

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 8 October 1566 and proved 15 October 1567, of Sir John Wentworth (1494 – 15 September 1567) of Gosfield Hall, Essex, friend and executor of John de Vere (1516-1562), 16th Earl of Oxford.

By his last will and testament dated 28 July 1562 (see TNA PROB 11/46/247), the 16th Earl appointed the following six executors:

And the executors of this my last will I do ordain, constitute and make my right loving and well-beloved wife, Margery, Countess of Oxenford, my son Edward, Lord Bulbeck, my loving friend Sir John Wentworth, knight, and he to have for his pains in that behalf twenty pounds, my trusty servants Henry Golding, Robert Christmas and John Turner.

However when the 16th Earl's will was probated on 29 May 1563, the sole executor to receive a grant of administration was Robert Christmas, who was already in, or about to enter, Leicester's service (see BL Lansdowne 6/34, ff. 96-7 and TNA SP 15/13/5). It is difficult to escape the conclusion that the other five executors, including the 16th Earl's trusted friend, Sir John Wentworth, had been forced out.

In the will, the testator mentions items which he had purchased from the 16th Earl's widow, Margery Golding:

One chalice of silver all gilt and 2 little candlesticks of silver which I lately bought of the Countess of Oxford.

The testator was Sheriff of Essex and Hertford in 1544 and 1553, and entertained Queen Elizabeth at Gosfield Hall in August 1561. In 1566 he had custody of Lady Katherine Grey Seymour (d. 27 January 1568), Countess of Hertford. See Rutton, *Three Branches*, *infra*, p. 157, and the *ODNB* entry for Katherine Grey:

In May 1566 Sir John Wentworth of Horkesley and Gosfield took over her charge until his death.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the testator's family background, see Rutton, William Loftie, *Three Branches of the Family of Wentworth*, (London: 1891), pp. 1-13, 138-40, 145-6, 193-4 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YhY5AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA138>

See also Rutton, William Loftie, 'Wentworth of Gosfield', *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society*, Vol. III, New Series, (Colchester: Wiles & Son, 1889), pp. 209-230 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=WbC5AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA209>

Testator's great-grandparents and their children

The testator's great-grandfather, Roger Wentworth (d. 21 October 1452), esquire (younger son of John Wentworth of North Elmsall, Yorkshire, by Agnes Dronsfield, sister and co-heiress of William Dronsfield of West Bretton, Yorkshire), married Margery Despenser (d. 20 April 1478), daughter and heiress of Sir Philip le Despenser (d. 20 June 1424), and widow of John Roos (d. 22 March 1421), 7th Baron Roos of Helmsley. She was heavily fined for marrying 'so far beneath her'. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, pp. 234-5 (hereafter *MCA*).

By Margery Despenser, Roger Wentworth had three sons and three daughters:

-Sir Philip Wentworth (c.1424 - 18 May 1464), eldest son and heir. He married Mary Clifford, daughter of John Clifford (1388/9-1422), 7th Baron Clifford, by Elizabeth Percy, daughter of Henry 'Hotspur' Percy, and sister of Thomas Clifford (1414-1455), 8th Baron Clifford, by whom he was the father of one son, Sir Henry Wentworth (c.1448 - August 1499) and two daughters. Sir Henry Wentworth married Anne Say, by whom he had two sons, Sir Richard Wentworth (d. 17 October 1528) and Edward Wentworth, and four daughters, including Elizabeth Wentworth (living 1542), who married Roger Darcy (d. 30 September 1508), esquire, and Margery Wentworth (d.1550), who married Sir John Seymour (1476?-1536) of Wolf Hall, by whom she was the mother of Henry VIII's third wife, Jane Seymour (1508/9-1537). See the will of Sir Henry Wentworth, TNA PROB 11/12/265, and *MCA*, Vol. III, pp. 236-8.

-Henry Wentworth (d. 22 March 1482) of Codham Hall, Essex, second son. grandfather of the testator (see below).

-Thomas Wentworth, a priest. See Rutton, *Three Branches*, *supra*, p. 138.

-Margaret Wentworth, who married Sir William Hopton, Treasurer of the Royal Household. See Rutton, *Three Branches*, *supra*, p. 138.

-Elizabeth Wentworth, who married John Calthorpe, son and heir apparent of Sir William Calthorpe of Ludham, Norfolk, who died in the lifetime of his father. See Rutton, *Three Branches*, *supra*, p. 138.

-Agnes Wentworth (d. 20 April 1496), who married Sir Robert Constable (d. 23 May 1488) of Flamborough, Yorkshire. See *MCA*, Vol. I, p. 527, and See Rutton, *Three Branches*, *supra*, p. 138.

Testator's grandparents and their children

The testator's grandfather, Henry Wentworth (d. 22 March 1482), married firstly Elizabeth Howard (c.1410-c.1476), daughter of Henry Howard, esquire, of Boxted, Suffolk, by Mary Hussey, daughter of Sir Henry Hussey. Through this marriage the testator was related to the Howards and to the Earls of Oxford as follows:

By his first wife, Margaret Plaiz (c.1377 - August 1391), Sir John Howard (c.1366 - 17 November 1436), had one son, Sir John Howard (c.1385-1410), who married Joan Walton (died c.1425), by whom he was the father of one daughter, Elizabeth Howard (1411-1473), wife of John de Vere (1408-1462), 12th Earl of Oxford.

