

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 1 October 1562 and proved 18 October 1564, of Sir Thomas Josselyn, only son and heir of John Josselyn of High Roding, Essex, receiver-general of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford, and one of the executors of the Earl's will.

The testator's father's service with the Earls of Oxford is described in Rawcliffe, Carole and Susan Flower, 'English Noblemen and Their Advisers: Consultation and Collaboration in the Later Middle Ages', *Journal of British Studies* 25 (April 1986): 157-177, at p. 160, available online:

John Josselyn, auditor-general and councilor to the de Veres from 1487 until his death thirty-eight years later, was employed successively by the thirteenth earl of Oxford, his widow, and his nephew, the fourteenth earl. The latter's dissolute and spendthrift ways led Cardinal Wolsey himself to impose a strict regime on the earl in 1524, with the intent that he should behave "honourably, prudently and sadly, forswearing all riotous and wild companies, excessive and superfluous apparell: and kindlie intreate and demeane himself towards . . . his wief." The routine management of Oxford's lands, household and person was then consigned to a small council headed by Josselyn in his joint capacity as receiver general, surveyor, and auditor, in which exalted post he ended his days.

The testator's mother was Philippa, the sister of Thomas Bradbury (d.1510), mercer and Lord Mayor of London.

The testator married Dorothy Gates (d.1583), the daughter of Sir Geoffrey Gates (d. 1526) and his wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Clopton. Sir Geoffrey Gates' son and heir, Sir John Gates (1504-1553), was named as an executor in the 1552 will of Oxford's father, the 16th Earl. However Gates was replaced as executor by a codicil dated January 28, 1554, having been executed on 22 August 1553 along with John Dudley (1504-1553), Duke of Northumberland, as a result of Northumberland's failed attempt to put his daughter-in-law, Lady Jane Grey, on the throne after the death of Edward VI (see BL Stowe Charter 633-4). Sir Geoffrey Gates' daughter, Anne Gates, married Thomas Darcy, the uncle of Thomas (1506-1558), 1st Baron Darcy of Chiche, Vice-Chamberlain of King Edward VI's household, and brother-in-law of the 16th Earl of Oxford. For the will of Thomas (1506-1558), 1st Baron Darcy of Chiche, see TNA PROB 11/44, ff. 75-6. For the will of Dorothy (nee Gates) Josselyn (d.1583), see TNA PROB 11/54, ff. 79-80.

The testator and his wife, Dorothy Gates (d.1583), had a daughter, Jane Josselyn, who married Oxford's receiver, Richard Kelton (d.1578). Richard Kelton is mentioned as a friend in the will of Oxford's stepfather, Charles Tyrrell (d.1570), and was a witness to the will:

Item, I do give unto my brother, Philip Tyrrell, and my friend, Master Kelton of Colne, all that my lease and term of years yet to come which I have of the said house, manor and priory of Colne with th' appurtenances by any means or ways, as well by force of one

indenture made by the late Earl, deceased, to John Booth and Thomas Coe, which said John and Thomas have, by their deed signed and sealed, released over their interest to my late wife, the Countess of Oxford, in her widowhood, as by all other means and ways whereby any right or title of the same might or may accrue or grow to me;

Item, I do make my brother, Philip Tyrrell, my sole executor of all other my goods and chattels yet ungiven upon condition he do pay all such debts and duties as may lawfully be demanded of me and shall justly be proved as above-written to be my debts, these being witnesses hereof, Master John Seymour, esquire, one of the Queen's Majesty's Gentlemen-Pensioners, and Mr Richard Kelton, gentleman.

For the will of Charles Tyrrell, see TNA PROB 11/52, f. 105.

After Richard Kelton's death, Jane (nee Josselyn) Kelton married Roger Harlakenden (d.1603), who defrauded Oxford in the sale of Colne Priory. Roger Harlakenden's marriage into the family of the testator, who had been a trusted servant of the Earls of Oxford, may have facilitated his fraud. For the will of Roger Harlakenden (d.1603), see TNA PROB 11/101, ff. 392-3.

LM: Testamentum Thome Josselyn militis

In the name of God, Amen. The first day of October in the fourth year [=1 October 1562] 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, Sir Thomas Josselyn of Newhall Josselyn in the county of Essex, knight, sick in body but being in perfect mind and remembrance, praised be Almighty God, calling to remembrance the miseries and transitory times of this world and the brevity and frail estate of man's life, do make, constitute and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following, clearly and utterly renouncing, repealing and annulling all manner of other wills by me heretofore made if any such be found hereafter, that is to say:

First and principally with an humble, lowly and penitent heart for my misliving here in the world, I do ask God's mercy to be showed unto me, and do give and bequeath my soul unto his merciful hands, trusting to have everlasting life and salvation by th' only death and passion of his only Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, and by none other ways or means;

