

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 25 August 1570 (will of lands) and 14 February 1579 (will of goods), proved 29 October 1580, of Roger Alford (d. 16 July 1580) of Hitcham, Buckinghamshire, at whose house in Hitcham Oxford may have stayed for a time in 1564. For a letter dated 9 January 1564 from Sir William Cecil to Bridget (nee Hussey), (1526-1601), then Countess of Rutland, stating that Oxford was at Hitcham near Burnham in Buckinghamshire (and likely at the testator's home there), see Historical Manuscripts Commission, Twelfth Report, Appendix, Part IV, *The Manuscripts of His Grace the Duke of Rutland, G.C.B., Preserved at Belvoir Castle*, (London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1888), Vol. 1, p. 89.

For the testator's long career in the service of Oxford's father-in-law, William Cecil, Lord Burghley, see Barnett, Richard C., *Place, Profit and Power; A Study of the Servants of William Cecil, Elizabethan Statesman*, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1969), pp. 24-8.

For the testator's role as a trustee in Lord Burghley's purchase of the manor of Theobalds from Robert Burbage (d.1575), see TNA C 54/662, mm. 8-11.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

In the will below the testator states that his maternal grandfather was Edmund Bridges, brother of Sir John Bridges:

I will that my body be buried on the right side of the chancel of the parish church of Hitcham, upon the which I will a tomb to be set of grey marble after the pattern of Mr Edmund Bridges, my grandfather, which was palled up in St Lawrence Pountney College in London, the pattern whereof is to be seen by Sir John Bridges' tomb, his brother, in St Nicholas Church in St Nicholas Lane in London, or else after the pattern of Mr Henry Long's which I devised for him, to be all of grey marble with my word under my scutcheon, 'Try, trust, and mistrust not'.

The testator was the son of Robert Alford (d.1546) and Anne Brydges, daughter of Edmund Brydges of London, draper, and Margaret Hart, daughter of John Hart, Chamberlain of London, and niece of Sir John Brydges (d.1530), Lord Mayor of London in 1521, whose daughter Winifred Brydges (d.1586) was the mother of Thomas Sackville (c.1536-1608), 1st Baron Buckhurst and 1st Earl of Dorset. See the *ODNB* article on Thomas Sackville, and the History of Parliament entry for the testator:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/alford-roger-1530-80>

See also Brydges, Egerton, *Collins's Peerage of England*, (London: F.C. and J. Rivington, 1812), Vol. IV, p. 710 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=9fsUAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA710>

In the will below the testator mentions two brothers, Francis Alford, and Lancelot Alford. For Francis Alford (buried 3 September 1592) see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/alford-francis-1530-92>

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married Elizabeth Ramsey, posthumous daughter of Thomas Ramsey (d.1524) and Pernell Baldwin (d.1527), one of the daughters and coheirs of Sir John Baldwin (d.1545), Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. For the will of Sir John Baldwin, see TNA PROB 11/30/580. Before her marriage to the testator, Elizabeth Ramsey was the wife of Nicholas Clerke (d.1551), by whom she had four children, including a son, Sir William Clerke, and a daughter, Dorothy Clerke, who married firstly Henry Long (1544-1573), and secondly, Sir Charles Morison (1549 - 31 March 1599), mentioned in the will below.

See also the Clerke pedigree in Lee, Frederick George, *The History, Description and Antiquities of the Prebendal Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Thame*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1883), p. 310 at:

<https://archive.org/details/PrebendalChurchOfTheBVM/page/n183>

By Elizabeth Ramsey the testator had a son and a daughter:

* **Edward Alford** (c.1565-1632), who on 11 April 1589 married Judith Downing, the daughter of Edmund Downing of Suffolk, by whom he had six sons and a daughter: Sir Edward Alford (1592–1653), John Alford (1590–1649), Henry Alford, Lancelot Alford, Robert Alford, William Alford and Elizabeth Alford. See the *ODNB* entry, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/alford-edward-1565-1631>

