

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 2 May 1588 and proved 14 August 1591, of Richard Wingfield (1529-1591). The testator's first wife, and the mother of his children, was Mary Hardwick, the daughter and coheir of John Hardwick of Derbyshire and sister of Elizabeth (1527?-1608), Countess of Shrewsbury (Bess of Hardwick). By the time of the making of his will, the testator had married 'Johane Harbocke, widow'.

The testator's parents were Sir Anthony Wingfield (d.1552) of Letheringham and Elizabeth Vere, daughter of Sir George Vere (d.1503) and his wife, Margaret Stafford, and sister and co-heir of John de Vere (1499-1526), 14th Earl of Oxford. For the will of Sir George Vere (d.1503), see TNA PROB 11/13, f. 182. The testator's maternal grandfather, Sir George Vere (d.1503), was a grandson of Richard de Vere (1385?-1416/7), 11th Earl of Oxford and his wife, Alice Sergeaux (d.1452), from whom Edward de Vere (1500-1604), 17th Earl of Oxford, was also lineally descended. The testator's grandfather, Sir George Vere (1503) was a younger son of John de Vere (1408-1461/2), 12th Earl of Oxford, while Edward de Vere (1550-1604), 17th Earl of Oxford, was a great-great-grandson of the 12th Earl's younger brother, Sir Robert Vere.

The fact that the testator was, like Oxford, a descendant of the 11th Earl of Oxford perhaps explains the relationship of two of the testator's sons with the family into which Oxford's sister, Mary de Vere (d.1624), married. Mary's first husband was Peregrine Bertie (1555-1601), Lord Willoughby d' Eresby. The testator's son, Sir John Wingfield (d.1596), married Peregrine Bertie's sister, Susan, while the testator's son Anthony Wingfield accompanied Peregrine Bertie on a diplomatic mission to Denmark.

According to the entry for Sir John Wingfield (d.1596) in the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*:

Sir John Wingfield's early life is obscure. By late 1580 he was perhaps in the service of Richard Bertie, the widower of Catherine Willoughby, Baroness Willoughby of Eresby and dowager duchess of Suffolk; on 30 September 1581 at Stenigot, Lincolnshire, he married without the queen's permission their daughter Susan Bertie (b. c.1553), the widow of Reynold Grey, de jure earl of Kent.

Sir John Wingfield pursued a military career. He was knighted by Leicester after the battle of Zutphen on 22 September 1586, and served under Robert Devereux (1565-1601), 2nd Earl of Essex, in Normandy, and later in Cadiz, where he was killed:

Ordered on 21 June to bait an ambush, Wingfield coolly led 200 men along the isthmus leading to the city gates, defended by 500 Spanish cavalry, then feigned a panic-stricken retreat and drew the Spanish back into the arms of a larger hidden English force. In the rout that followed the English broke through the city gates and Wingfield was wounded in the thigh, while Essex and a small band fought through to the plaza. Unable to walk, Wingfield captured a horse to follow his general, and—now an obvious target—was killed instantly by a bullet to the head just as the city surrendered. He was buried five days later

with 'all the funerall solemnities of warre' in the cathedral at Cadiz, while 'the generalls threw their handkerchiefs wet from their eyes into the grave' (Stow, 775). John Donne, a member of the expedition, composed the well-known epigram ('Farther then Wingfield, no man dares to go') in tribute.

Wingfield left no will and numerous debts. His widow renounced the administration of his estate to William Browne of London, a creditor, and in September 1596 told Sir Robert Cecil, principal secretary, that she had been living on credit for seven years, had sold all her jewels and plate, owed tradesmen more than £900, had only an annuity of £70 during her lifetime for herself and her son, and that upon receiving news of Wingfield's death 'had not one penny in my house ... to buy meat either for myself and my child, till her Majesty, most like a gracious princess, hearing of my misery, sent me xl pound' (Salisbury MSS, 6.365–6). On 9 July 1597 she was granted an annuity of £100 for herself and her son; she was still alive in 1611.

