

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 10 June 1579 and proved 18 February 1583, of Dorothy (nee Gates) Josselyn, the wife of Sir Thomas Josselyn (b. 1507, d. 24 October 1562), only son and heir of John Josselyn of High Roding, Essex, receiver-general of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford, and one of the executors of the Earl's will.

John Josselyn's service with the Earls of Oxford is described in Rawcliffe, Carole and Susan Flower, 'English Noblemen and Their Advisers: Consultation and Collaboration in the Later Middle Ages', *Journal of British Studies* 25 (April 1986): 157-177, at p. 160, available online:

John Josselyn, auditor-general and councilor to the de Veres from 1487 until his death thirty-eight years later, was employed successively by the thirteenth earl of Oxford, his widow, and his nephew, the fourteenth earl. The latter's dissolute and spendthrift ways led Cardinal Wolsey himself to impose a strict regime on the earl in 1524, with the intent that he should behave "honourably, prudently and sadly, forswearing all riotous and wild companies, excessive and superfluous apparell: and kindlie intreate and demeane himself towards . . . his wief." The routine management of Oxford's lands, household and person was then consigned to a small council headed by Josselyn in his joint capacity as receiver general, surveyor, and auditor, in which exalted post he ended his days.

The testatrix was the daughter of Sir Geoffrey Gates (d. 1526) and his wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Clopton. Sir Geoffrey Gates' son and heir, the testatrix' brother, Sir John Gates (1504-1553), was named as an executor in the 1552 will of Oxford's father, the 16th Earl. However Gates was replaced as executor by a codicil dated January 28, 1554, having been executed on 22 August 1553 along with John Dudley (1504-1553), Duke of Northumberland, as a result of Northumberland's failed attempt to put his daughter-in-law, Lady Jane Grey, on the throne after the death of Edward VI (see BL Stowe Charter 633-4). The testatrix' sister, Anne Gates, married Thomas Darcy, the uncle of Thomas (1506-1558), 1st Baron Darcy of Chiche, Vice-Chamberlain of King Edward VI's household, and brother-in-law of the 16th Earl of Oxford. For the will of Thomas (1506-1558), 1st Baron Darcy of Chiche, see TNA PROB 11/44, ff. 75-6. For the will of the testatrix' husband, Sir Thomas Josselyn (b. 1507, d. 24 October 1562), see TNA PROB 11/47, ff. 213-14.

The testatrix and her husband, Sir Thomas Josselyn (b. 1507, d. 24 October 1562), had a daughter, Jane Josselyn, who married Oxford's receiver, Richard Kelton (d.1578). Richard Kelton is mentioned as a friend in the will of Oxford's stepfather, Charles Tyrrell (d.1570), and was a witness to the will:

Item, I do give unto my brother, Philip Tyrrell, and my friend, Master Kelton of Colne, all that my lease and term of years yet to come which I have of the said house, manor and priory of Colne with th' appurtenances by any means or ways, as well by force of one indenture made by the late Earl, deceased, to John Booth and Thomas Coe, which said John and Thomas have, by their deed signed and sealed, released over their interest to my

late wife, the Countess of Oxford, in her widowhood, as by all other means and ways whereby any right or title of the same might or may accrue or grow to me;

Item, I do make my brother, Philip Tyrrell, my sole executor of all other my goods and chattels yet ungiven upon condition he do pay all such debts and duties as may lawfully be demanded of me and shall justly be proved as above-written to be my debts, these being witnesses hereof, Master John Seymour, esquire, one of the Queen's Majesty's Gentlemen-Pensioners, and Mr Richard Kelton, gentleman.

For the will of Charles Tyrrell, see TNA PROB 11/52, f. 105.

After Richard Kelton's death, Jane (nee Josselyn) Kelton married Roger Harlakenden (d.1603), who defrauded Oxford in the sale of Colne Priory. Roger Harlakenden's marriage into the family of the testator, who had been a trusted servant of the Earls of Oxford, may have facilitated his fraud. For the will of Roger Harlakenden (d.1603), see TNA PROB 11/101, ff. 392-3.

LM: Testamentum Domine Dorothee Josselyn vidue

In the name of God, Amen. The tenth day of June in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred threescore and nineteenth, and in the one and twentieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, etc., I, Dame Dorothy Josselyn of High Roding in the county of Essex, widow, late the wife of Sir Thomas Josselyn, knight, deceased, do declare and make this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say:

First I give and bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my Redeemer and Saviour, trusting by his passion to come to his heavenly kingdom, and I will that whensoever it shall please Almighty God to take me out of this transitory life, that my body be buried in the church of Sabbesforde [=Sawbridgeworth] next unto my said husband, Sir Thomas Josselyn;

Also I give and bequeath to the said church of Sabbesford [=Sawbridgeworth] towards the reparations thereof six shillings eight pence;