By his second wife, Alice Tendring (d. 18 October 1426), Sir John Howard (c.1366 - 17 November 1436) had two sons: (1) Sir Robert Howard (c.1384 – c. April 1436), who married Margaret Mowbray (died c. 18 October 1459), by whom he was ancestor of the Dukes of Norfolk, and (2) Henry Howard, esquire, of Boxted, Suffolk, who married Mary Hussey, by whom he was the father of Elizabeth Howard (c.1410-c.1476), the testator's grandmother (see above).

See Ross, James, *John de Vere, Thirteenth Earl of Oxford (1442-1513)*, (Woodbridge, Suffolk: The Boydell Press, 2011), p. 24; *MCA*, Vol. II, pp. 409-11, 462-3, and Vol. IV, pp. 273-4; and Rutton, *Three Branches, supra*, pp. 145-6.

By Elizabeth Howard (c.1410-c.1476), Henry Wentworth (d. 22 March 1482) is said to have had, according to various sources, seven sons and five (or six) daughters:

-Sir Roger Wentworth (1465 - 9 August 1539), who married Anne Tyrrell (d.1534), the only daughter of Humphrey Tyrrell (d.1506?), esquire, of Warley Semels in Little Warley, Essex, by his first wife, Isabel Helion, daughter and heiress of John Helion, esquire, by whom he was the father of four sons, including Sir John Wentworth (1494 – 15 September 1567) of Gosfield Hall, Essex, the testator in the will below. See Rutton, *Three Branches, supra*, pp. 146-50; the will of Humphrey Tyrrell, TNA PROB 11/15/580; the will, TNA PROB 11/28/444, of Sir Humphrey Tyrrell's eldest son and heir, Sir John Tyrrell (d.1541) of Little Warley, Essex; *MCA*, Vol. II, pp. 462-3; and Ross, *supra*, pp. 237-8.

-Henry Wentworth, said to have died in 1511. See *MCA*, Vol. II, p. 462, and Rutton, *Three Branches, supra*, p. 193.

-Thomas Wentworth, living 1511. See *MCA*, Vol. II, p. 462, and Rutton, *Three Branches, supra*, p. 193.

-William Wentworth, living 1524. See *MCA*, Vol. II, p. 462, and Rutton, *Three Branches, supra*, p. 193.

-Robert Wentworth (d.1551), buried at Gosfield. See *MCA*, Vol. II, p. 462, and Rutton, *Three Branches, supra*, p. 193. He is mentioned in the will of his sister, Margery Wentworth, TNA PROB 11/28/96.

-Roger Wentworth (again), esquire. See *MCA*, Vol. II, p. 462. Roger Wentworth is not mentioned in the Wentworth pedigree in Rutton, *Three Branches, supra*, p. 193.

-Henry Wentworth (again), esquire. See *MCA*, Vol. II, p. 462. A second Henry Wentworth is not mentioned in the Wentworth pedigree in Rutton, *Three Branches, supra*, p. 193.

-Margery Wentworth (buried 7 May 1540). She married, before 1483, Sir William Waldegrave (c.1465 - 30 June 1527), by whom she was the great-grandmother of Sir William Waldegrave (c.1540 - 25 August 1613), who was a co-guarantor, with Oxford's first cousin, John Darcy (d.1581), 2nd Baron Darcy of Chiche, of Oxford's debt to the Court of Wards. See her will, TNA PROB 11/28/96; the will of Sir William Waldegrave (c.1465 - 30 June 1527), TNA PROB 11/22/294; *MCA*, Vol. II, p. 463, Vol. IV, pp. 283-4; and 'The Descendants of William deTendering, Knt., of Tendering Hall & His Wife Dame Katherine Mylde' at:

<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~clopton/tendring.htm>

-Elizabeth Wentworth, who married firstly Sir William Alington (d.1485), slain at Bosworth, by whom she was the grandmother of Sir Giles Alington (1499-1586), secondly Sir William Cheyne, second son of Sir John Cheyne of Fen Ditton, Cambridgeshire, and thirdly, Sir Robert Chamberlain. See Rutton, *Three Branches, supra*, p. 193; *MCA*, Vol. II, p. 462; and Chauncy, Henry, *The Historical Antiquities of Hertfordshire*, Vol. II, (London: J.M. Mullinger, 1836), p. 114 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=TBUHAAAQAAJ&pg=PA114>

For Sir Giles Alington (1499-1586), see his will, TNA PROB 11/69/523, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/alington-giles-1499-1586>

For Sir William Alington (d.1485), see also the Wikipedia article for Sir Giles Alington (1499-1586) at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giles_Alington,_Lord_of_Horseheath

It should be noted that William Alington (d.1459) of Horseheath, married, by 1447, as his second wife, 'Mary, widow of Henry Hayward of Boxted in Essex', who appears to be Mary Hussey, wife of Henry Howard of Boxted (see above). See the *ODNB* entry for Sir William Alington (d.1479), Speaker of the House of Commons.

