

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 13 June 1523 and proved 3 July 1523, of the wealthy clothier, Thomas Spring III (1457?-1523) of Lavenham. The testator and John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford, were major benefactors of the Church of St Peter and St Paul in Lavenham. See:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/church_gallery_03.shtml

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Testator's grandparents

The testator was the grandson of Thomas Spring I, for whose will, dated 16 June 1440, in which he mentions his wife, Agnes, his sons Thomas Spring II and William Spring, and his daughters, Katherine Spring and Denise Spring, see Northeast, Peter, ed., *Wills of the Archdeaconry of Sudbury, 1439-1474: I*, (Woodbridge, Suffolk: The Boydell Press, 2001), p. 40 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=LdZkjfwZ97YC&pg=PA40>

Testator's parents

The testator was the son of Thomas Spring II and Margaret Appleton. For the testator's father, Thomas Spring II (d. 7 September 1487?), see his Latin will, dated 29 March 1487 and proved 12 September 1487, TNA PROB 11/7/352, in which he mentions his wife, Margaret, and four children:

-Thomas Spring III (1457?-1523), eldest son and heir, the testator in the will below.

-William Spring (d.1510). A William Spring, 'clothman of Melford', made his will 13 September 1510, proved 12 November 1510, in which he mentions his wife, Alice, his sons, Robert Spring, Thomas Spring and William Spring, and unnamed daughters. See TNA PROB 11/16/289. He may have been the testator's brother, or perhaps the testator's uncle, William Spring (see above).

-James Spring. According to Howard, he was 'slain in a fight between Lavenham and Brent Eleigh in 1493, and lies buried in Lavenham vestry'. See Howard, *infra*, p. 190 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ExI2AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA190>

-Marian Spring, about whom nothing further is known.

For the testator's mother, Margaret Appleton, see also:

<http://hausegenealogy.com/appleton.html>

*MARGARET APPLETON, b. Abt 1444, Little Waldingfield, Suffolk Co., England. m. Thomas Spring of Lavenham, co. Suffolk, a wealthy clothier, who is credited with building the vestry of Lavenham church. In his will, dated March 29, 1486, and proved Sept. 12, 1486, he left three hundred marks toward the building of the church tower, and names his wife Margaret and son Thomas Spring executors. This younger Thomas Spring was "the rich clothier of Lavenham," whose widow was in 1524 the wealthiest person in Suffolk, after the Duke of Suffolk. From Thomas and Margaret Spring descend the Spring family of knights and baronets, of Pakenham. In Rushbrook church, co. Suffolk, the Spring arms impaled with the arms of Appleton (of co. Lancaster), *argent*, a bear salient *sable*, crowned *or*, were found on an old altar tomb in 1816. This may indicate that the Appletons of Suffolk had not assumed their own coat in 1486 and that for the purposes of the tomb an obliging antiquary supplied the Springs with the blazon of the Appletons of Lancaster."*

On 20 January 1505 the testator's mother was appointed as one of the executors of the will of her brother, Thomas Appleton (d. 4 October 1507):

I make and ordain mine executors my sister, Margaret Spring, my son, Thomas Appleton, parson of Lavenham, and my son, William Appleton.

And supervisor my nephew, Thomas Spring, to whom I give for a remembrance a signet of gold graven with Saint John's head.

According to the probatum clause, the testator's mother, Margaret Appleton Spring, was still living when her brother's will was proved on 9 February 1509, although she did not take on the executorship.

It also appears from the foregoing that the testator was supervisor of the will of his uncle, Thomas Appleton (d. 4 October 1507).

For a translation of the Latin will of Thomas Spring II, see Betterton, Alec, and David Dymond, *Lavenham: Industrial Town*, (Lavenham: Terence Dalton Limited, 1989), p. 12.

The testator was 30 years of age at his father's death. See Copinger, W.A., *The Manors of Suffolk: The Hundreds of Babergh and Blackbourn*, (London: T. Unwin Fisher, 1905), p. 198 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/manorsofsuffolkn01copiuoft#page/198/mode/2up>

Rowheads alias Roushedges Manor

It is found that trustees were seised of this tenement to the use of Thomas Spryng who died the 28 September 1486, and that Thomas Spryng aged 30 years was his son and heir. In subsequent times however it is frequently referred to as a manor. Thomas

Spring called the ‘Rich Clothier of Lavenham’ was the Spring who built two chapels in Lavenham Church and a good part of the steeple. He died in 1523, when the manor passed to his son and heir Sir John Spring.