* **Anne Alford** (d.1651) who married Sir Edmund Fettiplace (d.1613) of Chorley. For their son, John Fettiplace (1583-1658), see the History of Parliament entry at

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/fettiplace-john-1583-1658>

For the will of the testator's wife, Elizabeth Ramsey Clerke Alford, proved 23 December 1598, see TNA PROB 11/92/437.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

For Sir Thomas Cecil (1542-1623), 1st Earl of Exeter, one of the curators appointed by the testator, see the *ODNB* article:

For Sir Charles Morison (1549 - 31 March 1599), another of the curators, see his will, dated 20 February 1598 and proved 20 July 1599, TNA PROB 11/94/168.

For James Dalton (d.1601), another of the curators, see the History of Parliament entry at:
<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/dalton-james-1601>

For William Lambarde (1536–1601), the testator's friend, and another of the curators, see the *ODNB* entry.

For Henry Long, see his will, TNA PROB 11/55/169.

TESTATOR'S MONUMENT

For the testator's monument, see Lipscomb, George, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Buckingham*, Vol. III, (London: J. & W. Robins, 1847), p.. 285 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=c8lOAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA285>

LM: T{estamentum} Rogeri Aldford

The Blessed Trinity prosper me, and send good success to all these my purposes and doings.

I, Roger Alford of Hitcham in the county of Buckingham, esquire, being of good health and remembrance (for the which I thank God), do ordain and make this my last will or testament touching all my goods and chattels in manner and form following:

First I betake my soul and body to the Almighty God, trusting that through his precious death and passion and all other his actions and performance of all things mentioned in his Old and New Testament touching the same to have remission of my sins and to be partaker of his blessed kingdom;

I will that my body be buried on the right side of the chancel of the parish church of Hitcham, upon the which I will a tomb to be set of grey marble after the pattern of Mr Edmund Bridges, my grandfather, which was palled up in St Lawrence Pountney College

in London, the pattern whereof is to be seen by Sir John Bridges' tomb, his brother, in St Nicholas Church in St Nicholas Lane in London, or else after the pattern of Mr Henry Long's which I devised for him, to be all of grey marble with my word under my scutcheon, 'Try, trust, and mistrust not';

I will that my loving wife, Mrs Elizabeth Alford, shall have to enjoy during her natural life the use and occupation of all my goods and chattels, household stuff and plate within the house & manor of Hitcham aforesaid without any property therein;

And also I will and ordain that my said wife shall have and use at her pleasure to her benefit during her life all my stocks of cattle and sheep at Weston in the county of Oxford and Hitcham aforesaid, leaving unto my executor after her decease so many sheep and other cattle as shall be upon the grounds of Hitcham and Weston aforesaid within one month next before the day of my decease, or the value of them as they shall be reasonably praised after my decease;

Item, I will and bequeath to my said wife the use and occupation of all my household stuff and plate within my house at the White Friars by Fleet Street without any property therein until Edward Alford, my son, shall be married, and then I will that he shall have the same at his pleasure;

Item, I give to my said wife all such plate as is in my house at Hitcham and was her own before I married her, to be used at her pleasure, and also all such jewels as I have given unto her since I married her;

Item, I will and bequeath to my daughter, Anne Alford, the wardship and marriage of Giles Zewster [=Sewster?], whose marriage my good old master, and rather father, the Lord Burghley, now Lord Treasurer of England, hath bestowed upon me;

Also I bequeath her one hundred and twenty pounds in money to pay the Queen's Majesty for him and for the charges thereabouts marriage by the consent of my wife [+and?] her brother and sister Morison, or else but one hundred pounds, the same to be paid her at the day of her marriage or at her age of eighteen years complete;

Item, I will that as well all the rents and profits of all such lands and tenements which I shall leave to descend to my said son, Edward, as of all other my stocks of cattle and chattels real which I shall leave him shall remain in the custody of my said wife, to be answered him at the full age of 21 years;

