

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 12 August 1558 and proved 25 August 1558, of John Wiseman, to whom the 16th Earl granted an 81-year lease of the manor of Great Canfield on 27 February 1546, as stated in the will below.

The testator was also likely the John Wiseman whom the 16th Earl appointed as his auditor on 10 December 1540, as indicated in the 16th Earl's inquisition post mortem (see TNA C 142/136/12):

And further the foresaid jurors say that the foresaid late Earl, by his deed sealed by his seal at arms & subscribed by his own hand bearing date the tenth day of December in the 32nd year [=10 December 1540] of the reign of the late King Henry the Eighth, granted to John Wiseman & Thomas Wiseman, his son, for good counsel by the said John Wiseman to him given, the office of auditor of all & singular [+his] receivers, bailiffs & other ministers or accountants whatsoever of all manner [sic?] & singular [+his] castles & hereditaments whatsoever, and made & appointed the same John Wiseman & Thomas auditors of all & singular the receivers for all [+his] castles, lordships & hereditaments within the kingdom of England, to have the foresaid office to the forenamed John & Thomas Wiseman by him or his sufficient deputy to hear, determine & conclude according to & in accordance with English laws from time to time during the life of them and also the survivor of them, and the foresaid Earl moreover granted to the forenamed John & Thomas for exercising the said office during his life, and also the survivor of them, a certain yearly rent of 20 pounds sterling issuing of his manor of Great Canfield in the county of Essex, so to be paid to them or to the one of them surviving or their deputy by the hands of the bailiff & farmer of the foresaid manor at the feast of All Saints, together with all fees & payments to the same office owing & accustomed etc., with a clause of distraint if default be made in payment as is aforesaid, as by the said deed to the foresaid jurors in manifest evidences more fully appears.

The testator married Agnes Josselyn, by whom he had three sons (John, Thomas and Robert), and several daughters. Apart from Clemence, the first names of the testator's daughters are not given in the will. According to the 1558 Visitation of Essex and other sources, they were: (1) Anne, who married John Lyndsell, and a second husband surnamed Glascock; (2) Margaret, who married Thomas Everard (d.1551) and a second husband surnamed Church; (3) Philippa, who married William Glascock; (4) Margery, who married John Pascall; (5) Katherine, who married Thomas Young, and (6) Clemence, who married Richard Everard. See Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex* (London: Harleian Society, 1878), p.

The testator's eldest son and heir, John Wiseman, married Margery Waldegrave, the daughter of Sir William Waldegrave (1507?-1554) and Julian Rainsford. For the will of Sir William Waldegrave (1507?-1554) in which he leaves the following bequest to his daughter Margery (nee Waldegrave) Wiseman, see TNA PROB 11/37, ff. 255-7.

Item, I give to Margery Wiseman, my daughter, one hundred marks of lawful money of

England.

The testator's son and heir, John Wiseman, is likely the John Wiseman whom the 16th Earl appointed as bailiff of Great Canfield on 25 October 1560, as indicated in the 16th Earl's inquisition post mortem (see TNA C 142/136/12):

And the foresaid jurors say that the foresaid late Earl, by a certain deed sealed by his seal at arms and subscribed by his own hand bearing date the twenty-fifth day of October in the second year [=25 October 1560] of the reign of the Lady Elizabeth now Queen, for and in consideration of good, true and faithful service to him by John Wiseman, gentleman, previously done & thereafter to be done, gave & granted to the same John Wiseman the office of bailiff or bailiwick of all & singular the rents, reversions, profits & other hereditaments and possessions of his manor of Great Canfield in the county of Essex, and made and appointed the same John Wiseman bailiff of the foresaid manor, to have and enjoy the foresaid office to the forenamed John Wiseman by him or his sufficient deputy or deputies for term of the natural life of the same John, and the foresaid late Earl by his foresaid deed in consideration aforesaid gave to the same John Wiseman for exercising & occupying the foresaid office a wage and fee of three pounds of good & lawful money of England issuing of the foresaid manor at two terms of the year, viz., to be paid yearly at the feasts of the Annunciation of Blessed Mary the Virgin & Saint Michael the Archangel by equal portions during the whole term of the natural life of the said John Wiseman, as by the same deed to the foresaid jurors upon the taking of this present inquisition in manifest evidences more fully appears.

