

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the second surviving will of John de Vere (1516-1562), 16<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, dated 28 July 1562 and proved 29 May 1563. The will was executed by the Earl only five days before his death on 3 August 1562. For the original document, see TNA PROB 10/51.

The 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's first surviving will is dated 21 December 1552, with a memorandum dated 28 January 1554 (see BL Stowe Charter 633-4). It was made ten months after the private Act of Parliament of 22 or 23 January 1552 which restored the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's lands to him (see HL/PO/PB/1/1551/5Ed6n35), but prior to the letters patent of 22 January 1553 which supplemented the provisions of the private Act of Parliament by restoring to the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl certain bonds, jewels and other personal possessions which had escheated to King Edward VI as a result of Somerset's extortion against the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl and his subsequent death and attainder (see TNA C 66/848). An earlier 'unalterable' will extorted from the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl by Somerset on 1 February 1549 in the form of an indenture tripartite has not survived. The letters patent of 22 January 1553 indicate that the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl had been forced to guarantee the terms of this earlier unalterable will by an indenture of 6 February 1549 secured by a recognizance of £4000.

The will of John de Vere, 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford (see TNA PROB 11/17/379), as well as the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's indenture of 2 June 1562 (see TNA C 54/626), indicate that prior to Somerset's extortion the lands of the Oxford earldom had descended from male heir to male heir via 'ancient entails'. These 'ancient entails' were cut off by the fine of 10 February and 15 April 1548 which Somerset extorted from the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl (see TNA E 328/403). After the fine, the lands of the Oxford earldom comprised in the fine were governed by the provisions of the private Act of Parliament of 22 or 23 January 1552 which deemed the fine to be to the use of the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl and his male heirs. All the lands which the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl had inherited under the 'ancient entails' and which were comprised in the fine were thus now held by him subject to the terms of the Act of Parliament. A notable exception to the lands which the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl had inherited under the 'ancient entails' was Colne Priory, which was a more recent acquisition. King Henry VIII had granted Colne Priory to John de Vere (1482-1540), 15<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, and his heirs by letters patent dated 22 July 1536 (see TNA C 66/668, mm. 26-7 and ERO D/DPr/631. Somerset omitted the lands comprised in the grant of Colne Priory from the fine of 10 February and 15 April 1548, perhaps for fear of the repercussions which might ensue were he to tamper with a grant made by his recently-deceased brother-in-law, King Henry VIII (1491-1547). As a result, the lands comprised in the grant of Colne Priory were not covered by the provisions of the private Act of Parliament of 22 or 23 January 1552 which restored the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's lands to him by deeming the fine of 10 February 10 and 15 April 1548 to his use. Also omitted from the fine, for unexplained reasons, were the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's lands in Chester, as well as lands in Langdon Hills and Wennington.

Because the vast majority of the lands of the Oxford earldom were now governed by the provisions of the Act, there was no need for the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl to deal with those lands in his will except in the cases expressly stipulated in the Act which provided that the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl could assign specified lands in his will for specified purposes. The Act authorized the

16<sup>th</sup> Earl to assign specified lands in his will as a jointure for his second wife, Margery (nee Golding), to alienate certain specified lands, and to assign certain other lands in his will for 20 years for payment of his debts and legacies and for payment of the marriage portion of £1000 stipulated in the Act of Parliament for his daughter by his first marriage, Katherine de Vere (1538-1600). Provisions concerning those lands are found in the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's first surviving will of 21 December 1552. In that will, the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl complied with the Act by assigning the lands specified in the Act to his wife as her jointure, but supplemented her jointure by adding to it four of the properties which he had been authorized by the Act to alienate – Lamport in Northamptonshire, Paynes in Pentlow in Essex, and Munslow with the members, and Norton in Hales in Shropshire (see BL MS Stowe Charter 633-4).

