

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 28 July 1557 and proved 13 November 1559, of Elizabeth (nee de Vere) Wingfield, eldest sister of John de Vere (1499-1527), 14th Earl of Oxford. Both her brother, the 14th Earl, and her sister, Dorothy (nee de Vere) Neville (d.1527), Lady Latimer, predeceased the testatrix. It is unclear whether her sister, Ursula (nee de Vere) Windsor Knightly (d.1558), also predeceased her. The latter made her will on 20 January 1558, leaving her interest in certain properties 'to my said sister Dame Elizabeth Wingfield if she fortune to be in life at the time of my death'. The will of Ursula (nee de Vere) Windsor Knightly (d.1558) was proved on 29 November 1558, and since the will of the testatrix was not proved until 13 November 1559, it may be that the testatrix survived her sister, Ursula, and inherited from her.

The testatrix married Sir Anthony Wingfield (b. before 1488, d. 1552) of Letheringham, 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, both of whom were descendants 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. According to the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*, the testatrix and her husband, Sir Anthony Wingfield (b. before 1488, d. 1552), had at least ten children (seven sons and three daughters). However only two sons (Henry and Richard) and two daughters (Margaret, and a married daughter, Elizabeth Naunton) are mentioned in the will below. In particular, the testatrix's third son, Sir Robert Wingfield (d. 19 March 1596/7), who succeeded his father, and who married Cecily Wentworth (d. 22 August 1573), the daughter of Thomas Wentworth (1501–1551), 1st Baron Wentworth, is not mentioned in the will.

Of the two sons mentioned in the will, Richard Wingfield married Mary Hardwick, the sister of Elizabeth (nee Hardwick) Talbot (1527-1608), Countess of Shrewsbury, popularly known as 'Bess of Hardwick', while Henry Wingfield is said to have married Dorothy Bacon. The testatrix' daughter, Elizabeth Wingfield, married William Naunton. Their son, Henry Naunton, was the father of Sir Robert Naunton (1563-1635), the author of *Fragmenta Regalia*. From the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*:

Naunton, Sir Robert (1563–1635), politician, was born in Alderton, Suffolk, the son of Henry Naunton of Alderton and his wife, Elizabeth Asheby of Hornsby, Leicestershire. . . . The Nauntons were considered established members of the county gentry and had been so for well over two centuries. Henry Naunton was master of horse to the dowager duchess of Suffolk, while Elizabeth Asheby had a brother who became a valued member of the diplomatic corps that served Elizabeth I. But it was William Naunton, Sir Robert's grandfather, who increased the family's prestige to that point. He was a lawyer who became one of the chief servants of the duke and then the dowager duchess of Suffolk. He then married a daughter of Sir Anthony Wingfield KG, a leading servant of Henry VIII.

For Naunton's comment in *Fragmenta Regalia* on Oxford's alleged jest at Sir Walter Raleigh, see Folger Library MS G.a.11 on this website.

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

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

LM: Testamentum Domine Elizabethe Wyngfelde

In the name of God, Amen. The 28th day of July in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred fifty and seven and in the fourth and fifth 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, either Sicily, Jerusalem and Ireland, Defenders of the Faith, Archdukes of Austria, Dukes of Burgundy, Milan and Brabant, Counties of Hapsburg, Flanders and Tyrol, I, Dame Elizabeth Wingfield of Dedham in the county of Essex, widow, late the wife of Sir Anthony Wingfield, knight of the honourable Order of the Garter, within the diocese of London, being in good and perfect remembrance, thanks be unto Almighty God, knowing and considering the unstableness of this life and that there is nothing so certain to every creature in this world living as is the departing from the same, and nothing so uncertain as the time and hour thereof, do ordain and make this my present testament containing also my last will in manner and form hereafter ensuing:

First I bequeath my soul into th' hands of Almighty God, my body to be buried in the holy sanctuary where it shall please Almighty God that I shall depart out of this present world by the discretion of mine executors;

Item, I will that my executors shall distribute and give unto the poor people at the day of my burial ten pounds, and at my month's day three pounds six shillings and eight pence;

Item, I give and bequeath to my son, Richard Wingfield, one silver salt with a cover all gilt with a little boy with a staff and a child in his hands upon the cover, one other little salt of silver parcel gilt without cover, 2 spoons of silver all gilt, one of them with a rose upon th' end and thother with a little sharp knop upon th' end, six silver spoons with knops and the boar at th' end of them, 3 featherbeds with their bolsters marked with R and W, one pair of fustians, two pillows, one coverlet with the marks of R and W aforesaid, one tester and three cushions whereof one of them with wings, one of verdure, and the third of carpet-work, one carpet for a window with wings in the midst, one half garnish of pewter marked with my husband's stamp, five pewter trenchers marked with the same mark, six platters of pewter, 2 dishes of pewter, four saucers of pewter, my porringers of pewter marked with letters T and G(?), one washing-basin of pewter marked with I and C, one basin with an ewer of pewter unmarked, my pewter pots marked with RW in the bottom, four pewter candlesticks with the marks of R and W aforesaid in the bottom, 3 latten