In 1580, Oxford sold the manor of Great Canfield to the testator's son and heir, John Wiseman (see TNA CP 25/2/131/1678/22ELIZITRIN, Item 22).

RM: Testamentum Iohannis Wiseman

In dei nomine amen. The 12th day of August in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred fifty and eight and in the fifth and sixth years of the reigns of our Sovereign Lord and Lady Philip and Mary by the grace of God King and Queen of England, Spain, France, both Sicilies, Jerusalem and Ireland, Defenders of the Faith, Archdukes of Austria, Dukes of Burgundy, Milan and Brabant, Counties of Hapsburg, Flanders and Tyrol, I, John Wiseman of Much Canfield in the county of Essex, esquire, being of whole mind and perfect remembrance, thanks be given to Almighty God, willing and intending to set an order in all my manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments, goods and chattels, and to the intent there should be no contention hereafter, I revoke and annul all former wills and testaments by me made or declared by writing, word or otherwise, and make and ordain this to be my very last will and testament concerning the disposition of all and singular my manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments with th' appurtenances in manner and form hereafter following:

And first of all, after thanks given to Almighty God for his great gifts and benefits, I commend my soul to the mercy of my most Blessed Saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, and to the glorious Virgin St Mary, and to all the holy company of heaven, and my body to be buried in the church of Canfield aforesaid in such place convenient there where my executrix shall think best, and as touching the charge of my funerals, I shall further declare them in the declaration of my goods as hereunder is written;

And whereas George Harper, esquire, by his deed bearing date the 26th day of April in the 34th year of the reign of our late Sovereign Lord of famous memory, King Henry the Eight, did enfeof me, the said John Wiseman, and Agnes, my wife, of and in all the manors of Maplestead with th' appurtenances and of and in divers lands, tenements and hereditaments in the said deed mentioned, to have and to hold the same manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments to me, the said John Wiseman, and to the said Agnes, and to the heirs of me, the said John Wiseman, forever, as in the same deed more plainly appeareth, which estate at this present time it continueth in me and my said wife;

And where also as I, the said John Wiseman, and the said Agnes, my wife, be now jointly seised, that is to say, I, the said John, in my demesne as of fee, and the said Agnes in her demesne as of freehold by certain conveyances in the law of and in divers lands, tenements and other hereditaments with th' appurtenances called Childes sometime Bothes in Much Waltham in the said county of Essex;

I, the said John Wiseman, will and declare that as well all the said manor, lands, tenements and other the premises before specially mentioned, and my reversion or reversions of and in the same, as all that grange and other lands and tenements in Thorpsegfeld with th' appurtenances in the county of Leicester called Colley grange, and all that grange of Saltby and divers lands, tenements and hereditaments with th' appurtenances in Saltby in the said county of Leicester, and all that tenement or grange of Barrow with th' appurtenances in Barrow in the parish of Cottesmore in the county of Rutland, and all the lands, tenements, meadows and pastures with th' appurtenances called Wenton in the parish of Cottesmore aforesaid, and also all that messuage with th' appurtenances and all those crofts of land as well freehold as copyhold now commonly called Stradys & Thorpes now being in the tenure of (blank) Bullocke set and lying in Much Canfield aforesaid, and all that messuage or tenements, lands, meadows, woods, underwoods, pastures and hereditaments with th' appurtenances in Aythorpe Roding in the said county of Essex called Monkes, and all that messuage, lands and tenements and other hereditaments with th' appurtenances as well freehold as copyhold now commonly called Bigwoods land or otherwise in Much Canfield aforesaid now in the tenure or occupation of (blank) Warreyn, and all that grange or farm and those lands and tenements with th' appurtenances called (blank) grange set, lying and being in Fakenham, Euston, Barnham, Honewton [=Honington?], Trestan [=Troston?], Livermere, Ampton, Ingham, Iklyngton in the county of Suffolk and in Thetford in the county of Norfolk, and all my reversion and reversions of and in the said premises shall descend, revert, remain and come unto my next heirs after my decease in such sort as by the laws of this realm they ought to be, to hold to my said right heirs by descent of an estate of fee simple as though I had made no mention thereof in this my last will;