The testator was also the father of Anthony Wingfield (b. c.1552, d. in or after 1611). According to the entry in the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*, Anthony Wingfield spent time as a student of Gray's Inn in 1572. He became a scholar of Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1573, and commenced MA and was elected major fellow in 1577. In the late 1570s he served as Greek reader to Queen Elizabeth. On 16 March 1581 he defeated Gabriel Harvey in an election for the position of public orator of the University of Cambridge, a contest which may have inspired the university drama *Pedantius*, a satire which Thomas Nashe attributes to Wingfield, although it was probably the work of Edward Forsettt, also of Trinity College. On 18 May 1582 the University granted Wingfield a leave of absence to accompany Oxford's brother-in-law, Peregrine Bertie (1555-1601), Lord Willoughby d' Eresby, on a diplomatic mission to Denmark. Willoughby arrived at Elsinore on 22 July, and had returned to England by the end of September.

RM: Testamentum Richardi Wingfelde

In the name of God, Amen. The second day of May in the year of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ's incarnation one thousand five hundred fourscore and eight, I, Richard Wingfield of Wantisden in the county of Suffolk, esquire, being of good health and sound memory, praised be God therefore, do ordain and make this my last will and testament in form as followeth, thereby declaring that I do believe that I am redeemed only by the death and passion and bloodshedding of Jesus Christ and by none other ways or means whatsoever, by whose only merits, mediation and intercession I look for and hope to receive pardon and forgiveness of all my manifold sins and offences, and to be received into the kingdom of heaven, there to live in fellowship of all the chosen saints of God in joy and peace forever;

And as touching the disposition of all my worldly possessions, goods and chattels whatsoever:

First, whereas I have heretofore by one writing indented made between me on the one party, and Joan, now my wife, by the name of Joan Harbocle [=Harbottle?], widow, on the other party, covenanted that I, the said Richard, and all other persons standing seised to my use of any manors, lands, tenements or hereditaments in the counties of the City of Lichfield or in the counties of Hereford, Stafford, Worcester, Warwick, Derby or elsewhere should stand and be seised of and in all the said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances to the uses expressed in the said writing indented, now I do further declare hereby that my will, mind and purpose is, and I do will, give and bequeath all the said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments with all and singular their appurtenances in the counties aforesaid or elsewhere to Henry Wingfield, my son, and Elizabeth, now his wife, for and during their natural lives, and of the longer liver of them, the remainder over as in the said deed indented appeareth, to have and to hold the said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances unto the said Henry and Elizabeth for and during their natural lives and the natural life of the longer liver of them, the remainder over according to the limitations, provisos, conditions, covenants and uses mentioned and expressed in the said deed indented;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the said Henry Wingfield, my son, all that my farm called Gedgrave with th' appurtenances, and all the interest, term and number of years which I have yet to come and unexpired in the site of the manor of Gedgrave and demesnes of the same, and of and in all other lands and tenements which I hold by lease of Edward Dierhaugh [=Derehaugh], esquire, and whereas the said Henry Wingfield and John Sone, my son-in-law, stand jointly and severally bound to me for the debt of the said Henry in a greater sum for the true payment of six hundred and fourscore pounds of lawful money of England to me, the said Richard, my executors or administrators, to be paid within three years next after the decease of Joan, now my wife, I do give, will and bequeath and my full mind is that the said Henry shall pay and deliver two hundred pounds, parcel thereof, unto the said John Sone at th' end of three years next after the decease of the said Joan, now my wife;

Item, I do will, give and bequeath and my full mind is that the said Henry Wingfield shall pay and deliver unto Sir John Wingfield, knight, my son, other two hundred pounds, also parcel of the said six hundred and fourscore pounds, within four years next after the decease of the said Joan, my wife;

Item, I give, will and bequeath and my full mind is that the said Henry Wingfield, my son, shall pay and deliver or cause to be paid and delivered unto Anthony Wingfield, my son, two hundred pounds, also parcel of the said six hundred and fourscore pounds, in manner and form following, viz., one hundred pounds at th' end of four years next after the decease of Joan, now my wife, and one other hundred pounds, residue thereof, within five years next after the decease of the said Joan, my wife, which said several payments to the said John Sone, Sir John Wingfield and Anthony Wingfield, if the said Henry or his executors do perform in manner and form abovesaid, then I will that the said Henry Wingfield and John Sone, their heirs, executors and administrators, shall be acquitted & discharged of the penalty and forfeiture of the same bond and demand of any further

payment by reason thereof against my executors, and the executors of them, and all others;

