

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 26 September 1513 and proved 24 April 1514, of Reginald Hammond, gentleman, of Ramsden Belhouse, Essex, first husband of Oxford's maternal grandmother, Elizabeth (nee Towe).

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator's parents are unknown. In the will below, he mentions his 'brethren'.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married Elizabeth Towe (d. 27 November 1527), the daughter of Thomas Towe. The testator's will clarifies that Elizabeth's father was surnamed Towe, not 'Tonge', as stated by Louis Thorn Golding. See Golding, Louis Thorn, *An Elizabethan Puritan*, (New York: Richard R. Smith, 1937), p. 14.

A Thomas Towe, 'formerly of London, gentleman', who may have been Elizabeth Towe's father, was in financial difficulties circa 1501-2, and was imprisoned by the sheriffs of London at that time. See TNA C 241/275/273, TNA C 131/251/6, TNA C 241/275/250, TNA C 241/275/238, and other actions for debt.

A Thomas Towe and Alice, his wife, are mentioned in a fine dated 27 January 1505 concerning lands in Ryarsh and West Malling. See CP 25/1/117A/350, number 435. A digital image of the fine is available online at:

http://www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk/fines/abstracts/CP_25_1_117A_350.shtml

After the testator's death, Elizabeth Towe married secondly John Golding, by whom she had four children, Sir Thomas Golding (d.1571), William Golding (d.1588), Oxford's mother, Margery Golding (d.1568), and Elizabeth Golding. For further details concerning Elizabeth Towe's children by John Golding, see his will, TNA PROB 11/32/177.

By Elizabeth Towe, the testator had a daughter:

* **Emme Hammond.** Although she is referred to in the will below as 'Emme, my daughter', she appears to have been the *Agnes* Hammond who married Henry Wentworth (died c.1545) of Gosfield, Essex. In the Wentworth pedigree, Henry Wentworth's wife is described as Agnes Hammond, the daughter and heiress of Reginald Hammond of Kent and Mountnessing, Essex. See Rutton, William Loftie, *Three Branches of the Family of Wentworth*, (London: 1891), pp. 194 and 200 (note 3) at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YhY5AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA194>

It thus seems possible that 'Emme' in the will below is a scribal error for 'Anne', 'Annes', or 'Agnes', and that the testator's daughter and Henry Wentworth's wife were one and the same person.

This hypothesis is supported by a Chancery suit, TNA C 1/685/22, brought in the period 1529-32 by John de Vere (1482-1540), 15th Earl of Oxford, against 'Henry Wentworth and Agnes, his wife, executrix and late the wife of John Mountney, esquire'. Agnes Hammond's first husband was John Mountney (d.1528), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/22/624, and in their answer in the Chancery suit, Henry Wentworth and his wife, Agnes, acknowledge that

. . . true it is that the said John Golding and other stand and be seised of the said manor of Mountnessing, otherwise called Gyng Mountney, in their demesne as of fee to the use of the said Agnes Wentworth, late the wife of the said John Mountney, for term of her life.

There was thus a relationship between John Golding and Agnes which is consistent with the hypothesis that Agnes was the testator's daughter, and John Golding's stepdaughter.

According to the pedigree in Rutton, *Three Branches, supra*, by her second husband, Henry Wentworth (died c.1545), Agnes (nee Hammond) had four sons and two daughters:

-John Wentworth (1540-1588), esquire, of Little Horkesley and Gosfield, who married firstly Elizabeth Heydon (d.1573), daughter of Sir Christopher Heydon (d. 10 December 1579) of Baconsthorpe, Norfolk, and secondly Dorothy Southwell (living 1609). Dorothy Southwell was the illegitimate daughter of Sir Richard Southwell (1502/3-1564), of Woodrising, Norfolk, for whom see the *ODNB* entry:

[Sir Richard Southwell] and his first wife, Thomasin Darcy of Danbury, Essex, had a daughter, Elizabeth, who married George Heneage. His second wife was Mary, the daughter of Thomas Darcy of Danbury and a relative of Thomasin. They had two sons, Richard and Thomas, who were born of their adulterous relationship while Mary was still married to the Norwich alderman Robert Leeche, and a daughter, Katherine, born following her marriage to Southwell. Sir Richard had settled land on his elder son (who was the father of Robert Southwell the Jesuit) before his death, and in his will he made no distinction between his legitimate and illegitimate offspring.

