

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 Sir John Pakington (d. 21 August 1551), Humphrey Pakington (1502-1556), and Augustine Pakington, 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.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the testator's family background, see the *ODNB* entry, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/pakington-robert-1489-1536>

The testator was the second or third son of John Pakington of Stanford-on-Teme, Worcestershire, and Elizabeth Washbourne, the daughter and heiress of Thomas Washbourne, second son of Norman Washbourne, esquire, of Washbourne, Worcestershire, by Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Kniveton of Bradley, Derbyshire. Thomas Washbourne's sister, Eleanor Washbourne, married Richard Scrope, esquire, by whom she was the mother of Elizabeth Scrope, who married, as her second husband, John de Vere, 13th Earl of Oxford. See Peach, R.E.M., ed., *The Washbourne Family*, (Gloucester: John Bellows, 1896), pp. 13, 19, 34-5, and Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., Vol. IV, Salt Lake City, 2011, pp. 199-200.

The testator had three brothers, Sir John Pakington (d. 21 August 1551), Augustine Pakington, and Humphrey Pakington (1502-1556), and three sisters: Joyce Pakington, who married firstly a husband surnamed Blount, and secondly John Corbet; Eleanor Pakington, who married a husband surnamed Gravener (the testator's 'sister Gravener' is mentioned in the will below), of Shropshire; and Margery Pakington, who married a husband surnamed Neve.

For the will of the testator's elder brother, Sir John Pakington, see TNA PROB 11/34/431.

The testator is referred to as 'cousin' in the will, dated 12 December 1531, of the mercer Thomas Crispe. See Crisp, Frederick Arthur, *Collections Relating to the Family of Crispe*, Vol. I, 1882, p. 2 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/collectionsrelat01cris#page/2/mode/2up>

I will by this my present testament that my cousin Robert Pakington, mercer, immediately after my decease shall have the rule, custody and governance and keeping of my said children as my said wife, Walter Marshe, and he can thereunto agree and conclude together.

MARRIAGES AND CHILDREN

First marriage

The testator married firstly Agnes Baldwin, the daughter of Sir John Baldwin (d.1545), Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, by whom he had two sons and three daughters:

* **Sir Thomas Pakington** (d. 2 June 1571), who married Dorothy Kitson (d.1577), the daughter of Sir Thomas Kitson (d.1540) of Hengrave by his second wife, Margaret Donnington (d. 12 January 1561), the only child of John Donnington (d.1544) of Stoke Newington.

* **John Pakington**, of whom there appears to be no further record, and who may have died young.

* **Elizabeth Pakington**, who married firstly John Lane (died 12 September 1557) of Walgrave, Northamptonshire, and secondly Sir Richard Malory, Alderman of London and Lord Mayor in 1564.

* **Anne Pakington**, who married Richard Cupper, esquire, of Glympton, Oxfordshire.

* **Margaret Pakington**, who married firstly Benedict Lee (d.1559), esquire, of Burston, Buckinghamshire, henchman to King Henry VIII. Benedict Lee was the son of Sir Robert Lee (d.1539) by his second wife, Lettice Peniston (d.1557), and the half brother of Sir Anthony Lee (d.1549), a son of Sir Robert Lee by his first wife, a member of the Cope family. Sir Anthony Lee (d.1549) was the father of Queen Elizabeth I's Champion, Sir Henry Lee (d.1611). After the death of Benedict Lee, Margaret Pakington married secondly Thomas Scott, esquire, of Yorkshire. See Chambers, E.K., *Sir Henry Lee; An Elizabethan Portrait*, (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1936), pp. 28, 247-8.

For Robert Pakington's children by Agnes Baldwin, see Phillimore, W.P.W., ed., *The Visitation of the County of Worcester Made in the Year 1569*, Vol. XXVII, (London: Harleian Society, 1888), pp. 101-3.

Second marriage

The testator married secondly Katherine Dallam (d.1563), the daughter of Thomas Dallam, Warden of the Company of Skinners in 1497, and widow of Richard Collier

(d.1533). Katherine's two children by her first marriage, George Collier and Dorothy Collier, are mentioned in the will below. Three years after the testator's death, on 21 August 1539 Katherine married the wealthy Mercer and Lord Mayor of London, Sir Michael Dormer (d.1545), also mentioned in the will below. For the will of Katherine (nee Dallam) Collier Pakington Dormer, see TNA PROB 11/46/47. For the will of Sir Michael Dormer, see TNA PROB 11/30/546. For Richard Collier (d.1533) and his children, see the ODNB entry.

For the will of the testator's eldest son and heir, Sir Thomas Pakington (d.1571), see TNA PROB 11/53/397.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

For Joan North Wilkinson (d.1556) and her husband, William Wilkinson (1481-1543), to whom the testator bequeaths rings in the will below, see her will, TNA PROB 11/42B/326, the ODNB entry, and Sutton, Anne F., *The Mercery of London: Trade, Goods and People, 1130-1578*, (Aldershot, Hampshire: Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2005), pp. 392-4.

See also the entry for Joan North Wilkinson at:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=697

Katherine Hall, to whom the testator bequeaths a ring in the will below, was the mother of the lawyer and historian, Edward Hall (1497–1547), author of Hall's *Chronicle*, a major source of Shakespeare's English history plays. For her will, proved 18 August 1557, see TNA PROB 11/39/329. See also the ODNB entry for Edward Hall.

LM: Testamentum Ro{berti} 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 Gravener, £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 [sic?], 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 testame{n}tum coram d{omi}no Apud Lambith xxiiij die Mensis Aprilis Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo Quingentesimo Tricesimo septimo Iuramento Katherine [-Katherine] Relicte et Humfridi Pakington executorum in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}ator{um} Ac approbatum et insinuatam Commissa{ue} fuit admi{ni}stracio o{mn}i{u}m et singuloru{m} bonorum et creditor{um} d{i}c{t}i defuncti prefatis executorib{us} De bene et fideli{te}r admi{ni}strand{o} eadem Ac de pleno et fideli Inue{n}tario o{mn}i{u}m et singulorum bonoru{m} iuriu{m} et creditoru{m} h{uius}mo{d}i co{n}ficiend{o} Necno{n} de plano et vero compoto reddend{o} ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia iurat{is}

[=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.]