

SUMMARY: The document below is the will, dated 20 March 1575 [=1576], of Oxford's maternal uncle, Henry Golding, half-brother of Oxford's mother, Margery Golding (d.1568). Henry Golding (d.1576), steward of the household of the 16th Earl of Oxford, was one of the witnesses to the indenture for Oxford's marriage which the 16th Earl drew up on 1 July 1562, and is named as an executor of the 16th Earl's will of 28 July 1562. At the time of the making of his will in 1576, Henry Golding held a lease of Oxford's manor of Castle Campes, which he bequeathed to his brother, George Golding (d.1584), whom he also named as his sole executor. However the probatum clause indicates that on 12 February 1577 George Golding renounced administration, which was then entrusted to the testator's brother, Arthur Golding (1535/6–1606), despite misgivings expressed by the testator in the will about possible friction between Arthur Golding and the testator's wife, Alice (nee Covell) Forster Golding (d.1587), misgivings which later proved to be well founded. Certain clauses in the will charge the testator's executor with responsibility for matters involving Mary (nee Forster) Waldegrave, the daughter of the testator's wife by her earlier marriage to George Forster [Foster] (d.1556?). The following provisions in the will relate to the testator's stepdaughter, Mary Waldegrave:

Item, whereas there is owing unto Mary Waldegrave by Nicholas Mynne four hundred pounds, and by myself one hundred threescore pounds, I will that my executors do pay the same unto my well-beloved wife and my cousin, William Aylofffe, to th' use of the said Mary Waldegrave, and also that till she be paid the same she be allowed ten pounds of every hundred towards her living.

Item, whereas Robert Waldegrave standeth bound unto me in one pair of indentures for the performance of certain covenants touching the said Mary Waldegrave, and hath knowledged a statute of the sum of seven hundred pounds for the performance of the covenants of the said indenture and statute to my said wife and cousin Aylofffe, praying them wisely to forsee for the safety of the said Mary Waldegrave, charging also my executor to be aiding and assisting to them, and to do whatsoever shall be meet for him to do for the furtherance of that matter.

William Aylofffe (d.1584), referred to by the testator as 'my cousin Aylofffe', was the son of William Aylofffe (d.1569), third husband of Margaret (nee Forster) Aylofffe (d.1587), the sister of George Forster (d.1556?), former husband of the testator's wife.

Nicholas Mynne, referred to in the foregoing provisions and also one of the witnesses to the will below, was at one time in Oxford's service, and is said to have been a 'near kinsman' of the testator (see Golding, Louis Thorn, *An Elizabethan Puritan*, (New York: R.R. Smith, 1937), p. 78). Another of the witnesses to the will, John Mynors, may be the same John Mynors who was appointed to Oxford's council on 17 September 1580 (see ERO D/DRg2/27). For a lawsuit in Chancery in 1590 involving Henry Golding's lease of Castle Campes, see C 2/Eliz/M5/14. For the will of Henry Golding's wife, Alice (nee Covell) Forster Golding (d.1587), see TNA PROB 11/70, ff. 154-7. For the will of

Robert Forster (d.1555?) of Little Birch, Essex, the father-in-law of Alice (nee Covell) Forster Golding (d.1587), see TNA PROB 11/39, ff. 74-5.

LM: Testamentum Henrici Goldinge

In the name of God, Amen. I, Henry Golding of Little Birch in the county of Essex, esquire, being whole of body and perfect memory, thanks be unto God, this 20th day of March one thousand five hundred seventy-five, and in the eighteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, do ordain and make this my last will and testament in manner and form following, renouncing all manner wills, pamphlets and writings touching the same:

Inprimis, I commend my soul unto Almighty God, my Creator, and to Jesus Christ, my Redeemer, and by whose death and passion once suffered for me and all mankind upon the Cross I hope to rise again with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and to the Holy Ghost, my Comforter, whom I beseech to direct, sanctify and govern me in all my doings and proceedings in this transitory life;

My body I commit to the earth to be buried in such parish church as it shall happen me to depart this present life;

Item, I give to the poor of the said parish where I shall be buried twenty shillings, and to the poor of the [-poor of the] parishes of Great Birch, Little Birch and Easthorpe 40s to be equally divided amongst them;

Item, I give unto my well-beloved wife, Alice Golding, all my household stuff, plate, jewels and ready money within my dwelling-house in Little Birch, and also all my corn, cattle and my other goods moveable and unmoveable within my said dwelling-house and upon all the lands, tenements and hereditaments which I have in Little Birch in the said county of Essex, except mine own apparel belonging to myself, upon this condition, that the said Alice shall be contented to suffer the heirs and assigns of one John Frelove quietly to enjoy and possess the moiety of the manor of Harsted in the county of Suffolk which I sold to the said John Frelove and did covenant to discharge it of all jointures, and if she shall refuse this to do, then I will this legacy before bequeathed to her to go to my executor for the performance of my said covenant;

Item, whereas there is owing unto Mary Waldegrave by Nicholas Mynne four hundred pounds, and by myself one hundred threescore pounds, I will that my executors do pay the same unto my well-beloved wife and my cousin, William Aylofffe, to th' use of the said Mary Waldegrave, and also that till she be paid the same she be allowed ten pounds of every hundred towards her living;