And also I will my body to be buried in the parish church of Sawbridgeworth in the county of Hertford in the chancel there, and my tomb and funerals to be made and done by the discretion of mine executors hereafter named;

And also I give and bequeath unto Dame Dorothy Josselyn, my well-beloved wife, all my pearls and stones and all my jewels whatsoever they be belonging to her or to myself;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my said wife all my plate of silver and silver and gilt to her proper use forever;

Also I give and bequeath to my said wife all my household stuff as napery, linen and woollen of what kind, nature or name soever they be remaining at my manor or mansion house of Newhall Josselyn within the said county of Essex;

Item, furthermore I give unto my said wife all my goods and chattels, as horse, beef, bullocks, oxen, sheep, swine, corn, grain and hay both upon the ground and in the barns and granary of Newhall Josselyn aforesaid or elsewhere in and upon my lands and tenements being in my hands, possession and occupation at the time of my decease, to the intent that she, my said wife, therewith shall see and cause me to be honestly and worshipfully buried, and to discharge and pay all manner of my funeral expenses and charges, and also to buy and provide all such black cloth as is in this my last will given to any person and persons whatsoever according to my true intent and meaning;

And whereas John Gybbe, Thomas Perry and John Ingolde and their heirs do stand seised of and in my manor of High Roding with all the rights, members and appurtenances in the county of Essex and of all other my lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances in High Roding, Gythorpe [sic?] Roding, King's Hatfield and Canfield or elsewhere in the said county of Essex to th' use and performance of this my last will and testament, as by a deed thereof by me to them made whose date is at High Roding aforesaid the last day of September in the fourth year [=30 September 1562] of the reign of our Sovereign Lady the Queen's Majesty that now is more plainly it may and shall appear, wherefore my will and intent is that the said John Gybb, Thomas Perry and John Ingolde and their heirs shall stand and be seised of and in the said manor and other the premises with th' appurtenances from and after my decease to th' use of my said wife, Dame Dorothy Josselyn, and John Josselyn, my son, for the term of their lives and either of them longest living without impeachment of any manner of waste as concerning woods and underwoods upon condition that they, the said Dame Dorothy, and my said son, John Josselyn, within convenient time after my decease with the issues and profits thereof coming and growing do pay or cause to be paid all such my debts and duties as I do owe of right or of conscience to any person or persons whatsoever, and also with the same profits as they shall conveniently grow and arise do pay or cause to be paid to all my legataries all such my legacies and bequests as are contained in this my last will and testament according to their discretions;

And after the deaths of the same Dame Dorothy Josselyn and John Josselyn I will that the said John Gybbe, Thomas Perry and John Ingolde and their heirs shall stand and be seised of and in the said manor and other the premises with th' appurtenances to th' use and behoof of the heir male of the body of my son, Richard Josselyn, lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to th' use of my son, Thomas Josselyn, and of the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to th' use of the said John Josselyn and of the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to th' use of my son, Henry Josselyn, and of the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to th' use of my son, Edward Josselyn,

and of the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to the use of the right heirs of me, the said Sir Thomas Josselyn, forever;

Item, I give and bequeath to the said E[d]ward, my son, the custody, wardship and marriage of Mary Lambe in as ample manner as I bought the same of William Gerrard, esquire, to which marriage if it fortune the said Edward not to be preferred, that then my will and intent is that the said Edward Josselyn shall have to him and his assigns yearly during his life one annuity or yearly rent of twenty marks to be paid out of my said manor of High Roding, and the first payment thereof to begin at the feast of Saint Michael th' Archangel or th' Annunciation of Our Lady which shall first happen and chance to come after this my will be fully performed, by even portions to be paid yearly at the same feasts or within one month next after every of the said feasts;

And if it happen the said annuity or yearly rent to be unpaid in part or in the whole over or after any feast or day of payment thereof, after this my will be performed and the said Edward not being preferred to the marriage aforesaid, by the space of six weeks, that then it shall be lawful unto the said Edward and his assigns into the said manor and other the premises with th' appurtenances to enter and distrain, and the distress there so taken lawfully to lead, drive and carry away and towards them to hold, keep and impound until the same annuity and yearly rent of twenty marks and every part and parcel thereof with th' arrearages of the same, if any such be, be fully and wholly well and truly paid and contented unto the said Edward or his assigns without any manner of deduction or any other defalation [sic?] in any manner of wise, ways or means hereafter to be made by any farmer or occupier of the premises or by the same Dame Dorothy Josselyn and John Josselyn or either of them or any of them, or in their names or under their titles;

Item, I will and bequeath to Richard Josselyn, my said son, all my household stuff at Hyde Hall in the county of Hertford;

Item, I will and bequeath to my said wife mine indenture and lease of the tithe of Brounso End with all the profits and commodities of the same during all the term and time in the said indenture specified being to come and not expired at the time of my decease if she, the said Dame Dorothy, my wife, do so long live, paying yearly to the lord thereof the rent accustomed and performing all such covenants as in the said indenture is specified;

