

SUMMARY: The first document below is the brief and undated last will and testament of Oxford's maternal grandfather, John Golding. It is followed by a probatum clause indicating that the will was probated on 20 July 1548, and that administration was granted to John Golding's second wife, Ursula (nee Marston). No mention is made in the probatum clause of the second executor appointed in the will, the testator's son John. The probatum clause is followed by a note stating that on 8 June 1549, Ursula Golding renounced administration of the will, and that with her consent administration was granted to Thomas Golding, esquire, John Golding's eldest son and heir by his first marriage, as though John Golding had died intestate. This note is followed by the undated judicial sentence by which the court had earlier granted administration to Ursula Golding. It appears from the judicial sentence that after John Golding's death, his eldest son and heir by his first marriage, Thomas Golding, contested both the validity of the will and his stepmother's appointment as executrix. Thomas Golding's challenge was unsuccessful, and the court ruled in Ursula Golding's favour. However, as noted above, on 8 June 1549, Ursula Golding renounced administration, and consented to administration of John Golding's estate being entrusted to his eldest son and heir, Thomas Golding, as though John Golding had made no will, and had died intestate. Her reasons for taking this step are not indicated in the surviving documents.

In his will, the testator states that he has ten children, but names only two of them, John and Thomas. According to Louis Thorn Golding in *An Elizabethan Puritan* (New York: Richard R. Smith, 1937), pp. 14-16, John Golding had four children by his first wife, Elizabeth (nee Towe), the widow of Reginald Hammond: Sir Thomas, William, Margery and Elizabeth; and seven children by his second wife, Ursula (nee Marston): Henry, Arthur, George, Edmund, Mary, Dorothy and Frances. Sir Thomas Golding (d.1571) married Elizabeth (d.1595), the daughter and co-heiress of Thomas Roydon of Peckham, Kent, and widow of William Twysden, esquire. For her will, see PROB 11/87, ff. 247-9. William Golding (d.1588) married Elizabeth, daughter of Edmond West of Cornard, Suffolk, and widow of John Bukenham, esquire. For his will, see PROB 11/72, f. 124. Margery Golding (d.1568) married Oxford's father, the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl. Elizabeth Golding married Roger Wingfield of Dunham Magna, Norfolk; their son, John Wingfield, married Elizabeth Foster. Henry Golding (d.1575) married Alice, the daughter of Clovell of Hanningfield, Essex, and widow of George Foster (d.1556); for her will, see PROB 11/70, ff. 154-7. George Golding (d.1584) married Mary Bartlett (d.1612); for her will, see PROB 11/119, ff. 304-5. Arthur Golding (d.1606) married Ursula Roydon (d.1610), the daughter of John Roydon of Chilham, Kent. Edmund Golding (d.1572), rector of Birdbrook, Essex, married a wife named Sara, about whom nothing further is known. Mary Golding married Anthony Beeke of Reading. Dorothy Golding married Edmund Docwra of Thatcham, Berkshire; they were the parents of Sir Henry Docwra (1564-1631), 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Docwra of Culmore. Frances Golding married Matthew Bacon of Shelfanger, Norfolk. According to Louis Thorn Golding, only Arthur Golding (d.1606) left male heirs.

RM: Testamentum Iohannis Goldinge

In dei nomine, Amen. I, John Golding, give to my wife all my silver plate, and to my ten children the whole profits that shall come for lease of the tenements and lands of Saint Paul's church in London, and the residue of my goods to my said ten children and my wife to be divided, thone half to my wife, the other to the ten children. I make my wife and my son John my executors, and Mr Daniel supervisor thereof, and give to him forty shillings. Item, ye purchased lands in Belchamp to Thomas Golding.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum Testamentum Coram Domino Cantuariensis Archiepiscopo apud London vicesimo die mensis Iulij Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo quadragésimo octauo Iuramento testium in ea parte examinatorum ac dauid Clapham procuratoris Vrsule goldinge relicte et executricis in huiusmodi testamento nominate cui Commissa fuit administracio omnium bonorum dicti defuncti De bene et fideliter administrando eadem Ac de pleno Inuentario exhibendo Ad sancta dei Evangelia Iurate

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the twentieth day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred forty-eighth by the oath of witnesses in that regard examined and David Clapham, proxy of Ursula Golding, relict and executrix appointed in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all the goods of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to exhibit a full inventory.]

Octauo die mensis Iunij Anno Domini Millesimo Quingentesimo quadragésimo nono Dicta Vrsula renunciauit oneri execucionis dicti testamenti Deinde eodem die commissa fuit administracio omnium et singulorum bonorum dicti defuncti de et cum consensu ipsius Vrsule Thome Goldinge Armigero filio ipsius defuncti ad viam intestati et De bene et fideliter administrando eadem Ac de Pleno et fideli Inuentario exhibendo Necnon de Plano compoto reddendo Ad sancta dei Evangelia Iurato

[=On the eighth day of the month of June in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred forty-ninth the said Ursula renounced the burden of the execution of the said testament, and thereafter on the same day administration was granted of all and singular the goods of the said deceased by and with the consent of the same Ursula to Thomas Golding, esquire, son of the same deceased, by way of intestacy, and sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to exhibit a full and true inventory, and also to render a plain account.]

