

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 27 January 1588 and proved 29 January 1589, of Oxford's first cousin, John Wentworth, esquire.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator's maternal grandparents were Reginald Hammond, gentleman, of Ramsden Bellhouse, Essex, and Elizabeth Towe. After the death of Reginald Hammond, Elizabeth Towe married John Golding (d. 28 November 1547), by whom she had four children, including Oxford's mother, Margery Golding (d.1568). For the will of Reginald Hammond, dated 26 September 1513 and proved 24 April 1514, see TNA PROB 11/18/33. For the will of John Golding, see TNA PROB 11/32/177.

The testator was the son of Henry Wentworth (died c.1545) of Gosfield, Essex, and Agnes Hammond, widow of John Mountney (d.1528). See the will of John Mountney, TNA PROB 11/22/624, and Rutton, William Loftie, *Three Branches of the Family of Wentworth*, (London, 1891), pp. 194 and 200 (note 3) at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YhY5AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA194>

The testator had three brothers and two sisters:

-Thomas Wentworth (1545-1565), buried at Gosfield.

-Peter Wentworth (d.1599), rector of Gestingthorpe and Great Bromley, who married Elizabeth Moore, and had issue. For his will, proved 14 September 1599, see TNA PROB 11/94/231.

-Henry Wentworth, who married Jane Alblaster, daughter and heiress of Edmund Alblaster (or Arblaster) of Tendring, Essex.

-Anne (or Agnes) Wentworth (d. 2 September 1571), who married, as his second wife, Thomas Wentworth (1525-1584), 2nd Baron Wentworth, widower of her first cousin, Mary Wentworth (d.1554). By Agnes Wentworth (d. 2 September 1571), Thomas Wentworth, 2nd Baron Wentworth, had two sons, Lord William Wentworth (1555/6-1582) and Lord Henry Wentworth (1558-1593), and a daughter.

Lord William Wentworth (1555/6-1582) married Lord Burghley's younger daughter, Elizabeth Cecil (1564-1583), and was for a time Oxford's brother-in-law. See Ellis, Henry, *Original Letters Illustrative of English History*, 3rd Series, Vol. IV, (London: Richard Bentley, 1846), pp. 40-44 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=GiMYAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA40>

-**Mary Wentworth**, who in 1562 married William Cardinall (c.1535-1598) of Great Bromley, Essex, and Egmonton, Nottinghamshire, by whom she had a daughter, Anne Cardinall (b.1563), who married Sir Clement Heigham (d. 26 May 1634) of Barrow, Suffolk. For William Cardinall (c.1535-1598), see his will, proved 18 November 1598, TNA PROB 11/92/345, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/cardinall-william-ii-1535-c98>

See also the will, dated 8 October 1543 and proved 22 November 1551, of William Cardinall of Much Wenham, Suffolk, TNA PROB 11/34/475.

At some time between 20 November 1558 and 20 November 1561, John de Vere (1516 – 3 August 1562), 16th Earl of Oxford, granted Mary Wentworth's father-in-law, William Cardinall (c.1509-1568), the office of receiver of the profits of the Earl's office of Great Chamberlain of England. See the 16th Earl's inquisition post mortem, TNA C 142/136/12:

And the foresaid jurors say that the foresaid late Earl, by a certain deed of his sealed by his seal at arms & subscribed by his own hand dated the twentieth day of November in the [] year [=20 November 1558-61] of the reign of the Lady Elizabeth now Queen, granted to William Cardinall the office of receiver of all issues, profits & sums of money arising of his office of Great Chamberlain of England and by reason of the same office, to have & occupy the foresaid office by him or his sufficient deputy for term of life of the same William, and by the foresaid deed the foresaid Earl gave to the same William, as well for the exercise of the foresaid office as for the expenses of the same William sustained with regard to the care of such businesses & causes which in law he might happen to have, a certain yearly rent of forty pounds of lawful money of England issuing of the profits & issues of the same office, as by the said deed to the foresaid jurors upon the taking of this present inquisition in manifest evidences more fully appears.