Although the *ODNB* entry does not mention Dorothy, she is referred to in the will of Sir Richard Southwell as 'Dorothy Southwell alias Darcy, daughter to the said Dame Mary Southwell, my late wife', and in a codicil dated 11 January 1564 she and her sister are bequeathed certain jewels:

Item, I, the said Sir Richard Southwell do by these presents give, will and bequeath unto my daughters Mary Paston and Dorothy Southwell alias Darcy all such my chains and other jewels of gold and stones as remaineth in the keeping of Dame Elizabeth Lovell,

wife to Sir Thomas Lovell, knight, to be equally divided between the same Mary and Dorothy and either of them.

See the will of Sir Richard Southwell, TNA PROB 11/47/231. See also the inscription formerly at Little Horkesley in William Loftie, 'Wentworth of Gosfield', *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society*, Vol. III, New Series, (Colchester: Wiles & Son, 1889), at p. 224:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=WbC5AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA224>:

Daughter to Sir Richard Southwell of Rising. Here lieth Dame Dorothy, first the wife of Thomas Higgins of Norfolk, esquire, and after the wife of John Wentworth of Gosfield, esquire, and lastly the wife and widow of Sir Edward Moore of Mellefont in Ireland, and knight, who lived a long age and died much lamented.

Dorothy Southwell was the aunt of the Jesuit, Robert Southwell (1561-1595). For Dorothy Southwell see also Spelman, Henry, *The History and Fate of Sacrilege*, (London: John Hartley, 1698), pp. 252-3 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ofZiAAAACAAJ&pg=PA252>

For the will of John Wentworth, proved 29 January 1589, see TNA PROB 11/73/245. See also Rutton, *Three Branches*, *supra*, p. 194, and Rutton, 'Wentworth of Gosfield', *supra*, pp. 215, 224, 278 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=WbC5AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA215>

-Thomas Wentworth (1545-1565), buried at Gosfield.

-Peter Wentworth (d.1599), rector of Gestingthorpe and Great Bromley, who married Elizabeth Moore, and had issue. For his will, proved 14 September 1599, see TNA PROB 11/94/231.

-Henry Wentworth, who in 1565 married Jane Alblaster, daughter and heiress of Edmund Alblaster (or Arblaster) of Tendring, Essex. See Rutton, *Three Branches*, *supra*, p. 194.

-Anne (or Agnes) Wentworth (d. 2 September 1571), who married, as his second wife, Thomas Wentworth (1525-1584), 2nd Baron Wentworth, widower of her first cousin, Mary Wentworth (d.1554). By Agnes Wentworth (d. 2 September 1571), Thomas Wentworth, 2nd Baron Wentworth, had two sons, Lord William Wentworth (1555/6-1582) and Lord Henry Wentworth (1558-1593), and a daughter. Lord William Wentworth (1555/6-1582) married Lord Burghley's younger daughter, Elizabeth Cecil (1564-1583), and was for a time Oxford's brother-in-law. See Ellis, Henry, *Original Letters Illustrative of English History*, 3rd Series, Vol. IV, (London: Richard Bentley, 1846), pp. 40-44 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=GiMYAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA40>

-**Mary Wentworth**, who in 1562 married William Cardinall (c.1535-c.1598) of Great Bromley, Essex, and Egmonton, Nottinghamshire. See his will, dated 16 January 1596 and proved 18 November 1598, TNA PROB 11/92/345, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/cardinall-william-ii-1535-c98>

By William Cardinall (c.1535-c.1598), Mary Wentworth was the mother of Anne Cardinall (b. 1563), who married Sir Clement Heigham (d. 26 May 1634) of Barrow, Suffolk. See the pedigree of Heigham of Barrow in Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *The Visitation of Suffolke, Vol. II*, (Lowestoft: Samuel Tymms, 1868), p. 293 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsuffo00howagoog#page/n330>

See also the will, dated 8 October 1543 and proved 22 November 1551, of William Cardinall of Much Wenham, Suffolk, TNA PROB 11/34/475.

At some time between 20 November 1558 and 20 November 1561, John de Vere (1516 – 3 August 1562), 16th Earl of Oxford, granted Mary Wentworth's father-in-law, William Cardinall (c.1509-1568), the office of receiver of the profits of the Earl's office of Great Chamberlain of England. See the 16th Earl's inquisition post mortem, TNA C 142/136/12:

And the foresaid jurors say that the foresaid late Earl, by a certain deed of his sealed by his seal at arms & subscribed by his own hand dated the twentieth day of November in the [] year [=20 November 1558-61] of the reign of the Lady Elizabeth now Queen, granted to William Cardinall the office of receiver of all issues, profits & sums of money arising of his office of Great Chamberlain of England and by reason of the same office, to have & occupy the foresaid office by him or his sufficient deputy for term of life of the same William, and by the foresaid deed the foresaid Earl gave to the same William, as well for the exercise of the foresaid office as for the expenses of the same William sustained with regard to the care of such businesses & causes which in law he might happen to have, a certain yearly rent of forty pounds of lawful money of England issuing of the profits & issues of the same office, as by the said deed to the foresaid jurors upon the taking of this present inquisition in manifest evidences more fully appears.

