

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 4 June 1539 and proved 15 May 1544, of Thomas Hakluyt (d.1544) of Eyton in Herefordshire, Clerk of the Council of Wales, whose second wife Katherine Trentham, was the sister of Richard Trentham, (d.1547) grandfather of Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham (d.1612).

### ***FAMILY BACKGROUND***

According to James, the testator was a descendant of William Hakluyt (d.1479), who fought at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415. The testator's father was Ralph Hakluyt (d.1526), among whose sons were Richard Hakluyt (1496-1557), father of the geographer, Richard Hakluyt (1552-1612), and the testator, father of the lawyer Richard Hakluyt (1531-1591). See James, Duncan, 'The Herefordshire Hakluyt Houses', *The Journal of the Hakluyt Society*, January 2017, available online.

The testator's father may have been the same person as the 'Ralph Hakluyt, esquire', who in 1490 was granted the manor of Eastham in survivorship with Sir George Vere. From the will of Sir George Vere (d.1503?), TNA PROB 11/13/444:

*On the attainder of Sir Humphrey Stafford in 1485, the manor of Eastham was forfeited. However, Sir George Vere's wife, Margaret Stafford, as granddaughter and heiress of Margaret Lichfield, was able to recover Eastham on the ground that it had belonged to her grandmother, and was therefore not liable to forfeiture on her grandfather's attainder. In 1490, 'a grant in survivorship' of the manor of Eastham was made by the Crown to Sir George Vere and Ralph Hakluyt, esquire. See Richardson, Douglas, Plantagenet Ancestry, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. III, p. 413; and Lea, E.E., The Registers of Eastham (with Hanley Child and Orleton) and Hanley William, in the Deanery of Burford, 1572 to 1812, (Worcestershire Parish Register Society, 1915), pp. xi-xii at:*

<https://archive.org/stream/registersofeasth00east#page/n13/mode/2up>.

For the manor of Eastham, see also:

'Parishes: Eastham', in *A History of the County of Worcester: Volume 4*, ed. William Page and J W Willis-Bund (London, 1924), pp. 265-272. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/worcs/vol4/pp265-272> [accessed 8 July 2017].

### ***EXECUTORS***

The testator's choice of executors also sheds light on the testator's family background. The testator names as executors his second wife, Katherine (nee Trentham) Hakluyt, her brother Richard Trentham (d.1547), and Thomas Smyth (d.1575) of Credenhill in Herefordshire. For the will of Richard Trentham (d.1547), whose daughter, Elizabeth

Trentham, is said to have married Thomas Hakluyt of Eyton Court who was likely the testator's son, see TNA PROB 11/31/419.

The will of the testator's executor, Thomas Smyth of Credenhill, TNA PROB 11/57/518, dated 18 July 1575, contains this clause:

*Item, I give and bequeath to every child of my late master, Thomas Hakluyt, deceased, that be now living, ten shillings.*

This bequest suggests that Thomas Smyth of Credenhill (d.1575) was the same person as the Thomas Smyth named as an executor in the testator's will below. A further link between the two wills is a bequest in the will of Thomas Hakluyt (d.1544) to his godson, John Knight. In the will of Thomas Smyth of Credenhill mention is also made of a John Knight. For a discussion of the ancestry of the geographer, Richard Hakluyt, and his connection to Thomas Hakluyt (d.1544) of Eyton, see Parks, George B., 'The Ancestry of Richard Hakluyt', *Notes and Queries*, May 10, 1924, pp. 335-7. See also the entry for Richard Hakluyt in the *ODNB*:

*Hakluyt, Richard (1552?–1616), geographer, was one of six children of Richard Hakluyt, of London, member of the Skinners' Company, and his wife, Margery. The Hakluyts were an old Herefordshire family, which in Tudor times believed its name and ancient roots were Welsh in origin. Hakluyt's father died in 1557, his mother soon after, and Hakluyt came under the care of his cousin and namesake, Richard Hakluyt the lawyer (d. 1591). Hakluyt was educated at Westminster School (queen's scholar, 1564) and Christ Church, Oxford (BA, 1574; MA, 1577). Ordained priest by late 1580, he was a student (that is, fellow) of Christ Church until 1586, when he obtained a prebend at Bristol Cathedral. From 1583 to 1588 he was chaplain to Sir Edward Stafford, English ambassador in Paris, and from 1590 until 1616 was rector of Wetheringsett and Brockford, Suffolk, a living in the gift of Stafford's wife, Lady Sheffield. In 1602 he was made a prebendary of Westminster Abbey. Hakluyt married, first, Douglas Cavendish, who died in 1597 and with whom he had a son, Edmond, born in 1593; and, second, in 1604, Frances Smith. Hakluyt was buried in Westminster Abbey on 26 November 1616.*

## **MARRIAGES AND CHILDREN**

### ***First marriage***

The testator is said to have married firstly Mary Lochard, daughter of Thomas Lochard of Greete, Shropshire. For a Chancery suit dated 26 January 1530 brought by John Lochard of Greete in [Overs Hundred], Shropshire, gentleman, and Thomas Lochard of Greete, gentleman, the son and heir apparent of John, see TNA C 241/281/101.

By Mary Lochard, the testator had at least two sons in addition to the four unmarried daughters named in the will below:

\* Thomas Hakluyt, father of the lawyer Richard Hakluyt (d.1591). For the identification of the lawyer, Richard Hakluyt (d.1591), and the geographer, Richard Hakluyt (1552?-1616), as grandsons of the testator and his first wife, Mary, see the History of Parliament biography of the lawyer, Richard Hakluyt (d.1591) at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/hakluyt-richard-1531-91>:

***HAKLUYT, Richard (by 1531-91), of the Middle Temple, London and Eyton in Leominster, Herefs.***

*b. by 1531, 1st s. of Thomas Hakluyt of Eyton by Mary; poss. half-bro. of Thomas Hakluyt†. educ. M. Temple, adm. 4 June 1555. prob. unm. suc. fa. 1544.1*

#### ***Offices Held***

*Associate bencher, M. Temple 12 May 1585.  
Commr. for customs 1571.*

#### ***Biography***

*Richard Hakluyt was a cousin of his celebrated namesake, whom he introduced to the study of cosmography. His father was Thomas Hakluyt, clerk of the council in the marches of Wales, while the geographer's father was a younger brother Richard, who had settled in London. It was Thomas Hakluyt who established his family at Eyton, on land conveyed to him by his kinsman John Hakluyt of Eyton.*

*On his father's death while he was still a minor Hakluyt came under the guardianship of his stepmother Catherine and her new husband Nicholas Depden, against whom and one Ralph Leighton he was to bring a chancery suit in 1552 alleging wrongful detention of deeds and occupancy of 20 acres of land at Eyton which had passed to him from his father. He had perhaps already begun the study of law although it was only in 1555 that he entered the Middle Temple. . . .*

*Hakluyt's association with his younger cousin the geographer had begun with the death of Richard Hakluyt in 1557. As overseer of his uncle's will Hakluyt was charged with assisting the widow and children, and his responsibility increased when she died soon afterwards.*

For further information on the family and career of the lawyer, Richard Hakluyt (d.1591), see also:

[http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Hakluyt\\_Richard\\_ca\\_1530-1591](http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Hakluyt_Richard_ca_1530-1591).

*Hakluyt wrote his will in 1587, "considering the mortal state of man and the pestilent fevers so commonly reigning." Although all evidence suggests that he was healthy at the time, he died in 1591; his will was proved on March 4 of that year. It indicated no wife, children, or burial place. He left his farm in Eyton, in succession, to Richard Hakluyt (the*

*younger*)'s brothers, Oliver and Edmund, followed by Hakluyt himself. The lawyer left some of his belongings to his sisters, the "eldest and beste beloved" Winifred Bruton, Barbara Evissham, and Elnor Conesbie.