In the case of the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's second surviving will below, the relevant clause indicates that the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl had again supplemented his wife's jointure. The clause reads,

*And by virtue of one Act of Parliament holden at Westminster in the fifth and sixth years [=1552] of the reign of the late King of famous memory, Edward the Sixth, provided, I will and bequeath to my right loving and well-beloved wife the Lady Margery, Countess of Oxford, in part of a recompense of and for all such her dowry as she or any other in her name or for her can or may at any time hereafter have, challenge, or demand out of any of my lands or tenements, except such as I have given unto her being contained in a late deed of entail, the manors of Tilbury next Clare, Downham, Easton Hall, Netherhall in Gestingthorpe, Garnons in Tendring, and Brownes tenement in Toppesfield in the county of Essex, and the manors of Easton Maudit, Thorpe Malford and Marston Trussell with their appurtenances within the county of Northampton, and the manor of Bilton with th' appurtenances in the county of Warwick, and all and singular the lands and tenements called Paynes in Pentlow with th' appurtenances, to have and to hold all and singular the said manors and other the premises with all and singular their appurtenances unto my said wife for the term of her life;*

This clause complies with the Act in that it specifies the lands which the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl was authorized under the Act to assign in his will as his wife's jointure. However the clause also states that the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl had again assigned Paynes in Pentlow to his wife (one of the properties which the Act had authorized the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl to alienate), and alludes to lands which the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl had given to his wife under 'a late deed of entail', a reference to the indenture which the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl had entered into on 2 June 1562 (see TNA C 54/626). The indenture provides for life estates for the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's wife, not merely in the lands specified in the Act, but also in the manors of Barwicks, Scotneys, Gibcrack and Fingrith in Essex, Fowlmere in Cambridge, and Warmingham, North Rode, Blacon, Ashton, Willaston and the Gate of Westchester in Chester. In that regard, it should be noted that while the manors of Barwicks, Scotneys, Gibcrack, Fingrith and Fowlmere were included in the fine extorted from the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl by Somerset, the manors of Warmingham, North Rode, Blacon, Ashton, Willaston and the Gate of Westchester were lands held by the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl in Chester which had been omitted from the fine. In consequence of their omission from the fine, the lands in Chester were not governed by the Act. For further discussion

of this point, see the summaries to the indenture of 2 June 1562 and the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's inquisition post mortem on the Documents page of this website.

The 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's will of 28 July 1562 also brings his bequests concerning his children up to date. Katherine de Vere (1538-1600), the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's daughter by his first marriage, was now married to Edward Windsor (1532?-1575), 3<sup>rd</sup> Lord Windsor. The date of the marriage is not recorded; however their eldest son, Frederick, was born, according to his father's inquisition post mortem, on 2 February 1558/9 (see *The Complete Peerage*, p. 798). The £1000 stipulated as Katherine de Vere's marriage portion in the Act, and referred to in the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's 1552 will, had apparently already been partly paid. According to a clause in the will of her father-in-law, William Windsor (1498-1558), 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord Windsor, only 1000 marks [=£666 13s 4d] was still owing as of 10 August 1558:

*Also whereas there is at this present time due and owing unto me by the right honourable lord, th' Earl of Oxford, the sum of one thousand marks of lawful money of England, I will my executors shall receive and get the same into their hands at such times as the same shall be due and payable . . . .*

Whether this 1000 marks was paid between 10 August 1558 and the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's death on 3 August 1562, or remained as a debt owing by his estate, is not known. For the will of William Windsor (1498-1558), Lord Windsor, see TNA PROB 11/42A/91.

At some time after 1554, the Earl's daughter, Mary de Vere, had been born, and the 1562 will contains provision for a marriage portion for her of 2000 marks [=£1333 6s 8d]. To offset this marriage portion for his daughter Mary, the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl decreased by 1000 marks the cash legacy of 2000 marks which he had bequeathed to his son and heir, Edward, in his earlier will. The clause in the will of 28 July 1562 reads:

*Item, I will, give and bequeath unto my son Edward, Lord Bulbeck, one thousand marks [=£666 13s 4d] of lawful money of England, to be paid unto him by my said executors as it may conveniently be levied of the manors, lands and tenements hereafter by me bequeathed to the use of this my last will, and in case the said Edward, my son, shall fortune to decease before he shall accomplish his full age of 21 years, then I will the said thousand marks to be equally divided between my said wife and daughter Mary, to be paid to them as is aforesaid;*

In a letter to Sir William Cecil dated 7 May 1565, Margery Golding urged that this 1000 marks be entrusted to her and others during her son's minority so that it would be available when he came of age 'to bear the charges of the suit of his livery, which charges were foreseen and provided for by my said late Lord and husband and his counsel learned' (see TNA SP 12/36/47). Unfortunately, her request was not granted.

