

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 12 July 1546 and proved 25 January 1549, of Mary (nee Scrope) Jerningham Kingston (d.1548), whose sister, Elizabeth (d.1537), was the second wife of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford.

For the will of the testatrix' father, Richard Scrope (d.1485), see the copy on this website and in *Testamenta Eboracensia*, Vol. III (London: Surtees Society, 1865), pp. 297-9, available online. For the will of the testatrix' mother, Eleanor (nee Washbourne) Scrope Wyndham (d.1505/6), see TNA PROB 11/15.

The testatrix had six sisters who lived to adulthood:

-Elizabeth (d.1537), married firstly, William (1436-1507), 2<sup>nd</sup> Viscount Beaumont and Lord Bardolf, and secondly, in 1508, John de Vere (1442-1513), 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford (for her will, see TNA PROB 11/27, ff. 84-6; for the will of the 13<sup>th</sup> Earl, see TNA PROB 11/17, ff. 82-90);

-Eleanor, married her stepbrother, Sir Thomas Wyndham (d.1522) of Felbrigg;

-Margaret (d.1515), married Edmund de la Pole (1472?-1513), 8<sup>th</sup> Earl of Suffolk, a claimant to the throne who was executed in 1513. For her will, see TNA PROB 11/18, ff. 44-5. Edmund de la Pole's paternal grandparents were William de la Pole (1396-1450), 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Suffolk (executed 1450), and Alice Chaucer (d.1475), the grand-daughter of Geoffrey Chaucer, author of *The Canterbury Tales*. At one time the Earls of Oxford owned the Ellesmere manuscript of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, which contains a 'balade' on the House of Vere by one Rotheley in a hand dating from 1450-1480. The de Vere ownership of the Ellesmere manuscript may have resulted from the fact that the 13<sup>th</sup> Earl's wife, Elizabeth (d.1537), Countess of Oxford, was the sister-in-law of Edmund de la Pole (1472?-1513), grandson of Alice Chaucer;

-Katherine, married Richard Audley of Swaffham, Norfolk, eldest son and heir of Sir John Audley of Cokefield & Wytellisham, Suffolk (died 18 April 1529) and his first wife, Muriel Brewes;

-Jane, married Thomas Brewes or Brewse (d.1514), of Wenham, Suffolk, son of Robert Brewes of Little Wenham (d.1513) and Katherine Wingfield (d.1525), the daughter of Sir John Wingfield of Letheringham;

-Anne, a nun at Barking.

For the Scrope pedigree, see Norcliffe, Charles Best, ed., *The Visitation of Yorkshire in the Years 1563 and 1563* by William Flower, Vol. 16, (London: Harleian Society, 1881), p. 280, available online.

The testatrix married, firstly, as his second wife, Edward Jerningham (d.1515) of Somerleyton, by whom she had a son, Sir Henry Jerningham (1509/10-1572), and, it is said, another son, Edmund Jerningham, who died on 9 February 1546 (see Betham, William, *The Baronetage of England*, Vol. I, (Ipswich: Burrell and Bransby, 1801), p. 227, available online; the will of the testatrix' second husband, Sir William Kingston, in which Edmund Jerningham is mentioned; and the will of Elizabeth de Vere (d.1537), Countess of Oxford, who leaves a bequest to her nephew, Edmund Jerningham (see TNA PROB 11/27, ff. 84-6).

The testatrix married, secondly, Sir William Kingston (c.1476–1540). For the testatrix' two marriages, see the entries for Sir William Kingston (c.1476–1540) and the testatrix' son, Sir Henry Jerningham (1509/10-1572) in the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*. See also the wills of the testatrix' two husbands, Edward Jerningham (d.1515), TNA PROB 11/18, ff. 30-1, and Sir William Kingston (c.1476–1540), TNA PROB 11/28, f. 252, her son, Sir Henry Jerningham (1509/10–1572), TNA PROB 11/55, ff. 134-6, and her daughter-in-law, Frances, TNA PROB 11/66, ff. 206-8.

