

SUMMARY: The document below is the will, dated 26 May 1585 and proved 4 April 1587, of Alice Golding, widow of Henry Golding (d.1576), half-brother of Oxford's mother, Margery Golding (d.1568). According to the Golding pedigree in the 1552 visitation of Essex, the testatrix was born Alice Clovell:

Henry Golding 3 son to John by his 2 wyef weded Ales doughter of Clovyle of Hanyfelde in the counte of Essex esquyer

Although Alice's name does not appear in the Clovell pedigree in the 1558 visitation of Essex (where the name is variously spelled Clovile, Clovill, Clouville, Clouvylye and Colvile), her 'cousins' Eustace Clovell, Priscilla (nee Clovell) Bramston, and Anne (nee Clovell) Stutvile, all mentioned in the will below, appear in that pedigree. If these were her cousins, she may have been the daughter of Thomas Clovell, who was executor in 1562 of the will of his brother, Francis Clovell. A Tyrrell pedigree in the 1558 visitation of Essex records that Alice Covell was the second wife of Edward Tyrrell of Beeches in Essex, by whom she had a son, Edmund Tyrrell of Beeches, and that she subsequently married George Forster (d.1556?) and Henry Golding (d.1576). See Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex* (London, 1878), pp. 9, 36-7, 111, available online, and the will of Francis Clovell, TNA PROB 11/45, ff. 113-4.

By her second marriage to George Forster (d.1556?), the testatrix had two daughters, Joan or Jane, and Mary. Joan Forster married, firstly, Henry Peryent, by whom she had a son, Thomas Peryent of Gray's Inn, and a daughter, Mary Peryent, and, secondly, Robert Spring of Icklingham in Suffolk by whom she had a son, William Spring. Mary Forster married Robert Waldegrave, and subsequently contracted two bigamous marriages with William Sankey (d.1577) and Robert Crispe (d.1588?). The testatrix states in the will below that Mary and Robert Crispe were currently living at the manor of Little Birch in Essex. However Robert Crispe did not long survive the testator, as indicated by an inventory of his goods taken in 1587/8 (see TNA E 178/7080). For a detailed discussion of the lawsuits by Joan and Mary and their husbands against Oxford's uncle, the translator, Arthur Golding (1535/6-1606), over the manor of Little Birch, see Golding, Louis Thorn, *An Elizabethan Puritan*, (New York: R.R. Smith, 1937), pp. 77-81, 90-111.

The testatrix appears to have spent the last years of her life at Bradwell Hall, the home of Anthony Maxey (d.1591), the nephew of George Maxey of Saling, to whom Oxford and his second wife, Elizabeth Trentham, transferred title to the rectory of Messing on 5 May 1592 (see CP 25/2/135/1725/34ELIZIEASTER, Item 43). The testatrix appoints Anthony Maxey (d.1591) as supervisor of her will, and leaves bequests to his four children and household servants. According to the inscription on a brass monument in the church at Runwell in Essex, Anthony Maxey's wife, Dorothy (d.1602), was born Dorothy Bassett. Her mother was Margaret (nee Forster) (d. 5 February 1586/7), the daughter of Robert Forster (d.1555?) of Little Birch and the wife, firstly, of Gregory Basset (d.1528), esquire, of Bradwell-juxta-Coggeshall, by whom she had an only daughter, Dorothy (d.1602), and, secondly, of Eustace Sulyard (d. 26 February 1546/7), by whom she had Edward, Mary, Margaret, Jane, Anne and Bridget, and thirdly, of

William Aylofffe (d.1569), esquire, of Brittens in Hornchurch, by whom she had no children (see Christy, Miller, W.W. Porteous and E. Bertram Smith, 'Some Interesting Essex Brasses', *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society*, Vol. IX, Part I, New Series, (Colchester, 1903), pp. 22-67, at pp. 35-7, available online at <http://www.archive.org/stream/transactioness01socigoog#page/n56/mode/1up>; and Wright, Thomas, *The History and Topography of the County of Essex*, vol. I (London: George Virtue, 1836), p. 143, also available online). Margaret (nee Forster) Aylofffe (d. 5 February 1586/7), was thus the sister of the testatrix's second husband, George Forster (d.1556?), and Dorothy Maxey (d.1602) was the testatrix' niece. For the will of Margaret (nee Forster) Aylofffe (d. 5 February 1586/7), see TNA PROB 11/72, ff. 163-6. For the will of Robert Forster (d.1555?), in which he mentions his 'son-in-law, Eustace Sulyard', see TNA PROB 11/39, ff. 74-5. For the will of William Aylofffe (d.1569), see TNA PROB 11/51, ff. 34-5.

