

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 26 June 1539 and proved 5 July 1541, of Sir William Kingston (d. 14 September 1540), brother-in-law of Elizabeth de Vere (d.1537), Countess of Oxford, the second wife of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford. For the testator's relationship by marriage to the Countess, see Norcliffe, Charles Best, ed., *The Visitation of Yorkshire in the Years 1563 and 1564 Made by William Flower*, Vol. 16, (London: Harleian Society, 1881), p. 280, available online. In her will, the Countess leaves these bequests to her sister, Mary, and to her brother-in-law, Sir William Kingston:

Item, I give and bequeath to my brother, Sir William Kingston, knight, my Jesus of diamonds set in gold with 3 great pearls hanging at the same, also my 2 flagons of silver having my Lord of Oxenford's arms in them.

Item, I give and bequeath to my sister, Dame Mary, his wife, a basin and an ewer of silver chased gilt of the newest making afore the chance of fire, weighing 92 ounces; my goblet of gold graven with crankettes and mullets, weighing 13 ounces 1 quarter; and also my book of gold set with pearl.

Item, I give and bequeath to my sister, Dame Mary Kingston, and to my sister, Jane Brewes, all my samplers, evenly to be divided between them, and I will my said sister Kingston to have the choice.

For the will of the Countess, see TNA PROB 11/27/144.

In the will below, the testator leaves the 'Jesus of diamonds' which had been bequeathed to him by his sister-in-law, the Countess of Oxford, to the overseer of his will, Thomas Cromwell, (executed 28 July 1540), Lord Privy Seal:

Item, I make and ordain my Lord Privy Seal to be overseer of this my said will, and for his pains to be taken therein I bequeath to him a Jesus of diamonds which the late Countess of Oxford gave me.

According to the *ODNB*, the testator's family background is uncertain. The testator's brother, George Kingston, mentioned in the will below, has been identified as the George Kingston who died circa 1545 seised of the manor of Rothley, Leicestershire, and who married Mary Skeffington, the daughter of Sir William Skeffington (d.1535). See Nichols, John Gough, ed., *The Literary Remains of John Stockdale Hardy*, (Westminster: John Bowyer Nichols and Son, 1852), p. 422 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=7-gxAQAIAAJ&pg=PA422&lpg=PA422&dq=%22Sir+William+Kingston%22+%22George+Kingston%22&source=bl&ots=zJ-FjSrKlj&sig=1ZVEBdzoCAWP2i0XFM7QfZh2xc&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CCQQ6AEwAWoVChMIyamkmquLxgIVgpSICH2YuQB_#v=onepage&q=%22Sir%20William%20Kingston%22%20%22George%20Kingston%22&f=false

See also:

<http://www.leicestershirevillages.com/rothley/18147.html>.

According to the History of Parliament, the testator married three times. See:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/kingston-sir-william-1476-1540>.

According to Richardson, however, the testator married only twice. His first wife was Anne Berkeley, the widow of Sir John Gyse or Guise (d. 30 September 1501), and daughter of Sir William Berkeley (d.1501) of Weoley (in Northfield), Worcestershire, by Anne Stafford, daughter of Sir Humphrey Stafford of Grafton, Worcestershire, slain by Jack Cade 7 June 1450. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 117-19, Vol. II, pp. 37-8, 378.

By Anne Berkeley the testator had a son and a daughter.

The testator's son, Sir Anthony Kingston (d. 14 April 1556), married firstly, Dorothy Harpur, the daughter of Robert Harpur, whom he divorced, and who married Sir Richard Egerton (d.1579) of Ridley, son of Sir Ralph Egerton (see TNA C 1/739/38). Dorothy Harpur's second husband, Sir Richard Egerton (d.1579) was the father of Lord Chancellor Egerton, who married Elizabeth More, widow of Oxford's trustee, Sir John Wolley (d.1596). From the *ODNB*:

Egerton, Thomas, first Viscount Brackley (1540–1617), lord chancellor, was born on 23 January 1540, the illegitimate son of Sir Richard Egerton, landowner, of Ridley, Cheshire, and a servant girl called Alice Sparke.