It is said that the testator’s niece, Margaret Spring, married Oxford’s uncle, Aubrey de Vere (c.1518-1580?), second son of John de Vere (1482–1540), 15th Earl of Oxford. See Betterton, *supra*, p. 51. See also Anderson, Verily, *The De Veres of Castle Hedingham*, (Lavenham, Suffolk: Terence Dalton, 1993), p. 141, where it is stated that Aubrey de Vere’s wife, Margaret Spring, was the daughter of the testator’s brother, John Spring. There appears to be no evidence that the testator had a brother named John, although, as noted above, the testator had brothers named William and James, and, as also noted above, a William Spring (d.1510) mentions unnamed daughters in his will. However since this William Spring died in 1510, his daughters would have been a decade older than Aubrey de Vere, which makes a marriage between Aubrey de Vere and a daughter of William Spring (d.1510) unlikely. For the will of Aubrey de Vere, dated 18 January 1580, see ERO D/AMR 3/281.

For the testator’s family background, see also the Spring pedigree in Burke, John and John Bernard Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies of England, Ireland and Scotland*, 2nd ed., (London: John Russell Smith, 1844), p. 501 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=4KRAAAAACAAJ&pg=PA501>

For the testator’s family background see also:

<http://reganettinger.blogspot.ca/2013/08/thomas-spring-iii.html>

MARRIAGES AND CHILDREN

Testator’s first marriage

The testator is said to have married, firstly, in 1493, Anne King of Boxford, Suffolk, by whom he had two sons and two daughters:

* **Sir John Spring** (d. 12 August 1547), eldest son and heir, who married Dorothy Waldegrave, the daughter of Sir William Waldegrave (d.1527). For the will, dated 8 June 1544 and proved 21 May 1549, of Sir John Spring, see TNA PROB 11/32/430. For the will, proved 6 March 1528, of Sir William Waldegrave (d.1527), see TNA PROB 11/22/294. For the will, dated 15 April 1564 and proved 10 November 1564, of Dorothy Waldegrave Spring (d.1564), see TNA PROB 11/47/337.

* **Robert Spring** (1502 – 3 April 1549?), second son, for whom see his will, in which he mentions his wife, Agnes, and his seven sons and three daughters, TNA PROB 11/32/437.

* **Anne Spring** (1494-1528), who was the first wife of Sir Thomas Jermyn (d. 8 October 1552) of Rushbrooke, Suffolk, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/35/417. See the pedigree of Jermyn of Rushbrook in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Suffolk*, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1882), p. 197 at:

<https://archive.org/details/visitationsofsuf00harvuoft/page/197>

After the death of Anne Spring, Sir Thomas Jermyn married secondly Anne Drury (d. 8 June 1572), widow of Sir George Waldegrave (c.1483 – 8 July 1528), esquire, of Smallbridge, Suffolk, and daughter of Sir Robert Drury (d. 2 March 1535), chief steward and executor of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford. See the will of Sir George Waldegrave, TNA PROB 11/22/577; the will of Sir Robert Drury, TNA PROB 11/25/467; Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 92-3, and Vol. IV, pp. 283-6. See also Betham, William, *The Baronetage of England*, Vol. III, (London: W.S. Betham, 1803), p. 60 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=IGAOAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA60&lpg=PA60>

See also Appleton, *supra*, p. 61 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=p_8HAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA61

* **Rose Spring** (b.1496), who married Thomas Guybon (d.1531), esquire, son and heir of Gregory Guybon of West Lynn, Norfolk. For his will, dated 26 January 1531 and proved 14 November 1531, see TNA PROB 11/24/134. For the Guybon pedigree, see Rye, Walter, ed., *The Visitacion of Norfolk*, Vol. XXXII, (London: Harleian Society, 1891), p. 141 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=HS8EAAAIAAJ&pg=PA141>

See also the will, dated 18 January 1580, of Oxford's paternal uncle, Aubrey de Vere, ERO D/AMR 3/281, who is said to have married firstly the testator's niece, Margaret Spring, and secondly Bridget Gibbon, daughter of Sir Anthony Gibbon (or Guybon).