The testatrix also leaves a bequest to her sister-in-law, Jane (nee Forster) Tyrrell, another of the sisters of the testatrix' former husband, George Forster (d.1555?). Jane (nee Forster) Tyrrell, her husband, Thomas Tyrrell, gentleman, and their son, Edward Tyrrell, are also mentioned in the will of Margaret (nee Forster) Aylofffe (d. 5 February 1586/7).

Another legatee is the testatrix' cousin, Eustace Clovell (d.1589?) of West Hanningfield, Essex, whose son, also named Eustace, was one of the original Jamestown settlers. For the will of Francis Clovile (d.1562), see TNA PROB 11/45, ff. 113-4.

Throughout the will, the name 'Peryent' is spelled 'Peryn'.

LM: Testamentum Alicie Golding

In the name of God, Amen. The six and twentieth day [+of] May in the year of our Lord God one thousand five hundred fourscore and five, and in the seven and twentieth 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., I, Alice Golding of Bradwell near Coggeshall in the county of Essex, widow, late the wife of Henry Golding of Little Birch in the said county, esquire, deceased, being in good and perfect remembrance, thanks be given to Almighty God, do ordain this my present testament containing in it my last will in manner and form following, that is to say:

First, I bequeath my body and soul to the tuition of Almighty God, my Maker, and Jesus Christ, my Saviour, through whose merits and precious death only I steadfastly trust and doubt not to have redemption of my sins, and through his great mercies eternal and everlasting salvation;

And my body to be buried in the parish church where it shall please God to call me out of this world, at which burial or funeral I will and bequeath forty shillings to be distributed

amongst the poor by the discretion of mine executor, and further I do will and bequeath to a learned preacher for a sermon by him then to be made ten shillings;

I will and bequeath to the poor of the parishes of Little Birch and Great Birch twenty shillings, and to the poor of Easthorpe ten shillings, and also to the poor of the parish of Bradwell other ten shillings, to be paid to every of the said parishes within one month next after my decease;

Item, I will and bequeath unto Robert Crispe of Little Birch, gentleman, and Mary, my daughter, all my household stuff that is now remaining in Birch Hall in their custody or keeping whatsoever except my great brewing copper and the long green table that did stand in the parlour of Birch Hall aforesaid, which copper and long green table I will and bequeath unto Thomas Peryent of Gray's Inn in the county of Middlesex, gentleman, to be delivered unto the said Thomas Peryent by the said Robert Crispe as my special trust is in him;

And where there is certain money due unto me, the said Alice Golding, by the said Robert for my cattles, as namely horse, bullocks, beef, sheep, swine and other things which amounteth unto the sum of fifty pounds, and other twenty pounds of which I have received thereof ten pounds, which said twenty pounds I lent unto him, and whereas heretofore the said Robert Crispe hath laid out certain money for me, my will and minding is that upon his true account made unto my executor of the said money laid out by him, that my executor do allow unto him of the said several sums of fifty pounds and ten pounds which is due unto me so much as he hath then laid out, and the residue of the said sum of fifty pounds and ten pounds which shall be then remaining I give and bequeath unto Hatton Crispe, son of the said Robert, except one year's rent and a half for my manor of Little Birch as it hath been and is now by me to him demised, and four pounds for a black gelding which he bought of me only excepted, which shall be to th' use of this my last will;

Item, I will and bequeath unto Mary Peryent, the daughter of Jane Peryent, wife of Henry Peryent, my daughter, seven hundred pounds of good and lawful money of England, to be paid out of such debts as shall be due unto me and other such sums of money as shall be hereafter set down in the latter end of this my said last will, to be paid unto her at the day of her marriage or at the age of one and twenty years, which of them shall first happen;