After the death of the testator's father, the testator's mother, Agnes (nee Hammond) Mountney Wentworth, married thirdly, circa January 1546, William Wilford. She was buried in Stepney Church on 3 September 1574. The testator's father, Henry Wentworth, and his mother, Agnes, then the wife of William Wilford, are also mentioned in the 16th Earl of Oxford's inquisition post mortem (see TNA C 142/136/12):

And the foresaid jurors say that the foresaid late Earl, by a certain deed of his sealed by his seal at arms & subscribed by his own hand dated the 4th day of October in the 35th year [=4 October 1543] of the reign of the late King Henry the Eighth, demised to Henry Wontford [=Wentworth], esquire, all that manor of Mountnessing Hall . . . to have and to hold the said manor . . . to the said Henry & his assigns from the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel next & immediately following after the decease of Agnes, then wife of the said Henry and now wife of a certain William Wilford, until the end & term of twenty-one years from thence next following

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married firstly Elizabeth Heydon (d.1573), the daughter of Sir Christopher Heydon (d. 10 December 1579) of Baconsthorpe, Norfolk, and secondly Dorothy Southwell (living 1609). Dorothy Southwell was the illegitimate daughter of Sir Richard Southwell (1502/3-1564), of Woodrising, Norfolk, for whom see the *ODNB* entry:

[Sir Richard Southwell] and his first wife, Thomasin Darcy of Danbury, Essex, had a daughter, Elizabeth, who married George Heneage. His second wife was Mary, the daughter of Thomas Darcy of Danbury and a relative of Thomasin. They had two sons, Richard and Thomas, who were born of their adulterous relationship while Mary was still married to the Norwich alderman Robert Leeche, and a daughter, Katherine, born following her marriage to Southwell. Sir Richard had settled land on his elder son (who was the father of Robert Southwell the Jesuit) before his death, and in his will he made no distinction between his legitimate and illegitimate offspring.

Although the *ODNB* entry does not mention Dorothy, she is referred to in the will of Sir Richard Southwell as ‘Dorothy Southwell alias Darcy, daughter to the said Dame Mary Southwell, my late wife’, and in a codicil dated 11 January 1564 she and her sister are bequeathed certain jewels:

Item, I, the said Sir Richard Southwell do by these presents give, will and bequeath unto my daughters Mary Paston and Dorothy Southwell alias Darcy all such my chains and other jewels of gold and stones as remaineth in the keeping of Dame Elizabeth Lovell, wife to Sir Thomas Lovell, knight, to be equally divided between the same Mary and Dorothy and either of them.

See the will of Sir Richard Southwell, TNA PROB 11/47/231. See also the inscription formerly at Little Horkesley in Rutton, William Loftie, ‘Wentworth of Gosfield’, *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society*, Vol. III, New Series, (Colchester: Wiles & Son, 1889), at p. 224:

[https://books.google.ca/books?id=WbC5AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA224:](https://books.google.ca/books?id=WbC5AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA224)

Daughter to Sir Richard Southwell of Rising. Here lieth Dame Dorothy, first the wife of Thomas Higgins of Norfolk, esquire, and after the wife of John Wentworth of Gosfield, esquire, and lastly the wife and widow of Sir Edward Moore of Mellefont in Ireland, and knight, who lived a long age and died much lamented.

Dorothy Southwell was the aunt of the Jesuit, Robert Southwell (1561-1595). For Dorothy Southwell see also Spelman, Henry, *The History and Fate of Sacrilege*, (London: John Hartley, 1698), pp. 252-3 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ofZiAAAACAAJ&pg=PA252>

See also Rutton, *Three Branches*, *supra*, p. 194, and Rutton, 'Wentworth of Gosfield', *supra*, pp. 215, 224, 278 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=WbC5AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA215>

For the children of the testator's two marriages, see the pedigree in Rutton, *Three Branches*, *supra*, p. 194-5.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

For the testator's uncle, Sir John Wentworth (1494 – 15 September 1567) of Gosfield Hall, friend and executor of John de Vere (1516-1562), 16th Earl of Oxford, see his will, TNA PROB 11/49/288.

For the will of Sir William Cordell (d.1581), Master of the Rolls, one of five trustees appointed by Oxford in an indenture of 30 January 1575 prior to his departure on his continental tour, see TNA PROB 11/63/590.

For the will, dated 13 May 1566, of Richard Tyrrell (d.1566), who included in an entail in his will Charles Tyrrell (d.1570), second husband of Oxford's mother, Margery Golding, see TNA PROB 11/48/637.

For Rooke Greene (d. 9 April 1602), son of Sir Edward Greene (d.1555), see Huntington Library EL 5870.

For Sir Giles Alington (1499-1586), see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/alington-giles-1499-1586>

For Henry Mackwilliam (c.1532 – 27 December 1586), see his will, TNA PROB 11/70/244.