Another difference between the 1552 and 1562 wills is that the annuities left to the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's servants in the former are replaced by cash bequests amounting to £502. The lands set aside for 20 years for payment of the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's debts and the performance of his will yielded an annual income of £333 18s 7d (see TNA WARD 8/13) which, over 20 years,

would have come to £6678 11s 8d. The amount of the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's debts is unknown. However the cash legacies bequeathed in his will total £3745 17s 1d, or 56% of the revenue which would have been generated over the 20-year period by the lands set aside for payment of the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's debts and performance of his will. The cash legacies are as follows:

Maintenance of his household for 1 month after his death	amount unknown
3 months' wages for every servant	amount unknown
Repair of highway	£10
Poor boxes	£50
Edward de Vere	£666 13s 4d
Lord and Lady Windsor	£200
Countess of Oxford's gentlewomen	£40
Mary de Vere	£1333 6s 8d
Hugh Vere	£20
John Vere	£20
Anne Vere	£66 13s 4d
Bridget Vere	£40
Jane Vere	£40
Daughter of Robert Vere	£40
2 sons of Geoffrey Vere	£40
Sir Nicholas Bacon	£10
Sir William Cecil	£10
Lease of Weybourne to Robert Christmas for 21 years	£597 3s 9d
Sir John Wentworth	£20
Duke of Norfolk	£20
Sir Robert Dudley	£20
Gentlemen	£310
Yeoman	£150
Grooms	£42
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Total	£3745 17s 1d

The 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's grant of the lease of the manor of Weybourne to his servant Robert Christmas (d.1584) for 21 years is remarkable, considering that the lease was worth £28 8s 9d per annum (see TNA WARD 8/13, Part 78), and that its total value over a period of 21 years amounted to £597 3s 9d. When the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's will was proved on 29 May 1563, it is thus equally remarkable that the sole executor to receive a grant of administration was Robert Christmas, who was already in, or about to enter, Leicester's service (see BL Lansdowne 6/34, ff. 96-7 and TNA SP 15/13/5). Margery, Countess of Oxford, resigned as executor on 22 July 1563, and it is difficult to escape the conclusion that she and the four other executors had been forced out. It was not until 19 April 1570 that Edward de Vere was joined with Robert Christmas in the administration of the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's will. The

fact that no-one but Leicester's servant, Robert Christmas, administered the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's will until April 1570 raises many questions about the manner in which the will, and the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's lands, were administered between 1562 and that date. It also raises questions about the role Robert Christmas might have played in persuading the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl to enter into the legal agreements in June and July 1562, just prior to his death, in which the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl arranged for the marriage of his son and heir, Edward, to a sister of Leicester's brother-in-law, Henry Hastings, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Huntingdon (see HL HAP o/s Box 3/19), made Leicester one of three trustees given control of his lands under the indenture of 2 June 1562, and a supervisor of his will. One of the first to notice the role played by Leicester and Robert Christmas with respect to the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's lands was Gwynneth Bowen in her two-part article 'What happened at Hedingham and Earls Colne?', published in 1970-1 and reprinted at:

<http://www.sourcetext.com/sourcebook/library/bowen/index.htm>.

The need to bring his will into line with the indenture of 2 June 1562 which supplemented Margery Golding's jointure and attempted to recreate the 'ancient entails' by which the lands of the earldom had been held prior to the fine extorted from the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl by Somerset, and the need to bring his bequests, particularly those to his children, up to date, as well as to appoint new executors, provided cogent reasons for the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl to make a new will on 28 July 1562. There is ample evidence that the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl was in good health at the time of the making of his will of 28 July 1562, and that he expected to live another six years to see his son and heir's marriage take place at the age of 18. In that regard, it is also noteworthy that the opening paragraph of the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's will contains none of the language denoting final illness which was usual in the Tudor period when a testator was on his deathbed ('being sick/weak in body but of good and perfect remembrance'). Instead, the opening paragraph of the will merely states that the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl was 'of whole and perfect mind' at the time of the making of the will.

