

SUMMARY: The document below is the will, dated 16 April 1528 and proved 9 July 1528, of Nicholas Mynne, first husband of Joan Marston (d.1540), the sister of Oxford's step-grandmother, Ursula Marston, the second wife of Oxford's grandfather, John Golding.

For Ursula Marston, see Louis Thorn Golding, *An Elizabethan Puritan*, (New York: Richard R. Smith, 1937), p. 227:

The Marstons were an old and distinguished family. Robertus de Marston was lord of the Manor of Marston in Lincolnshire in the time of Edward I and died in 1307 leaving a son only a year and a half old. This child lived to maturity and left a son John, who in his turn also left a son, John, who was still living, very aged, in 1450. This John had four sons, Sir John, Richard, the great grandfather of Ursula, Thomas, who in youth fought at Agincourt and later settled in Shropshire, and Henry Marston, who became a canon of St Paul's Cathedral. Sir John Marston was a very rich man. He lived at Woodcote Park, adjoining Epsom Downs, now famous for the annual running of the Derby. His estate is now the country club of the Royal Automobile Club. He also had a town house in London, "Leaden Porch," Crooked Lane. E.C. He also held the manors of Horton and Shalford in Surrey. Sir John died in 1461 and his nephew William Marston, Richard's son, was his heir. William died in 1495 and his son, another William, succeeded him. This William Marston married Beatrix, daughter of (blank) Barlow of Havering, Co. Essex, and died in 1511, leaving two daughters, Joan and Ursula, the co-heirs of his large estates. Joan married for her second husband William Saunders, former sheriff of Surrey, and by him became the mother of Nicholas Saunders, the famous Roman Catholic historian of the English Reformation. Ursula married John Golding of Belchamp St. Paul's and became the mother of Arthur Golding.

For the will of Oxford's maternal grandfather, John Golding, see TNA PROB 11/32/177.

For the Catholic historian Nicholas Sander (c.1530–1581), see the *ODNB* article, according to which, however, he was born in Charlwood, Surrey, 'one of the twelve children of William Saunders and his wife, Elizabeth Mynes'.

The testator names as his executors 'my brethren Henry Mynne, clerk, and John Mynne'. The will of John Mynne (see TNA PROB 11/29/267), who according to an inquisition post mortem died 14 December 1542, also names a brother, Henry, 'parson of Balsham [=Barsham?]', which suggests that the testator may have been the brother of Henry Mynne and John Mynne (d. 14 December 1542).

After Nicholas Mynne's death, Joan Marston married William Saunders (d.1571) of Ewell. Confusion has been caused by the fact that after Joan Marston's death in 1540, William Saunders of Ewell married a second wife named Joan. In TNA C 1/1141/51-53 the latter is described as Joan, the wife of William Saunders, gentleman, and executrix and late the wife of Thomas Gittons (d.1543), citizen and vintner of London. It is therefore Joan Gittons Saunders, not Joan Marston Saunders, who is the wife 'Joan'

mentioned in William Saunders' will dated 2 October 1570 (see TNA PROB 11/53/491). In his will dated 14 February 1543, Thomas Gittons gives the names of his children: William, Oliver, John, Albery and Christian Gittons (see TNA PROB 11/29/406). Oliver, Albery and Christian Gittons are also mentioned in the will of Joan Gittons Saunders dated 14 April, 1580 (see TNA PROB 11/63/400).

Oxford's servant, Nicholas Mynne, was almost certainly a member of the testator's family, although his precise relationship to the testator has not been determined.

See also the will of Francis Mynne, dated 28 February 1592 (TNA PROB 11/81/220), in which he names his brother, William Mynne, and his nephews William, John and Nicholas Mynne of Horton.

R.M.: T{estamentum} Nich{ola}i Mynne

In the name of God, Amen. The 16th day of April in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred twenty and eight, I, Nicholas Mynne of the parish of Saint Bartholomew's Close in West Smithfield of London, being of whole mind & perfect remembrance, thanked be Our Lord, make and ordain this my testament and last will in manner and form following:

First, I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my Saviour, Maker and Redeemer, and my body to be buried in Christian burial where it shall happen me to depart out of this transitory world;

Item, I bequeath to the high altar of the parish church aforesaid for tithes forgotten & negligently withholden, 3s 4d;

Item, to every place of four orders of friars in London, 3s 4d;

Item, to the Cathedral Church of Saint Paul in London, 3s 4d;

Item, to the Cathedral Church of Norwich, 3s 4d;

Item, to the Cathedral Church of Winchester, 20d;

Item, to the high altar of the parish church of Epsom for tithes forgotten and negligently withholden, 12d;

Item, to the churchwardens or churchmen of Epsom to the use of the same church, 6s 8d;

Item, to the church of Little Fransham to the use of the church there, 6s 8d;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Alice Mynne, my sister, 40s;

Tem, I give and bequeath unto Jane, my wife, all my leases which I have in Epsom and the term of years which be in the said leases yet to come during her life, and if it fortune my said wife to die afore the term in the said leases be expired, I will the residue of years which at her decease shall be to come remain to the use of my children;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the said Jane, my wife, all my cattle [=chattels?], household stuff, plate, jewels, brass and pewter which I have, as well in Epsom as in London;