-Margaret Wentworth, who married firstly John Ashfield of Stowlangtoft, Suffolk, and secondly Edmund Wingfield, sixth son of Sir John Wingfield (d.1428 - 10 May 1481) of

Letheringham, Suffolk, by Elizabeth Fitz Lewis (d.1500). See the will of Elizabeth Fitz Lewis Wingfield, Norfolk Record Office Cage 135 and the Wingfield pedigree at:

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

-**Agnes Wentworth**, who married Robert Timperley (d.1494) of Barling, Essex, but died without issue. See Rutton, *Three Branches, supra*, p. 193. Agnes Wentworth is not mentioned in *MCA*, Vol. II, p. 462.

-**Mary Wentworth**, who married firstly Thomas Timperley (d.1505), and secondly Edward Harvey. See Rutton, *Three Branches, supra*, p. 193. Mary Wentworth is not mentioned in *MCA*, Vol. II, p. 462.

-(**blank**) **Wentworth**, who married a husband surnamed Paulet. See Rutton, *Three Branches, supra*, p. 193. She is not mentioned in *MCA*, Vol. II, p. 462.

Henry Wentworth (d. 22 March 1482) married secondly Joan Fitz Simon, the daughter and heiress of Robert Fitz Simon of North Shoebury, Essex, and widow of Roger Timperley, by whom he had one son:

-**Sir Nicholas Wentworth** (d.1553?), who married Jane Josselyn (d.1569), the daughter of John Josselyn of Hyde Hall, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire. By Jane Josselyn, Sir Nicholas Wentworth was the ancestor of the Wentworths of Lillingstone Lovell. His son, Peter Wentworth (1524-1597), for whom see the *ODNB* entry, was the father, by his second wife, Elizabeth Walsingham (d. 21 July 1596), of Nicholas Wentworth (1561 – 10 April 1613), who on 14 October 1587 married Susan Wigston, daughter of Roger Wigston (c.1537 – buried 28 September 1608), esquire, in whose house, Wolston Priory, the last two Marprelate tracts were printed in July 1589. See the will of Roger Wigston (c.1483 - 27 November 1542), TNA PROB 11/29/275. See also the will of Geoffrey Gates (d.1550?), first husband of Elizabeth Walsingham (d. 21 July 1596). See also the Wentworth pedigree in Rutton, *Three Branches, supra*, pp. 263, 301 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YhY5AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA263>

After the death of Henry Wentworth (d. 22 March 1482), Joan Fitz Simon married thirdly Philip Lewes, as his second wife. See *MCA*, Vol. II, pp. 462-3; the will of John Josselyn of High Roding, Essex, auditor to John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford, and one of the executors of the Earl's will, TNA PROB 11/22/61; the will of Sir Nicholas Wentworth, TNA PROB 11/39/237, in which he refers to his mother as 'Dame Jane FitzLewis'; and Rutton, *Three Branches, supra*, p. 193 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YhY5AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA193>

See also Wentworth, John, *The Wentworth Genealogy*, Vol. II, 1870, p. 351 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=RfEUAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA351&lpg=PA351>

Testator's parents and their children

Sir Roger Wentworth (1465 - 9 August 1539) and Anne Tyrrell (d.1534) had four sons and two daughters:

-Sir John Wentworth (1494 – 15 September 1567), eldest son and heir, the testator in the will below. See Rutton, *Three Branches, supra*, pp. 153, 158.

-Henry Wentworth (died c.1545) of Gosfield, second son, who married Agnes Hammond, daughter and heiress of Reginald Hammond of Kent and of Mountnessing in Essex, widow of John Mountney (d.1528). See TNA C 1/685/22, a Chancery suit brought in the period 1529-32 by John de Vere, Earl of Oxford against 'Henry Wentworth and Agnes, his wife, executrix and late the wife of John Mountney, esquire'. Agnes married, circa January 1546, William Wilford as her third husband, and was buried in Stepney Church on 3 September 1574. William Wilford, is mentioned in the will below.

Both Henry Wentworth and his wife, Agnes Hammond Wentworth Wilford, are mentioned in the 16th Earl of Oxford's inquisition post mortem (see 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 4th day of October in the 35th year [=4 October 1543] of the reign of the late King Henry the Eighth, demised to Henry Wontford [=Wentworth], esquire, all that manor of Mountnessing Hall . . . to have and to hold the said manor . . . to the said Henry & his assigns from the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel next & immediately following after the decease of Agnes, then wife of the said Henry and now wife of a certain William Wilford, until the end & term of twenty-one years from thence next following

Henry Wentworth and Agnes Hammond had four sons and two daughters:

(1) John Wentworth (1540-1588) of Little Horkeley, Essex, mentioned in the will below. He married firstly Elizabeth Heydon (d.1573), daughter of Sir Christopher Heydon of Baconsthorpe, Norfolk, and secondly Dorothy Southwell (living 1609), daughter of Sir Richard Southwell of Woodrising, Norfolk. See Rutton, *Three Branches, supra*, p. 194.

