

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 26 February 1596 and proved 13 March 1596, of Oxford's trustee, Sir John Wolley. The testator was the Queen's Latin secretary and a Privy Councillor. For the testator as Oxford's trustee, see TNA C 54/1393, mm. 22-3.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

According to the *ODNB*, the testator was the son of John Wolley of Leigh, Dorset, by Edith Buckler:

Wolley, Sir John (d. 1596), administrator and member of parliament, was the son of John Wolley, a gentleman of Leigh, Dorset, and Edith, daughter of John Buckler of Causeway, near Weymouth, Dorset. He was educated at Merton College, Oxford, where he became a fellow in 1553, and graduated BA on 11 October 1553. He took the degree of MA on 1 July 1557, and supplicated for the degree of DCL on 10 March 1566. He married first Jane, daughter of William Sanderson; and second, in 1577, Elizabeth (1552–1600), widow of Richard Polsted (d. 1576) and daughter of the prominent country gentleman Sir William More (1520-1600) of Loseley, Surrey. Elizabeth and John had at least one son, Francis (1583–1609), who provided £4000 for a tomb for himself and his parents in St Paul's Cathedral.

The testator's mother, Edith Buckler, was the sister of Sir Walter Buckler, diplomat, Chamberlain of the Household to Queen Elizabeth prior to her accession, and private secretary to Queen Katherine Parr, for whom see the Wikipedia article edited by the author of this summary at:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walter_Buckler

In the will below the testator leaves a bequest to his sister, Eleanor (nee Wolley) Hardy, the second wife of Edmund Hardy of Toller Whelme, Dorset. See the pedigrees of Buckler and Hardy in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitation of Dorsetshire A.D. 1565 by William Harvey, Clarenceux King of Arms*, (Exeter: William Pollard & Co., 1887), pp. 8, 18 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/visitationofdors00harvrich#page/8/mode/2up>

<http://archive.org/stream/visitationofdors00harvrich#page/18/mode/2up>

The testator's servant, William Minterne, mentioned in the will below, would appear to have been the eldest son of the testator's sister, Margaret Wolley, who married John Minterne of Batcombe, Dorset. See:

<https://thelivesofmyancestors.files.wordpress.com/2014/10/elizabeth-court.jpg>

MARRIAGES AND CHILDREN

Testator's first marriage

As noted in the *ODNB*, Sir John Wolley's first wife was Jane Sanderson, one of the two daughters and co-heirs of William Sanderson (d.1570) and his wife Jane Wall, the daughter of Thomas Wall (d.1531) and Alice Langston. For the will of Thomas Wall, see TNA PROB 11/24/100.

Jane (nee Sanderson) Wolley was the sister of William Sanderson (1547/8-1638). From the *ODNB*:

Sanderson, William (1547/8–1638), merchant, was the eldest son of William Sanderson (d. 1570) and his wife, Jane, formerly Wall. The Sanderson family had moved from Pontefract to London in the person of the younger William's grandfather Stephen Sanderson (d. 1495). Sanderson learnt the merchant's trade under Thomas Allin, and travelled widely in Denmark, Poland, Germany, France, and the Low Countries. At some time before 1592 he joined the Fishmongers' Company and was on the court of assistants until he moved from London in 1595, although he was a member until his death. He was well known in Elizabeth's court, and to the duke of Norfolk, and lords Burghley and Leicester. . . . He funded Martin Frobisher's three voyages towards Greenland and Baffin Island.

See also Markham, Albert Hastings, *The Voyages and Works of John Davis the Navigator*, (London: Hakluyt Society, 1880), pp. xii-xiv.

Testator's second marriage

The testator married secondly Elizabeth More (1552-1600), widow of Richard Polsted (24 June 1545 – 31 March 1576), and daughter of Sir William More (1520-1600) of Loseley by his second wife, Margaret Danyell, one of the daughters and co-heirs Ralph Danyell of Swaffham, Norfolk. From the *ODNB* entry for Sir William More:

More's daughter Elizabeth was one of the queen's ladies, and married successively Richard Polsted of Albury, the queen's Latin secretary John Wolley, and the lord chancellor, Thomas Egerton. . . .