Testator's second marriage

The testator married secondly Alice Appleton (d.1538) the daughter of Thomas Appleton of Waldingfield, gentleman. See her will, dated 13 April 1538, TNA PROB 11/27/320; Corder, Joan, ed., *The Visitation of Suffolk, 1561*, Part I, (London: Harleian Society, 1981), and Ryece, Robert, *The Breviary of Suffolk*, Harl. MS 3873, p. 55, in Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *The Visitation of Suffolke*, Vol. I, (Lowestoft: Samuel Tymms, 1866), p. 167 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ExI2AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA167>

For an earlier transcript of her will, see also Howard, *supra*, pp. 173-5 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ExI2AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA173>

When she married the testator, Alice Appleton was the widow of Robert Maye, for whose will, dated 12 April 1512 and proved 8 August 1514, see TNA PROB 11/17/568. She is not mentioned in Robert Maye's will, nor is she mentioned in the will of Robert Maye's son, John Maye, TNA PROB 11/18/540, and it thus appears likely that she was Robert Maye's second wife, and that John Maye was her stepson.

By her first marriage to Robert Maye, Alice Appleton had two daughters:

-Margaret Maye. She is not mentioned in the will below. She married William Risby of Lavenham, Suffolk. For her will, dated 8 November 1552 and proved 17 February 1553, in which she mentions her sister, Dame Bridget Hussey (see below) and her sister, Alice Fulmerston (see below), see *Evidences of the Winthrops of Groton, co. Suffolk, England*, (Privately printed, 1894-1896), p. 69 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=7dYKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA69>

For the will of Margaret Maye's husband, William Risby, dated 14 November 1551 and proved 27 September 1552, see TNA PROB 11/35/308.

-Alice Maye. In the will below, the testator refers to her as 'Alice Maye, my wife's daughter'. She is referred to as 'Alice Maye, my sister' in the will of her brother, John Maye, dated 12 August 1517 and proved 29 August 1517, TNA PROB 11/18/540:

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.

The foregoing provisions regarding Alice Maye in the will of John Maye are referred to in the testator's will below:

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.

Alice Maye married firstly Thomas Hayward (d.1534), for whom see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/hayward-thomas-1507-34>

In the Hayward pedigree in *The Visitation of Norfolk*, Alice Maye is referred to as ‘Alice, daughter of . . . Lonzam [sic] of Suffolk’. See Rye, Walter, ed., *The Visitation of Norfolk*, Vol. XXXII, (London: Harleian Society, 1891, p. 153 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitacionievisi32ryew#page/152/mode/2up>

Relying on the pedigree, the History of Parliament and other modern sources have erroneously identified Alice Maye as ‘Alice Lonzam’. However the author of this website suggested on 2 October 2017 that ‘Lonzam’, which Rye, the editor of the *Visitation of Norfolk* has flagged as an error, is a mistranscription of ‘Lavenham’ or ‘Lanham’, as it was often written at the time.

Alice Maye married secondly Sir Richard Fulmerston, for whom see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/fulmerston-richard-1516-67>

See also Emerson at:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=695

Alice Maye (d.1552+) was the daughter of Robert Maye of Bocking, Essex (d. c.1514) and Alice Appleton (d.1538). Her name is given as “Lonzam” in the Visitation of Norfolk, but this is likely a mistranscription of Lavenham, home of her mother’s second husband, Thomas Spring. The will of her half brother, John Maye, dated August 12, 1517 and proved August 29, 1517, names Alice as his sister and leaves her £40, to be paid when she reaches the lawful age of sixteen. Alice married Thomas Hayward or Heyword of Ipswich, Suffolk (d. January 1534), a merchant. Their children were William, Richard, Thomas (d.1567+), and Elizabeth. Elizabeth was left £26 13s. 4d. and two tenements in the parish of St. Nicholas by her father. Alice was one of his executors and inherited the house they lived in, another house occupied by Ralph Goodwin, all movable goods, and all debts owed Hayward, provided his were paid first. She was, however, subsequently sued by the bailiffs of Ipswich, who claimed that of £60 they delivered to Hayward for the fee farm of the town for 1532-3, he paid only £20 to the Crown and did not pay out the other £40, which was supposed to go to Queen Catherine as the widow of Arthur, Prince

of Wales. By March 1539, Alice had wed Richard Fulmerson of Ipswich and (later) of Thetford, Norfolk (d. February 3, 1567). At the time of their marriage, he was understeward to Mary, duchess of Richmond and steward to Henry Howard, earl of Surrey. They had one daughter, Frances. Thanks to Nina Green at <http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com> for much of this information.

