

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 3 April 1590 and proved 4 November 1590, of Thomas Bedingfield (d. 19 April 1590), whose uncle, the Gentleman Pensioner Thomas Bedingfield (d.1613), dedicated his translation of Cardanus' *Comfort* to Oxford, praising Oxford's skill in arms and philosophy.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator has often been confused with his uncle, Thomas Bedingfield (d.1613) who dedicated his translation of *Cardanus' Comfort* to Oxford, praising Oxford's skill in arms and philosophy. The testator's grandfather, Sir Henry Bedingfield (d. 22 August 1583), was the father of both the translator and the testator's father, Edmund Bedingfield (d.1585). The testator was thus the nephew of the translator. For the will of the testator's father, Edmund Bedingfield (d.1585), see TNA PROB 11/69/96. For the will of Sir Henry Bedingfield (d. 22 August 1583), grandfather of the testator and father of the translator, see TNA PROB 11/66/130. For the Gentleman Pensioner and translator Thomas Bedingfield (d.1613), see Segar 1590 and STC 4607 on this website, and his will, TNA PROB 11/122/124.

MARRIAGE

The testator married Frances Jerningham, the daughter of John Jerningham of Somerleyton and Catherine Brooke (1544-1617?), the daughter of George Brooke (c.1497-1558), 9th Baron Cobham, and sister of William Brooke (1527-1597), 10th Baron Cobham. See the will of George Brooke, 9th Baron Cobham, TNA PROB 11/43/628; the will of William Brooke, 10th Baron Cobham, BL Lansdowne 830, f. 249; and CP 225/1 on this website.

Frances Jerningham had a brother and three sisters:

-Henry Jerningham, who died young.

-Elizabeth Jerningham, who married Charles Forde or Forth (d.1597), son of Robert Forth (d.1601) of Butley, by whom she had a daughter, Katherine Forde, and a son, Francis Forde. See the discussion of their marriage in Fenwick, Valerie and Vic Harrup, *Untold Tales from the Suffolk Sandlings*, reviewed at:

http://www.eadt.co.uk/ea-life/now_the_untold_tales_can_be_told_1_195584

See also the pedigree of Forth of Butley in *Evidences of the Winthrops of Groton, co. Suffolk, England*, (Privately printed, 1894-1896), p. 120 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/cu31924029787458#page/n135/mode/2up>

-Catherine Jerningham (d.1614), who married firstly, as his second wife, Henry Crane (d. 1 August 1586), son of Robert Crane (c.1508 – 12 September 1591) of Chilton, Suffolk, and Bridget Jermyn, the daughter of Sir Thomas Jermyn (d.1552) of Rushbrooke, Suffolk, by his first wife, Anne Spring (1494-1528), the daughter of Thomas Spring III (1457?-1523) of Lavenham, Suffolk, and secondly, on 9 May 1589, Sir Wymond Carey (d.1612), son of Sir John Carey (d.1552) and Joyce Denny (d.1559). For her will, dated 13 February 1614 and proved 21 February 1614, see TNA PROB 11/123/225.

-Margaret Jerningham, who is said to have married Thomas Ford, esquire, of Butley.

See:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~hwbradley/aqwg3065.htm>

See also McKeen, David, *A Memory of Honour; The Life of William Brooke, Lord Cobham* (Salzburg: Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik, 1986), pp. 11, 52, 66, 379-81, 668, 700-702; and Druery, John Henry, *Historical and Topographical Notices of Great Yarmouth*, (London: Nichols & Son, 1826), pp. 166-7, 176 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=DUIjAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA166>

In 1570 Catherine Brooke's husband, John Jerningham, was found guilty of abetting treasonable riots in Norwich, thought to have been a demonstration of support for Oxford's first cousin, Thomas Howard (1538-1572), 4th Duke of Norfolk, then in prison. Jerningham secured the Queen's pardon, but in the early 1590s Lord Burghley recorded in a note concerning Suffolk recusants that John Jerningham had fled the realm and was with the King of Spain. In the will below, the testator leaves bequests to both Catherine Brooke (1544-1617?) and her husband, John Jerningham:

And to pay my wife's father ten pounds yearly during his life if it seem so good unto them.

Item, to my mother Jerningham ten pounds yearly during her life as a remembrance of my goodwill.

The testator's also leaves bequests to two of his wife's sisters, likely Catherine and Margaret:

To my wife's two sisters, five marks apiece for rings.

The testator and his wife, Frances Jerningham, were both descended from Sir Edmund Bedingfield (1443-1496). The testator was a direct descendant of Sir Edmund Bedingfield (1443-1496) and his second wife, Margaret Scott (d.1514). The testator's wife, Frances Jerningham, was also a descendant of Sir Edmund Bedingfield (1443-1496), her ancestor, Sir Edward Jerningham (d.1515), having married, as his first wife,

Margaret Bedingfield (c.1476 - 24 March 1504), the daughter of Sir Edmund Bedingfield (1443-1496) and his first wife, Alice Shelton (died c.1478).

