

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 13 August 1552 and proved 26 April 1553, of Sir Anthony Wingfield (d. 15 August 1552) of Letheringham, Suffolk, brother-in-law of John de Vere (1499-1527), 14th Earl of Oxford.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the testator's family background, see the extensive Wingfield pedigree at:

<http://www.letheringhamlodge.com/wingfield-of-wingfield-and-letheringham/>.

See also 'Wingfield Family Wills' at:

<http://www.letheringhamlodge.com/wills>.

See also the History of Parliament entry for the testator at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/wingfield-sir-anthony-1488-1552>.

The testator was the grandson of Sir John Wingfield (1428 - 10 May 1481) and Elizabeth Fitz Lewis. For the will of the testator's grandmother, Elizabeth Fitz Lewis Wingfield, dated 14 July 1497 and proved 22 December 1500, see Norfolk Record Office NCC Will Register CAGE 135.

The testator was the eldest son and heir of Sir John Wingfield (d.1509) and his wife, Anne Audley or Tuchet (living 15 July 1480), the daughter of John Audley or Tuchet (d. 26 September 1490), 6th Baron Audley, by Anne Echingham, daughter of Sir Thomas Echingham. Through his parents, the testator was a descendant of King Edward I of England and Eleanor of Castile. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 152; Vol. II, p. 201-2; Vol. III, p. 367.

The testator had two brothers and three sisters:

-Edmund Wingfield, second son.

-Henry or Hugh Wingfield (living 1578). According to Corder, he was 'Henry or Hugh'; in the will below, he is referred to as Henry:

Also I will that my brother, Henry Wingfield, shall have the keeping of the park at Letheringham as I appointed him if he refuse the comptrollership of Calais, which I no ways would have him to do.

-**Elizabeth Wingfield**, who in 1510 married Henry Noone, esquire, of Martlesham and of Shelfhanger, Norfolk.

-**Anne Wingfield**, who married Lewis Winwood, gentleman.

-**Margaret Wingfield** (d. 29 October 1557), who married Thomas Seckford, esquire, and died at the age of 64.

For the testator's brothers and sisters, see Corder, Joan, ed., *The Visitation of Suffolk, 1561*, Vol. 2, (London: Harleian Society, 1984), p. 219.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

The testator married Elizabeth Vere (d.1557), eldest daughter of Sir George Vere (died c.1503) and sister of John de Vere (1499-1527), 14th Earl of Oxford. For the will of the testator's father-in-law, Sir George Vere, see TNA PROB 11/13/444. For the will of the testator's sister-in-law, Ursula Vere Windsor Knightly, see TNA PROB 11/42A/10.

For the testator's eight sons and seven daughters, see the will of his wife, Elizabeth Vere, TNA PROB 11/42B/640, and Corder, Joan, ed., *The Visitation of Suffolk, 1561*, Vol. 2, (London: Harleian Society, 1984), pp. 211-221.

Of the testator's children, only four sons (Robert, Anthony, Henry and Richard) and two daughters (Margaret, and a married 'daughter Naunton') are mentioned in the will below.

For details of the testator's career as a soldier and administrator, see the entry in the *ODNB*.

The testator was succeeded by his third son, Sir Robert Wingfield (d. 19 March 1596/7), whose first wife was Cecily Wentworth (d. 22 August 1573), the daughter of Thomas Wentworth (1501–1551), 1st Baron Wentworth. The testator requests that his son-in-law, Thomas Wentworth (1525–1584), 2nd Baron Wentworth, act as supervisor of his will. For the will of the testator's son, Sir Robert Wingfield (d. 19 March 1596/7), see TNA PROB 11/87/510.

Another of the testator's sons, Richard Wingfield, married Mary Hardwick, the sister of Elizabeth (nee Hardwick) Talbot (1527-1608), Countess of Shrewsbury, popularly known as 'Bess of Hardwick'. For the will of the testator's son, Richard Wingfield, see TNA PROB 11/78/67.

The testator is said to have died 15 August 1552 at the house of his fellow Privy Councillor, Sir John Gates (1504–1553).

RM: Test{amentu}m Anthonij Wingfeld Milit{is}

In dei nomine Amen. The will of me, Sir Anthony Wingfield, knight, the 13th day of August in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred fifty and two:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, by whose merits and passion I trust to be saved, and my body to the earth;

I do ordain and make my executors my wife and Robert Wingfield, my son, and I do heartily desire my Lord Wentworth to be supervisor of the same to see this my last will and testament to be performed;

I do give to my son, Anthony, Philpott and his pension if he be by the King's Majesty granted to me, and if he have not Philpott, I do give him twenty marks by year;

And I do give to my son, Henry, twenty marks by year;

And I do give to my son, Richard Wingfield, ten pounds by year;

And I do give to my daughter, Margaret, four hundred marks [=£266 13s 4d] to her marriage;

Also I do give during her life to my daughter Naunton five marks [=£3 6s 8d] by year;

Also I will that my brother, Henry Wingfield, shall have the keeping of the park at Letheringham as I appointed him if he refuse the comptrollership of Calais, which I no ways would have him to do;

Also I do give to John Audley, my servant, five pounds of money;

To Woodhouse, Flye(?), Crost{es}(?) and Wheler & Crykdort(?) and to every of them five marks;

And where I have left any of my servants unrewarded, I do desire my executors to reward them upon their discretion;

And if there be any doubt in this my last will and testament, I will that my Lord Wentworth see it reformed as shall please him, and cause it to be written and ordered according to the law;

And that this is my last will and testament these be witness: Hugh Willoughby, Erasmus Henyingham, and John Audley.

Vicesimo sexto die Mensis Aprilis Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingentesimo quinquagesimo Tercio Emanaut com{m}issio Roberto Wingfeld Armigero filio naturali et l{egi}timo Anthonij Wingfeld nuper ordinis garterij milit{is} defunct{i} ad via{m}

intestati p{ro} eo q{uod} ex{ecuto}res &c renu{n}cia{ue}runt De bene &c
admi{n}istrand{o} e{u}nd{em} iux{ta} tenorem huius testamenti Iurat{o}

[=On the twenty-sixth day of the month of April in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-third a grant issued to Robert Wingfield, esquire, natural and legitimate son of Anthony Wingfield, late of the Order of the Garter, deceased, by way of an intestacy because the executors etc. have renounced, sworn etc. to administer the same according to the tenor of the same testament.]

I, Elizabeth Wingfield, widow, the 17th day of November in the year of the reign of King Edward Sixth the 6th, late wife of Sir Anthony Wingfield of the honourable Order of the Garter, knight, deceased, do signify and declare by this my present writing to all and singular ecclesiastical and spiritual judges and to their ministers that I, the said Elizabeth, have and do by these presents remit and refuse the office and burden of the executorship of the last will and testament of the said Sir Anthony, in witness whereof unto these presents I, the said Elizabeth, have set to my seal.