candlesticks marked with R and W in the bottom, one pair of coal-irons, 2 spits, 2 brass pots, one great brass pan and 2 smaller brass pans, one posnet, one chafer and one rug(?) for a bed of divers colours at the ends;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my son, Henry Wingfield, one pot of silver all gilt with a cover with a little boy sitting upon the cover, another lesser pot of silver with a cover all gilt with a knop standing upon 2 rings, one salt with a cover graven of silver all gilt and a man standing upon the cover with a spear in his hand, another salt with a cover of silver parcel gilt with a knop with my mother's arms, another salt graven with a cover of silver all gilt with a man and an arrow in his hand upon the cover, one round bowl with a cover of silver all gilt, one little gilt goblet of silver with a cover all gilt with my mother's arms in the top, one other goblet of silver with a cover parcel gilt with my mother's arms in the top, four silver spoons all gilt whereof 3 with round knops, one knop of th' old fashion, and the fourth spoon with a broad knop, and 18 spoons of silver with knops with the boar in th' ends of them, and three other silver spoons plain with W graven in th' ends of them, one little pot with a cover of silver all gilt with a little boy upon the cover, and one basin with an ewer of silver parcel gilt with mine own arms graven in the said basin;

Item, I give and bequeath to the said Henry thirteen featherbeds with their bolsters marked with H and W, one counterpoint, colours red, green and purple satin, 2 pair of fustians and seven pillows, 4 pair of blankets and eight coverlets marked with H and W, five carpets of carpet-work whereof one of them a long carpet with crosses of red and white, another of them with square knots, the third with acorns, the fourth for a window, the fifth a long carpet of verdour lined with lockram, 2 twilts [=quilts] of green sarsenet, nine square cushions, three of them with wings and four of verdours and one of carpet-work, 2 old long cushions of cloth of gold;

Item, I give and bequeath to the said Henry 2 garnish and a half of pewter, one garnish unmarked and thother marked with M and W and the half garnish marked with my husband's stamp, and 2 chargers belonging to the same marked with M and W as is aforesaid, one dozen of trenchers of pewter unmarked and five trenchers of pewter marked with my husband's stamp and one plate of pewter, fourteen candlesticks of pewter of three sundry sorts and nine candlesticks of latten, 12 pewter pots, great and small, marked with H and W in the bottom, ten round porringers of pewter, and one little porringer marked with T and G, 2 basins with ewers of pewter, and one washing-basin of pewter;

Item, I give and bequeath to the said Henry one pair of regals and one pair of virginals and one pair of tables of ivory, 4 testers for beds, one of purple damask with flowers of gold and one other of black velvet and cloth of bawdekin and one other of green velvet and cloth of bawdekin and the forth of green sarsenet and orange tawny, and five rugs(?) for beds, also one pair of coal-irons and one pair of racks of iron, 8 spits of iron, also one great brass cauldron, ten brass pots, great and small, 6 posnets and skillets of brass, 11 brass pans, great and small, 2 chafers of brass, two copper(?) kettles, 2 chafing-dishes, one of them with a foot of latten, three little trivets;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my said son, Henry Wingfield, four pieces of hangings making mention of hunters hanging in the parlour, and the stained hangings in the wardrobe, two coffers bound with iron whereof one is standing in my chamber where I use to lay my hoods, thother that Mrs Wulverston did keep withal such things as I shall leave in the said 2 coffers at the time of my death;

Also I give unto the said Henry my coffer wherein I use to lay my linen and napery, with all my said linen & [-and] napery which I shall leave in the same coffer at the time of my death;

Item, I give and bequeath to my daughter, Elizabeth Naunton, one goblet of silver parcel gilt, one pair of chalice of silver parcel gilt, three featherbeds marked with C an[d](?) N;

Item, I give and bequeath to my daughter, Margaret Wingfield, 2 featherbeds with their bolsters, one coverlet marked with M and W, one tester of white damask with flowers of green silk and gold;

Item, I give unto Margaret Wulverston one featherbed marked with M W;

Item, I give and bequeath to John Audley, my servant, one featherbed marked with I and A;

Item, I will that my executors shall pay to every one of my servants, as well women-servants as menservants, their whole half year's wages that shall be due to them and every of them at the half year of their term following after my decease whether it be at the end of the whole year or half year;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my said son, Henry Wingfield, over and besides those legacies and bequests to him before given and bequeathed, the residue of all my stuff of household not before given, assigned nor bequeathed;

The residue of all my goods and chattels not given, assigned nor bequeathed I remit and leave them into th' hands of my executors to pay my debts and to perform and fulfil this my said testament and last will, and I ordain and make the aforesaid Richard Wingfield and Henry Wingfield, my sons, my executors to execute this my present testament and last will;

In witness that this is my present testament and last will, I, the said Elizabeth Wingfield, have set my hand and seal to the same in the presence of John Smythe alias Dyer, John Holland th' elder, John Audley, Robert Holland, and other. By me, John Dyer. By me, John Holland. By me, John Audley. By me, Robert Holland.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum coram custode Curie prerogative cantuariensis Terciodecimo die mensis Nouembris Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo

quingagesimo nono Iuramentis Richardi Wyngfelde et Henrici Wyngfelde executorum in huiusmodi testamento nominatorum Ac approbatum et insinuatum Commissaque fuit administratio omnium et singulorum bonorum Iurium &c prefatis executoribus de bene &c Ac de pleno et fideli Inventario Necnon de vero et plano compoto reddendo &c Iuratis

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Keeper of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on the thirteenth day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-ninth by the oaths of Richard Wingfield and Henry Wingfield, executors named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights etc. to the forenamed executors, sworn to well etc., and to render a full and faithful inventory and a true and plain account etc.]