

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 8 June 1544 and proved 21 May 1549, of Sir John Spring (d. 12 August 1547), of Hitcham and Cockfield, Suffolk, whose brother-in-law, George Waldegrave (c.1483-1528) of Smallbridge in Bures St Mary, Suffolk, was the grandfather of Sir William Waldegrave (d.1613), a co-guarantor, with Oxford's first cousin, John Darcy (d.1581), 2nd Baron Darcy of Chiche, of Oxford's debt to the Court of Wards. In 1572, Sir William Waldegrave (d.1613) and Lord Darcy jointly entered into guarantees amounting to £5000 for Oxford's debt to the Court of Wards (see TNA C 2/Eliz/T6/48). For Sir William Waldegrave (d.1613) see the will of his father, Sir William Waldegrave (1507?-1554), TNA PROB 11/37/466.

Although the name is spelled 'Sprynge' throughout the will, the spelling 'Spring' is used in the modern-spelling transcript below.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator was the eldest son and heir of the wealthy clothier, Thomas Spring III (d.1523) of Lavenham, Suffolk, by his first wife, who is said to have been Anne King of Boxford, Suffolk.

For the testator's family background, see the will of his father, Thomas Spring, TNA PROB 11/21/179.

Although the testator made his will as John Spring, esquire, he was later knighted. He is listed as one of the Knights of the Carpet dubbed by Henry VIII on 22 February 1547, the Tuesday after his coronation. See Shaw, William A., *The Knights of England*, Vol. II, (London: Sherratt and Hughes, 1906), p. 60 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/knightsofengland02shawuoft#page/n69/mode/2up>

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

The testator married Dorothy Waldegrave (buried 10 April 1564?), the daughter of Sir William Waldegrave (d.1527) by Margery Wentworth. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 62-3; the will of Sir William Waldegrave, proved 6 March 1528, TNA PROB 11/22/294; and the will of Margery Wentworth Waldegrave (buried 7 May 1540), TNA PROB 11/28/96.

For the will of the testator's wife, Dorothy Waldegrave, see TNA PROB 11/47/337. For the will of her brother, George Waldegrave (d.1528), see TNA PROB 11/22/577.

By Dorothy Waldegrave, the testator had a son and two daughters:

* **Sir William Spring** (d. 3 February 1600?) of Pakenham, Suffolk, who married firstly Anne Kitson, the daughter of Sir Thomas Kitson (1485-1540) of Hengrave, Suffolk. See his will, TNA PROB 11/29/2, and the *ODNB* entry:

Kitson, Sir Thomas (1485–1540), merchant and local politician, was born in Warton, Lancashire, the son of Robert Kitson. . . . Kitson's four daughters all seem to have made advantageous marriages: Catherine to Sir John Spencer of Wormleighton in Warwickshire, Dorothy [see Tasburgh, Dorothy] to Sir Thomas Packington of Aylesbury, Frances to John Bouchier, Lord Fitzwarine, and Anne to Sir William Spring of Pakenham in Suffolk. His son, Sir Thomas Kitson (1540–1603), was briefly (1557–8) married to Jane, the daughter of William, Lord Paget, but acquired a firm ally in Sir Thomas Cornwallis by marrying his daughter Elizabeth in 1560.

Sir William Spring married secondly Susan Jermyn, the daughter of Sir Ambrose Jermyn (c.1510–1577).

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

For Sir William Spring, see also the Wikipedia article edited by the author of this website at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Spring_of_Lavenham

* **Frances Spring**, who married, before 8 June 1544, as his second wife, Edmund Wright, esquire, of Sutton Hall and Burnt Bradfield, Suffolk, and Little Buckenham, Norfolk, son and heir of Robert Wright of Burnt Bradfield by Anne Russell, daughter and co-heiress of Thomas Russell. By Edmund Wright, Frances Spring had two sons, William Wright and Edmund Wright, and five daughters: Anne Wright, who married Sir John Heigham (d.1626); Frances Wright, who married Thomas Bell; Bridget Wright, who married Robert Rolfe; Millicent Wright, who married John Thurston, esquire; and Mary Wright, who married, about 1578, William Derehaugh. See Richardson, *supra*, and the History of Parliament entry for Edmund Wright (died c.1583) at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/wright-edmund-1583>

For John Heigham, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/heigham-john-1626>

* **Bridget Spring**, who married firstly Thomas Fleetwood (1517/18-1570) of The Vache, Buckinghamshire, for whom see his will, proved 16 February 1571, TNA PROB 1/53/97, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/fleetwood-thomas-151718-70>.