LM: T{estamentum} Ioh{ann}is de Vere Comit{is} de Oxinford

In the name of God, Amen. I, John de Vere, Earl of Oxenford, Lord Great Chamberlain of England, Viscount Bulbeck, etc., being of whole and perfect mind and by the grace of Almighty God in perfect love and charity with all the world, do make, ordain and declare this my present testament and last will the 28 of July in the year of Our Lord God 1562 and in the fourth 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., in manner and form following, that is to say:

First, I do utterly and clearly forsake, renounce and repel all and singular wills, testaments, bequests and legacies at any time or in any wise by me heretofore willed, bequeathed, made, or spoken, and do ordain, make, allow and constitute this my only last will and testament and none other;

And herein touching the first part, I commit my soul unto the eternal God, my Maker and Creator, and to Jesus Christ, his only Son, my Saviour and Redeemer, by the merits of whose death and passion I do steadfastly believe to have remission of all my sins;

Secondly, I commit my body to th' earth from whence it came, and I will that my sepulchre be made in the body of the church of Earls Colne after such manner and in such place as by the discretion of mine executors shall seem most convenient, and therein my body to be laid in convenient time after my decease out of this world, and at the day of my burial I will that my executors shall give and bestow in deeds of charity to the relief of the poor or other godly uses as shall by them be thought meet ten pounds of good and lawful money of England;

Thirdly, I bequeath my goods and part of my lands and tenements to the world to be distributed as hereafter followeth, that is to say:

I will that my house wherein I shall have and keep my household at the time of my decease by the clemency and permission of my said most gracious Sovereign Lady, the Queen's Majesty, shall be maintained and kept by mine executors after my death with and of my stores of oxen, bullocks, sheep, fowls, fish, malt, wheat and other like provision of victual, grain and spice until th' end of one month next after my decease in as ample and large manner as I myself keep and maintain the same during the month next before my death, without diminution of any my household servants or of any other which shall fortune to dwell and remain in my said house at my decease save such as will voluntarily depart out from the same;

Also, I give and bequeath unto every of my servants being in my wages the time of my decease his quarter's wages in which I fortune to depart out of this transitory life;

Also, I will & bequeath unto the several boxes for the poor in Castle Hedingham, Sible Hedingham, Nether Yeldham, Tilbury next Clare, Wivenhoe and Gestingthorpe, Lamarsh, Toppesfield, Cockfield, Earls Colne, Colne Wake, White Colne, Gaines Colne, St. Swithin's parish at London Stone, Lavenham, East Bergholt, Tattingstone, Aldham, Swaffham Bulbeck, and toward the reparation of the highway leading from Earls Colne to Coggeshall, that is to say, for the reparation of the said highway ten pounds of good and lawful money of England, and the sum of fifty pounds of good and lawful money of England to be divided and distributed amongst the said towns according to the discretion of mine executors;

And by virtue of one Act of Parliament holden at Westminster in the fifth and sixth years [=1552] of the reign of the late King of famous memory, Edward the Sixth, provided, I will and bequeath to my right loving and well-beloved wife the Lady Margery, Countess of Oxford, in part of a recompense of and for all such her dowry as she or any other in her name or for her can or may at any time hereafter have, challenge, or demand out of any of my lands or tenements, except such as I have given unto her being contained in a late deed of entail, the manors of Tilbury next Clare, Downham, Easton Hall, Netherhall in Gestingthorpe, Garnons in Tendring, and Brownes tenement in Toppesfield in the

county of Essex, and the manors of Easton Maudit, Thorpe Malford and Marston Trussell with their appurtenances within the county of Northampton, and the manor of Bilton with th' appurtenances in the county of Warwick, and all and singular the lands and tenements called Paynes in Pentlow with th' appurtenances, to have and to hold all and singular the said manors and other the premises with all and singular their appurtenances unto my said wife for the term of her life;

Item, I will, give and bequeath unto my said wife to her proper use all such plate as hath been given unto her either for New Year's gifts or the christening of any of her children, and also 2 hundred ounces of my plate to be delivered unto her by the discretion of the most part of my executors, with all her jewels and apparel belonging to her body, and I will, give and bequeath to my said wife to her own proper use all such household stuff as is contained in a schedule written in paper hereunto annexed, to be delivered unto her by my said executors within 8 weeks after my said decease;

Item, I will, give and bequeath unto my son Edward, Lord Bulbeck, one thousand marks [=£666 13s 4d] of lawful money of England, to be paid unto him by my said executors as it may conveniently be levied of the manors, lands and tenements hereafter by me bequeathed to the use of this my last will, and in case the said Edward, my son, shall fortune to decease before he shall accomplish his full age of 21 years, then I will the said thousand marks to be equally divided between my said wife and daughter Mary, to be paid to them as is aforesaid;

