their said stocks shall help to maintain and keep them during their nonage, and towards such charges as my said wife shall be at for their bringing up in virtue and learning and other faculties and trades as they shall hereafter by my said wife and supravisor be thought for them meet and convenient to be trained and employed in, and bettering every their portions at every their several full ages as conveniently may be to the value of one hundred pounds to be increased to every one of them two(?);

Item, I give unto Dorothy and Anne, my daughters, to every of them two hundred pounds apiece of lawful English money;

And if is shall happen to be a woman-child my wife is now withal, then I will the same child to have the like portion and sum as to my other daughters is limited and appointed by me as aforesaid;

And they, my said daughters, and every of them to be paid their said portions of two hundred pounds apiece as they shall severally attain the age of one and twenty years;

And they likewise to be brought up by my said wife until the said age of one and twenty years;

And if they or any of them shall happen to be married before their said several ages of one and twenty years to the good liking of my said wife and [+my?] said supravisor, then I will the same portions and several sums to be paid unto them at their said days of marriage if the same may then be levied;

The residue of all my goods and chattels whatsoever not bequeathed, I give and bequeath to the said Anne, my wife, whom I constitute, ordain and make my sole executrix of this my last will and testament, requiring her to be as good and beneficial unto my said children over and above my said legacy as she conveniently may;

And I will and bequeath some part of my apparel to be distributed amongst my servants and such other of my friends to whom and whereas my said wife hereafter as occasion shall require to use them;

And I desire my loving cousin, Sir William Spring, to be supravisor of this my last will and testament;

And I give unto him as a poor remembrance of my goodwill ten pounds in money or a gelding, price of ten pounds;

And my will and intent is that the said Anne, my wife, within one year next after my decease, and at the least before she shall take husband, shall become bounden to the said Sir William Spring and to one other of her friends or kindred such as she shall make choice of by obligation in the sum of one thousand marks of lawful money of England with condition thereupon endorsed to pay my debts and legacies according to this my will;

Item, I give to my uncle, John Spring, five pounds a year during his natural life, to be had and taken out of my manor of Sextons in Suffolk aforesaid by even and equal portions, viz., at the feasts of the Annunciation of Our Lady St Mary the Virgin and Saint Michael th' Archangel, and that it shall and may be lawful for him, my said uncle, to levy and distrain in every part of the said manor of Sextons for default of payment of his said yearly annuity;

Item, I give and bequeath also to my sister Wolnaghe [=Woolnough?] forty shillings to buy her a ring;

In witness whereof unto this my present will and last testament I have put my hand and seal the day and year afore-written in the beginning of this said will which containeth three sheets of paper. By me, Robert Spring. Hijs testibus: Robertus Downes, James Wolnaghe, John Spring, Hoggen Jewell, Johannes Jewell.

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram ven{er}abili viro m{agist}ro Will{el}mo Lewyn Legum doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cant{uariensis} Custode siue Com{m}issario L{egi}time deputato septimo die mens{is} Maij Anno D{omi}ni Mill{es}imo Quingentesimo Nonagesimo Tertio Iuramento m{agist}ri thome Redman notarij publici procur{ator}is Anne Springe Relicte dict{i} defunct{i} et executric{is} in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento nominat{e} Cui com{m}issa fuit administrac{i}o etc De bene et fidel{ite}r administrand{o} etc Iurat{i}

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Lewin, Doctor of the Laws, lawfully deputed Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the seventh day of the month of May in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred ninety-third by the oath of Master Thomas Redman, notary public, proctor of Anne Spring, relict of the said deceased and executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted etc., sworn to well and faithfully administer etc.]