Bridget Spring married secondly Sir Robert Wingfield (d. 19 March 1596). For the will, dated 5 June 1584 and proved 28 June 1596, of Sir Robert Wingfield of Letheringham, Suffolk, nephew of John de Vere (1499-1527), 14th Earl of Oxford, see TNA PROB 11/87/510.

PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

For the testator's brother-in-law and executor, Anthony Waldegrave, see his will, TNA PROB 11/53/224.

The supervisor of the testator's will, Sir William Drury (c.1500-1558), was the eldest son and heir of Sir Robert Drury (d. 2 March 1535), Speaker of the House of Commons, and chief steward and executor to John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford. See the *ODNB* entry for Sir Robert Drury, and his will, TNA PROB 11/25/467.

By his first wife, Anne Calthorpe, Sir Robert Drury had two sons, Sir William Drury (d.1500-1558) and Sir Robert Drury (died 21 May 1577), and four daughters: Anne Drury (d.1572), who married firstly, George Waldegrave (d.1528), esquire, of Smallbridge, and secondly, Thomas Jermyn (d.1552) of Rushbrook, Suffolk; Elizabeth Drury (d. 11 December 1574), who married Sir Philip Boteler (d. 28 March 1545); Bridget Drury, who married Sir John Jerningham; and Ursula Drury (d.1523), who married Sir Giles Alington (d.1586).

For the supervisor of the testator's will, Sir William Drury (c.1500-1558), see also the *ODNB* entry for the Drury family:

Sir William Drury (c.1500–1558) . . . was already established in the royal service at the time of his father's death. . . . He married twice. His first wife, Joan St Maur, died in 1517 after barely a year of marriage. His second wife, Elizabeth Sotehill (d.1575), whom he married on 11 February 1521, brought him a considerable marriage portion from her father, whose sole heir she was. . . . Following the sudden death of his eldest son, Robert, in December 1557 Sir William drew up his own will on 26 December. The administration of his Hawstead estate was left to his widow during the minority of their second grandson, William. . . . Sir William died a fortnight later, on 11 January 1558, and was buried in Hawstead church where a memorial brass commemorates him.

For the testator's friend, Henry Payne (d.1568) of Nowton, see his will, TNA PROB 11/51/39, in which he bequeathed to Sir Giles Alington 'my Chaucer written in vellum and illumined with gold', and to William Drury 'one nest of bowls double gilt with a cover all gilt and the arms of the Earl of Oxenford and my Lady, his wife, engraven in the top of the cover'. See also:

<http://newsarch.rootsweb.com/th/read/PAYNE-PRE1700/2001-05/0990213509>

For Sir Giles Alington (1499-1586), who married Ursula Drury (d.1522), see above, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/alington-giles-1499-1586>

For Ambrose Jermyn, son of Sir Thomas Jermyn (d. 8 October 1552) of Rushbrook, Suffolk, by the testator's eldest sister, Anne Spring, see the will of Sir Thomas Jermyn, TNA PROB 11/35/417, the Wikipedia article at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ambrose_Jermyn.

TESTATOR'S LANDS

For the testator's manor of Brodshawe, see 'Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation Report: 333a to 389 Bramford Road, Ipswich (July 2008), which can be downloaded at:

grey-lit-suffolkarchaeology.s3.amazonaws.com/2007_189.pdf

For an original spelling transcript of the testator's will, see Howard, *supra*, pp. 176-8 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ExI2AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA176>

RM: [T{estamentum} John?] Sprynge

In the name of God, Amen. The 8 day of June in the year of Our Lord [f. 235v] God a thousand five hundred forty and four and in the 36th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Henry the Eight, I, John Spring of Hitcham in the county of Suffolk, esquire, being of an whole mind and perfect remembrance, thanks be Almighty God, calling to my remembrance that death is certain to every man and the time when uncertain, make this my present testament and last will in manner and form following:

First, I will and bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my Saviour and Redeemer, Our Blessed Lady, his Mother, and Virgin, and to all the holy company of heaven, and my body to be buried and brought to earth in Christian burial after my degree with solemn Masses of Requiem, dirge, and other orisons and prayers according to the ancient custom of this Church of England by the discretion of mine executors;