Also I give and bequeath to the church of High Roding towards the reparations thereof forty shillings, and to the poor [-of] people of High Roding twenty shillings, to be equally divided amongst them at the day of my burial by the discretion of my executors;

And within one month next after my decease I will one quarter of wheat to be baked and giving [sic] in bread to the poor of High Roding aforesaid and Aythorpe Roding by the discretion of the churchwardens of High Roding and Aythorpe;

Also I give and bequeath to the surveyors of the highways of High Roding and their bridges twenty shillings;

Also I give to the poor people of Hatfield Broad Oak ten shillings;

Also I give to every of my sons a ring of gold, price of twenty shillings, for a remembrance;

Also I give to my daughter, Jane Kelton (blank);

Also I give to Humphrey Josselyn, son to Henry Josselyn, esquire, six pounds thirteen shillings four pence, to be paid to him when he shall accomplish his full age of one and twenty years;

Also I give to Richard Lucas, my servant, six pounds;

Also I will that all my household servants be paid their full wages, and unto so many of them as shall be and remain with me at the time of my decease I give twenty shillings apiece;

Item, I give unto John Casse, my servant, one bullock of two years old;

Also I will that my executors shall pay or cause to be paid to Richard Lucas, my servant, or his assignees, all such debts as is due to him by one obligation long since, and one bill of my hand of which some part is paid and doth appear in a book of accounts under the hand of the said Richard Lucas, within one month next after my decease;

Also I do ordain, constitute and make my only and sole executor of this my last will and testament my well-beloved brother, Sir Henry Gate[s] of Seamer in the county of York, knight, in whom I put my whole trust and confidence that he will see my body well brought to the earth and pay all my debts and legacies expressed in one schedule annexed to a deed indented made by me, the said Dorothy Josselyn, to my said brother bearing date the seventh day of July in the eighteenth year [=7 July 1576] of her Majesty's reign and in this my last will expressed;

Also I give to Edward Josselyn, my son, the moiety or full one half of all such my goods as shall remain, my debts and legacies being discharged;

Also I give unto his daughter, Mary Josselyn, twenty pounds to be paid unto her at or in the day of the marriage of the said Mary or when she shall accomplish the full age of eighteen years;

Also I do request, desire and pray Sir William Cordell, knight, to be my supervisor of this my last will and testament to see the same fulfilled and performed according to my last will according to my mind, intent and purpose;

Item, I give unto him, the said Sir William, for his pains therein to be taken one ring of gold, price forty shillings;

And I do by this my present last will and testament revoke and make void all other wills and testaments heretofore by me made or hereafter to be made;

Witness whereof I have desired these men to be witnesses of the same whose names are hereunder written, that is to say: Dorothy Josselyn. By me, Richard Lucas, John Pickering, Hugh Glave, witnesses of this will.

Decimo quarto die mensis february Anno Domini iuxta cursum et computacionem ecclesie Anglicane millesimo quingentesimo octogesimo secundo in Edibus magistri Drury commissarij etc ac coram eo presente me Anthonio Lawe notario publico comparuit personaliter dictus Dominus Henricus Gate miles et exhibuit testamentum suprascriptum atque ex certis causis animum suum in ea parte iuste moventibus expresse renunciauit oneri executionis eiusdem quam suam renunciacionem Dominus ad eius petitionem admisit Et tunc idem Dominus Henricus Gate sub protestacione de non recedendo a quorumque beneficio sibi de iure vllo modo competenti racione cuiusdam scripti Donacionis ad vsum eiusdem Domini Henrici per dictam testatricem dum vixit facti sed de adherendo eidem petijt administracionem omnium et singulorum bonorum Iurium et creditorum dicte defuncte iuxta tenorem testamenti suprascripti sibi committi Ad cuius petitionem Dominus commisit administracionem omnium et singulorum bonorum iurium et creditorum huiusmodi iuxta tenorem testamenti predicti Dicto Domino Henrico Gate militi De bene etc Iurato

[=On the eighteenth day of the month of February in the year of the Lord according to the course and reckoning of the English Church the thousand five hundred eighty-second in the house of Master Drury, Commissary etc., and before him, in the presence of me, Anthony Law, notary public, personally appeared the said Sir Henry Gates, knight, and exhibited the above-written testament, and also for certain causes his mind in that respect justly moving, expressly renounced the burden of the execution of the same, which his renunciation the Lord [+Archbishop?] at his petition admitted, and then the same Sir Henry Gate, under protestation of not abandoning those to whom a benefit suitable to the law [+might accrue] in any way by reason of a certain deed of gift to the use of the same Sir Henry by the said testatrix made while she lived, but to adhere to the same, he petitioned that administration of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said decease according to the tenor of the above-written testament be granted to him, at whose petition the Lord [+Archbishop?] granted administration of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the same according to the tenor of the foresaid testament to the said Sir Henry Gate, knight, sworn to well etc.]