

SUMMARY: The first document below is the brief and undated last will and testament of Oxford's maternal grandfather, John Golding (d. 28 November 1547).

The probatum clause states that the will was proved 20 July 1548, and that administration was granted to John Golding's second wife, Ursula (nee Marston). No mention is made in the probatum clause of the second executor appointed in the will, the testator's son John, nor is anything further known of him.

The probatum clause is followed by a note stating that on 8 June 1549, Ursula Golding renounced administration of the will, and that with her consent administration was granted to Thomas Golding, esquire, John Golding's eldest son and heir by his first marriage, as though John Golding had died intestate.

This note is followed by the undated judicial sentence by which the court had earlier granted administration to Ursula Golding. It appears from the judicial sentence that after John Golding's death, his eldest son and heir by his first marriage, Thomas Golding, contested both the validity of the will and his stepmother's appointment as executrix. Thomas Golding's challenge was unsuccessful, and the court ruled in Ursula Golding's favour. However, as noted above, on 8 June 1549, Ursula Golding renounced administration, and consented to administration of John Golding's estate being entrusted to his eldest son and heir, Thomas Golding. Her reasons for taking this step are not indicated in the surviving documents.

For the date of the testator's death, see the inquisition post mortem taken 30 June 1548, TNA WARD 7/4/70, and the transcript in Golding, Louis Thorn, *An Elizabethan Puritan*, (New York: Richard R. Smith, 1937), p. 228.

MARRIAGES AND ISSUE

The testator states in the will that he has ten children, but names only two of them, John Golding and Thomas Golding.

According to Louis Thorn Golding, the testator had eleven children, not including the son, John Golding, named as an executor in the will. See *An Elizabethan Puritan*, *supra*, pp. 14-16.

Testator's first marriage to Elizabeth Towe

The testator married firstly Elizabeth Towe (d. 27 November 1527), the daughter of Thomas Towe, and widow of Reginald Hammond (d.1514?) of Ramsden Bellhouse, Essex. Reginald Hammond's will clarifies that Elizabeth's father was Thomas Towe, not Thomas 'Tonge', as stated in *An Elizabethan Puritan*, 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

Elizabeth Towe's daughter by her first marriage to Reginald Hammond

By her first marriage to Reginald Hammond, Elizabeth Towe had a daughter, Agnes (or Emme) Hammond (buried 3 September 1574), who married firstly John Mountney (d.1528), secondly Henry Wentworth (died c.1545), and thirdly, circa January 1546, William Wilford. See the will of Reginald Hammond, TNA PROB 11/18/133, the will of John Mountney, TNA PROB 11/22/624, and the will, TNA PROB 11/49/288, of Henry Wentworth's brother, Sir John Wentworth (1494 – 15 September 1567) of Gosfield Hall, friend and executor of John de Vere (1516-1562), 16th Earl of Oxford. For William Wilford, the third son of James Wilford and Elizabeth Bateman of Pluckley, Kent, by whom Agnes (nee Hammond) had two sons, John Wilford and William Wilford, see the Wilford pedigree 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>

By her marriage to Henry Wentworth, 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.

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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.

-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,

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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). 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.

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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>

Testator's children by his first marriage to Elizabeth Towe

By Elizabeth Towe, the testator had two sons and two daughters:

* **Sir Thomas Golding** (c.1520-1571), aged 28 or more at his father's death. He married Elizabeth Roydon (c.1523 – 19 August 1595), the daughter and co-heiress of Thomas Roydon of Peckham, Kent, widow successively of William Twysden (d. 19 November 1549), esquire, and Cuthbert Vaughan (c.1519–1563), esquire. For her will, see TNA PROB 11/87/292. For the will of Cuthbert Vaughan, proved 21 October 1563, see TNA PROB 11/46/378.

* **William Golding** (d.1588), who married Elizabeth West (d. by 22 June 1591), the daughter of Edmund West (d.1530?) of Cornard, Suffolk, and widow of John Bukenham (d.1566), esquire, by whom he had two daughters, Margery Golding and Mary Golding. For the will of William Golding, see TNA PROB 11/72/210.

