

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 16 August 1583 and proved 13 November 1583, of Sir Henry Bedingfield (d. 22 August 1583), whose second son, Thomas Bedingfield (d.1613), dedicated his translation of *Cardanus' Comfort* to Oxford.

The testator was the son and heir of Sir Edmund Bedingfield (1479/80–1553) and his wife, Grace Marney (d. in or after 1553), the daughter of Henry, 1st Baron Marney. For the will of Sir Edmund Bedingfield (1479/80–1553), see TNA PROB 11/36/267.

The testator married Katherine Townshend (d.1581), the daughter of Sir Roger Townshend (d.1551) of Raynham, Norfolk and his wife, Amy Brewes [Brewse].

According to the Bedingfield pedigree, the testator and his wife had five sons and six daughters:

* Edmund Bedingfield (d.1585), who married firstly Anne Southwell, the daughter of Sir Robert Southwell, and secondly Anne Moulton (d.1592), widow of Nicholas Arrowsmith, esquire, and John Paston, esquire.

* Thomas Bedingfield (d.1613), Gentleman Pensioner to Queen Elizabeth, buried at St James, Clerkenwell. He dedicated his translation of *Cardanus' Comfort* to Oxford (see STC 4607 on this website). For his will, see TNA PROB 11/122/124.

* John Bedingfield of Ridingfield, Suffolk, who was living on 21 February 1606.

* Nicholas Bedingfield of Swatshall in Gislingham, who is mentioned in the 1613 will of his brother, Thomas, and who died without issue in 1636.

* Henry Bedingfield of Sturston.

* Alice Bedingfield, who married firstly Thomas Carvel, elder son of Humprey Kerville of Wigenhale, and secondly Henry Seckford.

* Eva Bedingfield, who married William Yaxley of Yaxley, and left a will dated 25 July 1627, proved 12 May 1631.

* Katherine Bedingfield.

* Elizabeth Bedingfield, who married Edmund Richers of Swanington.

* Anne Bedingfield

* Amy Bedingfield, who married Thomas Wilbraham, Attorney of the Court of Wards.

See Dashwood, G.H., ed., *The Visitation of Norfolk in the Year 1563*, (Norwich: Miller and Leavins, 1878), Vol. I, pp. 158-60, available online.

In the will below the testator names his five sons, but names only five daughters: 'my daughter Anne Bedingfield', 'my daughter Seckford', 'my daughter Yaxley', my daughters Norton and Riches'.

The testator's eldest son and heir, Edmund Bedingfield (d.1585), was twice married. His first wife, Anne Southwell, was the daughter of Sir Robert Southwell (c.1503-1559), lawyer, Member of Parliament, and Master of the Rolls, and Margaret Neville (d.1575), daughter and heiress of Sir Thomas Neville (1484?1542), fifth son of George Neville (1436-1492), 2nd Lord Abergavenny. Anne Southwell was thus the sister of the Francis Southwell who was involved with Lord Henry Howard and Charles Arundel in allegations against Oxford in 1581. For the will of Sir Robert Southwell (c.1506-1559), see TNA PROB 11/43, ff. 408-410. For Edmund Bedingfield's second wife, Anne Moulton (d.1595), who was the mother of Bridget Paston (1565-1598), the first wife of Sir Edward Coke (1552-1643), see Boyer, Allen D., *Sir Edward Coke and the Elizabethan Age* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2003), pp. 207-9, available online.

The testator died 22 August 1583, and was buried 24 or 25 August in the parish church at Oxburgh.

LM: T{estamen}t{um} Henrici Bedingfilde Militis

[f. 126v] In the name of God, Amen. The sixteenth day of August in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred eighty and three, I, Henry Bedingfield, late of Oxburgh in the county of Norfolk, knight, being in good and perfect remembrance (thanks be given to Our Lord) do make and ordain this my last will & testament in manner and form following:

First, I most humbly commend and give my sinful soul to Almighty God, my Maker and Redeemer, most humbly beseeching him for his glorious and blessed passion to have mercy and pity upon the same, my body to be buried by the discretion of mine executors if it please God I die whereas they may bury it;

Item, I give to the church of Oxburgh aforesaid for my tithes negligently forgotten twenty shillings;

Item, I will that mine executors shall distribute and give to and amongst the poor and needy people inhabiting and dwelling within the hundred of South Greenhoe and within the towns of Stoke, Wretton, Wereham and Boughton in the hundred of Clackloo [=Clackclose?] the sum of thirteen pounds six shillings and eight pence immediately after my decease;