Item, whereas Robert Waldegrave standeth bound unto me in one pair of indentures for the performance of certain covenants touching the said Mary Waldegrave, and hath

knowledged a statute of the sum of seven hundred pounds for the performance of the covenants of the said indenture and statute to my said wife and cousin Aylofffe, praying them wisely to forsee for the safety of the said Mary Waldegrave, charging also my executor to be aiding and assisting to them, and to do whatsoever shall be meet for him to do for the furtherance of that matter;

Item, I give unto my said wife in consideration of her dower which she may claim out of my lands during her life my manor of Little Birch and all other my lands, tenements and hereditaments in Little Birch, Great Birch, Copford, Stanway and Layer de la Haye in mine own occupation and in the several occupations of one Swaffelde, John Baron(?), the widow Bridgman, Henry Clerke, Collett the miller, and one [] Clovell(?) or their assigns, which said manor of Little Birch and all other the premises given to my wife during her life I will shall remain after her decease to my brother, Arthur Golding, during his life, and after his decease to my nephew, Henry Golding, his son, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully to be begotten, and for default of such heirs males to the heirs males of my said brother, Arthur, lawfully to be begotten, and for default of such issue to my brother, [RM: George Golding, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to my brother] William, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully to be begotten, and for default of such issue to the right heirs of me, Henry Golding, forever;

Item, I give unto Elizabeth Waldegrave, daughter of Mary Waldegrave, one hundred pounds to be paid unto her as soon as it may be raised after my debts be paid;

I give unto my nephew, Thomas Beeke, twenty pounds;

I give to every of my brothers living at my death a ring worth forty shillings, and to every my sisters and my sisters-in-law a ring worth twenty-six shillings eight pence;

Item, I give to my servants Thomas Little, Robert Beerman, Richard and Henry Horsekeeper forty shillings apiece, and to every other servant dwelling with me at the time of my decease twenty shillings over and besides his quarter wages;

Provided always and my very meaning is that if my brother Arthur shall by himself or any other by his procurement and assent molest, vex or trouble my well-beloved wife in the quiet possession and holding of such lands as I have assigned to her, then I will my said wife and her assigns shall have, in consideration of the vexing and molestation to be done by my said brother or any other by his assent and procurement all the manor, lands, tenements and hereditaments to her bequeathed by the space of five years after her decease;

Item, I will that my wife shall pay out of the premises all such rents, charge and quit-rents as are and shall be payable out of the same;

Item, I leave to descend unto my brother, Arthur, the moiety of my manors of Easthorpe, Great Birch, and one tenement in Great Birch which I bought lately of one Waynewright and his wife;

Item, I will, in consideration of payment of my debts and legacies, that my executor shall have the profits of my lease of Campes which I hold of the right honourable the Earl of Oxenford by the space of ten years;

The residue of the term which shall remain in my said lease, my debts and legacies being paid, I give unto my brother, George Golding, together with all other my debts, goods moveable and unmoveable not before bequeathed, which said brother George Golding I make and ordain my only executor of this my last will and testament, beseeching him to see my debts paid and this my last will and testament performed according to the trust I repose in him, and also to be aiding and assisting unto my well-beloved wife in anything he may pleasure her;

I will my apparel, except my hoses, which I give to my servants Robert Beerman, Thomas Little, and Richard, to be equally divided between my brother, Arthur, and my brother, George;

And in witness that this is my last will and testament, I have subscribed this writing with my hand and written the same with mine own hand and set to my seal in the presence of those whose names are here underwritten. By me, Henry Golding. Signed and sealed in the presence of Nicholas Mynne, Thomas Aglionby, John Mynors.

Duodecimo die mensis ffebruarij Anno Domini Millesimo Quingentesimo Septuagesimo sexto in Edibus magistri Willelimi Drury legum Doctoris Curie Prerogatiue Cantuariensis Commissarij &c ac Coram eo in presentia mei Anthonij lawe notarij publici Comparuit personaliter Georgius Goldinge Executor in Testamento suprascripto nominatus et exhibuit Testamentum predictum et ex certis causis eum moventibus oneri executionis dicti Testamenti expresse renunciauit ita vt Administracio bonorum dicti defuncti vnacum Testamento predicto Arthuro Goldinge fratri naturali et legitimo dicti defuncti committatur ad Cuius petitionem Dominus admisit huiusmodi renuntiationem quatenus de Iure &c Et commisit Administracionem omnium et singulorum bonorum Iurium et Creditorum dicti defuncti prefato Arthuro Goldinge personaliter presenti De bene et fideliter administrando eadem Ac de pleno et fidei Inventario omnium et singulorum bonorum Iurium &c conficiendo Ad sancta Dei Evangelia rite Iurato.

[=On the twelfth day of the month of February in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred seventy-sixth [=12 February 1577] in the house of Master William Drury, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury etc., and before him in the presence of me, Anthony Lawe, notary public, appeared personally George Golding, executor named in the above-written testament, and exhibited the foresaid testament, and for certain causes him moving, expressly renounced the burden of the

execution of the said testament, insomuch as the administration of the goods of the said deceased, together with the foresaid testament, is entrusted to Arthur Golding, natural and legitimate brother of the said deceased, at whose request the Lord [+Archbishop?] allowed the same renunciation insofar as by law etc., and entrusted the administration of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased to the forenamed Arthur Golding, personally present, duly sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to make a full and true inventory of all and singular the goods, rights etc.]