Edmund West was the eldest son and heir of Thomas West (d. August 1508), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/16/187. In his will Thomas West requested that Sir William Waldegrave (c.1465 - 30 June 1527) have the 'rule and marriage' of his eldest son, and in 1519 Sir William Waldegrave sold the wardship of Edmund West to Margaret (nee Felton) Drury, widow of John Drury (1456-1499?) of Rougham, Suffolk, who married him to her daughter, Dorothy Drury. See the will of Edmund West, dated 10 February 1530 and proved 16 November 1531, TNA PROB 11/24/136, and:

<http://rushbrookewithrougham.suffolk.cloud/history/margaret-drury/>

For the Drury family of Rougham, see Campling, Arthur, *The History of the Family of Drury in the Counties of Suffolk and Norfolk from the Conquest*, Chapter III, (London, 1937), at:

https://web.archive.org/web/20120717074721/http://www.genealogysource.com/druryhis_tpt3.htm

By Dorothy Drury, Edmund West had two daughters:

-**Margaret West**, who married Edmund Daniell (d.1569), esquire, of Acton. For her will, dated 27 September 1587 and proved 30 April 1589, in which she mentions her 'sister Golding', her sister's two daughters, Margery Golding and Mary Golding, and 'my

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sister Felton', see TNA PROB 11/73/483. For the will of Edmund Daniell, dated 29 August 1569 and proved 11 November 1569, in which he mentions his 'brother William Golding', see TNA PROB 11/51/382.

-Elizabeth West (d. by 22 June 1591), who married firstly John Bokenham (d.1566), esquire, and secondly the testator, William Golding.

See also Copinger, W.A., *The Manors of Suffolk*, (London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1905), p. 89 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/manorsofsuffolkn01copiuoft#page/88/mode/2up/>

After the death of Edmund West, Dorothy Drury married secondly Robert Downes of Melton, Norfolk. See:

<http://www.prattens.co.uk/families/WEST/notes.html>

For the will of Edward Waldegrave (d.1545?), TNA PROB 11/30/620, in which he leaves a bequest to William Golding's wife as one of the two daughters of Edmund West, see:

Item, I give to the two daughters of Edmund West after the decease of me and my wife two acres of land di(?) called Gilbertes crofts which I bought of Martyn and other if they make no sale of no part of Greyes ground.

* **Margery Golding** (d.1568), who married John de Vere (1516 – 3 August 1562), 16th Earl of Oxford.

* **Elizabeth Golding**, who married Roger Wingfield of Great Dunham, Norfolk, who was descended from the Wingfield family as follows:

Sir John Wingfield (1428 – 10 May 1481) married, by 1547, Elizabeth Fitzlewis (d.1500), by whom he was the father of:

John Wingfield the younger (d.1509), fourth son, of Great Dunham, Norfolk, who married Margaret Dorward, the daughter and heir of Richard Dorward of Barking, Essex, by whom he was the father of:

Thomas Wingfield of Great Dunham, who married Elizabeth Woodhouse, the daughter of Sir Thomas Woodhouse of Kimberley, Norfolk, by whom he was the father of:

Roger Wingfield, who married Elizabeth Golding.

See the detailed Wingfield pedigree at:

<http://www.letheringhamlodge.com/wingfield-of-wingfield-and-letheringham/>

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By Roger Wingfield, Elizabeth Golding was the mother of two sons and five daughters:

-John Wingfield (d.1584), esquire, of Wynche [=East Winch?] and Eston [=Easton?], Norfolk, who married Elizabeth Foster of Yorkshire, but died without issue.

-Edmund Wingfield, who died without issue.

-Jane Wingfield, who married Humphrey Barwick.

-Elizabeth Wingfield (d. 6 October 1620), who married firstly Thomas Poole (d. 13 February 1609), esquire, of Ditchling, Sussex, and secondly Richard Maunsell, esquire. See *The Survey of London*, (London: Elizabeth Purslow, 1633), p. 897 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=UONBAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA897>

Here lieth buried the body of Elizabeth, late wife of Richard Maunsell, esquire, one of the daughters and heirs of Roger Wingfield of Great Dunham in the county of Norfolk, esquire. She departed this life upon the sixth of October in the year of Our Lord God 1620.

-Frances Wingfield, who married the physician, Edward Atslove (d.1594), brother of Oxford's servant, Luke Atslove. See CP 160/74; TNA C 2/Eliz/A2/65; and TNA C 2/Eliz/A6/36.

-Ursula Wingfield, who married a husband surnamed Baghowe.

-Thomasine Wingfield, who married a husband surnamed Borde.

Testator's second marriage to Ursula Marston

The testator married secondly Ursula Marston (died c.1564), daughter and coheir of William Marston of Horton, Surrey, and his wife, Beatrix, by whom he had four sons and three daughters:

* **Henry Golding** (d.1576), steward of the household to John de Vere, 16th Earl of Oxford. For his will, see TNA PROB 11/59/98. He married Alice Cloville of West Hanningfield, Essex, widow successively of Edward Tyrrell (d.1541) of Beeches in Rawreth and George Forster (d.1556). For her will, see TNA PROB 11/70/187.