And if it chance my said wife to die before the said time and term in the said indenture specified be expired, then I will the same shall remain to Thomas Josselyn, my son, upon condition the same Thomas be bounden to my executors hereunder named that if he, the said Thomas, do die without heir male of his body lawfully begotten, that then he, the said Thomas, to leave the same lease to remain to Richard, my son, and his assigns all the residue of the term then to come in the same;

Item, I give and bequeath to Jane Kelton, my daughter, now wife of Richard Kelton, gentleman, the sum of one hundred pounds of lawful money of England, to be paid to her by my said executors within convenient time after my decease as it may be gathered of the issues of the same lands set out in this my will to the performance of the same at the

discretion of my said executors, so that the same Richard Kelton be faithful and to the uttermost of his power assistant to Henry Josselyn, my son, and also obedient in all things reasonable to my said wife after my decease;

Item, I give to Sir John Wentworth, knight, and to my Lady, his wife, and to either of them one ring of gold, price the ring four marks;

Item, I give to my son Glascock a ring of gold, price twenty-six shillings and eight pence, and a black gown;

Item, I give and bequeath to my cousin, Matthew Bradbury, a ring of gold, price twenty-six shillings and eight pence, and a black gown;

Item, I give to Dame Jane Wentworth, my sister, one ring of gold, price forty-shillings, and a black gown;

Item, I give to the poor people of Sawbridgworth and to poor maidens' marriages there forty shillings;

Item, I give to the poor people of Sheering and to poor maidens' marriages there twenty shillings;

Item, I give and bequeath to the poor people of Hatfield Broad Oak and to poor maidens' marriages there forty shillings;

Item, I give and bequeath to the poor people of Aythorpe Roding and to poor maidens' marriages there twenty shillings;

Item, I give to every one of my yeomen servants daily in my household his whole year's wages and a black coat, and to every of my yeoman servants not daily waiting twenty shillings and a black coat, and to every of my servants of husbandry thirteen shillings and four pence and a black coat, and unto every of my maiden-servants ten shillings apiece, and to Joyce Wasket twenty shillings and a black gown;

And I will that all such legacies and bequests before by me bequeathed to be paid by the discretion of my said executors as they may levy and gather the same upon such lands and tenements as I have set out and appointed for the performance of this my said last will and testament [+and?] for the paying of my debts and legacies;

Item, I give and bequeath to my son, Henry Josselyn, and to Anne, his wife, the sum of forty marks of lawful money of England to be paid according as the rest of my legacies afore-mentioned;

And of this my said last will and testament I ordain and make the said Dame Dorothy Josselyn, my well-beloved wife, and my said son, John Josselyn, to be my faithful and true executors, charging them and either of them on their several and sundry consciences

to see this my last will and testament to be fulfilled and wholly to be performed and kept as they and either of them will answer before God at the dreadful day of judgment for the contrary;

And to be supervisors of this my said last will I require and heartily desire my faithful and well-beloved friends, George Hadley, esquire, and Roger Trigge, gentleman, and I give unto either of them for their painstaking herein the sum of six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence lawful money of England, and to either of them a black gown;

In witness whereof to this my said last will and testament I have set to my hand and seal given the day and year abovesaid, these being present as witnesses thereunto specially required: John Spytty, Richard Choppin(?), Robert Wasket, John Gybb, Roger Trigge, and other;

Furthermore my will and intent is that my said wife shall buy and provide against my burial all the black cloth afore given, and also cloth for all my children, their wives and husbands, out of my movable goods as is aforesaid;

Also I give to young Erle forty shillings, to Richard Estegate, my boy, five pounds, and to Richard Lucas six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence and a black gown, to be paid as other my legacies are to be paid. T. Josselyn.

Decimo octavo die Mensis Octobris Anno Domini Millesimo quingentesimo sexagesimo quarto Emanavit Commissio Domine Dorothee Josselyn Relicte dicti defuncti habentis & Ad administranda bona Iura et credita eiusdem defuncti iuxta et secundum tenorem testamenti et vltime voluntatis eiusdem pro eo quod executores in eodem testamento nominati oneri execucionis dicti testamenti expresse reununciauerunt De bene &c viz dicto Iohanne Josselyn personaliter presente et Domina Dorothea in persona magistri Christoferi Clercke Notarij publici procuratois sui renunciatis Iurato

[=On the eighteenth day of the month of October in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixty-fourth a grant issued to Lady Dorothy Josselyn, relict of the said deceased, having etc., to administer the goods, rights and credits of the same deceased according to and in accordance with the tenor of the same testament and last will because the executors named in the same testament expressly have renounced the burden of the execution of the said testament, sworn to well etc., viz., the said John Josselyn personally present renouncing, and Lady Dorothy in the person of Master Christopher Clerke, notary public, her proctor.]