

SUMMARY: The document below is the last will and testament, dated 21 September 1577 and proved 12 October 1577, of Sir William Wigston (c.1509 - 27 September 1577), father of Roger Wigston (c.1537 - 1608), at whose home, Wolston Priory, the last two Marprelate tracts, the *Theses Martinianae* and the *Just Censure and Reproof of Martin Junior*, were printed on a secret press in July 1589.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the Wigston family, see the pedigree in Fetherston, John, ed., *The Visitation of the County of Warwick in the Year 1619*, (London: Harleian Society, 1877), Vol. XII, pp. 36-8 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationcount01britgoog#page/n60/mode/2up>

See also Hartopp, Henry, 'Wigston or Wiggston Family of Leicester' in Spencer, John and Thomas Spencer, eds., *Leicestershire and Rutland Notes and Queries and Antiquarian Gleaner*, Vol. III, (London: Elliot Stock, 1895), pp. 296-301 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/leicestershirea00unkngoog#page/n353/mode/2up>

See also Dugdale, William, *The Antiquities of Warwickshire*, (London: Thomas Warren, 1656), p. 25 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/antiquitiesofwar00dugd#page/24/mode/2up>

The testator was the eldest son and heir of Roger Wigston (c.1483 – 27 November 1542), esquire, for whom see his will, TNA PROB 11/29/275.

See also the inquisition post mortem taken after the testator's death, TNA C 142/183/95, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/wigston-william-1509-77>

The testator was related to the family of Sir Christopher Hatton (d.1591). According to the Hatton pedigree, Sir Christopher Hatton's grandfather, John Hatton, had a brother, Richard Hatton, who married Goditha, cousin of Sir William Wigston. See Grazebrook, George and John Paul Rylands, eds., *The Visitation of Shropshire Taken in the Year 1623, Part I*, (London: Harleian Society, 1889), Vol. XXVIII, p. 227 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationshrop00britgoog#page/n280/mode/2up>

TESTATOR'S SIBLINGS

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For the testator's brothers and sisters and their marriages, see the will of his father, Roger Wigston, TNA PROB 11/29/275.

TESTATOR'S MARRIAGES AND CHILDREN

According to the Wigston pedigree, the testator married firstly Margaret Croft, the daughter of John Croft of Holt, by whom he had a daughter:

* **Anne Wigston**, about whom nothing further appears to be known.

For the Croft family of Holt, see:

<http://newsgroups.derkeiler.com/Archive/Soc/soc.genealogy.medieval/2005-08/msg00683.html>

John Croft, of Holt, Worcestershire, born 1465/70, married Elizabeth Seymour, daughter of John Seymour of Wolf Hall, Wiltshire (d.1491), by his wife, Elizabeth Darrell, and was ancestor of the Crofts of Holt.

The testator married secondly Elizabeth Peyton (d.1578), the daughter of Sir Robert Peyton (d. 18 March 1518) of Isleham, Cambridgeshire, a descendant of Robert de Vere, 3rd Earl of Oxford. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, p. 354. For his will, proved 20 April 1518, see TNA PROB 11/19/81.

For the testator's children by Elizabeth Peyton, see her will, Lichfield Record Office 1579 B/C/11. In the will below the testator mentions his four sons, Roger, Robert, William and Edward, and his unmarried daughters, Mary and Bridget.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

For the testator's mother-in-law, 'Dame Elizabeth Peyton', see her will, dated 16 November 1545 and proved 6 April 1546, TNA PROB 11/31/102.

For Lady Susan Zouche, mother-in-law of the testator's son and heir, Roger Wigston (c.1537 - 1608), see the will of the testator's wife, *supra*.

For the testator's brother-in-law, Edward Aglionby (1520-1591?), see the will of the testator's father, *supra*, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/aglionby-edward-ii-1520-91>

b. 1520, s. of Richard Aglionby of Carlisle, Cumb. educ. Eton c.1532; King's, Camb. scholar 1536, fellow 1539-48, BA 1540, MA 1544; incorp. Oxf. 1566. m. (1) bef. 29 Mar. 1554, Catherine, da. of Roger Wigston of Wolston, Warws., wid. of Thomas Warren and Giles Forster (d.1549), of Balsall, at least 1s. 1da. all pres. d.v.p.; ?(2) Mary.[2](#)

For the testator's nephew, Thomas Dabridgecourt (buried 12 May 1602), son of the testator's sister, Elizabeth Wigston, by John Dabridgecourt (d. 16 July 1543) of Solihull, see the will of the testator's father, *supra*; the will of Thomas Dabridgecourt, TNA PROB 11/100/333; and the Dabridgecourt pedigree in Nichols, John Gough, ed., *The Topographer and Genealogist*, Vol. I, (London: John Bowyer Nichols and Son, 1846), p. 198 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=CBwIAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA197>

In Dei nomine, Amen. I, William Wigston of Wolston in the county of Warwick, knight, being of long time sick, and yet at this present, God be lauded and praised, in perfect memory, yet considering the life of every creature to be most uncertain & many times very sudden, and nothing in this miserable world permanent and enduring, but altogether full of vanities, frailty and wretchedness according to the saying of the prophet, *Vanitas vanitatum et omnia vanitas nisi soli servire Deo* etc., it is therefore necessary and expedient for every good Christian man, in as short time as he may, to take order in the disposing and declaring his full mind and will in these worldly and transitory lands and goods, wherefore I, the foresaid William Wigston, the 21st day of September in the 19th year of the reign of our most glorious Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth etc. 1577, do make, ordain and declare this my last will & testament in manner and form following:

First I humbly beseech Almighty God, my only Redeemer & Saviour, of his great & abundant mercy not only to forgive me all my sins and offences committed and done in word, thought and deed against his divine Majesty from the day of my birth unto the hour of my death, but also I assuredly trust in his so great & infinite mercy and by the merits of his blessed passion to be saved in the Day of Judgment, *Et inde misericordiam peto sed non iudicium*, to whose hands and great mercy I commit my soul;

And my vile and wretched body I commit to the ground, ashes & dust, to be buried in Wolston church on the back side of my father's tomb directly before the place where I kneel and sit in the said church, without any pomp or curiosity, but in a decent order & seemly as shall be thought requisite & necessary by my executors and overseers;

And at the time of my said burial such service to be had and done in my said parish of Wolston aforesaid as by the laws of this realm is done and used at that present time, provided always that some godly and discreet sermon to be made and done at my said burial, and he to have for his pains 6s 8d & his dinner;

And to the ministers and clerks being and doing their service duties at the service time of my said burial I give such portion of money as my executors and supervisors shall think requisite;

And to the vicar of Wolston I give of benevolence and goodwill 3s 4d over & besides 10s due to him for my mortuary by the laws and statutes of this realm;

And I will that in no wise any common dole to be made at my said burial or after, but I will that all the citizens(?) and the poor people dwelling in the parish of Wolston aforesaid or in any part thereof have 6d apiece given them & to every of them by my executors shortly after my death;

And I give to the repair and amendment of Wolston church 6s 8d in ready money to be paid to the churchwardens' hands of Wolston & Brandon by my executors shortly after my death;

And I likewise give to the repair of the great bridge of Wolston and Brandon 6s 8d in ready money to be paid by my executors shortly after my death;

And I likewise give to repair of Bretford great bridge 6s 8d in ready money likewise to be paid by my executors;

Item, after my debts paid, then I give & bequeath to Mary Wigston, my daughter unmarried, a hundred marks in ready money to be paid her shortly after my death by her brother, Roger Wigston, according to his bond obligatory sealed and delivered to my hands to her use for that intent and purpose bearing date the 25th day of October Anno regni Regine(?) Elizabethæ &c 16th, 1576;

Item, to my daughter, Bridget Wigston, I give in money or in goods to the value of a hundred marks so that she take good and sober ways, and will be advised, ruled and ordered in her marriage by her good mother & my executor;

Item, to my son, Robert Wigston, vicar of Hillmorton, I give in money £5 or of my goods according to that value;

Item, I will that my two youngest sons, William & Edward Wigston, do well and quietly have, hold and enjoy their annuity during their lives and the longer liver of them according to their several deeds made, sealed and delivered unto every of them by me and their brother, Roger Wigston, for that intent, use and purpose bearing date the 6th day of February in the 19 year [=6 February 1577] of the reign(?) of our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth [f. 2 aforesaid];

Item, I give and bequeath to Roger Wigston, my eldest son, all my glass in and about my house as it now standeth, with the parlour and hall and all the furniture in them as they now be, with three swans and all manner of nets and my signett [=cygnet, *or* signet];

Item, to my well-beloved wife, Dame Elizabeth Wigston, over & besides her whole & full jointure of my lands in Leicestershire, I give of my goods all such plate and jewels as she had by her mother, Dame Elizabeth Peyton, now deceased;

And to my said wife I further give of my goods all manner of bedding with all furniture to the same, with hangings, presses and coffers with all manner of stuff within the same in my bedchamber at Wolston & within three chambers next adjoining to my said bedchamber;

Item, of all my household stuff within my whole house at Wolston, as well movables as unmovables, goods, cattles and chattels whatsoever, I give to my said wife & to the rest of my executors to be bestowed and used accordingly as they shall think good and meet for the performance of this my last will and testament;

Item, I will that the said Dame Elizabeth Wigston, my wife, shall have, hold & peaceably enjoy my mansion house in Wolston called the parsonage house there, and all other houses thereunto belonging, with gardens, pools, hop-yards(?) and orchards to the same belonging or appertaining, for and during the term and space of 3 years next and immediately after the death of me, the said Sir William Wigston, according as it is plainly expressed and declared in the indentures of covenants of marriage had and made betwixt the right honourable Lady Susan Zouche, widow, & [-and] the said Sir William Wigston for and concerning the marriage of Roger Wigston, son & heir of the said Sir William Wigston, then married to Margaret Davenport, daughter of the aforesaid Lady Susan Zouche, bearing date the last day of May in the third year [=31 May 1561] of the reign of our most glorious Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth etc.;

And I ordain and make for the better performance of this my last will and testament my well-beloved wife, Dame Elizabeth Wigston, and my two youngest sons, William and Edward Wigston, my full and whole executors, and William Purefoy to be aiding & assisting to my said executors, and his pains & travail to be considered therein;

And lastly I make the overseers of this my last will and testament Edward Aglionby, esquire, & my brother-in-law, and my nephew, Thomas Dabridgecourt, only requesting their aid and friendship therein towards my foresaid executors;

In witness hereof I have set to my hand the 21st of September in the 19th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith etc.

William Wigston

[NOTE: Inventory of goods not yet transcribed.]