After the testator's death, his widow, Frances, married her second cousin, Henry Jerningham (d. 15 June 1619), esquire, of Oxburgh, the eldest son and heir of Sir Henry Jerningham (d. 6 September 1572). For the will of Sir Henry Jerningham (d. 6 September 1572), see TNA PROB 11/55/240. In 1596, Henry Jerningham (d. 15 June 1619) sold the Jerningham mansion in the Blackfriars, which adjoined James Burbage's Blackfriars theatre, to George Carey (1548–1603), 2nd Baron Hunsdon. See SRO, D641/3/A/8/1. The 1596 will of Henry Jerningham, NRO JE/246 55X1, reveals that he was heavily in debt, and it was perhaps for that reason that he sold his mansion in the Blackfriars. See also his second will, dated 7 May 1607, NRO JER 246 55X1.

CHILDREN

By Frances Jerningham the testator had two sons:

* **Sir Henry Bedingfield** (d. 22 November 1657), who during his minority was the ward of his stepfather, Henry Jerningham (d. 15 June 1619). He married firstly, about 1604, Mary Howard, the daughter of William Howard (1563–1640) of Naworth, third son of Oxford's first cousin, Thomas Howard (executed 2 June 1572), 4th Duke of Norfolk, and secondly Elizabeth Houghton, daughter and co-heiress of Peter Houghton, esquire, of Houghton Tower, Lancashire, and grocer and alderman of London. For Peter Houghton (d. 31 December 1596), see the will of Sir Thomas Vavasour (d.1620), who married Houghton's widow, Mary (nee Dodge).

For Sir Henry Bedingfield, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/bedingfield-sir-henry-1586-1657>

For Sir Henry Bedingfield, see also the pedigree in Carthew, G.A., *The Hundred of Launditch and Deanery of Brisley in the County of Norfolk*, (Norwich: Miller and Leavins, 1877), p. 719 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=inFEAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA719>

See also Bedingfield, Katherine, *The Bedingfields of Oxburgh*, 1912, pp. 52-6 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/bedingfeldsofoxb00bedi#page/52/mode/2up>.

* **William Bedingfield**.

DEATH OF TESTATOR'S WIFE

It should be noted that Katherine Bedingfield, *supra*, is in error in stating that the testator's wife, Frances, died in 1598. She was buried at Costessey on 24 February 1616 [New Style]. See the Costessey parish register ('ffraunces Iernengan the wyfe of Henry Iernengan Esquire buried the xxiiijto of february'), and Ryan, Patrick, 'Diocesan Returns of Recusants for England and Wales 1577', *Catholic Record Society, Miscellanea XII*, (London: M. Whitehead & Son Ltd., 1921), p. 58 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/miscellaneaxii22unknuoft#page/58/mode/2up>

LM: T{estamentum} Thome Bedingfeilde

3o Aprilis 1590 The last will of Thomas Bedingfield, esquire

Item, for the payment of my debts and legacies, I will that my executors shall sell all my stocks and have all my goods and chattels except such as hereafter I shall give to my wife or otherwise dispose to my friends, except my suit of hangings at Oxburgh which shall remain to mine heir, and one piece which is here and was brought from thence;

Item, I will that all my fee simple lands, tenements and hereditaments shall be to mine executors during the minority of mine heir and so long as my now heir or his brother shall be ward to her Majesty towards the performance of my debts and legacies, and so much of the residue of my lands as shall make up the same a full third part of all my lands within the realm of England;

Item, I will to my wife during her life the manors of Denham and Flimworth and so much more of my other lands not before devised to my executors as with the said manors of Denham and Flimworth will make a full third part of all my lands not appointed to my mother;

And the other third part I leave to descend for her Majesty's third part for wardship or primer seisin as the case shall require;

And in consideration that my wife shall hold herself satisfied of the said third part so appointed for her full dower without interrupting my executors, I do upon that condition bequeath unto her one thousand pounds;

Item, after my debts and legacies satisfied and paid, I do devise unto William Bedingfield, my youngest son, the manors of Pedmarch [=Pebmarsh?] and Hanney(?) within the county of Essex, and the warren of coneys parcel of the manor of North Pickenham, and the manor of Howlton, and the manor of Swanton, to have to him and th' heirs of his body, and my executors in the meantime to allow forty pounds per annum for his convenient maintenance and bringing up, and yet nevertheless my said executors shall

have authority hereby to sell the said manor of Swanton and fee simple lands for payment of my debts and legacies if need be;

Item, after my debts and legacies paid, I will that the overplus remaining shall be disposed and given as followeth, viz., one half to my eldest son at his full age towards the new stocking and storing of his house and grounds, and of the rest my executors shall recompense my servants and relieve the poor liberally, and bestow the rest, if any remain, as to their discretions shall be thought meet in good uses and repairing of my houses, and in the meantime shall yearly see to the same reparations and maintaining the same;

Item, if my mother do decease during my son's minority, then I devise that land which is heretofore appointed for her dower in three parts, one part for her Highness as the case shall require during the said minority, one other third part to my wife in augmentation of her dower, and the other third part to my foresaid executors to the uses and for the purposes aforesaid, and to pay my wife's father ten pounds yearly during his life if it seem so good unto them;