In 1597 Egerton married as his second wife Elizabeth (d. 1600), daughter of Sir William More of Loseley, Surrey, and his wife, Margaret, and widow of Sir John Wolley, Latin secretary and clerk of the pipe, and of Richard Polsted.

Sir Anthony Kingston married secondly Mary Gainsford, widow of Sir William Courtenay (d. 24 November 1535) of Powderham, Devon, and daughter of Sir John Gainsford (d. 28 October 1540) of Crowhurst, Surrey, by his second wife, Anne Haute (1473-1508), the daughter of Richard Haute. See the *ODNB* article on Sir Anthony Kingston, the inquisition post mortem taken after his death, TNA C 142/107/50, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/kingston-anthony-1512-56>.

See also the entry for Mary Gainsford at:

<http://www.kateemersonhistoricals.com/TudorWomenG.htm>

See also the will of Sir John Gainsford, TNA PROB 11/28/264, and French, G.R., 'A Brief Account of Crowhurst Church, Surrey, and its Monuments', *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, (London: Lovell Reeve & Co, 1865), Vol. III, pp. 39-62 at p. 60:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=B6VCAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA60&lpg=PA60&dq=%22sir+john+gainsford%22+%22audrey%22&source=bl&ots=Cw-hoGCjz-&sig=HF0NyTaA-ErzNdsY4cfUKWuSbVU&hl=en&sa=X&ei=QOKsUpuSKIrgyQGx94GoBA&ved=0CDcQ6AEwAw#v=onepage&q=%22sir%20john%20gainsford%22%20%22audrey%22&f=false>.

The testator's daughter, Bridget Kingston, married Sir George Baynham of Clearwell, Gloucestershire, son and heir of Sir Christopher Baynham (d. 22 June 1540). See the inquisition post mortem taken after the death of Sir Christopher Baynham's grandson, Christopher Baynham (d. 6 October 1557), TNA C 142/113/49; the petition of the testator's granddaughter, Frances Baynham Jerningham (d.1583), TNA C 1/1015/49; the will of Sir George Baynham, TNA PROB 11/32/282; and Maclean, John, ed., 'The History of the Manors of Dene Magna and Abenhall' in *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society for 1881-82*, Vol. VI, (Bristol, C.T. Jefferies), pp. 123-209 at pp. 149-151 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/transactionsbris06bris#page/150/mode/2up>.

The testator is also said to have had another daughter, Margaret Kingston, who married the testator's ward, Sir John St Loe. See the two History of Parliament entries at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/st-loe-sir-john-15001-59>.

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/st-loe-%28seyntlowe%29-sir-john-1501-59>.

As Emerson points out, however, in her entry for Sir John St Loe's daughter, Elizabeth, it is unclear whether Margaret Kingston was Sir John St Loe's wife, or the mother of his children:

<http://www.kateemersonhistoricals.com/TudorWomenSa-Sn.htm>

Sources disagree on her mother's identity. Sir John St. Loe married a woman named Margaret who was still living in 1559. The History of Parliament (which gives Sir John's life dates as 1500/1-1559) says she was Margaret Kingston, daughter of Sir William Kingston, whose ward St. Loe had been. Other sources give her surname as Poyntz or FitzNicholas (the latter from Charles Herbert Mayo in Notes and Queries for Somerset and Dorset, citing the Chew Magna Register).