(2) Henry Wentworth, mentioned in the will below, who married Jane Alblaster, daughter and co-heiress of Edmund Alblaster of Tendring, Essex. See Rutton, *Three Branches, supra*, p. 194.

(3) Peter Wentworth (d.1599), a cleric, who married Elizabeth Moore. See Rutton, *Three Branches, supra*, p. 194. He is not mentioned in the will below.

(4) Thomas Wentworth (1545-1565), buried at Gosfield. See Rutton, *Three Branches*, *supra*, p. 194.

(5) Agnes Wentworth (d. 2 September 1571), who married, as his second wife, Thomas Wentworth (1525-1584), 2nd Baron Wentworth, widower of her first cousin, Mary Wentworth (d.1554). See below. By Agnes Wentworth (d. 2 September 1571), Thomas Wentworth, 2nd Baron Wentworth, had two sons, Lord William Wentworth (1555/6-1582) and Lord Henry Wentworth (1558-1593), and a daughter. Lord William Wentworth (1555/6-1582) married Lord Burghley's younger daughter, Elizabeth Cecil (1564-1583), and was for a time Oxford's brother-in-law. See Ellis, Henry, *Original Letters Illustrative of English History*, 3rd Series, Vol. IV, (London: Richard Bentley, 1846), pp. 40-44 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=GiMYAAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA40>

(6) Mary Wentworth, mentioned in the will below, who married 'William Cardinal the younger', son of 'William Cardinal the elder' of Great Bromley, Essex. Mary Wentworth's father-in-law, William Cardinal the elder, is likely the William Cardinal mentioned in the 16th Earl of Oxford's inquisition post mortem:

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 Cardinal 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.

The friendship between the testator and the 16th Earl perhaps explains why the 16th Earl granted the farm of his office of Lord Great Chamberlain to William Cardinal.

-Roger Wentworth (d.1557) of Felsted and Bocking, Essex, third son, who married firstly a wife named Mary, and secondly Alice Buckford, daughter of William Buckford. His son, John Wentworth (1536 – 1 February 1604) of Bocking, married Elizabeth Capel, daughter of Sir Edward Capel of Hadham, Hertfordshire. See Rutton, *Three Branches*, *supra*, pp. 193, 195. John Wentworth (1536 – 1 February 1604) is mentioned in the will below.

-John Wentworth (d. before 1566?), fourth son, who married Jane Shordich, daughter of Richard Shordich of Bexwell, Norfolk. His son, Henry Wentworth (d.1590) of Steeple Bumpstead, Essex, is mentioned in the will below. Henry Wentworth married Elizabeth

Bendlowes, the daughter of William Bendlowes (1514-1584), serjeant at law, of Great Bardfield, Essex. See Rutton, *Three Branches, supra*, pp. 193, 195, and the History of Parliament entry for William Bendlowes at:

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

-Lora Wentworth, who married firstly Edmund Shaa, secondly a husband surnamed Everard, and thirdly Francis Clopton, esquire, of Kedington, Suffolk, but died without issue. See the will of Sir John Shaa, Lord Mayor of London in 1501, TNA PROB 11/14/156. See also the pedigree of Clopton of Kedington in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Suffolk*, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1882), pp. 16-17 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=EycAAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA16>

-Margaret Wentworth, who married John Berney (d. 22 October 1527), the son of John Berney by Alice Southwell. See *MCA*, p. 463, and:

<http://www.genealogy.com/ftm/b/o/l/Andrew-N-BOLS/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0119.html>:

See also Farrer, Edmund, *The Church Heraldry of Norfolk*, Vol. I, (Norwich: Agas H. Goose and Co., 1887), p. 218 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=uRoNAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA218>

See also:

<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/GEN-MEDIEVAL/2012-09/1347316592>

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

The testator married Anne Bettenham (buried 30 November 1575), the daughter of John Bettenham of Pluckley in Kent, and sister of Thomas Bettenham (d. before 1566?). For her will, see TNA PROB 11/57/549. She was buried with her husband in Gosfield church. See Rutton, *Three Branches, supra*, pp. 159-60. For the Bettenham family, see Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *The Visitation of Suffolke*, Vol. I, (Lowestoft: Samuel Tymms, 1866), p. 313 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ExI2AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA313>

By Anne Bettenham, the testator had one son and three daughters:

* **John Wentworth**, who died young. See Rutton, *Three Branches, supra*, pp. 160, 194.

* **Margaret Wentworth**, who died unmarried in 1553. See Rutton, *Three Branches, supra*, pp. 160, 194.

* **Mary Wentworth** (d.1554), who on 9 February 1546 married her cousin, Thomas Wentworth (1525-1584), 2nd Baron Wentworth. After her death he married her first cousin, Agnes Wentworth (d. 2 September 1571). See above. See also the *ODNB* entry for Thomas Wentworth, 2nd Baron Wentworth, and Rutton, *Three Branches, supra*, pp. 160, 194.