Item, I give and bequeath to Dorothy, my wife, all my featherbeds, hangings, counterpoints, stuff, and all my implements of household of what nature, quality or

condition they be of, to have the reasonable usage and occupancy of the same during her life, and after her decease to remain and be to my son and heir apparent, William Spring;

Item, I give and bequeath to my said wife all such plate as were given her by her father, Sir William Waldegrave, and my Lady, her mother, or either of them;

And also I will that my said wife shall have the reasonable usage and occupancy of all the residue of my plate during her [-her] life natural, and after her decease wholly to remain to my said son, William, provided alway that if my said wife happen to decease before my said son shall accomplish and attain to his full age of 21 years, that then all the said stuff, plate and implements shall be and remain immediately after the decease of my said wife in the custody and safekeeping of Sir William Drury, knight, who my mind is that he should have the marriage of my said son before any other, to be delivered to my said son at his said age of 21 years, and that bills indented be made of the same stuff, plate and implements betwixt the said Sir William and such of mine executors as then shall be on live;

Item, I give and bequeath to my said son, William, an hundred pounds in money to be paid and delivered to Sir William Drury, knight, as it may be reasonably levied, amongst other things, of my goods, chattels and debts in this my present testament not bequeathed, and of the issues, rents and farms of such lands as hereafter I have willed to mine executors for the term of eleven years next after my decease, to th' intent the same Sir William may the rather and better buy and purchase the marriage of my said son, provided always that the same Sir William make an obligation to mine executors being on live to repay to my said son the said sum of one hundred pounds when he cometh to th' age of 21 years;

Also I give and bequeath to my daughter, Bridget Spring, the sum of five hundred marks for and to th' advancement of her marriage, and I will that if my said daughter, Bridget, die before marriage, that then my said wife and son, William, shall have the same sum of five hundred marks equally divided betwixt them;

Item, I give and bequeath to my son-in-law, Edmund Wright, esquire, and Frances, his wife, thirty pounds of lawful money of England, to be paid as it may be conveniently levied of such things as I have in this my last will appointed to the performance of the same last will;

Item, I will that(?) Robert Jermyn, gentleman, have and hold to him and his assigns for term of three years now(?) next after my decease my manor called Abbotteshill with all the members and appurtenances of the same, and also my manor of Netherhall with th' appurtenances and the yearly rents and farms of the same;

And further I will that mine executors do well and truly content & pay unto Edmund Wright, esquire, my son-in-law, the sum of one hundred pounds which I do owe him and for the which the same Edmund hath my lands and tenements called Wyncolas and Bowers in mortgage, and that after the payment of the same hundred pounds for the

redemption of the same lands and tenements called Wyncolm and Bowers, I will that the same Robert Jermyn shall have and enjoy the same lands and tenements called Wyncolm(?) and Bowers for term of his life upon condition that the same Robert Jermyn shall never claim, ask nor demand one annuity or yearly rent of ten marks which I have granted him out of the manor of Hepworth(?), but shall clearly extinguish and determine the same;

Item, I will and give to my friend, Henry [-Henry] Payne one annuity or yearly rent of forty shillings to go out and be paid of my manor called Pepers, to have to him for term of his life;

Item, I give and bequeath to my servant, Richard Sterne, out of my manor of Blyford one annuity or yearly rent of five marks, to have and to hold the same to him for term of his life;

Item, I give and bequeath to William Coole, my servant, and to his wife all that my messuage and land which the same William hath now in occupation, to have and hold to them for term of their lives;

And I give also [f. 236r] to the same William ten marks in money;

Also I give and bequeath to Christopher Dey, my servant, one annuity or yearly rent of 26s 8d to go out of my said manor of Blyford, to have and hold the same to him for term of his life;

Also I give and bequeath to William Besse/Gosse(?), my servant, my land in Chelsworth which he now occupieth, to have and hold to him for term of his life;

Item, I give and bequeath to every of my servants 26s 8d in money;

Item, I give and bequeath to my servant, Richard Alexander, all my messuage and land with th' appurtenances which he now occupieth in Felsham, to have and hold to him for term of his life, paying to me and mine heirs 20s yearly for the same at the feast of Saint Michael th' Archangel;

