

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the nuncupative will, dated 15 March 1539 and proved 29 March 1539, of Sir Thomas Bedingfield. The testator was the eldest son and heir of Sir Edmund Bedingfield (1443-1496), who fought under John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th 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 13th Earl of Oxford, among others. Sir Edmund Bedingfield (1443-1496) was twice married. By his first wife, Alice Shelton (d. about 1478), Sir Edmund Bedingfield (1443-1496) had one daughter, Margaret (b. about 1476, d. 24 March 1504), who married Sir Edward Jerningham (d.1515) of Somerleyton. For the will of Sir 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), 12th Earl of Oxford. Sir Edmund Bedingfield (1443-1496) and Margaret Scott had four sons, Thomas (d.1539), Robert (d.1540), Peter, and Edmund (1479/80–1553).

The testator was the grandson of Thomas Bedingfield (d.1453) and Anne (d.1453), the daughter of John de Waldegrave. His great-grandparents were 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.

The testator's first wife was Margaret Clifford. His second wife was Alice London (1490-1559), the widow of Edmund Rokewood. He left no children by either marriage. After the death of the testator, his widow, Alice, married Thomas Burgh (b. about 1481, d. 28 February 1549/50), 3rd Baron Burgh of Gainsborough, Lincolnshire.

The testator 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).

For information in the foregoing paragraphs, see the entries for members of the Bedingfield family, Sir John Scott, and Sir Thomas Tuddenham 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 Edmund Bedingfield (1443-1496), see TNA PROB 11/11, f. 64. 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.

LM: Testamentum Thome Bedingfeld militis

This is the nuncupative will and testament of Sir Thomas Bedingfield of Oxburgh in the county of Norfolk, knight, taken with such fervent disease by the visitation of Almighty God that he lacked leisure and space to make his last will and testament in writing, upon the which disease he died the Saturday the 15th day of March the year of Our Lord God 1538 and in the thirty year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord Henry the Eight by the grace of God King of England and of France, Defender of the Faith, Lord of Ireland, and Supreme Head in earth of the Church of England;

And the said day, a little time before his decease, divers of his friends and kinsfolks being with him, perceiving him like to depart shortly out of this transitory life, amongst whom there was John Garnyshe [=Garneys?], esquire, who demanded of him who should have his goods, chattels and debts, and he, being whole of mind and good remembrance, said, 'My bedfellow', reserving certain things;

And then the said John Garnyshe demanded of the said Sir Thomas, 'Who shall be your executors?', and he answered and said, 'My bedfellow', meaning Dame Alice, his wife;

And thereupon the said Sir John Garnyshe desired Sir Edmund Bedingfield, knight, brother of the said Sir Thomas, then being in the chamber where the said Sir Thomas deceased, that he would come near to the said Sir Thomas and hear what he should say;

And thereupon the said John Garnyshe in the presence of the said Sir Edmund, demanded of the said Sir Thomas to whom he would give his goods, chattels and debts, and he answered, 'To my bedfellow', reserving certain things;

And then the said John Garnyshe demanded of him who should be his executors, and the said Sir Thomas answered and said, 'My bedfellow', meaning the said Dame Alice, his wife;

And then the said John Garnyshe said to him these words, 'And not I?', and the said Sir Thomas said 'No, except ought come to my wife'.

Teste Edmund Bedingfield, knight. By me, John Garnyshe, Gertrude Giry. Teste me, Iacobo Cole capellano. By me, William Est.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum Coram prefato Magistro Willelmo Petre Legum Doctore &c Apud London xxix die mensis Marcij Anno Domini Millesimo

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Quingentesimo tricesimo nono Iuramento Willelmi Brame procuratoris Domine Alicie Relicte et executricis in huiusmodi testamento nominate Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et commissa fuit administracio omnium bonorum &c prefate executrici De bene etc Ac de pleno et fideli Inuentario etc conficiendo Necnon de plano et vero compoto reddendo Ad sancta dei Euangelia in persona dicti procuratoris Iurati

[=The above-written testament was proved before Master William Petre, Doctor of the Laws etc., at London on the 29th day of the month of March in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred thirty-ninth by the oath of William Brame, proctor of the Lady Alice, relict and executrix named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all the goods etc. to the forenamed executrix, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., and to prepare a full and faithful inventory, and also to render a plain and true account, in the person of the said proctor.]