Item, I give unto the said Sir John Wingfield, my son, all mine interest, term and number of years which I have yet to come in the demesnes of the manor of Iken, or in any other lands or tenements in Iken in the county of Suffolk which I hold by lease of Sir Robert Wingfield, knight;

Item, I give, will and bequeath unto the said Sir Robert Wingfield thirteen pounds six shillings eight pence of lawful money of England, to be paid and delivered unto him by the hands of mine executors presently after my decease, beseeching him to be good and friendly unto my children;

Item, I give unto Anthony Wingfield, esquire, my nephew, son and heir of the said Sir Robert Wingfield, ten pounds of like lawful money of England, to be delivered unto him by mine executors within one month next after my decease, trusting that he will show his good countenance towards my said children in all things which they shall lawfully attempt;

Item, I give, will and bequeath unto my cousin, Charles Seckford, esquire, three pounds six shillings eight pence, to be paid unto him by mine executors within one month next after my decease, trusting that he will show himself like a kinsman unto my children;

Item, I will, give and bequeath unto my brother, Anthony Wingfield, esquire, ten pounds of lawful money of England, to be paid unto him by mine executors within one month next after my decease, not mistrusting but that he will be a natural uncle unto my children;

Item, I will that within six weeks next after my decease four discreet persons, whereof two shall be chosen by mine executors or th' executors of them, and thother two shall be chosen by the foresaid John Sone, my son-in-law, or by his executors, shall sell all my horses, geldings, mares and colts whatsoever and wheresoever they be, and all my stock of sheep going at Chillesford and Gedgrave or elsewhere, and all my corn at Chillesford, and all my household stuff and plate, at the most values and best prices which may be had for the same, and I will that the money thereof coming shall be delivered into the hands of the foresaid Sir John Wingfield, my son, to the uses hereafter expressed, viz., twenty pounds thereof to the use of Marie Sone, my grandchild, and ten pounds thereof to th' use of Anne Sone, also my grandchild, and the whole residue of money that shall be so received to th' use of Richard Sone, my grandchild, and further I will and my mind is that the said Sir John Wingfield, my son, upon the receipt of the said money that shall be so received of the sale of the horses, mares, geldings, colts, sheep, household stuff, plate and corn abovesaid, shall become bound unto the foresaid John Sone, my son-in-law, or to his executors, with such sufficient surety with him as the said John Sone or his executors shall like of for the sure payment of the said twenty pounds to the said Marie Sone when she shall accomplish the age of twenty years, and of the said ten pounds to the said Anne Sone when she shall accomplish the like age of twenty years, and of the residue of all the same money unto the said Richard Sone at such time as the said Richard shall accomplish

the age of four and twenty years, and for the payment of thirteen pounds six shillings eight pence yearly to the said John Sone so long as the said Richard Sone shall be within the age of four and twenty years for and towards the good education and bringing up of the said Richard until he shall accomplish that age;

Item, I give, will and bequeath unto every one of my servants that shall be attending upon me or ordinarily serving me at the time of my decease forty shillings, to be paid within one month next after my decease;