The will of the testatrix' sister, Elizabeth (d.1537), Countess of Oxford, contains bequests to the testatrix and her second husband, Sir William Kingston (c.1476–1540):

*Item, I give and bequeath to my brother, Sir William Kingston, knight, my Jesus of diamonds set in gold with 3 great pearls hanging at the same, also my 2 flagons of silver having my Lord of Oxenford's arms in them.*

*Item, I give and bequeath to my sister, Dame Mary, his wife, a basin and an ewer of silver chased gilt of the newest making afore the chance of fire, weighing 92 ounces; my goblet of gold graven with crankettes and mullets, weighing 13 ounces 1 quarter; and also my book of gold set with pearl.*

*Item, I give and bequeath to my sister, Dame Mary Kingston, and to my sister, Jane Brewes, all my samplers, evenly to be divided between them, and I will my said sister Kingston to have the choice.*

In the will below, the testatrix leaves bequests to three of her stepchildren by her first marriage to Edward Jerningham (d.1515) of Somerleyton:

*Item, I bequeath to my son-in-law, Sir John Jerningham, knight, a cup of silver and gilt to the value of five pound sterling.*

*Item, I bequeath to my Lady Anne Grey, my daughter-in-law, a goblet of silver & gilt with a cover, and a ring with a ruby.*

*Item, I bequeath to my daughter-in-law, Margaret Hasset [=Blennerhasset], a cruse of silver and gilt to the value of four marks sterling.*

For the will of the testatrix' stepdaughter, Lady Anne Grey (d.1559), see TNA PROB 11/42B, ff. 137-9.

The testatrix also leaves three bequests to the future Queen Mary:

*Item, I bequeath to my Lady Mary's Grace my thick book of prayers covered with gold.*

*Also I give and bequeath to my Lady Mary's Grace one piece of gold coined with th' arms of Spain upon it.*

*Also I give her six portagues of gold coined.*

The testatrix refers to Sir Walter Stonor (1477-1550), one of the supervisors of her will, as her cousin. He was the son of Sir Thomas Stonor (1450-1512). See the entry for Sir Adrian Fortescue (c.1481–1539), in the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*, and Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2004), pp. 691-2.

Styrye records the following verses on a brass plate on the south wall of the old chancel of the Church of St Mary at Low Leyton commemorating Lady Mary Kingston:

*If you will the truth have,  
Here lieth in this grave,  
Directly under this stone,  
Good Lady Mary Kingston,  
Who departed this life, the truth to say,  
In the month of August, the twenty-fifth day,  
And as I do well remember,  
Was buried honourably the fourth day of September  
The year of Our Lord reckoned truly  
M<sup>V</sup>c forty and eight verily,  
Whose yearly obit and anniversary  
Is determined to be kept surely  
At the cost of her son, Sir Henry Jerningham, truly,  
Who was at this making  
Of the Queen's Guard chief captain.*

See Styrye, John, *A Survey of the Cities of London and Westminster*, Appendix 1, Chapter 13, p. 115, available online at:

[http://www.hrionline.ac.uk/styrye/TransformServlet?page=app1\\_115&display=normal](http://www.hrionline.ac.uk/styrye/TransformServlet?page=app1_115&display=normal)

RM: domine marie Kingston Vidue defuncte

In the name of God, Amen. I, Mary Kingston, widow, the 12<sup>th</sup> day of July in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred forty and six, and in the 38<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Henry the Eight, being of whole mind & perfect remembrance, thanked be Our Lord God, do make and declare my last will and testament in manner and form as hereafter doth follow:

First, I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God, my Maker and my Redeemer, and to Our Lady Saint Mary, and to all the holy company of heaven, and my body to be buried at Painswick where my late husband, Sir William Kingston, knight of the honourable Order of the Garter, whose soul God pardon, lieth buried;

Item, I will that my said husband's will be fulfilled in everything according to the true meaning and effect of the same;

Item, I bequeath to my Lady Mary's Grace my thick book of prayers covered with gold;

Item, I bequeath to my son-in-law, Sir Anthony Kingston, an image of Saint Anthony with a diamond and a pearl hanging at it, and my trussing bed of crimson velvet and cloth of gold;

Item, I bequeath to my son-in-law, Sir John Jerningham, knight, a cup of silver and gilt to the value of five pound sterling;

Item, I bequeath to my Lady Anne Grey, my daughter-in-law, a goblet of silver & gilt with a cover, and a ring with a ruby;

Item, I bequeath to my sister Bruce [=Brewse] a hoop of gold with the Five Wounds engraved in it, and my book covered with purple velvet;