And I will that my said daughter, Anne, shall enjoy all such biliments of gold and chains of gold as I have or shall give her in my lifetime, though they remain afterward in my custody;

Item, I will that my son, Edward, continue his study at Oxford until he be 17 or 18 years of age, and then I would have him set in Lincoln's Inn, and to be at the appointment both for his order of study and all other his directions of my good friend Mr Lambarde of

Lincoln's Inn aforesaid, whom I have for his virtue and good learning better loved than ever he knew, and charge my said son to obey him in all things as he would me;

Also my meaning is when he shall grow towards twenty years that he shall serve my Lord Treasurer, my old master, who I trust will accept him and notwithstanding permit him to continue his study at law;

Also I will that my said son shall bear and pay all manner of charges whatsoever that any his curators hereafter mentioned shall be at for any cause of his whatsoever, as well law as other during his minority;

Item, I will Mr Morison black for himself and three men;

Item, I will to Mr William Walter th' elder of Wimbledon, Mr George Burden and Mr Philip Scudamore, either of them a black gown;

Item, to my son [=stepson], Mr William [f. 312r] Clerke, a black gown and coats for two men;

To Mr James Dalton my best gilt salt in my house at London with a cover;

Item, I bequeath to my Lord Burghley my bay gelding for my own saddle;

To Sir Thomas Cecil, my own grey nag;

To Mr Lambarde my gilt standing cup with a cover which is at my house at London;

To my brother, Francis, all my apparel, except my cloak of damask guarded with velvet, my plain Spanish cape of cloth and the coat cloth thereto, and my gaskin hose of friezed velvet with the silk netherstocks, and my Dutch cloak of black cloth guarded with four laces of fine parchment lace, which hereby I give to Mr George Burden;

Item, I will that all manner of things which shall remain to my son, Edward, as executor of this my last will, whom by these presents I do ordain and make my sole executor, and to whom, his executors and administrators, I do hereby give & bequeath all my goods and chattels unbequeathed, shall remain and be in the custody of my said wife, as well specialties of debts as all other during his minority;

Item, I ordain and appoint curators of my said son during his minority for his better education and performance of this my last will & testament my loving wife, Elizabeth Alford, and my very friends following: Sir Thomas Cecil, knight, his godfather; Mr Charles Morison, esquire, his brother-in-law; Mr James Dalton of Lincoln's Inn; Mr Lambarde of Lincoln's Inn; Mr Philip Scudamore, and Mr George Burden;

I will that all my armour and furniture of war, except my own armour and furniture thereof and best case of pistolets and best shirt of mail which I will have reserved to the

use of my said son, shall be sold for the best profit of my said son, and the money thereof to be employed, with the rest of such goods as I shall leave to him, in land by the advice of my said curators or the most part of them, whereof my wife, Sir Thomas Cecil and Mr Morison, or two of them, to be consenting, for his best benefit, and in the meantime I will the same money shall be employed by the advice aforesaid as is aforesaid for his best profit till it may be employed in land, the event whereof he by this my will shall be bound to abide and stand to at his peril;

Item, I will that my said executor shall perform to my friends mentioned in a schedule hereunto annexed all such legacies as I have therein assigned unto him to pay them;

In witness whereof to this my present last will and testament I, the said Roger Alford, have set to my hand and seal the fourteenth day of February in the twenty and one year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, and in earth of the Churches of England and Ireland Supreme Governor et Anno Domini 1578. By me, Roger Alford.

Truly examined with the original by us undernamed.

The God in Trinity prosper me in this my intent and doing.