Anne Wentworth (1537 – 5 December 1580), Lady Maltravers, who inherited Gosfield Hall and entertained Queen Elizabeth there in August 1579. She married firstly, in April 1554, Sir Hugh Rich (d. 1 November 1554), son of Richard Rich (1496/7-1567), 1st Baron Rich; secondly Henry Fitzalan (1538 - 30 June 1556), Lord Maltravers, son and heir apparent of Henry Fitzalan (1512-1580), 12th Earl of Arundel; and thirdly her steward, William Deane (d. 4 October 1585), who inherited Dyne's Hall in Great Maplestead, Essex. After the death of Lady Maltravers, William Deane married secondly Anne Egerton, widow of George Blythe, esquire, Clerk of the Council of the North in 1572, a younger daughter of Thomas Egerton, citizen and mercer of London, 'who claimed to be descended from the Egertons of Wrinehill in Cheshire'. Her brother was Stephen Egerton (c.1555-1622), the Puritan preacher of St Anne's in the Blackfriars, for whom see the *ODNB* entry. See Waters, Robert Edmond Chester, *Genealogical Memoirs of the Extinct Family of Chester of Chicheley*, Vol. I, (London: Robson and Sons, 1878),p. 278 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=JeoJAWAAQBAJ&pg=PA278>

See also Rutton, *Three Branches, supra*, pp. 160-3, 194, and p. 278 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=JeoJAWAAQBAJ&pg=PA278>

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

William Waldegrave and Sir William Cordell

In the will below, the testator refers to an indenture dated 9 September 1566 concerning Bradfield Hall involving William Waldegrave, esquire, and Sir William Cordell. The William Waldegrave involved in this indenture would appear to be Sir William Waldegrave (c.1540 – 25 August 1613), the great-grandson of the testator's aunt, Margery Wentworth Waldegrave (buried 7 May 1540), who was co-guarantor of Oxford's debt to the Court of Wards (see above). For Sir William Waldegrave, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/waldegrave-william-1540-1613>

Sir William Cordell (1522 – 17 May 1581) was one of five trustees appointed by Oxford in an indenture of 30 January 1575 prior to his departure on his continental tour. See ERO D/DRg2/25. See also the *ODNB* entry, his will, TNA PROB 11/63/590, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/cordell-william-1524-81>

Sir Giles Alington

In the will below the testator bequeaths ‘2 beer-pots of silver all gilt with two covers, whereof the one was Sir Giles Alington’s’. This may be a reference to Sir Giles Alington (d. 3 April 1520) or his son, Sir Giles Alington (22 August 1586). See the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/alington-giles-1499-1586>

Thomas Seckford, Master of Requests

For Thomas Seckford (1515/16-1587), see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/seckford-%28sakford%29-thomas-151516-87>

TESTATOR’S EXECUTOR

For the testator’s executor, his ‘cousin’, Rooke Greene (d. 9 April 1602), son of Sir Edward Greene (d.1555), see Huntington Library EL 5870. See also Lambeth Palace Library MS 2008, letters from the Privy Council to Archbishop Whitgift, mainly concerning recusants:

22 December 1590. Order that Rooke Greene, esq., a recusant confined for three years at Ely and elsewhere, have liberty on giving bond to go to the country on account of his age and affairs (f. 19).

LM: T{estamentum} Iohanis Wentworth millit{is}

In the name of God, Amen. The eight day of October in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred threescore and six and in the eight year of the reign of our

Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, I, Sir John Wentworth of Gosfield in the county of Essex, knight, being of whole mind and in my good and perfect memory, thanks be given to God, do make, ordain & declare this my present testament and last will concerning the order and disposition of all and singular my moveable substance, goods and chattels in manner and form following, that is to say:

First and [f. 2124] principally I bequeath and commend my soul to the infinite and incomprehensible mercy of Almighty God, my very Creator and Redeemer thereof, and my body to be buried within 48 hours after my departing out of this world, if that my executors do think it possible or convenient so to be done, in the north aisle of the parish church of Gosfield aforesaid within the tomb which I already have prepared for the same;

Furthermore, I will and specially charge mine executors that they, within as short time as conveniently may be after my decease, do well and truly satisfy, content and pay all my true debts by me owing, and also make just and full restitution of all injuries and wrongs by me done to any person or persons that may be duly and honestly proved, if any such shall happen to be;

And I will also that my executors shall cause to be dealt and distributed to and amongst the needy poor householders and inhabitants within certain towns hereunder named one hundred pounds of good and lawful money of England, to be distributed and dealt in manner and form following, viz., to the town of Wethersfield yearly 40s; item, to the town of Gosfield yearly 20s; to the town of Halstead yearly 20s; to the town of Sible Hedingham yearly 20s; to the town of Bocking yearly 20s; to the town of Finchingfield yearly 20s; to the town of Shalford yearly 13s 4d; to the town of Walter Belchamp yearly 13s 4d; to the town of Little Horkesley yearly 13s 4d, whereof yearly 10s to the almshouse there; to the town of Gestingthorpe yearly 10s; to the town of Otten Belchamp yearly 10s, all which particular sums of money within-mentioned I will shall be delivered yearly during the term of 10 years to such honest men and persons as shall be thought meet by the discretion of mine executors or their assigns to the use and intent that they shall distribute the same to the most needy inhabitants and poor people of the said towns within-written, and the distribution thereof to be twice every year, whereof thone half between the feast of St. Thomas th' Apostle and the Nativity of Our Lord, the other half yearly between the first Sunday in Lent and the feast of Easter;

