SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 5 June 1584 and proved 28 June 1596, of Sir Robert Wingfield (d. 19 March 1596/7) of Letheringham, nephew of John de Vere (1499-1527), 14th Earl of Oxford. The testator was the eldest son and heir of Sir Anthony Wingfield (b. before 1488, d. 1552) of Letheringham, and his wife, Elizabeth (nee de Vere) Wingfield, eldest sister of the 14th Earl.

The testator married, firstly, Cecily Wentworth (d. 22 August 1573), the daughter of Thomas Wentworth (1501–1551), 1st Baron Wentworth, and secondly, Bridget Spring (d.1570), the daughter of Sir John Spring of Cockfield and Hitcham and widow of Thomas Fleetwood of The Vache, Buckinghamshire, Master of the Mint. For the will, dated 8 June 1544, of Sir John Spring, see TNA PROB 11/32, ff. 235-6. For the will, dated 15 April 1564, of his widow, Dorothy (nee Waldegrave) Spring, see TNA PROB 11/47, f. 228.

For the will of the testator's grandfather, Sir George Vere (d. 1502/3), see TNA PROB 11/13, f. 182. For the will of the testator's father, Sir Anthony Wingfield (b. before 1488, d. 1552), see TNA PROB 11-36, f. 57. For the will of the testator's mother, Elizabeth (nee de Vere) Wingfield, see TNA PROB 11/42B, ff. 433-4. For the will of the testator's brother, Richard Wingfield, see TNA PROB 11/78, ff. 49-50. For the will of the testator's aunt, Ursula (nee de Vere) Windsor Knightly, see TNA PROB 11/42A, ff. 7-9.

LM: Testamentum Domini Roberti Winckfeild

In the name of God, Amen. The fifth day of June Anno Domini 1584 and in the six and twenty 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, Sir Robert Wingfield of Letheringham in the county of Suffolk, knight, of whole and perfect remembrance, thanks be unto Almighty God, do ordain and make this my last testament touching the disposition of my goods and chattels in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my Saviour and Redeemer, and my body I will shall be buried in the chancel of Letheringham Church at the discretion of my executor, and I will that the cost of my funeral shall be such as may seem good unto my executor;

And I give unto the poor people of Letheringham forty shillings, and unto the poor of Easton forty shillings, and unto the poor of Wickham forty shillings, and unto the poor of Pisbre forty shillings, and unto the poor of Dallinghoo forty shillings, and unto the poor of Charsfield forty shillings, and unto the poor of Iken forty shillings, to be distributed to every of them at the discretion of my executors;

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And all my implements of household, plate and all my goods, chattels and credits whatsoever I give wholly unto my executor towards the payment of my debts and discharging of my funerals and legacies to the poor as abovesaid;

And I ordain and make Anthony Wingfield, my eldest son, my sole and only executor of this my last testament;

In witness whereof I, the said Sir Robert Wingfield, have set my hand and seal unto these presents, given the day and year first above-written in the presence of these witnesses whose names are here underwritten. Robert Wingfield. William Attwoode, Thomas Stofer.

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum apud London Coram Venerabili viro Magistro Willelmo Lewin Legum Doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cantuariensis magistro Custode siue Comissario Vicesimo Octavo die mensis Iunij Anno Domini Millessimo Quingentesimo nonogesimo Sexto Iuramento Iohannis Burroughe notarij publici Procuratoris Anthonij Winckfeild filij et Executoris in huiusmodi Testamento nominati Cui comissa fuit administracio Bonorum Iurium et Creditorum dicti defuncti De bene et fideliter administrando &c Ad sancta dei Evangelia Iurati

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Lewin, Doctor of the Laws, Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the twenty-eighth day of the month of June in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred ninety-sixth by the oath of John Burrough, notary public, proctor of Anthony Wingfield, son and executor named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer etc.]

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