Item, I bequeath to my sister Seynteclere [=Saintclere], wife to Sir John Seyntclere, knight, a gown of black velvet and a kirtle of tawny satin, and a pair of beads of cassaydown gauded with gold;

Item, I bequeath to my niece, Elizabeth, her daughter, a kirtle of black velvet;

Item, I bequeath to my nephew, John Bruse [=Brewse], a brooch of gold with the picture of Mary Magdalene engraved therein;

Item, I bequeath to my cousin, Sir Walter Stonor, knight, my best standing cup, and to my cousin, his wife, a[n] ale cruse with a cover of silver and gilt;

Item, I bequeath to my servant, Margaret Harrys, my gown of French black & my kirtle of black satin, and a salt of silver & gilt with a cover to the value of four marks sterling, a dozen of silver spoons that be in a case, and a cruse of silver and gilt to the value of four marks sterling, and a nut with a foot and a cover of silver and gilt with a portcullis in the top, and twenty pounds in money;

Item, I will that the said Margaret shall have for term of her life only all that messuage, lands, tenements & hereditaments with their appurtenances lying & being in the parish of Leyton in the county of Essex which I lately purchased of George Baldock, without any rent, suit or service therefore to do, yield or pay unto my heirs for the same during her said life;

Item, I give to the said Margaret the bedding which is in her chamber at my house late belonging to the Blackfriars in London, and all things that belongeth to her chamber, and a sparver of tawny satin and blue, and I charge my executors that they see tha[t] the said Margaret have all my said legacies to her bequeathed as is aforesaid without any diminution thereof;

Item, I bequeath to Johanne Stempe five marks in money if she be in my service when it shall please God I shall depart out of this world;

Item, I bequeath to every of my servants that shall fortune to be in my service at the time of my decease their whole year's wages;

Item, I bequeath £6 13s 4d to Sir William Blackburn, priest, for to say Mass and pray for the souls of me & my said husband one whole year next after my decease;

Item, I bequeath to Mary Vyolet a little salt of mother pearl made like a ship, and thirty shillings in money;

Item, I bequeath to Johanne Haynes four pounds in money, to be bestowed to her most profit by the discretion of the overseers of this my will;

Item, I bequeath to my son, Henry Jerningham, my farm of Bydfeld [=Bidfield?] in the county of Gloucester, and all the term of years which I have yet to come in the same farm, with the stock of sheep thereupon being, and all things thereto belonging;

Item, I will that Mary Jerningham, daughter to my said son, Henry Jerningham, shall immediately after my decease have to her and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten my chief mansion house in Leyton aforesaid, and also all barns, stables, orchards, gardens to the same pertaining or belonging, and also all my lands, tenements, meadows, leasows, pastures, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments with their appurtenances lying and being in the parish of Leyton aforesaid which I lately purchased of John Plumsted, and also all that my messuage, lands, tenements & hereditaments with their appurtenances lying in Walthamstow in the said county of Essex late in the holding of John Perryng, and if the said Mary fortune to decease without heir of her body lawfully begotten, then I will that all the said messuages, lands, tenements & other the premises with their appurtenances shall remain unto my said son, Henry Jerningham, & to his heirs forever;

And I will that the said Mary shall have all the stuff & utensils of household which is and remaineth in my said chief mansion house;

And further I bequeath unto the said Mary a long chain of gold writen, and two of my best tablets of gold, and two of my best pomanders of gold, and also a flower of gold made like a gillyflower set with diamonds;

Item, I bequeath to my daughter-in-law, Margaret Hasset [=Blennerhasset], a cruse of silver and gilt to the value of four marks sterling;

Item, I bequeath to Johanne Johnson, my servant, being a poor woman, her whole year's wages and ten shillings in money for her reward;

Item, I bequeath to Cecily Barnes, servant to my Lady Mary's Grace, a pomander of gold fashioned like a pear;

Item, all the residue of my goods unbequeathed, as well movable as unmovable, after that my debts and legacies be paid and delivered, my will fulfilled and my funerals finished, I freely give and bequeath them unto my said son, Henry Jerningham, whom I make my sole executor of this my will and testament, and I charge him upon my blessing that he see this my will performed to his power, and to cause my body to be buried according as is expressed in this my will, and to bestow about my burial, as well in black cloth for my friends and servants as in other things by the discretions of the overseers of this my testament, a hundred marks in money, the which I bequeath for that purpose;