And I will that my executors within two years after my decease shall cause to be employed and bestowed in and upon the making, renewing & amending of the most needy places in the highway between St Anne's Chapel and the town of Braintree £20, viz., every year £10;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my loving daughter, Anne, the Lady Maltravers, my best basin and ewer parcel gilt, one pair of livery pots of silver and gilt, one nest of bowls of silver all gilt which I last bought at London, one pair of my best salts of silver all gilt, 2 silver spoons all gilt, and 2 beer-pots of silver all gilt with one cover, being part of the 3 beer-pots which I bought at London, six of my best silver candlesticks which I bought of the Master of the Rolls, one dozen of silver spoons with the 12 Apostles, one standing

cup of silver and gilt, one dozen of silver candlesticks and 2 cruets of silver parcel gilt which served for my chapel, and one chalice of silver all gilt and 2 little candlesticks of silver which I lately bought of the Countess of Oxford, and one casting-bottle of silver all gilt serving for sweet waters;

And also I give to her the whole hanging for the parlour, and I give unto her the best tester and celure which hath been commonly used in the chief chamber, and also I give to her my best carpet of needlework which I bought of William Wilford, esquire, and two cushions of cloth of gold;

And where William Waldegrave of Smallbridge in Bures St. Mary in the county of Suffolk, esquire, hath by his indenture bearing date the 9th day of September in the eight year [=9 September 1566] of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth assured unto me, the said Sir John Wentworth, and mine heirs forever the site of the manor of Bradfield Hall, with all the houses and edifices whatsoever in or upon the same built and being, and all the lands, meadows, pastures, feedings, ponds, fences(?) lying and being within the park called Bradfield park as it is enclosed with pale, in the towns and parishes of Bradfield, Wix and Mistley in the county of Essex, upon this condition following, that is to say, if the said William Waldegrave or his assigns do not make payment of the sum of five hundred pounds of good and lawful money of England to me, the said Sir John Wentworth, or to mine assigns at the site of the manor of Belhouse otherwise called Gosfield Hall in the said county of Essex upon the feast day of St. Michael th' Archangel next coming without any delay, that then the said site of the manor of Bradfield Hall with the said park and all other the premises aforesaid shall remain and be to the only use of me, the said Sir John Wentworth, and mine heirs forever, according as in the said indenture of assurance more plainly doth appear;

And for default of payment of the said sum of five hundred pounds at the said day and place aforesaid, then I will that Sir William Cordell, knight, now Master of the Rolls, shall have to him and to his heirs forever the said site of the said manor of Bradfield Hall with the said park with all the said premises as is aforesaid upon this condition following, that is to say, if the said Sir William Cordell do pay or cause to be paid to mine executors or survivors of them, their executors, administrators or assigns of them or any of them, the sum of five hundred pounds [f. 212v] of good and lawful money of England to be paid within three months next and immediately after the foresaid feast of St Michael th' Archangel;

And in case he refuse the having thereof, or do not make payment of the said sum of five hundred pounds within the three months according as is aforesaid, then I will that mine executors, administrators or assigns or th' executors, administrators or assigns of the survivors of them shall make sale of the said site of [+the] manor of Bradfield Hall with the said park and all other the premises as is aforesaid to the uttermost value the[y] can, and with two hundred pound, parcel of the said five hundred pounds, I will they buy such silver plate as hereafter followeth, viz., 2 fair basins with two ewers of silver parcel gilt, two nest[s] of silver bowls all gilt with 2 covers all gilt, one fair pair of silver salts all gilt with one cover, one dozen of silver trenchers parcel gilt, and the residue of the said two

hundred pounds to be bestowed upon silver plate by the discretion of mine executors, and taking th' advice of mine daughter, the Lady Anne Maltravers, to whom I give all the forenamed plate to the said value of two hundred pounds over and besides all such plate as I have given to her in this my last will and testament, and the residue of the said five hundred pounds I will shall go to the performance of this my last will and testament;

And if in case my executors shall fortune to make sale of the said site of the manor of Bradfield Hall and the said park and all other the premises as is aforesaid, then I will that so much as they shall have or can get for the same above the foresaid sum of five hundred pounds they shall have and take the same residue of my gift for their painstaking, indifferently to be divided amongst them;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Anne, my well-beloved wife, two basins with 2 ewers of silver parcel gilt, thone of them to be that which was my father's, one pair of my best livery pots of silver parcel gilt, one nest of silver bowls all gilt with one cover, one nest of silver bowls all white with a cover, one standing cup of silver all gilt with a cover, one pair of salts of silver all gilt with a cover, one nest of silver goblets all gilt with a cover, two goblets of silver with a cover parcel gilt, six candlesticks of silver all white which I caused to be made at London, one dozen of trenchers of silver parcel gilt, one flat piece of silver parcel gilt which was my father's, one casting-bottle of silver all gilt for sweet waters, and all the residue of my silver spoons being all gilt or parcel gilt which are not given or before bequeathed unto my daughter, the Lady Maltravers;