There is other evidence which suggests that the Margaret to whom Sir John St Loe was married when he made his will on 2 August 1551 was not the testator's daughter. The fact that Sir John St Loe refers to her in the will as 'Margaret, now my well-beloved wife', and mentions 'my brother [=brother-in-law?] Sydenham in London', suggest that Margaret was Sir John St Loe's second wife, and that her maiden name may have been Sydenham. Moreover although the testator leaves a silver cup to Sir John St Loe in the will below, he makes no mention of St Loe's wife, an omission which is difficult to explain if the testator's daughter was the Margaret St Loe living in 1559. It is also significant that when the testator's son, Sir Anthony Kingston, died in 1556, his heir was his niece, Frances Baynham Jerningham (d.1583), the daughter of his deceased sister, Bridget Kingston (d. before 1528). Had Sir Anthony Kingston had another sister, Margaret (nee Kingston) St Loe, still living in 1556, she would have been his heir, rather than his niece, Frances.

The likeliest explanation appears to be that if the testator did have a daughter whom he married to his ward, Sir John St Loe, she predeceased the testator, leaving no surviving issue, since had she left surviving issue they would have been co-heirs in 1556 of Sir Anthony Kingston, together with Frances Baynham Jerningham.

For further discussion see also:

<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/GEN-MEDIEVAL/2013-11/1385446913>

The testator married secondly Mary (nee Scrope), the widow of Edward Jerningham (d. 6 January 1515) of Somerleyton, Suffolk. By her first marriage Mary (nee Scrope) Jerningham is said to have had four sons, Sir Henry Jerningham (d. 6 September 1572), Ferdinand, Edmund (d. 9 February 1546) and Edward, born after the death of his father, and a daughter, Elizabeth, said to have been a maid of honour to Queen Mary. The testator had no issue by his third marriage. For the will of Edward Jerningham (d. 6 January 1515), see TNA PROB 11/18/104. For the will of Mary (nee Scrope) Jerningham Kingston (d. 25 August 1548), see TNA PROB 11/32/320. For the will of Sir Henry Jerningham (d. 6 September 1572), see TNA PROB 11/55/240.

In the will below the testator leaves bequests to two of his stepsons, Henry Jerningham and Edmund Jerningham:

Item, I bequeath to my son-in-law, Henry Jerningham, twenty pound in money, a gown of black satin furred with sables which the King's Grace gave me.

Item, I bequeath to my son-in-law, Edmund Jerningham, twenty pound in money, and also my gown of tawny velvet lined with tawny taffeta.

According to the *ODNB*, the testator had earlier obtained the wardship of his stepson Edmund Jerningham:

[Sir William Kingston] was granted a number of wardships, including that of Edmund Jerningham, his wife's son from her first marriage.

Edmund Jerningham was also left a bequest in the will of Elizabeth de Vere (d.1537), Countess of Oxford:

Item, I give and bequeath unto my nephew, Edmund Jerningham, a goblet of silver and gilt with a cover, weighing 15 ounces di{midium}, the goblet pounced like pens, having my Lord Beaumont's arms and mine in the top of the cover, and also I give him fifty pounds in ready money.

Another source states that Edmund Jerningham was a gentleman of the bedchamber to King Henry VIII, and died 9 February 1546. See his inquisition post mortem, TNA C 142/75/1, and Betham, William, *The Baronetage of England*, (Ipswich: Burrell and Bransby, 1801), Vol. I, p. 227, available online.

In the will below the testator appoints three executors: his wife, Mary, Sir Anthony Browne (c.1500-1548), and Browne's half-brother, William Fitzwilliam (c.1490-1542), Earl of Southampton. For Browne and Fitzwilliam, see the entries in the *ODNB*. The testator's relationship to Sir Anthony Browne (c.1500-1548) may have been partly the result of Browne's marriage by 1528 to Alice Gage (d. March 1540), the daughter of Sir John Gage (1479-1556) of Firle, since the testator's daughter, Bridget Kingston, married Sir George Baynham, who after her death circa 1527 married Cicely Gage (d.1585), the daughter of Sir John Gage (1479-1556) of Firle. The testator's granddaughter, Frances Baynham (d.1583), the daughter of Sir George Baynham and his first wife, Bridget Kingston, married the testator's stepson, Sir Henry Jerningham (d. 6 September 1572). See the entry for Henry Jerningham (d. 6 September 1572) in the *ODNB*; the will of Cicely Gage Baynham Herbert, TNA PROB 11/68/452; the pedigree of the family of Gage in Questier, Michael C., *Catholicism and Community in Early Modern England* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006), p. 524; and Maclean, *supra*.

