

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 14 February 1579 and proved 29 October 1580, of Roger Alford (d. 16 July 1580) of Hitcham, Buckinghamshire, at whose house in Hitcham Oxford may have stayed for a time in 1564. For a letter dated 9 January 1564 from Sir William Cecil to Bridget (nee Hussey), (1526-1601), then Countess of Rutland, stating that Oxford was at Hitcham near Burnham in Buckinghamshire (and likely at the testator's home there), see Historical Manuscripts Commission, Twelfth Report, Appendix, Part IV, *The Manuscripts of His Grace the Duke of Rutland, G.C.B., Preserved at Belvoir Castle*, (London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1888), Vol. 1, p. 89.

For the testator's long career in the service of William Cecil, 1st Lord Burghley, see Barnett, Richard C., *Place, Profit and Power; A Study of the Servants of William Cecil, Elizabethan Statesman* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1969), pp. 24-8.

For the testator's role as a trustee in Lord Burghley's purchase of the manor of Theobalds from Robert Burbage (d.1575), see TNA C 54/662, mm. 8-11.

For the testator, see also 'The Skliar-Ward Family Tree' at:

<http://www.be-sw.com/node/33>.

The testator was the son of Robert Alford (d.1546) and Anne Brydges, daughter of Edmund Brydges and Margaret Hart, and niece of Sir John Brydges (d.1530), Lord Mayor of London in 1521, whose daughter Winifred Brydges (d.1586) was the mother of Thomas Sackville (c.1536-1608), 1st Baron Buckhurst and 1st Earl of Dorset. See the *ODNB* article on Thomas Sackville, and the History of Parliament entry for the testator:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/alford-roger-1530-80>.

See also Brydges, Egerton, *Collins's Peerage of England*, (London: F.C. and J. Rivington, 1812), Vol. IV, p. 710 at:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=9fsUAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA710&lpg=PA710&dq=%22sir+john+bridges%22+%2B%22st+nicholas%22&source=bl&ots=dljEd3CnDL&sig=unlqR0s_7_4FDIsPWGkCEIINWqs&hl=en&ei=TOKXTJDpM42isQOpobSmDA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=7&ved=0CCwQ6AEwBg#v=onepage&q=%22sir%20john%20bridges%22%20%2B%22st%20nicholas%22&f=false.

For the testator's brother, Francis Alford (buried 3 September 1592), mentioned in the will below, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/alford-francis-1530-92>.

The testator married Elizabeth Ramsey, posthumous daughter of Thomas Ramsey (d.1524) and Pernell Baldwin (d.1527), one of the daughters and coheirs of Sir John Baldwin (d.1545), Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. For the will of Sir John Baldwin, see TNA PROB 11/30/580. Before her marriage to the testator, Elizabeth Ramsey was the wife of Nicholas Clerke (d.1551), by whom she had four children, including a son, Sir William Clerke, and a daughter, Dorothy Clerke, who married firstly Henry Long (1544-1573), and secondly, Sir Charles Morison (1549 - 31 March 1599), mentioned in the will below.

See also the Clerke pedigree in Lee, Frederick George, *The History, Description and Antiquities of the Prebendal Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Thame*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1883), p. 310 at:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=f1oMAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA300&lpg=PA300&dq=%22sir+William+Clerke%22&source=bl&ots=vgRU0ts_4k&sig=7Iwc5kEvIXhzaB9UC45nBaoyun8&hl=en&sa=X&ei=zK2bU9rDN8PuoAS5qIGIDw&ved=0CEUQ6AEwCA#v=onepage&q=%22sir%20William%20Clerke%22&f=false.

By Elizabeth Ramsey the testator had a son, Edward Alford (1566-1632), for whom see the *ODNB* article, and a daughter, Anne Alford, who married Edward Fettiplace.

For Sir Thomas Cecil (1542-1623), 1st Earl of Exeter, one of the curators appointed by the testator, see the *ODNB* article:

For Sir Charles Morison (1549 - 31 March 1599), another of the curators, see his will, dated 20 February 1598 and proved 20 July 1599, TNA PROB 11/94/168.

