

SUMMARY: The document below is the will, dated 12 May 1542, of John Holland, one of the household chaplains to John de Vere, 16th Earl of Oxford (d.1562). The testator bequeaths 12 silver spoons to the Earl, and his featherbed to the Earl's sister, Elizabeth (d.1565), the wife of Thomas, 1st Lord Darcy of Chiche (d.1561). The Adam Wintrap mentioned in the will would appear to be Adam Winthrop (1498-1562) of Lavenham, citizen and cloth-worker of London. The testator's executor, Thomas Alcott, is mentioned in the 16th Earl of Oxford's 1552 will as one of the 'gentlemen waiting upon the said Earl' (see BL MS Stowe 633-4).

RM: Testamentum Iohannis Holand Clerici

In the name of the God, Amen. The 12th day of May in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred forty and two, I, Sir John Holland, clerk, one of the household chaplains of the right honourable Lord John de Vere, Earl of Oxenford, parson of Shenfield within the diocese of London and also of Wolverton within the diocese of Norwich, being of whole mind and perfect remembrance, Our Lord therefore be thanked, do ordain and make this my last will and testament in manner and form hereafter following:

First, I bequeath and commend my soul to Almighty God, who of his infinite mercy hath redeemed the same, and my body to be buried in the church of such parish as it shall please God to call me out of this present life;

Item, I humbly beseech my said good lord and master, my Lord of Oxenford, to take of my poor gift 12 silver spoons;

Item, I give and bequeath to my good Lady Elizabeth Darcy the featherbed that I lie on with the bolster, the bedstead, one pair of blankets and the tester over the same;

Item, I bequeath unto Master Henry Cardegan my bows with their case, my quiver and all my shafts, with my bracer and my shooting-gloves;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Thomas Holland, now being prentice with Master Adam Wyntrap [=Winthrop?], citizen of London, eight pounds which I will shall be delivered unto him immediately after that the years of his apprenticeship shall expire;

And in case the same Thomas Holland shall fortune to decease within the term of such years as he is bound to serve in his said apprenticeship, then I will that my cousin Richard Holland of London shall have the said £8 to his own use, which sum of eight pounds I will that mine executor with as convenient speed as may be after my decease shall deliver to the said Mr Adam Wyntrap, by him to be occupied, if it shall please him to be bound sufficiently, that as well the said £8 as also the profits coming of the same

shall come and be to th' use of the said Thomas Holland and Richard Holland as afore is remembered;

Item, I bequeath unto my cousin, William Huxley, one of the King's serjeants-at-arms, my black gelding;

Item, I bequeath to Lewis ap Evan, my servant, for his pains taken with me, 40s and my grey gelding;

Item, I will that Alice Marys, the wife of Thomas Marys, shall have all my sheep at Wolverton, to be delivered in such convenient time as to mine executor shall seem best;

Item, I bequeath to Sir James (blank) my gown furred with cony;

Item, I bequeath to Mr Johns [=Jones?] all such books as been in my chamber where I lie;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my brother, Thomas Holland, all such sums of money as he oweth unto me, and of the same do clearly acquit and discharge him against me and mine executor forever;

Moreover I give and bequeath unto my said brother of such my stuff as remaineth at Shenfield these parcels following, that is to say, two plain table-cloths, nine plain napkins, three plain towels, two hand-towels, four pair and one of cushions(?), two pillows, five pillow-beres, the worst of my featherbeds there, two mattresses, two of my worst bolsters, two of worst coverings, four woollen blankets, 11 pewter dishes, 12 platters, 9 saucers, one charger, one hand basin, one pottle pot of pewter, one cruse of pewter, two of my best brass pots, one chafer of brass, two little posnets, 7 candlesticks, one dripping-pan, one chafing-dish, one ladle of latten, one mortar of latten with the pestle, two spits, one pair of cob-irons, one pair of brand-irons, two pair of patchots(?), two pair of tongs, one fire-shovel, one gridiron, one toasting-iron;

Item, I bequeath to Mr Humphrey Tyrrell my basin with the ewer of pewter, and two white candlesticks;

The residue of all my goods not bequeathed, I will that mine executor shall have to order and bestow for the wealth of my soul and all Christian souls as to him shall seem best according to this my last will and testament, the sole executor whereof I ordain and make my friend Thomas Almott, gentleman, servant to my said good Lord.

Witnesses hereof: John Tyrrell, esquire; Master (blank) Johns [=Jones?], clerk; Mr (blank) Beaumonte [=Beaumont?]; Thomas Almott; Lewis ap Evan, with other.

Probatum fuit Testamentum coram domino apud London xiiijo die mensis Iulij Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo quadragesimo secundo Iuramento Iohannis Myldenall

literati procuratoris Thome Almot executoris in huiusmodi testamento nominati Ac approbatum et insinuatam Commissaque fuit administratio omnium et singulorum bonorum iurium et creditorum dicti defuncti prefato executori De bene &c Ac de pleno et fideli Inuentario &c conficiendo Necnon de plano et vero compoto reddendo Ad sancta dei Euangelia in persona dicti procuratoris. Iurato

[=The testament was proved before the Lord [+Archbishop?] at London on the thirteenth day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred forty-second by the oath of John Mildenhall(?), learned(?) proctor of Thomas Almott, the executor named in the same testament, and probated and registered, and administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased to the forenamed executor, sworn on the Holy Gospels in the person of the said proctor to well etc., and to prepare a full and true inventory, and also to render a plain and true account.]