\* Richard Hakluyt (d.1557), father of the geographer, Richard Hakluyt (1552?-1616). For the will of the testator's son, Richard Hakluyt (d.1557), in which he mentions his deceased brother, Sir Walter Hakluyt (who may have been a cleric), his wife, Margery, his 'cousin', Richard Hakluyt, and unnamed children, see TNA PROB 11/39/197.

For the will of the testator's grandson, Edmund Hakluyt (d.1592/3), son of Richard Hakluyt (d.1557), see TNA PROB 11/81/99. In his will, the testator's grandson, Edmund Hakluyt, mentions his deceased brother Thomas Hakluyt, buried at Oxford, two other brothers, Richard Hakluyt and Oliver Hakluyt, and two sisters, Katherine Moore (whose husband may have been Roger More, who witnessed Edmund Hakluyt's will), and a sister married to a husband surnamed Andrews, as well as three cousins, Dorothy Davyes, his 'gentle cousin Vernon', and his 'cousin Norwood'.

For the will, dated 16 October 1621, of the testator's grandson, Oliver Hakluyt, son of Richard Hakluyt (d.1557), see TNA PROB 11/142/268.

\* Isabel Hakluyt.

\* Eleanor Hakluyt, who married Thomas Coningsby, for whom see the history of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/coningsby-thomas-i>.

See also the Coningsby pedigree in Grazebrook, George and John Paul Rylands, eds., *The Visitation of Shropshire Taken in the Year 1623, Part I*, Vol. XXVIII, (London: Harleian Society, 1889), p. 131 at:

[https://books.google.ca/books?id=ESoEAAAIAAJ&pg=PA129&lpg=PA129&dq=%22Greete%22+%22Lochard%22&source=bl&ots=Edkg-gi46a&sig=xT-buRwIhKwTqk-pWQSxkVTEDY4&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjBpL\\_GkfXUAhVBHmMKHWqWAwoQ6AEIMDAE#v=onepage&q=%22Greete%22%20%22Lochard%22&f=false](https://books.google.ca/books?id=ESoEAAAIAAJ&pg=PA129&lpg=PA129&dq=%22Greete%22+%22Lochard%22&source=bl&ots=Edkg-gi46a&sig=xT-buRwIhKwTqk-pWQSxkVTEDY4&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjBpL_GkfXUAhVBHmMKHWqWAwoQ6AEIMDAE#v=onepage&q=%22Greete%22%20%22Lochard%22&f=false)

\* Katherine Hakluyt.

\* Barbara Hakluyt, who appears to have married a husband surnamed Evesham.

### ***Second marriage***

The testator married secondly Katherine Trentham. In the will below the testator mentions unnamed children by his second wife. According to Richardson, Douglas,

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<http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/>

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*Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. III, p. 353, the testator had four sons and three daughters by his second wife:

\* Thomas Hakluyt, who may have been the Thomas Hakluyt in the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/hakluyt-thomas>

\* Rowland Hakluyt.

\* George Hakluyt.

\* Charles Hakluyt.

\* Mary Hakluyt, who was the first wife of Sir Edmund Walter (d.1592?) of Ludlow, Shropshire, Chief Justice of South Wales, by whom she had three sons: James Walter; Sir John Walter (1565-1630); and Edmund Walter; and three daughters: Dorothy Walter, who married Jenkin Lloyd; Sarah Walter; and Mary Walter, who married Sir Edward Littleton of Munslow and Henley in Bitterley, Shropshire. See the History of Parliament entry for Sir John Walter at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/walter-sir-john-1565-1630>.

\* Elizabeth Hakluyt.

\* Anne Hakluyt.

After the testator's death, his widow, Katherine (nee Trentham) Hakluyt, married secondly, Edmund Foxe (c.1515-1550), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/33/434, by whom she had a son, Edward Foxe, who became the ward of Sir Nicholas Bacon (1510-1579). See the History of Parliament entry for Edmund Foxe (c.1515-1550) at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/foxe-edmund-1515-50>.