See also Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 7 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=8JcbV309c5UC&pg=PA7>

By his second wife, Alice Appleton Maye (d.1538), the testator had one child:

* **Bridget Spring** (1498–c.1557), who married firstly William Erneley (21 December 1501 – 20 January 1546) of Cakeham near West Wittering, Sussex, son of Sir John Erneley (c.1464–1520), Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and secondly Sir Henry Hussey (d. 28 August 1557) of Slinfold, Sussex. For her marriages and children, see her will dated 23 September 1557 and proved 2 May 1558, TNA PROB 11/40/214.

The testator's second wife, Alice Appleton Maye Spring, survived him by fifteen years. In her will, dated 13 April 1538 and proved 5 September 1538, TNA PROB 11/27/300, she mentions her three daughters, Margaret, Alice and Bridget, and appoints as executors her daughter, Margaret, and sons-in-law, William Risby and Richard Fulmerston, and requests 'my Lord of Oxenford to aid and defend my said executors'.

LM: Test{amentu}m Tho{me} Sprynge

In dei nomine amen. The 13th day of June in the year of Our Lord God 1523 and in the 15 year of the reign of King Henry the 8th, I, Thomas Spring of Lavenham in the county of Suffolk and in the diocese of Norwich, cloth-maker, being of whole mind and memory and perfect remembrance and verily knowing that there is nothing more sure or more certain to any creature in this wretched world than death, which every creature living inevitably must suffer, and nothing more unsure and uncertain than the dreadful hour thereof, fully disposing and purposing myself by the mercy, grace and help of the most merciful Lord Christ Jesus to be at all and every time and hour ready, do make my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I annual and revoke all other wills and testaments ever afore this day made and declared, and will that every of them shall be of no strength nor effect;

Item, I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, to his Blessed Mother Mary, and to all the holy company of heaven, and my body to be buried in the Church of Lavenham before the altar of Saint Katherine where I will be made a tomb with a parclose thereabout by the discretion of mine executors;

Item, I bequeath to the high altar of Lavenham for my tithes and offerings negligently forgotten and not paid 100s;

Item, I will that satisfaction and restitution be made to every person complaining and duly proving any injury, wrong, extortion, oppression, deceit or any misbehaving or demeaning against reason and conscience by me to them done in any wise;

Item, I will that immediately after my decease in as hasty time as it may be conveniently done, there shall be a thousand Masses sung for the wealth of my soul;

Item, I give and bequeath to every of the houses of friars of Clare, Sudbury, Babwell, two houses of friars in Thetford and the nuns of Thetford to pray for my soul and all my benefactors' souls and to every of them 40s;

Item, I will that there be disposed the 30th day after my decease and departing out of this world one hundred pounds in all such towns and parishes as I have any lands and tenements, that is to say, to have a Mass with dirge in every church, and the money to be disposed to the priests, clerks and poor folks to pray for my soul and all my benefactors' souls;

Item, I give and bequeath to the finishing of the steeple of Lavenham two hundred pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath to the reparation of highways to be disposed where mine executors shall think most necessary about the town of Lavenham 100 marks;

Item, I bequeath and give to Alice, my wife, all her apparel with jewels, and one thousand marks in money and pennyworths over and beside six hundred marks that she brought to me at the time of her marriage, which 600 marks I will that be paid her over and beside the said thousand marks;

Item, I will that all my plate, ornaments and implements of household as bedding, napery, hangings, brass, pewter and all other hustlements of house be divided between my wife and John Spring, my son, by mine executors;

Item, I give and bequeath to Alice, my wife, 2 of my best horses and 3 kine such as she will choose;