For James Dalton (d.1601), another of the curators, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/dalton-james-1601>.

For William Lambarde (1536–1601), the testator's friend, and another of the curators, see the *ODNB* article.

For the testator's monument, see:

'Parishes: Hitcham', *A History of the County of Buckingham: Volume 3* (1925), pp. 231-235. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=42551>.

For the will of the testator's wife, Elizabeth Alford, proved 23 December 1598, see TNA PROB 11/92/437.

LM: T{estamentum} Rogeri Aldford

The Blessed Trinity prosper me, and send good success to all these my purposes and doings. I, Roger Alford of Hitcham in the county of Buckingham, esquire, being of good health and remembrance (for the which I thank God), do ordain and make this my last will or testament touching all my goods and chattels in manner and form following:

First I betake my soul and body to the Almighty God, trusting that through his precious death and passion and all other his actions and performance of all things mentioned in his Old and New Testament touching the same to have remission of my sins and to be partaker of his blessed kingdom;

I will that my body be buried on the right side of the chancel of the parish church of Hitcham, upon the which I will a tomb to be set of grey marble after the pattern of Mr Edmund Bridges, my grandfather, which was palled up in St Lawrence Pountney College in London, the pattern whereof is to be seen by Sir John Bridges' tomb, his brother, in St Nicholas Church in St Nicholas Lane in London, or else after the pattern of Mr Henry Long's which I devised for him, to be all of grey marble with my word under my scutcheon, 'Try, trust, and mistrust not';

I will that my loving wife, Mrs Elizabeth Alford, shall have to enjoy during her natural life the use and occupation of all my goods and chattels, household stuff and plate within the house & manor of Hitcham aforesaid without any property therein;

And also I will and ordain that my said wife shall have and use at her pleasure to her benefit during her life all my stocks of cattle and sheep at Weston in the county of Oxford and Hitcham aforesaid, leaving unto my executor after her decease so many sheep and other cattle as shall be upon the grounds of Hitcham and Weston aforesaid within one month next before the day of my decease, or the value of them as they shall be reasonably praised after my decease;

Item, I will and bequeath to my said wife the use and occupation of all my household stuff and plate within my house at the White Friars by Fleet Street without any property therein until Edward Alford, my son, shall be married, and then I will that he shall have the same at his pleasure;

Item, I give to my said wife all such plate as is in my house at Hitcham and was her own before I married her, to be used at her pleasure, and also all such jewels as I have given unto her since I married her;

Item, I will and bequeath to my daughter, Anne Alford, the wardship and marriage of Giles Zewster [=Sewster?], whose marriage my good old master, and rather father, the Lord Burghley, now Lord Treasurer of England, hath bestowed upon me;

Also I bequeath her one hundred and twenty pounds in money to pay the Queen's Majesty for him and for the charges thereabouts marriage by the consent of my wife

[+and?] her brother and sister Morison, or else but one hundred pounds, the same to be paid her at the day of her marriage or at her age of eighteen years complete;

Item, I will that as well all the rents and profits of all such lands and tenements which I shall leave to descend to my said son, Edward, as of all other my stocks of cattle and chattels real which I shall leave him shall remain in the custody of my said wife, to be answered him at the full age of 21 years;

And I will that my said daughter, Anne, shall enjoy all such biliments of gold and chains of gold as I have or shall give her in my lifetime, though they remain afterward in my custody;

Item, I will that my son, Edward, continue his study at Oxford until he be 17 or 18 years of age, and then I would have him set in Lincoln's Inn, and to be at the appointment both for his order of study and all other his directions of my good friend Mr Lambarde of Lincoln's Inn aforesaid, whom I have for his virtue and good learning better loved than ever he knew, and charge my said son to obey him in all things as he would me;

Also my meaning is when he shall grow towards twenty years that he shall serve my Lord Treasurer, my old master, who I trust will accept him and notwithstanding permit him to continue his study at law;

