

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 13 August 1552 and proved 26 April 1553, of Sir Anthony Wingfield (b. before 1488, d. 1552) of Letheringham, brother-in-law of John de Vere (1499-1527), 14th Earl of Oxford. The testator was the eldest son and heir of Sir John Wingfield (d.1509) of Letheringham, Suffolk, and his wife, Anne, daughter of John Tuchet (d. 26 September 1490), 6th Baron Audley. Through his parents, the testator was a descendant of King Edward I of England and Eleanor of Castile. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2004), pp. 53-5, 373-4, 721-4.

The testator married Elizabeth Vere (d.1557), eldest daughter of Sir George Vere (d.1502/3) and sister of John de Vere (1499-1527), 14th Earl of Oxford. According to the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*, they had at least ten children (seven sons and three daughters). However only three sons (Anthony, Henry and Richard) and two daughters (Margaret, and a married 'daughter Naunton') are mentioned in the will below.

For details of the testator's career as a soldier and administrator, see the entry in the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*.

The testator is said to have died 15 August 1552 at the house of his fellow Privy Councillor, Sir John Gates (1504–1553). The testator was succeeded by his third son, Sir Robert Wingfield (d. 19 March 1596/7), who married Cecily Wentworth (d. 22 August 1573), the daughter of Thomas Wentworth (1501–1551), 1st Baron Wentworth. The testator requests that his son-in-law, Thomas Wentworth (1525–1584), 2nd Baron Wentworth, act as supervisor of his will. Another of the testator's sons, Richard Wingfield, married Mary Hardwick, the sister of Elizabeth (nee Hardwick) Talbot (1527-1608), Countess of Shrewsbury, popularly known as 'Bess of Hardwick'.

For the will of the testator's father-in-law, Sir George Vere (d. 1502/3), see TNA PROB 11/13, f. 182. For the will of the testator's sister-in-law, Ursula (nee de Vere) Windsor Knightly, see TNA PROB 11/42A, ff. 7-9. For the will of Sir Robert Wingfield, see TNA PROB 11/87, f. 327.

RM: Testamentum Anthonij Wingfeld Militis

In dei nomine Amen. The will of me, Sir Anthony Wingfield, knight, the 13th day of August in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred fifty and two:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, by whose merits and passion I trust to be saved, and my body to the earth;

I do ordain and make my executors my wife and Robert Wingfield, my son, and I do heartily desire my Lord Wentworth to be supervisor of the same to see this my last will and testament to be performed;

I do give to my son, Anthony, Philpott and his pension if he be by the King's Majesty granted to me, and if he have not Philpott, I do give him twenty marks by year;

And I do give to my son, Henry, twenty marks by year;

And I do give to my son, Richard Wingfield, ten pounds by year;

And I do give to my daughter, Margaret, four hundred marks to her marriage;

Also I do give during her life to my daughter Naunton five marks by year;

Also I will that my brother, Henry Wingfield, shall have the keeping of the park at Letheringham as I appointed him if he refuse the comptrollership of Calais, which I no ways would have him to do;

Also I do give to John Audley, my servant, five pounds of money;

To Woodhouse, Flye(?), Croftes(?) and Wheler & Crykdort(?) and to every of them five marks;

And where I have left any of my servants unrewarded, I do desire my executors to reward them upon their discretion;

And if there be any doubt in this my last will and testament, I will that my Lord Wentworth see it reformed as shall please him, and cause it to be written and ordered according to the law;

And that this is my last will and testament these be witness: Hugh Willoughby, Erasmus Henyningham, and John Audley.

Vicesimo sexto die Mensis Aprilis Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo quinquagesimo Tercio Emanauit commissio Roberto Wingfeld Armigero filio naturali et legitimo Anthonij Wingfeld nuper ordinis garterij militis defuncti ad viam intestati pro eo quod executores &c renunciauerunt De bene &c administrando eundem iuxta tenorem huius testamenti Iurato

[=On the twenty-sixth day of the month of April in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-third a grant issued to Robert Wingfield, esquire, natural and legitimate son of Anthony Wingfield, late of the Order of the Garter, deceased, by way of an intestacy because the executors etc. have renounced, sworn etc. to administer the same according to the tenor of the same testament.]

I, Elizabeth Wingfield, widow, the 17th day of November in the year of the reign of King Edward Sixth the 6th, late wife of Sir Anthony Wingfield of the honourable Order of the Garter, knight, deceased, do signify and declare by this my present writing to all and singular ecclesiastical and spiritual judges and to their ministers that I, the said Elizabeth, have and do by these presents remit and refuse the office and burden of the executorship of the last will and testament of the said Sir Anthony, in witness whereof unto these presents I, the said Elizabeth, have set to my seal.