Item, where certain persons be seised of a tenement called Hunters with th' appurtenances in Horton in the parish of Epsom, and also where Ralph Michell [=Mitchell?] is seised of certain woodland called Colman's wood and Hilder's wood, and of one acre of woodland lying in Westfield in Horton aforesaid, and also of 7 acres of arable ground whereof 3 acres lieth at Swiett nigh Chiffondon park and four acres called Ridon lying nigh the wood called Hilder's wood, and where Walter Bellett [=Bellott?] and other persons stand and be seised of a messuage and certain lands, meadows, pastures and woods with their appurtenances, in which messuage Edward Stevens now dwelleth, in Horton aforesaid to the use of me and of mine heirs, I will that the foresaid Jane, my wife, have all the said lands and tenements and other the premises for term of her life, and after her decease the same to remain to the heirs males of our two bodies lawfully begotten, and for lack of such heirs males, I will the said lands and tenements and other the premises remain to the heir of the foresaid Jane, my wife, according to the will of William Marston, esquire, her father;

Also I will that the said Jane have for term of her life all such lands and tenements as late were Leynd's lands in Horton, Epsom, Ewell and Sutton with the profit of all the woodland of all the said lands and tenements, and after her decease the said lands and tenements to remain to the heirs males of our two bodies lawfully begotten, and for lack of such heirs males, to remain to the heirs of the foresaid Jane, my wife, according to the will of the foresaid William Marston;

Item, I will that Thomas Bough and other my feoffees make estate to William Hardwick or to such persons as he shall name and to their heirs of all those lands called Leynd's lands in Sanderstead in the county of Surrey immediately after the said Thomas Bough(?) and other my feoffees have made estate to the foresaid Jane, my wife, and to her heirs as is aforesaid of the foresaid lands and tenements called Leynd's lands in Horton, Epsom, Ewell and Sutton according to certain covenants thereof between the foresaid William Hardwick and me made;

Item, I will that all such money as I do owe or have taken up of any person to discharge against the King's Grace be paid in discharge of my conscience;

Item, I will that all my lands and tenements which I have in Fransham Magna or elsewhere in the county of Norfolk be sold, and that the said Jane, my wife, have of the

money coming of the price or sale of the same one hundred marks sterlings, if it may be borne, my debts paid;

All which bequests before bequeathed unto the foresaid Jane, my wife, that is to say, my leases in Epsom, my cattle [=chattels?], household stuff, plate, jewels, brass, pewter, my lands in Horton, Epsom, Ewell and Sutton, and also the foresaid hundred marks in ready money, if it may be borne, I give and bequeath them unto my said wife under this condition, that she shall maintain and keep her and her children and to bring them up;

And further I will that she in her widowhood shall be bound and seal an obligation unto Henry Mynne, clerk, and John Mynne and other in the sum of two hundred marks to leave the manor of Horton with th' appurtenances and all other lands which [+were] late [+of] William Marston, her father, to the heirs of the said Jane according to the will of the same William Marston, and not to alien the same contrary to the will of the said William Marston;

And if the said Jane refuse in her widowhood to be bound as is aforesaid, I will that mine executors sell all my said leases, lands, chattels, household stuff, plate, jewels, brass and pewter, and also retain in their hands the foresaid hundred marks in money towards the payment of my debts and performance of this my last will;

Also I will the rest of the money coming of the sale of my foresaid lands and tenements in Fransham or elsewhere in the county of Norfolk, my debts paid and this my will performed, go and be divided to the use of my children John, William, Francis, Elizabeth and Nicholas equally by the advice of my brethren Henry Mynne, clerk, and John Mynne, whom I make and ordain mine executors and will and authorize them to make sale of my said lands and tenements;

And my uncle Skinner of Reigate in the county of Surrey to be overseer of this my present testament;

In witness whereof I to this my last will & testament have subscribed my name and set to my seal the day and year abovesaid in the presence of Thomas Yanesse(?), clerk, Henry Mynne, Richard More and John Wyskard.

Probatum fuit testamentu{m} suprascripti defuncti Coram prefatis Com{m}issarijs in eccle{es}ia Cath{edrali} diui Pauli London ix die mensis Iulij Anno D{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingen{tes}imo xxviiio Iurament{o} Ioannis Mynne executoris in h{uius}mo{d}i test{ament}o no{m}i{n}at{e} Ac approbatum & insinuatum Et com{m}issa fuit admi{n}istracio auc{torita}te prefatoru{m} R{euerendissi}mor{um} patru{m} o{mn}i{u}m & singulorum bonoru{m} Iuriu{m} & creditoru{m} d{i}c{t}i defuncti prefat{e} executori De b{e}n{e} & fidel{ite}r admi{n}strand{o} Ac de pleno & fideli In{uenta}rio secundo die post festum Com{m}emorac{ionis} A{n}i{m}arum prox{imum} futur{um} exhi{ben}d{o} Necnon de plano & vero compoto reddend{o} Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{e} Reseruat{a} p{otes}tate alteri executori in

h{uius}mod{i} test{ament}o nom{i{n}at{o} cum venerit &c Quarto die mensis
Nouembris Anno D{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingen{tesi}mo xxviiio Com{m}issa fuit
consimilis admi{ni}stracio Henrico Mynne executori eciam in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento
no{m}i{n}at{o} Iurat{o}

[=The testament of the above-written deceased was proved before the forenamed Commissioners in the Cathedral Church of Saint Paul, London, on the 9th day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 28th by the oath of Joan Mynne, executrix named in the same testament, and probated & entered, and administration was granted by the authority of the forenamed Most Reverend Fathers of all & singular the goods, rights & credits of the said deceased to the forenamed executrix, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well & faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full & faithful inventory on the second day after the feast of the Commemoration of All Souls next to come, and also to render a plain & true account, with power reserved to the other executor named in the same testament when he shall have come etc. On the fourth day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 28th a similar grant of administration issued to Henry Mynne, executor also named in the same testament, sworn.]