For William Cardinall (c.1509-1568), see the will of his father, William Cardinall (d.1551?), TNA PROB 11/34/475, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/cardinall-william-150910-68>

Agnes (nee Hammond) married thirdly, circa January 1546, William Wilford, the third son of James Wilford and Elizabeth Bettenham of Pluckley, Kent. By James Wilford, Agnes (nee Hammond) had two sons, John Wilford and William Wilford. See the will of James Wilford (d.1526?), TNA PROB 11/22/6, and the Wilford pedigree (in which Elizabeth Bettenham's surname is erroneously given as 'Bateman') in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex, Part I*, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), Vol. XIII, p. 18 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsofess13metc#page/18>

Both Henry Wentworth and his wife, Agnes, then the wife of William Wilford, are mentioned in the 16th Earl of Oxford's inquisition post mortem (see TNA C 142/136/12):

And the foresaid jurors say that the foresaid late Earl, by a certain deed of his sealed by his seal at arms & subscribed by his own hand dated the 4th day of October in the 35th year [=4 October 1543] of the reign of the late King Henry the Eighth, demised to Henry Wontford [=Wentworth], esquire, all that manor of Mountnessing Hall . . . to have and to hold the said manor . . . to the said Henry & his assigns from the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel next & immediately following after the decease of Agnes, then wife of the said Henry and now wife of a certain William Wilford, until the end & term of twenty-one years from thence next following

For Henry Wentworth, see also the will of his elder brother, Sir John Wentworth (1494 – 15 September 1567) of Gosfield Hall, friend and executor of John de Vere (1516-1562), 16th Earl of Oxford. Sir John Wentworth's wife, Anne Bettenham, may have been related to Elizabeth Bettenham, wife of James Wilford (see above).

Further support for the hypothesis that the testator's daughter and the Agnes (or Emme) Hammond who married John Mountney, Henry Wentworth and William Wilford were the same person is found in a fine levied in Trinity term 1572 for the testator's former manor of Stow Maries and a fine levied in Easter term, 1573 for property in Mountnessing. See Fitch, Marc and Frederick Emmison, *Feet of Fines for Essex*, Vol. V 1547-1580, (Oxford: Leopard's Head Press, 1991), pp. 169-70, 175:

Eas. & Trin. Anth. Maxey, esq., pl. Wm. Wylforde, esq., & w. Agnes, & Geo. Nycolls, esq., & Wm. Cardynall, esq., def. The manors of Stowe Marres & Marres in Stowe Marres & Marres in Stowe, 40 a. mw., 20 a. pa., 24 a. wd., 300 a. marsh, £3 rt. & a rt. of 13 ¼ measures of salt in Stowe, Wooddham Ferres, Wooddham Witter, Purleygh & Norton, & the advowson of the church of Stowe. And for this pl. gtd. to Geo. & Wm. Cardynall & the heirs of Geo. a yearly rent of £25 from the same payable at Michaelmas & the Annunciation during the life of Agnes at the mansion house of Wm. Wylforde & Agnes at Stepney, co. Mdx., or the Place where it was built, with power of distraint, & a penalty of 40s. when the rt. shall be a month in arrears.

11. Hil. & Eas. Jn. Jackson, pl. Wm. Wylford, esq., & w. Agnes, def. 6 mess., 2 barns, 2 tofts, 2 gdns, 60 a. ar., 40 a. mw., 140 a. pa. & 30a wd. in Mountnessing alias

Gyngmountney. Def. quitclaimed whatever they had for the life of Agnes to pl. & his heirs. 160 mks.

The testator's daughter, Agnes (nee Hammond) Mountney Wentworth Wilford, was buried in Stepney Church on 3 September 1574.

For the testator as lord of the manor of Stow Maries, see ERO D/DK M138.

