

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 12 October 1496 and proved 28 January 1497, of Sir Edmund Bedingfield (1443-1496). The testator was the son of Thomas Bedingfield (d.1453) and Anne (d.1453), the daughter of John de Waldegrave, and the grandson of Edmund Bedingfield (d.1451) of Bedingfield, Suffolk, and Margaret Tuddenham (d.1476), the daughter of Sir Robert Tuddenham (d.1406) and sister of Sir Thomas Tuddenham of Oxburgh, executed 1462 at Tower Hill on the same day as John de Vere (1408–1462), 12<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, and his son, Aubrey. From the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*:

*[John de Vere, 12<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford] did not long survive the accession of Edward IV. In February 1462, with his son Aubrey and Sir Thomas Tuddenham, Oxford's former opponent in Norfolk and now a fellow Lancastrian loyalist, the earl was arrested on charges of high treason and committed to the Tower of London. He was tried before the constable of England, John Tiptoft, earl of Worcester, and condemned to death. On 26 February he was beheaded on Tower Hill, and was buried in the church of the Austin friars in London.*

The testator fought under John de Vere (1442-1513), 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, at the Battle of Stoke on 15 June 1487, and in the same year entertained King Henry VII at Oxburgh, on which occasion the King was accompanied by the 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, among others. Sir Edmund Bedingfield (1443-1496) was twice married. By his first wife, Alice Shelton (d. about 1478), he had one daughter, Margaret (b. about 1476, d. 24 March 1504), who married Edward Jerningham (d.1515) of Somerleyton. For the will of Edward Jerningham (d.1515), see TNA PROB 11/18, ff. 30-1. Sir Edmund Bedingfield (1443-1496) married, secondly, Margaret Scott [Scot] (d.1514), the daughter of Sir John Scott (1423-1485), Marshal of Calais, who was among those who had been granted the custody of the lands of the attainted John de Vere (1408-1462), 12<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford. The testator and his second wife, Margaret Scott, had four sons, Thomas (d.1539), Robert (d.1540), Peter, and Edmund (1479/80–1553).

The testator was succeeded by his eldest son and heir, Sir Thomas Bedingfield (d.1539), who married, firstly, Margaret Clifford, and secondly, Alice London (1490-1559), but left no children by either marriage.

Sir Thomas Bedingfield (d.1539) was succeeded by his brother, Sir Edmund Bedingfield (1479/80–1553), who married Grace Marney (d. in or after 1553), the daughter of Henry (1456/7-1523), 1st Baron Marney, the son of Sir John Marney of Layer Marney, Essex (d.1470/1472), and his wife, Jane (d.1479), daughter of John Throckmorton.

Sir Edmund Bedingfield (1479/80–1553) was succeeded by his son, Sir Henry Bedingfield (1509/10-1583), whose son, Thomas Bedingfield (d.1613), dedicated his translation of *Cardanus' Comfort* to Oxford (see STC 4607 on this website).

The testator's executors were his wife Margaret's brother, Sir William Scott (1459-1524), and Sir Edward Poynings (1459-1521), the only son of Robert Poynings (c.1419-1461)

and his wife, Elizabeth Paston (1429?-1487/8). Sir Edward Poynings (1459-1521) was married to Isabella (Elizabeth) Scott, the sister of the testator's wife, Margaret.

For information in the foregoing paragraphs, see the entries for members of the Bedingfield family, Sir Thomas Tuddenham, Sir John Scott and Sir Edward Poynings in the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*, and the Bedingfield pedigree in the National Trust publication, Henry Bedingfield, *Oxburgh Hall; The First 500 Years*, (Norwich: Jarrold Publishing, 1987).

For the will of Sir Thomas Bedingfield (d.1539), see TNA PROB 11/26, ff. 97-9. For the will of Sir Edmund Bedingfield (1479/80-1553), see TNA PROB 11/36, ff. 142-3. For the will of Sir Henry Bedingfield (1509/10-1583), see TNA PROB 11/66, ff. 126-8. For the will of Thomas Bedingfield (d.1613), see TNA PROB 11/122, f. 21.

The middle section of the will has faded to near-illegibility. Illegible words in the text are indicated by square brackets in the transcript below.