Also I will, give and bequeath unto the said Edward, my son, all the rest of my plate not given and bequeathed in this my last will and testament, together with all such other household stuff, armour, artillery and weapons as are not appointed and bequeathed to my said wife, all which plate, stuff and other things to be delivered unto him by my said executors at his full age of 21 years if he shall so long live, and if it fortune the said Edward to decease before he shall accomplish his said full age, then I will all the said plate, stuff and other things to be equally divided by mine executors to my said wife, and the Lady Mary, my daughter;

And I will, give and bequeath to my loving son-in-law, the Lord Windsor, and to my daughter, the Lady Katherine, his wife, three hundred marks [=£200] of lawful money of England, to be paid by my executors as it shall rise and may conveniently be levied of my lands and tenements hereafter appointed to the performance of this my last will;

And I give to every gentlewoman which shall attend and be in service with my said wife at the time of my decease, not amounting above the number of six, six pounds thirteen shillings four pence to be paid to them within one year next after my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath to the Lady Mary, my daughter, the sum of two thousand marks [=£1333 6s 8d] to be paid unto her by my said executors at the day of her marriage;

Item, if my said daughter fortune to die, I will the said money to be divided between my said wife and Edward, Lord Bulbeck, my son;

Item, I give and bequeath to the 2 sons of my brother, Aubrey Vere, that is to say, Hugh and John, to either of them twenty pounds, to be paid unto them by mine executors when they come to their several ages of 21 years, and I give and bequeath to Anne Vere, eldest daughter of my said brother, Aubrey, one hundred marks [=£66 13s 4d], and to either of his other daughters, Bridget and Jane, forty pounds to be paid to them at the several days of their marriages;

Item, I bequeath to my brother Robert Vere's daughter forty pounds, to be paid at the day of her marriage;

And I give and bequeath to either of the 2 sons of my brother, Geoffrey, £20 to be paid unto them at their ages of 21 years;

Item, I will, give and bequeath to every one of my servants which be written and named in a schedule hereunto annexed which shall be and continue in my service at the time of my decease all such sum and sums of money as to him is limited and appointed to be paid in the same schedule, the same to be paid to every of my said servants by mine executors of this my last will and testament within as short a time after my decease as they conveniently may;

Item, I will, give and bequeath unto my three loving sisters, the Lady Darcy, the Lady Surrey, and the Lady Sheffield, to either of them one of my cups of silver and gilt that have been given me for New Year's gifts for a remembrance of me, to be delivered unto them by my said executors;

And I will, give and bequeath unto my very good lord, Sir Nicholas Bacon, knight, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England, ten pounds and one of my great horses, and to my right trusty and loving friend, Sir William Cecil, knight, ten pounds and one other of my great horses, to be paid and delivered unto them by mine executors within a convenient time after my decease, and I right heartily beseech them to be aiding and assisting to my said executors for the better fulfilling of this my will, and to my servants for the enjoying of all such legacies and grants as I have now given [LM: and heretofore made unto them;

Item, where I have heretofore demised and to farm letten] to my servant, Robert Christmas, the manor of Weybourne in the county of Norfolk for term of 21 years, my meaning is and I do now give and bequeath unto the said Robert the same lease during the term aforesaid without any manner of let of any person or persons whatsoever they be;

The residue of all and singular my goods, chattels, jewels, apparel and debts owing unto me and other things not before by me bequeathed I will, give and bequeath unto mine executors hereunder named towards the payment of my debts and fulfilling of this my last will and testament, and I heartily require and charge my said executors that they do content and pay or cause to be contented and paid in as convenient time as they may after my decease all such debts as I owe unto any man, and also to perform and pay all such



gifts and legacies as be contained in this my last will and testament and in the said schedule hereunto annexed and either of them, and I will, bequeath and assign unto my said executors towards the performance of this my last will and testament the manors of Tattingsstone and Aldham with their appurtenances in the county of Suffolk and all and singular my messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments in Tattingsstone, Aldham and Hadleigh in the said county of Suffolk, and the manor of Weybourne in the county of Norfolk and all and singular my lands, tenements, and hereditaments in Weybourne or elsewhere in the said county of Norfolk, and my manors of Wivenhoe, Newers, Battleswick, Much Canfield, Much Bentley, Doddinghurst, Lamarsh and Colne Wake with their appurtenances in the county of Essex and all and singular my lands, tenements and hereditaments in Wivenhoe, Newers, Battleswick, Alresford, Greenstead, East Donyland, Much Canfield, Little Canfield, High Roding, Hatfield Regis, Much Bentley, Frating, Doddinghurst, Shenfield, Lamarsh, Much Henny, Alphamstone, [+&] Wakes Colne within the said county of Essex, to have and to hold all and singular the said manors, messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments unto the same mine executors immediately from and after my decease unto th' end and term of 20 years from the term next following fully to be complete and ended;