Furthermore I make my said cousin, Sir Walter Stonor, knight, and John Ryder, esquire, to be the supervisors of this my last will;

Item, I bequeath to my said cousin, Sir Walter Stonor, for his pains to be taken therein, £4 sterling;

Item, I bequeath to the said John Ryder for his pains to be taken therein a cup of silver to the value of £4 sterling;

Item, I bequeath to George Bartelmewe, servant to the said Mr Seyntcler, 40s in money towards his finding;

Item, I bequeath to Thomas which useth to serve me in my kitchen 40s sterling;

In witness of all which premises I, the said Dame Mary Kingston, to this present will & testament have subscribed my name. Mary Kingston

LM: Codicillus eiusdem Domine Marie

This codicil made the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred forty and eight, I, Mary Kingston, widow, the said day and year calling to my

remembrance th' estate of this present time, do desire and require my executor that where I willed my body to be buried at Painswick by the body of my late husband, Sir William Kingston, knight, deceased, my said body to be buried in the parish church where it shall please God to call me to his mercy;

Also by this my codicil I revoke the gift of the bed of crimson velvet and cloth of gold paned, embroidered with letters, afore in my will given and bequeathed to Sir Anthony Kingston; I will and bequeath the same to Mary Jerningham, daughter to my son, Henry, as parcel of the implements of my mansion house in Leyton;

Also I give to the said Mary a pair of flagons of silver with a chain of silver; one pair of pots of silver parcel gilt; one basin and one ewer of silver parcel gilt; a round basin of silver, barber fashion, and one ewer of silver to the same; one pair of salts of silver all gilt with one cover to the same; three bowls with one cover, all of silver gilt; two gilt cruses, large, of silver, and 4 smaller cruses of silver all gilt;

Also I give and bequeath to my Lady Mary's Grace one piece of gold coined with th' arms of Spain upon it;

Also I give her six portagues of gold coined;

I give to Elizabeth Ryther [=Ryder] my little book of gold with a prayer to the Sacrament, and also one ring of gold with the Five Wounds, and also in ready money I give her £6 13s 4d;

Item, I give and bequeath to Elizabeth Chinborne my best gown of black satin, and five pounds in money;

I give and bequeath to Ann Gunfyld my gown of black damask, and four pounds in money;

I give to Johan Johnson 26s 8d in money, and one whole year's wages;

I give to Great Alice her whole year's wages, and 20s in ready money;

I give to my cousin Westbone his whole year's wages, and 53s 4d in money;

I give to William Morant twenty pounds in angels, and my ring of gold with a sapphire;

I give and bequeath to John Ryther [=Ryder], esquire, Cofferer of the King's Majesty's honourable Household, my ring of gold with a turquoise, the greatest;

Also I give and bequeath to all my servants of household that shall be within my house at the time of my departure, over and besides their whole year's wages in my will afore bequeathed, every of them one quarter wages;

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Also I will my house to be kept the space of two months next after my departure for the comfort of my poor servants and relief of the poor people;

Also I give to the vicar of Leyton for tithes forgotten 20s, to the parson of Walthamstow 10s, to the vicar of Painswick 20s, to the poor inhabitants within the parish of Somerleyton in Suffolk 40s;

Also I give to my son, Henry Jerningham, my goblet of gold with a cover graven with mullets and crankets, charging him of my blessing that the same may remain from heir to heir so long as it will endure;

Also I give to my daughter Frances, his wife, my ring of gold with a burage [=bridge?] of diamonds;

Also I give her two rings of gold with pointed diamonds, and my ring of gold with a ruby, and my tablet of gold with divers leaves of gold portured with images.

Probatum fuit huiusmodi testamentum cum codicillo coram domino Cantuariensis Archiepiscopo apud London xxvo die Ianuarij Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo xlvijjo Iuramento Daud Clapham procuratoris Henrici Iernyngham executoris in huiusmodi testamento nominati Cui Comissa fuit administracio omnium bonorum &c De bene &c Ac de pleno Inuentario &c exhibendo Ad sancta dei Euangelia Iurati

[=The same testament was proved, with the codicil, before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 48<sup>th</sup> by the oath of David Clapham, proctor of Henry Jerningham, executor named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all the goods etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., and to exhibit a full inventory etc.]