Item, I will all manner of injuries and wrongs duly proved to be done by me be recompensed by my said executors without delay;

Item, I will also my debts duly proved to be due to any person or persons be also paid and gone through withal by my executors at such days and times as the same shall be due without delay;

Item, I will that the poorest and nearest of my kindred and blood, being maids, wives or widows, be relieved by the discretion and indifferency of my executors to the sum of twenty pounds, to be distributed and divided amongst them as my executors shall think good and see cause to be distributed;

Item, I will, give and devise unto such person or persons as shall be my heir or heirs by the due course of the common laws of this realm at the time of my death all such parcels of plate, household stuff, implements of house, goods, chattels and other ornaments and things as are and be hereafter mentioned and expressed and come to me after the death of mine ancestors as heirlooms pertaining to the house of Oxburgh, and so my full will, mind and intent is that they shall remain, continue and be forever after as heirlooms unto the right heirs of me descended unto the same house of Oxburgh, and go and remain unto the said heirs and heirs of the said house forever as heirlooms, videlicet, a gilt chalice with a paten, four cushions serving for the chapel, and all other things & implements whatsoever now remaining in my custody which heretofore have customably been used and occupied within the said chapel; one ancient bowl of silver with the cover, engraven with the Bedingfields' arms and these words, 'God's blessing'; a basin and ewer of silver parcel gilt with the Bedingfields' arms; all the hangings, being fine tapestry, most usually hanging in the chamber commonly called the King's Chamber over the entry; five pieces of tapestry or arras hangings of imagery work commonly hanging in the great chamber over the buttery at Oxburgh aforesaid; one framed bedstead of wainscot, and one great featherbed, one bolster and a counterpoint most commonly used to be occupied and laid upon the same bedstead wrought with the Bedingfields' arms; five pieces of hangings with the falcon and the fetterlock with a border of the Bedingfields' arms now hanging in the chamber next adjoining to the chamber called the King's Chamber, with the bedding in the same chamber and all the furniture thereto belonging, together with all the bedding, hangings and implements of household whatsoever (the bynne and plate excepted) which be or remained in any the houses at Oxburgh aforesaid;

Also I will and devise to such person and persons as shall be my right heir at the common law from me descended at the time of my decease five coombs of wheat, five coombs of rye and ten quarters of malt, a plough with all things thereto belonging, three geldings for the same plough, and three load of hay, together with all such old swans and swan-marks as shall be found to be in my possession at the day of my death within the said county of Norfolk, Cambridgeshire or elsewhere;

Further I will and give unto my said heir all that my tenement and hall together with all such armour, weapon and artillery serving for the wars as be or shall be within my said house of Oxburgh at the said day of my decease, and one horse and two geldings with

their furnitures serviceable for the wars, to be delivered unto my said heir immediately after my decease;

Item, I will and bequeath unto my said heir one cart, cart gears and all other furniture to the same belonging, and also all the lead, slate, tile, stone and timber [f. 127r] serving to any use of reparations which be and or shall remain in and upon the mansion house of Oxburgh aforesaid or the yards thereto belonging at the time of my decease, to be delivered to him in form aforesaid;

Item, I give unto my said heir all those my fats, brewing vessels and all other utensils and stuff of household for baking and brewing appertaining and belonging to the bakehouse at Oxburgh house aforesaid which shall be and remain there at the time of my decease, and also all those millstones and other instruments or movables appertaining to my water-mill in Oxburgh aforesaid and there remaining at the time of my decease, the same to be delivered in manner aforesaid;

Item, I will and give unto my said heir all my ceilings of wainscot and all my glass in and about my said house of Oxburgh, and also all my brass and pewter and all other utensils, which brass, pewter and utensils been commonly used and occupied in the kitchens and larders of Oxburgh house aforesaid, together with all such fuel and firing of wood and coals as shall remain unspent or occupied by mine executors at Oxburgh aforesaid after one month next after my decease;

Item, I give to my son, Edmund Bedingfield, one drinking pot of silver with a cover engraven with the Bedingfields' arms;

Item, I give and bequeath unto every one of my sons, viz., Thomas, John, Nicholas and Henry, one of my great usual drinking pots of silver;

Item, I give and bequeath to my daughter, Anne Bedingfield, five hundred pounds of good and lawful money of England, to be paid her by mine executors within three months next after my decease;