For the testator's bequest to the Guild or Fraternity of Our Blessed Lady of Ulting, see Cooper, Janet, 'The Cult of Our Lady of Ulting', available as a pdf file online at:

www.mahg.org.uk/reports/1402494303.pdf

One man devised land, although the bequest may not have taken effect. Reynold Hamond of Ramsden Bellhouse in 1513 left his land in Witham to the wardens of the fraternity of Our Blessed Lady of Ulting. The bequest does not necessarily imply that the fame of the cult extended as far as Ramsden Bellhouse; Hamond had close associations with Maldon, and was lord of manor of Stow Maries.

The witnesses to the testator's will state that he died in the parish of St. Andrews in Eastcheap, London.

For a copy of the testator's will at the Essex Record Office, see D/DHt T1/24.

LM: T{estamentum} Reginaldi Hamonde

In the name of God, Amen. The 26th day of the month of September the year of Our Lord God 1500 and 13, and the fifth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Henry the 8th, I, Reginald Hammond, gentleman, of Ramsden Bellhouse in the county of Essex, whole of mind and of good memory being, make my testament and last will indented in such manner and form as followeth:

First, I give and bequeath my soul to Almighty God, Our Lady Saint Mary, and to all the holy company of heaven, and my body to be buried in the church or churchyard of the parish church were it shall happen me for to die;

Also I bequeath to the high altar there 20s;

Also, I bequeath to Alice Towe, wife of Thomas Towe, my father in the law, 40s;

Also, I bequeath to Emme [sic for Anne?], my daughter, unto her marriage, 40s;

Also I will that the bailiffs of the town of Maldon in the county of Essex and their successors bailiffs there for the time being shall take and receive of the yearly issues,

profits and revenues coming and growing of my manor of Stow Maries with all the lands, rents and services and other their appurtenances to the said manor belonging 100 marks of good money of England to be paid to the said bailiffs and their successors or their assigns by the hands of the farmer or farmers or any other occupier or occupiers there for the time being under such manner and form as followeth, that is to say, 10 marks yearly immediately after my decease at 2 terms of the year usual, that is to say, Easter and Michaelmas, or Michaelmas and Easter, as it shall happen, by even portions during all the term of 10 years fully to be completed, and I will that the said bailiffs and their successors shall dispend and dispose yearly the said annuity of 10 marks in and upon the house of the Friars Carmelites of Maldon aforesaid as in buying of such ornaments or doing of such reparations as by them shall be thought most necessary to the worship of God and the wealth of the said place, and the prior and convent of the said place for the said ornaments and reparations shall yearly keep and observe at their own costs and labour once in the year a solemn obit or a year day within the said place for my soul, my friends' souls, and all Christian souls during the said term of 10 years;

[f. 37r] And if the said prior and convent or their successors refuse this to do, or hereafter fail of keeping of the said obit or year day as it is abovesaid, then I will that the said yearly annuity of 10 marks so by the said bailiffs and their successors received at any time after such refusytt [sic?] or dissent by the said prior or convent made shall be disposed by the said bailiffs or successors under this form following, that is to say, 5 marks to be dispended in ornaments and reparations of the house of the Blackfriars of Chelmsford, and other 5 marks yearly to the Abbey of Beeleigh in like manner as is above rehearsed, and then the said prior and convent of the said friars of Chelmsford and the said abbot and convent of Beeleigh and either of them to keep once in the year a solemn obit or a year day severally in their churches yearly unto the time the said term of 10 years be ended and fully completed like as the said friars of Maldon should have done for the same;

Also I will and require of my receivers and feoffees of and in my said manor with the premises suffer the said bailiffs, their successors or assigns to take and receive yearly the said annuity of 10 marks during all the said term of 10 years to and for th' intent afore rehearsed without let or impediment of the said receivers, feoffees, heirs or any other in their names;

And over this I will that if the said annuity of 10 marks or any part thereof to the said bailiffs and successors be not paid in manner and form above rehearsed, that then it may and shall be lawful to the said bailiffs, their successors and assigns into all the said manor with the premises or into any part thereof to enter and distrain by all the goods and chattels there found, and the distresses so taken lawfully to bear, lead, carry and drive away, and them to keep and retain at all times during the said term to the use afore-named till the said annuity of 10 marks or any part thereof so being behind to them be fully paid and satisfied, to the which bailiffs and their successors I give and bequeath yearly 6s 8d, to be had and taken of the issues and revenues of the said manor for their labours about the premises to be done, and for non-payment of the same 6s 8d it shall be lawful to them

into the said manor with their appurtenances to enter and distrain in manner and form as they shall do for the said annuity of 10 marks;