The eldest son and heir of the testator's executor, Sir Anthony Browne (c.1500-1548) and his wife, Alice Gage (d. March 1540), was Anthony Browne, Viscount Montagu (1528–1592), the maternal grandfather of Shakespeare's dedicatee, Henry Wriothesley (1573-1624), 3rd Earl of Southampton.

For the testator's leases of premises in the Blackfriars dated 20 December 1536 and 6 May 1540, see TNA E 303/9/180 and TNA E 315/212, ff. 134v-135r.

For the testator's manor of Wishanger, see 'Miserden: Manors and other estates', *A History of the County of Gloucester: Volume 11: Bisley and Longtree Hundreds* (1976), pp. 49-52. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=19034>.

For the testator's manor of Bidfield, see 'Bisley: Manors and other estates', *A History of the County of Gloucester: Volume 11: Bisley and Longtree Hundreds* (1976), pp. 11-20. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=19017>.

RM: T{estamentum} d{omi}ni Will{el}mi Kingeston milit{is}

In the name of God. I, Sir William Kingston, Knight of the right honourable Order of the Garter, the 26th day of June in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred thirty and nine and in the 31st year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Henry the 8th, being in good health and perfect remembrance, thanks be to Our Lord God, revoking and annulling all wills and testaments by me afore this time made, do make and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form as hereafter doth follow and ensue:

Inprimis, I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God, my Maker and Redeemer, and to Our Lady Saint Mary the Virgin, and to all the whole company of heaven, and my body to be buried in the next parish church to the place where it shall please Almighty God to take me to his mercy out of this transitory life;

Item, I bequeath to the parson of the church of Wanstead in the county of Essex twenty shillings for my tithes there forgotten;

Also I bequeath to the vicar of Painswick in the county of Gloucester for like cause twenty shillings;

Item, I bequeath to Sir John Dauntsey, knight, a cup of silver and gilt of the value of four pound;

Also I bequeath to Sir John Seyntloo [=St Loe], knight, a cup of silver and gilt to the value of five pound;

Also I bequeath to my son, Anthony Kingston, 6 great bowls of silver and gilt with one cover, and two flagons of silver and gilt, the which the French King gave me;

Item, I bequeath to my said son my roaned horse which I lately bought, and also a gown of black satin furred with sables, the which the late Bishop of Karber(?) gave unto me, and a gown of black velvet lined with satin bordered with silk and gold, and a jacket of crimson velvet, and also all my harness provided for my body;

Item, I bequeath to my son-in-law, Henry Jerningham, twenty pound in money, a gown of black satin furred with sables which the King's Grace gave me;

Item, I bequeath to my son-in-law, Edmund Jerningham, twenty pound in money, and also my gown of tawny velvet lined with tawny taffeta;

Item, I bequeath to Thomas Gyes [=Guise] a jacket of black velvet bordered with 6 threads of gold, and also a cup of silver of the value of four pound;

Item, I bequeath to John Gyes th' elder a cup of silver to the value of four pound;

Item, I bequeath to all and every my servants, the which have served me above twenty years their whole year's wages, and to all other my servants, being serving-men, their half year's wages;

Item, I bequeath to my brother, George Kingston, toward the marriage of his daughters, forty pound in money;

Also I bequeath to Bartilmewe [=Bartholomew] Kingston five marks in money;

Item, I bequeath to Richard Crumwell [=Cromwell], esquire, a cup of silver to the value of five pound;