And the executors of this my last will I do ordain, constitute and make my right loving and well-beloved wife, Margery, Countess of Oxenford, my son Edward, Lord Bulbeck, my loving friend Sir John Wentworth, knight, and he to have for his pains in that behalf twenty pounds, my trusty servants Henry Golding, Robert Christmas and John Turner;

And the supervisor[s] of this my will I ordain and make my singular good Lord the Duke's grace of Norfolk, and my Lord Robert Dudley, and either of them to have for their pains twenty pounds and one of my best horses or geldings;

In witness whereof to this my last will and testament I have subscribed my name and set to my seal of arms the day and year above written. Oxenford

RM: MEMORANDUM, this will was signed, sealed and delivered by the within-named Earl as his last will and testament in the presence of such persons as have hereunder subscribed their names, viz., Harry Walker, Roger Ponder, clerk, John Ludham, Jasper Jones, John Lovell, Thomas Coe, William Hill, Edmund Freake.

The schedule whereby and wherein  
I, John de Vere, Earl of Oxenford, have appointed  
unto my well-beloved wife, the Lady Margery,  
Countess of Oxenford, certain of my household  
stuff and other things

First, a trussing bed with hangings of crimson velvet, powdered with angels and broidering flowers, paned with white damask;

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Item, a trussing bed hanging of purple tinsel satin, paned with black velvet, powdered with clouds, weeping eyes and drops, with 5 curtains of blue sarsenet;

Item, a trussing bed hanging of blue tinsel satin, paned with red velvet, powdered with pomegranates, with three curtains of red and blue sarsenet;

Item, a sparver of green damask, paned with tinsel satin of Bruges, with curtains of red and yellow sarsenet made fast to the same;

Item, a sparver of estate of red satin, powdered with blue boars and letters, and my old Lord's arms;

Item, 2 counterpoints of Venus and Cupid;

Item, one quilt of red sarsenet;

Item, a counterpoint of tapestry having St. George in it;

Item, a counterpoint of tapestry, with 2 greyhounds in it, and hunting stories;

Item, a counterpoint of coarse counterfeit arras, with a great lion in it;

Item, 6 pieces of tapestry, verdures and beasts;

Item, 6 pieces of hangings, sometime for the great chamber at Colne;

Featherbeds, 12;

Cushions, 12;

Carpets for tables and cupboards, 10;

Sheets, 12 pair;

Blankets, ten pair;

Item, two chairs of crimson velvet;

Item, one chair of black velvet.

Oxenford

The names of my servants to whom  
I have given the several sums ensuing

## Gentlemen

Henry Golding, esquire, £20  
Robert Christmas, £20  
John Turner, £20  
John Booth, £20  
John Ludham, £20  
John Lovell, £20  
Jasper Jones, £20  
Thomas Jarman, £10  
Thomas Eden, £10  
George Tyrrell, £10  
William Hill, £20  
John Clippesby, £10  
Thomas Sholdham, £10  
Thomas Saint John, £10  
Edward Mackwilliam, £10  
William Brewster, £10  
Richard Boland, £10  
Francis Berners, £10  
Roger Clopton, £10  
Robert Thorpe, £10  
Edmund Freake, £10  
Roger Ponder, £10  
John Carew, £10

## Yeomen

John Linnet, 66s 8d [=£3 6s 8d]  
John Smith, £3 6s 8d  
Thurston Fittes [=Fitz?], £3 6s 8d  
John Carter, £3 6s 8d  
George Massey [=Maxey?], £3 6s 8d  
Lawrence Alliston, £3 6s 8d  
John Butcher, £3 6s 8d  
John Bridge, £3 6s 8d  
Lewis Jegon, £3 6s 8d  
John Crabbe, £3 6s 8d  
Richard Bull, £3 6s 8d  
George Ward, £10  
William Grave, £3 6s 8d  
Thomas Bridge, £3 6s 8d  
Robert Reade, £3 6s 8d  
Geoffrey Lovell, £3 6s 8d

