

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 1518 and proved 2 August 1518, of Peter Drayton of Saint Michael's Cornhill, London, whose sister, Jane Drayton, was the mother of Thomas Wriothesley (1505-1550), 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Southampton, grandfather of Henry Wriothesley (1573-1624), 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Southampton, to whom Shakespeare dedicated *Venus and Adonis* and *The Rape of Lucrece*.

The testator was the only son and heir of Robert Drayton (died 1503 or 1504) by his first wife Jane Peckham, the daughter of Peter Peckham (d.1501), esquire, of Denham, Buckinghamshire. For the will of Robert Drayton, see TNA PROB 11/14/4. For the Latin will of Peter Peckham (c.1501), see TNA PROB 11/12/315.

The testator's only sister, Jane Drayton (b.1482, d.1538?), married firstly Richard Lucy, secondly William Wriothesley (d.1513?), York Herald, by whom she had the two sons and daughter named in the will below, Thomas Wriothesley (later 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Southampton), Edward Wriothesley (who died young) and Anne Wriothesley, as well as another daughter, Elizabeth Wriothesley (who also died young), and thirdly a husband surnamed Beverley, by whom she had two daughters, Ellen Beverley Pounce (d.1589) and Anne Beverley Knight Lawrence (d.1610), for whose wills see TNA PROB 11/74/301 and TNA PROB 11/116/231. For notes written by Jane Drayton Lucy Wriothesley Beverley (b.1482, d.1538?) in her own hand recording her own birthdate, that of the testator, and those of her four children by William Wriothesley (d.1513?), see BL Add. Charter 16194.

In the will below the testator calls his sister 'Jane York', referring to her second husband William Wriothesley's position as York Herald. A similar case of a widow who was referred to by her late husband's title as a herald is that of Susan Clarencius, wife of Thomas Tong, Clarenceux King of Arms. From the *ODNB*:

*Tonge [née White], Susan [known as Susan Clarencius] (b. before 1510, d. in or after 1564), courtier, was probably the youngest of the four children of Richard White of Hutton in south Essex and his wife, Maud Tyrell, daughter of Sir William Tyrell of Heron, also in south Essex. She had an elder brother, Richard, and two older sisters, Mary and Jane. The events of her later life suggest that she was born towards the end of the first decade of the sixteenth century. Some time before 1534 she married Thomas Tonge (d. 1536), who must have been appreciably her senior, since he was already York herald by April 1513. He became Norroy king of arms at All Hallows 1522, and Clarenceux king of arms on 2 June 1534. He died in March 1536, leaving his widow as his executor and residuary legatee. Susan never married again, and it was from her husband's brief incumbency of his last position that she took the name by which she was known for the rest of her life.*

RM: Test{amentu}m d{omi}ni Petri Drayton Cl{er}ici

In the name of God and Our Lady and my patron Saint Michael, I, Peter Drayton, clerk, being of perfect memory and good mind, thanks to God, make this my last will and testament:

First, I bequeath my soul to the mercy of God, and my body to be buried in the chancel of Saint Michael's Church in Cornhill at the coming in of the door of the choir, or else in any other place as God pleaseth to dispose;

Also I give to buy an altar cloth to the high altar £6 13s 4d;

Also I give to be distributed amongst poor people within my parish £6 13s 4d, willing that poor householders and most impotent [f. 64v] persons shall be principally relieved by it;

And the funeral costs discharged and all my debts paid, I will that my sister, Jane York, widow, shall have the one half of the residue of my goods, and the other half to be distributed egally to her 3 children, Thomas, Anne and Edward, by her discretion so that they be ruled by her, or else to obtain no part of it, but all to be hers freely;

And I will that if they be ruled by her, that then Anne, her daughter, have her portion at the time of her marriage, if she be married, or else at the age of 21 years, and Thomas and Edward, her sons, at the age of 24 years, or else sooner, as she shall please;

And if that any of them depart this world afore they have received their portion, then I will that the said portion shall be freely pertaining to Jane, my sister, their mother, aforementioned;

And I ordain the said Jane York, widow, my sister, sole and only executrice of this my last will and testament;

In witness of the which I have written this testament and subscribed it the year of Our Lord 1500 and 18.

Probatum fuit testamentum supradicti defuncti h[ab]ent[is] & c Coram d[omi]no apud Lameth Secundo die mens[is] Augusti Anno D[omi]ni Mill[es]imo quingentesimo xviiio Iurament[o] Iohanne York vidue executric[is] in h[uius]modi testament[o] no[n]i[n]at[e] onus execu[ti]o[n]is eiusd[em] in se assum[er]e expresse refutavit Et com[miss]a fuit admi[n]istracio o[mn]i[u]m bonor[um] et debitorum d[ic]ti defuncti prefate Iohanne York ad viam intestati De bene & fidel[iter] admi[n]istrand[o] Ac de pleno & fidel[iter] In[ue]ntario citra festum s[an]c[t]i Barth[olome]i Ap[osto]li prox[imum] futur[um] exhibend[o] Necnon de plano & vero compoto reddend[o] Ad s[an]c[t]a dei Eu[ang]elia Iurat[e]

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[=The testament of the abovesaid deceased, having etc., was proved before the Lord at Lambeth on the second day of the month of August in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 18<sup>th</sup> by the oath of Joan York, widow, executrix named in the same testament, who expressly refused to take upon herself the burden of the execution of the said testament, and a grant issued of all the goods and debts of the said deceased to the forenamed Joan York by way of an intestacy, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well & faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full & faithful inventory before the feast of Saint Bartholomew the Apostle next to come, and also to render a plain & true account.]