And also I give unto my said wife five hundred marks of lawful money of England;

And also I give unto her all that whole hangings, bedding and stuff commonly used to the chamber called the Lord Wentworth chamber, and the best tester and celure to the same, and two of my best long cushions of needlework, and 2 square cushions of the same work, and also my best long carpet of needlework which hath been commonly used in the parlour, and one of my best cupboard cloths of needlework or carpet-work, to be taken at her choice, and also 2 beer-pots of silver all gilt with two covers, whereof the one was Sir Giles Alington's, the other is one of the 3 whereof 2 are given to the Lady Maltravers;

And also I give unto her all that whole hanging of the story of Moses with also those 2 pieces of hanging which I bought at London to furnish up the dining-chamber there, and also the tester and ceiling of needlework which now hangeth in the chief chamber;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my nephew, John Wentworth, the son of my late brother, Henry Wentworth, one pair of livery pots of silver parcel gilt, being with leopards' heads, one basin with one ewer of silver parcel gilt, being one of the two which I lately bought at London, to be taken at his choice,

And I also give to him all that the standing bed with the celure and tester to the same paned with cloth of gold and crimson velvet, with all the whole hangings, stuff and bedding which is commonly used in the chamber over the old parlour, and all the bedding and stuff in the inner chamber to the same, and also one demi-lance, six corslets and

twenty Almain rivets, one dozen pikes, one dozen of livery bows, six sheaf of arrows, six halberds, six bills, and five javelins;

And also I give to him one hundred pounds of lawful English money;

All which plate, money, bedding stuff and all other things before in this my present testament to my said nephew, John Wentworth, given or bequeathed, I will he shall have the same upon condition following, that is to say, that he be bound by his deed obligatory in the sum of two hundred pounds to mine executors or the survivor of them and their executors, that he shall fully and truly suffer all such leases as I have at any time heretofore granted or made unto any person or persons of or in any such manors, lands or tenements whatsoever as shall come to him after my death, or after the death of me and my wife, or after the death of my daughter, the Lady Anne Maltravers, and that they and every of them shall or may quietly and peaceably have and enjoy all their said leases and term of years as they or any of them shall have, being not ended and expired, of my grant in any of the same lands whereupon the old accustomed rents or more is reserved, and I will that he shall make & deliver the same bonds unto my executors before any of the forenamed legacies be paid or delivered unto him;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my nephew, Henry Wentworth, brother unto the said John Wentworth, forty pound in ready current money;

Item, I give & bequeath unto my nephew, John Wentworth of Bocking, son of my late brother, Roger Wentworth, one basin and one ewer of silver parcel gilt, being one of the two which I last bought [f. 213r] at London as is aforesaid, one pair of livery pots of silver parcel gilt, also one of my best geldings, and I also give unto him £20 of ready current money;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my nephew, Henry Wentworth of Bumpstead, the son of my late brother, John Wentworth, deceased, the sum of one hundred pounds of lawful English money;

Item, I give and bequeath to Elizabeth Barne, one of the daughters of my late nephew, John Barne, esquire, deceased, one hundred pounds of lawful English money;

Item, I give & bequeath unto Judith Bettenham, one of the daughters of my late brother-in-law, Thomas Bettenham, esquire, deceased, one hundred pounds sterling;

Item, I give and bequeath unto such one of the daughters of my nephew, Henry Wentworth of Bumpstead, which first shall come to the full age of eighteen years, towards the preferment of her marriage, one hundred marks of lawful money of England, to be paid to her at the age of 18 years abovesaid, or sooner if she happen to be married;

Item, I give and bequeath unto every of my servants written and named in a schedule annexed unto this my testament such sum and sums of money as unto any of them is therein limited and appointed, and the same to be paid to every of them by mine

executors within forty days next after my decease, provided always that if any of my said servants shall be departed out of my service when it shall please God to call me out of this world, being nominated & written in the said schedule, then I will that they so departed shall have no part of such legacy and money as unto them therein is assigned and appointed;

Item, I give and bequeath by this my said last will & testament unto my nephew, William Cardinal the younger, and to his assign[s], all that my right, title, interest, possession and term of all and singular such manors, lands and tenements, moveable goods & chattels with all and singular their appurtenances within the county of Essex as lately were delivered unto me, the said Sir John Wentworth, for and in execution of one recognizance of one thousand marks in the nature of one Estatute Staple knowledged and forfeited unto me by William Cardinal of Much Bromley within the county of Essex, esquire, father of the said William the younger, [+as] by one extent thereof taken & returned of record into the Chancery of our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth more at large doth and may appear;