Katherine (nee Trentham) Hakluyt Foxe married thirdly, before 1553, Nicholas Depden (c.1520-1588), from whom she separated in 1565. See Richardson, *supra*, Vol. III, p. 353, and the History of Parliament entry for Nicholas Depden (c.1520-1588):

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/depden-%28debden%29-nicholas-1520-88>.

As noted above, during his minority Richard Hakluyt (d.1591) was under the guardianship of his stepmother, Katherine (nee) Trentham and her third husband,

Nicholas Depden, and brought suit against them in 1552 lands inherited from his father. For the suit, see TNA PROB C 3/87/17.

See also Taylor, E.R.G., *The Original Writings & Correspondence of the Two Richard Hakluyts*, Vol. I, (London: Hakluyt Society, 1935), pp. 2-3 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/in.ernet.dli.2015.172689/2015.172689.The-Original-Writings-Of-Correspondence-Of-The-Two-Richard-Haklutyts-vol-I#page/n19/mode/2up>.

For further background on the Trentham family, see the will of Thomas Trentham (d.1518/19), great-grandfather of Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham (d.1612), TNA PROB 11/19/252; the will of Sir William Devereux (b. c. 1525, d. 28 September 1579) of Merevale, Warwickshire, TNA PROB 11/61/494; and Richardson, *supra*, Vol. III, pp. 352-4.

LM: T{estamentum} Tho{me} Hackluyt

In the name of God, Amen. The 4th day of June the 31st year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Henry the 8th, I, Thomas Hackluyt of Eyton, being in perfect mind and remembrance, make and ordain my testament and last will and testament as ensueth:

First, I bequeath my soul to God, and my body to Christian burial where it shall please God to end my life;

Item, I give and bequeath to every of my daughters which I had by my first wife as hereafter followeth, that is, to wit, to Isabel twenty pounds, and to Eleanor twenty pounds, to Katherine forty marks, and to Barbara forty marks;

And if the said Isabel, Eleanor, Katherine, Barbara or any of them shall decease before the time of their marriage, then I will that the parts aforesaid of any of them so deceased shall remain to the use and behoof of the rest of my daughters by my second wife;

And forasmuch as I have good confidence in the said demeanour and wisdom of Katherine, my wife, that she will see the bringing up of my children which I have by her, I therefore give and bequeath all the rest of my goods unto her and to them, that is to say, she to have thone half of my said goods, as money, plate, corn, cattle, stuff of household and debts to her only use, and my said children by her to have thother part thereof when they shall come to their lawful age for their preferment and learning and marriage, as by the discretion of my said wife shall be thought expedient by th' advice of Richard Trentham, esquire, and Thomas Smyth of Credenhill, which Richard and Thomas with my said wife I make mine executors of this my present testament;

Also I will that my godson, John Knight, have of my gift six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence to be paid out of the said rest, that is to say, out of my wife and her said children's part;

And in witness that this is my last will and lawful mind, I have subscribed my name. Per me Thomam Hackluyt.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum coram d{omi}no apud London xvto die mensis Maij Anno Domini mill{es}imo quingentesimo xliiijto Iuramento Iohannis Kydde notarij publici procuratoris executor{um} in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}at{orum} Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et com{m}issa fuit administratio om{n}i{um} et singulor{um} bonor{um} dict{i} defunct{i} prefatis executoribus De b{e}n{e} et fideliter administrand{o} eadem Ac de pleno et fideli Inuentario etc exhibend{o} Necnon de plano et vero comp{ot}o inde reddend{o} Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{i}

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord at London on the 15th day of the month of May in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred forty-fourth by the oath of John Kyd, notary public, proctor of the executors named in the same testament, and probated and registered, and administration was granted to the forenamed executors of all and singular the goods of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to exhibit a plain and faithful inventory etc., and also to render a plain and true account thereof.]