

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 29 April 1536, of Richard Patten, citizen and cloth-worker of London, and father of William Patten, who was responsible for the private printing and distribution of copies of the *Langham Letter* describing Leicester's entertainment for Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575, while Oxford was travelling on the continent. According to the *Dictionary of National Biography*, in 1550 William Patten was granted the lease of the manor of Stoke Newington, and in 1565 the lease was renewed for another 99 years, commencing at Michaelmas 1576. Patten himself lived at Stoke Newington for twenty years, and then assigned the lease to Sir William Cordell, Master of the Rolls, who in turn assigned it to Thomas Sutton (said to have been the original of Jonson's *Volpone*). Oxford lived in Stoke Newington as well after his second marriage in 1591. According to the *DNB*, no historical records mention William Patten after 1580; however a William Patten, gentleman, is named in a 1597 subsidy roll for the parish of St. Bartholomew the Great (see TNA E179/146/369), although this may have been a relative.

RM: Testamentum Ricardi Patten

In the name of God Amen. I, Richard Patten, citizen and cloth-worker of London, whole of mind and good memory, laud be unto Almighty God, make and ordain this my present testament and last will in manner and form following:

First, I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, Our Lady Saint Mary, and all the holy company of heaven, my body to be buried in the parish church of Mary Magdalen in Milk Street, as nigh to my wife as may be;

Item, I bequeath to Mary, my daughter, 26s 8d sterling yearly after my decease, to be taken out of all my lands, leases and tenements in London and elsewhere within the realm of England by the space of twenty years if she so long live;

Item, I bequeath to my Hall towards a dinner at my burial day, 20s;

And as for my children Joan, Lettice and Alice, with my sister Robinson and my nephew, John Strete, to stand to the good order & discreet disposition of mine executors;

Also the making free of Simon, my servant, I remit unto the discretion of mine executors aforesaid;

The rest of all my goods not bequeathed, my debts paid and my funeral expenses, I will that my executors, which I will to be William Patten, my son, and William Strete, my son-in-law, shall order and dispose after their discretion and conscience for the most wealth of my soul, and this I will, that all my children be contented withal on my blessing;

In witness whereof I have put my seal the 29<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year of Our Lord God the 1536<sup>th</sup> hijs testibus Galfrido Page ibidem Rectore & Iohanne Butler.

Item, I will that where it is agreed betwixt Thomas Serle, which married my daughter Alice, and me that an estate of certain lands and tenements should have been made before the Nativity of Our Lord last past according to the tenor of a pair of indentures between us made, that now it shall be made before the feast of Pentecost next coming, anything in the said indenture to the contrary notwithstanding.

Probatum fuit infrascriptum testamentum xvij die mensis Iunij Anno Domini Millesimo quingentesimo xxxvjo apud London coram Domino auctoritate Domini nostri Regis Henrici octavi Anglie et ffrancie Regis &c Ricardi Patten defuncti habentis &c Iuramento executorum in huiusmodi testamento nominatorum ac per eundem auctoritate dicti Domini nostri Regis approbatum & insinuatum Commissa que fuit administracio omnium & singulorum bonorum Iurium et creditorum dicti defuncti prefatis Executoribus De bene et fideliter administrando Ac de pleno et fideli Inventario secundo die post festum sancti Bartholomei proximum futurum exhibendo Necnon de plano et vero compoto reddendo Ad sancta Dei Euan gelia Iurato

[=The within-written testament of Richard Patten, deceased, having etc., was proved on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of the month of June in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 36<sup>th</sup> at London before the Lord [+Commissary?] by the authority of Our Lord King Henry the Eighth, King of England and France etc., by the oath of the executors named in the same testament, and by authority for the same of our said Lord the King probated and registered, and administration was granted of all & singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased to the forenamed executors, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full and true inventory on the second day after the feast of St. Bartholomew next to come, and also to render a full and true account.]

LM: Codicillus eiusdem Ricardi

Memorandum. The 29<sup>th</sup> day of April the 28<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of King Henry the 8<sup>th</sup>, Richard Patten, late of London, cloth-worker, made his last will nuncupative concerning Thomas Serle, botcher, and Alice, his wife, one of the daughters of the said Richard Patten in manner and form following:

Inprimis, he willed that Thomas Serle and Alice, his said wife, should have to them and to their heirs of their two bodies lawfully begotten all such lands and tenements of the said Richard as been specified in a pair of indentures made between the said Richard of the one

party and the said Thomas of the other party concerning the marriage of the said Alice unto the said Thomas;

Item, he willed to the same Thomas fifty pounds sterling specified in the same indentures;

Item, he willed that whereas the same Thomas afore the feast of the Nativity of Our Lord then last past should have delivered a certain estate of certain lands and tenements to the said Thomas specified in the said indentures, that the same estate of the same lands and tenements should be delivered and made afore the feast of the Pentecost then next following, anything in the said indentures to the contrary notwithstanding.

Vicesimo sexto die mensis Iunij Anno Domini Millesimo quingentesimo xxxvjo Thomas Serle generosus predicti Ricardi Paten defuncti exhibuit Codicillum predictum et allegavit predictus Ricardus Paten legavit et disposuit prout continetur in eodem Et Dominus Commissarius assignavit sibi secundum diem Iuridicum post festum sancti Thome ad probandum huiusmodi Codicillum per testes in presentia Willelmi Paten executoris dicti Ricardi defuncti Vicesimo quarto die mensis Iulij Anno supradicto Dominus post examinationem quorundam testium decrevit dictum Codicillum annectum fore testamento dicti Ricardi tanquam verum partem eiusdem vt liquet in actis illius Diei

[=On the 26<sup>th</sup> day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 36<sup>th</sup> Thomas Serle, gentleman, exhibited the foresaid codicil of the said Richard Patten, deceased, and alleged the foresaid Richard bequeathed and disposed as is contained in the same, and the Lord Commissary appointed to him the second lawful day for business after the feast of St Thomas to prove the same codicil by witnesses in the presence of William Patten, executor of the said Richard, deceased. On the twenty-fourth day of the month of July in the year abovesaid, the Lord [+Commissary], after examination of certain witnesses, decreed the said codicil to be annexed to the will of the said Richard as a true part of the same, as appears in the acts of that day.]