

SUMMARY: The document below is the last will and testament, dated 25 January 1612, of Mary Golding, wife of Oxford's maternal uncle, George Golding, half-brother of Oxford's mother, Margery Golding. Oxford appointed George Golding as his receiver on 14 January 1572, and as one of a council of six officers on 17 September 1580 (see ERO D/Drg 2/27). By fines dated 16 April 1580 and 22 May 1581, Oxford transferred clear title to his manors of Waltons and Netherhall in Essex to George and Mary Golding (see CP 25/2/131/1677/22ELIZIEASTER, Item 36 and CP 25/2/131/1682/23ELIZITRIN, Item 31). John Stype's *A Survey of the Cities of London and Westminster* records the monument to Mary and George Golding and Mary's mother, Agnes Bartlett, in the church of St. Stephen in Coleman Street: 'In this Isle lye the bodies of George Golding Esquire, buried the 27 day November, 1584. and of Anne Bartelet, Widdow, buried 12 day of June, 1596. and of Mary Golding, Widdow, late Wife of the said George, and Daughter of the said Anne, buried the 29 of April, 1612. by her said Husband and Mother, according to her owne desire. She lived a Widdow 28 yeeres, religiously to God, hospitably to her Friends, and charitably to all, especially to poore Widdowes: And deceased the 25 day of April, 1612. being then 79 yeeres of age'. (http://www.hrionline.ac.uk/stype/TransformServlet?page=book3_060)

LM: T{estamentum} Marie Gouldinge

In the name of God, Amen. The 25th day of January in the year of our Lord God according to the computation of the Church of England 1611 [=25 January 1612], and in the year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord James by the grace of God King of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc. the ninth and of Scotland the five and fortieth, I, Mary Golding of London, widow, for that nothing is more certain than death, and yet nothing so uncertain as the time and hour thereof, and for that I would not at the time and hour of my death be troubled and encumbered with the disposing of the transitory things of this life, but then wholly to settle myself to think of another world, I being now of perfect mind and memory (praised be God therefore) do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

And first therefore I bequeath and render into the hands of Almighty God, my Creator, my soul, who breathed it and gave it unto me, assuredly believing that by the death, merits and passion of my only Saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, to have pardon and remission of all my sins, a joyful resurrection from death unto life, and eternal salvation in the world to come;

My body I commit to the earth from whence it came, and my desire and will is that my body be buried in the parish church of Saint Stephen's in Coleman Street, London, next the place where my late well beloved husband, George Golding, and my mother, Anne Barklett, widow, deceased, were buried, and that some small monument or tomb be made and erected near to the place of our burial for a memorial of me and them, and to that end and purpose I [-I] will and bequeath ten pounds in money to be bestowed thereon by the

best discretion and direction of my executors hereunder named, and further my will and meaning is that my funeral be had and made in decent and seemly manner without pomp or great expense, yet according to that place and calling wherein I have lived in the world;

And for those worldly and transitory goods and substance which it hath pleased Almighty God to lend to me and to make me a steward in this world, I bequeath, will and give them in manner and form following:

Inprimis, I will and bequeath to certain poor old widows such as have most need within the parishes of Saint Stephen's aforesaid and of Saint Giles by Cripplegate, London, where I now dwell, the sum of six pounds of lawful English money, viz., three pounds in each parish, to be distributed at the discretion of my executors to them which have most need;

Also I give and bequeath to the poor prisoners in the prisons of Ludgate, Newgate and both the Counters in London, to each of them ten shillings apiece;

Item, to my cousin, Anne Carter, forty pounds in money, more to her, a mourning gown, and to my cousin Thomas Carter, her husband, a mourning gown;

Item, I give and bequeath to my said cousin, Anne Carter, two featherbeds with bolsters belonging to them, two coverlets of tapestry, two pair of pillows, four white blankets, six pair of sheets, four pair of pillow-beres, a green rug, four dozen of napkins, six tablecloths, six towels, a long needlework cushion, two corner(?) cushions of needlework, 4 needlework cushions belonging to that suit, two chairs embroidered, two low stools, a little chair, two brass pots and a kettle, half a garnish of pewter, a cupboard-cloth of Turkey work;

Item, I give and bequeath to my said cousin a silver salt, a dozen of silver spoons, a nest of silver bowls, and my maudlin [=Magdalene?] cup;

Item, I give and bequeath to William Person, my servant, twenty marks in money, my featherbed which was bought of Mr Penvin with the red and blue coverlet, blankets, bolster and pillow belonging to it, two pair of sheets, two tablecloths, two dozen of napkins, a brass pot, a kettle, half a dozen pieces of pewter, a pair of creepers, a spit, a little table, a couple of stools, a dripping-pan of iron, and my wainscot chair in the lower room;