Moreover, I give and bequeath unto the said Mary Peryent my black chest bound with iron with all manner of thing or things that is therein contained whatsoever, the key of which chest is now in the keeping of the said Mary, and four of my best featherbeds, bolsters and pillows, coverlets and blankets to them belonging, with my best hangings that did belong to the chief chamber of Little Birch aforesaid, and also my best table and twelve joint-stools, a frame for the same table, and my best carpet to the same table belonging, and my press for apparel, two of my best chairs, the one of needlework, the thother of green cloth, and my little woman's chair and two of my best livery cupboards, two brass pots and one brass kettle, and one brass posnet and all my pewter whatsoever

that is marked with these letters M and P, and the two best bedsteads, a trundle-bed, and two of the best testers belonging to the same bedsteads, with my silk curtains of red and yellow, one stillatory, one mortar with a pestle, and two long window cushions of the best, and two spits, and the new tester which is now a-making, and a new cover for a chair which were and be embroidered by the said Mary Peryent and Mrs Stutvile, and all other my wearing linen which is meet for her own wearing;

And the rest of my wearing linen I will and bequeath unto my maidservants;

Moreover I will and bequeath unto the said Mary Peryent all my jewels of what quality or kind soever they be, except my signet of gold;

And further I do will and bequeath unto the said Mary Peryent my virginal and two chests which is in my chamber where I lie, a window carpet and seven cushions of needlework, and all my coffers and my best pair of cob-irons with the tongs and fire-pan thereunto belonging, to be delivered unto her by my executor at the day of her marriage or when she come of th' age of one and twenty years, which shall first happen;

I will and bequeath unto William Spring, the son and heir of Robert Spring of Icklingham in the county of Suffolk, esquire, and the son of Jane, my daughter, late his wife, deceased, fifty pounds of lawful money of England, to be paid out of the profits and commodities of all the lands, rents, fee-farms, pensions and commodities whatsoever lying and being in Little Birch and Great Birch or elsewhere in the said county of Essex which I late bought of the foresaid Robert Spring, his father, during his natural life, if the said Robert Spring do so long live, which said profits and commodities I will that Anthony Maxey of Bradwell shall have, take and receive all the profits and commodities of all the said lands, rents, fees, pensions and all other profits whatsoever until the said Anthony hath fully received the full sum of the said fifty pounds to be paid unto the said Robert Spring, father of the said William Spring, within five years next after my decease (if the said Robert do so long live), upon this condition notwithstanding, that the said Robert Spring do enter into bonds with two sufficient sureties unto the said Anthony Maxey and to my executor to pay the said fifty pounds with such convenient profits as may grow and rise of the same fifty pounds as shall be thought meet by the said Anthony Maxey and mine executor at the full age of three and twenty years of the said William Spring;

And if the said Robert Spring shall depart this present life before the said Anthony Maxey shall receive the rents and profits of the foresaid lands to the full sum of fifty pounds, then I will and bequeath all such money as the said Anthony shall receive before such the death of the said Robert Spring of all the lands and profits as aforesaid unto the said William Spring;

And if the said Robert Spring shall not find two sufficient sureties in manner and form as is abovesaid, or shall depart this present life before the time and space of five years after my decease, then I will that the said fifty pounds, or so much money as the said Anthony shall receive of the lands and profits aforesaid before the death of the said Robert Spring,

shall be signed and appointed to the best profits, use and commodity as shall seem best, meet and convenient by the said Anthony Maxey and mine executor to th' use of the said William Spring, to be paid unto him at the full age of three and twenty years with all the profits and commodities which by the same money may come and increase;

And after that the said Anthony Maxey hath received of the profits of the said lands rents, fees, farms and pensions and other commodities whatsoever to the full sum of fifty pounds to the use aforesaid, I then will and from that time do bequeath all the profits, rents, fees, farms, pensions and commodities whatsoever unto Thomas Peryent aforesaid in as large and as ample manner as I myself now have, hold and enjoy the same, or of right ought to have and enjoy the same, to him and his assigns forever;

Item, further my will, intent and true meaning is that if it shall happen the said Thomas Peryent or the said Mary Peryent, his sister, to depart this present life before her age of one and twenty years or that she shall be preferred by marriage as before specified, or that the said William Spring shall depart this present life before he shall accomplish the age of three and twenty years as before specified, then I will the survivor or survivors of them or either of them shall have all the others' parts and portions given, willed and bequeathed unto them in or by this my last will and testament, to be equally divided unto the survivors of either of them according to my true meaning;

Item, I will and bequeath unto my cousin, Eustace Clovell, esquire, a signet of gold of forty shillings with a death's-head therein graved, and to my cousin, his wife, my best damask gown;