Item, I will that Mary, my wife, shall have the full and whole occupation and profits coming and growing of my farm at Bidfield in the county of Gloucester, the which I have taken of the King's Grace for term of years yet during, and also all the stock of sheep being on the said farm, to her own use during her natural life, and after her decease I will that all the said sheep and stock of sheep shall wholly remain unto my said son, Anthony Kingston, provided always and my full mind and intent is that if my said son fortune to decease, living my said wife, then she shall have all the said farm and stock of sheep to her own use and to dispose it at her pleasure;

Item, I will that my said son, Anthony Kingston, shall have all my interest and term of years which I have in the farm of Wishanger in the said county of Gloucester, together with the same stock of sheep being on the said farm;

And whereas my said wife hath an estate made to her for term of her life of and in the manor of Clopton and Russhe in the county of Berkshire which I purchased of Leonard Rede, esquire, the reversion thereof after her decease belonging to me and to mine heirs, I will and my full mind is that if the said Leonard Rede do content and pay or cause to be contented and paid nine hundred and forty marks sterling for the redemption of the said manor of Clopton and Rushe according to the indentures between me and the said Leonard afore this time made, that then such person or persons to whom the said money shall be paid within three years next after the payment of the said money shall therewith purchase as much other manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments as they can conveniently buy and purchase with the said money, and shall cause a sufficient and sure estate thereof to be made to my said wife for term of her life in recompense of the said manor of Clopton and Russhe, and after her decease all the same to remain to my right heirs;

And my further mind and will is that if the said person or persons to whom the said money shall be paid as is afore-rehearsed do not purchase the said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments within the said three years, then I will that all the said nine hundred forty marks shall be distributed and disposed in manner and form following, that is to say, that my said wife have three hundred marks, parcel of the said sum of nine

hundred forty marks, to her own use, and my said son, Anthony, to have three hundred forty marks, also parcel of the said sum, and three hundred marks, residue of the said sum of nine hundred forty mark, I will that Francis Baynarde shall have for his preferment;

And all the residue of my goods and chattels, as well such as be movable as such which be unmovable, after that my debts be paid, my funerals finished, I freely give and bequeath to my said wife;

And further I make and ordain my said wife and the right honourable Earl of Southampton and Sir Anthony Browne, knight, mine executors, and I bequeath to the said Earl of Southampton for his pains to be taken about the execution of this my said will a cup of silver and gilt with a cover of the value of five pound, and also [f. 252v] five pounds in money, and to the said Sir Anthony Browne for like cause a cup of silver and gilt of the value of four pounds sterling, and also five pound sterling;

Item, I make and ordain my Lord Privy Seal to be overseer of this my said will, and for his pains to be taken therein I bequeath to him a Jesus of diamonds which the late Countess of Oxford gave me;

In witness of all which premises I, the said Sir William Kingston, to this my present will and testament have subscribed my name. William Kingston.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum Testamentum coram Domino apud London quinto die mensis Iulij Anno Dominj Mill^{es}imo quingentesimo quadragesimo primo Ac approbatum et insinuatum etc Et comissa fuit administrac^{io} omⁿi^{um} et singulorum bonorum Iurium et creditorum dicti defuncti Rel^{ic}t^e et Executric^{is} in h^{uius}mo^di testamento nominat^e de bene et fidel^{ite}r administrand^o eadem Ac de pleno et fidei Inventario omⁿi^{um} et singulorum bonorum h^{uius}mo^di conficiend^o citra festum secund^{um} animar^{um} prox^{imum} futur^{um} exhibend^o Necnon de planoque^{ue} vero comp^{ot}o reddend^o Ad sancta dei Eu^angelia iurat^e Res^{er}uat^a potestate alteris Executoribus cum venerint

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord [+Archbishop] at London on the fifth day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred forty-first, and probated and entered etc., and administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased to the relict and executrix named in the same testament, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to prepare a full and faithful inventory of all and singular the goods of the same, and to exhibit [+it] before the second feast of All Saints(?) next to come, and also to render a true and plain account, with power reserved to the other executors when they shall have come etc.]