* **Arthur Golding** (1535/6–1606), translator, who married Ursula Roydon (d.1610), the daughter of John Roydon of Chilham, Kent. See the *ODNB* entry.

* **George Golding** (buried 27 November 1584), who married Mary Bartlett (buried 29 April 1612). For her will, see TNA PROB 11/119/379.

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* **Edmund Golding** (d.1572), rector of Birdbrook, Essex, who married a wife named Sara, about whom nothing further is known.

* **Mary Golding**, who married Anthony Beeke of Reading, by whom she had a son, Thomas Beeke, mentioned in the will of her brother, Henry Golding:

I give unto my nephew, Thomas Beeke, twenty pounds.

* **Dorothy Golding**, who married Edmund Docwra of Thatcham, Berkshire, by whom she was the mother of Sir Henry Docwra (1564-1631), 1st Baron Docwra of Culmore.

* **Frances Golding**, who married Matthew Bacon of Shelfanger, Norfolk.

RM: T{estamentum} Ioh{ann}is Goldinge

In dei nomine, Amen. I, John Golding, give to my wife all my silver plate, and to my ten children the whole profits that shall come for lease of the tenements and lands of Saint Paul's church in London, and the residue of my goods to my said ten children and my wife to be divided, thone half to my wife, the other to the ten children. I make my wife and my son John my executors, and Mr Danyell supervisor thereof, and give to him forty shillings. Item, ye purchased lands in Belchamp to Thomas Golding.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum Testamentum Coram D{omi}no Cantuarien{sis} Archie{pisco}po apud London vicesimo die mensis Iulij Anno domini Mill{es}imo quingentesimo quadragesimo octauo Iuramento testium in ea p{ar}te exa{m}i{n}atorum ac dauid Clapham procuratoris Vrsule goldinge relicte et executricis in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}at{e} cui Com{m}issa fuit administracio om{n}i{um} bonor{um} dicti defuncti De bene et fideliter administrand{o} eadem Ac de pleno Inuentar{io} exhibend{o} Ad sancta dei Evang{e}lia Iurat{e}

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the twentieth day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred forty-eighth by the oath of witnesses in that regard examined and David Clapham, proxy of Ursula Golding, relict and executrix appointed in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all the goods of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to exhibit a full inventory.]

Octauo die mensis Iunij Anno Domini Mill{es}imo Quingen{tesimo} quadragesimo nono Dicta Vrsula renunciauit oneri execucionis dicti testamenti Deinde eodem die com{m}issa fuit administrac{i}o om{n}i{um} et sing{u}lorum bonorum dicti defuncti

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de et cum consensu ipsius Ursule Thome Goldinge Armigeri filio ipsius defuncti ad viam intestati et De bene et fideliter administrando eadem Ac de Pleno et fidei Inventario exhibendo Necnon de Plano compoto reddendo Ad sancta dei Evangelia Iurat

[=On the eighth day of the month of June in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred forty-ninth the said Ursula renounced the burden of the execution of the said testament, and thereafter on the same day administration was granted of all and singular the goods of the said deceased by and with the consent of the same Ursula to Thomas Golding, esquire, son of the same deceased, by way of intestacy, and sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to exhibit a full and true inventory, and also to render a plain account.]

1 In dei nomine amen Auditis visis et intellectis ac plenarie et mature discussis per nos Willielmum

2 Cooke legum doctorem Curie Prerogative Commissarium Reverendissimum in Xpo patrem et dominum domini Thomam Cantuariensis Archiepiscopum

3 totius Anglie primatum et metropolitanum auctoritate Illustrissimi in Xpo principis et Domini nostri domini Edwardi Sexti dei gracia

4 Anglie francie et hibernie Regis fidei defensoris ac in terra ecclesie Anglicane et hibernie supremi capituli legitime fulfillitur meritum

5 et circumstancijs cuiusdam cause testamentarie siue approbationis testamenti et ultime voluntatis Iohannis Goldinge Londoniensis

6 diocesis cantuariensis que prouincie defuncti habentis dum vixit et mortis sue tempore bona iura siue credita in diuersis diocesis dictae prouincie Cantuariensis

7 alia ex parte Ursule Goldinge relicte et executricis testamenti dicti defuncti coram nobis in hac parte exhibitae que coram

8 nobis inter Henricum Goldynge filium naturalem et legitimum ipsius defuncti patrem officium nostrum promouentem et dictum testamentum