To have and to hold all and singular the premises with their appurtenances to my said nephew and his assigns for and during so long time and term as I, the said Sir John, my executors or assigns, now holdeth and enjoyeth, or by reason of the extent aforesaid by any ways or means hereafter might or ought to hold, occupy and enjoy the same and every part thereof, under this condition following, that is to say, that the above-named William Cardinal the elder and William Cardinal the younger or one of them at any time during the term of one whole year next and immediately after the death of me, the said Sir John Wentworth, observe, fulfil and keep all such covenants and agreements touching the assurances of the jointure of Mary Cardinal, my niece, wife of the said William the younger, as been comprised in one pair of indentures of the marriage had and solemnized between the said William and Mary made between me, the said Sir John, on the one part, and the above-named William Cardinal the elder of the other party, which on the part of the said William the elder been to be observed, fulfilled and kept;

And also under this condition following, that is to say, that they, the said William and William or one of them, doth at all time save harmless or otherwise discharge me, the said Sir John Wentworth, my executors and administrators, against Thomas Seckford, esquire, one of the Masters of Requests, for and concerning one execution I, the said Sir John, did lately take of and in the manors of Overhall and Netherhall in Dedham within the said county of Essex, parcel of the premises before bequeathed and given as parcel of the extent of the Estatute aforesaid;

Item, I will that mine executors shall sell my best chain of gold with all my aglets, buttons, brooches and jewels to the best value they can, and with the money thereof coming, I will they shall buy plate of silver, being all gilt, parcel gilt or white; the one half of the said plate I will shall be given to my nephew, John Wentworth, son of my late brother, Henry Wentworth, deceased, and the other half of the said plate to be equally & indifferently divided between my nephew, John Wentworth of Bocking, and my nephew, Henry Wentworth of Bumpstead, provided always that my said executors shall not sell

any such chains, brooches, tablets or jewels which my wife hath heretofore kept, used or worn, all which said chains, brooches, tablets or jewels I give unto my said wife;

Item, I give and bequeath unto every of my executors, for the special trust and confidence that I have in them to see this testament and last will truly executed, performed, fulfilled and done, ten pounds over and besides their reasonable costs, charges and expenses sustained and borne about the same;

The residue of all my money, debts unto me owing, and all my beddings, hangings, napery and all other my stuff, store and implements of household, corn, cattle, necessaries of husbandry, and all and singular my moveable goods whatsoever in this my present testament and last will not otherwise given, willed, bequeathed or assigned, after my funerals conveniently done and all other charges concerning the execution of this my said will and testament borne, paid and performed, I wholly and freely give them unto Anne, my said wife, and to my daughter, the Lady Anne Maltravers, equally and indifferently to be parted and divided between them;

And of this my said testament and last will I do ordain, make and admit to be mine executors the abovesaid [f. 213v] Anne, my well-beloved wife, [+and] my cousin, Rooke Greene, esquire. By me, John Wentworth. By me, Christopher Hill, clerk, Thomas Leaper(?), Arthur Breme. By me, Bartholomew Wayte, John Catterall. All these men whose names are above and within-written are witnesses to this my present testament and last will.

The Schedule of Servants

Inprimis. John Barnishe [=Berners], gentleman, 40s
 Bennett Cornewell [=Cornwall], 40s;
 Arthur Breme, £3
 William Cedwell, £3
 Robert Gosnold, 40s
 John Catterall, 40s
 Thomas Woode, 40s
 John Spencer, £3
 Thomas Lawrence, 53s 4d
 John Golding, 40s
 Thomas Wayte, 40s
 John Peach, 40s
 Robert Rowse (blank)
 George Cote, 26s 8d
 William Osborne, 40s
 John James, 40s
 Robert Langdon (blank)
 William Chapman, 20s
 Agnes Blithe, £3
 Alice Man, 20s

Thomas Leaper, 26s 8d
 Bartholomew Wayte, 20s
 John Kinge, 20s
 James Mare, 20s
 Robert Golding, 20s
 Roger Golding, 20s
 Cuthbert Toodd (blank)
 Henry Hunte, 26s 8d
 William Clarke, 26s 8d
 John Reve, 20s
 George Harde, 20s
 James Clarke, 20s
 Martin Newman (blank)
 John Pasfelde (blank)
 Thomas Bridge (blank)
 John Sheppard, 26s 8d

Probatum [+fuit] h{uius}mo{d}i testamentu{m} Coram Mag{ist}ro Waltero Haddon
 legum doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cant{uariensis} Com{m}issario Apud London xvto Die
 mensis Octobris Anno D{omi}ni Mill{es}imo Quingen{tesim}o Sexagesimo septimo
 Iuramento Edwardi Orwell p{ro}cur{ator}is D{omi}ne Anne et Roti Grene
 executor{um} in h{uius}mo{d}i test{ament}o no{m}i{n}ator{um} Quibus Comissa fuit
 ad{ministraci}o omn{ium} et singulor{um} bonor{um} d{i}c{t}i def{uncti} De b{e}ne
 &c Ac de pleno et fideli inuen{ta}rio Necnon de plano et vero Compoto Reddend{o} Ad
 Sancta Dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{is}

[=The same testament was proved before Master Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws,
 Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the 15th day of the
 month of October in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixty-seventh by the
 oath of Edward Orwell, proctor of the Lady Anne and Rooke Greene, executors named in
 the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods of
 the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., and to render a full and faithful
 inventory, and also a plain and true account.]