Item, I will that the wood in my yards and my corn and malt upon the sollars be equally divided between my wife and John, my son, except such as shall be spent by mine executors about my interment and other things touching the ministration of my goods;

Item, I give and bequeath towards the marriage of Bridget Spring, my youngest daughter, five hundred marks to be delivered to her at the age of 16 years, and if it happen the said Bridget to die afore she come to the age of 16 years, then I will the said five hundred marks be divided equally between my children's children then living;

Item, I give and bequeath to John Spring, mine eldest son, two hundred pounds;

Item, I give to Frances, his daughter, one hundred marks;

Item, I give and bequeath to Robert Spring, my son, two hundred pounds;

Item, I give to every of the children of Thomas Jermyn now living £20, and if any of them die before the age of 16 years, then I will the part or parts of them so departed or deceased be evenly divided amongst the other then living;

Item, I give and bequeath to every child of my daughter, Rose Guybon, now living £20, and if any of them die before the age of 16 years, then I will that the part or parts of them so departed or deceased be evenly divided amongst the other then living;

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;

Item, I give and bequeath to every of my godchildren 3s 4d;

Item, I will there be distributed among my household servants so much money as shall be thought necessary by the discretion of mine executors;

The residue of all my goods and chattels not given nor bequeathed I give it to the disposition of mine executors whom I ordain and make Sir William Waldegrave, knight, and Thomas Jermyn, my son-in-law, desiring and requiring them in the way of charity to order and dispose the same in charitable deeds as they shall think most expedient to the pleasure of God and for the wealth of my soul;

Item, my mind and will is that if my wife or any of my children do interrupt, let or trouble any article comprised in this my last will and testament so that this my last will cannot take effect according to the true intent thereof, then I will that all legacies and bequests to them before given that so do interrupt be void and of none effect, and that such person or persons so interrupted or troubled shall have and enjoy the same legacy and bequest which was bequeathed to him or them that shall make such trouble, vexation and business;

And further I require and charge John Spring, mine eldest son, upon my blessing that he hinder not, disturb nor let this my testament and last will in no point, but that he endeavour himself as much as in him is to perform and accomplish the same according to the truth;

Item, I give to the bailiff of Lavenham, William Betryn, one hundred pounds, whereof I will that John, his son, have £20;

Item, I give and bequeath to Peter Gawge, mine apprentice, 10 half bales of wood [sic?];

In witness of the truth I have sealed and delivered this as my last will and testament in the presence of William Betryn, bailie of Lavenham, Henry Symond, William Wooder and Peter Turns.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascripti defuncti Coram p[re]fatis Com[missariis] in eccl[esi]a Cath[edra]li diui pauli London tercio die mensis Iulij Anno d[omi]ni Mill[esimo] quingentesimo xxiiio Iurament[is] executor[um] in h[uius]mo[d]i test[ament]o no[m]i[n]at[orum] In persona Thome Argall procu[rato]ris Ac approbatum & insinuatum Et com[missa] fuit admi[n]istrac[i]o auct[orit]ate p[re]fator[um] R[everendissi]mor[um] patrium om[n]i[um] & singuloru[m] bonoru[m] Iuriu[m] & creditoru[m] dicti defuncti p[re]fatis executorib[us] In persona d[ic]ti procuratoris de b[e]n[e] & fidei[te]r admi[n]strand[o] Ac de pleno & fidei In[ue]ntario citra festum s[an]c[t]i Edwardi Regis prox[imum] futur[um] exhi[ben]d[o] Necnon de plano & vero compoto reddend[o] Ad s[an]c[t]a dei Eu[an]gelia in debit[a] iuris forma Iurat[is]

[=The testament of the above-written deceased was proved before the forenamed Commissioners in the Cathedral Church of [+Saint?] Paul on the third day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 23rd by the oaths of the executors named in the same testament in the person of Thomas Argall, proctor, and probated & entered, and administration was granted by the authority of the Most Reverend Fathers of all & singular the goods, rights & credits of the said deceased to the forenamed executors, sworn on the Holy Gospels in due form of law in the person of the said proctor to well & faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full & faithful inventory before the feast of Saint Edward, King, next to come, and also to render a plain and true account.]