LM: Testamentum Edmundi Bedyngfeld

In the name of God, Amen. I, Sir Edmund Bedingfield, knight, whole of mind, being the 12<sup>th</sup> day of October the year of Our Lord God 1496, at Calais make my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my Maker and Redeemer of all the world, to Our Blessed Lady, and to all the holy company of heaven, my body to be buried in the church of Oxburgh afore the Holy Trinity there;

Also I bequeath to the high altar there, in recompense of my tithes to the same negligently forgotten, 20s;

Item, to the reparations of the same church, 10 mark;

Item, to each of the churches of Bedingfield, Saint Peter of Eriswell and Much Belingges [=Great Bealings?], 6s 8d;

Item, to the high altar of the church of Eriswell, 20s;

Item, I will and specially require mine executors hereafter named, as they will answer before my said Maker at the dreadful day of judgment, that all my injuries and wrongs by me heretofore committed or done hereafter evidently proved been [+by] my said executors satisfied and recompensed, and all my debts hereafter proved be also by my said executors truly content and paid;

Item, I will that the issues and profits of all my purchased and free [sic?] simple lands in Oxburgh, Caldecote, Foulden, Shingham and Cley in the shire of Norfolk be immediately after my death received(?) by mine executors, and 10 mark of the same yearly profits yearly a good and an honest priest be hired to sing and pray in the said church of Oxburgh during the time of 7 years next after my death and burying there, and he praying there for my soul and the souls of mine ancestors and friends and all Christian souls, and in especially for those souls that I am bound to do pray for;

Item, I will that my said executors of the said issues and profits of my said lands give to the leading of the church of Caldecote £10;

Item, I will and specially require my said executors to see and provide all my grandmother's last will be truly performed in every point in as much as they may and as hastily as it(?) conveniently may be;

Item, I will that my wife have wholly her jointure which I have before given to her, or else promised her, without interruption of mine executors or any of my children, whom I charge upon my blessing to suffer the same;

Item, I will that my wife, whom I trust above all, if venture(?) keep herself sole and unmarried, as she hath of her own offer promised me to do, then she to be one of my executors having the chief rule of all my lands, goods and chattels to dispose according to this my will and the rule and governance of all my children and hers, and if she break her promise and be married, then I will she be none of mine executors ne have any rule or disposition of any of my goods or chattels nor of any of my lands or tenements other than her jointure(?);

Item, I will that of the revenues, issues and profits of my purchased lands in the shires of Norfolk and Suffolk each of my daughters now unmarried have to her marriage 300(?) mark if they be married by th' advice of my said wife and other of my friends, if it may be borne(?) answering the great charges of the will(?);

Item, I will that my wife and my other executors reward each of my servants as they think reasonable after their discretion and good sense, and as it may be conveniently borne;

Item, I will that my said wife have wholly the possession of all my lands, as well lands tailed as fee simple, and of them take the issues and profits, and also of my goods and chattels, to th' intent to pay therewith my debts and legacies, my injuries and wrongs if any be proved, and to perform this my last will, and after the same debts paid, my said injuries and wrongs recompensed, and this my last will performed, she to have the same lands [ ] to th' intent that she shall find my said children and [ ] well and conveniently to [ ] for their living as otherwise as it shall be thought by her and other of my friends for them profitable and needful till they come to the age of 21(?) years, except that at(?) such time as my said son and heir shall come to the age of 20(?) years [ ] she shall leave(?) and deliver to him [ ] lands as she and other of my friends shall think reasonable;

And furthermore I will that at such time as any of my other sons fortune(?) to be married(?) by the advice of my said wife and my said other friends, then she to depart(?) to them with such lands as shall be by her and my said friends reasonable;

Also after the decease of my said wife and this my last will performed, I will that all my said lands tailed in any of the said shires or elsewhere in England, and my fee simple lands in Oxburgh, Eriswell, Caldecote, Shingham, Foulden and Cley, remain to my said son & heir and to the heirs of his body lawfully coming, and for default of such issue the remainder thereof to the heirs of my body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue the remainder thereof to my right heirs forever, upon condition that he or they shall see and provide that the priest's service serving the parish church of Caldecote shall be worth unto the same priest 8 mark yearly, and also that he ne they shall not interrupt this my last will in no part, nor mine executors executing the same, and if he or they so do, then I will that the same fee simple lands be by mine executors sold to the performing of this my last will;

Item, I will that if the same my said son or his heirs or any other by his or their commandment interrupt by entry or otherwise Nicholas Bokenham of my lands and tenements in Rendham or any parcel thereof, or any other person which hereafter shall have the said lands and tenements according to my grant and agreement thereof made, that then I will that he or they shall lose my said fee simple lands in Foulden and Cley, and then the same lands in Foulden and Cley to remain to the said Nicholas Bokenham and other according to the use and intent and true meaning of my covenants of the said lands in Rendham;