Because I know I was made to die, and know also the time by God's special providence uncertain, I am moved to order such portion of living as he hath lent me here in earth in sort following, trusting that as I have upon special goodwill and confidence willed and devised my lands to my friends as hereafter appeareth, so God will move and stir them to do for me, in respect of my goodwill towards them, to th' intent my will and testament may take and have his due execution according to my meaning as I would for them if the case were theirs;

All men shall know that I, Roger Alford of Hitcham in the county of Buckingham, esquire, in good health and memory, thanks therefore to Almighty God, make this my last will and testament touching my lands, tenements & hereditaments as followeth the 25th day of August in the year of Our Lord God 1570 and in the 12th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith etc.:

First, to Almighty God I give my body and soul which I trust his mercy will receive howsoever my deserts have provoked the contrary;

And now as to as(?) touching my lands, tenements and hereditaments this is my last will and testament:

First I will, give and bequeath all my lands, tenements and hereditaments within the city of London and the suburbs of the same and within the precincts and compass of the late

White Friars near Fleet Street in London, as well those that descended unto me after the death of my father as [+those?] which I purchased since and before the date of this my present will, which are all holden in free burgage or free socage and whereof I am seised in my demesne as of fee, to my good & loving wife, Elizabeth Alford, for term of her natural life upon condition that she shall not claim [f. 312v] nor pretend title to any dower or other interest of or in any of my other lands, tenements or hereditaments within the realm of England, and upon condition further that she shall permit and suffer my friend, George Burden, to have and enjoy a messuage adjoining to my dwelling-house in the White Friars now in the tenure of Henry Bull, physician, during his life, to the which George Burden I will that the same messuage or tenement now being in th' occupation of the said Henry Bull for term of his life without any rent or other thing to be yielded or paid therefore during my said wife's life or the minority of my issue male of my body lawfully begotten or to be begotten;

And from and after my wife's decease and that my issue male of my body lawfully begotten or to be begotten shall accomplish th' age of 21 years, then yielding and paying therefore yearly during the life of the said George to the said issue male and to th' heirs males of my body lawfully begotten 20s at four usual terms in the year, viz., Michaelmas, Christmas, th' Annunciation of Our Lady, and Midsummer by even portions;

And from and after my decease without issue male of my body lawfully begotten, then and from thenceforth yielding and paying one peppercorn for all manner of rents and services during the life of the same George;

And if my said wife for and during the term of her life do not observe and perform the condition aforesaid touching the said George Burden, then I will and bequeath one annuity or yearly rent of £4 to be issuing & going out of all that my messuage or tenement in Bush Lane in London now in the tenure of one John Grey, merchant, to the said George Burden for and during the life of my said wife and to be paid at two feasts of the year most usual, that is to say, at the feast of Saint Michael th' Archangel and th' Annunciation of Our Lady by even portions, and that for the non-payment thereof it shall and pay [sic] be lawful to and for the same George at all times at his free will and pleasure to distrain of and in the same messuage or tenement last before specified;

And as the several estates herein before limited or appointed shall end and determine, I will that all and singular the messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments before mentioned whereof any of the said estates shall at any time hereafter so end or determine immediately from and after th' end and determination thereof shall be and remain to th' heirs males of the body of me, the said Roger Alford, lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue male, the remainder thereof in manner and form following, that is to say:

Of and in the said two messuages parcel of the premises situate and being within the White Friars aforesaid, thone whereof is now in the tenure of me, the said Roger Alford,

and thother of the said Henry Bull, to th' heirs females of the body of me, the said Roger Alford lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue female of the body of me, the said Roger Alford, lawfully begotten as is aforesaid, the remainder of all and singular the said two messuages or tenements in the White Friars in London before entailed to my brother, Francis, during his natural life without impeachment of waste other than voluntary waste;

And after his decease to be and remain to Thomas Alford, his son, and to th' heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to my brother, Lancelot Alford, and th' heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to th' heirs females of the body of me, the said Roger Alford, lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue the remainder thereof to my said brother, Francis, and to th' heirs females of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue the remainder thereof to my said brother, Lancelot, and th' heirs females of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue the remainder of thone of the said messuages in the White Friars aforesaid and now being in th' occupation of me, the said Roger Alford, to William Clerke, esquire, my son-in-law [=stepson], and to th' heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And of thother messuage in the White Friars aforesaid now in th' occupation of the said Henry Bull to the said George Burden and to th' heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue the remainder of both the same messuages or tenements in the White Friars aforesaid to Lancelot Alford of Mewxe and to John Alford of Bilton in the county of York, esquire, their heirs and assigns forever;