LM: Ioh{ann}is Wentworthe

In the name of God, Amen. The seven and twentieth day of January in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred eighty-seven and in the thirtieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith etc., I, John Wentworth of Gosfield in the county of Essex, esquire, being, thanks be to God, of perfect memory, calling to mind that nothing is more certain and sure than death and nothing more uncertain than the hour and time thereof, do make and ordain my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say:

First I do most humbly commend my soul unto the hands of Almighty God, assuring myself that by the death of Jesus Christ, my Saviour, my sins are forgiven, and that thereby I shall inherit the kingdom of heaven;

And my body I do commit unto the earth from whence it came;

And as touching such goods and chattels, lands and tenements as by this my will I mind to bequeath to the end that after my death there may be peace and quietness amongst my wife and children, and that the same may be disposed according to my true intent and meaning, I do hereby renounce and revoke all other wills and testaments at any time heretofore [-heretofore] by me made and declared, and do make and pronounce this to be my very true and last will and testament concerning the same as followeth, that is to say:

Whereas by a certain deed indented bearing date the second day of April in the seventh year [=2 April 1565] of the reign of our [f. 165r] said Sovereign Lady the Queen's Majesty that now is made between mine uncle, Sir John Wentworth, knight, deceased, of the one party, and Sir William Cordell, knight, deceased, then Master of the Rolls of her Majesty's Court of Chancery, Sir Giles Alington, knight, Sir Christopher Heydon, knight, Richard Tyrrell, then Warden of the Fleet, Rooke Greene and Henry Mackwilliam, esquires, of the other party;

And also by a certain deed of feoffment bearing date the tenth of April in the said seventh year [=10 April 1565] of her Majesty's reign there be divers manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments assured and conveyed unto me or to the use of me, the said John Wentworth, for term of my life after certain particular estates ended, with divers remainders over, as in and by the said deeds and especially the said first recited deed indented more at large doth and may appear;

And whereas in the said first recited deed indented amongst other things therein contained there is a certain proviso or clause giving power and authority unto me, the said John Wentworth, by my last will in writing made in my lifetime to devise, assign, bequeath and bestow one third part of the revenues of certain such manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments recited and expressed in the said first recited deed indented whereof I shall die seised for five only years or less number after my decease to be levied, received and taken by mine executors or some other person or persons by my said will to be appointed, and to be employed and bestowed by him or them for the only advancement of my daughter or daughters, the payment of my debts or the performance of my will, and not otherwise;

I do now by this my present last will and testament in writing, for so much as in me lieth and according to the power and authority to me given and limited by the said proviso or clause or by any other estate, title or interest in law I have, devise, assign, bequeath and bestow for five only years next after my decease one third part of the revenues of such manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments as been recited and expressed in the said first recited deed indented whereof I shall die seised and whereof by the said proviso or clause or by any other estate, title or interest in law I have power and authority to devise, assign,

bequeath and bestow the same third part of the said revenues to be levied, perceived and taken only by my now wife, Dorothy, or her assignee or assigns whatsoever, and by my said wife, Dorothy, or her assignee or assigns only to be employed and bestowed according to the true intent and meaning of the said above recited proviso or clause for the performance of this my present last will and testament as hereafter is expressed, that is to say:

First I will and bequeath the foresaid third part of the revenues above mentioned to the use of my said wife, Dorothy, to bestow at her discretion, hoping she will be a natural mother and take some order for the help and advancement of her children she hath by me;

Item, I give and bequeath to my said wife, Dorothy, all my goods and chattels, as money, plate, jewels, household stuff, utensils of household, cattle, corn, bills of debt or obligations for money payable to me, mine heirs, executors or assigns, and all other my goods and chattels of whatsoever other kind or name;

And I ordain and make my said wife, Dorothy, my sole executrix;

In witness whereof I have unto this my said last will and testament set my hand and seal the day and year first above-written. Per me, John Wentworth.

Sealed and subscribed in the presence of us, Robert Awdley, Peter Caige, John Tyler.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram venerabili viro magistro Willmo Drury Legum doctore curie prerogative Cantuariensis commissario &c vicesimo nono die mensis Ianuarij anno Domini iuxta computationem ecclesie Anglicane millesimo quingentesimo octagesimo octavo iuramento Petri Johnson notarij publici procuratoris Dorothee Wentworthe relicte dicti defuncti et executricis in huiusmodi testamento nominat e cui commissaria fuit administratio bonorum &c de bene et fideliter administrandis &c ad sancta dei evangelia iuratis

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Drury, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury etc., on the twenty-ninth day of the month of January in the year of the Lord according to the reckoning of the English Church the thousand five hundred eighty-eighth by the oath of Peter Johnson, notary public, proctor of Dorothy Wentworth, relict of the said deceased and executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of the goods etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer etc.]