

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 8 October 1543 and proved 22 November 1551, of William Cardinall of Much Wenham, Suffolk.

CONNECTION TO THE EARLS OF OXFORD

At some time between 20 November 1558 and 20 November 1561, John de Vere (1516 – 3 August 1562), 16th Earl of Oxford, granted the testator's son, William Cardinall (c.1509-1568), the office of receiver of the profits of the Earl's office of Great Chamberlain of England. See the 16th Earl's inquisition post mortem, TNA C 142/136/12:

And the foresaid jurors say that the foresaid late Earl, by a certain deed of his sealed by his seal at arms & subscribed by his own hand dated the twentieth day of November in the [] year [=20 November 1558-61] of the reign of the Lady Elizabeth now Queen, granted to William Cardinall the office of receiver of all issues, profits & sums of money arising of his office of Great Chamberlain of England and by reason of the same office, to have & occupy the foresaid office by him or his sufficient deputy for term of life of the same William, and by the foresaid deed the foresaid Earl gave to the same William, as well for the exercise of the foresaid office as for the expenses of the same William sustained with regard to the care of such businesses & causes which in law he might happen to have, a certain yearly rent of forty pounds of lawful money of England issuing of the profits & issues of the same office, as by the said deed to the foresaid jurors upon the taking of this present inquisition in manifest evidences more fully appears.

For a later grant by the 17th Earl of Oxford to Israel Amyce of the office of receiver of the profits of the office of Great Chamberlain of England, see the inquisition taken after the 17th Earl's death, TNA C 142/286/165.

See also Paul, Christopher, 'The 17th Earl of Oxford's 'Office' Illuminated', *Brief Chronicles*, Vol. II (2010), pp. 167-207, available online at:

<https://shakespeareoxfordfellowship.org/briefchronicles/>

FAMILY BACKGROUND

There is considerable confusion in the Cardinall pedigrees. According to the pedigree taken in Suffolk in 1612, Stephen Cardinall of Wenham, Suffolk, married 'the daughter of (blank) Amis of Suffolk', by whom he had three sons, William (the testator in the will below), Stephen and Edward. See Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Suffolk*, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1882), p. 121 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsofsuf00harvuoft#page/120>

However according to the pedigree taken in *Essex* in 1612, Stephen and Edward were the testator's *sons*, not his *brothers*, and it was the testator's *wife*, not his *mother*, who was a member of the Amyce family. See Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex, Part I*, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), Vol. XIII, p. 172 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsofess13metc#page/172>

An earlier pedigree taken in *Essex* in 1558 also states that it was the testator's *wife* who was a member of the Amyce family. See Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex, Part I*, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), Vol. XIII, p. 33 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsofess13metc#page/32>

The confusion is compounded by the purported identification of the testator's wife as Anne Amyce, widow of Thomas Allen, and daughter of Roger Amyce, gentleman, of Wakes Colne, *Essex*. See the 1558 Amyce pedigree and the 1612 Cardinall pedigree in *The Visitations of Essex, supra*, pp. 19, 172 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsofess13metc#page/19>

The fact that the 1558 Amyce pedigree mentions a Thomas Amyce who was aged six in 1585 establishes that it was added to at a later date, and the statement that the testator's wife was the daughter of Roger Amyce and widow of Thomas Allen is thus almost certainly a later (and erroneous) addition to the original 1558 pedigree.

The claim that Anne Amyce, the daughter of Roger Amyce (c.1515-1574), was the mother of the testator's children is impossible since the testator's eldest son was born c.1509, and Anne's father, Roger Amyce, was not born until c.1515. For the will of Roger Amyce, see TNA PROB 11/56/394.

What does seem clear from the pedigrees and other sources is that there were three successive generations of William Cardinalls, and that the testator, William Cardinall (d.1551?), was the father of William Cardinall (1509-1568), and the grandfather of William Cardinall (c.1535-1598). See the History of Parliament entries, *infra*.

It also seems clear that Stephen Cardinall (d.1573?), gentleman, who was either the testator's brother or son, established a branch of the family at East Bergholt. See the will, dated 19 April 1568 and proved 26 October 1573, of Stephen Cardinall of East Bergholt, Suffolk, TNA PROB 11/55/419.

It also seems clear that Edward Cardinall, who was either the testator's brother, or the testator's son named in the will below, established a branch of the family at Hadleigh, Suffolk. He is said to have married Jane Bendlowes, the daughter of William Bendlowes (d. 9 November 1584), serjeant at law, of Bardfield, *Essex*. It should be noted, however, that there is no mention of either Jane Bendlowes or Edward Cardinall in the will of

William Bendlowes. For William Bendlowes, see his will, proved 16 February 1585, TNA PROB 11/68/114, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/bendlowes-william-151415-84>

b. 1514/15, s. of Christopher Bendlowes of Great Bardfield by Elizabeth, da. of John Rufford. educ. St. John's, Camb.; L. Inn, adm. 9 July 1534, called 1539. m. (2), by 1544, Eleanor, da. of Edward Palmer of Angmering, Suss. wid. of John Berners of Finchingfield, Essex, 1s. 1da.1