Item, I will and devise that my younger sons, viz., Thomas and John, and the heirs of the said Thomas shall quietly hold, possess and enjoy all such manors, lands and tenements as already been to them severally conveyed and assured to such uses and intents as been expressed and declared with several assurances and conveyances of the said manors, lands and tenements to them and either of them made and executed, and if it shall happen my son, Edmund, his heirs or assigns, willingly to molest or trouble my said sons or either of them or the heirs of the said Thomas of and in any such right, interest, title or possession as they and either of them now have severally conveyed and assured, then I will and my full mind and intent is that mine executors or the survivor of them or the executor or executors of the survivor of them shall immediately after such wilful molestation or trouble, bargain and sell all those my manors, lands and tenements within the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk whereof I shall stand and be seised in fee simple at the day of my decease, and the money thereof coming to be divided and paid by mine

executors or the survivor of them or the executor or executors of the survivor of them to my said sons, Thomas and John, and the heirs of the said Thomas, if it shall happen my said son Thomas then to be deceased;

Item, I will that Thomas Townshend of Caldecote shall be clearly discharged of all such feedings of any lands in his tenure or occupation as he was bound to have made or left by reason of any his covenant, proviso or agreement to or with me;

And further I will that my executors shall bestow at the day of my funeral in black cloth certain gowns and coats, and shall also immediately after my decease deliver amongst my servants certain sums of money, the same gowns, coats and sums of money to be appointed by a certain schedule to this my last will and testament to be annexed, sealed with my seal and signed with my hand;

And also I will that my executors or the survivor of them shall keep house and hospitality for all my household servants remaining at Oxburgh or Denham the day of my death by the space of one month next after my decease;

And for the due execution of the premises in this my last will and testament given and appointed, I do ordain and appoint Ferdinando Paris of Pudding Norton, Philip Audley, late of Thomsone in the aforesaid county of Norfolk, and my son-in-law, Walter Norton, esquires, the executors of this my last will and testament, whom I heartily desire fully and wholly to execute the same according to my true intent and meaning herein expressed and declared, and I give to every one of my said executors ten pounds of good and lawful money or the value thereof in plate, a gown, and a coat of black cloth, & to each of them for two servants apiece two coat cloths of black cloth, in consideration [f. 127v] of their pains to be taken;

Item, I give to my son, Edmund Bedingfield, all the timber now ready felled at Bedingfield Hall;

Item, I give and bequeath to every one of my grandchildren or children's children which shall be living at the day of my death five pounds of lawful English money of England apiece, to be paid them within six months after my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath to every one of my brothers' and sisters' children which shall be living at the day of my death five marks of lawful money of England apiece, to be paid them within six months next after my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my son, Thomas Bedingfield, one hundred marks of lawful money of England, to be paid him within six months next after my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath to my daughter Seckford one hundred marks of lawful money of England, to be paid her likewise within six months next after my decease;

Item, I give to my grandchild, Henry Caruill, esquire, one hundred marks of lawful money of England, to be paid him within twelve months next after my decease;

Item, I give to my grandchild, Thomas Bedingfield, the son of my son, Edmund, one grey gelding called Coane, one roan gelding bought of Mr Garnishe, and one gelding called Fernesleye, to be delivered him immediately after my decease;

Item, I give to Henry Jerningham, the son of Henry Jerningham, esquire, one standing cup with a cover all gilt which Sir Henry Jerningham, knight, gave me by his will;

Item, I give and bequeath to my son, Edmund Bedingfield, my chain of gold, my best cross of gold, and one piece of rich arras now at Redlingfield, which said piece of arras I will and my meaning is that it shall continue and remain forever as an heirloom to the house of Oxburgh aforesaid;

Item, I give and bequeath to my son, John Bedingfield, all those other vessels, household stuff, utensils, chattels and goods movable & unmovable of mine whatsoever being at this present in or at the now mansion of the said John in Redlingfield;

Item, I give and bequeath to my daughter Yaxley one flat standing bowl with a cover gilt, and to my daughters Norton and Riches, either of them a standing cup with a cover all gilt;

Item I will that mine executors shall distribute and give to and among prisoners at their discretions twenty pounds of lawful money of England;

Item I give and bequeath to my daughter, Anne, one cross of gold enamelled;

The residue of all my goods & chattels as well movable as unmovable not before given or bequeathed by this my last will and testament (my debts and legacies being paid and funeral discharged) I will shall be sold by my said executors or the survivors or survivor of them within six months next after my decease at such reasonable prices as the same shall be worth, and the money thereof coming and all debts due unto me at that time I will shall be equally given and paid and divided to and among my three youngest sons, viz., John, Nicholas and Henry, or so many of them as shall be living at the time of my death;

In witness whereof I, the said Henry Bedingfield, knight, to this my present last will and testament have put to my seal and subscribed the same with mine own hand, these witnesses underwritten being present. By me, John Prettie, Stephanus Crane's mark. H.B. Lawrence Lomax, I. Gostine's mark, Arthur Shelf's mark.