And I give bequeath & assign to mine executors hereafter named all that my manor of Blyford with th' appurtenances, and all my lands and tenements called Bullers in Blyford, my manor of Barrardes with th' appurtenances with th' advowson of the church of Whatfield, and all my lands and tenements in Whatfield aforesaid, Aldham, Semer, Hadleigh, Kersey and Nedging;

And also my manor of Brodshawe with the appurtenances, and all my lands and tenements, rents and services with their appurtenances in Sproughton, Wix Ufford, Wix Episcopi [=Wix Bishop], Stoke juxta Episcopum [=Stoke by Ipswich], Bramford, Whitton, Brokes juxta Episcopum [=Brooks by Ipswich];

And all those my manors, lands and tenements, rents and services with their appurtenances called Pepers, Colchesters, Buttlers, Palmers, Ilderyardes, Bolys, Bowers, Jacobbys, Barethfordes(?) and Helles in Cockfield, Felsham, Bradfield and Stansfield;

And also my manor of Woodehall with th' appurtenances;

And all my lands and tenements called Machons, which manor, lands and tenements one John Warde now holdeth to farm;

And also the manor of Fenhall with th' appurtenances;

And all my lands and tenements, rents and services called Amptons, otherwise called Hardheddes, Rushebrookes and Langmers with their appurtenances in Buxhall;

And also all those my lands and tenements, rents and services called Nectons, Kynchons, Blokkes, Wolwardes, Bowlys, Byrdes and Orveys in Hitcham and Buxhall;

To have and to hold all the foresaid manors, lands, tenements, rents and services with their appurtenances to my said executors and their assigns for the term of eleven years next and immediately following after my decease with th' whole issues and profits of the same to pay my debts and such annuities as I have before given in this my testament and last will out of any of the same manors, lands and tenements during the said eleven years, and also to fulfil and execute this my present testament and last will in all points according to my true meaning and intent;

The remainder of all the same manors, lands, tenements & hereditaments after the said 11 years to my said son and to th' heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to th' heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to the right heirs of me, the said John Spring forever;

Item, I give, will and assign to Ambrose Jermyn, gentleman, one annuity or yearly rent of forty shillings for term of his life to go out and be paid of my manor, lands and tenements in Cockfield;

Item, I give and bequeath to William Fookes one annuity or yearly rent of 26s 8d to be paid out of the manor and lands aforesaid;

Item, I give and bequeath to my said wife my whole lease and interest for term of years which I have in my house that I dwell in and in all the lands and tenements which be Edmund Rouse's in Hitcham and other towns next adjoining;

And of this my present testament and last will I ordain and make mine executors Dorothy, my wife, Anthony Waldegrave and Robert Jermyn, gentlemen, to execute and fulfil everything that is and shall be therein contained;

And I ordain and make Sir William Drury, knight, my supervisor of the same, and I give to the same supervisor for his pains to call upon mine executors to fulfil and truly to execute this my present testament and last will the sum of ten pounds sterling;

In witness of all the premises hereunto I have set my seal the 8 day of June Anno Domini 1544 & Anno 36th R^{egi}s Henr^{ici} Octavi. Witness: William Drury, Henry Payne and Richard Steryn. Per me John Spring.

Probatum fuit sup^{ra}scriptu^m testament^m coram d^{omi}no Cant^{uariensis} Archie^{pisco}po apud London xxjo die Maij Anno d^{omi}ni Mill^{es}imo quiⁿgesimo xlixo Iurament^o Petri Johnson lⁱt^{er}atⁱ procur^{atoris} D^{omi}ne Dorothee Rel^{ic}te et executric^{is} in h^{uius}mo^di test^{ament}o no^miⁿat^e Ac approbatu^m et insinuatu^m Comissa fuit(?) admiⁿⁱstracⁱo o^{mn}i^um bonor^{um} &c dⁱc^ti def^{uncti} &c De bene &c Ac de pleno Inuentario &c exhibend^o Ad s^{an}c^ta dei Eu^angelia Iuratⁱ Res^{er}uat^a p^{otes}tate alijs executorib^{us} in h^{uius}mo^di testamento no^miⁿat^{is} cu^m venerit &c

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the 21st day of May in the year of the Lord the thousand give hundred 49th by the oath of Peter Johnson, learned(?), proctor of Lady Dorothy, relict and executrix named in the same testament, and probated and entered, [+and?] administration was granted of all the goods etc. of the said deceased etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., and to exhibit a full inventory etc., with power reserved to the other executors named in the same testament when they shall have come etc.]