And as touching all and singular the residue of my messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments set, lying and being within the said city of London and the suburbs of the same other than the said two messuages or tenements in the said late White Friars aforesaid, I will that the same after the decease of my said wife and for want of issue male of my body lawfully begotten shall be and remain in form following, that is to say:

I will that the one moiety thereof shall be and remain to my said brother, Francis, during his life without impeachment of waste other than voluntary waste;

And thother moiety thereof I will shall be and remain to all such issues females of the body of me, the said Roger Alford, lawfully begotten as shall be in full life at the time of

my decease [f. 313r] for and during the term of their lives without impeachment of any manner of waste;

And from and after the decease of my said brother, Francis, and of such mine issues females as shall be in full lives at the time of my decease, the remainder of all and singular the said messuages, lands, tenements and other the premises in London aforesaid, other than the said two houses in the White Friars before mentioned, to Thomas Alford, th' eldest son of my said brother, Francis Alford, and to th' heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to my said brother, Lancelot Alford, and to th' heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to th' heirs females of the body of me, the said Roger Alford, lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue the remainder thereof to my said brother, Francis, and to th' heirs females of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue the remainder thereof to my said brother, Lancelot, and th' heirs females of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue the remainder thereof to the said Lancelot Alford of Meuxe and to John Alford of Bilton in the county of York esquire, th' heirs [sic for 'their heirs?'] and assigns forever;

Item, I will and bequeath to Edward Alford, my son and heir apparent, all my lands, tenements & hereditaments in Burnham or elsewhere in the county of Buckingham lately by me purchased of one John Aldredge;

And also all my lands, tenements and hereditaments in Bray and Brayweeke in the county of Berkshire which I purchased and bought of one Silvester Cowper;

And all that meadow in the parish of Bray lately bought of Walter Smithe alias Edwarde of Maidenhead;

And also all my meadow in Cookham in the said county of Berkshire;

To have to the said Edward, my son, and to th' heirs males of the body of me, the said Roger Alford, lawfully begotten;

Item, I also will, bequeath and ordain that Edward Alford, my son and heir apparent, shall content and pay yearly to my said brother, Francis Alford, during the minority of the said Edward the sum of £18 at two terms in the year, Easter and Michaelmas, by even portions, in consideration whereof I leave to descend to him presently the parsonages of Wiggenhall St Mary and Islington in the county of Norfolk with all the tithes, glebe lands

and all other hereditaments thereunto belonging, out of the which parsonages with th' appurtenances I give & bequeath to my daughter, Anne, towards her finding until the time she shall fortune to be married, the sum of £5 at Easter and Michaelmas, and that if it shall fortune to be unpaid in part or in all by the space of six weeks, that then it shall be lawful for her when it shall so happen to distrain in the said parsonages with th' appurtenances and every parcel thereof and the same to retain till she shall be fully satisfied;

And also I give and bequeath to my daughter, Anne, towards her education and bringing up for and until such time as she shall be married all those my lands, tenements and hereditaments in Wooyne and Wawyng in the said county of York now in the tenure or occupation of my cousin, Edward Alford, without anything during that time to be yielded or paid for the same;

And as the estates and interests herein before severally limited and appointed to the said Anne, my daughter, Francis my brother, of and in the said lands, tenements, tithes and hereditaments in the said counties of York and Norfolk or any of them shall fully end and termine, I will that the same shall be and remain to th' heirs males of the body of me, the said Roger Alford, lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue, I will the same my said parsonages of Wiggshall St Mary and Islington, and all my said lands, tenements and hereditaments in the said county of York and Norfolk or either of them, together with all and singular my said lands, tenements and hereditaments in the said counties of Buckingham and Berkshire or either of them shall be and remain to the said Francis Alford, my brother, for term of his life;