And moreover I, the said John Wiseman, by this my present last will do give, will, devise and bequeath unto Thomas Wiseman, my second son, all that grange and those lands and tenements with th' appurtenances called Burton grange in the parish of Prestwold in th' said county of Leicester, to have and to hold all the said grange called Burton grange with th' appurtenances to the said Thomas Wiseman, his heirs and assigns, forevermore, charged with such yearly rent or payment in such form as hereafter in this my present last will shall be especially declared, that is to wit, whereas the foresaid grange with th' appurtenances called Burton grange was by me purchased jointly with the foresaid granges, lands and tenements called Saltby grange, Colley grange, Barrow grange and Wenton pasture to and with certain other lands called Valey lands now by me sold, and bear one annual and entire rent of 49s 2d in the name of a tenth together yearly to be paid to the King's and Queen's Highness, as by letters patents thereof made plainly shall appear, I therefore, the said John Wiseman, will, declare and charge by this my testament that the foresaid Thomas Wiseman, his heirs or assigns, shall pay or cause to be paid yearly forevermore for the said grange called Burton grange all the said whole entire rent of 40s 2d yearly, towards the payment whereof I will and bequeath that the said Thomas, his heirs and assigns, shall take and receive of the owners and possessors of the said Valey lands in Dalby in the said letters patents mentioned three shillings yearly according to the tenor of a pair of indentures between me and one (blank) Nicolles thereof charged and reserved to be yearly paid, and I will that the foresaid granges called Colley grange, Saltby grange, Barrow grange and Wentor [sic?] pasture, and the owners or possessors thereof and of every parcel thereof at all times hereafter forevermore shall be acquitted, discharged or saved harmless of and for all the same rent of 49s 2d yearly and of every part thereof;

And whereas a certain grange called Venners grange by me lately sold and th' above-named grange called Ringmer grange and th' aforesaid messuage, lands and tenements called Monkes were jointly by me purchased and bear one annual and entire rent of 22s 12d in the name of a tenth together to be paid to the King and the Queen's Majesties yearly, as by letters patents thereof made plainly doth appear, I therefore, the said John Wiseman, will and charge my said heirs to whom the said grange called Ringmer grange and the foresaid messuage, lands and tenements called Monkes shall come, to pay and be charged with the several portions of the said rent as hereafter followeth, that is to wit: John Wiseman, my son and heir apparent, and his heirs to pay for the said messuage called Monkes 6s 8d yearly, and for the said grange called Ringmer grange eight shillings yearly, and 8s 3d, the residue, to be yearly paid by the owners and possessors of the said Venners grange according to certain covenants recited in a pair of indentures between them and me made;

And furthermore I, the said John Wiseman, by this my present last will do give, devise and bequeath to Robert Wiseman, my third son, all that the park or ground enclosed and all the lands with th' appurtenances called Much Canfield aforesaid or elsewhere in the said county of Essex, to have and to hold all the said park or ground enclosed and the said lands with th' appurtenances unto the said Robert Wiseman, his heirs and assigns, forevermore upon this condition, that he permit and suffer my executors or their assigns

after my decease to sell, take, fell, cut down and carry away all the oaks growing and being within the said park or ground enclosed, that they with the money thereof coming may perform this my last will and testament withal, and if the said Robert Wiseman, his heirs or administrators, do vex, disturb or inquiet my said executors in the selling, felling or carrying of the said oaks, that then I, the said John Wiseman, will and declare that this my legacy made to the said Robert Wiseman of the park or ground enclosed called Much Canfield park with th' appurtenances shall be frustrate, void and of none effect, but then my next heir to have and enjoy the same in manner and form as before is given & bequeathed to the said Robert Wiseman, and upon the condition;