Item, I give unto George Wilson, the son of Susan Wilson, deceased, sometimes my maidservant, twenty pounds in money, a featherbed, a bolster, one pair of flaxen sheets, a pair of coarse sheets, two tablecloths, and a dozen of napkins;

Item, [+I] will and bequeath my wearing-linen for mine own body to my cousin, Anne Carter;

Item, I will and bequeath unto my cousin and god-daughter, Mary Jerningham, the daughter of Thomas Jerningham, five pounds in money;

Item, I give and bequeath to my cousin Mr Richard Frank, esquire, my ring with the Turkey stone in it, and to my cousin, Anne Frank, his wife, my ring with a diamond in it;

Item, I give to every one of my said cousins Franks' children twenty shillings apiece;

Item, I give and bequeath to my cousin, Sir Robert Lee, knight, a ring of gold of the value of forty shillings;

Item, I give to my cousin, Edward Lee, his son, one of my little gilt cups;

Item, I give to my cousin, Anne Harris, a featherbed, a bolster, a pillow, two woollen blankets, a pair of sheets, a tablecloth, a cupboard-cloth, a dozen of napkins, a brass pot, a little kettle, and a pair of brazen candlesticks, and I do give and release to her the fifty shillings which she oweth me;

Item, I give unto my cousin Pigott, late the wife of Benjamin Pigott, deceased, a ring of gold of the value of twenty shillings;

Item, I give and bequeath to Audeley, my god-daughter, my wedding-ring and my little standing cup;

Item, I will and bequeath to my cousin, Winifred Josselyn, a piece of gold of three pounds;

Item, I will and bequeath to my cousin Marmaduke Higgens five pounds in money, and my ironback which standeth in my hall chimney;

To my cousin Higgens, his son, five pounds in money;

To my god-daughter, Mary Higgens, five pounds in money;

Item, I give to Jane Southworth, the wife of Thomas Southworth of Wells in the county of Somerset, esquire, a little silver bowl of the value of forty shillings;

To my loving cousin, John Muse, my great looking-glass;

To my loving cousin, Thomas Muse, his father, a ring of gold of the value of forty shillings;

Item, I give and bequeath to Mary Marshall, my god-daughter, a pair of sheets, a dozen of napkins, a coarse tablecloth, a couple of dishes, a kettle, a brass pot, and one candlestick;

Item, I give unto Anne Parker, the daughter of Joan Parker, sometimes my maidservant, a pair of sheets, a dozen of napkins, and a couple of tablecloths;

Item, I give to Mrs Baly, late wife of Mr Palmer, a ring of gold of the value of twenty shillings;

Item, I give and bequeath to Grace Gearinge, my kinswoman and god-daughter, my taffety kirtle, a tablecloth, and a dozen of napkins;

Item, I give to Ursula Beeston, my god-daughter, my table of gold;

Item, I give to so many of my god-children as are not otherwise remembered in this my last will and testament, to each of them ten shillings apiece;

Item, to the preacher which shall preach at my funeral, ten shillings;

To Joan Towse, my god-daughter, a ring of gold of twenty shillings' value;

Item, I give and bequeath to my said cousin, Anne Carter, my two bed testerns, the one of blue and yellow damask, the other of satin of Bruges, and two pair of curtains, the one of green and red say, the other of yellow and blue say;

Item, I give and bequeath to my good friend, Mrs Gunter, widow, a ring of gold of the value of forty shillings;

To Henry Golding, the son of Arthur Golding, my brother-in-law, deceased, a ring of gold of forty shillings' value, and to my sister Golding, late wife of the said Arthur, a ring of gold of the value of forty shillings, and to the two daughters of my said brother and sister Golding, to each of them a ring of gold of twenty shillings' value apiece;

Item, I give and bequeath unto her which shall be my maidservant at the time of my death forty shillings in money and a mourning gown;

To the Lady Elizabeth Hubberd, my cousin, my gold bracelets;

To Edward Hubberd, her son, a piece of gold of thirty shillings, and to Thomas Hubberd, my god-son, twenty shillings;

Item, I give and bequeath to Arthur Harris, the son of my cousin Mary Lee, deceased, five pounds in money;

To my cousin, Katherine Josselyn, a brass pot and a chafer of brass;

To my said cousin, Anne Carter, two pair of andirons, the one of latten, the other of iron, a fire-shovel and a pair of tongs, two dripping-pans, a little table, half a dozen of joined

stools, a livery cupboard, two white pewter candlesticks, 4 pieces of square pewter of the old fashion, and all my wearing apparel;

To Percival Golding, the son of the said Arthur Golding, deceased, a featherbed, a bolster, a pillow, a long cushion, two corner cushions, a dozen of napkins, two tablecloths, and a towel;