The testator was thus related through his second marriage to the Bedingfield family, as Margaret Danyell's sister, Elizabeth Danyell, married Anthony Bedingfield, son of Sir Edmund Bedingfield (1479/80–1553) of Oxburgh, Norfolk, and Grace Marney (d. in or after 1553). For the will of Sir Edmund Bedingfield see TNA PROB 11/36/267. For Anthony Bedingfield and Sir William More as brothers-in-law, see also:

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/rd/47f00ea0-c9d4-4caa-93df-743194ae20a1>

LM/COR/3/711 - Letter from Anthony Bedingfield, Hale, to Mr William More, Loseley. ... He reports that on Monday 20 Aug the arbitrators awarded the house in Swaffham to Mr Audeley, who was able to prove that the house was sold to his wife when she was the wife of Thomas Blake, and produced a release by Ralph Daniel, Margaret Daniel 'our grandmother' and her sister Joan Branton. ... 20 marks is to be paid to Bedingfield, More and their wives for making a quitclaim. More's gelding is still not fit enough to bear a saddle, as his neck is not healed. ... If the horse does not heal, Bedingfield will buy it for no more than £10; otherwise he will bring it to London. ... His wife sends a whey of cheese to her sister, half hard and half soft. ... He sends greetings to Mr Cresswell, Mr Johns[on] and the rest of his friends. 26 Aug [20 Aug fell on a Monday in 1565].

See also SHC LM/COR/3/705 at:

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/rd/cfe1c8ff-ae15-4c30-9c47-41be266eec1d>

Through his second marriage, the testator became the brother-in-law of Sir William More's son and heir, Sir George More (1553-1632). Both Sir William More and Sir George More sold property in the Blackfriars to the Burbages (see Folger MS L.b.35), and both are named as supervisors in the testator's will below.

After the testator's death, his widow, Elizabeth (nee More) Polsted Wolley, married thirdly, in 1597, the Lord Keeper, Sir Thomas Egerton (1540-1617). For Elizabeth More, see also McCutcheon, Elizabeth, 'Playing the Waiting Game: The Life and Letters of Elizabeth Wolley', *Quidditas*, Vol. 20, 1999, pp. 31-54, available online.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

The Lady Mainwaring mentioned in a memorandum to the will was Wolley's sister-in-law, Anne More (d.1624), the daughter of Sir William More, and the wife of Sir George Mainwaring (d.1628) of Ightfield in Shropshire. The testator and Francis Trentham (d.1626) were Oxford's trustees in connection with legal agreements for the benefit of Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham (see TNA C 142/286/165). For the will of Elizabeth Trentham, in which she bequeathes a standing cup to her 'kinswoman', the testator's sister-in-law, Lady Mainwaring, see TNA PROB 11/121/171.

Sir John Wolley died at Pyrford on 28 February 1596. In the following year, his widow married the Lord Keeper, Sir Thomas Egerton (1540-1617).

MENTION OF THE TESTATOR IN OTHER WILLS

The testator is mentioned as 'cousin' in the will, dated 4 January 1591, of the Queen's physician, Dr Walter Bayley (1529-1593). Bayley appointed Wolley as his overseer, along with Ralph Sheldon (d.1612/13) of Beoley. Wolley's 'cousin' is the Dr. Bayley referred to in *Leicester's Commonwealth* (1584):

Neither must you marvel though all these died in divers manners of outward diseases, for this is the excellency of the Italian art for which this surgeon and Dr. Julio were entertained so carefully, who can make a man die in what manner or show of sickness you will, by whose instructions no doubt but his Lordship is now cunning, especially adding also to these the counsel of his Doctor Bayley, a man also not a little studied, as he seemeth, in this art, for I heard him once myself in a public act in Oxford (and that in presence of my Lord of Leicester, if I be not deceived) maintain that poison might be so tempered and given as it should not appear presently, and yet should kill the party afterward at what time should be appointed. Which argument belike pleased well his Lordship, and therefore was chosen to be discussed in his audience, if I be not deceived of his being that day present. So though one die of a flux & another of a catarrh, yet this importeth little to the matter, but showeth rather the great cunning and skill of the artificer.

