

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 15 March 1539 and proved 12 November 1539, of Sir Robert Wingfield (b. in or before 1464, d. 1539), seventh son of Sir John Wingfield (1428–1481) of Letheringham, Suffolk, and his wife, Elizabeth FitzLewis (d. 1500), the daughter of Sir John FitzLewis of West Horndon, Essex, and his wife, Anne Montacute. The testator was brought up by his childless aunt, Anne (nee Harling) Chamberlain (d.1498) and her second husband, his godfather and uncle Sir Robert Wingfield (d. 1481), Comptroller of Edward IV's household. In her will he is referred to as 'my nephew, Robert Wingfield, esquire, which I have brought up of a child sithence he was 3 years of age'. After the death of Sir Robert Wingfield (d.1481), Anne (nee Harling) Chamberlain Wingfield (d.1498) married John (1437/8-1498), 5th Baron Scrope of Bolton, uncle of Elizabeth (nee Scrope) Beaumont de Vere (d.1537), Countess of Oxford, wife of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford. For the will of the testator's aunt, Anne (nee Harling) Chamberlain Wingfield (d.1498), see TNA PROB 11/11, ff. 212-14. For the will of her third husband, John Scrope (1437/8-1498), 5th Baron Scrope of Bolton, see TNA PROB 11/11, ff. 211-12.

The testator was also connected to the Earls of Oxford through the marriage of his nephew, Sir Anthony Wingfield (b. before 1488, d. 1552) of Letheringham, to Elizabeth Vere (d.1557), eldest sister of the 13th Earl's successor, John de Vere (1499-1527), 14th Earl of Oxford. For the will of the testator's nephew, Sir Anthony Wingfield (b. before 1488, d. 1552), see TNA PROB 11/36, f. 57. For the will of Elizabeth (nee Vere) Wingfield (d.1557), see TNA PROB 11/42B, ff. 433-4. For the will of Sir Robert Wingfield (d. 19 March 1596/7), mentioned in the will below as the third son of Sir Anthony Wingfield (b. before 1488, d. 1552), see TNA PROB 11/87, f. 327.

Another Wingfield marriage connected the testator to King Henry VIII. The testator's aunt, Elizabeth Wingfield (d.1497), married Sir William Brandon of Southwark (d. 1491), the grandfather of Henry VIII's brother-in-law, Charles Brandon (c.1484–1545), 1st Duke of Suffolk. See the entries for Sir Thomas Brandon (d.1510), and Charles Brandon (c.1484–1545), 1st Duke of Suffolk, in the online edition of the *Dictionary of National Biography*.

By 1497, the testator had married Eleanor, the daughter of Sir William Raynsford of Bradfield, Essex, a marshal of Calais. At some time after 4 July 1519 the testator married Joan or Jane (nee Poynings), the illegitimate daughter of Sir Edward Poynings (1459–1521) and widow of Thomas (d.1517), 8th Lord Clinton. The testator had no surviving children by either marriage. His principal beneficiaries were his nephews, one of whom was Francis Hall (d.1552?), the son of Francis Hall (d. 14 August 1534) of Grantham and the testator's sister, Elizabeth Wingfield. The testator's nephew, Francis Hall (d.1552?), was the father of Arthur Hall (1539–1605), a ward of Oxford's father-in-law, Lord Burghley, and the translator of ten books of Homer's *Iliad*. For the will of Francis Hall (d.1552?), see TNA PROB 11/43, f. 433. Another nephew was Francis Echingham, the son of John Echingham of Barsham and the testator's sister, Anne or Agnes Wingfield. For the will of Francis Echingham's brother, Sir Edward Echingham (d.1527), see TNA PROB 11/22, ff. 217-18.

The testator died on 18 March 1539, and was likely buried at Calais. For further details of his career, see the entry in the online edition of the *Dictionary of National Biography*.