Item, I give to my cousin, Ellen Langmore, a ring of gold of 20s value;

To my cousin Dorothy Brograve, a ring of gold of 20s value;

To my cousins, Katherine Leventhorpe and Mary Leventhorpe, to each of them a ring of gold of 20s value;

To my cousin, Margaret Leventhorpe, a ring of gold of ten shillings' value, and further my will is that my executors do pay unto her the legacy given her by my sister Hubberd, which was a ring of gold of the value of ten shillings, more I give to her, one of my tablecloths, a dozen of napkins, one of my cupboard-cloths, and one of my towels;

To my cousin, Ralph Leventhorpe, a ring of gold of forty shillings' value;

To Ellen Marshall, one of my pair of sheets, one dozen of my napkins, one of my tablecloths, and one of my little brass pans;

Item, I give to Benjamin Boule, son of Richard Boule, gentleman, five pounds in money;

Item, I do appoint and nominate my trusty and well beloved friends, Thomas Southworth of Gray's Inn, esquire, and Richard Boule to be my executors of this my last will and testament, and I do give and bequeath to each of them twenty pounds apiece;

Item, I do give and bequeath to my loving cousin, the Lady Margery Morgan, a ring of gold of the value of forty shillings' value, and to my good neighbour, Mrs Baly, a ring of gold of twenty shillings' value;

I do entreat my well beloved cousins and friends, Sir Robert Lee, knight, and Richard Frank, esquire, to be overseers of this my last will and testament;

And I do by these presents revoke and annihilate all former wills;

In witness whereof I have to these presents set to my hand and seal the day and year above-written. Mary Golding.

This was signed, sealed, delivered and published by the said Mary Golding to be her last will and testament in the presence of us whose names are underwritten: John Muse, Richard Carrill, William Pearson, John Strode, Mary Golding.

Memorandum: that the above-named Mary Golding within the compass of one month next before her death, being then of perfect mind and memory, after the making of her last will and testament was demanded who should have the residue of her goods after her debts and legacies were paid, if any should then remain, or to that effect, and she thereunto answered as followeth, or to the like effect, viz., that her cousin, Anne Carter, meaning the wife of Thomas Carter, haberdasher, should have the residue of her goods, or that which should be left, for that the same would help to furnish her house.

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum cum Codicillo annex{o} coram Mag{ist}ro Edmundo Pope legum doctore Surrogato venerabilis viri Domini Iohannis Benet militis legum etiam doctoris Curie prerogatiue Cantuariens{is} Mag{ist}ri Custodis siue Comissarij legitime constituti Secundo die mensis Maij Anno Domini millesimo sexcentesimo duodecimo Iuramento Richardi Bowle vnus Executorum in eodem Testamento nominat{i} Cui comissa fuit Administrac{i}o bonorum Iurium et Creditorum dicti defuncti De bene et fideliter Administrando &c ad sancta dei Evangelia Iurat{o} Reservata p{otes}tate similem Comissionem faciend{o} Thome Southworth ar{migero} alteri Executorum in h{uius}mo{d}i Testamento nominat{o} cum venerit eam petitur{us} ex{aminatus}

[=The above-written testament was proved, together with the annexed codicil, before Master Edmund Pope, Doctor of the Laws, Surrogate of the worshipful Sir John Bennett, knight, also Doctor of the Laws, lawfully constituted Master, Keeper, or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the second day of May in the year of the Lord the thousand six hundred twelfth by the oath of Richard Bowle, 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 on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer etc., with power reserved for a similar commission to be made to Thomas Southworth, esquire, another of the executors named in the same testament, when he shall have come to petition the same. Examined.]

Probatum fuit Testamentum pred{ictum} vnacum Codicillo apud London coram venerabili viro Domino Iohanne Benet milite legum doctore Curie prerogatiue Cantuariens{is} Mag{ist}ro Custode siue Comissario legitime constituto Vicesimo nono die mensis Maij Anno Domini mille simo sexcentesimo duodecimo pred{icto} Iuramento prefati Thome Southworth ar{migeri} alteri Executorum in eodem Testamento nominat{i} Cui Comissa fuit administrac{i}o bonorum Iurium et Creditorum dicti defuncti De bene et fideliter Administrando &c ad sancta dei Evangelia Iurat{i} ex{aminatus}

[=The foresaid testament, together with the codicil, was proved at London before the worshipful Sir John Bennett, knight, Doctor of the Laws, lawfully constituted Master,

Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the twenty-ninth day of May in the year of the Lord the thousand six hundred twelfth aforesaid by the oath of the forenamed Thomas Southworth, esquire, another of the executors 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. Examined.]