For the Cardinall family, see also 'Essex and Suffolk Surnames' at:

<http://essexandsuffolksurnames.co.uk/history/the-cardinall-family/william-cardinall-of-great-wenham-1551/>

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

As discussed above, the identity of the testator's wife (or wives) is unknown. In the will below he mentions only three children, two sons, William Cardinall and Edward Cardinall, and a daughter, Faith Cardinall. The only one of the testator's children for whom considerable information is available is his eldest son:

* **William Cardinall** (c.1509 – 7 or 8 August 1568), for whom see the inquisition taken after his death, TNA PROB C 142/151/52 and TNA E 150/336/3, and the History of Parliament entry, which is here printed in full:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/cardinall-william-150910-68>

Family and Education

b. 1509/10, 1st s. of William Cardinall of Great Wenham, Suff. educ. G. Inn, adm. 1533. m. (1) settlement 1535, Joan, da. of John Gurdon of Dedham, Essex and Assington, Suff., wid. of John Cole of Dedham, 1s. William[†] 3da.; (2) by June 1556, Lettice, da. of William Knightley of Norwich, Norf., wid. of John or William Clipsby of Clippesby, Norf., 4 or 5s. 1da. suc. fa. 1551.1

Offices Held

J.p. Essex 1547, 1558/59-?d.; receiver-gen. to 16th Earl of Oxford by 1558; recorder, Colchester 1560-1, 1562-3.2

Biography

William Cardinall came of a Suffolk family and it was either he or his father who began the connexion with Essex by buying Great Bromley manor in November 1542; as he was by then in his thirties and married he may well have been the purchaser, and his

inquisition makes no mention of his father in respect of the manor. He was trained in the law and may have practised, but his income was mainly derived from elsewhere: when in 1536 he took a lease of mills and pastures at Dedham, Essex, jointly with his first father-in-law, both were described as 'clothiers'. That he did well is shown by his assessment of £160 a year on his lands at Great Bromley for the subsidy of 1545, a larger figure than those of most of the comparable gentlemen in the county. It is true that not all his ventures prospered. In Mary's reign he was in Chancery over his purchase some years earlier of all the standing timber in Sir Thomas Darcy's park at Bentley, Essex: although he had paid the seemingly low sum of £337, Darcy put so many difficulties in the way of his obtaining the timber that it must have turned out a bad bargain.³

By 1558 Cardinall was receiver-general to John de Vere, 16th Earl of Oxford. If he had already been in the earl's service four years earlier, when he was first returned to Parliament for Colchester, Oxford's patronage would have powerfully reinforced his own claim as a considerable figure in local business and society: Great Bromley lies seven miles east of Colchester. He may also have leaned towards the Protestantism of the town: he was removed from the commission of the peace during Mary's reign, and he was to be described as a 'favourer' of religion in 1564.⁴

Cardinall was restored to the bench in 1558/59, was recorder of Colchester from 1560 to 1563, and was re-elected there to Elizabeth's first two Parliaments. He died intestate on 7 or 8 Aug. 1568 and was buried at South Benfleet; letters of administration of his estate were granted to his eldest son William. Of his other children one daughter, Rose, married a son of George Sayer of Colchester and another, Faith, married Henry, son of Roger Appleton.⁵

For George Sayer (by 1515-1577), whose son married Rose Cardinall, see his will, TNA PROB 11/59/323, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/sayer-george-1515-77>

See also 'Essex and Suffolk Surnames' at:

<http://essexandsuffolksurnames.co.uk/history/the-cardinall-family/william-cardinall-1509-1568/>

TESTATOR'S GRANDCHILDREN

According to the History of Parliament entry, *supra*, the testator's eldest son, William Cardinall (c.1509-1568), had one son and four daughters by his first wife, Joan Gurdon, and four or five sons and one daughter by his second wife, Lettice Knightley. His eldest son and heir was:

-William Cardinall (c.1535-1598), for whom see his will, proved 18 November 1598, TNA PROB 11/92/345, and the History of Parliament entry, here printed in full:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/cardinall-william-ii-1535-c98>

Cardinall, William II (c.1535-c.98), of Great Bromley, Essex and Egmonton, Notts.

Family and Education

b. c.1535, 1st s. of William Cardinall I by his 1st w. Joan, da. of John Gurdon. educ. St. John's, Camb.; G. Inn 1553, called 1555. m. (1) Mary, da. of Henry or William Wentworth of Mountnessing, Essex, 1da; (2) Julian, wid. of one Mason, s.p. suc. fa. August 1568.1

Offices Held

Reader, G. Inn 1574, 1586, treasurer 1578; j.p. Essex from c.1574, Notts. from c.1583; recorder, Colchester 1577-8, Newark 1594-8; member, council in the north from 1582.2