Item, I will and upon my blessing straitly charge my said son and heir that in consideration of my said fee simple lands which I have assigned to him, that he, his heirs and his assignees, shall with part of the profits thereof find an honest able secular priest to sing divine service and to pray for the soul of me and my wife and the souls of my father and mother, and the souls of my grandmother and of Sir Thomas Tuddenham, knight, mine uncle, in a chapel (blank) within the chancel of the parish church of Oxburgh, which chapel I will there be builded by mine executors with such goods and profits of my lands as hereafter I shall assign to mine executors;

And over this upon my said blessing I straitly charge my said son and heir that he, at such time as mine executors shall require him, that he do and suffer to be done all things that shall be advised by counsel learned for the performance and making sure of the same according to this my will;

Item, I will that all such debts and promises which I owe for lands purchased in Denham, Long Stratton or elsewhere be truly content and paid according to my covenants and agreements thereof;

Item, I will that after the decease of my said wife, that Edmund, my said son, have the manor of Denham and Flemor [=Flimworth?] with th' appurtenances, to hold to him and

to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and if it fortune the said Edmund, my son, to decease without issue of his body lawfully begotten, that then the said manor shall remain to Robert, my son, if he be no priest, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and if the said Robert decease without issue of his body lawfully begotten, that then I will the said manor shall remain to my son, Peter, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and if it fortune the said Peter to decease without issue [+of] his body lawfully begotten, then the said manor to remain to my son, Thomas, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and if he decease without issue of his body lawfully begotten, then the said manor to remain to me, the said Sir Edmund Bedingfield, mine executors and mine assignees, as well to the performing of this my last will as to the other charitable deeds for the welfare of my soul after the discretion of mine executors and their executors;

Item, I will that my son, Robert, have the manor of Abingdon after the decease of my said wife, to hold to him and to his assignees for term of his life, to find him to school if he intend to be a priest, and after the decease of my said son, Robert, the said manor to remain to my son and heir and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and if the said Robert be married, then I will he have the said manor to him and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and if so be he decease without issue of his body lawfully begotten, then I will that the said manor remain to my son and heir as is aforesaid;

Item, I will that my son, Peter, have the manor of Sonydovenham(?) and also my lands in Illington late purchased of one Seerle, to have to him and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and if he decease without issue of his body lawfully begotten, then I will after the decease of my wife that my son, Robert, have the said land to him and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of issue of his body lawfully begotten, then I will that the said land remain to my son, Edmund, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and if my son, Edmund, decease without heirs of his body lawfully begotten, then I will that the said lands remain to my son and heir and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue, the remainder thereof to mine executors aforesaid, to dispose after their discretion for the wealth of my soul and all Christian souls;

Item, I will that the manors of Seche [=Setchey?] and Westleton, which be to me fee simple, be at the disposition of my said wife and mine other executors to dispose to my sons as my said wife and they think reasonable;

Item, I will that if it fortune my said wife to die or be married again before this will performed or else before that my said sons comen to the age of 21 years, then I will that the residue of mine executors have like possession and rule of all my said lands and goods as I have limit[ed] my wife to the same effect and intent as I have herebefore expressed and showed;

Item, I will and require my feoffees that stand enfeoffed in any of my lands shall make estate from them to such persons as mine executors shall name to the performing of this my last will;

Item, I will that my said wife have and enjoy to her and to her heirs forever my purchased lands in Helgey [=Hilgay?], to dispose after her will and pleasure, paying therefore the residue of the money due for the same purchase;

The residue of all my good, chattels, lands and tenements herebefore in this my will not expressed nor rehearsed, I commit to my loving wife, Margaret Bedingfield, and Nicholas Bokenham, them to dispose after their discretions and wisdoms, whom I name and will to be mine executors of this my last will, and Sir Edward Poynings, knight, and Sir William Scott, knight, m[y] brethren-in-law, to be supervisors of the same, whom I heartily require to take upon them the same.

Given the day and year abovesaid.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum apud Lambeth xxviiiimo die mensis Ianuarij Anno domini supradicto Iuramento Domini Roberti Boone capellani & domine Margarete Relicte dicti defuncti ac approbatum & insinuatum &c Et commissa fuit administracio omnium et singulorum bonorum &c prefate Domine Margarete & Nicholo Bokinham Executoribus &c Ac de pleno Inuentario &c citra festum sancti Daudid proximo futuro &c De plano compoto calculo &c

[=The above-written testament was proved at Lambeth on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of the month of January in the year of the Lord abovesaid by the oath of Sir Robert Boone, chaplain, & the Lady Margaret, relict of the said deceased, and probated and entered etc., and administration was granted of all and singular the goods etc. to the forenamed Lady Margaret and Nicholas Bokenham, executors etc., and [+sworn to prepare] a full inventory etc. before the feast of Saint David next to come etc., and [+to render] a plain account, calculation etc.]