

SUMMARY: The document below is the last will and testament, dated 27 December 1562 and proved 22 May 1563, of John Gifford (d. 1 May 1563), esquire, of Itchel, Hampshire, father of Oxford's friend at court, George Gifford (1552-1613). For the testator's descent from King John of England, see Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 146. See also Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 252. For the monument to the testator in All Saints Church in Crondall, Hampshire, see *Collectanea Topographica & Genealogica*, Vol. VII, (London: John Bowyer Nichols, 1841), pp. 223-4:

*Hereunder lieth the body of John Gifford, esquire, heir apparent of Sir William Gifford, knight, who had to wife Elizabeth, one of the daughters of Sir George Throckmorton, knight, and had by her issue five sons and 8 daughters, and so changed this mortal life the first day of May in the year of Our Lord God 1563, on whose soul Jesu have mercy.*

The testator was the son of John Gifford (d. before 5 December 1538) and Joan Brydges (d.1557/8).

As noted in the inscription above, the testator was the grandson and heir of Sir William Gifford (d. 17 June 1549). Sir William Gifford, son and heir of Sir John Gifford of Itchel, Hampshire, married firstly Eleanor Paulet, by whom he had two sons, the testator and Richard Gifford, and three daughters, Mary Gifford (wife of William Jephson), Jane Gifford (wife of Thomas Haydock), and Alice Gifford. Sir William Gifford married secondly, Joan Rogers, daughter of Sir John Rogers, by whom he had one son, Jerome Gifford, and a daughter, Elizabeth Gifford. For the will of the testator's grandfather, Sir William Gifford, see TNA PROB 11/32/594. For the will of the testator's mother, Joan (nee Brydges) Gifford Thornehull (d.1557/8), see TNA PROB 11/40/116.

The testator married Elizabeth Throckmorton, the daughter of Sir George Throckmorton (c.1489-1552) and Katherine Vaux (d.1571?), the daughter of Nicholas Vaux (c.1460-1523), 1st Baron Vaux of Harrowden, and Elizabeth Fitzhugh (1462-c.1505), the widow of Sir William Parr (1434-1483), grandfather of Queen Katherine Parr (1512-1548). See the will of Sir George Throckmorton (c.1489-1552), TNA PROB 11/36/298, the entry for Sir George Throckmorton in the *ODNB*, and the pedigree of Gifford in Maclean, John and W.C. Heane, eds., *The Visitation of the County of Gloucester Taken in the Year 1623*, (London: 1885), pp. 249-50, at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofcoun00inchit#page/250/mode/2up>.

In the will below the testator appoints as executors three of Sir George Throckmorton's sons, Sir Robert Throckmorton (c.1513-1581), John Throckmorton (c.1524-1580) and Kenelm Throckmorton (c.1514-1583x7). For the will of Sir Robert Throckmorton (c.1513-1581), see TNA PROB 11/63/176. For Sir John Throckmorton (c.1518-1580), see his will, TNA PROB 11/62/552, and the entry in the *ODNB*.

After the testator's death, his widow, Elizabeth (nee Throckmorton) Gifford, married William Hodges (d.1590) of Weston Subedge, by whom she is said to have had two daughters, Anna and Adrina. For the memorial brass of William Hodges (d.1590) in the Church of St Lawrence, Weston Subedge next to the moated manor house of the Giffords, see:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/bwthornton/6115927215/>;

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/bwthornton/6115919905/>.

The testator's eldest son and heir, George Gifford (1552-1613), was ten years of age at his father's death on 1 May 1563. His wardship was sold to his maternal uncles, Kenelm Throckmorton and Clement Throckmorton (see WARD 9/138, f. 428). After George Gifford came of age, in a series of transactions in the years 1575-1580 he and his mother, Elizabeth (nee Throckmorton) Gifford Hodges, sold the manor of Itchel to Henry Wriothesley (1545?-1581), 2nd Earl of Southampton, who died there on 4 October 1581. See Baigent, Francis Joseph, *A Collection of Records and Documents Relating to the Hundred and Manor of Crondal*, (London: Simpkin & Co., 1891), p. 461.

For George Gifford's biography, see:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/gifford-george-1552-1613>.