Item, to my mother Jerningham ten pounds yearly during her life as a remembrance of my goodwill;

To Mr Garthe for the like remembrance a bracelet of gold;

To every of my three sisters a chain of gold, price ten pounds;

Item, to Tristram Conyers, twenty pounds;

Item, I do make executors of this my last will my loving friends Mr William Cornwallis, Mr Ralph Hare and Mr John Hare, and I do give unto either of them for their pains to be taken forty pounds apiece;

And I do hereby humbly pray the right honourable Sir Christopher Hatton, knight, Lord Chancellor of England, that it will please him at my nomination to be supervisor of this my will, and as a remembrance of my duty and goodwill I give unto him a basin and ewer, price threescore pounds;

To my wife's two sisters, five marks apiece for rings;

In witness of all which premises I have hereunto put my hand the day and year above-written;

My brother, Edward Bedingfield, to have continuance of payment of the forty marks per annum so long as he disposeth himself as he promiseth;

To Mr Francis Kent, five pounds in money;

To poor Will, fool, maintenance during his life in good sort;

To Edward Moste(?), forty shillings, Roger Hocnell, four pounds purson vie [=for his life];

Servants. Osborne Pusany to continue his farm; William Strangman, a lease; Thomas Selfe, six pounds yearly purson vie; Hu: Davie, forty shillings purson vie per annum; Thomas Vowell, five pounds purson vie per annu{m}; Nicholas Selfe, forty shillings in money; Robert Shene, five pounds purson vie per a{nnu}m; Lawrence Lomas to continue his stewardship and his fee; to Thomas Harman, five pounds purson vie per annu{m}; John Richardson to have his lease; to Margaret Harris, ten pounds in money; to every other of my covenant servants except the shepherds, one year's wages. Thomas Bedingfield.

The last will of Thomas Bedingfield, esquire, published by him the third of April one thousand five hundred ninety in the presence of John Arundell, Jo{hn} Hair, Tristram Conyers, R. Jernigan, Jo{hn} Stanhaw, Jo{hn} Richarson.

4o Aprilis 1590. A codicil to be annexed to the last will of Thomas Bedingfield, esquire.

Item, whereas I have devised before by my said will that my executors shall have all my fee simple lands during the minority of mine heir to the payment of my debts and legacies my meaning and intent therein is and I do so declare my will that they and the survivor of them shall so have the same and for the payment of my father's debts and legacies until my now heir or his brother, if my now eldest son die within age, be of full age of one and twenty years, and if they both die within age, then my executors still to have the lands till the intent of my will and of these presents touching my debts and legacies be fully satisfied, and I do declare my meaning touching the fee simple lands, tenements and hereditaments so devised to be those whereof I am myself seised as whereof any other to my use or of trust are seised, and that such persons having such lands, tenements or hereditaments of trust for me shall convey the same to my executors according to this my will, and they to sell it if they think fit;

Item, the annuities which I have given to my servants or others, my meaning is the same shall be rentcharges out of my lands;

Item, for the better payment of my debts I do appoint my executors to cut and take the underwoods now growing upon all my lands which shall descend to mine heir, and if my said executors may have and quietly take the same and also enjoy my lands according to my will without let or interruption of my said heir or of her Majesty or of any other claiming by or under them, then I will that my said heir shall have and enjoy the moiety of the overplus of all such money, goods and chattels as shall be remaining in my executors' hands after my debts and legacies paid according to the tenor of my aforesaid will, but if my said executors shall not be permitted to take and have the same woods and enjoy my lands accordingly, then I do devise the same overplus so before devised unto

mine heir to be and remain unto my said executors for the better payment of my said debts and legacies, and to be disposed in such good and charitable uses as to them shall be thought fit;

Read and sealed and delivered in the presence of me, R. Jernegan, Thomas Harman, John Richardson's mark, Tristram Conyers.

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram venerabili viro magistro Willmo Lewin legum doctore ad exercendum officium Magistri Custodis siue Commissarii curie Prerogative Cantuariensis legitime deputato Quarto die mensis Novembris Anno domini millesimo quingentesimo nonagesimo Iuramento Iohannis Burrough notarii publici procuratoris Willmi Cornewalleys armigeri vnus Executorum in huiusmodi testamento nominatorum Cui comissa fuit administratio bonorum iurium et creditorum dicti defuncti de bene et fideliter administrando Ad sancta die Evangelia iurati Radulpho Hare et Iohanne Hare armigeris ceteris executoribus in huiusmodi testamento nominatis ex certis causis oneri executionis eiusdem testamenti in persona dicti procuratoris expresse renunciantis

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Lewin, Doctor of the Laws, lawfully deputed to exercise the office of Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the fourth day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred ninetieth by the oath of John Burrough, notary public, proctor of William Cornwallis, esquire, one of the executors named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of the goods rights and credits of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer, Ralph Hare and John Hare, esquires, the other executors named in the same testament, for certain causes expressly renouncing the burden of the execution of the same testament in the person of the said proctor.]