Item, where I lately bought of (blank) Cecil, gentleman, the parsonage of Much Canfield with th' appurtenances in the county of Essex, which the said (blank) Cecil by his indenture bearing date the (blank) day of (blank) in the (blank) year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Edward the Sixth hath given and granted to me, the said John Wiseman, and Agnes, my wife, and to the heirs of me, the said John Wiseman, forevermore, I, the said Wiseman, will and bequeath the said parsonage with th' appurtenances after the death of my said wife to the said John Wiseman, my eldest son, & his heirs forever;

And also will my said wife all those my lands and tenements in Much Waltham aforesaid which I lately purchased of th' executors of Thomas Rame(?), to have to her during her natural life, and after her decease I will the same to my next heir, John Wiseman, forever;

This is the last will and testament of me, the said John Wiseman, concerning the disposition of all my farms, stocks, stores, goods and chattels of what kind soever they be, made the day and year abovesaid in manner and form following, that is to wit:

First I bequeath to the vicar of Much Canfield aforesaid for my tithes negligently forgotten 6s 8d;

And whereas I, the said John Wiseman, am now possessed of and in the manor & demesne lands of Much Canfield abovesaid in the said county of Essex, and hold the same in farm for the term of fourscore and one years of the demise & lease of the right honourable John, Earl of Oxenford, by his indenture thereof to me made bearing date the 27th day of February in the 37th year [=27 February 1546] of the reign of the late King of famous memory Henry the Eight plainly doth appear, whereof (blank) years were to come at the feast of Saint Michael th' Archangel last past before the date of this my testament, I give, will and bequeath unto the foresaid Agnes, my wife, all the said manor and demesne lands, to have and hold the same premises and the keeping of the same indenture unto the said Agnes and her assigns during so many years of the said (blank) years as shall expire and determine in the life of the said Agnes, upon condition that she during her said life shall yearly give, distribute and bestow amongst the poor people dwelling in Much Canfield, High(?) Roothing, Hatfield, Much Dunmow and Much Waltham six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence or the value thereof;

And I give, devise and bequeath all the said manor and demesne lands and other hereditaments contained in the said indenture together with the said indentures after the death of my said wife unto the foresaid John Wiseman, my eldest son, to have and to hold the said premises together with the said indenture unto the said John, his heirs, executors and assigns during and for all the residue of the said term of (blank) years then to come;

Moreover I will and bequeath unto the said Agnes, my wife, all and singular my stock and store, cattle, goods, chattels, plate, jewels and money remaining and being in my said farm of the manor of Much Canfield and the said parsonage and at Burton grange in the county of Leicester at the time of my decease, deducting thereof the charges of my funerals, which shall be to distribute amongst poor folks ten pounds, and the residue of my funerals I commit to the discretion of my executors, and further to pay therewith such other charges and legacies as hereafter shall be by me declared, that is to wit:

I will and charge the said Agnes, her executors and assigns, to pay or cause to be paid to Clemens, my daughter, two hundred marks and twenty pounds of lawful money of England to be taken of and in the foresaid stock, goods, chattels and other the premises, which I give and bequeath to her towards the preferment in marriage, to be paid to her at such reasonable time or times as my executrice, her executors or assigns, can or may compound with her;

Also where I hold to farm of Thomas Wiseman, my second son, the manor & parsonage of Stoke iuxta Nayland for term of 30 years beginning at the feast of St Michael th' Archangel now past, yielding therefore yearly to the said Thomas Wiseman, his executors or assigns, at the feast of the Nativity of Saint John Baptist one red rose (if it be asked), as well in consideration of the payment of six hundred pounds by me paid for the said Thomas Wiseman for the purchase of the same, as also for the payment of divers and sundry the debts of the said Thomas by me already paid, I, the said John Wiseman, will and freely give and release into the hands of the said Thomas Wiseman the said lease and term of years therein yet to come;