RM: Testamentum Roberti Wingfeld militis

In the name of God, Amen. This is the last will of me, Sir Robert Wingfield, knight, Counsellor to King Henry the Eight and late Alderman of Calais and remaining Burgess of the said town, made in such manner and form as hereafter following shall be expressed:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my Maker, Redeemer, and upholder of all the world;

Also my body to be buried upon the northeast side of Saint Nicholas Church in Calais where I have edified a place for my sepulture if I shall fortune to decease in the said town or marches of the same;

And if it shall fortune me to decease in Norfolk within ten mile of my College of Rushford in the said county, then I will my body be buried in the midst of a chapel on the south side where mine uncle and godfather, Sir Robert Wingfield, knight, Controller of King Edward the 4th's house, lieth buried, and that upon my grave be laid a marble stone upon which I will there shall be graven a cross of Jerusalem;

And if I shall fortune to die in London, I will that my body be buried in Saint Peter's Church of the parish that my house standeth in there, and a like stone to be laid upon my body as is before spoken of;

And if it shall fortune me to decease in any other place than is before rehearsed, that I will be buried in the parish church there, and a like stone to be laid upon me, my obsequies to be made without pomp in any of the said places;

And inprimis I give to my Lady, my wife, my great mansion place with the appurtenances at the Boulogne Gate, and to enjoy it for term of her natural life, and also all such houses as I bought of the Lord Sandes and of William Burden standing on the northwest end of Calais market, only except the house or tenement wherein Edward Jarmyn, tailor, now dwelleth in, which house and tenement I give to John Davy, one of the king's retinue in Calais and sometime my servant, for term of his life to th' intent that with the revenues of the residue of all the said houses she may keep my said mansion place with th' appurtenances at Boulogne Gate in good and sufficient reparation;

Also I give unto her for term of her life all such lands as I hold by patent in the Swynage which I bought of Sir Bartholomew Tate, knight, and after her and John Davy's decease I will that all such my houses in Calais before rehearsed remain to my nephew, Francis Hall, and to his heirs male lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to remain to my

nephew, John Wingfield, eldest son to my brother, Lewis, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to remain to his brother, Richard Wingfield, and his heirs male of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to his brother, George Wingfield, and his heirs male lawfully begotten, and for fault of such issue to remain to my cousin, Robert Wingfield, third son to my nephew, Sir Anthony Wingfield, knight, and to the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to remain to my cousin, William Bryswoode, and after to his brother, John Bryswoode, in like entail, and for lack of such issue of either of them to remain to my cousin and godson, Robert Echingham, and for fault of such issue of him to his brother, John, in like form, and for default of such issue to remain to their sister, Elizabeth Echingham, their sister and my god-daughter, forever;

Also I will that after my Lady, my wife's decease that all such lands(?) as be before mentioned in the Swynage, that they remain to my cousin, Robert Wingfield, before-named, to him and his heirs forever;

Also I give and bequeath to my nephew, Francis Echingham, my houses with the appurtenances upon the Castle hill, and to the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to remain to his daughter, Elizabeth, and her heirs forever;

Also I will that all such houses as I have in London standing upon Lombard Hill which I bought of Sir Stephen Jenyns, alderman of London, that immediately after my decease shall remain to my before-named nephew and godson, Robert Wingfield, to him and his heirs forever;

Also where I took and [sic] old ruinous place in London standing upon Lombard Hill of my nephew, Sir Anthony Wingfield, by indenture for the term of 30 years, of which about 20 years be past at this day, I will that immediately after my decease my said nephew shall enter into his first estate, providing alway that he suffer all such grants as I have made to my brother, Sir Humphrey, and my nephew, Francis Hall, during my lease that they be not interrupt;

Also whereas much of the said place which I builded all of brick and freestone as standeth upon the east side, as appeareth by a partition in the south wall, is parcel of the ground which I bought of Sir Stephen Jenyns before-named, I will that all the said east part immediately after my decease remain to my nephew, John Wingfield, eldest son to my brother, Lewis, and to th' heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for fault of such issue to remain to my before-named nephew, Sir Anthony, and his heirs forever;

Also where I have caused an estate taily [=tail] by deed indented to my before-named nephew, John, the son of Lewis, and to all such as be named and expressed in the same deed sealed with my seal of arms and subscribed with my hand of my manor of Stanford in Norfolk with th' appurtenances, and all my purchased lands in the town of Stanford and West Bredman in the same county, and of the advowson and patronage of the Church and College of Rushford in the said county, and that of all the said lands and patronage because I have taken estate again for term of my life I make no further mention of the

same in this my last will, nevertheless, where upon the said lordship of Stanford I have a flock of cows and another of hogs, I will that immediately after my decease that the said two flock shall remain to my said nephew, John, and to his right heirs as is specified in the said entail;

Here followingly shall appear the bequests of me, Sir Robert Wingfield, knight:

First I bequeath to my Lady Jane Clinton, my wife, one hundred pounds worth of my silver plate such as she will choose of all such as is white or parcel gilt at 3s 9d the ounce, to have and enjoy the same as her very own;

