

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 15 January 1557 and proved 5 February 1557, of Thomas Spring of Pakenham, Suffolk, whose grandfather, Thomas Spring (d.1523), and John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford, were major benefactors of the Church of St Peter and St Paul in Lavenham. See:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/church_gallery_03.shtml

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator was the eldest son and heir of Robert Spring (1502 – 3 or 20 April 1549?) of Lavenham, Suffolk, for whose will, dated 10 October 1547 and proved 24 May 1549, see TNA PROB 11/32/437. See also Corder, Joan, ed., *The Visitation of Suffolk, 1561, Part I*, (London: Harleian Society, 1981), pp. 32-3, and Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *The Visitation of Suffolke*, Vol. I, (Lowestoft: Samuel Tymms, 1866), p. 168 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ExI2AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA168>

For the testator's family background, see also Copinger, W.A., *The Manors of Suffolk: The Hundreds of Babergh and Blackbourn*, (London: T. Unwin Fisher, 1905), p. 198 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/manorsofsuffolkn01copiuoft#page/198/mode/2up>

Rowheads alias Roushedges Manor

It is found that trustees were seised of this tenement to the use of Thomas Spryng who died the 28 September 1486, and that Thomas Spryng aged 30 years was his son and heir. In subsequent times however it is frequently referred to as a manor. Thomas Spring called the "Rich Clothier of Lavenham" was the Spring who built two chapels in Lavenham Church and a good part of the steeple. He died in 1523, when the manor passed to his son and heir Sir John Spring. Three years before his death he disposed of the manor to his brother Robert Spring who married Ann daughter of Thomas Eden of London and died seised the 20th April 1549, when it passed to his son and heir Thomas Spring then 30 years of age. Thomas Spring married 1st Julian d. and h. of John Fayrye who died Sheriff of London, and 2^{ndly} a daughter of Appleton of Waldingfield, and according to the Davy MSS. held this manor being succeeded by his son and heir Robert Spring. It seems pretty clear however that the manor did not pass to this last Robert Spring, for before the year 1575 it had vested in Stephen Spring 6th son of Robert Spring and came to him either on the death of his father Robert in 1549 or of his brother Thomas, for in this year 1575 Stephen disposed of the manor to Sir William Cordell. No doubt the sale was made as Stephen Spring had an only daughter as heir Elizabeth married to George Kempe of Swasye in Cambridgshire.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

The testator married Julian Fayre, the daughter of John Fayre, Sheriff of London. After the testator's death, his widow, Julian, married Thomas Poley of Icklingham, son of William Poley (d.1557?) of Icklingham, gentleman, by Katherine Larke (d.1560?). See Corder, *supra*, p. 33, and Howard, *supra*, p. 302 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ExI2AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA302>

In the will below, the testator mentions three sons and three daughters:

Thomas Spring.

William Spring.

Edward Spring.

Anne Spring.

Dorothy Spring.

Frances Spring.

OTHER PERSONS NAMED IN THE WILL

For Sir William Cordell (d.1581), see the *ODNB* entry; his will, TNA PROB 11/63/590; and the will of his wife, Mary Clopton Cordell (d.1585), TNA PROB 11/68/545. Sir William Cordell was one of the trustees appointed in an indenture entered into by Oxford on 30 January 1575 prior to his departure on his continental tour. See ERO D/DRg2/25.

The testator's 'brother Humberstone' was William Humberstone, esquire, husband of the testator's sister, Dorothy Spring.

For an earlier transcript of the testator's will, see Howard, *supra*, p. 184 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ExI2AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA184>

LM: T{estamentum} Thome Springe

Memorandum: That I, Thomas Spring of Pakenham in the county of Suffolk, the 15th day of January the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred fifty and six, being of good mind and memory, make my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my body to be buried in the church where it shall please God I shall die;

Item, I bequeath to my wife all my household stuff;

Item, I will that Thomas Spring, William Spring and Edward Spring, my sons, have out of the manors of Pakenham and Icklingham yearly ten pounds to every of them during their lives;

And that Anne, Dorothy and Frances, my daughters, have of the revenues of all my lands in possession and reversion (my wife's portion excepted) two hundred marks apiece, and if one of them die before marriage, thother two to have her portion evenly divided between them, and if two of them die unmarried, then the third to have all their portions, and they all three die, then all their portions to remain to my next heir;

Item, where by the law I may declare my will of my possessions and reversions during the nonage of my son of two parts of my lands, I give and bequeath to Julian, my wife, all my lands and tenements in Preston, Lavenham and Finchingfield during her life, and if she like not to take that, then she to take the third of all my lands according to the common law;

Item, I will and give to the poor people in Lavenham ten pounds, that is, five pounds at Easter and five pound at midsummer;

I will Joan Goodchepe have twenty pounds which I owe her, and five pound more of my gift;

Item, I give to Chynerye, mine old servant, 20s a year during twenty years, with clause of distress for non-payment;

Item, I give to every of my maidservants 20s;

Item, I give to Master Ashfield all my hawks and spaniels;

Item, I give to my wife my white gelding;

Item, I give to my sister, Frances, my little gilt cup which I am wont to drink malmsey in;

Item, I give to my cousin, William Spring, and my cousin, Thomas Poley, each of them 40s to make them a ring;

Item, to Thomas Scudamore, my lackey, ten shillings;

Item, I give to every one of my yeomen servants that hath served me a year three pounds;

And to every of my servants of husbandry & shepherds that have served me a year 20s;

Item, I give to Mr Cordell and my brother Humberstone £20 apiece for their labour and pains and all their convenient charges, which two I make mine executors, and my mother my supervisor;

Item, I will mine executors do for me at my burial and month-mind [check] as it shall seem best by their discretions;

My plate and all the rest of my goods not bequeathed, my debts and other legacies performed, I will shall be evenly divided between my wife and children;

Item, I give to George, my falconer, my buff-skin jerkin;

Item, I will mine executors find my younger sons and my daughters unmarried till they be 18 years old of the revenues of the two parts of my lands (if that be not enough, then of my goods), every one honestly according to my degree and with no superfluity or vain waste.

Per me, Robertum Ashfield. Per me, Thomas Poley. Per me, Henricum Walker. Per me, Willelmum Bonde.

Probatum fuit Testamentu{m} Coram Mag{ist}ro Will{el}mo Cooke Legu{m} Doctore Curie prerogative Reuerendissimi in xpo patris et d{omi}ni n{ost}ri d{omi}ni Reginaldi Cantuar{iensis} Archiep{iscop}i Custode siue Comissario Quinto die Mens{is} ffebruarij Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingentesimo Lvjto Iuramento Edmundi Brudenell procurator{is} Executor{um} in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}ator{um} Quibus com{m}issa fuit admi{n}istrac{i}o o{mn}i{u}m bonor{um} &c d{i}c{t}i defuncti p{re}fat{is} ex{ecutori}b{us} De bene et fideli{te}r admi{n}strand{o} ead{em} Ac de pleno Inuentario &c exhibend{o} Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia in debita Iuris forma Iurat{i}

[=The testament was proved before Master William Cooke, Doctor of the Laws, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of the Most Reverend Father in Christ and Lord, our Lord Reginald, Archbishop of Canterbury, on the fifth day of the month of February in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 56th by the oath of Edmund Brudenell, proctor of the executors named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all the goods etc. of the said deceased to the forenamed executors, sworn on the Holy Gospels in due form of law to well and faithfully administer the same, and to exhibit a full inventory etc.]