So Cardinal Chatillon (as I have said before), having accused my Lord of Leicester to the Queen's Majesty, and after that passing from London towards France about the marriage, died by the way at Canterbury of a burning fever, & so proved Dr. Bayley's assertion true, that poison may be given to kill at a day.

For further information on Dr. Walter Bayley see Furdell, Elizabeth Lane, *The Royal Doctors 1485-1714; Medical Personnel at the Tudor and Stuart Courts* (Rochester, New York: Rochester University Press, 2001), pp. 74-6. For his will, see TNA PROB 11/79/226.

The testator is also mentioned in the will of Sir Brian Annesley (d. 7 July 1604):

And whereas I purchased of my cousin, Francis Polsted, deceased, the reversion of the manor of Catford in Lewisham aforesaid within the said county of Kent and divers messuages, lands, tenements, woods and hereditaments within the said parish of Lewisham and the parishes of Lee and Deptford within the said county of Kent, and the reversion of the manor of Hall Place within the county of Surrey, and divers messuages, lands and tenements, pastures, feedings, waters, commons and hereditaments in the parishes of Thorpe, Chertsey and Egham within the said county of Surrey;

And where also by further assurance I bought again the moiety and one half of all the last-recited premises of Edward Randall, esquire, and of my said cousin, Francis Polsted, as by good conveyances of the same may appear, the moiety and one half of all the which recited premises I after bargained and sold to Sir John Wolley, knight, by the name of John Wolley, esquire, and to Elizabeth, then his wife etc., who then held the same during the life of the said Elizabeth, sometime wife of Richard Polsted, esquire, deceased, and lately the wife of Sir (blank) [=Thomas] Egerton, knight, Lord Keeper of [-of] the Great

Seal of England, which Elizabeth died before the making of this my last will and testament, by whose death the said moiety and half part of the last-recited premises came and fell unto me, the said Brian Annesley, in possession, as of right they ought to do, I do now hereby give and bequeath unto my said daughter, Cordell Annesley, all my interest, estate, right and title of, in and to all the said manor of Catford.

For the testator's monument, see Dugdale, William, *The History of St Paul's Cathedral in London*, (London: Thomas Warren, 1658), pp. 106-7 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/historyofstpauls01dugd#page/106/mode/2up>

LM: T{estamentum} D{omi}ni Ioh{ann}is Wolley militis

In the name of God, Amen. The six and twentieth day of February in the year of Our Lord God one thousand five hundred ninety and five, and in the eight and thirtieth year of the reign of our most gracious Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., I, John Wolley of Pyrford in the county of Surrey, knight, being of good and perfect memory and calling to mind the uncertainty of my life here on earth, do make and declare my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First, I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God, whom I humbly thank for my creation and his fatherly providence towards me, rejoicing in his mercies through the merits of Christ Jesus, mine only Saviour and Redeemer, expecting at his appearance my part in the resurrection of the righteous;

Item, I will my body to be buried without any pomp, not simply condemning the solemnity of funerals, but for some just considerations best known to myself;

Item, I will that my debts be truly paid and fully satisfied, my special care being that no man be defrauded, but that to everyone be yielded that which is his, whether by the sale of such lands and leases as I have or by such goods and movables as are mine at the discretion of my executrix and overseers of this my last will or of the survivors or survivor of them, to whom I give power to make sale of the same so farforth as by this my last will in writing I may;

Item, I will that my servants hereafter named, viz., Raffe [=Ralph] Latham, William Mynterne, Hannet Charleton, Thomas Edwardes the bigger, Thomas Edwardes the lesser, William Cooper, William Swanton, for their faithful and painful service shall be considered and have recompense according to the will and discretion of my executrix;

All the rest of my goods, chattels, jewels, plate, household stuff and implements of household, after my debts paid and this my will fulfilled, I give and bequeath to Elizabeth, my wife, whom I make sole executrix of this my last will and testament;

And I do ordain, make and appoint my very good friends, Sir William More, knight, and George More, esquire, his son, supervisors of the same, to see the same truly performed according to the great confidence I do repose in them;

In witness whereof I subscribe hereunto my name the day and year above-written in the presence of William Baronsdall, George Turnor. J. Wolley.