1 In dei nomine amen Auditis visis et intellectis ac plenarie et mature discussis per nos Willelmum

2 Cooke legum doctorem Curie Prerogatiue Commissarium per Reuerendissimum in Xpo patrem et dominum domini Thomam Cantuariensis Archiepiscopum

3 tocius Anglie primatum et metropolitanum auctoritate Illustrissimi in Xpo principis et Domini nostri domini Edwardi Sexti dei gracia

4 Anglie francie et hibernie Regis fidei defensoris ac in terra ecclesie Anglicane et hibernie supremi capitis legitime ffulcitur meritis

5 et circumstancijs cuiusdam cause testamentarie siue approbacionis testamenti et vltime voluntatis Iohannis Goldinge Londoniensis

6 diocesis cantuariensisque prouincie defuncti habentis dum vixit et mortis sue tempore bona iura siue credita in diuersis diocesis dicte prouincie Cantuariensis

7 alias ex parte Vrsule Goldinge relicte et executricis testamenti dicti defuncti coram nobis in hac parte exhibiti que coram

8 nobis inter Henricum Goldynge filium naturalem et legitimum ipsius defuncti partem officium nostrum promouentem et dictum testamentum

9 per testes probari petentem ex vna parte et eandem Vrsulam executricem huiusmodi dictum Testamentum per testes probare

10 conantem Necnon quendam Thomam Goldynge filium etiam naturalem et legitime eiusdem defuncti pro suo interesse in hac parte

11 interuenientem et testamentum huiusmodi impugnantem ex altera parte aliquam diu vertebatur vertiturque ad huc et

12 pendet indecisum rite et legitime procedentes partibus predictis per earum Procuratores coram nobis in iudicio legitime comparentibus

13 partibusque dictorum Henrici et Vrsule Sentenciam ferri et Iusticiam fieri pro parte sua parte vero memorati Thome Goldinge

14 Iusticiam pro parte sua instanter Postulantibus Rimatoque primitus per nos toto et integro processu in huiusmodi causa habito et

15 facto atque diligenter recensitis seruatisque per nos de iure in hac parte seruandis ad nostre sentencie diffinitive siue nostri finalis decreti in

16 dicta causa ferendam prolacionem sic duximus procedendum et procedimus in hunc qui sequitur modum Quia per acta inac

17 titata deducta allegata Proposita exhibita probata et consensata comperimus et Luculenter invenimus partem Prefate

18 Vrsule Goldynge intencionem suam in hac parte coram nobis in quadam allegacione par partem dicte goldinge executricis

19 antedicta data et allegata cuius quidem allegacionis tenor sequitur et est talis Quibus die et Loco Clapham exhibuit

20 Procuratorum suum apud registrum existens Pro Vrsula Goldinge et fecit septem Pro eadem etcetera quam allegacionem pro

21 hic lecto et inserto habemus et haberi volumus sufficienter et ad plenum fundasse pariter et probasse nichilque effectuale ex parte

22 aut per pertem [sic?] antedicti Thome Goldinge in hac parte exceptum deductum allegatum exhibitum propositum aut Probatum quod

23 intencionem dicte Vrsule in hac Parte elideret seu quomodolibet enaruaret [sic?] Idcirco nos Willelmus Cooke legum Doctor

24 Comissarius antedictus Xpi nomine primitus invocato ac ipsum solum deum oculis nostris preponentes de et cum Consilio iurisperitorum

25 cum quibus in hac parte communicauimus pro viribus et valore eiusdem Testamenti dicti Iohannis Goldynge defuncti coram nobis

26 exhibiti in hac curia ipsumque Iohannem Goldynge defunctum Testamentum suum huiusmodi rite et legitime constituisse condidisse et

27 ordinasse Atque eandem Vrsulam Goldinge eius vxorem testamenti sui huiusmodi executricem sufficienter et legitime

28 constituisse nominasse et etiam deputasse ac ordinasse Pronunciamus decernimus et declaramus Illudque Testamentum

29 approbandum et insinuandum Necnon administracionem omnium et singulorum bonorum iurium et creditorum dictum defunctum et suum testamentum

30 huiusmodi qualitercumque concernentem prenominate Vrsule Goldynge executrici predictae in debita iuris forma committendum fore debere

31 et cum effectu sic approbari et insinuari ac comitti etiam Pronunciamus decernimus et declaramus illud quoque Testamentum

32 approbamus et insinuamus ac administracionem omnium et singulorum bonorum iurium et creditorum ipsius defuncti et testamenti

33 sui huiusmodi eidem Vrsule goldynge executrici antedictae in persona magistri Dauid Clapham Procuratoris sui legitime coram nobis

