

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 13 June 1500 and proved 11 September 1500, of Richard Martyn of Long Melford, great-grandfather of Humphrey Martyn, the addressee of the *Langham Letter* which describes Leicester's entertainment of Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575.

The testator's first wife is said to have been named Elizabeth (see *The Visitation of Suffolk*, p. 18). The contents of the will suggest that his second wife, Margery, was the mother-in-law of Clement Heigham (d.1500) of Lavenham, whose wife (and apparently Margery's daughter by an earlier marriage) was Maud, the daughter of Lawrence Cooke of Lavenham.

The testator leaves bequests to his second wife, Margery, and to his six sons, Roger (d.1542?), John, Thomas, Richard, William and Lawrence (d.1518), and daughter, Alice. For the will of the testator's eldest son and heir, Roger Martyn (d.1542?) of Long Melford, see TNA PROB 11/29, ff. 75-7. For the will of the testator's son, Lawrence Martyn (d.1518), see TNA PROB 11/19, f. 95. For the will of the testator's grandson, Sir Roger Martyn (d.1573), father of Humphrey Martyn, addressee of the *Langham Letter*, see TNA PROB 11/56, ff. 2-4.

LM: Testamentum Ricardi Martyn

In the name of God. I, Richard Martyn of Long Melford, being in good mind, ordain and make my testament and [-and] last will the 13th day of June in the year of Our Lord God 1500 in manner and form as followeth:

First, I bequeath my soul to Almighty God and to Our Lady Saint Mary and to all the holy company of heaven, and my body to be buried in the south aisle in Melford Church by my wife, which I did make for me, my wife and my children to lie in;

Item, I bequeath £10 to the reparation of the said aisle;

Item, I bequeath to the high altar for tithings and offerings forgotten 20s;

Item, I bequeath to Our Lady Chapel in Melford churchyard 40s;

Item, I bequeath to the 4 order[s] of friars, that is to say, Clare, Babwell, Sudbury and the White Friars in Cambridge, each of them 20s;

Also, I bequeath to Saint James' Chapel in Melford 20s;

Also I will that every priest dwelling in Melford being at my obit both at Dirge and Mass have each of them 12d, and every great(?) clerk dwelling within the said town 4d, and every child 1d, and every other priest coming to my said obit to have 4d;

And in like wise I will that every priest and clerk have at my 30th day;

Also I will that at my said 30th day a good dinner be ordained for all my neighbours dwelling within the said town, both for rich and poor, if it please them to come thereto;

Also I will that every poor man, woman and child that will come at the said 30th day and take alms, that every of them have a penny;

Item, I will my year-day be kept 20 year immediately after [+my] death, and at the same I will the soul of my father and my mother, my wife and my children be remembered, and at every year to be bestowed 5 mark in such form as can be thought best by the advice of my executors for the weal of my soul and the souls before rehearsed;

Item, I will 13 poor men be ordained, and every of them to have every Friday in the year a penny, and so be continued 20 year immediately after my death, to pray for my soul and for the souls before rehearsed;

Item I will the said 13 poor men, each of them have against my 30th day a black gown to hold my torches at my said 30th day;

Item, I bequeath to Jesus Mass 20s, to be paid in 6 years immediately after my death;

Item, I will and charge mine executors that I have done for me 13 trentals within 6 weeks next immediately [+after] my death;

Item, I bequeath to the reparation of highways within 6 mile of Melford thereas it can be thought most expedient by mine executors £20;

Item, I bequeath to Stanstead church 40s;

Item, I bequeath to Alpheton church 20s;

Item, I bequeath to every godchild of mine 20d;

Item, I will a priest be had and ordained forever, which is good and well disposed, to pray for my soul, my father and my mother[‘s] souls, my wife’s souls and all my children, the said priest having every year for his salary 8 mark 6s 8d, and to be levied on such lands as hereafter shall appear, and I will the said priest keep his service every holy day and [sic] Melford church, and he to sing at the altar in the south aisle aforesaid, and every weekday at Saint James’ Chapel, and the said priests to say alway after the Gospel *De profundis* for my soul and the souls aforesaid;

Item, I bequeath to the marriage of poor maidens in Melford 20 mark;

Item, I bequeath to the Master of the College of Sudbury 40s, praying him to help my body to the earth and to pray for my soul;

Item, I bequeath to Master Fyshe 40s yearly by 3 year if he go to Cambridge;

Item, I bequeath to Margery, my wife, the tenement in Halstead called Playstowe [=Plaistow], with all the lands, meadows and pastures longing thereto which I bought of Thomas Germyn [=Jermyn], to have and to hold to her and to her assigns for term of her life, she bearing the reparation, with a 100 mark in money, so that the obligation that I am bound in to her brother and other be delivered to mine executors;

Item, I bequeath to the said Margery all the stuff and goods that she brought with her before I married her which appeareth in my book, every parcel of them;

Item, I bequeath to the said Margery 2 flat pieces, 2 mazers and 12 spoons;