John Potter, £3 6s 8d  
 Henry Pullen, £3 6s 8d  
 Thomas Robinson, £3 6s 8d  
 William Barrett, £3 6s 8d  
 John Gyver, £3 6s 8d  
 Thomas Smith, £3 6s 8d  
 Robert Williams, £3 6s 8d  
 John Davy, £3 6s 8d  
 John Furlong, £3 6s 8d  
 Thomas Christmas, £3 6s 8d  
 Thomas Hughes, £3 6s 8d  
 Richard Wood, £3 6s 8d  
 Robert Simon, £3 6s 8d  
 Edmund Chapman, £3 6s 8d  
 Henry Wood, £3 6s 8d  
 Robert Parker, £3 6s 8d  
 Henry Falconer, £3 6s 8d  
 Anthony Denny, £3 6s 8d  
 John Bande [=Bond?], £3 6s 8d  
 John Knight, £3 6s 8d  
 Thomas Water [=Walter?], 66s 8d [=£3 6s 8d]  
 Albon Bridge, £3 6s 8d  
 James Gorrell, £3 6s 8d  
 Adam Polley, £3 6s 8d  
 Martin Burgh, £3 6s 8d  
 Lewis Hunger, £3 6s 8d  
 Lawrence Alliston, £3 6s 8d

#### Grooms

William Lister, 40s [=£2]  
 Peter Pudney, 40s  
 John Pudney, 40s  
 the boy of the stable, 40s  
 Robert Woodfen, 40s  
 Thomas Johnson, 40s  
 John Bigg, 40s  
 Edward Richards, 26s 8d [=£1 6s 8d]  
 John Lyly, 40s  
 John Fookes, 40s  
 Robert Mortimer, 40s  
 John Stokes, 40s  
 Christopher Metcalfe, 40s  
 Thomas Bowman, 40s  
 John Greene, 40s

John Webbe, 40s  
 Thomas Man, 40s  
 John Ruggles, 40s  
 Jasper Harvey, 26s 8d [=£1 6s 8d]  
 Richard Harris, 26s 8d [=£1 6s 8d]  
 Thomas Chalis, 40s  
 James Fen, 40s

Probatum fuit h{uius}mo{d}i Testamentum Vicesimo nono Die Mens{is} Maij A{nn}o Domini Mill{es}imo Quingentesimo Sexagesimo terc{i}o Iuramento Roberti Christmas generosi vnus executorum in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento nominat{orum} Cui comissa fuit administrac{i}o &c de bene &c Ac de plano Inuentario Necnon de vero et plano comp{ut}o Reddend{o} Ad sancta Dei Evangelia Iurat{i} Reservata pot{est}ate D{omi}ne Margerie Comitisse Oxon' eius R{e}l{i}c{t}e D{omi}no Edwardo Veer D{omi}no de Bulbeck Iohanni Wentworth militi et Henrico Golding ar{m}igero executoribus in eodem no{m}i{n}at{is} cum Venerint Iohanne Turner generoso executore &c Renunciant{e} Deinde vicesimo secundo die Mens{s} Iulij 1563o D{omi}na Comitissa oneri executionis eiusdem in p{er}sona Edwardi Bigges procuratoris sui &c renu{n}ciant{e} saluis Legatis in testamento dicti defuncti sibi Legat{is} et Donat{is}

[=The same testament was proved on the twenty-ninth day of the month of May in the year of the Lord the one thousand five hundred sixty-third by the oath of Robert Christmas, gentleman, one of the executors named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted etc., sworn on the holy Gospels to well etc., and to render a plain inventory and also a true and plain account, with power reserved to the Lady Margery, Countess of Oxford, his widow; the Lord Edward Vere, Lord Bulbeck; John Wentworth, knight; and Henry Golding, esquire, executors named in the same, when they shall have come, John Turner, gentleman, executor etc., resigning; then on the twenty-second day of July 1563 the Lady Countess resigning the burden of the execution of the same in the person of Edward Biggs, her proctor etc., saving the legacies in the said testament of the said deceased to her bequeathed and given. Examined.]

LM: Decimo nono Aprilis 1570 comissa fuit consimilis Administrac{i}o d{i}c{t}o D{omi}no Edwardo de Vere ad administr{andum} bona iura et credita eiusdem de bene &c In p{er}sona Rich{ard}i Kelton generosi p{rocurato}ris &c Iur{ati}

[= On the nineteenth day of April 1570, administration was similarly granted to the said Lord Edward de Vere to administer the goods, rights and credits of the same, sworn to well etc., in the person of Richard Kelton, gentleman, proctor.]