For Oxford's friendship at court with George Gifford, see TNA SP 12/151/42, f. 96, and Segar, William, *The Book of Honor and Armes* (New York: Scholars' Facsimiles & Reprints, 1975) pp. 99-100, which records that Oxford and George Gifford were defenders in a tournament at Whitehall on 22 January 1581:

*An honourable challenge was likewise brought before her Majesty by the Earl of Arundel, calling himself Callophysis, who with his assistant, Sir William Drury, challenged all comers anno 1580 [=1581].*

*The defenders were the Earl of Oxford, the Lord Windsor, Philip Sidney, Edward Norris, Henry Knollys, Robert Knollys, Fulke Greville, Thomas Knyvet, Thomas Keilway, Ralph Bowes, George Goring, George Gifford, Anthony Cooke, Henry Brouncker, Edward Denny, Richard Ward, Sir Thomas Perrot.*

*The prize was given to the Earl of Oxford.*

Another of the testator's sons was William Gifford (1557/8-1629), Archbishop of Rheims, for whom see the entry in the *ODNB*.

The testator's daughter, Mary Gifford (d.1609), married firstly Sir Richard Baker (c.1530-1594), eldest son and heir of Sir John Baker (c.1489-1588). For his will, see TNA PROB 11/84, ff. 16-18. Mary Gifford married, secondly, Richard Fletcher (1544/5-

1596), Bishop of London, and thirdly, Sir Stephen Thornehurst/Thornhurst of Agnes Court, Kent (1550-October 1616). For her third marriage, see Steinman, G. Steinman, *Althorp Memoirs*, (1869), p. 46, and the description of her monument in Canterbury Cathedral in Woolnoth, W., *A Graphical Illustration of the Metropolitan Cathedral Church of Canterbury*, (London: T. Cadell, 1816), p. 101, both available online.

RM: T{estamentum} Iohannis Gifforde

[f. 163r] In the name of God, Amen. The 27th day of December in the fifth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, etc., I, John Gifford of Itchel in the county of Southampton, esquire, being at this present sick of body and nevertheless, laud and praise be unto Almighty God, of sound and perfect memory, do ordain and make my last will and testament touching and concerning as well the disposition of my manor of Norton with th' appurtenances in the county of Gloucester, and of all and singular my messuages, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments with their appurtenances in Norton aforesaid in the said county of Gloucester, as of all my goods, chattels, credits and debts in manner and form following, that is to say:

First I commend my soul unto Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, verily trusting that by and through the merits, death and passion of my Saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, and true belief in him to have remission of my sins;

And I will my body to be buried in Christian burial where it shall please God to call me to his great mercy according [f. 163v] to the discretion of my executors hereafter named;

And I give, will and bequeath unto Elizabeth Gifford, my well-beloved wife, two parts of all my said manor of Norton with th' appurtenances and of all other the premises in Norton aforesaid in three parts to be divided, and also the reversion and reversions of the said two parts, and two parts of all yearly rents and other profits whatsoever reserved upon my [sic?] manner of leases made of the premises or of any part or parcel thereof, to have & to hold the said 2 parts of the said manor and of all and singular other the premises with th' appurtenances unto the said Elizabeth, my wife, and her assigns during her natural life;

And I give and bequeath to every of my said daughters unmarried, that is to say, to my daughters Elizabeth, Millicent, Grysigand, Mary and Jane, to every of them two hundred pounds apiece, and I will the same several sums of two hundred pounds to be paid to every of my said daughters at the days of their several marriages or when they shall accomplish their ages of 24 years, provided always and my mind is that if it shall fortune any of my said daughters to decease and die before such time as she or they shall be married [+or?] the said sum of two hundred pounds to her or them appointed shall be paid, that then the gift of the said two hundred pounds to her or them bequeathed so deceasing shall be void;

And I will that the said Elizabeth, my wife, shall find and allow to every of my said daughters convenient and necessary apparel and other things at and for the time of their several marriages, provided always that if it shall fortune any of my said daughters at any time hereafter to marry or contract herself without th' assent and agreement of the said Elizabeth, my wife, that then I will that my said wife shall not be charged to give any of my said daughters so married without her assent any other thing than the said two hundred pounds to her before by me bequeathed;

And I will that if the said Elizabeth, my wife, happen to decease and die before George Gifford, my son and heir apparent, shall accomplish the full age of twenty and one years, then I will the said 2 parts of the premises to her before bequeathed shall remain and go to my executors of this my last will and testament till my heir shall accomplish his full age of twenty and one years, to th' intent that they shall with th' issues and profits thereof find my sons and daughters till they shall accomplish to their ages of twenty and four years or be married, and pay my legacies and perform this my last will and testament then not paid and performed by my said wife;