9 per testes probari petentem ex vna parte et eandem Ursulam executricem huiusmodi dictum Testamentum per testes probare

10 conantem Necnon quendam Thomam Goldynge filium etiam naturalem et legitime eiusdem defuncti pro suo interesse in hac parte

11 interuenientem et testamentum huiusmodi impugnantem ex altera parte aliquam diu vertebatur vertiturque ad huc et

12 pendet indecisum rite et legitime procedentes partibus predictis per earum Procuratores coram nobis in iudicio legitime commparentibus

13 partibusque dictorum Henrici et Ursule Sententiam ferri et Iusticiam fieri pro parte sua parte vero memorati Thome Goldinge

14 Iusticiam pro parte sua instanter Postulantibus Rimatoque primitus per nos toto et integro processu in huiusmodi causa habito et

15 factum atque diligenter recensitis seruatisque per nos de iure in hac parte seruandis ad nostre sententie diffinitive siue nostre finalis decreti in

16 dicta causa ferendam prolationem sic duximus procedendum et procedimus in hunc qui sequitur modum Quia per acta inac

17 titata deducta allegata Proposita exhibitam probatam et consensatam comperimus et Luculenter invenimus partem Prefate

18 Ursule Goldynge intentionem suam in hac parte coram nobis in quadam allegacione par partem dicte goldinge executricis

19 antedicte datam et allegatam cuius quidem allegacionis tenor sequitur et est talis Quibus die et Loco Clapham exhibuit

20 Procuratorum suum apud regnum existens Pro Ursula Goldinge et fecit septem Pro eadem etcetera quam allegacionem pro

21 hic lecto et inserto habemus et haberi volumus sufficienter et ad plenum fundasse partem et probasse nichilque effectuale ex parte

22 aut per partem [sic?] antedicti Thome Goldinge in hac parte exceptum deductum allegatum exhibitum propositum aut Probatum quod

23 intentionem dicte Ursule in hac Parte elideret seu quomodolibet enaruaret [sic?] Idcirco nos Wilhelmus Cooke legum Doctor

24 Commissarius antedictus Xpi nomine primitus invocato ac ipsum solum deum occulis nostris preponentes de et cum Consilio iurisperitorum

25 cum quibus in hac parte communicauimus pro viribus et valore eiusdem Testamenti dicti Iohannis Goldynge defuncti coram nobis

26 exhibit{i} in hac curia ip{su}mq{ue} Iohannem Goldynge defunct{um} Testamentum suum h{uius}mo{d}i rite et l{egi}time constituisse condidisse et

27 ordinasse Atq{ue} eandem Vrsulam Goldinge eius vxorem testamenti sui h{uius}mo{d}i executricem sufficienter et l{egi}time

28 constituisse no{m}i{n}asse et etiam deputasse ac ordinasse Pronunciamus decernimus et declaramus Illudq{ue} Testamentum

29 approband{um} et insinuand{um} Necnon administrac{i}onem om{n}i{um} et sing{u}lorum bonor{um} iurium et creditorum d{i}c{tu}m def{unctum} et suum testamentum

30 h{uius}mo{d}i qualitercumq{ue} concernen{tem} prenominata Vrsule Goldynge executrici predictae in debita iuris forma com{m}ittend{um} fore debere

31 et cum effectu sic approbari et insinuari ac comitti etiam Pronunciamus decernimus et declaramus illud quoq{ue} Testamentum

32 approbamus et insinuamus ac administrac{i}onem om{n}i{um} et sing{u}lorum bonorum iuriu{m} et creditorum ip{s}ius defuncti et testamenti

33 sui h{uius}mo{d}i eidem Vrsule goldynge executrici antedictae in p{er}sona mag{ist}ri Dauid Clapham Procuratoris sui l{egi}time coram nobis

34 comp{ar}en{tis} in debita iuris forma Iurat{e} comittimus p{er} hanc n{ost}ra{m} s{ente}n{c}iam diffinitiuam siue hoc n{ost}ru{m} finale decretum quam siue