34 comparentis in debita iuris forma Iurate comittimus per hanc nostram sententiam diffinitivam siue hoc nostrum finale decretum quam siue

35 quod ferimus et promulgamus in hijs scriptis

[=In the name of God, Amen. We, William Cooke, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court lawfully upheld by the most reverend father in Christ and lord of the Lord, Thomas, Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate and Metropolitan of all England by the authority of the most illustrious in Christ prince and lord, our Lord Edward the Sixth, by the grace of God King of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, and on earth Supreme Head of the Church of England and Ireland, having heard, seen and understood, and fully and in a timely manner investigated the merits and circumstances of a certain testamentary cause or probate of the testament and last will of John Golding of the diocese of London and province of Canterbury, deceased, having while he lived and at the time of his death goods, rights and credits in divers dioceses of the said province of Canterbury at another time exhibited before us in this regard on behalf of Ursula Golding, relict and executrix of the testament of the said deceased, which before us between Henry Golding, natural and legitimate son of the same deceased, moving the part of our office and petitioning the said testament to be proved by witnesses on the one part, and the same Ursula, executrix, endeavouring to prove the same said testament by witnesses, and also a certain Thomas Golding, also a natural and legitimate son of the same deceased, for his interest in this regard intervening, and impugning the same testament on the other part, for a long time was considered and is still being considered and pending undecided, duly and lawfully proceeding by the foresaid parties by their proctors lawfully appearing before us in trial, and the parties of the said Henry and Ursula [+urgently demanding] sentence to be pronounced and justice to be done on their behalf, and on his part the worshipful(?) Thomas Golding earnestly demanding justice on his behalf, and we having first examined the whole and entire process had and made in the same cause, and having carefully reviewed and paid heed to the law in that regard to be considered in the pronouncement of our definitive sentence or final decree to be made in the said cause, we have thus thought fit to proceed and we do proceed in this manner which follows:

That by the things enacted, dealt with, alleged, proposed, exhibited, proved and assented to we well find and discover the party of the forenamed Ursula Golding, her intention in this regard before us in a certain allegation on behalf of the said Golding, executrix aforesaid, given and alleged, of which certain allegation the tenor follows and is such [+as]

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on the which day and place Clapham, her proctor, exhibited, being at the register, for Ursula Golding, and [+which] he did seven [+times?] for the same etc., which allegation here read and inserted, we hold and we wish to hold to have been sufficiently and at full in like manner established and proved, and nothing effectual on the part or on behalf of the aforesaid Thomas Golding in this regard excepted, dealt with, alleged, exhibited, proposed or proved which would counter or in any way weaken the intention of the said Ursula in this regard, for that reason we, William Cooke, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary aforesaid, first invoking the name of Christ, and placing God alone before our eyes, by and with the advice of those skilled in the law with whom in this regard we have conferred, do pronounce, decree and declare for the force and validity of the same testament of the said John Golding, deceased, exhibited before us in this court, and [+do pronounce] the same John Golding, deceased, to have duly and lawfully constituted, made and ordained his same testament, and to have sufficiently and lawfully constituted, appointed and also deputed and ordained the same Ursula Golding, his wife, executrix of his same testament, and [+do pronounce] that testament probated and registered, and also [+that] the administration of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased and concerning his same testament, by whatever right, ought to be entrusted in due form of law to the aforesaid Ursula Golding, executrix aforesaid, and with the effect thus to be probated and registered and also entrusted, and we do probate and register that testament, and do entrust the administration of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the same deceased and of the same his testament to the same Ursula Golding, executrix aforesaid, in the person of Master David Clapham, her proctor, lawfully appearing before us, sworn in due form of law, by this our definitive sentence or this our final decree, which we allow and publish in these writings.]

1 Lecta erat huiusmodi Sentencia Diffinitiva per dictum Commissarium Loco Consistoriali Londoniensis die veneris xxo viz Iulij Anno domini

2 Millesimo quingentesimo xlvijjo Ad petitionem Clapham et Johnson Procuratoris respectue Goldynge et Goldinge in presencia Lewes

3 procuratoris Thome Goldinge partis principalis aduersis per quam pronunciauit pro viribus et valore testamenti Goldinge defuncti

4 Presentibus Magistris Iohanne Croke Iohanne ffuller Galfride Glynne(?) Legum doctoribus Iohanne Clerke notario publico testibus Ac me Thoma Argall Registrario

[=This definitive sentence was read by the said Commissary in the consistorial place of London on Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> day, viz., of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 48<sup>th</sup> at the petition of Clapham and Johnson, proctors respectively of Golding and Golding, in the presence of Lewes, proctor of Thomas Golding, the principal adverse party, by which he pronounced for the force and validity of the testament of Golding,

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deceased, being present Masters John Croke, John Fuller, Walter Glynne, Doctors of the Law, John Clerke, notary public, witnesses, and me, Thomas Argall, registrar]