Also I will she have and enjoy for term of her life all such stuff and utensils as I shall leave in my great house besides Boulogne Gate for term of her life, and after her decease I will that all such stuff and utensils as were mine own before I married the said Lady remain to my nephew, Francis Hall, with the said house if he be alive, or to his heir male of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of him or such an heir then to my nephew, John Wingfield, or to his heir male or to any other that my house is entailed to;

Also where I have a covered cup of silver parcel gilt called a guttered cup, I will that mine executors deliver my said cup after my decease to Sir Richard Weston if he be then living, and if he die before me, then I will they deliver my said cup to my before-named nephew, John, of my gift, or to his heir male, and for fault to remain to my nephew, Francis Hall, or to his heir male, or to any that my great house is entailed to;

Also I will that the key of my closet shall remain in th' hands of mine executors, and that at all times when need shall be they may have free entry thereto;

Also where in Rushford College I have certain coffers with evidences and other things, I will that the said coffers shall remain there still in such place as the Master for the time being and mine executors shall think most meet to th' intent that mine executors may have free access unto the said coffers;

Also where I have other coffers in my said College with other stuff, also pewter vessel and brass, also certain coats of plate and other things, also certain featherbeds and coverlets, all those things I give unto my nephew, John Wingfield, to whom I have given the patronage of my said College;

Also I give and bequeath to my said nephew, John, my bard of crimson velvet embroidered with my badge;

Also my new tent with all my feathers and all my cases ordained for them;

Also the coffer that longeth for the said bards;

Also my close cart with all that longeth thereto, with the two coffers which be ordained to put into the said close cart;

Also I give to my said nephew my target of steel and my light harness, also one steel saddle and mine arming-sword, also 12 footmen's harness and as many halberds;

Also I give to my nephew, Richard, his brother, my complete harness which was made at Owsbroke [=Augsberg?] in Almain, and my two-hand sword, also three footmen's harness and three halberds and a steel saddle;

Also I give and bequeath to my nephew, George, his brother, my harness that was my servant, John Brewes', with th' appurtenances, also two footmen's harness and two halberds;

Also I give and bequeath to William Sympson the under-marshal, two footmen's harness and two halberds and a steel saddle;

Also I give to Thomas Willoughby, soldier, a footman's harness;

Item, I give and bequeath to Ellys Gryffite [=Elis Gruffydd?], soldier, a footman's harness and a halberd;

Also I give and bequeath to Nicholas Squyer, soldier, a footman's harness and a halberd;

Also I give to John Davith(?), soldier, a footman's harness and a halberd and the bow which I had of Cotchett, also one of my gowns of cloth such as he will chose himself;

Also I give to my Lady Clinton, my wife, the cross which hangeth over my chain for a remembrance;

Also I give and bequeath to my brother, Sir Humphrey, my gylie goblet;

Also I give to my sister, Elizabeth, my little ewer of silver and my little taster which I bare with me into the Holy Land;

Also I give and bequeath to my nephew, John Wingfield, before-named, and to my nephew, Francis Hall, all such books as be in my library or in any other place, to be divided equally betwixt them;

Also I give and bequeath to my said nephew, Francis Hall, all mine old tents and hallys [=halls?], also all such harnesses and weapons as shall remain of mine ungiven;

Also I give to my cousin Lovedaye a footman's harness, a halberd, and a steel saddle, also my camlet gown furred with marters;

Also I give and bequeath to my nephew, John Wingfield, my gown of black velvet furred with marters;

Also I give to my nephew, Richard, his brother, my gown of satin furred with genetis;

Also I give to my nephew, George, his brother, my gown of black damask furred with black budge;

Also where before in this my will I have ordained that my Lady Clinton, my wife, shall have delivered unto her by mine executors a hundred pounds worth of silver plate white and parcel gilt, I will that mine executors understand that my mind is not that any part of such plate as was my said Lady's before we married together shall be any part of the same, for all that I will she enjoy as her own with all such jewels of gold or silver as were hers before I married her;

Also I will that after my decease that mine executors shall suffer her to enjoy or that they shall deliver unto her as much cattle of mine of all sorts as can be purveyed(?) that were brought out of England of hers;

Also I will that mine executors shall suffer or deliver unto her as much wheat and malt, also salt, as shall suffice unto her for keeping of her ordinary house from the day of my decease unto th' end of an whole year, and of such wheat as shall remain over and above the said assignment, I will that every of my godchildren in this town of Calais have a bushel of wheat or as much money as wheat shall be worth at the day of my departing;

