

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 12 February 1611 and proved 19 October 1613, of George Kirkham.

For the indenture dated 14 June 1580 made between Oxford, on the one part, and George Kirkham, gentleman, Oxford's solicitor Hugh Beeston, and Oxford's servant William Walter, on the other part, in connection with Oxford's purchase of the Great Garden property at Aldgate from Benedict Spinola, see TNA C 54/1080. For the will of Benedict Spinola (1519/20-1580), see TNA PROB 11/62, ff. 294-5.

On 26 October 1603, George Kirkham was granted an annuity of £50 by King James (see *Calendar of State Papers 1603-1610*, p. 48). It would appear that the recipient of this annuity, Oxford's trustee, and the testator in the will below were one and the same person.

On 31 January 1604 a grant was made to Edward Kirkham, Yeoman of the Revels, Alexander Hawkins, Thomas Kendall and Robert Payne of a licence to train up children to be called the Children of the Revels to the Queen (see *Calendar of State Papers 1603-1610*, p. 72). It would appear from the will below that Edward Kirkham, Yeoman of the Revels, was the cousin of Oxford's trustee, George Kirkham, while Thomas Kendall was a London haberdasher, and Alexander Hawkins was the son-in-law of Henry Evans (see Munro, Lucy, *Children of the Queen's Revels: A Jacobean Theatre Repertory*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005). For Edward Kirkham's appointment as Yeoman of the Revels by letters patent dated 28 April 1586, see Greg, Walter Wilson, ed., *Collections*, Vol. II, Part III (Oxford University Press: Malone Society, 1931), pp. 339-41, available online.

The will below states that Edward Kirkham's son, Robert Kirkham, was 'servant to the right honourable the Earl of Salisbury', i.e. Oxford's brother-in-law, Sir Robert Cecil. Other contemporary documents also identify Robert Kirkham as one of Cecil's secretaries. See also the History of Parliament entry for Robert Kirkham (d.1638):

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/kirkham-robert-1580-1638>.

RM: T{estamentum} Georgij Kirkeham

In the name of God, Amen. The twentieth day of February one thousand six hundred and ten and in the eight year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King James, I, George Kirkham of Richmond in the county of Surrey, gentleman, being of perfect health, mind and memory, thanks be to God, do make my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul unto God, my Saviour and Redeemer, and I will my body to be buried in Richmond church, as near unto my wife's grave as conveniently it may be, unto the funeral whereof and unto the poor of the parish I give and bequeath the sum of ten pounds without further ceremonial cost;

Item, I do give and bequeath unto my son, Michael Kirkham, all my goods, lands and tenements, freely paying my debts which then shall be due;

And of this my last will and testament I do make and ordain my said son, Michael Kirkham, my sole executor;

Item, if it shall please God to call my said son out of this world before my death, then my will and meaning is that my cousin, Edward Kirkham, and his children shall have and enjoy all my goods, lands and tenements to the use of his children, except the lease of my house in Richmond aforesaid and the tenements thereunto belonging, which house and tenements I give and bequeath unto my cousin, Robert Kirkham, son to my said cousin, Edward Kirkham, and servant to the right honourable the Earl of Salisbury;

In witness whereof I have to this my last will and testament set to my hand and seal the day and year first above-written. George Kirkham.

Memorandum, that this interlining was written before th' ensealing of my will. Sealed and delivered in the presence of us, Michael Kirkham, this is William Boulton his mark, Anthony Lynton.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram ve{er}abili viro Magistro Will{el}mo Birde legum doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cantuariens{is} Magistro Custode siue Commissario legitime constituto Decimo nono die Mens{is} Octobr{is} Anno Domini millesimo sexcentesimo Decimo tertio Iuramento Michaelis Kirkham filij naturalis et legitimi dicti Defuncti et executoris in eodem testamento nominat{i} Cui commissa fuit Administrac{i}o bonorum Iurium et creditorum dicti Defuncti de bene et fideliter administrand{o} &c ad sancta Dei Evangelia Iurati Ex{aminatur}

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Bird, Doctor of the Laws, lawfully constituted Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the nineteenth day of the month of October in the year of the Lord the thousand six hundred thirteenth by the oath of Michael Kirkham, natural and legitimate son of the said deceased and executor named in the said testament, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer etc. Examined]