And after his decease to the said Thomas, his son, and th' heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to the heirs males of the body of the said Francis Alford lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue the remainder thereof to my said brother, Lancelot, and th' heirs males of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to th' heirs females of the body of me, the said Roger Alford, lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to th' heirs females of the body of my said brother, Francis [f. 313v] Alford, lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue the remainder thereof to th' heirs females of the body of my said brother, Lancelot, lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue the remainder thereof to the said Lancelot Alford of Mewxe and to John Alford before mentioned and to their heirs forever;

Provided always and my will, intent and meaning is that if any the persons aforesaid to whom by this my present last will or testament I have given, willed or appointed any remainder, estate or interest of or in the premises or any parcel thereof, or any of th' heirs males or females of their or any of their bodies lawfully begotten that shall be inheritable by force or virtue of this my present last will, being of full age, shall be fully and finally resolved and determined and shall willingly or wittingly attempt or go about to suffer any recovery, levy any fine, or make any discontinuance of the premises or any part or parcel thereof or do or suffer to be done any act or acts, thing or things whereby the several remainders, estates and interests limited or appointed by this my present last will or any of them shall or may be barred, undone, altered, defeated or changed or whereby the same remainders, estates and interests or any of them shall not or may not at all times hereafter be, remain and enure according to this my present last will and the true intent and meaning thereof;

That then the estate and estates and other interests whatsoever before by these presents limited and appointed to such of the said person or persons which so shall attempt to make frustrate, bar, alter, defeat or change any of the remainders, estates or interests before specified or to do any of the acts or things before mentioned shall, only during the life of him which so shall attempt to do any of the said acts and only of and in so much of the premises whereof any such act or acts shall be attempted or gone about, cease and be determined;

And that then and from thenceforth the use, commodity and interest of so much of the premises of the which the same attempt shall be so made shall immediately thereupon remain and be to such person and persons to whom the same premises after the death of the same person so attempting to do any of the acts aforesaid should have remained and come if the same person so attempting had died without issue of his body lawfully begotten and no such act or acts had been by him attempted or gone about, and that of such and the same estate with the like remainder over as if the same premises of the which any of the acts aforesaid shall be attempted to be done should have remained by the true intent and meaning hereof in case no act or thing should be made or attempted to the contrary. Roger Alford. John Burden. Thomas Laffnam(?)

Vicesimo nono die mensis Octobris Anno Domini Mill^{es}imo Quingentesimo Octogesimo Emanavit Commissio Elizabethæ Alforde Relicte dictⁱ defunctⁱ etc Ad administrand^{um} bona etc eiusdem defunctⁱ iuxta tenorem Testamenti et vltime voluntat^{is} dictⁱ defunctⁱ duran^{te} minori etate Edwardi Alforde filij et Executor^{is} in h^{uius}mo^di Testament^o nominatⁱ in p^{er}sona m^{ag}istri Richardi Windor Notarij publici Procuratoris dict^e Elizabethæ Alforde etc De bene etc Iuratⁱ

[=On the twenty-ninth day of the month of October in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred eightieth a grant issued to Elizabeth Alford, relict of the said deceased etc.,

to administer the goods etc. of the said deceased according to the tenor of the testament and last will of the said deceased during the minority of Edward Alford, son and executor named in the same testament, in the person of Master Richard Windor, notary public, proctor of the said Elizabeth Alford etc., sworn to well etc.]

LM: Octavo decembris 1586 probatum fuit testa{men}tu{m} h{uius}mo{d}i Iuramento Edwardi Alford ex{ecuto}ris &c Cui com{m}issa fuit administrat{i}o &c de bene &c Iurat{i} vt ex act{is} desup{er} expedit{is} plenius Liqueat

[=On the eighth of December 1586 the same will was proved by the oath of Edward Alford, executor etc., to whom administration was granted etc., sworn to well etc., as by the acts above explained more fully appears.]