

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 12 August 1517 and proved 29 August 1517, of John Maye, brother of Alice Maye, whose stepfather, Thomas Spring (d.1523), together with John de Vere (1442-1513), 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, was a major benefactor of the Church of St Peter and St Paul in Lavenham. See:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/church\\_gallery\\_03.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/church_gallery_03.shtml)

### ***FAMILY BACKGROUND***

For the will of the testator's father, Robert Maye of Bocking, Essex, dated 12 April 1512 and proved 8 August 1514, see TNA PROB 11/17/568

According to the will below, the testator had a brother, John Maye, and a sister, Alice Maye.

In the will below the testator makes the following provisions regarding his sister, Alice Maye:

*Also I will that Julian, my wife, whom I have made mine executrice, shall be bound unto Robert Maye, my son, for to pay the £40 the which the said Robert Maye, my son, was bound for me to Master Spring of Lavenham for to pay to the behoof of Alice Maye, my sister, if so be that she live to her lawful age of 16 years, I will that Julian, my wife, shall be bound to Robert, my son, for to pay the said £40 and so discharge the said Robert.*

*And if the said Alice Maye, my sister, decease within the said 16 years, I will that the foresaid Julian, my wife and my executor, shall have the said £40 to her own behoof to do her own pleasure.*

Alice Maye's mother had married, as his second wife, the wealthy clothier Thomas Spring (d.1523) of Lavenham. In his will, TNA PROB 11/21/179, Thomas Spring made the following provisions concerning the bequest left to the testator's sister, Alice Maye:

*Item, I will that mine executors do pay unto my wife's daughter, Alice Maye, when she shall be of the age of 16 years, £26 13s 4d which I recovered for her of Maye's executors.*

*Item, I will that if Robert Newman and William Goding of Bocking do not pay the said Alice Maye £40 at the age of 16 years, that then mine executors shall sue a certain obligation in which they be bound to me.*

### ***MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN***

In the will below the testator mentions his wife, Julian, his two sons, Robert Maye and John Maye, and his daughter, Joan Maye.

***OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL***

The testator appoints as overseer 'John Swallow the younger, the son of John Swallow, my brother [=brother-in-law]'. For the Swallow pedigree, see p. 106 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=0m1KAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA106>

RM: Test{amentu}m Iohannis Maye

In the name of God, Amen. That I, John Maye the elder of the parish of Bocking in the county of Essex, in good and whole and steadfast mind, thanking be God's grace, I have made my testament and last will:

First I bequeath my soul to God and to Our Blessed Lady Saint Mary and to all the holy company of heaven, and my body to be buried in Bocking churchyard;

Also I bequeath to All Hallow church in Lombard Street 6s 8d;

Also I bequeath to the high altar in Bocking church 6s 8d;

Also I bequeath to the gilding of the rood loft in Bocking church 20s;

Also I bequeath to Saint James' chapel my canestone(?) [=Caen-stone?] for a window, and 6s 8d in money;

Also I bequeath to Saint Thomas' chapel in Bocking 3s 4d;

Also I bequeath to Robert Maye, my elder son, 100 marks beside his grandfather's bequest, in pence and pennyworth to be paid within a year after my decease, hereof is paid in party of payment £20;

Also I bequeath to Joan Maye, my daughter, £20 and my best mazer next my standing cup, to be paid after the same request as my father beset in his will according to the same years of my father's will;

Also I bequeath to John Maye, my son, £20 and my standing cup, to be paid at the age of 21 years according as it doth appear in my father's will;

Also I will that if so be that Joan, my daughter, decease within the age afore rehearsed, [-I will that the forenamed] I will that John May, my son, shall enjoy and have her goods;

And if so be John Maye, my son, decease within the age, I will that the forenamed Joan, my daughter, shall enjoy the said John's goods;

I will also that each of them shall enjoy other's goods;

And if the said Joan Maye and John Maye my children, decease both within the age of my present will, I will that Julian, my wife, whom I have chosen to be mine executor, shall enjoy their goods to their [sic?] own behoof for to do charitable deeds for my soul and my father's soul and all Christian souls;

