

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the nuncupative will, dated 10 July 1551 and proved 24 November 1551, of Francis Mery, whose aunt, Elizabeth Mery, was the grandmother of William Lewin (d.1598), who accompanied Oxford on his continental tour in 1575 and who left Oxford a bequest of 100 ounces of gilt plate in his will:

Item, I give unto my special good Lord, the Earl of Oxford, in token of my duty toward his Lordship, another hundred ounces of gilt plate or fifty marks in money, to be delivered unto Mr Young, one of his Lordship's gentlemen, to buy the said plate of fashion to his Lordship's best liking.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the testator's family background, see the will, TNA PROB 11/10/417, of Thomas Mery (d.1495?), who appears to have been the testator's grandfather, and the will, TNA PROB 11/31/559, of the testator's uncle, William Mery (d.1547).

Testator's parents

It seems likely the testator was the son of John Mery (d.1544?), Clerk of the Spicery to Henry VIII, and his wife, Anne.

Testator's siblings

The testator had two brothers and a sister:

-**Anthony Mery** (living 1551), who married and had issue. In her will, TNA PROB 11/41/18, his aunt, Joan Mery (d.1558), widow of William Mery (d.1547), leaves a bequest to his children.

-**John Mery** (living 1551).

-**Jane Mery** (d.1563), who married Thomas Bacon, for whom see the will of his brother, James Bacon (d.1573), TNA PROB 11/55/374.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married a wife named Elizabeth, who survived him. See also Kent History and Library Centre U1590/T8/1 (1551) and U1590/T8/5 (1554). The latter document states that the testator's son and heir was Ishmaell Mery.

LM: ffrancisc{us}(?) Myrre

This is the last will of Francis Myrre, merchant tailor, made the tenth day of July the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred fifty and one, confessing himself a Christian, repenting his former life and calling to God for mercy and forgiveness of his sins:

First he bequeathed to the poor people of Saint Christopher's in London twenty pounds;

He gave unto the poor people of the parish of Hawsted in Essex twenty pounds;

He forgive his brother, Anthony Myrre, all that he oweth him saving that which he stood bound for him, and he give him fifty pounds;

He give unto his brother, John Myrre, fifty pounds;

He forgive Doctor Reynolds all that he oweth him, and he give him thirteen pounds;

He give John Ludlow ten pounds and a house at Hawsted which cost him about eight pounds;

He give unto Anne (blank), his maid, twenty pounds;

He give to Thomas Laurence twenty shillings;

He give to Richard Thumwood(?) 20s, and forgive him all that he oweth him;

He give Nicholas Love 20s;

He give Anne Bastar twenty shillings;

He give unto his brother [=brother-in-law] Bacon twenty pounds for his painstaking, whom he ordained one of his executors, and his wife's father another, and Elizabeth, his wife, only to th' use of Elizabeth, his wife and his children, to whom he gave the rest of his goods. By me, Richard Thomwod. By me, Nicholas Love.

Probatum fuit Test{amentu}m coram d{omi}no Cant{uariensis} Archiep{iscop}o apud London xxiiijto Die Mens{is} Nouembris Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingentesimo qui{n}quagesimo primo Iuramento Thome Bacon executoris in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}at{i} Ac approbatu{m} et insinuat{m} Com{m}issa que fuit admi{n}istrac{i}o o{mn}iu{m} bonoru{m} &c de bene et fidel{ite}r admi{n}istrand{o} eadem Ac de pleno Inuent{ario} &c exhibend{o} Ad s{an}c{t}a dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{i} Res{er}uata p{otes}tate alijs ex{ecutoribus} &c cum venerit [sic] &c xxviiij Iunij

Anno 1553(?) commiss{a} fuit consimilis admi{ni}stracio etc Elizabeth{e} Relicte
executrici etc Iurat{e}

[=The testament was proved before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the 24th day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-first by the oath of Thomas Bacon, executor named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all the goods etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to exhibit a full inventory etc., with power reserved to the other executors etc. when they shall have come etc. On 28th June in the year 1553(?) a similar grant was made to administer etc. to Elizabeth, relict, executrix etc., sworn.]