Also I will that Elizabeth, my wife, and her assigns shall have & take after my decease the whole yearly profits above the said 10 marks, residues of the said manor with their appurtenances, during her life natural, and after the said 10 years be fully ended, I will she shall have and enjoy the whole during her life natural aforesaid;

And after the decease of the said Elizabeth, my wife, and payment of the said [cmrc?] in manner and form above rehearsed, I will that all the said manor with all and singular the premises to the same belonging wholly remain to my issue male betwixt me and the said Elizabeth lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue male, then I will the said manor with their appurtenances wholly shall remain to my issue female betwixt me and the said Elizabeth lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue female, then I will that all the said manor with the premises shall remain to the issue males of the body of my brethren lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue males of the bodies of my said brethren lawfully begotten, to remain to th' issue female of the bodies of my said brethren lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue female of my said brethren lawfully begotten, then I will that all the said manor with the premises be sold by my said receivers, feoffees, their heirs or assigns to the most advantage it may, and the money thereof coming to be disposed by my said receivers, feoffees, their heirs or assigns in manner and form following, that is to say, £40 thereof to the marriage of poor maidens within three parishes next adjoining to the said manor, and other £40 to the reparations of highways within the county of Essex, and the residues of the money of the sale of all the said manor to be disposed by the said receivers, feoffees, their heirs or assigns in alms deeds by their discretions at and by the advice and oversight of th' abbot of Beeleigh for the time then being, to whom I give and bequeath for his labour 10s;

Also I will that all my lands and tenements with their appurtenances called Hammonds in Witham shall remain immediately after my decease to the wardens of the Guild or Fraternity of Our Blessed Lady of Ulting in the county of Essex and to their heirs forever to th' use of the said Fraternity to pray for my soul, my friends' souls, and all Christian souls, and the said wardens and their successors truly to content and pay to the wardens of the parish church of Witham for the time being £6 sterling for an antiphoner to be bought for the said parish church of Witham as it may yearly grow of the yearly issues, profits and revenues of the foresaid lands and tenements called Hammonds;

Also I will that all my said receivers or feoffees of and in my said manor with the appurtenances stand seised to the performance & accomplishment [f. 37v] of this my testament and last will unto the time they be deceased to the number of 4 or 3 at the least, and them [sic?] I require the said receivers or feoffees that survive and be in plain life to make a lawful estate in fee of the said manor with th' appurtenances to 12 honest and discreet persons, they to stand seised to the performance of this my testament and last [+will] as my said receivers or feoffees were afore, and afterward when the said new feoffees be deceased and minished to the number of 4 or 3, I will that they that so shall

survive to make like feoffment and estate in fee as my first receivers or feoffees did unto them, and thus continue as long as the law will give leave and suffer;

The residues of all my goods above not bequeathed, my debts and funeral expenses paid and legations fulfilled, I give and bequeath to Elizabeth, my wife, whom I make and ordain mine executrix;

And I make and ordain supervisor of this my testament and last will John Heyron [=Heron?] of Prittlewell, gentleman, to whom I bequeath for his labour and business to see this my testament and last will performed and done, 40s;

These witness the putting to of my seal: Thomas Wyburgh and John Dale, bailiffs of Maldon aforesaid, Thomas Saywoode, Thomas Baker of Woodham Ferrers.

Given the day and year aforesaid.

Witness at his departing, Sir Henry Fuller, curate of Saint Andrews in Eastcheap of London, where the said Reginald deceased. Thomas Towe, Christopher Norton, grocer, John Sore and other.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum coram domino apud Lameth xxiiijto die mensis aprilis Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingentesimo xiiijto Iurament{o} Elizabeth{e} Relicte et Executric{is} etc Ac approbat{um} et insinuatum Et co{m}missa fuit admi{n}istracio om{n}i{um} bonor{um} etc dicte Elizabeth{e} de bene etc Ac de [+pleno?] et fideli Inuen{ta}rio om{n}i{um} bonoru{m} etc conficiend{o} citra festum penthecostes prox{imum} futur{um} exhibend{o} Necnon de plano compoto reddend{o} Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{e}

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord at Lambeth on the 24th day of the month of April in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 14th by the oath of Elizabeth, relict and executrix etc., and probated and entered, and administration of all the goods etc. was granted to the said Elizabeth, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., and to prepare a [+full?] and faithful inventory of all the goods etc. [+and] to exhibit [+it] before the feast of Pentecost next to come, and also to render a plain account.]