

SUMMARY: The document below is the will, dated 18 November 1584 and proved 28 November 1584, of William Aylofffe (d.1535-1584), one of the Justices of the Queen's Bench, and the son of William Aylofffe (d.1569), third husband of Margaret (nee Forster) Sulyard Aylofffe (d.1587), the sister of George Forster (d.1556?), who was the husband of Alice (nee Covell) Forster Golding (d.1587) prior to her marriage to Oxford's maternal uncle, Henry Golding (d.1576). Oxford's paternal uncle, Robert Vere (d.1598), had earlier sold his life interest in the manors of Kennington and Wennington to the testator by a fine of 29 June 1579 (see TNA CP 25/2/131/1674/21ELIZITRIN, Item 12). Oxford's reversionary interest in these manors was sold at the same time, and by a fine dated 6 July and 6 October 1579 Oxford also sold 40 acres of salt-marsh pertaining to these manors to the testator (see TNA CP 25/2/131/1675/21/22ELIZITRIN, Item 10, ERO D/DL/T1/676 and ERO D/DL/T1/678). The sale of the manors of Wennington and Kennington was later contested by Robert Vere (d.1598) and his second wife, Joan (nee Hubberd), in a series of lawsuits against William Aylofffe, the testator's son and heir, in which Oxford's one-time receiver-general, Edward Hubberd (d.1602), one of the Six Clerks of Chancery and the brother of Robert Vere's second wife, Joan Hubberd, was accused of fraud in the sale of the manors. The testator is also mentioned in two other documents directly concerning Oxford (see CP 159/110-11 and CP 9/91).

By 1560, the testator had married Jane (nee Sulyard), the wife named as executrix in his will below (see the entry for Justice William Aylofffe in *The Dictionary of National Biography*). Jane (nee Sulyard) Aylofffe was the daughter of Eustace Sulyard (d.1547) and his wife, Margaret (nee Forster) Sulyard Aylofffe (d.1587). Edward Sulyard (d.1610), who witnessed the testator's will, was the brother of Jane (nee Sulyard) Aylofffe. For the will of Eustace Sulyard (d.1547), see TNA PROB 11/31, ff. 271-4. After the death of her husband, Eustace Sulyard (d.1547), Margaret (nee Forster) Sulyard (d.1587) married the testator's father, William Aylofffe (d.1569). For his will, see TNA PROB 11/51, ff. 34-5. For the will of Margaret (nee Forster) Sulyard Aylofffe (d.1587), see TNA PROB 11/72, ff. 163-6. The other witness to the will, John Glascock (d.1595?) of Roxwell, Essex, was the son-in-law of Margaret (nee Forster) Sulyard Aylofffe (d.1587), the husband of her daughter, Anne Sulyard, and an executor of her will.

Decimo octauo die Novembris Anno regni Domine Elizabethe etc. vicesimo septimo [=On the eighteenth day of November in the twenty-seventh year of the reign of the Lady Elizabeth etc.]

LM: Testamentum Willelmi Ayliff Armigeri

This is the last will and testament of me, William Aylofffe, one of the Justices of the Queen's Bench:

First, I render my soul into the hands of Almighty God, trusting most assuredly by the death and passion of his dear Son, my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, after this life to enjoy the life and joys everlasting;

My body I yield to the earth from whence it came, to be bestowed at the discretion of my executor;

Imprimis, I will and bequeath to my loving wife all that my farm or mansion house called Brittons [=Bretons] with all the lands, meadows, pastures, feedings and other commodities thereunto belonging, and also all and singular other my lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever within the parish of Hornchurch, Havering and Dagenham for and during her natural life;

Item, I will unto Thomas Aylofffe, my youngest son, one annuity or yearly rent of twenty pounds during his life, and if my said son happen to be called to be of the bar, then I will he shall have ten pounds a year more during his life;

My wife I will to be my executor;

Witness hereunto: Edward Sulyard, J. Glascock.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum apud London coram venerabili viro magistro Willelmo Drury Legum Doctore curie prerogatiue cantuariensis commissario etc. Vicesimo octauo die mensis Novembris Anno Domini millesimo quingentesimo octogesimo quarto Iuramento Edwardi Orwell notarij publicij procuratoris Jane Ayliff relicte et executricis etc. Cui commissa fuit administracio bonorum etc. De bene etc. Iurate

[=The above-written testament was probated at London before the worshipful Master William Drury, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury etc. on the twenty-eighth day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred eighty-fourth by the oath of Edward Orwell, notary public, proctor of Jane Aylofffe, relict and executrix etc., to whom administration was granted of the goods etc., sworn to well etc.]

LM: Secundo Catherine 1593 lata est Sentencia per quam pronunciatum dictum Willelmum Ailoff decesisse intestatum quoad nominacionem executricis

[=On the second of Catherine [=26 November] 1593 was read the sentence by which it is pronounced that the said William Aylofffe deceased intestate with respect to the nomination of an executrix.]

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LM: xxvijmo Novembris 1593 emanavit commissio Thome Ayloff filio naturali et legitimo dicti defuncti ad administrandum bona iura et credita dicti defuncti iuxta tenorem testamenti huiusmodi exceptum nominacionem executricis De bene &c iurato

[= On the 27<sup>th</sup> of November 1593 a grant issued to Thomas Ayloff, natural and legitimate son of the said deceased, to administer the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased according to the tenor of the same testament except the nomination of the executrix, sworn to well etc.]