Also I bequeath to Edward Bullock 10s;

Also I bequeath to John Fryk 6s 8d;

Also to William Goodyng 40s;

Also to Joan Goodyng, my god-daughter, 3s 4d;

Also to Agnes Annsell 6s 8d;

Also I bequeath to Rose Bullock 3s 4d;

Also to Joan Stokes 3s 4d;

Also I bequeath to each of my god-children 12d apiece;

Also I bequeath to John Maye, my brother, my dun horse;

Also I bequeath to Robert Maye, my elder son, my house that I dwell in with the appurtenance, and with both houses of each side with the appurtenance, that is to wit, all three houses with the appurtenances for to do his pleasure with;

Also I bequeath to Julian, my wife, whom I have made my executrice, all my goods movable and unmovable saving my house and my land and all such things that be before rehearsed in my will, so fulfilling my father's will and mine and all my debts paid;

All the residue of all my goods I give to Julian, my wife, whom I have made mine executor to do for me and all my friends;

Also I will that Julian, my wife, shall have my head house for her dwelling-place for the space of 13 months and a day after my decease, and then [-I will when this place, and] I will that my son, Robert Maye, shall enter into the said place for his own proper good, [+and?] then I will that Julian, my wife, shall dwell in the house that Robert, my son, dwelled in for term of her life, so keeping sufficient reparations;

Also I will that if so be that Julian, my wife, be married to any man, I will that John Swallow and Robert Maye, my son, shall have the custody and keeping of the goods that is bequeathed to my children both by my father's bequest and mine, that is to understand, John [sic] Maye, my daughter with my bequest and with my father's bequest £80, and also likewise John Maye, my son, four score pound, the whole sum is £160;

I will that they too shall have the keeping of the children's goods till the time they come to th' age afore rehearsed in my father's will and mine;

And if they depart both within the age, I will that Julian, my wife, shall have their goods to her own use and behoof for to do for my soul and my father's soul and all my friends' souls;

Also I will that Julian, my wife, whom I have made mine executrice, shall be bound unto Robert Maye, my son, for to pay the £40 the which the said Robert Maye, my son, was bound for me to Master Spring of Lavenham for to pay to the behoof of Alice Maye, my sister, if so be that she live to her lawful age of 16 years, I will that Julian, my wife, shall be bound to Robert, my son, for to pay the said £40 and so discharge the said Robert;

And if the said Alice Maye, my sister, decease within the said 16 years, I will that the foresaid Julian, my wife and my executor, shall have the said £40 to her own behoof to do her own pleasure;

I make my overseer John Swallow the younger, the son of John Swallow, my brother [=brother-in-law], and I will that he have for his labour 40s for to be governor and seer [=overseer] with my wife which is mine executrice, for to be good friend unto her, fulfilling my will and my father's will;

These witness: Sir Hugh John, parish priest, John Swallow the elder, William Christmas, with other.

Written the 12<sup>th</sup> day of the month of August in the year of Our Lord God 1517.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum coram d{omi}no Apud Lamhith xxix die Mensis Augusti Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingentesimo decimo septimo Iur{amento} Thome ffryser procur{atoris} Relict{e} Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et Com{m}issa fuit Admi{n}istracio o{mn}i{u}m et singulor{um} bonor{um} et debitor{um} dicti defuncti p{re}fate Iuliane Relicte de bene &c Ac de pleno et fideli Inuentario citra festum &c Necnon de plano et vero compoto &c Reddend{o} Ad Sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia in debit{a} Iuris forma Iurat{i}

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord at Lambeth on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of the month of August in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred seventeenth by the oath of Thomas Fryser, proctor of the relict, and probated and entered, and administration

---

was granted of all and singular the goods and debts of the said deceased to the forenamed Julian, relict, sworn on the Holy Gospels in due form of law to well etc., and [+to exhibit?] a full and faithful inventory before the feast etc., and to render a plain and true account etc.]