Item, whereas by my last will and testament I have given and bequeathed to every one of my godchildren [sic?] which shall be living at the day of my death five pounds apiece to be paid unto them within six months after my decease, which said sums of money if my executors should pay them according to the words of my will they could not receive a

sufficient discharge in law, the most of my said grandchildren now being very young and within age, therefore my will and intent is that my said executors or the survivor or survivors of them shall deliver with convenient speed all the aforesaid-recited legacies unto the several parents of my said grandchildren to the several uses of my said grandchildren, to be delivered unto each of them at their full ages of one and twenty years;

Also whereas I am possessed of eight acres of ground or thereabouts lying within the bounds of the parish of Eye called or known by the name of Wilcockes or by any other name for many years yet to come now in the occupation of John Easton whereof in my said will I have made no gift or bequest, I do now give all my interest and title in the said lease lands unto my son, Edmund Bedingfield, his executors and assigns;

Item, I give unto Francis Kente, my servant, in consideration of the good service that he hath heretofore done unto me, my bay nag [LM: whereupon I myself have usually ridden, one young grey ambling nag] of four years old and more, either of them to be taken by him at his choice, and also I give him twenty wethers and twenty ewes to be taken at his choice of the best out of all my [f. 128r] my [sic] stocks of sheep;

Item, I give unto Philip Colbecake(?), my servant, one whole year's wages, being forty shillings, as the rest of my servants shall receive, and I give him four nobles as a legacy in consideration of his pains taken about me in my sickness, which in the whole cometh unto three pounds six shillings eight pence;

Witnesses to these presents, E. Bedingfield. H.B. Edmond Ionor, Henry Redinge, John Redshawe.

A schedule of the servants' names which shall have coats and sums of money given them,
and how much

Giles Townshend, fifty-three shillings four pence; Thomas Reylie, forty shillings; William Packe, forty shillings; John Richardson, forty shillings; Richard Kyng, forty shillings; Thomas Kente, forty shillings; Edmund Ienor, forty shillings; William Bartlett, fifty-three shillings four pence; John Hawphine, forty shillings; Thomas Kinge, forty shillings; John Pratie, fifty-three shillings four pence; John Busshe, fifty-three shillings four pence; John Trindell, thirty-three shillings four pence; Christopher Larkyn, twenty-six shillings eight pence; John Moye, twenty shillings; Thomas Asseweik, forty shillings; Nicholas Shelfe, forty shillings; John Spurforde, twenty shillings; Edmund Osteler, twenty shillings; John Mower, twenty shillings; John Croke, twenty shillings; Thomas Burnewater, twenty shillings; Anne Godbode, twenty-six shillings eight pence; Elizabeth Fuller, twenty shillings; John Warden, twenty shillings; Thomas Leveriche, twenty shillings; Edward Rawffe.

The name of such servants as shall have coats given

Thomas Townshend, John Eyton, John Thrower, John Gislingham, John Campe, John Ruste, Gregory Eliott, Thomas Warden, Thomas Grimston, Richard Deye, James Richardson, John Coane, John Lawes.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum apud London coram venerabili viro mag{ist}ro Will{el}imo Drury Legum Doctore curie prerogatiue Cantuarien{sis} commissario etc Decimo tertio die mensis Novembris Anno Domini mill{es}imo quingentesimo octogesimo tertio Iuramento Edwardi Barker notarij publici procuratoris fferdinandi Paris Philippi Awdeley et Walteri Nortonn executorum etc Quibus commissa fuit administracio bonorum iuriu{m} et creditoru{m} etc De bene etc. iurat{is}

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Drury, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary etc of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the thirteenth day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred eighty-third by the oath of Edward Barker, notary public, proctor of Ferdinand Paris, Philip Audley and Walter Norton, executors etc., to whom administration was granted of the goods, rights and credits etc., sworn to well etc.]