

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 7 and 15 October 1603 and proved 12 January 1604, of Anne Lygon of Madresfield, a first cousin of Thomas Russell, overseer of the will of William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon. For the will of Thomas Russell, dated 3 October 1633 and proved 5 May 1634, see TNA PROB 11/165/424.

The testatrix appears to have been residing at the time of her death with her brother, Sir William Lygon (1568-1608), at Madresfield.

For the testatrix' family, see the will of her father, Richard Lygon, dated 5 September 1584 and proved 4 December 1584, TNA PROB 11/67/499.

LM: T{estamentum} Anne Ligon

[f. 52v] In the name of God, Amen. The seventh day of October in the first year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord James by the grace of God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith etc., I, Anne Lygon of Madresfield in the county of Worcester, being sick in body but of good and perfect memory, I praise my God, do ordain and make this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say:

Inprimis I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my Creator and merciful father, trusting faithfully to be saved by the only merits of Jesus Christ, my Saviour and Redeemer, in whom I am elected before the foundation of the world to inherit the kingdom of glory with him;

And I will that my body be decently buried in the church of Great Malvern by my ancestors in hope of resurrection to eternal life at the coming of Christ;

Item, I give and bequeath to the Lady Lygon, my sister [=sister-in-law], my gold bracelets;

Item, I give and bequeath to my brother, Henry Lygon, twenty pounds of good and lawful English money;

Item, I give and bequeath to my sister, Elizabeth Gilbert, twenty pounds of good and lawful money of England;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my sister, Eleanor Lygon, twenty pounds of good and lawful money of England;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my aunt Foliot my gold buttons;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Mary Lygon, my goddaughter and cousin, two hundred pounds of good and lawful money of England to be put forth to her use, and the said sum of two hundred pounds together with the increase that shall arise thereof to be paid unto her or her assigns when she shall come to the age of twenty and one years or at her day of marriage if she shall marry before the said age;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my cousin [=nephew], Richard Lygon, my brother's son, fifty pounds of good and lawful money of England to be put forth to his use and to be paid unto him or his assigns together with the increase which shall arise thereof when he shall come to th' age of twenty and one years;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my cousin, Edmund Lygon, my brother's son, fifty pounds of good and lawful money of England to be put forth to his use and to be paid to him or his assigns together with the increase that shall arise thereof when he shall come to the age of twenty and one years;

All which sums of money aforesaid given and bequeathed to my cousins aforesaid I will to be put forth to their profits and uses aforesaid by my executor and that so soon as he can conveniently and lawfully receive the same at the hands of my debtors;

And my will is that if any of my said cousins shall die before the day of marriage or age of twenty-one years aforesaid, that then his or her portion or portions, gift or gifts by me to them given and bequeathed as is aforesaid shall be equally and indifferently divided and paid unto the rest of them remaining alive at the time or day aforesaid;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my cousin Margaret Walwyn, daughter of my brother, Robert Walwyn [=brother-in-law], one hundred pounds of good and lawful money of England to be put forth to her use by my executor so soon as he can conveniently and lawfully receive the same at the hands of my debtors, and to be paid to her or her assigns when she shall come to the age of twenty and one years or at her day of marriage if she shall marry before the said age of twenty and one years, together with the increase that shall arise thereof;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth Bramhall, my goddaughter, thirteen pounds six shillings and eight pence of good and lawful money of England to be put forth to her use and to be paid unto her or her assigns together with the increase that shall arise thereof when she shall come to the age of twenty and one years or at her day of marriage if she shall marry before the said age, but if she shall die before the said age or day of marriage, then my will is that the said sum of thirteen pounds six shillings eight pence with the increase to be paid to her father, his executors, administrators or assigns;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my sister [=sister-in-law] Walwyn a portague and my green velvet purse which was my sister's purse;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Mistress Anne Corbin of Eymore five pounds of good and lawful money of England;

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Item, I give and bequeath unto Tabitha Warner three pounds of good and lawful money of England;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my uncle Hugh Lygon's daughter which he had by his first wife fifty shillings of good and lawful money of England;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my old servant, Dorothy Wotton, if she be living, fifty shillings of good and lawful money of England;

Item, I give and bequeath unto old Elizabeth Powell, the almswoman of this town, twenty shillings of good and lawful money of England;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Lawrence, my brother's cook, ten shillings of good and lawful money of England;

Item, I give unto William Knight, my brother's man, five shillings of good and lawful money of England;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Richard Bacheler five shillings of good & lawful money of England;

Item, I give and bequeath unto William Combye five shillings of good and lawful money of England;

Item, I give unto Joan Byrde five shillings;

Item, I give to Margery Sage five shillings;

Item, I give to Anne Cocke, the dairymaid, five shillings;

Item, I give to Anne Gybbs five shillings of good and lawful money of England;

All the rest of my goods (my funerals and legacies discharged and my body [f. 53v] decently buried) I give and bequeath unto my brother, Mr Robert Walwyn, whom I ordain and make the executor of this my last will and testament;

In witness whereof I have hereunto put to my hand the fifteenth day of October in the year of Our Lord God one thousand six hundred and three;

Item, I give & bequeath unto my cousin, John Myntredge's wife, forty shillings of good and lawful money of England;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Tabitha more than is above bequeathed twenty shillings;

Item, I give and bequeath to my maid, Alice, twenty shillings.

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram Mag{ist}ro Joh{ann}e Hone legum D{o}c{t}ore Surrogato venerabilis viri D{omi}ni Iohannis Gibson militis legu{m} etiam D{o}c{t}oris Curie Prerogative Cant{uariensis} mag{ist}ri Custodis sive Com{m}issarij L{egi}time constitut{i} duodecimo die Mens{is} Ianuarij anno d{omi}ni iuxta cursum et computac{i}o{n}em Eccl{es}ie Anglicane millesimo sexcentesimo tertio Iuramento Will{el}mi Milburye No{ta}rij pub{li}ci procuratoris Roberti Walwyn Executoris in h{uius}mo{d}i Testamento no{m}i{n}ati Cui Com{m}issa fuit administrac{i}o o{mn}i{u}m et sing{u}lorum bonorum Iuriu{m} et creditorum dicte Defunct{e} De bene et fidel{ite}r administrand{o} eadem ad sancta Dei Evangelia iurat{i}

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before Master John Hone, Doctor of the Laws, Surrogate of the worshipful Sir John Gibson, knight, also Doctor of the Laws, lawfully constituted Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the twelfth day of the month of January in the year of the Lord according to the course and reckoning of the English church the thousand six hundred third by the oath of William Milbury, notary public, proctor of Robert Walwyn, executor named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same.]