Memorandu{m} that the day and year above-written, after the signing and testifying of the abovesaid testament, the said testator did will and bequeath unto his sister, Mrs Eleanor Hardy, a legacy of twenty pounds, and to his servants, Thomas Vowell and Henry Dulton, ten pounds apiece, and to the Lady Mainwaring a piece of plate of ten pound value, in the presence and hearing of us, George. George Turnor.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum apud London Coram Mag{ist}ro Joh{ann}e Hone Legum doctore Surrogato vene{rabilis} viri m{agistri} Will{el}mi Lewyn legu{m} D{o}c{t}oris Curie Prerogatiue Cant{uariensis} m{agistri} Custodis sive Commissarij L{egi}time constitut{o} decimo tertio die mens{is} Marcij Anno Domini iuxta cursum eccl{es}ie Anglicane Mill{es}imo Quingen{tesimo} Nonagesimo Quinto Iuramento Rich{ard}i Stubbes no{tarij} pub{lici} procuratoris D{omi}ne Elizabethhe Wolley Relicte et Executricis Cui commissa fuit administrac{i}o &c De bene &c Iurat{i} Ex{aminatus}

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before Master John Hone, Doctor of the Laws, surrogate of the worshipful Master William Lewin, Doctor of the Laws, lawfully constituted Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the thirteen day of the month of March in the year of the Lord according to the course of the English Church the thousand five hundred ninety-fifth by the oath of Richard Stubbes, notary public, proctor of Lady Elizabeth Wolley, relict and executrix, to whom administration was granted etc., sworn to well etc. Examined]

RM: Quarto M{ar}tij iuxta &c 1600 enamuit com{m}issio ffrancisco Woolley filio n{atu}rali et l{egi}timo d{i}c{t}i def{uncti} ad administrand{um} bona iura et credita d{i}c{t}i def{uncti} iuxta tenorem test{ament}i h{uius}mo{d}i p{er} dictam D{omi}nam Elizabetham eius rel{i}c{t}a et execut{ricem} non plene administrato [sic?] De bene &c in p{er}sona Thome Iles no{tarij} pu{bli}ci procur{ator}is sui &c iurat{i}

[=On the fourth of March according etc., 1600, a grant was issued to Francis Wolley, 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 by the said Lady Elizabeth, his relict and executrix, not fully administered, sworn to well etc. in the person of Thomas Iles, notary public, his proctor etc.]

RM: Nono die mens{is} Novembris Anno D{omi}ni 1609 emanuit comissio D{omi}no Georgio More militi f{rat}ri n{atur}ali et l{egi}timo D{omi}ne Elizabeth Egerton al{ia}s Woolly def{uncte} nup{er} Rel{i}c{t}e et ex{ecutri}c{is} test{ament}i d{i}c{t}i D{omi}ni Joh{ann}is Woolly milit{is} def{uncti} ad administrand{um} bona iura et credita d{i}c{t}i d{omi}ni Ioh{ann}is Woolly def{uncti} iuxta tenorem et eff{e}c{tu}m test{ament}i h{uius}mo{di} tam p{er} pefat{am} d{omi}nam Eliz{abetham} eius rel{i}c{t}am quam p{er} d{omin}um ffranciscum Woolley militem eius filiu{m}(?) etiam def{unctum} non plene ad{ministra}ta De bene &c iurat{o}

[=On the ninth day of the month of November in the year of the Lord 1609 a grant was issued to Sir George More, knight, natural and legitimate brother of Lady Elizabeth Egerton alias Wolley, deceased, late relict and executrix of the testament of the said Sir John Wolley, knight, deceased, to administer the goods, rights and credits of the said Sir John Wolley, deceased, according to the tenor and effect of the same testament so by the forenamed Lady Elizabeth, his relict, as by Sir Francis Wolley, knight, his son, also deceased, not fully administered, sworn to well etc.]