And the residue of all such corn and cattle as shall remain of mine above my said bequests, I will they shall be sold by mine executor for the payment of my debts and furnishing of my bequests;

Also I will that mine executors deliver immediately after my decease to my Lady, my wife, twenty pounds sterling to buy fresh achates and other necessaries for her house till her rents may come in;

Also I will that all such money as mine executors shall find of mine above the said £20, also my debts and legacies paid, and furthermore all such debts as shall and be due and owing unto me at the day of my decease, be received and kept by my said executors to be equally distributed among such daughters as my nephew, Frances Hall, hath or shall have before my death, also to such daughters as my cousin, Geoffrey Lovedaye, hath or shall have [-have] before my death, also to such daughters as my nephew, Francis Echingham, hath or shall have before my death; also a like portion to my nephew John Wingfield's sister, to be delivered unto them at the day of their marriage, and if any of them shall fortune to die or they be married, I will their portions shall be delivered to them that shall survive;

Item, I bequeath to my nephew, Francis Hall, my riding-coat of black velvet and my coat of black satin lined with fustian of Napps [=Naples];

Also I give my gown of cloth lined with like fustian to my cousin, Geoffrey Loveday, and my riding-coat of cloth lined with scarlet;

Also I will that mine executors deliver to John Davith the featherbed, bolster, sheets, blankets and coverlet that he lieth in;

Also I will they deliver to Nicholas Squyare my gown of cloth furred with fox;

Also I will that mine executors shall give to every one of my household servants which take wages an whole quarter's wages over and above the wages due unto them at my death;

Item, I give and bequeath to Davith Syilly Typpid Staf my green riding-coat;

And I give to Robert Echingham and John, his brother, mine old green gown to make them coats of the same;

Also I make and ordain to be mine executors of this my last will and testament my nephew, Francis Hall, and my cousin, Geoffrey Loveday, and I will that every of them shall have for their pains five pounds sterlings;

Also the residue of all my goods within this my house not bequeathed or assigned, with all such stuff and utensils of my house which I have assigned to my Lady, my wife, for term of her life, shall remain wholly to my before-named nephew, Francis Hall, in such manner and form as I have given my said house at Boulogne Gate to him and to his heirs male of his body lawfully begotten;

And supervisor of this my last will I make and ordain my Lady Jane Clinton, my wife;

Item, I give unto my Lady my scarlet cloak;

Item, to my nephew Hall my black cloak;

Item, I give to Mistress Isabell Sympson and to Mrs Ursula Hall, and to Mrs Elizabeth Loveday, either of them a milch cow;

Item, all such bows as remain above in the wardrobe I will be distributed amongst such of the retinue as were my servants and of my putting in wages, and amongst my household servants, and one to be given to Richard Coole, the Spear;

Also I give unto my Lady, my wife, a pair of new sleeves of mine of black satin, also a pair of elder sleeves of black satin;

Item, I give and bequeath to my Lord Deputy and to every one of the Council a gilt spoon for a remembrance, that is to say, to the said Lord Deputy, to Master Marshal, to Mr Treasurer, to Mr Porter, to Mr Under-Marshal, and to Mr Rokwoode;

Item, I give and bequeath to Edward Poynings my boots and my spurs and my sword;

And where I and Philip Crear have three parts of a crayer called the Leonard of Hyueth [=Hythe?] or Calais, I give and bequeath all that belongeth unto my part of the said crayer jointly to my nephew, Francis Hall, and my cousin, Geoffrey Lovedaye, betwixt them;

Written the 15th day of March Anno Domini 1538.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum coram domino apud London xijmo die mensis Nouembris Anno Domini Millesimo quingentesimo xxxixo Iuramento Executorum in huiusmodi testamento nominatorum Ac approbatum & insinuatum Commissaque fuit administracio omnium et singulorum bonorum iurium et creditorum dicti defuncti prefatis executoribus De bene &c Ac de pleno et fideli Inuentario &c conficiendo Necnon de plano et vero compoto reddendo Ad sancta dei Euangelia Iuratis

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord [+Archbishop] at London on the 12th day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 39th by the oath of the executors named in the same testament, and probated & entered, and administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased to the forenamed executors, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., and to prepare a full and faithful inventory etc., and also to render a plain and true account.]