Biography

Cardinall was a puritan lawyer, who moved from Essex to Nottinghamshire after being appointed a legal member of the council in the north. Great Bromley and the neighbouring Dedham, where he was born, were centres of the puritan 'classical' movement in the 1580s and he was the 'dearly beloved friend', and perhaps the brother-in-law of the head of the Dedham 'classis', Dr. Edmund Chapman, to whom Cardinall left some property at Great Bromley while Chapman should remain pastor at Dedham, after which it was to support two poor scholars at St. John's, Cambridge. Cardinall presumably owed his return for Dartmouth in 1572 to the 2nd Earl of Bedford, and is recorded as sitting on committees during this Parliament concerning the continuation of statutes (25 June 1572), the preservation of woods (28 Jan. 1581) and the repair of Dover harbour (4 Mar. 1581). He was presumably also the 'Mr. Gardiner' who served on the committee appointed to draw up a petition about ports (13 Feb. 1576). Cardinall's tenure of office as recorder of Colchester must have come to an end when Sir Francis Walsingham was appointed, but as Walsingham's post was largely honorary, Cardinall may have continued to exercise the duties of recorder at least until his removal north.3

His will, made 16 Jan. 1596, has a long and pious preamble. Apart from the bequest to Chapman already mentioned, Cardinall left most of his household goods to his wife for life, with reversion to his daughter and heir Anne, wife of Sir Clement Heigham. To his brother Charles he left a number of farms and rents. Most of his lands had already been settled and do not appear in the will, of which he made his wife executrix and his 'dear and special good friends', Mr. Justice Clinche, Doctor John Bennet and Cuthbert Pepper, overseers. The will was proved 18 Nov. 1598.4

See also 'Essex and Suffolk Surnames' at:

<http://essexandsuffolksurnames.co.uk/history/the-cardinall-family/william-cardinall-c-1535-c-1598/>

The testator's grandson, William Cardinall (c.1535-1598), married firstly, in 1562, Mary Wentworth, the daughter of Henry Wentworth (died c.1545) and Agnes Hammond (buried 3 September 1574). Agnes Hammond was the half sister of Oxford's mother, Margery Golding (d.1568). See the will of Agnes' father, Reginald Hammond, TNA PROB 11/18/33, and the will of Margery Golding's father, John Golding (d. 28 November 1547), TNA PROB 11/32/177.

By Mary Wentworth, William Cardinall (c.1535-1598) had one daughter:

(1) Anne Cardinall (b. 1563), who married Sir Clement Heigham (d. 26 May 1634) of Barrow, Suffolk, son of John Heigham (d. 4 May 1626), and grandson of Sir Clement Heigham (d. 9 March 1570), Chief Baron of the Exchequer, Speaker of the House of Commons and member of the Privy Council, by Anne Waldegrave (c.1506 - 24 April 1590), daughter of George Waldegrave of Smallbridge, and widow of Henry Bures (d. 6 July 1528), esquire, of Acton, Suffolk. See the will of George Waldegrave, TNA PRO 11/22/577, and the pedigree of Heigham of Barrow in Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *The Visitation of Suffolke, Vol. II*, (Lowestoft: Samuel Tymms, 1868), p. 293 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsuffo00howagoog#page/n330>

See also the History of Parliament entries for Sir Clement Heigham (d. 9 March 1570), John Heigham (d. 4 May 1626), and Sir Clement Heigham (d. 26 May 1634) at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/heigham-clement-1495-1571>

and:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/heigham-john-1626>

and:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/heigham-sir-clement-1634>

LM: Will{el}mi Cardynall

In the name of God, Amen. The 8th day of October in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred forty and three, I, William Cardinall of Much Wenham in the county of Suffolk and within the diocese of Norwich, being of whole mind and perfect

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remembrance, thanks be unto Almighty God, do ordain and make this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First, I bequeath my soul unto the everlasting living Father of Heaven, and unto his only son, Jesus Christ, trusting though [sic] the merits of his passion to have remission of my sins, and my body to be buried by the discretion of my executor within the parish church of Saint Mary Elms in Ipswich within the said county;

Item, I will to Edward, my son, £10 sterling, and a silver salt, or 40s for the same;

Item, I give unto Faith, my daughter, at the day of her marriage, forty pounds if she marieth with the consent of William Cardinall, my son, whom I make and ordain sole executor of this my last will and testament, and he to have for his labour and pains all the residue of my goods and chattels, paying my debts and fulfilling this my last will and testament, these being witnesses: John Gardener and Anne, his wife, Robert Derehaugh, and Sir Robert Body, priest.

Probatum fuit huiusmodi testamentum coram domino Cantuariensis Archiepiscopo apud london xxijdo die Mensis Novembris Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo quinquagesimo primo Iuramento Willielmi Cardynall Executoris in huiusmodi testamento nominati Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et commissum fuit administratio omnium bonorum &c dicti defuncti prefati executori de bene et fideliter administrando eadem Ac de pleno Inuentorio &c exhibendo Ad sancta dei Evangelia in debita Iuris forma Iurati

[=The same testament was proved before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the 22nd day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-first by the oath of William Cardinall, executor named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administrations was granted of all the goods etc. of the said deceased to the forenamed executor, sworn on the Holy Gospels in due form of law to well and faithfully administer the same, and the exhibit a full inventory etc.]