Item, I do will and appoint and my mind and intent is that Sir John Wingfield and Anthony Wingfield, my sons, and the survivor of them and his assigns, shall have the use, benefit and occupation to their like and equal profit and commodity of all the said manor of Chillesford with th' appurtenances, and of all the lands, tenements and hereditaments therewith to me demised, from the time of my decease until such time as the said Richard Sone, my grandchild, shall fulfil and accomplish the age of six and twenty years, and I do will, devise, ordain and appoint by these presents that if the said Richard Sone at any time within the space of ten months next after the time wherein he shall accomplish his said age of six and twenty years do and shall well and truly pay or cause to be paid to the said Sir John Wingfield and Anthony Wingfield, my sons, or to the survivor of them, his executors or administrators, the sum of five hundred pounds of lawful money of England at one whole and entire payment, and also within the space of the same ten months do make and deliver to my son, Henry Wingfield, a sufficient bond with one good surety to [+be?] bound with the same Richard for the payment of one hundred pounds of like money to be paid to the said Henry, his executors or administrators, within the space of one year next after the time wherein the said Richard Sone shall fulfil his said age of four and twenty years, that then from the time of such payment made of the said five hundred pounds to the said Sir John Wingfield and Anthony Wingfield, my sons, or to the survivor of them, his executors or administrators, and of such bond made and delivered to the said Henry Wingfield, his executors or administrators, as is aforesaid by the said Richard Sone, he, the said Richard Sone, shall have all my said lease, interest and term of years which shall then be to come of or in the said manor of Chillesford with th' appurtenances, and all lands, tenements and hereditaments therewith to me granted or demised, to hold and enjoy the same to the said Richard Sone, his executors or assigns, from thenceforth by and during all the residue of all the whole estate, right, interest and term of years then to be to come thereof to me in any wise granted or demised;

Provided always that if the said Richard Sone do decease before he do accomplish his said age of six and twenty years, or if he live and yet do not pay the said sum of five hundred pounds within such time as aforesaid to the said Sir John Wingfield and Anthony Wingfield, my sons, or to ye survivor of them, his executors or administrators, or do not make and deliver such good and sure bond as aforesaid to the said Henry Wingfield, my son, his executors or administrators, for the payment of the said sum of one hundred pounds to the said Henry, his executors or administrators, in manner and form aforesaid, then my will and mind is and by these presents I do devise and ordain that my said sons, John Wingfield and Anthony Wingfield, paying the sum of one hundred pounds unto my said son, Henry Wingfield, his executors or administrators, within the space of one year

next after the time wherein the said Richard Sone shall accomplish his said age of six and twenty years, or if he die before within the space of one year next after the decease of the said Richard Sone, shall have and enjoy all my said lease, interest and term of years then to be to come in the said manor of Chillesford with th' appurtenances, and all the lands, tenements and hereditaments therewith to me demised or granted, to and for th' only behoof of the said Sir John Wingfield and Anthony Wingfield and their assigns, anything abovesaid notwithstanding;

All the rest of my goods and chattels above by these presents not given, bequeathed nor appointed, I wholly do give and bequeath unto the said Sir John Wingfield and Anthony Wingfield, my sons, which Anthony and John I ordain and make executors of this my testament and last will;

In witness whereof I, the said Richard Wingfield, to this my said testament and last will written in this sheet of paper and two other sheets of paper hereunto annexed have subscribed my name and set my seal the day and year first before written in ye presence of these witnesses specially called thereunto who also have subscribed their names: Andrew Palmer, Richard Collins, Andrew Weedon.

Richard Wingfield.

Sealed, signed, published and declared by the said Richard Wingfield in the presence of the said Andrew Palmer, Richard Collins and Andrew Weedon, witnesses, who have thereto subscribed their names as appeareth.

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram venerabili viro magistro Iohanne Hone legum doctore surrogato venerabilis viri magistri Willelmi Lewin legum etiam doctoris ad exercendum officium magistri Custodis siue Commissarij curie Prerogatiue Cantuariensis legitime deputato decimo quarto die mensis Augusti Anno Domini millesimo quingentesimo nonagesimo primo Iuramento Iohannis Burrough notarij publici procuratoris Anthonij Wingfeilde filij et vnus executorum in huiusmodi testamento nominatorum Cui comm issa fuit administratio bonorum iurium et creditorum dicti defuncti De bene &c Iurati Reservata potestate &c Iohanni Wingfeilde militi alteri etiam executorum cum venerit &c Admissuro

[=The above-written will was proved at London before the worshipful Master John Hone, Doctor of the Laws, surrogate of the worshipful Master William Lewin, also Doctor of the Laws, lawfully deputed to exercise the office of Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the fourteenth day of the month of August in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred ninety-first by the oath of John Burrough, notary public, proctor of Anthony Wingfield, son and one of the executors named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased, sworn to well etc., with power reserved etc. to

John Wingfield, knight, also one other of the executors, to be admitted when he shall have come etc.]