

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 23 November 1536 and proved 24 April 1537, of Robert Pakington (1489-1536). The testator was murdered on the morning of Monday 13 November 1536 while crossing Cheapside on his way to early mass at the Mercers' chapel of St Thomas of Acre. He was the brother of Augustine, Sir John (d.1551), and Humphrey Pakington (1502-1556), and great-uncle of Humphrey Martyn, the addressee of the *Langham Letter* describing Leicester's entertainment of Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575. His first wife, and the mother of his children, was Agnes Baldwin, the daughter of Chief Justice of the Common Pleas Sir John Baldwin (d.1545). His second wife, named in the will below, was Katherine (d.1563), the daughter of Thomas Dallam and widow of Richard Collier (d.1533). Three years after the testator's death, on 21 August 1539, Katherine married the wealthy mercer and alderman, Michael Dormer. For the will of the testator's eldest son and heir, Sir Thomas Pakington (d.1571), see TNA PROB 11/53, f. 238.

LM: Testamentum Roberti Pakyngton

In the name of God, Amen. The 23rd day of November anno Domini 1535, I, Robert Pakington, mercer of London, being in perfect mind, thanks be to God, make this my last will and testament:

First, I bequeath my soul to Almighty God that created it, trusting to him only by the merits of Jesus Christ the salvation of my soul, and my body to be buried where it shall please God;

And of this my last will I make mine executors my well beloved brother, Humphrey Pakington, and my well-beloved wife, Katherine, and overseers of the same my brother, John Pakington, and my father-in-law, my Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, Sir John Baldwin, knight, to the which 4 aforesaid I remit my little children as their own, trusting that they will be good to them;

Item, afore all things I charge mine executors to see all my debts paid that can be proved by writing or record;

Item, where that my late brother, Augustine, hath by his last will made me his executor, I charge my said brother, Humphrey, to see it fulfilled in all points according to the same;

Item, I bequeath to my brother, Humphrey, £20 sterling, and I will that he shall have the portions of my children in his hands till they come to their ages according to the custom of the City of London, he putting in sureties for the same, and he to pay for the finding of them, not minishing no part of their portions;

Item, I bequeath to my well beloved wife all the profits of my lands till the heir or heirs of the same come to their full age or ages;

Item, I bequeath to my brother, John Pakington, ten pounds sterling, praying him to be good uncle and father to my little children, and specially to see them have their learning;

Item, I bequeath to my father-in-law, Lord Baldwin, ten pounds sterling, praying him to be good grandfather to my said little children as his own;

Item, I bequeath to William Baldwin, my brother-in-law, five pounds sterling;

Item, I bequeath to William Dormer, the son of Sir Robert Dormer, £5 sterling;

Item, I bequeath to Thomas Blount, mine apprentice, £20;

Item, I bequeath to William Lincoln, my servant, £10;

Item, I bequeath to William Leeds, mine apprentice, £20 sterling, and my daughter Bess if they can agree;

Item, I bequeath to each of my other apprentices £5 apiece;

Item, I bequeath to Joan Saynton, my servant, £20 in full payment of her wages;

Item, I bequeath to my sister Eleanor Gravoron £10;

Item, I bequeath to be given to poor people in the parish of Stanford where I was born £10, and in like wise £10 to the poor people in the parish of Nynd where my father did dwell;

Item, I bequeath to the poor people in the parish of Saint Pancras £20, to be given in 4 years by the discretion of mine executors to householders;

Item, I bequeath to the marriages of poor maidens £20 by 10s apiece;

Item, I bequeath to my brother Burles [=Borlase] a ring, price 40s;

Item, I bequeath to th' executors of Robert Crysald for the discharge of my conscience £33 sterling;

Item, I bequeath to William Baker, sometime haberdasher of London, £5 sterling;

Item, I bequeath to the executors of John Condlyns for misreckoning 30s sterling;

Item, I bequeath to the Company of the Mercery to make them a dinner £10 sterling;

Item, I bequeath to every one of these hereafter following a ring, price 40s, that is to say, to Thomas Merbery, Nicholas Statham, William Smyth, Sir Robert Dormer, Mr Michael Dormer, Bess Ramsay, my sister John's wife, my brother Humphrey's wife, my sister Neve, my sister Burles [=Borlase], Mistress Statham, Mrs Wilkinson, Mrs Hall, Mr Wilkinson, Doctor Crome, Mrs Mylls, Bess Mylls, Ellyn with(?) Mistress Mylls, £4(?), John Skinner, mercer;

All the rest of my part of the goods I do clearly give them to my children, saving to George Collier £10, and to Dorothy Collier £30;

And I charge mine executors to see this my last will fulfilled in all points;

In witness whereof I, the said Robert Pakington, to this my last will have set my seal the day and year abovesaid. Per me, Robert Pakington, mercer.

Probatum fuit supra scriptum testamentum coram domino Apud Lambith xxiiij die Mensis Aprilis Anno domini Millesimo Quingentesimo Tricesimo septimo Iuramento Katherine [-Katherine] Relicte et Humfridi Pakington executorum in huiusmodi testamento nominatorum Ac approbatum et insinuatam Commissaque fuit administracio omnium et singulorum bonorum et creditorum dicti defuncti prefatis executoribus De bene et fideliter administrando eadem Ac de pleno et fideli Inventario omnium et singulorum bonorum iurium et creditorum huiusmodi conficiendo Necnon de plano et vero compoto reddendo ad sancta dei Euangelia iuratis

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord [+Archbishop] at Lambeth on the 24th day of the month of April in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred thirty-seventh by the oath of Katherine, relict, and Humphrey Pakington, executors named in the same testament, and probated and registered, and administration was granted of all and singular the goods and credits of the said deceased to the forenamed executors, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to prepare a full and true inventory of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the same, and also to render a plain and true account.]