Item, I will and bequeath unto my cousin, Priscilla Barmestone [=Bramston], my signet of gold;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my cousin, Anne Stutvile, the wife of William Stutvile, gentleman, one gown and a kirtle and eight pounds of money which she borrowed of me;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Anne Huddleston, my cousin, one of my wearing gowns and five pounds of money, to be paid unto her within one half year next after my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my cousin, Anne Roberts, one other wearing gown and five pounds of money, to be paid unto her within one half year next after my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the wife of my cousin, Edward Sulyard, esquire, one signet of gold of forty shillings with a death's-head graven therein;

Item, I will and bequeath unto my cousin, Dorothy Maxey, a ring of gold of forty shillings with a death's-head graven therein, and my best velvet kirtle with the body thereunto belonging;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Henry Maxey and William Maxey, to either of them one ring of gold of twenty-six shillings eight pence, and to Dorothy Maxey and Bridget

Maxey, sons and daughters of the said Anthony and Dorothy Maxey, to either of them a ring of gold of twenty shillings apiece with a death's-head graven therein;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Robert Bearman, my servant, ten pounds, to be paid unto him within one quarter of a year next after my decease, and one featherbed, a bolster, and two blankets and a coverlet, to be delivered unto him presently after my decease by mine executor;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Richard Wilkinson, my servant, twenty shillings, to be paid unto him within one quarter of a year next after my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my maidservant twenty shillings, to be paid unto her within one month next after my decease;

Item I give and bequeath unto the household servants of the said Anthony Maxey twenty shillings, to be divided equally amongst them;

Moreover my full will, meaning and intent is that if Mary Peryent, the sister of Thomas Peryent, shall contract herself in marriage without the assent, consent and agreement or good liking of my trusty and well beloved friend and cousin, Anthony Maxey aforesaid, that then I will that two hundred pounds of the legacy before bequeathed unto Mary Peryent shall be from thenceforth to the use and behoof of the said Thomas Peryent, her brother;

Moreover my full mind and will is that all the featherbeds before in this my last will not bequeathed with the appurtenances whatsoever, I will that they shall be equally divided between mine executor and the said Mary Peryent, his sister, and all the residue of my goods and chattels whatsoever not before in this my last will and testament given nor bequeathed, my funerals thus performed, I give and bequeath them unto Thomas Peryent aforesaid, whom I do ordain, constitute and appoint my sole executor of this my last will and testament, willing him faithfully and truly to prove and perform it according to my true meaning hereof;

And further I do order, constitute and appoint my said trusty and well beloved cousin, Anthony Maxey, to be my supervisor of this my last will and testament, desiring him as my trust is in him to be aiding and helping with his friendly counsel and advice unto my said executor of this my last will and testament to see it performed according to the true meaning hereof, and I do give unto him towards his pains to be taken therein one colt of the price of six pounds thirteen shillings four pence;

Finally, I do will that mine executor shall decently and orderly by the advice of my said supervisor bestow upon my burial and funerals, with a convenient remembrance in the place where I shall be buried, thirty pounds;

And further I do acknowledge this to be my last will and testament, and I do utterly renounce and revoke all other wills heretofore by me made whatsoever;

Moreover my mind and will is that mine executor in the charges of my funerals as is abovesaid shall bestow amongst others upon Jane Tyrrell, my sister-in-law, as much black cloth as shall make her a gown.

Alice Golding. These being witnesses: Anthony Maxey, Robert Bearman and Ralph Anneys

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram magistro Willelmo Mowse Legum Doctore Surrogato Venerabilis viri magistri Willelmi Drury Legum Doctoris Curie Prerogatiue Cantuariensis Magistri Custodis siue Commissarij etcetera Quarto die mensis Aprilis Anno Domini Millesimo Quingentesimo Octogesimo Septimo Iuramento Iohannis Theaker Notarij publici procuratoris Thome Peryn executoris in huiusmodi testamento nominati Cui commissa fuit administracio etcetera De bene et fideliter administrando etcetera Ac de pleno et fideli Inventario omnium et singulorum bonorum etcetera exhibendo Necnon de plano et vero compoto reddendo Ad sancta dei Evangelia Iurati

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before Master William Mowse, Doctor of the Laws, Surrogate of the worshipful Master William Drury, Doctor of the Laws, Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury etc. on the fourth day of the month of April in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred eighty-seventh by the oath of John Theaker, notary public, proctor of Thomas Peryent, executor named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer etc. and to exhibit a full and true inventory of all and singular the goods etc., and also to render a plain and true account.]