Also I will that my said son shall bear and pay all manner of charges whatsoever that any his curators hereafter mentioned shall be at for any cause of his whatsoever, as well law as other during his minority;

Item, I will Mr Morison black for himself and three men;

Item, I will to Mr William Walter th' elder of Wimbledon, Mr George Burden and Mr Philip Scudamore, either of them a black gown;

Item, to my son [=stepson], Mr William [f. 312r] Clerke, a black gown and coats for two men;

To Mr James Dalton my best gilt salt in my house at London with a cover;

Item, I bequeath to my Lord Burghley my bay gelding for my own saddle;

To Sir Thomas Cecil, my own grey nag;

To Mr Lambarde my gilt standing cup with a cover which is at my house at London;

To my brother, Francis, all my apparel, except my cloak of damask guarded with velvet, my plain Spanish cape of cloth and the coat cloth thereto, and my gaskin hose of friezed velvet with the silk netherstocks, and my Dutch cloak of black cloth guarded with four laces of fine parchment lace, which hereby I give to Mr George Burden;

Item, I will that all manner of things which shall remain to my son, Edward, as executor of this my last will, whom by these presents I do ordain and make my sole executor, and to whom, his executors and administrators, I do hereby give & bequeath all my goods and chattels unbequeathed, shall remain and be in the custody of my said wife, as well specialties of debts as all other during his minority;

Item, I ordain and appoint curators of my said son during his minority for his better education and performance of this my last will & testament my loving wife, Elizabeth Alford, and my very friends following: Sir Thomas Cecil, knight, his godfather; Mr Charles Morison, esquire, his brother-in-law; Mr James Dalton of Lincoln's Inn; Mr Lambarde of Lincoln's Inn; Mr Philip Scudamore, and Mr George Burden;

I will that all my armour and furniture of war, except my own armour and furniture thereof and best case of pistolets and best shirt of mail which I will have reserved to the use of my said son, shall be sold for the best profit of my said son, and the money thereof to be employed, with the rest of such goods as I shall leave to him, in land by the advice of my said curators or the most part of them, whereof my wife, Sir Thomas Cecil and Mr Morison, or two of them, to be consenting, for his best benefit, and in the meantime I will the same money shall be employed by the advice aforesaid as is aforesaid for his best profit till it may be employed in land, the event whereof he by this my will shall be bound to abide and stand to at his peril;

Item, I will that my said executor shall perform to my friends mentioned in a schedule hereunto annexed all such legacies as I have therein assigned unto him to pay them;

In witness whereof to this my present last will and testament I, the said Roger Alford, have set to my hand and seal the fourteenth day of February in the twenty and one year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, and in earth of the Churches of England and Ireland Supreme Governor et Anno Domini 1578. By me, Roger Alford.

Truly examined with the original by us undernamed.

[WILL CONCERNING THE TESTATOR'S LANDS DATED 25 AUGUST 1570 NOT TRANSCRIBED]

Vicesimo nono die mensis Octobris Anno Domini Mill^{es}imo Quingentesimo Octogesimo Emanavit Commissio Elizabethæ Alfordæ Relictæ dictⁱ defunctⁱ etc Ad administrand^{um} bona etc eiusdem defunctⁱ iuxta tenorem Testamenti et vltimæ voluntat^{is} dictⁱ defunctⁱ duran^{te} minori etate Edwardi Alfordæ filij et Executor^{is} in h^{uius}modi Testament^o nominatⁱ in p^{er}sona m^{agist}ri Richardi Windor Notarij publici Procuratoris dict^e Elizabethæ Alfordæ etc De bene etc Iuratⁱ

[=On the twenty-ninth day of the month of October in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred eightieth a grant issued to Elizabeth Alford, relict of the said deceased etc., to administer the goods etc. of the said deceased according to the tenor of the testament and last will of the said deceased during the minority of Edward Alford, son and executor named in the same testament, in the person of Master Richard Windor, notary public, proctor of the said Elizabeth Alford etc., sworn to well etc.]