Item, I bequeath to the said Margery all the debt that her son-in-law Clement oweth me except £20, whereof I give of the same 10 mark to the said Clement and his wife;

Item, I bequeath to the said Margery the money that is yet owing to me by Thomas Branche of Lavenham;

Item, I bequeath to Roger, my son, my manor in Belchamp called Mary Hall with the appurtenances in fee simple;

Item, I bequeath to him the tenement called Conys with Makyng and Wellis and Grigges meadow with all their appurtenances in fee simple;

Item, I bequeath to the said Roger the tenement called Partros with the Dyhows and all that longeth thereto in fee simple;

Item, I bequeath to the said Roger 2 pieces, 2 mazers and tho 12 spoons that I bought of Ralph Cressener A notte(?);

Item, I bequeath to John Martyn the tenement called Brownys with all that longeth thereto lying in Monks Eleigh, which Goodale sometime farmed, in fee simple;

Item, I bequeath to the said John a 100 mark in money, a piece, and a mazer and 6 silver spoons;

Item, I bequeath to Thomas Martyn, my son, the place and land bequeathed to my wife after her decease called Play[s]towe [=Plaistow] with all that longeth thereto, and the tenements in Foxyard which I bought of John Clerk and Thomas Clerk, with that longeth thereto, and the place that I bought of Piers Robert, in fee simple;

Item, I bequeath to him 100 mark in money, a piece, a mazer, and 6 silver spoons;

Item, I bequeath to Richard Martyn, my son, the tenement that I bought of John Chapman which Old Barell farmeth, with all that longeth thereto except the land that lieth within the land called Hewe Fennys with the land called Ketelles and Folerne, to have it in fee simple;

Item, I bequeath to him a 100 mark in money, a piece, a mazer and 6 silver spoons;

Item, I bequeath to William Martyn, my son, the tenement in Belchamp called Hugh Fennys which Hugh Berell farmeth, with all that longeth thereto, and the land lying within hit [=it] longing that Old Berell farmeth;

Item, I bequeath to him the meadow in Barly [=Borley?] except that longeth to Borowis place, to have all the said lands to him in fee simple;

Item, I bequeath to him a 100 mark in money, a piece, a mazer and 6 silver spoons;

Item, I bequeath to Lawrence Martyn, my son, the tenement that I bought of Cunse(?) called Hogilyns lying in Monks Eleigh with all that longeth thereto, and the tenement that I bought of Richard Quadrynge called Hethcott with all that longeth thereto lying in Assington, in fee simple;

Item, I bequeath to him a 100 mark in money, a piece, a mazer and 6 silver spoons;

Item, I bequeath to Alice Martyn, my daughter, a £100 in money to be paid at the time of her marriage if she be ruled by mine executors, and she to have more after the discretion of mine executors if she be ruled by them, and till she be married to be found honestly by mine executors;

Also I bequeath to her a piece, a mazer and 6 silver spoons;

Item, I will that the lands and tenements that I have bequeathen to every of my 4 sons, that it be delivered to them and to every of them when they come to the age of 24 years, and all other things to them bequeathen, and if any of them die afore they come to the said age, then I will that the said lands and tenements so dead bequeathen unto be egally divided among all my other children that overlive, and the money to be ordered and disposed by the advice of mine executors for the weal of my soul and the souls before rehearsed, and my said children to be found honestly by mine executors with the profits of the said lands to them bequeathen till they come to the foresaid age of 24 years, provided always that they be ruled and governed by mine executors till they come to the said age of 24 years;

Item, I bequeath to every of John Martyn's children 40s to be paid to them at their marriage;

Item, I bequeath to every of Clement Heigham's children 20s to be paid at their marriage;

Item, I bequeath to every of Robert Brett[s] children 20s to be paid at their marriage;

The residue of my goods and debts not bequeathen I give to mine executor, whom I make Roger Martyn, my son;

In witness hereof to this my present testament and last will I set to my seal.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum Apud Lambeth Vndecimo die mensis Septembris Anno domini supradicto Iuramento Rogeri Martyn executoris &c Ac approbatum & insinuatum &c Et commissa fuit administracio omnium & singulorum bonorum & debitorum dicti defuncti prefato Rogero executori in Dicto testamento nominato &c De bene et fideliter administrando &c Ac de pleno & fideli Inventario omnium et singulorum bonorum & debitorum &c citra festum sancti Michaelis Archangeli proximo &c Necnon de plano & vero compoto calculo &c

[=The above-written testament was proved at Lambeth on the eleventh day of the month of September in the year abovesaid by the oath of Roger Martyn, executor etc., and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all & singular the goods & debts of the said deceased to the forenamed Roger, the executor named in the said testament, [+sworn] to well and faithfully administer etc., and to [+exhibit] a full & faithful inventory of all and singular the goods & debts etc. before the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel next [+to come] etc., and also to reckon a plain & true account etc.]