Also I will and bequeath unto the said Thomas Wiseman all those my several leases, interest and terms of years now to come of and in all that field lying in Cortelingstock in the county of Leicester called Heighfeld, and a close there called Bucham close, and of and in all and singular the tithe lambs coming and renewing within the parish of Monks Kirby in the county of Warwick, and of and in all those parks which I late took in reversion out of the duchy court called (blank) in the county of Leicester, and my indentures of the same;

Also I give and bequeath to every godchild of mine twelve pence, desiring them to pray for my soul and all Christian souls;

Also I give to John Orme, my godson, ten shillings and a black coat;

Item, I give to Robert Reve(?) my servant and godson, forty shillings, and to Thomas Gynnes, my servant, and to every of them a black coat;

Also I give to every of my maidens and every of my other servants three shillings four pence, trusting that they will pray for my soul and all Christian souls;

Item, I give and bequeath to my loving friend, Sir Thomas Isselye [=Isley?], a ring of gold of the value of forty shillings;

Item, I give and bequeath to every one(?) of my daughters now being married and before married ten pounds apiece, and every of them a black gown, and every of them a ring of the value of twenty shillings, desiring them when they shall look upon the said ring to pray for my soul;

Item, I give and bequeath to John Wiseman, my son, and his wife, Thomas Wiseman and his wife, Robert Wiseman and his wife, to every of them a black gown and a ring the value of twenty shillings, the rings to every of my said three sons six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence;

Item, I give to my brother Wignale of Waltham a black coat, and to my sister, his wife, a black gown and a ring of like value of twenty shillings with like request as is abovesaid;

Item, I give to John Glascock, Richard Glascock, young John Wiseman and Richard Lyndsell and to every of my daughter Everard's sons, every of them a young foal or a colt by the discretion of my executors;

The residue of my goods and chattels whatsoever they be I give and bequeath to Agnes, my wife, whom I order and make my principal executrice, earnestly trusting that she will dispose them for both our souls' healths;

Item, I order and make my executors to help my said wife forward in this troublesome business my loving sons-in-law, William Glascock and John Lyndsell, to whom I give for their pains five pounds apiece;

Item, I ordain and make the supervisor of this my testament and last will my especial friend, Mr Weston, to whom I give for his pains and labour five pounds, a black gown, and a ring of the value of forty shillings;

And moreover I will and bequeath to my loving sister Wignale forty shillings, and to old good Bickner other forty shillings and a black coat to pray for my soul and all Christian souls;

And also where I have disbursed for my daughter Everard fifty-eight pounds for the lease of her house in London, I do freely release and give into her hands the same lease again by this will;

And further I will and bequeath to my son, John Wiseman, a nest of gilt goblets and two standing cups with their covers, and all my apparel;

In witness whereof I, the said John Wiseman th' elder, have subscribed my name the day and years above-written in the presence. Per me Johannem Wiseman. Per me Johannem Wiseman Iuniorem. Per me Willelmum Glascock. Per me Iohannem Lyndesell. Per me Thomam Paschall. Thomas Yonge.

Probatum fuit huiusmodi Testamentum coram Domino apud London vicesimo quinto die Mensis Augusti Anno Domini Millesimo quingentesimo Quinquagesimo octavo Iuramento Thome Vpton Notarij publici Procuratoris Agnetis Relicte et Executricis in huiusmodi Testamento nominate Cui comissa fuit Administracio omnium et singulorum bonorum &c dicti Defuncti De bene &c Ad sancta dei Euangelia Iurate Reseruata potestate Willelmo Glascock et Iohanni Lyndsell Executoribus etiam similem Commissionem faciendo cum venerint Admissuris

[=The same testament was proved before the Lord [+Archbishop] at London on the twenty-fifth day of the month of August in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-eighth by the oath of Thomas Upton, notary public, proctor of Agnes, relict and executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods etc. of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., with power reserved for a similar grant to be made to William Glascock and John Lyndsell, also executors, when they shall have come to be admitted.]