35 quod ferimus et promulgamus in hijs scriptis

[=In the name of God, Amen. We, William Cooke, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court lawfully upheld by the most reverend father in Christ and lord of the Lord, Thomas, Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate and Metropolitan of all England by the authority of the most illustrious in Christ prince and lord, our Lord Edward the Sixth, by the grace of God King of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, and on earth Supreme Head of the Church of England and Ireland, having heard, seen and understood, and fully and in a timely manner investigated the merits and circumstances of a certain testamentary cause or probate of the testament and last will of John Golding of the diocese of London and province of Canterbury, deceased, having while he lived and at the time of his death goods, rights and credits in divers dioceses of the said province of Canterbury at another time exhibited before us in this regard on behalf of Ursula Golding, relict and executrix of the testament of the said deceased, which before us between Henry Golding, natural and legitimate son of the same deceased, moving the part of our office and petitioning the said testament to be proved by witnesses on the one part, and the same Ursula, executrix, endeavouring to prove the same said testament by witnesses, and also a certain Thomas Golding, also a natural and legitimate son of the same deceased, for his

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interest in this regard intervening, and impugning the same testament on the other part, for a long time was considered and is still being considered and pending undecided, duly and lawfully proceeding by the foresaid parties by their proctors lawfully appearing before us in trial, and the parties of the said Henry and Ursula [+urgently demanding] sentence to be pronounced and justice to be done on their behalf, and on his part the worshipful(?) Thomas Golding earnestly demanding justice on his behalf, and we having first examined the whole and entire process had and made in the same cause, and having carefully reviewed and paid heed to the law in that regard to be considered in the pronouncement of our definitive sentence or final decree to be made in the said cause, we have thus thought fit to proceed and we do proceed in this manner which follows:

That by the things enacted, dealt with, alleged, proposed, exhibited, proved and assented to we well find and discover the party of the forenamed Ursula Golding, her intention in this regard before us in a certain allegation on behalf of the said Golding, executrix aforesaid, given and alleged, of which certain allegation the tenor follows and is such [+as] on the which day and place Clapham, her proctor, exhibited, being at the register, for Ursula Golding, and [+which] he did seven [+times?] for the same etc., which allegation here read and inserted, we hold and we wish to hold to have been sufficiently and at full in like manner established and proved, and nothing effectual on the part or on behalf of the aforesaid Thomas Golding in this regard excepted, dealt with, alleged, exhibited, proposed or proved which would counter or in any way weaken the intention of the said Ursula in this regard, for that reason we, William Cooke, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary aforesaid, first invoking the name of Christ, and placing God alone before our eyes, by and with the advice of those skilled in the law with whom in this regard we have conferred, do pronounce, decree and declare for the force and validity of the same testament of the said John Golding, deceased, exhibited before us in this court, and [+do pronounce] the same John Golding, deceased, to have duly and lawfully constituted, made and ordained his same testament, and to have sufficiently and lawfully constituted, appointed and also deputed and ordained the same Ursula Golding, his wife, executrix of his same testament, and [+do pronounce] that testament probated and registered, and also [+that] the administration of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased and concerning his same testament, by whatever right, ought to be entrusted in due form of law to the forenamed Ursula Golding, executrix aforesaid, and with the effect thus to be probated and registered and also entrusted, and we do probate and register that testament, and do entrust the administration of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the same deceased and of the same his testament to the same Ursula Golding, executrix aforesaid, in the person of Master David Clapham, her proctor, lawfully appearing before us, sworn in due form of law, by this our definitive sentence or this our final decree, which we allow and publish in these writings.]

1 Lecta erat h{uius}mo{di} S{ente}n{c}ia Diffinitiva p{er} d{ict}um Commiss{ariu}m
Loco Con{sistoriali} London{iensis} die veneris xxo viz Iulij Anno domini

2 Mill{esi}mo quingen{tesim}o xlvijjo Ad peti{ci}onem Clapham et Iohnson
Procuratoris respectiue Goldynge et Goldinge in p{rese}ncia Lewes

3 procuratoris Thome Goldinge p{ar}tis principalis aduers{is} p{er} quam pronunciauit
pro viribus et valore tes{tament}ti Goldinge defuncti

4 P{rese}ntibus Mag{ist}ris Ioh{anne} Croke Iohanne ffuller Galfride Glynne(?)
Legu{m} doctorib{us} Ioh{ann}e Clerke notar{io} pub{li}co testibus Ac me Tho{ma}
A{rgall} Reg{ist}rario

[=This definitive sentence was read by the said Commissary in the consistorial place of London on Friday the 20th day, viz., of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 48th at the petition of Clapham and Johnson, proctors respectively of Golding and Golding, in the presence of Lewes, proctor of Thomas Golding, the principal adverse party, by which he pronounced for the force and validity of the testament of Golding, deceased, being present Masters John Croke, John Fuller, Walter Glynne, Doctors of the Law, John Clerke, notary public, witnesses, and me, Thomas Argall, registrar]