And if it shall fortune the said Elizabeth, my wife, to decease and die after my said son, George, shall accomplish his full age of 21 years, this my will being not then fully performed, then I will the said two parts of the premises shall go to mine executors till they have fully performed the residue of my said will by my said wife then not performed;

And I give and bequeath to the said George, my son and heir apparent, my chain of gold weighing(?) 17 ounces d{imidium}{(?)} quarter;

The residue of all my goods, chattels, plate, jewels, household stuff, debts and other goods and chattels movable and unmovable whatsoever, my funeral and debts being discharged, I fully give and bequeath to the said Elizabeth, my wife, to th' intent that she shall find my younger sons and daughters till they come to their full ages or marriages if she so long live;

And I ordain and make the said Elizabeth, my wife, Sir Robert Throckmorton, knight, John Throckmorton and Kenelm Throckmorton, esquires, my brothers-in-law, my executors of this my last will;

Further I give, will and bequeath to my said executors two parts of my manors of Itchel, Cove and Ewshot with their rights and appurtenances in the county of Southampton, and two parts of all other my lands, tenements and hereditaments in the said county of Southampton, to have and to hold the said 2 parts of the said manors of Itchel, Cove and Ewshot and other the premises in the said county of Southampton unto my said executors and their assigns for term of twelve years next after my decease to th' intent that they, with the profits thereof as far as the same will amount unto, help [-to] towards the performance of this my last will;

And further where the said Elizabeth, my wife, is now jointly seised in her demesne as of freehold during her natural life together with me, the said John Gifford, of and in the manor of Weston with th' appurtenance in the county of Gloucester, the reversion thereof after the decease of me, the said John, and the said Elizabeth to th' heirs of me, the said John Gifford, forever, my full mind is and I will that if it shall fortune the said Elizabeth, my wife, to decease and die, my said son, George, being within th' age of 21 years, that two parts of the said [f. 164r] manor of Weston with th' appurtenances and two parts of the rents, issues and profits of the same, and also the reversion and reversions of two parts of the same in three parts to be divided, shall remain and go to my said executors for and towards the better performance of this my present last will and testament for and until such time as my said son, George, shall accomplish and come to his full age of twenty and one years;

And I give and bequeath unto every of my servants which shall be in my service at the time of my decease, as well men as women, to every of them one quarter of a year's wages;

And I give and bequeath to every of my said brothers-in-law, Sir Robert Throckmorton, John Throckmorton, and Kenelm Throckmorton, three of mine executors aforesaid, to every of them ten pounds, and to every of them a gelding;

And I will that mine executors, after this my last will and testament performed, shall bestow and give all such issues and profits as they shall receive of the premises over and above that that shall perform my will to and amongst my said daughters then unmarried for the[ir] better advancement in marriage;

In witness whereof I, the said John Gifford, to this my last will and testament have set my hand and seal the day and year first above-written in the presence of these persons whose names be underwritten as witness to the same. By me, John Gifford. Sealed and delivered in the presence of Henry Medeley, Harry Gifford, Harry Treneck(?), Yon [=John?] Grey.

Probatum fuit h{uius}mo{d}i Testamentum coram Mag{ist}ro Waltero Haddon Legu{m} Doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cant{uariensis} Comissario apud London Vicesimo secundo die Mensis Maij Anno Domini Mill{es}imo Quingentesimo Sexagesimo terc{i}o Iuramento Will{el}mi Saye notarij publici procuratoris Elizabethe Relicte et executric{is} in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento nominat{e} Cui comissa fuit administrac{i}o &c de bene etc Ac de plano Inuentario &c Necnon de vero & plano comp{ot}o Reddend{o} Ad sancta dei Evangelia I{u}rat{i} Reservata pot{est}ate &c Rob{er}to Throckmerton militi Iohanni Throckmerton et Kenelmo Throckmerton Armigeris execut{oribus} &c cu{m} venerint Ex{aminatu}r

[=The same testament was proved before Master Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the twenty-second day

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of the month of May in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixty-third by the oath of William Saye, notary public, proctor of Elizabeth, relict and executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well, etc., and a plain inventory etc., and also to render a plain and true account, with power reserved etc. to Robert Throckmorton, knight, John Throckmorton and Kenelm Throckmorton, esquires, executors etc. when they shall have come. Examined.]